

Christie Drive, Hinchbrooke

An Archaeological Excavation



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Linden Homes to carry out an evaluation and subsequent open-area excavation in advance of development on land off Christie Drive, Hinchingsbrooke (TL 2200/7190), between July and August, 2011 (Figure 1). Approximately 260 square metres were evaluated within the development area following the specifications set out in Standing (2011). Based on the results of the evaluation, the Cambridge Historic Environment Team requested open area excavation to mitigate the impacts of the development. The open area comprised 960m², and the specification was issued by Beadsmoore (2011).

1.1 Geology and Topography

The development area lies to the north of Alconbury Brook within the Great Ouse Valley, approximately 2km northwest of the crossing point over the River Great Ouse between Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The underlying geology is Jurassic and Cretaceous Clay, with river alluvium to the south comprising semi permeable calcareous clayey soils overlying Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey 1993). The development area is situated upon an elevated crest at approximately 30m AOD, and is bordered by Bob's Wood country park to the south, Christie Drive to the north and the New Children's Centre to the east. In recent years the site has been used as a construction compound with a hardcore surface and haulage road.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies at the southernmost extent of an area that has been extensively investigated through developer-funded works since the mid-1990s, revealing a landscape particularly rich in later prehistoric and Roman archaeology, but with remains spanning the early Neolithic to the present day. A detailed overview of the archaeology recorded from these works up to 2005 is presented in Hinman (2005), with more recent additional investigations contextualised in Howe (2007) and a general summary outlined in a desk-top assessment by Appleby (2010). A brief period-by-period description of the local archaeology pertinent to that observed in the investigations along Christie Drive is provided here.

1.2.1 Neolithic

Neolithic monumental complexes have been recorded c.2km west of the development area at Brampton and the Huntingdon Racecourse (Malim 1990; 1999; 2001; Malim and Mitchell 1993; Welsh 1993b), with additional Neolithic pits found during evaluation of the proposed new A14 corridor (Patten *et al.* 2010). Early Neolithic pits have also been reported from investigations at Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground less than 1km northeast of the development area (Wheeler 2008).

The Bob's Wood excavations produced sporadic and often residual lithic evidence that documents repeated human visitation of the site and task-specific activity from at least the 4th millennium BC, with some material clearly of a foreign geological origin. In addition, a cobble-lined pit was found to contain 208 ceramic sherds from at least 10 plain earlier Neolithic round-profiled bowls, and comparable sherds of Neolithic date were identified from within an early Roman pit (Hinman 2005: 12). Furthermore,

SUMMARY

During the summer of 2011 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) carried out excavations at Christie Drive, Hinchingsbrooke, in an area that comprises part of the wider Bob's Wood landscape that has previously been widely investigated. The current project represents a south-easterly extension of a complex sequence of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation across the Bob's Wood landscape.

Prehistoric inhabitation was largely secondary to the weight of Romano-British evidence, with residual lithic items from the later Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age suggesting transient visitation to the site. A single later Iron Age potsherd was recovered from the site and relates to contemporaneous features at the New Children's Centre to the east, confirming the limit of Iron Age activity within this area of Bob's Wood.

Romano-British occupation from the 1st – 4th centuries AD predominated at Christie Drive, peaking in activity from the mid-2nd to 3rd centuries AD. The excavation revealed a sequence of droeways and at least three phases of enclosure, with two ring gullies and a possible kiln or oven. These results mainly confirmed previous statements relating to Romano-British occupation at Bob's Wood, notably a shift in spatial emphasis towards the southwest of the settlement at this time.

A post-Medieval landscape of ridge and furrow, with a boundary ditch or hedgerow were each oriented north-south and represented part of a broader system identified elsewhere across the landscape.

a Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pit was documented from Area B (ibid: 10) and further testifies to marginal, but nonetheless apparent, Neolithic activity within the environs of the development area.

1.2.2 Bronze Age

Early Bronze Age ‘Beaker’ pottery has been found immediately south of Thrapston Road at Brampton, c.2km west of the development area, contained within a pit exposed during an evaluation in 1993 (Welsh 1993a). Two ring ditches were investigated during pre-development rescue excavations to the east of Thrapston Road in the 1960s. The largest was a triple ring ditch found to be associated with Beaker and Collared Urn pottery, whereas the smaller contained cremated human remains and no additional dating evidence, but is also likely to have been constructed during the Bronze Age (White 1969). Aerial photographic records of the area around these sites clearly depict multiple additional ring ditches presumably of a comparable date (CHER 02117b). Bronze Age field systems and postholes have been recorded at the Huntingdon Racecourse, also approximately 2km west of the development area, along with another ring ditch (Macaulay 1993; Welsh 1993b).

Within the immediate environs of the development area, during evaluation of the New School to the northeast, a series of pits were tentatively aligned with a Bronze Age date (Fletcher 2004; Fletcher and Hinman 2004). Between this and the current development area a pit contained an unusual series of deposits including a horse skull placed upon a bed of pebbles, all of which was covered with Beaker ‘associated’ pottery (Hinman and Cooper 2001). With questions having recently been raised against the security of radiocarbon dates for other finds of horse from this period, this may be (in anticipation of supporting radiometric dates) the earliest evidence for this species in England after the Pleistocene. Moreover, this highlights the potential in this area for structured practices of Neolithic and Bronze Age deposition. Owing to their proximity, other pits were also dated to the early Bronze Age (Fletcher 2004).

Previous evaluation within the development area exposed a large pit or watering hole, partially excavated to a depth of 1.2m, situated a few metres to the northeast of the development area and assigned a preliminary later Bronze Age date (Hinman 2000).

1.2.3 Iron Age

Within the environs surrounding the Bob’s Wood sites are a number of documented Iron Age farmsteads, field systems and individual finds at Godmanchester (Green 1977; Patten 2008), Brampton (Malim and Matchell 1993; Patten et al. 2010; White 1969), Huntingdon (Cooper and Spoerry 1999), the Huntingdon Racecourse (Welsh 1993b), and the Hinchingsbrooke Sports Ground (Wheeler 2008).

At Bob’s Wood a complex Iron Age sequence of inhabitation has been investigated during extensive evaluative and open-area excavations (Figure 2). A significant concentration of settlement activity from the late Iron Age (300BC – 43AD) has been uncovered to the north and east of the current project (Crank 2001; Fletcher 2004; Fletcher and Hinman 2004; Hinman 1997; 2000; 2005; Hinman and Cooper 2001; Howe 2007). The possibility for earlier Iron Age activity to the east and the northwest of the development area has been inferred (Hinman 2000: 12; Howe 2007: 5), but unverified. This comprises multiple droveways, enclosures and paddocks with domestic architecture and burial, and covers the full span of the Iron Age with

continuous occupation into subsequent periods. Hinman (2005) has identified 8 separate phases of settlement-related inhabitation of a probable small extended family group, with gradual movement of the settlement core from the northwest to the southwest of the landscape ridge that continues into the Roman periods. A more detailed breakdown of this sequence is presented in Section 4.6 through the context of the current project's findings.

1.2.4 Romano-British

The development area is situated within a location that overlooks the supposed route of Ermine Street that was built by the Roman army between AD42-43, and is thought to join the northern edge of Huntingdon with Godmanchester (Green 1977; Ladds 1937; Page *et al.* 1932). At 3km to the east, Godmanchester was a significant focus for settlement at this time (Cambridgeshire Archaeology 2003), with, for example, a Roman villa, bath house, ornamental pond and cremation cemetery at Rectory Farm (*ibid.*; Green 1969).

Early Roman ditches were found c.2km west of the development area at Brampton during evaluation of a proposed new A14 corridor in 2010 (Patten *et al.* 2010), perhaps in association with a Roman farm previously identified in 1991 (Malim 2005: 4).

At Bob's Wood (Figure 2) the Romano-British phases of occupation share continuity with the Iron Age settlement shift towards the south and the west. Hinman (2005) has characterised the Romano-British occupation sequence as comprising of 5 main phases that are again presented in greater detail in Section 4.6. In addition to a shifting layout in habitation, livestock and agricultural space, two phases of high status building were recognised alongside imported pottery wares and signs of metal production. Burial locations moved in conjunction with the shifting emphases of inhabitation, displaying a gradual shift in burial practice from inhumation to cremation, before a return to inhumation in the 2nd Century AD. Increasing challenges of drainage were evident through large cisterns and the re-cutting of ditches, although a degree of continuity into later periods rather than overall abandonment was suggested by handmade Saxon wares in the upper fills of these ditches.

1.2.5 Anglo-Saxon

To the west of the development area the borough of Huntingdon is thought to be of Anglo-Saxon origin, and the identification of Saxon pottery mentioned above is indicative of continued usage of the broader site environs into this period. Moreover, occupational debris from hearths or ovens has been considered by Hinman (2005: 24) to illustrate that by this time 'the core of the farmstead had shifted well beyond the bounds of the Bob's Wood excavations,' perhaps further southwest or partially into the Bob's Wood country park itself.

Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation, broadly aligned on a north-south axis, have been recorded throughout the excavations from the northwest to the east of the development area, and upstanding remains of ridge and furrow may still be found within the adjacent woods to the south.

1.2.6 Medieval to Early Post-Medieval

The development area is situated within the former estate boundaries of Hinchingsbrooke House that stands on the grounds of a small priory founded by the Benedictine Nuns of Eltisley around AD1087 (Dickinson 1972). This was dissolved in 1536, and the house was rebuilt and extended between 1538 and 1627 by the Cromwell family. Further redevelopment of the house was instigated after damage by a fire in 1830, with additional remodelling in 1894 and the 1960s. The house is currently used as the Sixth Form Centre of Hinchingsbrooke School.

1.2.7 Modern Period

During excavations in 2003 at Bob's Wood (Hinman 2005) two sub-circular ditch enclosures measuring roughly 47m by 28m with postholes at regular intervals were uncovered along the western crest of the site's elevation. Associated with modern debris, these have been provisionally interpreted as World War II 'starfish' bombing decoy stations, of which 797 are documented to have been constructed throughout the country (Dobinson 2000).

2. ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

Overall, the current project presented an opportunity to further articulate the eastern edge of the settlement revealed at Bob's Wood. The research aims of the evaluation and the open-area excavation are intrinsically related and are combined here. The primary research aims were to:

1. Assess the degree of impact upon the archaeology from previous (recent) landuse.
2. Characterise the settlement on the eastern side of the Bob's Wood excavations
3. Further articulate the scale and extent of Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology at Bob's Wood.

3. INVESTIGATION STRATEGY

The project comprised two phases of investigation: an archaeological evaluation immediately followed by open area works. Five 2m-wide trenches were opened during evaluation of the development area, totalling 127.3m in length, with the aim of assessing the impact of recent groundworks upon the underlying archaeology. Preliminary results of this phase have been described elsewhere (Brittain 2011), but are included in detail within this report. The recording and excavation strategies are the same as the open area investigation. In this second phase, a 360 degree tracked excavator with a trenching bucket was used to remove topsoil and overburden to the level of archaeological deposits over an area of 35.5m by 22m. Archaeological features were then excavated by hand.

