Excavations at

BARLEYCROFT FARM, PLANT SITE

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CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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2012

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This report outlines the results of the excavation of a *c.* 0.45ha Iron Age settlement by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit between March and May of 2012. The site lay on floodplain-edge Terrace gravels within Hanson's River Ouse-side Needingworth Quarry (TL36367262; Fig. 1). More specifically, and certainly creating a rather extraordinary backdrop to the work, the site actually lay within the quarry's embanked plant site complex. There, it had been preserved *in situ* under grass since 1995, with the decision to finally excavate it arising through the need to further spoil-store gravels (Figs. 3-6).

The site had first been discovered seventeen years earlier during evaluation fieldwork relating to the expansion of the plant site (Gdaniec 1995). By today's standards the trenching programme must be considered as non-intense, with just 11 trenches distributed along the western terrace-edge margin of the 9.2ha plot and having eight smaller cuttings located along its eastern half (Fig. 2). As exposed within the trenches, aside from what appears to be the possible corner setting of 'early' fieldsystem boundaries in the north (?Bronze Age: Trenches 61 & 63; elsewhere ardmarks were also present: Tr. 57), most of the archaeology lay within the area's southwestern quarter. It was most dense within the two southernmost trench-settings, where there were many Iron Age settlement features. Within the reverse 'Z'-pattern trench layout in the southern end, accompanied by an array of obviously building-related features, occupation horizons and upcast banks survived in association with the waterlogged fills of a ditched settlement compound. Apparently located directly beside the terrace-edge/palaeochannel, it was this immediate setting that was subsequently preserved *in situ* and only later excavated.

Before proceeding, it warrants notice that, as shown on Figure 2, as part of the evaluation programme Rog Palmer plotted the immediate area's aerial photographs. Apart from indicating the course of the palaeochannel, this showed a sub-square compound lying east beyond it (and *c.* 300m east of the current site). This has never been investigated, but by its scale/layout it appears to essentially match that of the Plant Site enclosure. It should similarly be mentioned that in 2004 Steve Boreham was commissioned to undertake a walkover survey (augmented by augering) across the riverside fields this area and its network of palaeochannels were then plotted and which have also been elucidated through LiDAR imagery (Fig. 4); these researches feature in the forthcoming project volume (Evans *et al*. forthcoming).

Methodology

The fieldwork had an experimental component insofar as it involved multiple-level exposure of the site's buried soil. The depth of overburden and the relative complexity of the surviving archaeological sequence – which comprised topsoil and alluvial deposits sealing well-preserved buried soil horizons - required that a three-phase machine strip was implemented with excavation, sampling and recording undertaken at each level. The first phase involved machine-stripping of topsoil and alluvial layers in order to expose any surviving upstanding 'earthwork' features and the surface of the buried soil A horizon (Figs. 5-7). The latter proved to be a uniformly occupation-discoloured near-black, but with no distinct strata (e.g. floor surfaces) – aside

from the enclosure's main upcast banks – nor were any building plans/features apparent. Following this, the A horizon, which effectively masked the majority of 'cut' archaeological features, was stripped in order to expose the underlying archaeology. Finally, the buried soil (B/C horizon) was completely stripped in order to expose the natural geology and any further features, which may have been masked by the buried soil. Having earlier been sample-excavated (i.e. hand-dug), at that time what remained of the main enclosure ditch's fills were dug out by machine and sorted through for additional finds recovery; exercises such as this obviously being biased towards large-artefact retrieval.

Following the first phase of machine-stripping, which exposed the surface of the buried soil/A horizon, surface collection of artefacts was undertaken with each artefact individually numbered and 3D-located by Global Positioning System (GPS). A programmed of test pitting targeting the interior of the Iron Age enclosure was then implemented. This comprised a north-south transect – positioned so as to bisect the enclosure and being a sampling technique first implemented on Haddenham's main Iron Age enclosures (see Evans & Hodder 2006, 150-2, 283 & 286-7) – of 39 metre-square test pits and an additional six test pits located on a 10m grid (see Fig. 7). Test pits were hand-excavated, with the soil from each hand-sorted for artefacts, which were collected and bagged according to test pit and context; every fifth one along the transect was sieved through a 5mm mesh in order to facilitate the recovery of small artefacts such as bird or small mammal bone. In addition, soil samples were taken every two metres along the north-south transect by Dr. C. French for magnetic susceptibility and phosphate analysis.