A 10m by 10m grid was laid out across the site upon the Ordinance Survey grid using a Global Positioning System (GPS). All archaeological features were initially planned at 1:50 with further detail planned at 1:20 or 1:10 where it was deemed necessary, and section drawings were drafted at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological features were

recorded using the CAU’s modified version of the MoLAS recording system with individual features and stratigraphic contexts being assigned unique numbers (F.# and [context #]). Selected features and deposits were photographed in a high resolution digital format (JPEG & RAW). The site code was CDH11.

4. RESULTS

A total of 46 archaeological features were identified and tested (Figure 3).

4.1 Evaluation: preservation context

Five trenches were opened during evaluation at Christie Drive (Figures 1, 2 and 3), each displaying varying degrees of impact from previous ground works ranging from minimal to fair, and trench depths reflected the extent of built-up ground across the site (Tables 1-5).

Trench 1	
Avg. Depth (m)	0.7
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25
Avg. re-dep Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.3
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.25
Length of Area (m)	15.7

Trench 2	
Avg. Depth (m)	0.6
Avg. Topsoil Thickness(m)	0.25
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.45
Length of Area (m)	30

Trench 3	
Avg. Depth (m)	1.15
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.3
Avg. re-dep Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.27
Avg. Hardcore Thickness (m)	0.45
Length of Area (m)	49.3

Trench 4	
Avg. Depth (m)	1.2
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25
Avg. re-dep Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.5
Avg. Hardcore Thickness (m)	0.45
Length of Area (m)	19.7

Trench 5	
Avg. Depth (m)	1
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25
Avg. re-dep Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.45
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.30
Length of Area (m)	12.6

Tables 1-5. Evaluation trench depth of deposits.

To the west of the site, namely in Trenches 1 and 2, trench depth reached 0.6m with only a marginal accumulation of built-up ground. Towards the east, particularly along Trenches 3 and 4, trench depths were approximately 1.2m largely owing to the route of a hardcore access road aligned northeast-southwest found buried at 0.5-0.7m below the original ground level. A layer of terram matting separated the hardcore from the underlying natural geology – the topsoil and subsoil having been completely removed. Although an archaeological mitigation had been carried out prior to the construction of the access road, this did not cover the full extent of its route and archaeological deposits had clearly been impacted either through heavy compression or truncation. However, this was largely confined to the course of the road, and elsewhere the built-up ground had proved sufficient for preservation of the underlying deposits with minimal impact through compression represented by movement or alteration of

deposits or fragmentation of finds. This may be of interest to future management strategies for the temporary protection of archaeological sites during on-going development works, and broadly mirrors research by English Heritage, albeit under more controlled conditions, into methodological issues concerning soil stacks and the movement of heavy plant over archaeological deposits (May and Panter 2006).

4.2 Excavation: Phase 1 - Neolithic and Bronze Age

Earlier prehistoric activity was represented by intrusive lithic evidence recovered from the fills of later, Romano-British contexts. 19 utilised and un-utilised flint items were found with a broad typological characterisation of later Mesolithic to early Bronze Age date.

4.3 Excavation: Phase 2 - Iron Age

No features could be attributed to the Iron Age with any certainty. However, a sherd of mid-late Iron Age East Midlands Scored Ware was found intrusive within a later ditch (F.7) which emphasises the proximity of the area to later Iron Age features observed to the immediate east of Christie Drive at the New Children's Centre (Howe 2007), whilst also ascertaining the limit of this activity. The nearest feature to this activity is ditch F.3 which, although undated, may be contemporary. Only partially exposed, F.3 is a western terminus of a small gulley measuring 0.48m in width and 0.18m in depth, and contained small amounts of burnt clay, burnt stone and bone. Two small circular post holes (F.4 and F.5), measuring 0.16m in width by 0.15-0.19m in depth, were cut by the terminus. F.3 appears to correspond with the eastern terminus of a small gulley exposed during evaluation in 2000 (Hinman 2000, Trench 2), together forming a small entranceway, perhaps to a circular ring gulley. Although this interpretation is limited by chronological uncertainty, another ring gulley (F.33) may also relate to an Iron Age phase of activity (see sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.3).

4.4 Excavation: Phase 3 - Romano-British

Whilst pottery was retrieved from the majority of ditch slots, suitability for spot-dating and identification was restricted to only 14 features. All of these could be broadly dated to the 2nd – 4th centuries AD. However, whilst there was an apparent peak from the mid 2nd – 3rd century AD, detailed chronological sequencing was reliant upon stratigraphic profiling. This leaves possible gaps within the sequence of the site as a whole, although possible relationships between features may still be inferred. The Romano-British phase of the site comprised multiple ditches along a broadly north-south/east-west orientation with three phases of rectilinear enclosure, two ring gullies, and an oven or kiln pit.

4.4.1 Fencelines

An alignment of three small pits or postholes (F.19, F.31 and F.37), oriented north-north east to south-south west within the northeast limit of the site area (Figure 4), were cut by a later, but undated, ring gulley (F.33). Favourable comparison may be found with fencelines erected to the northwest of the Christie Drive site during the 1st century AD (Hinman 2005: 20, 26). There is little evidence for the erection of fencing at any other date within Bob's Wood or elsewhere in the local vicinity, and the orientation identified during the recent investigations may be paralleled with previous

examples. Nevertheless, caution is warranted by the possible Iron Age date of ring gully **F.33** which was found to cut **F.19** and **F.37**.

4.4.2 Enclosures

In spite of stratigraphic profiling and artefact spot-dating, the delineation of the exact number and sequence of phases is not possible to decipher, but three clear phases of enclosure (I-III) may be identified, including a number of tentative, but albeit possible, sub-phases: Enclosures Ia, Ib, II, IIIa, IIIb (Figure 4).

The first cutting of Enclosure Ia comprised an arrangement of shallow north-south and east-west ditches **F.11(=F.29)**, **F.22**, **F.24** and **F.38**. These formed a rectilinear enclosure with internal subdivisions and a parallel north-south ditch-enclosed passage running adjacent to the east of the enclosure. It is likely that these served as a driveway and paddock for stock management. Enclosure Ib was an elaboration of the existing system with an enlargement and extension of **F.24** by the cutting of ditch **F.17** that may have continued towards and conjoined with **F.11**, hence further enclosing the interior of the paddock. The addition of a kiln or oven pit (**F.32**) in this phase of enclosure is testimony to a change in the tasks enacted in this area at this time (see section 4.4.4). A deposit of the same reddened structure infilling the hollow of the oven was found lined across the base of **F.17** (implying contemporaneity between the two), and by association it may be suggested that ring gully **F.21** was also constructed at this time.

Enclosure II also shares an element of continuity with Enclosure I, with the east-west course of ditch **F.17** again becoming enlarged by the cutting of ditch **F.18**, which also cut through the remaining structure of the in-filled oven or kiln pit (**F.32**). At the west the ditch **F.18** turns gradually to the north, terminating after approximately 4m, but is then continued along this course for another 3.5m by a segment of ditch with a rounded V-profile (**F.8**). This was comparatively deep at 0.54m, with two fills (50 & 51) containing amongst the highest quantities of material culture from the site as a whole, including animal bone, pottery, tegulae roof tile and glass from the mid 2nd to 3rd century AD (Figure 5). Two sherds of medieval pottery were found high in the upper fill and are clearly intrusive. A small pit (**F.20**) to the east of the northern terminus of **F.8** may also be part of a gateway, although in alignment with ditch **F.38** it may also be considered as a truncated extension of an interior division within Enclosure I. To the east, **F.18** was truncated by another later ditch along the same alignment (**F.42=43**), but, on account of the similarities in material finds, may be associated with ditch **F.7**. This was the largest of the ditches excavated in this area, measuring 1.9m in width and 0.61m in depth, contrasting significantly to all other ditches across the area (Figure 6). By comparison to these other ditches, **F.7** was clearly a statement of endurance and division between the east and west of the site area, and appears to have been left open for some time, with up to six accumulated fills of distinctly varied consistency. A number of these fills, particularly within the most southerly slots, were dark, clayey deposits with charcoal and numerous finds of bone and pottery (e.g. (87 & 27), (88 & 28) and (89)), and were reminiscent of midden-structured debris (see de Vareilles, Section 6.9). Furthermore, painted wall plaster was recovered from another slot opened in **F.7** during a previous evaluation (Hinman 2000: 16, Ditch 1022 [1021]). This was mirrored elsewhere during the Bob's Wood excavations where wall plaster and 'dark, midden-like deposits' were recorded

from ditches along the western side of the 'hilltop' and dating to the late 2nd to late 3rd century AD (Hinman 2005: 21).

Although the second phase of enclosure was a partial restructuring of the mobile and seemingly functional landscape into an east-west boundary, this distinction did not endure. Enclosure IIIa presented a return to a system of north-south movement and rectilinear compartmentalisation utilising and partially enlarging the continuous imprint of the east-west ditch alignment of **F.17** and **F.18** that had been the focus of enclosure in previous episodes. A rectiform enclosure was cut along this alignment, but with an orientation to the south of the site area. Although allocated separate feature numbers to each slot, this appears to be a single feature combining **F.30**, **F.42** and **F.46**. A longitudinal section was excavated between **F.18**, **F.30** and **F.42**, but displayed no obvious cut into the fill of **F.18**, which may suggest that it was still an open feature at this time, and **F.8** is included here under the same conditions of association. A north-northwest to south-southeast ditch (**F.39**) was also opened to create a 'funnel' from the south into an open paddock or coral in the centre of the site, and it may be noted that this orientation is unusual to the site as a whole.

The final adjustment to the enclosure system is represented by Enclosure IIIb. Here the funnelling driveway of ditch **F.39** was decommissioned and replaced with a north-south ditch (**F.10**) terminating to form an entranceway, approximately 1.5m in width, into the western paddock enclosure. This redefined the north-south orientation along the eastern edge of the enclosure system.

4.4.3 Structures

Two incomplete ring gullies were excavated in the south (**F.21**) and east (**F.33**) of the site, with a possible third ring gully (**F.3**) partially exposed in evaluation Trench 3.

The best preserved ring gully (**F.21**) was only partially exposed and continued south beyond the limit of the site area. This was filled with homogenous dark brown silty clay to a depth of 0.5m with a width between 0.16m and 0.27m. The proximity of the gully to the burnt clay pit (**F.32**) is suggestive of a contemporaneous relationship, which is further supported by the cutting of both of these features by ditch **F.30**. Pottery dated the gully to the 2nd – 4th century AD.

By comparison to **F.21**, ring gully **F.33** was poorly preserved with its entire western and central extent having been removed by a post-medieval furrow (**F.6**) and additional later truncation. The eastern arc of the gully was a continuous shallow curvilinear slot 0.14-0.42m in width with shallow concave sides and flat base at a depth of 0.07-0.09m. A possible fragment of the ring gully was identified approximately 2m to the west (**F.36**), but there were no additional surviving elements or internal features. The gully contained small traces of pottery, burnt stone and flint, but nothing diagnostic. A small pit (**F.23**) to the southeast of the gully, also containing a small quantity of burnt stone, may have been contemporary. The circuit of **F.33** cut two small pits or postholes (**F.19** and **F.37**) that formed an alignment or part of a fenceline with **F.31**. As mentioned in section 4.4.1 and illustrated in Figure 4, this fenceline has been equated with similar features erected during the 1st century AD. Ring gullies **F.21** and **F.33** have therefore been placed within the same phase of enclosure during the 2nd – 4th century AD. However, lacking diagnostic associative material, ring gully **F.33** (and, therefore, the earlier fenceline) may be much earlier in date. This is supported by the proximity of **F.33** to the Iron Age activity identified in the area of the New Children's Centre to the east, along with the residual shard of

East Midland's Scored Ware in **F.7** (which could conceivably have cut through part of the western arc of the ring gully circuit).

4.4.4 Kiln / Oven

An irregular pit (**F.32**) with a banded fill of burnt clay daub and charcoal was found to the south of the site. This sub-circular feature measured 0.51m in depth with a length of 1.55m and a width of 1.45m, and contained four fills described in Table 6 (Figure 7, page 12). No furniture or distinguishable structure was recovered, and there were no clear signs of direct *in situ* scorching. The feature is somewhat ambiguous, for a number of factors may point to varied interpretation of its use. Three related functions may be considered as the most likely possibility: (a) a bread oven, (b) a brick kiln, (c) a pit for deposition of debris from (a) or (b).

The burnt clay daub fills were powdery with frequent small to medium lumps rounded in shape, which is perhaps suggestive of weathering and secondary deposition of fired debris from another location rather than in-situ collapse and burning. Alternatively, the burnt daub lumps may have become rounded through repeated demolition, reconstruction and firing of a kiln or oven. The daub may be compared with the daub of Roman bread oven structures (see Timberlake, Section 6.6), but the environmental evidence was largely absent of macro fossils and charcoal indicative of a bread oven, although the possibility of thorough cleaning of a bread oven may not be entirely discounted (see de Vareilles, Section 6.9). Alternatively, the proximity of pit **F.32** to ditch **F.17** may indicate the need for producing temperatures conducive to a kiln rather than an oven. A thin layer of charcoal-infused reddish-orange clayey silt [101] was identified against the lower cut of ditch **F.17**, indicating that the open ditch was contemporary with pit **F.32**. Elsewhere in Cambridgeshire the use of ditches has been noted in the construction and use of Roman pit kiln structures, with the ditch acting as a flue for the maintenance and control of appropriate temperatures (e.g. Gibson and Lucas 2001; Evans *et al.* 2008: 58-61). Parallels for each of these interpretations may be found in other examples across the Bob's Wood excavations.

Three small possible pits or postholes (**F.40**, **F.43** and **F.44**) were recorded around the perimeter of **F.32**, each measuring approximately 0.3m diameter and with a depth up to 0.09m. Their relation to **F.32** is unclear. Indeed, there is doubt as to whether or not these three small features are structural. **F.44** contained a single fill similar to the burnt material from **F.32**, and was an irregular oval in form, perhaps resulting from bioturbation. Similarly, **F.40** and **F.43** were found as shallow impressions at the base of ditches **F.30** and **F.42** and may relate to the original cutting of these features. The removal of moderately-sized natural stones that were noted at various locations across the site could also have left such a shallow hollow, as was found to the north of the site when a 0.3m diameter stone was lifted during machining to form a distinct, but natural, circular hollow (recorded as **F.16**). The recovery of two large stones from against the cut of **F.32** may further support this view.

4.4.5 Pits and Postholes

Sixteen features were recorded as either pits or postholes (Table 7, page 13), although a number of these may be either natural hollows or plough damage.

Context Number	Context type	Description
138	Fill	Firm and dense. Finely mottled darkish grey and mid-pale brownish yellows and occasional orangey clayey silts with moderate charcoal flecks. Lower levels includes very occasional lumps (<4cm diameter) and flecks of reddish orange fired clay with rare stones <6cm diameter, often scorched. Clear basal horizon with [139]. Sample no.5
139	Fill	Firm, dense and fairly sticky mid brown silty clay with frequent lumps and flecks of reddish orange fired clay. Very occasional charcoal flecks and rare very small stones. Diffuse horizon with [140]
140	Fill	Firm lumpy and granular deposit. Very frequent fragments of very firm to indurated fired reddish orange and rarely brown orangey fired clay. Sizes range from fine grain to 3cm diameter, with very occasional instances of 8cm diameter. These lie in a matrix of orangey mottled mid brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and stones <5cm diameter (often heat-affected). A large unburnt cobble c.20cm diameter lay against the east cut. Very diffuse horizon with [141]
141	Fill	Firm slightly lumpy or granular deposit, similar to [140] but with greater volume of charcoal flecks in diffuse patchy lenses. Lower frequency of fired clay fragments than [140], approximately 3cm diameter. Rare heat-affected stones <5cm diameter. Sample no.6
142	Cut	Irregular oval pit truncated at western and northern upper sides by F.30 and F.42 . Upper sides, where surviving, vary considerably from gentle to steep, with a slightly irregular concave base. A slight step is noted at the north side.

Table 6. Deposit fill structure of **F.32**

F.19, **F.31** and **F.37** have been discussed above as a possible fenceline of either Iron Age or early Roman date; **F.4** and **F.5** have also been described in association with ring gully **F.3** that is also of possible Iron Age date; and it has been suggested that **F.40**, **F.43** and **F.44** are, along with **F.16**, natural impressions. Similarly, the reliability of **F.25** is also questionable, and is likely to be a plough scar or furrow damage with the associated pottery having been drawn up from either ditch **F.17** or **F.24**.

Of greater certainty are **F.14**, **F.15**, **F.20**, **F.23**, **F.26**, **F.27**, **F.28** and **F.41**. Of these features only pit **F.15** could be securely dated to the 2nd – 4th century AD. None of these were found in clusters or groups, and appear to be of random distribution. **F.26** and **F.28** were situated together and appeared to cut the lower fill [90] of **F.7** before becoming overlain by the upper fills [87-89]. This would position these two features somewhere between Enclosure phases II and IIIa, but no further dating was possible.

4.5 Excavation: Phase 4 - Medieval to Post-Medieval

Eight furrows oriented north-south were found to traverse the site at regular intervals of approximately 10m (Figure 4). A small slot into one of these (**F.6**) produced finds of post-Medieval date. On the same alignment was a small linear boundary ditch or hedgerow (**F.12**) that contained in addition to post-Medieval finds, a number of residual Romano-British pottery sherds from the 2nd – 4th century AD.

Feature Number	Feature Type	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Associated Finds	Comments
4	Post hole	0.16		0.19		Iron Age?
5	Post hole	0.16		0.15		Iron Age?
14	Pit	1.68		0.16	Shell	
15	Pit	0.8	0.7	0.24	Pottery, Burnt Stone	2nd - 4th Century AD
16	Hollow	0.32	0.33	0.17		Natural
19	Small pit or post hole	0.63		0.18	Stone	
20	Small pit	0.26		0.12		2nd - 3rd Century AD
25	Small pit or post hole	0.28		0.08	Pottery	2nd - 4th Century AD; possible plough mark
26	Small pit or post hole	0.65		0.61		
27	Pit	0.95		0.24		
28	Pit	0.75		0.28		
31	Small pit or post hole	0.35		0.11		
37	Small pit or post hole	0.34	0.4	0.18		
40	Small pit or post hole	0.4	0.32	0.1		Natural ?
41	Small pit or post hole	0.3	0.32	0.1	Burnt Stone	
43	Small pit or post hole	0.22		0.03		Natural ?
44	Small pit or post hole	0.36	0.42	0.09		Natural ?

Table 7. Description of pits and post-holes

4.6 Discussion

The earliest phases of activity at the Christie Drive excavations are represented by lithic evidence for the late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age found residual in Romano-British features. This is largely in keeping with previous expressions of earlier prehistoric inhabitation across Bob's Wood that indicate repeated but transient visitation of the higher ground along this part of the Ouse Valley.

With the exception of a single abraded sherd of later Iron Age East Midlands Scored Ware found within ditch **F.7**, there was no *clear* additional evidence for prehistoric activity which appears to be otherwise localised with a small number of Beaker and Bronze Age pits to the northeast, middle Iron Age ditches to the northwest, and later Iron Age features to the north and east. Importantly, however, it is now possible to

confirm the bounded limits of Iron Age activity at least to the east of Christie Drive at the New Children’s Centre (Howe 2007) – which was also associated with East Midlands Scored Ware – with the possibility that either ring gully **F.3** or **F.33** represents the most westerly projection of this system. The Iron Age is identified as ‘Period 3’ in Hinman’s (2005) classification of occupation at Bob’s Wood, which is further divided into eight separate phases of Iron Age land use (Table 8). Whilst it is not possible to be definite as to which of these phases the Christie Drive and new Children’s Centre activity belongs, it is of greatest probability that East Midlands Scored Ware would have been associated with phases no later than the 1st century BC, i.e. Hinman’s Period 3.5. This is likely to correlate with a southerly and westerly movement of the settlement core.

Period	Description
3.1	Establishment of a pit alignment (undated) with few artefacts or structural elements.
3.2	Bisection of the pit alignment by a north-south boundary ditch displaying a narrow ‘ankle-breaking’ profile and containing a placed deposit of a defaced quern base.
3.3	Opening of a new continuous ditch also following a north-south alignment, containing two iron currency bars and cutting both previous phases. With increased artefact densities and fauna within multiple ditch recuts, settlement was now clearly positioned within a hollow against the clay rise to the northwest. A small enclosure positioned outside of the settlement boundary provided the first evidence for iron working on the site.
3.4	Acts of deposition, primarily of pottery, at designated points along the northern settlement boundary signify the gradual abandonment or closure of the northern settlement boundary, and movement southwards from the hollow to the hilltop (no later than the mid 1st century BC).
3.5	The construction of four roughly rectilinear enclosures either side of an east-west driveway across the hilltop, and the possible erection of roundhouses evidenced by a number of circular eavesdrop gullies. Modification of the enclosures, particularly on the northern hill slopes, suggests that much of the rectilinear layout was short-lived whereas two enclosed pasture fields to the east and west were managed over an extended period of time.
3.6	The open-plan rectilinear system is replaced around 50BC with an extended modification creating a third large pasture field with a series of small irregular paddocks. Pits containing remains of numerous species and unusual artefactual deposits were sunk at designated points across the enclosure layout and map the later sub-division of open spaces by small rectilinear enclosures in subsequent phases.
3.7	The division of the open spaces ensues into the latest pre-Roman Iron Age, with circular eavesdrop gullies representing additional dwelling spaces, and a sub-rectangular corral was constructed to the south of the main settlement enclosure. The comparatively elevated status of the population is represented by luxury items evident during this period with imports from Spain and Italy, and this is further attested by the character and contents of a number of inhumations and cremations along the crest of the hill.
3.8	Minor adjustment to the layout of the previous settlement and enclosure system are initiated during the conquest period, with the possible reestablishment of arable cultivation along the south-facing slope. Metalwork and other particular items indicate contact and interaction with the Roman military, and the continued high status occupation of the site during the 1st century AD.

Table 8. Hinman’s (2005) classification for Bob’s Wood Iron Age occupation.