As to the site's excavation techniques, potential archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and subsequently sample excavated. All potential features were hand excavated and archaeological finds were retained. In addition, the fills of the termini of roundhouse gullies – either side of the 'entrance' – as well as selected ditch sections and pits were sieved through a 5mm mesh. Environmental bulk soil samples were taken from selected features. A written record of archaeological features and *in situ* buried deposits was created using the CAU recording system (a modification of the MoLAS system), with sections were drawn at an appropriate scale.

RESULTS

The excavations revealed a relatively deep sequence of topsoil and alluvial clay up to 0.6m thick across the site. Sealed beneath them were well-preserved archaeological remains including surviving buried soil deposits and the remnants of *in situ* upstanding banks associated with a sub-square ditched enclosure. A total of 364 features were recorded, the vast majority of which date to the Middle/later Iron Age although features dating to both the Early and Late Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Roman periods were also encountered. Although a small amount of worked flint, potentially of Mesolithic date was recovered from the buried soil and as residual material in later features, no significant presence at the site prior to the Early Neolithic was recorded.

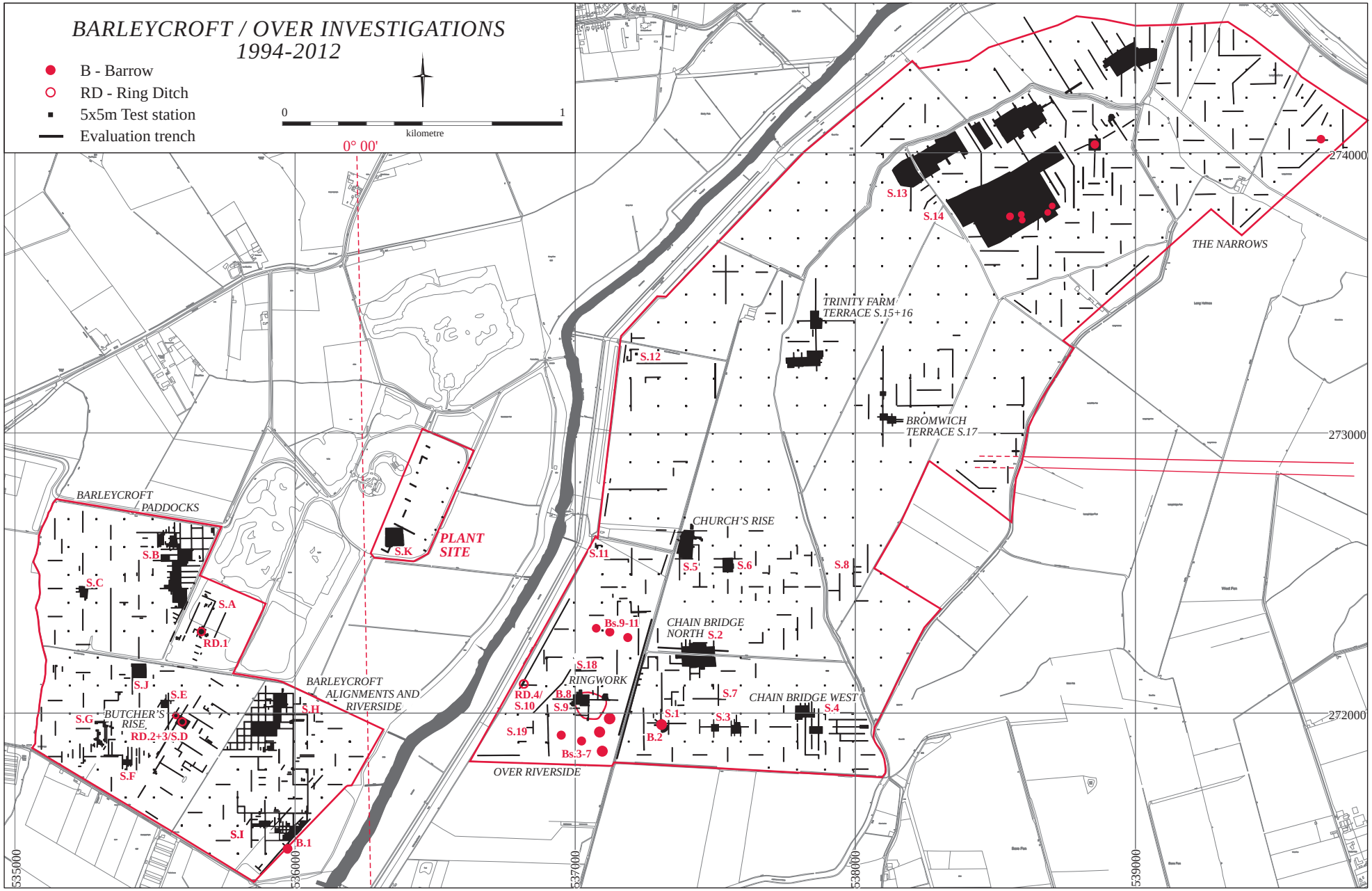

Figure 1. Project environs and site location

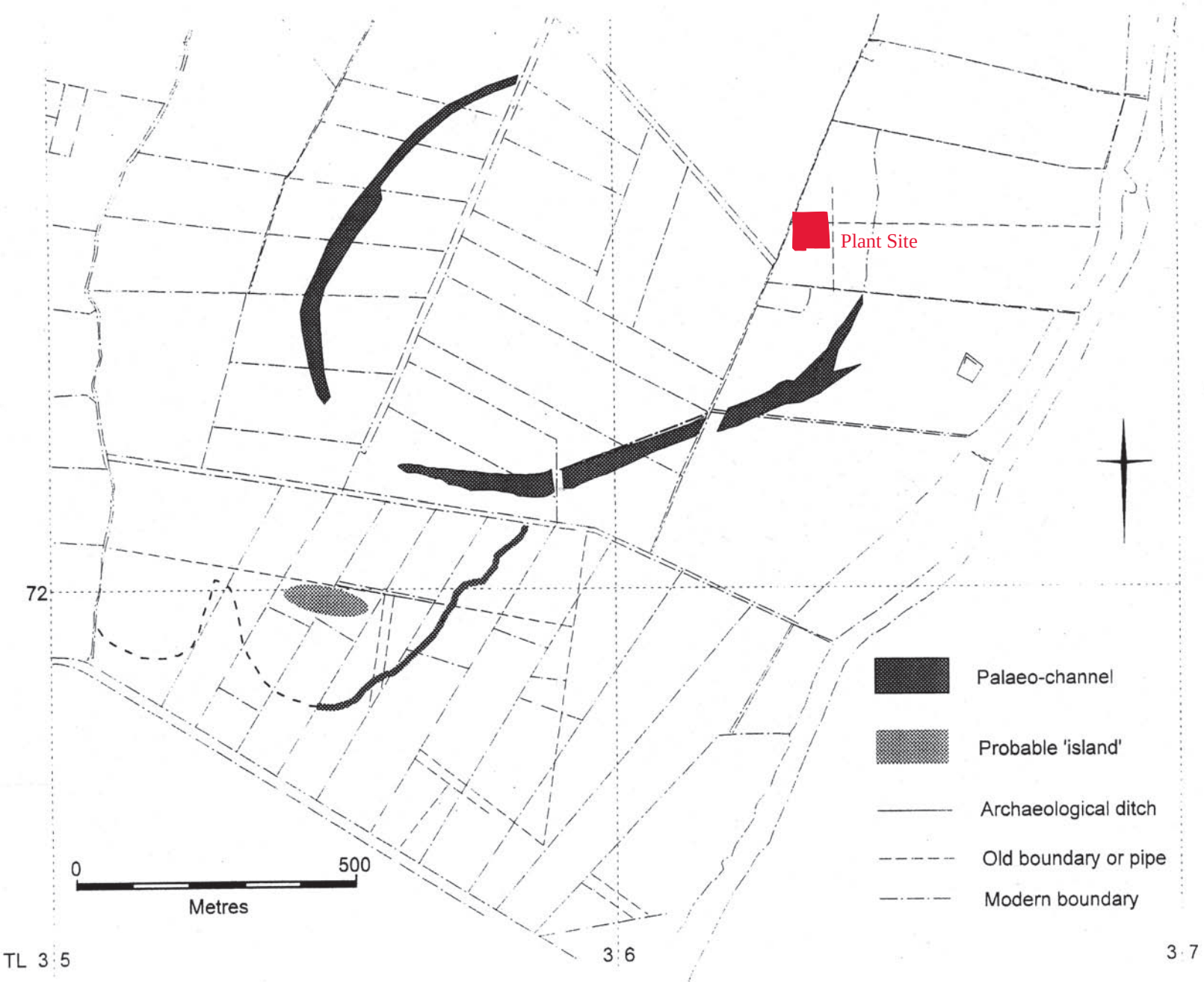

Figure 2. Aerial photographic results

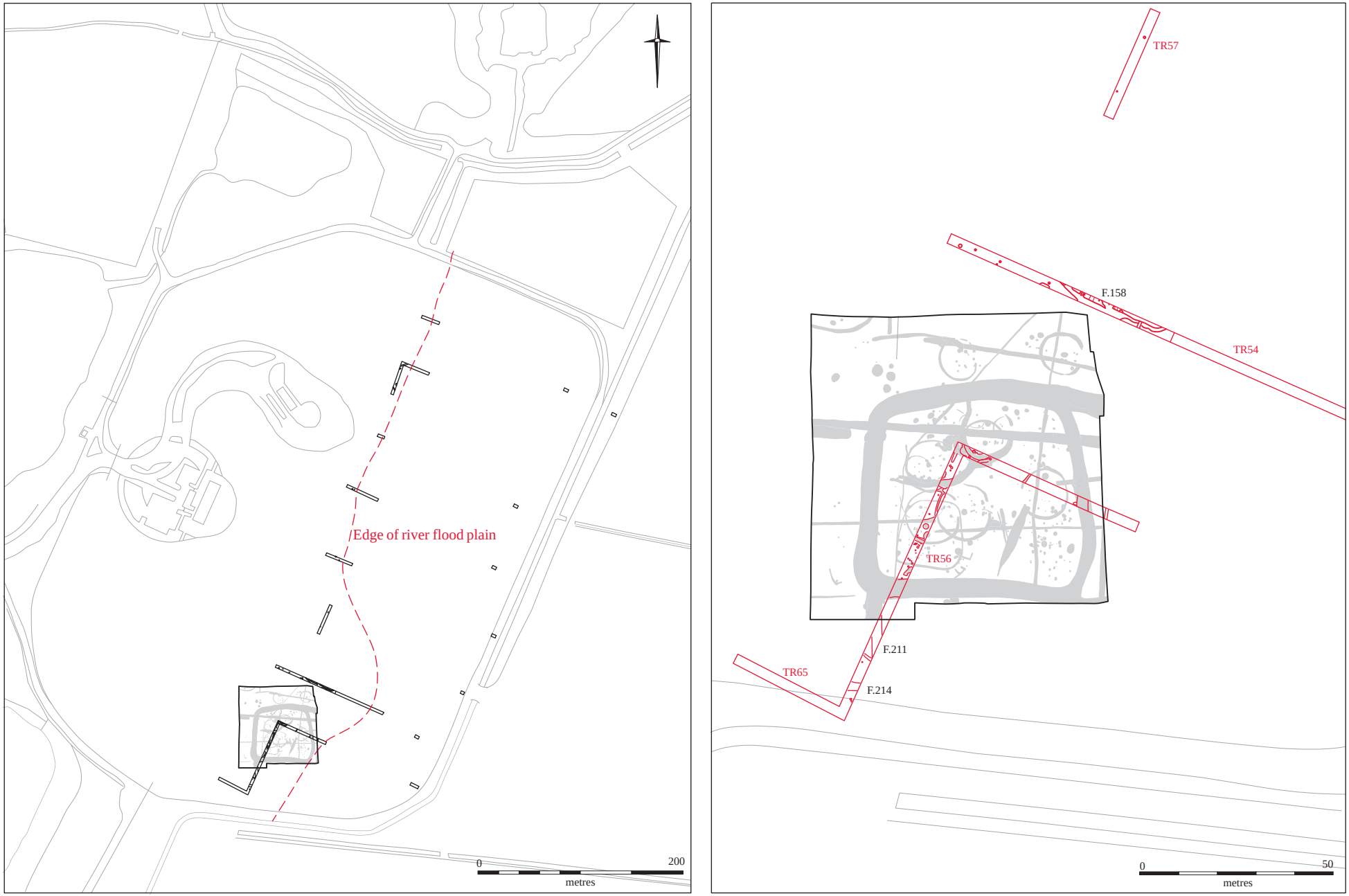

Figure 3. 2012 area of excavation and evaluation trenches

Figure 4. LIDAR plot

Figure 5. Aerial photograph (top; with cropmark enclosure indicated: A); below, the top of buried soil with the enclosure-as-earthwork apparent

Figure 6. Site stripping in progress (taking off the alluvial cover)

Buried Soil Investigations

Of the distribution of the site's 258 surface-plotted finds, these show little obvious patterning apart from having somewhat enhanced densities across the area of the three main roundhouses within the enclosure's south-centre and, if less distinctly, the interior approach to the enclosure's northeastern entrance-crossing (see below). Given the evidence of the site's intense occupation sequence, how low its buried soil-/occupation-horizon test pit finds densities proved was surprising. As detailed in the table below, having for example on average only four sherds per