Much of the archaeology from Christie Drive confirms the Romano-British sequence of the framework set out by Hinman (2005) for Bob’s Wood. In this framework the Romano-British sequence – Period 4 – is sub-divided into five primary phases of landscape characterisation from the 1st century AD through to the 4th century AD (Table 9).

Although the majority of archaeology at Christie Drive relates to the later phases of this period, a single fenceline, albeit of only three postholes, corresponds in both character and orientation with Hinman’s Period 4.1, and with some caution is perhaps the first indication of Romano-British influence in this area of the landscape, as well as an insight into a potential southerly extension of the fencelines identified to the north at Bob’s Wood.

Period	Description
4.1	Further sub-division of space with new fences, a rounded sub-enclosure and adjusted route of the trackway in addition to the construction of an isled building with cisterns and a possible pottery kiln. Possible indications of horse breeding on site.
4.2	A substantial rectangular building with mortar and opus signum was now the primary habitation. Imported pottery dated to between 150 and 175AD was placed with cremation burials opposite the new building.
4.3	Re-cutting of the eastern settlement boundary ditches during the 2nd century AD, establishing a rectilinear layout. Smaller paddocks and enclosures go into disuse with traces of dark, midden-like deposits occurring in parts of their upper fills. A timber-framed building is constructed with a stone front porch, a tiled roof, painted plaster walls and central heating. Cremation burial practices become replaced with practices of inhumation during this phase with six inhumed burials identified.
4.4	Further re-cutting of ditches continued into the later 3rd century AD, perhaps owing to increased poor drainage. Additional water-management features were also introduced, with a large pond and a large ‘L’ shaped enclosure to the northeast and southeast of the enclosure respectively. A smithing hearth was used for the melting down and smithing of scrap metal, and the large building from the previous phase was now abandoned. Coinage indicates usage of the site into the 4th century AD.
4.5	A number of small ditches and re-cutting episodes produced 4th century pottery and handmade Saxon wares, displaying a degree of continuity from Roman to Saxon periods.

Table 9. Hinman’s (2005) classification for Bob’s Wood Roman-British occupation.

The remaining phases of enclosure and settlement within the Christie Drive excavations bear relevance to the period of the mid-2nd to the 4th centuries AD, to which Hinman (2005) assigns Periods 4.3 and 4.4 respectively. Indeed, there are similarities in the material characteristics of these periods observed both within the Bob’s Wood and Christie Drive investigations. Notably, these include a midden-like deposit and painted plaster debris in ditch fills with additional signs of repeated re-cutting or reinstatement of ditch lines. This further supports Hinman’s (2005) observation of the construction and subsequent decommission of a prestigious household, alongside the abandonment of enclosures followed by a necessity for ditch drainage, perhaps in response to changing – wetter – environmental circumstances. However, the presence of additional ring gullies (F.21 and, perhaps, F.33) and a possible kiln or oven (F.32) – clear evidence for localised domestic inhabitation – in the southern limit of the Bob’s Wood environs calls for a degree of caution with regards to the assumed cumulative south-westerly shift of the broader settlement plan. Whilst there is a clear pattern of drift towards the southern valley slope from the 2nd

century AD, the extent of this movement into the area of the Christie Drive investigations appears short-lived as changing needs of enclosure evolve into the 3rd century AD, perhaps when conditions are becoming increasingly wet and non-conducive to habitation.

4.7 Statement of Potential

In many respects the excavations at Christie Drive concludes the possibility for ground investigation along the south-eastern slopes of the Bob's Wood ridge. Christie Drive, in conjunction with the previous investigations alluded to throughout this report, represents a rare opportunity to analyse the near continuous inhabitation of a landscape from the early Iron Age to the early Saxon period, and the on-going response of an evolving community to combined changing environmental and economic circumstances.

5. REVISED RESEARCH AIMS

Contextualisation of the archaeology identified at Christie Drive would benefit from the inclusion and comparison of the material assemblage to that recovered during previous investigations across Bob's Wood. However, based upon the current synthesis, any future investigations within the locale of Christie Drive may consider the following research aims:

1. Further definition of the southerly limit of inhabitation whilst querying its domestic and peripheral nature.
2. Delineate the extent of Iron Age features to the east and south of the New Children's Centre.

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Fabric	No.	Wt(g)
Black-slipped ware	4	22
Central Gaulish Samian	1	10
Coarse sandy greyware	27	199
Colour-coat	2	19
Fine oxidised sandy	2	12
Fine sandy greyware	6	14
Nene Valley whiteware	2	74
Nene Valley colour-coat	13	240
Oxidised sandy ware	7	51
Reduced sandy ware	7	26
Shell-tempered ware	75	572
Whiteware	2	14
TOTAL	148	1253

Table 10. All pottery by fabric

Form	No.	Wt(g)
Beaker	2	43
Bowl	7	78
Dish	3	67
Jar	22	223
Mortaria	2	74
Unknown	112	768
TOTAL	148	1253

Table 11. All pottery by form

Decoration was found on just two sherds, comprising one combed shell-tempered jar and one Nene Valley colour-coated sherd with rouletted decoration. Other than abrasion, no further usewear evidence was identified, which again could be primarily due to the condition of the assemblage.

Contextual Analysis

Roman pottery was recovered from a total of 14 features, albeit in varying quantities (see Table 12). Enclosure ditch **F.30** contained the largest quantity of material, totalling 37 sherds and weighing 231g. This included the Central Gaulish Samian sherd and a single Nene Valley colour-coated sherd, dating 2nd-3rd century AD. **F.18** formed part of an enclosure along with **F.17**, which contained 18 sherds (107g). **F.18** and **F.42** formed part of another enclosure and both contained pottery dating 2nd-3rd century AD.

A further large ditch (**F.7**) contained 26 sherds of pottery including greywares and shell-tempered wares. Pottery from this feature also dates 2nd-3rd century AD. That there is no clear chronological difference in date between these enclosures suggests either that they were dug around the same period, or else the cutting of one led to the redeposition of pottery into the other.

F.8 contained 20 sherds of pottery (174g), which date within the 2nd-3rd century AD. These were found alongside two medieval sherds of pottery, which may be regarded as intrusive.

Ft	No.	Wt(g)	Date
1	6	39	2nd-4th AD
7	26	312	2nd-3rd AD

6. APPENDICES

6.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Marcus Brittain

A single abraded rim of East Midlands Scored Ware pottery was found in ditch **F.7** [123]. This is a form broadly dateable to the 3rd to 1st centuries BC, although the incised decoration, often diagonal and hap-hazard, is known also to continue into the early 1st century AD on rural sites (Elsdon 1992: 89). Abraded, and found alongside 2nd – 3rd century AD pottery, this is an intrusive find.

F.7 [123] <101> Rim sherd of a medium-sized closed bowl. Deep scoring in irregular cross-hatch on exterior of body; burnished interior. Fabric is very dark grey with moderate fine shell, sparse chalk and mica. Thickness 10mm. Weight 32g.

6.2 Roman Pottery by Katie Anderson

An assemblage totalling 154 sherds weighing 1260g and representing 1.17 EVEs was recovered from the excavation. All of the pottery was analysed and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear and date were recorded along with any other information deemed important.

Assemblage Composition

The assemblage comprised primarily small to medium sized sherds, with a relatively low mean weight of 8.1g. Several of the sherds were noted as being abraded, suggesting that they may have been left on the surface before being deposited, or may have been redeposited from elsewhere. Refits across the assemblage were limited to same context refits, most of which are likely to have come from modern rather than ancient breaks. The assemblage broadly dated to the 2nd-4th century AD, with an apparent peak from the mid 2nd-3rd century AD.

A range of vessel fabrics were identified (see Table 10) with coarseware fabrics representing 89% of the total assemblage. Within the coarseware category, shell-tempered wares were the most commonly occurring fabric type with a total of 75 sherds. It is likely that these vessels were from the local area, as Roman shell-tempered wares were common in this area of Cambridgeshire. Sandy greywares were also relatively well represented (27 coarse sandy greywares and six fine sandy greywares).

Finewares were limited and included 13 Nene Valley colour-coated wares and two further unsourced colour-coated sherds, all of which broadly date mid 2nd-4th century AD. A single imported ware comprising a body sherd from a Central Gaulish Samian sherd was identified from **F.30**, and dates to the 2nd-3rd century AD.

The range of vessel forms was limited (Table 11), which is largely due to the size and condition of the assemblage. Diagnostic sherds represented just 15% of the assemblage, with jars being the most commonly occurring form. Within this category there were a range of different sized jars, with rims between 12cm and 18cm in diameter, reflecting diversity in function. Few other vessel forms were identified, including seven bowls, three dishes, two mortaria and two beakers identified, which together allow for an insight into the ways in which pottery was being utilised on the site.

8	20	174	Mid 2nd-3rd AD
9	2	13	2nd-4th AD
10	2	2	2nd-4th AD
15	1	2	2nd-4th AD
17	18	107	2nd-4th AD
18	20	146	Mid 2nd-3rd AD
20	2	12	2nd-3rd AD
21	2	20	2nd-4th AD
25	1	2	2nd-4th AD
30	37	231	2 nd -4 th AD
42	8	116	2nd-3rd AD
46	1	55	2nd-4th AD
Spoil	2	22	Mid 2nd-3rd AD
TOTAL	148	1253	x

Table 12: Pottery by Feature

Discussion

Overall, the Roman pottery recovered from Christie Drive is useful in providing an insight into the nature and function of the settlement. The fabrics and forms identified in this assemblage suggest a Roman rural domestic site, fairly typical for Cambridgeshire, occupied between the mid and later Roman period (2nd-4th century AD). The quantity of material recovered from the site, in conjunction with its condition, suggests that this was not a main foci of settlement, but rather was on the outskirts of a larger domestic settlement.

Roman Tile

Two fragments of Roman tile, weighing 442g were recovered from **F.8**, comprising two tegulae roof tiles. The tile can only be broadly dated as Romano-British; however, their presence alongside several sherds of Roman pottery suggests that a 2nd-3rd century AD date is appropriate.

6.3 Lithics *by Lawrence Billington*

A small assemblage of 19 worked flints was recovered (Table 13). The condition of the assemblage is generally fairly good but almost all pieces exhibit minor edge damage and rounding consistent with redeposition or unprotected surface deposits. Earlier Neolithic or Mesolithic activity is indicated by three regular blade-based removals from **F. 7**, **F. 11** and **F. 33**. The remainder of the material is made up of generalised flake-based waste, a minimally worked flake core and a broken side scraper. None of this material is strictly diagnostic but the technological characteristics of the pieces, including evidence for direct hard hammer percussion, varied flake morphology and thick unprepared striking platforms suggest a date in the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

Feature No.	7	8	9	9	10	11	13	18	21	33	38	n/a	Total
Context	SF.5	50	35	19	147	23	33	44	60	116	134	1	
Chip				1	1								2
Irregular waste		1	1										2
Flake					1		1	2	1	1			7
Narrow/blade-like flake							1						1
Bladelet	1									1			2
Flake core								1					1
Core fragment									1				1
Scraper											1		1
Retouched Flake												1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	19

Table 13. Lithic assemblage.

6.4 Fauna by Vida Rajkovača

Investigations at Christie Drive, Huntingdon, resulted in the recovery of a small faunal assemblage totalling 180 assessable specimens and weighing 5592g. The assemblage was hand-recovered and does not include remains from heavy residues. Dating of the assemblage was based on data obtained from the pottery analysis, placing the Christie Drive faunal record into the period between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, with a peak around 2nd – 3rd centuries AD. The Romano-British component was quantified and considered as a whole, with the material from the undated features being presented separately.

The assemblage was identified with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count

The material exhibited a moderate to fairly poor state of preservation, with a small portion showing minimal surface erosion and weathering (26 specimens, c.14% of the assemblage). The assemblage was highly fragmented, and in addition to a number of ancient breaks, c.10% of the assemblage suffered from recent breaks. The high fragmentation was also obvious from the bones to loose teeth ratio: of 58 specimens identified to species level, 31 were loose teeth or tooth fragments (53.4% of the identified count). Overall poor state of preservation and high fragmentation were reflected in a relatively small portion of the assemblage being identified to species (58 specimens, 32% of the assemblage). The remainder of the material was assigned to size-categories (Table 14). Only four instances of butchery were recorded, of which three came from ditch F.7, dated to 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. A range of cow and sheep elements were affected and the marks imply disarticulation, skinning and meat removal. A single specimen recovered from ditch F.30 showed signs of gnawing.

The assemblage showed an expected prevalence of cattle (Table 14), which is a typical characteristic of Romano-British rural settlements in the region. This was

followed by sheep/goat, dog and horse, all of which were under-represented with pig being conspicuously absent from the assemblage. An impoverished range of species and an overwhelming reliance of domestic sources of meat are most likely due to assemblage's small size.

Taxon	2 nd - 4 th c. AD				Undated				Total
	NISP <i>Bones</i>	NISP <i>Loose teeth</i>	%NISP	MNI	NISP <i>Bones</i>	NISP <i>Loose teeth</i>	%NISP	MNI	
Cow	28	17	67.6	3	1	.	12.5	1	Total 180
Sheep/ goat	3	7	25	1	1	6	87.5	1	
Dog	3	.	4.4	1	.	.	.	.
Horse	1	1	3	1	.	.	.	.
Sub-total ID to species	35	25	100	.	2	6	100	.	
Cattle-sized	57	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	
Sheep-sized	10	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	
Mammal n.f.i.	34	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	136	25	.	.	13	6	.	.	

Table 14. Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) for all species by phase; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Ditches F.7 and F.8, dated to 2nd – 3rd centuries AD, produced more faunal material than other features, both by weight and fragment count. Of the total of 180 specimens, these two features accounted for 114 fragments (63.3% of the assemblage by count) with a combined weight of 3902g (69.8% of the assemblage by weight). The apparent peak of the settlement activity, as evidenced by the pottery material (see Anderson, this report), is clearly mirrored by the quantity of bone accumulated within these two ditches.

Two instances of pathological changes on bone were noted, both on cattle elements (metacarpus and tibia). One was in form of an exostosis and other in form of lesions on the proximal metacarpus. These changes are indicative of osteoarthritis and osteochondritis dissecans, degenerative joint disorders and diseases.

King's analysis of Romano-British faunal reports showed that cattle nearly always dominate the bone collections, whether counted as fragments or MNIs (King 1999), and findings from Christie Drive corroborate this notion. The results showed that the utilisation of animal resources concentrated on domestic species and reflect the disposal of domestic waste. The sample is too small for assessing age distributions and the scale of livestock husbandry seems to have been modest. The small sample size also makes any comparison with contemporaneous assemblages difficult if not impossible.

6.5 Metalwork by *Marcus Brittain*

Seven ferrous objects were recovered from five separate features. Together these weighed a total of 41g. All were iron and in varying condition. These comprised four nails, two hobnails, and the tip of an awl. All items are from features associated with Romano-British pottery, and the metal items would not be out of place within other assemblages of this timeframe (Manning 1985). Moreover, the hobnails are of a form and dimension that are typical to the Roman period, and were fitted to the footwear of both sexes (Miller & Rhodes 1980).

F.7, [87]. Iron awl, handmade, with abraded surface. Straight with a flat rectangular section. Length is 24mm, width is 4mm, depth is 1mm. Weight <1g.

F.8, [50]. Iron hobnail, handmade, 11mm in length, with a domed ovoid head and straight shank with a sub-rectangular section, approximately measuring 4mm x 5mm. The point is missing with a modern break. Weight <1g.

F.21, [60]. Iron nail, handmade, 40mm in length, with a straight shank bent 90 degrees 5mm below the head. The shank is square in profile, approximately 5mm in width. The head is flat and sub-square with a rounded lip, measuring 8mm x 10mm. tip is missing with a worn break. Weight 6g.

F.30, [106]. Incomplete iron nail, handmade, with oxidised surface. Shank is straight with a length of 37mm, and a sub-square section approximately 6mm in width. The head is missing with a worn break, and the tip is rounded and abraded. Weight 4g.

F.42, SF1. Iron nail, handmade and straight in profile. The shank is square in section with each face approximately measuring 8mm in width and 50mm in length. The head is flat and ovoid, measuring 18mm x 21mm, with the lip overlying three sides of the shank. The tip is abraded and slightly bent, but nonetheless tapering towards a rounded point. Weight 20g.

F.42, SF2. Iron nail, handmade, yet heavily oxidised and concreted, but straight in profile. Probably incomplete. The shank is square in section, measuring 7mm in width and 25mm in length. The head is flat and square without a lip. Weight 10g.

F.42, SF4. A complete iron hobnail, handmade, and 8mm in length, with a flat sub-rectangular head. The shank is rectangular in section, measuring 5mm x 3mm, and tapers to a point at a slight angle away from the head. Weight <1g.

6.6 Fired Clay by *Simon Timberlake*

13 samples of burnt clay were recovered from 11 individual contexts, in total weighing 1334g.

The largest sample consisted of 966g of daub pieces from a disintegrated structure (an oven or kiln: **F.32** (140) <108>). None of these fragments showed any wattle or straw (organic) impressions; the small angular flint clasts present within the clay could have been natural inclusions, if not part of a thin grog temper. The puddled and worked clay used for making this daub might have been either Boulder Clay or washed-out Jurassic Clay; the brick red coloration on firing suggests Jurassic clays as an original source. This type of oxidation burning is very typical of bread oven structures.

Interestingly, most of the other burnt clay samples are paler in colour, suggesting that these were functionally different and/or made from different clay. Examples such as from **F.9**, **F.11** and **F.13** may well be of burnt walling daub. That from **F.7** (119) is different again – this certainly appears to be exterior walling daub that has been burnt

intentionally or unintentionally. This possesses a strong reduced zone internally and traces of chaff inclusion.

6.7 Worked Stone by Simon Timberlake

Four examples of worked stone were found within the collected stone stone assemblage from this site. Three of these were burnt. Two stones originally catalogued as worked are upon closer inspection clearly unmodified natural stones.

F.7 (25) <026>: not a worked or utilised stone.

F.7 (87) <079> 170g fragment of a crude whetstone (35mm (long) x 70mm (wide) x 30mm (deep). A burnt and broken-up sharpening stone made up of a flaggy fine-medium grained sandstone, possibly of Old Red Sandstone or a Triassic sandstone. This has been smoothed (polished) on just one face, although there are also traces of two knife grooves on one edge.

F.13 (33) <032> saddlequern: 140mm x 40mm x 60mm, 798g. The end of a crudely shaped saddlequern, probably originally c.200mm long, made of a Jurassic limestone, possibly Corallian Limestone. In the broken x-section fossils incl. echinoid spines can be seen. This may have been a collected glacial erratic. In some ways this is an unusual choice of stone for a saddlequern; it is soft compared to other available rocks such as sandstones. The quern has been used on both upper and lower surfaces; one side has seen more use, being more concave and well-smoothed in profile.

F.15 (38) <038> 1966g fragment from the end of a saddle quern(?) (110mm (deep) x 130mm (long) x 150mm (wide)). The possible end of a burnt and broken up quern made from an orthoquartzitic sarsen sandstone boulder. This has a clear keel, thus was of the form which sat in the ground, whilst the upper grinding surface was only partially worn smooth before it broke and/or was discarded.

F.18 (103) <089>: not a worked stone. This is a small fragment of what appears to be a basalt or basic volcanic tuff, but is *not* Niedermendig lava, thus there is no evidence that it comes from an object of worked or utilised stone.

F.30 (174) <121> 1.182kg an inscribed and utilised (?) stone (110 x 85 x 50mm). The markings present on the one flat face of this basalt cobble do not appear to be natural, although the significance of this (if any) could not be guessed at. The presence of two parallel; (pecked) grooves might have been explicable as glacial scratches, but these terminate acutely within the centre of another groove, possibly one defining part of a rounded polygon. There are at least two other more random lines cutting this. This same flat surface may also have been used as an implement, possibly a crude quern or rubbing stone.

This re-use of broken quern, or the purposeful destruction of it by fire, is fairly common within Iron Age – Roman assemblages seen in Cambridgeshire.

6.8 Burnt stone by Simon Timberlake

This assemblage consists of **12.852 kg** of burnt stone composed of 120 fragments of burnt and cracked pebbles (Table 15).

The material is fairly typical of Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age burnt stone assemblages, with small sandstone – crystalline igneous type fluvio-glacial pebbles being selected from the gravels for burning and boiling purposes. What is slightly more unusual is the range of different rock types, but this probably quite simply reflects the range of exotics present within the immediately local boulder clay/gravels. A few of the size ranges of fragments (<30mm - <50mm diameter) suggest re-use (re-burning of stone and immersion for boiling), whilst at least one of the assemblages (such as from **F.23**) suggests the *in situ* deposition of single burnt and

cracked rocks. A number of worked stone fragments were found amongst the burnt stone. The assemblage also included some unburnt material (eg. dolerite in **F.29** (98)).

Cat. No.	Feature	Context	No of pieces	Weight (g)	Geology etc.
117	39	165	53	2346	carstone, calcar sst, Bunter quartzite, greensand, sarsen sst, limestone, Palaeoz volc tuff, Palaeoz greywacke sst, pororphyritic andesite, dolerite (fragments <50mm diam)
069	23	68	6	818	dolerite (all same cobble – in situ.?)
105	22	124	1	162	basalt
121	30	174	1	1182	basalt NB has an inscribed pattern on one face (not natural) Kept as WS
083	18	95	1	28	greywacke sst
086	29	98	2	26	sst
079	7	87	35	2778	volc rhyolitic tuff, ferrug quartzitic sst, micac sst (Carbonif), Bunter quartzite, dolerite, oolitic lmstn, L.Palaeoz quartzite, Jurassic lmstn, Old Red sst, carstone LGS (fragments mostly <50mm + some larger)
038	15	38	1	1966	orthoquartzitic sarsen sst (NB part of a broken-up saddle quern – to WS)
104	7	123	9	1208	dolerite, arenac lmstn, Bunter quartzite, fine grain Mesozoic lmstn, Palaeoz quartzite?, calcar sst, vein quartz
100	7	119	9	608	greensand, fine grain white lmstn, orthoquartzite (fragments <50mm diam)
068	22	65	4	554	dolerite, volc tuff, ferrug sst, lmstn
096	33	116	25	534	calcar sst, volc tuff, basalt/andesite, greywacke sst, micac sst, dolerite, soft ORS sst, Bunter quartzite, basalt (NB fragment mostly <30mm)
056	8	50	3	204	oolitic Carbonif lmstn ?, non-flaggy micac sst
048	17	47	2	240	metamorphosed greenstone (Precambrian?), ferrug quartzite
112	41	150	4	124	chert, coarse sst
045	18	44	1	56	quartz gneiss (Precambrian)
075	18	81	1	10	limonitic sst
060	8	51	1	8	micac sst

Table 15. Description of burnt stones

6.9 Glass by Vicki Herring

Only two small fragments of glass were recovered from the site. Both of these from within features dated to the Roman period.