metre-square, this is much lower than the 97- and 14-sherd average densities respectively from the directly equivalent sieved-transect sampling undertaken on the comparable Haddenham V and VI enclosures (Evans & Hodder 2006). That said, it is crucial to recognise that the site's densities still represent substantial numbers. Taking the pottery, for example, these values would suggest that more than 4500 sherds occurred within the main enclosure's surface deposits; in other words, far more than the *c.* 1150 that were recovered from the site's excavation as a whole (plus *c.* 100 sherds from the evaluation phase).

	Fragment Count	**Weight** (g)	**Test Pit Range**	**Test Pit Average**
Pottery	170	958	0-19	3.8
Animal Bone	292	1466	0-40	6.5
Flint	81	378	0-7	1.8
Burnt Clay	46	419	0-28	1
Burnt Flint	67	840	0-9	1.5
Burnt Stone	69	5069	0-8	1.5
Stone	19	1179	0-4	0.4
Tile	6	433	0-6	0.1
Worked bone	1	21	0-1	<0.1
Worked Stone	2	234	0-1	<0.1
Grand Total	***753***	***10997***		

Table 1: Test pit artefact densities.

Soil Assessment Charles French

Several site visits were made as well as two weeks spent on site excavating one of the better preserved post-structures within this Iron Age enclosure site at the Plant Site at Hanson's Barleycroft Farm quarry. There was very good preservation of the buried soil, both beneath the enclosure banks and within the interior of the enclosure as it was buried by *c.* 60cm of organic silty clay alluvial overburden material. The preservation of the buried soil (*c.* 30-40cm thick) beneath the enclosure banks appeared to be incomplete with the organic A horizon missing, whereas a more or less complete A-B horizon profile was observed within the enclosure itself. Accordingly two comparative buried soil profiles (see below; Profiles 1 & 2) were taken for micromorphological and geo-chemical analyses to examine this contrast and the site's land-use history.

In addition, the structure associated with the hearth F.75 (site grid 1054E/2012N) was very well-preserved with evidence of a possible *in situ* flooring level. Once the black upper organic A horizon material was removed by hand, a possible unfired, reddish orange, clay floor area partially survived in a roughly circular area of *c.* 2m around this hearth. Accordingly, this area

of floor and associated A/B transition buried soil level was sampled on a 50cm north-south and east-west grid for physical/geo-chemical analyses (Sample nos. GA1-17), with four spot micromorphology samples taken from the same floor and associated hearth deposits (F.75, Sample nos. MM1-4).