F.8 [52] – A base fragment (30x33mm, 9mm thick) of blue/green soda glass with a circular motif in relief on the underside. This is part of the base of a square bottle, a long lived form of Roman vessel very common from the later 1st century onwards. It is of relatively high quality, mould blown glass and was possibly produced in the south east of England. The vessel would fit easily into the same date range of mid 2nd-3rd century AD as the sherds of pottery found within the same fill (51).

F29 [100] – A small body shard (40x17mm, 4mm thick) of colourless glass. This fragment is very clear and bubble free with little wear/weathering on the surface making it most likely to be of relatively modern manufacture and therefore almost certainly intrusive.

6.10 Environmental analysis by Anne de Vareilles

Methodology

Ten bulk environmental samples of Romano-British 2nd-4th century AD date were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in 300µm aperture meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors prior to analysis. Sorting of the flots and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification). Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for all other flora. All environmental remains are listed in Tables 16 and 17.

Preservation

All archaeobotanical remains recovered were charred. No meaningful quantities of charcoal were recovered from any of the samples and most contained no other plant macro-remains. Preservation from **F.7** was adequate, enabling the survival and identification of fine particles. **F.7** also appeared to be the only feature that had not experienced bioturbation, although all other sealed contexts had been disrupted by intrusive rootlets and modern seeds (namely chenopods).

Results

Ditches, F.8 and F.7

A spelt glume base (*Triticum spelta*) and a small dock seed (*Rumex* sp.) were the only plant remains found in **F.8** (other than fine charcoal dust). By contrast, **F.7** was relatively rich in cereal parts and wild plant seeds. The cereal grains comprised of spelt and a free-threshing wheat type (*T. aestivum* sl.). Circa 69% of the spelt grains had germinated. A few oat caryopses (*Avena* sp.) were also found but could not be identified as wild or cultivated forms without their florets. 58 glume bases, of which four could be identified as spelt, outnumber the count of grains. Oat awns and wheat rachis internodes were also present. The wild plant seeds are quite numerous and represent typical arable weeds. Stinking chamomile suggests spelt was grown on heavy, clay-rich soils. The assemblage is rich in unwanted crop waste and grains which may originate from the clearing out of storage pits (grains against the sides of the storage pits are expected to germinate).

Ring-gullies, F.33 and F.21, and kiln/oven F.32

Very low quantities of charcoal were found, and the only other plant remains recovered were a small wild grass seed and a henbane seed (*Hyoscyamus niger*), both from **F.32** [141]. These results are not conclusive regarding the function of **F.32**. However, if it was a bread oven it was thoroughly cleaned out after its last use.

Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10
Context	51	88	113	117	138	141	153	145	165	171
Feature	8	7	33	33	32	32	21	39	39	46
Feature type	ditch	ditch	ring gully		bread oven?		r-gully	ditch	ditch	ditch
Phase / Date	2nd-3rd C AD		probably 2nd-3rd C AD				2nd-4th C Ad			
Sample volume - litres	8	10	10	15	15	18	15	10	12	15
Flot fraction examined -%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+								
small charcoal (<2mm)	+	++	-	+	+	++	+	-	++	++
Estimated charcoal volume - ml	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Cereal grains and chaff										
<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i>	ungerminated spelt grain	13								
<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i>	germinated spelt grain	9								
<i>Triticum aestivum sensu lato</i>	free-threshing wheat	2								
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	indeterminate wheat grain	6								
<i>cf. Avena sp.</i>	Oat - wild or cultivated	4								
Indeterminate cereal grain		11								
indet. large Poaceae	wild or cultivated grass	4								1
<i>T. spelta</i> L. glume base	Spelt chaff	1	4							2
<i>Triticum sp.</i> glume base	hulled wheat chaff		54						1	2
<i>Triticum sp.</i> rachis internode	indet. wheat chaff		+							
<i>Avena sp.</i> awn fragments	oat awn fragments		+							

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++> 50 items. P = present.

Table 16. Cereal grains and chaff from floatation samples

Ditches, F.39 and F.46

A few additional cereal remains were found in these samples. **F.39** contained one wheat glume base, whilst **F.46** produced four glume bases, two of which are spelt, two wild plant seeds and a fragment of a large grass seed. The results suggest that the ditches were not entirely divorced, either spatially or temporally, from domestic activities.

Conclusion

All the samples, except that from **F.7**, are very sterile and do not provide much evidence for the location or intensity of cereal processing. The assemblage from **F.7** is reminiscent of midden waste where unwanted debris was discarded. Spelt wheat appears to have been the preferred cereal and the presence of associated chaff and wild plant seeds suggest the inhabitants were growing their own crops, probably on the local, clay-rich soils.

Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10
Context	51	88	113	117	138	141	153	145	165	171
Feature	8	7	33	33	32	32	21	39	39	46
Feature type	ditch	ditch	ring gully		bread oven?		r-gully	ditch	ditch	ditch
Phase / Date	2nd-3rd C AD		probably 2nd-3rd C AD					2nd-4th C Ad		
Sample volume - litres	8	10	10	15	15	18	15	10	12	15
Flot fraction examined -%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+								
small charcoal (<2mm)	+	++	-	+	+	++	+	-	++	++
Estimated charcoal volume - ml.	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Non cereal plant remains										
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		3								1
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>		6								
small <i>Rumex</i> sp.	1	1								
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.						1				
<i>Odonites verna</i> (Bellard) Dumort.										1
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		2								
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip.		1								
small Poaceae		11				1				
Intrusive rootlets and/or seeds	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++> 50 items. P = present.

Table 17. Non-cereal plant remains from floatation samples

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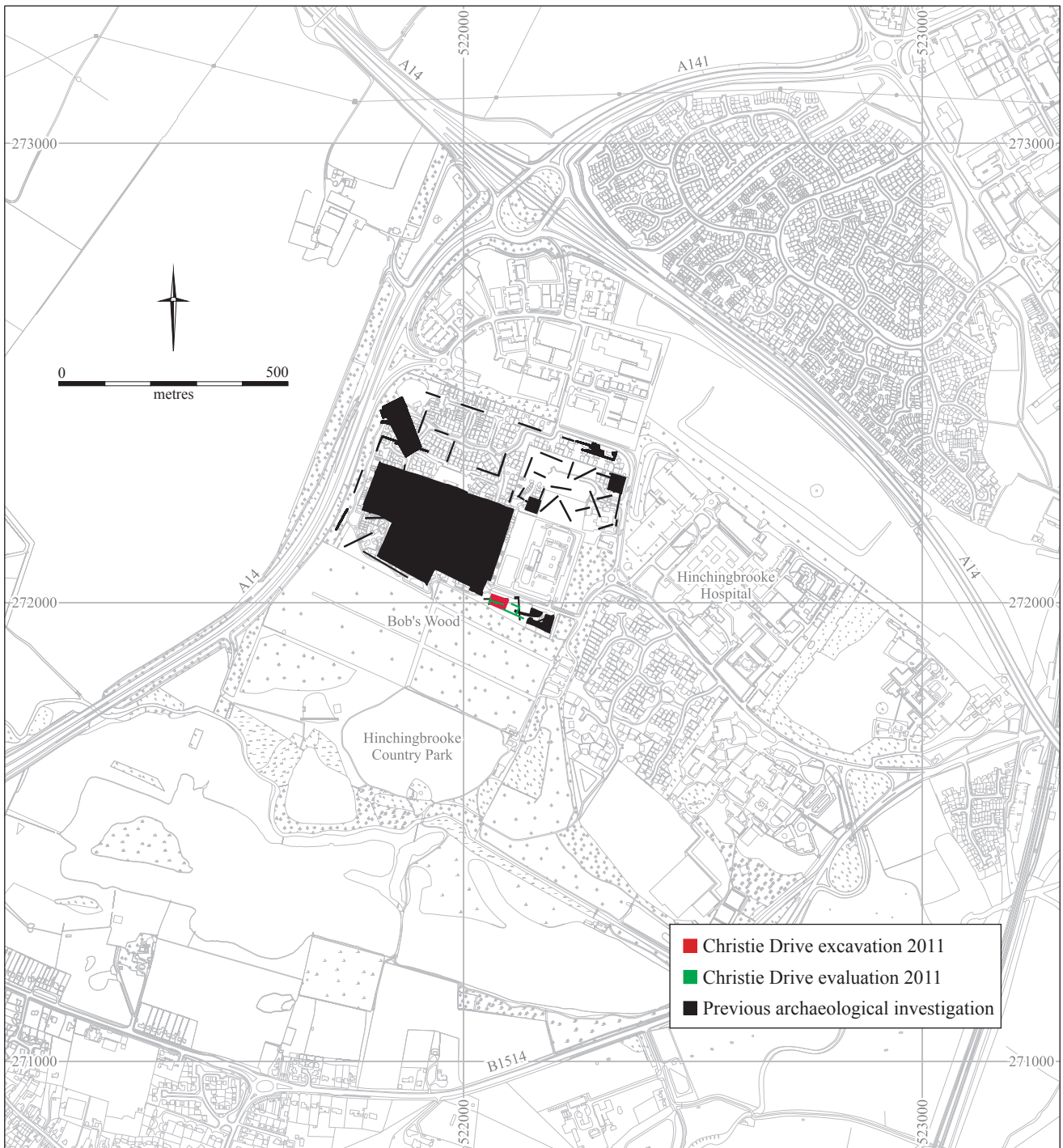
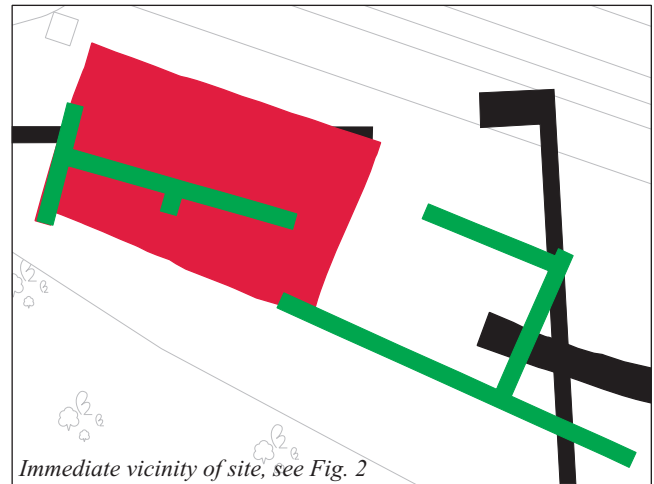
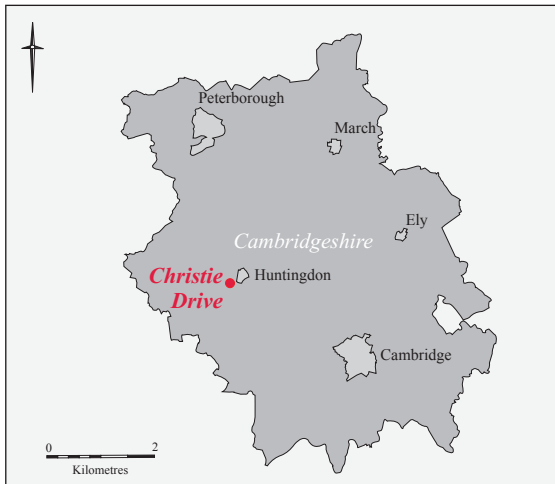


Figure 1. Location map

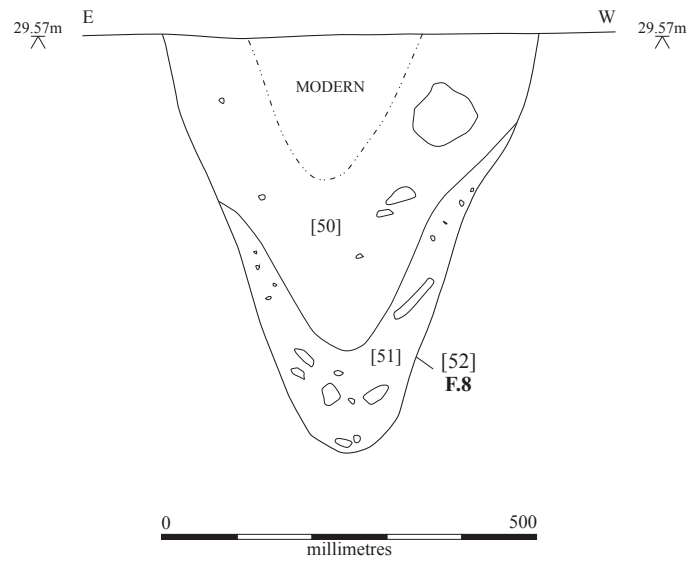


Figure 5. Section and photograph through F.8



Figure 2. Christie Drive excavations with previous archaeological work in the area



Figure 3. Plan of Christie Drive excavation and evaluation trenches

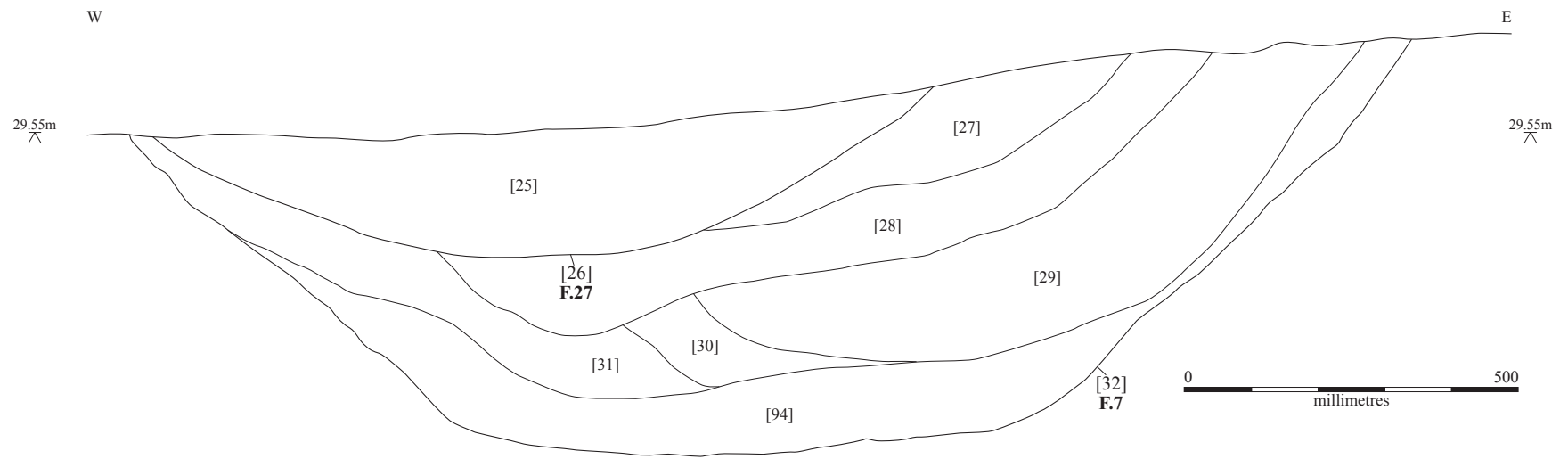
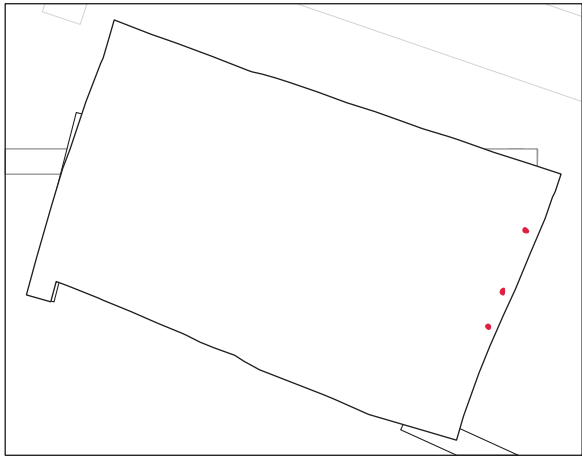
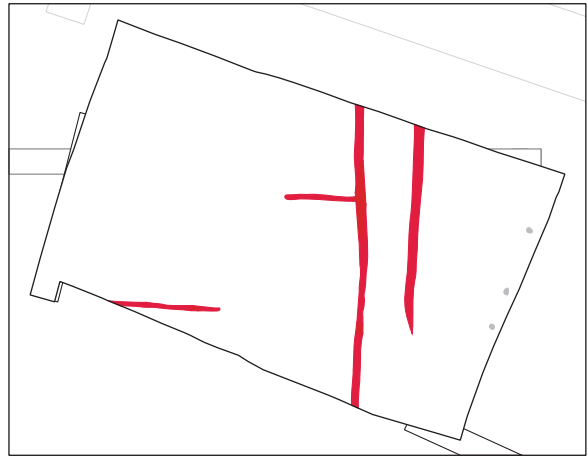


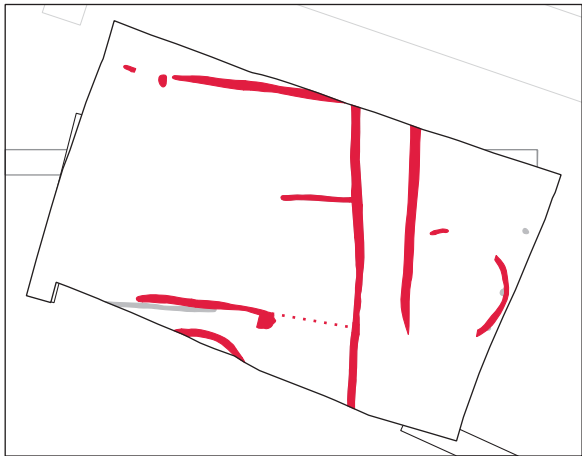
Figure 6. Section and photograph through F.7 and F.27



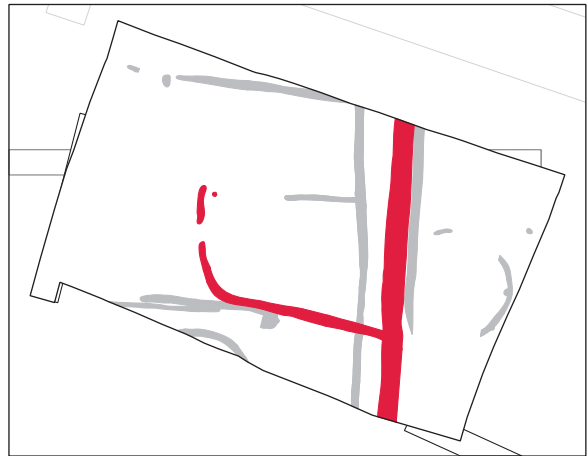
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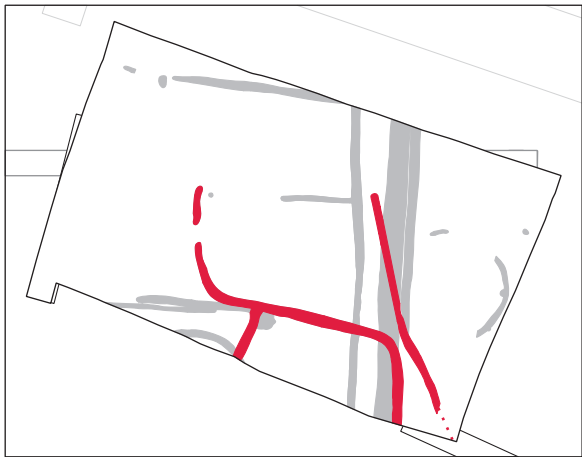
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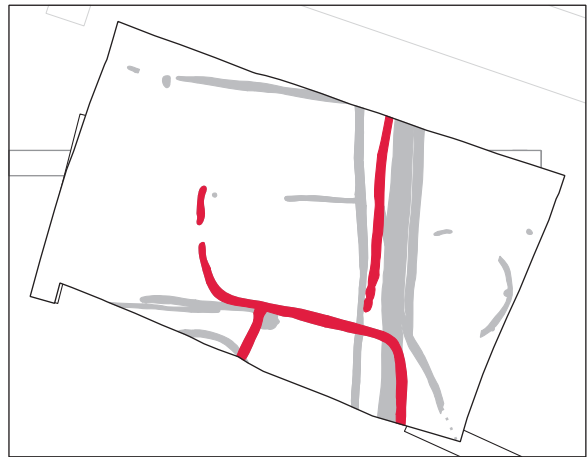
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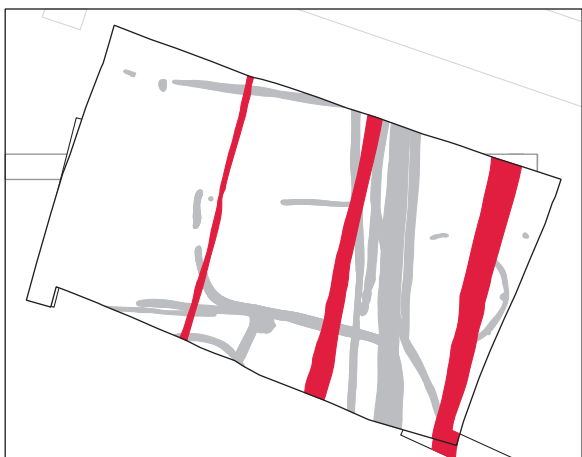
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2nd-4th Century A.D. Enclosure IIIa