As to the potential of this material, *g*iven the slightly better soil and floor preservation associated with this F.75 hearth and associated post-built structure, there may be sufficient survival for remnant signatures of past human activities to leave their trace (after Oonk *et al*. 2009; Wilson *et al*. 2005, 2008). A combination of physical (pH, loss-on-ignition, magnetic susceptibility), geo-chemical (total phosphate; multi-elemental analysis) and micromorphological analyses will be employed to investigate this structure's floor and any evidence of past activities occurring on it.

These results will be contrasted and compared to the two buried soil profiles taken nearby, one from beneath the inner enclosure bank and the other from Transect 1 through the enclosure's interior.

In combination, these geoarchaeological analyses should give a good 'snapshot' view of possible activities on-site, a good idea as to how the 'dark earth' present over the interior of the enclosure formed, and what the soil formation and land-use record was before the enclosure bank was built. Although there will be some bioturbation of all the contexts sampled, otherwise the preservation is excellent and has excellent potential for addressing these aspects of the site's formation and use in later prehistoric times. It will also provide excellent contrast to the multiple soil analyses carried out on earlier prehistoric contexts from the southern side of the same river valley in Over Quarry itself (French 2010 & 2011, forthcoming).

Profile 1 (F.29 SW; NW sector of the inner enclosure bank)

0-50	sandy loam and gravel upcast bank
50-65	compacted fine gravel of upcast bank
65-75	mottled reddish/yellowish brown sandy loam; lower A/upper B horizon of buried soil
75-105	greyish brown sandy loam with orange oxidation mottling; lower B horizon of buried soil
105+cm	sand and gravel of Ouse first terrace; substrate

Samples: Micromorphology blocks at 20-35 and 39-54cm; Small bulk samples at 25-35 and 40-50cm

Profile 2 (Transect 1, 6m north from inner edge of the inner enclosure bank)

	(*c*. 1m of organic silty clay alluvium)
0-15	very dark grey to black, organic sandy clay loam; organic Ah horizon of buried soil
15-32	yellowish/greyish brown sandy loam; B horizon of buried soil
32+cm	sand and gravel of Ouse first terrace; substrate

Samples: Micromorphology blocks at 3-18 and 20-32cm; Small bulk samples at 5-15 and 20-30cm

Hearth F.75 and Associated Floor (centred on 1054E/2012N)

Micromorphology samples taken at:

Sample 19 (1054/2011): dark sandy clay loam of buried soil immediately south of hearth
Sample 20 (1054/2010): reddish orange silty clay 'floor' material outside the hearth to the south
Sample 31 (1054/2012): orange sandy clay loam fill of hearth F.75
Sample 32 (1053/2012): reddish orange silty clay 'floor' material outside the hearth to the south adjacent to posthole F.1117

Physical/geo-chemistry samples taken from:

South-North transect: Samples GA1-5 and 10-13; 1054/2010 to 1054/2014
East-West transect: Samples GA 6-9 and 14-17; 1057/2012 to 1053/2012.