2nd-4th Century A.D. Enclosure IIIb



Furrows and Post-medieval ditches

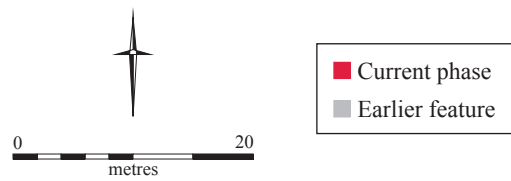
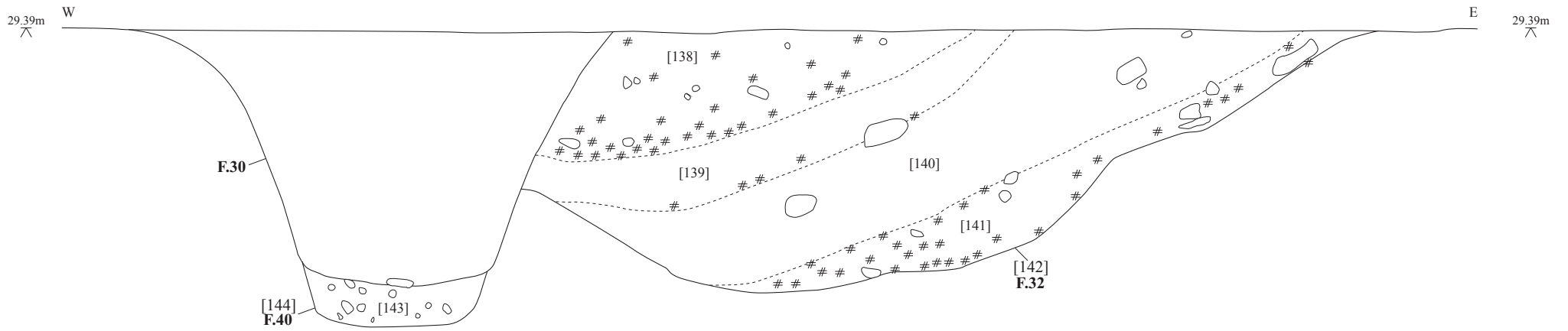


Figure 4. Romano-British - Post-medieval phase plans



F.30, F.40 and F.32

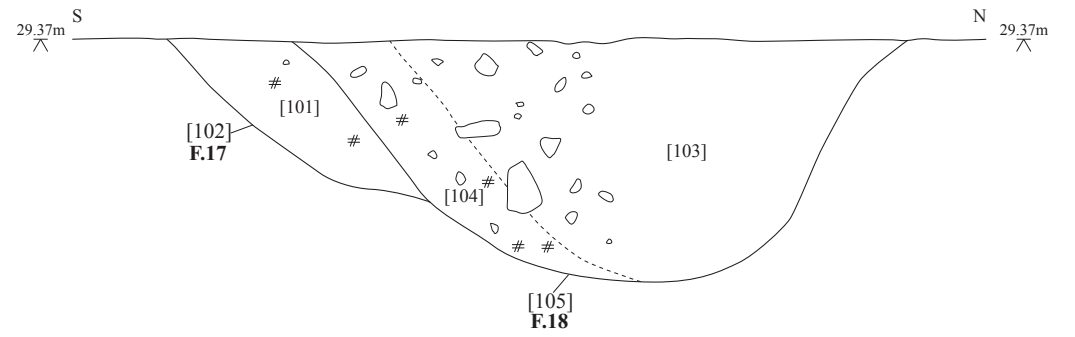
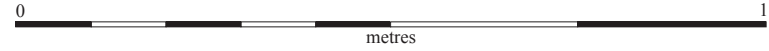


Figure 7. Sections and photograph through enclosure ditches and F.32

FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Feature Number	Feature Type	Context Number	Context Type	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Associated Artefacts	Comments
1	Ditch	2	F				Pottery, Bone, Burnt Stone	2nd - 4th Century AD
		3	F					
		4	C	1.05		0.33		
2	Linear	5	F					Natural
		6	C	0.53		0.2		
3	Ditch	7	F				Bone, Burnt Clay, Burnt Stone	Iron Age?
		8	C	0.48		0.18		
4	Post Hole	9	F					Iron Age?
		10	C	0.16		0.19		
5	Post Hole	11	F					Iron Age?
		12	C	0.16		0.15		
6	Furrow	13	F				Pottery	Post-medieval
		14	C	1.85		0.16		
7	Ditch	25	F				Pottery, Bone, Burnt Stone, Flint	2nd - 3rd Century AD
		26	C					
		27	F					
		28	F					
		29	F					
		30	F					
		31	F					
		32	C	1.85		0.68		
		78	C					
		87	F					
		88	F					
		89	F					
		90	F					
		91	C	0.6 slot		0.57		
		94	F					
		123	F					
		124	F					
		125	C	1.7		0.61		
169	F							
170	C							
177	F							
178	F							
179	C	1.95		0.65				
8	Ditch	15	F				Pottery, Bone, Burnt Stone, Glass	Mid 2nd - 3rd Century AD
		16	F					
		17	C	0.46		0.23		
		50	F					
		51	F					
9	Ditch	52	C	0.5	3.4	0.54	Brick, Burnt Clay, Mortar, Flint	2nd - 4th Century AD
		18	F					
		19	F					
		20	C	0.56		0.22		
		35	F					
36	F							

		37	C	0.76		0.22		
		62	F					
		63	F					
		64	C	0.35		0.18		
10	Ditch	21	F				Burnt Stone, Pottery, Flint	2nd - 4th Century AD
		22	C	0.7		0.2		
		147	F					
		148	F					
		149	C	0.7		0.28		
11	Ditch	23	F				Burnt Stone, Burnt Clay, Flint	Same as F.29
		24	C	0.55		0.15		
12	Furrow	183	F					Post-medieval
		184	C	0.9		0.15		
13	Ditch	33	F				Bone, Burnt Clay, Burnt Stone, Pottery, Flint	
		34	C	0.8		0.1		
		108	F					
		109	C	0.8		0.15		
14	Pit	40	F				Shell	
		41	C	1.68		0.16		
15	Pit	38	F				Pottery, Burnt Stone	2nd - 4th Century AD
		39	C	0.8	0.7	0.24		
16	Hollow	42	F					Natural
		43	C	0.32	0.33	0.17		
17	Ditch	47	F				Pottery, Bone	2nd - 4th Century AD
		48	F					
		49	C		0.5	0.19		
		70	F					
		71	C	0.5		0.07		
		101	F					
		102	C	0.32		0.19		
18	Ditch	44	F				Pottery, Flint, Bone	Mid 2nd - 3rd Century AD
		45	F					
		46	C		0.62	0.22		
		55	F					
		56	F					
		57	C	0.7		0.24		
		103	F					
		104	F					
		105	C	0.81		0.31		
19	Small pit or post hole	53	F				Stone	
		54	C		0.63	0.18		
20	Small pit	58	F					2nd - 3rd Century AD
		59	C	0.26		0.12		
21	Ditch	60	F				Pottery	2nd - 4th Century AD
		61	C	0.51		0.16		
		152	F					
		153	C	0.5		0.27		
22	Ditch	65	F				Pottery, Burnt Stone	
		66	F					
		67	C	0.55		0.2		
		161	F					

		162	C	0.52				
		180	F					
		181	F					
		182	C	0.8			0.35	
23	Pit	68	F					Worked Stone
		69	C	0.8			0.26	
24	Ditch	72	F					Burnt Stone
		73	C	0.31			0.08	
		76	F					
		77	C	0.27			0.07	
25	Small pit or post hole	74	F					Pottery
		75	C	0.28			0.08	2nd - 4th Century AD
26	Small pit or post hole	79	F					
		80	C	0.65			0.61	
27	Ditch	84	F					
		85	C	0.95			0.24	
28	Pit	92	F					
		93	C	0.75			0.28	
29	Ditch	98	F					Burnt Stone, Glass
		99	F					Same as F.11
		100	C	0.54			0.21	
30	Ditch	106	F					Worked Stone
		107	C	n/a			n/a	2nd - 4th Century AD
		112	F					
		174	F					
		175	F					
		176	C	0.9			0.38	
31	Small pit or post hole	110	F					
		111	C	0.35			0.11	
32	Oven pit	138	F					
		139	F					
		140	F					
		141	F					
		142	C	1.45	1.55		0.51	
33	Ditch	113	F	0.34				Pottery, Flint, Burnt Stone
		114	C	0.34			0.07	
		115	F					
		116	C	0.27			0.07	
		117	F					
		118	C	0.42			0.08	
		136	F					
		137	C	0.14			0.09	
34	Ditch	126	F					
		127	C				0.42	
35	Ditch	128	F					
		129	C	0.45			0.27	
36	Ditch	130	F					
		131	C	0.22			0.03	
37	Small pit or post	132	F					
		133	C	0.34	0.4		0.18	

	hole							
38	Ditch	134	F					
		135	C	0.38			0.11	
39	Ditch	119	F					
		120	F					
		121	F					
		122	C	0.75			0.51	
		145	F					
		146	C	0.6			0.44	
		165	F					
		166	F					
		167	F					
		168	C	0.72			0.42	
40	Small pit or post hole	143	F					
		144	C	0.4	0.32		0.1	
41	Small pit or post hole	150	F					
		151	C	0.3	0.32		0.1	
42	Ditch	81	F					
		82	F					
		83	C				0.3	
		86	F					
		95	F					
		96	F					
		97	C				0.25	
		154	F					
		155	F					
		156	C	0.7-0.8	2.6m slot		0.3-0.5	
43	Small pit or post hole	157	F					
		158	C	0.22			0.03	
44	Small pit or post hole	159	F					
		160	C	0.36	0.42		0.09	
45	Ditch	163	F					
		164	C	0.45			0.3	
46	Ditch	171	F					
		172	F					
		173	C	0.8			0.36	

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-120347

Project details

Project name	Christie Drive, Hinchbrooke: An Archaeological Investigation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation and open-area excavation revealed Iron Age and Romano-British features forming a part of the multiphase occupied landscape of Bob's Wood, along the Great Ouse Valley in Cambridgeshire. Early Neolithic flint represented the earliest visitation to the site, although no features were present. Following from this, two possible mid-late Iron Age ring gullies with a single shard of East Midlands Scored Ware were superseded by at least three phases of 2-4th century AD Romano-British droveways and rectilinear enclosure, along with a kiln or bread oven pit and an associated ring gully. The final landuse of the site was evidenced by post-medieval furrow systems.
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2011 End: 07-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	SETTLEMENT Late Iron Age
Monument type	ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	FAUNA Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic

Significant Finds WORKED STONE Roman

Investigation type 'Open-area excavation'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRAMPTON Christie Drive

Postcode PE29

Study area 1000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 2200 7190 52.3312074536 -0.209393956305 52 19 52 N 000 12 33 W
Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 29.50m Max: 30.00m

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 Marcus Brittain

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Physical Archive ID	CDH11
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	CDH11
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	CDH11
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Manuscript','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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