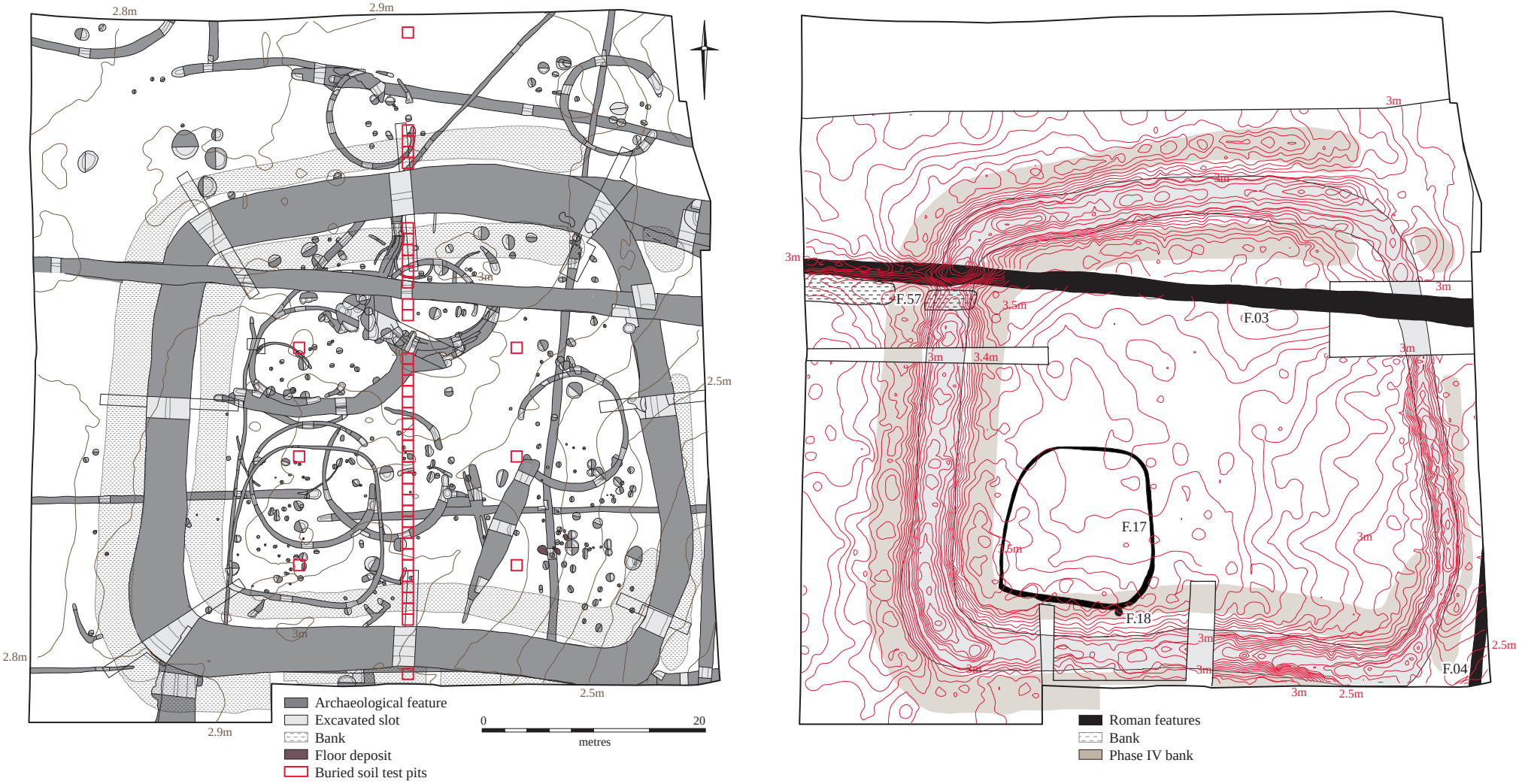

Figure 7. Left: Plan of all archaeological features and excavated slots. Right: Plan of Roman features also showing the buried soil contours

Site Sequence

With so many features, particularly roundhouses (many of which yielded no significant dating evidence), registering due to the site's buried soil survival and multiple level machine-stripping (Fig. 7), a relatively broad-brush and 'principle-led' approach has been taken towards its phasing. It is a case of the sheer quantity of detail obscuring pattern, with the challenge being to tease out a sense of meaningful structure amid 'so much'.

Five main phases of occupation/activity have been identified, with the third and fourth both sub-divided into two sub-phases:

I) Pit activity (Neolithic-Early Bronze Age)
II) Fieldsystem (Middle/later Bronze Age)
III) Pre-enclosure settlement (earlier Middle Iron Age)
IV) Enclosure settlement (Middle/later Iron Age)
V) Aftermath (Roman and Post-Medieval).

As to their chronological assignation, all but the second are relatively firm, with the site's Iron Age spanning the last four centuries of first millennium BC. No convincing dating evidence whatsoever was forthcoming from the features associated with the Phase II fieldsystem; its Middle/later Bronze Age attribution essentially deriving from the character of its boundaries and their layout. That said, there is still considerable ambiguity concerning their dating. Their axial-interval was much closer than most of the period's fieldsystems, just as their north-south/east-west orientation also differed from the norm (Yates 2007). These 'exceptions' probably related to the proximity of the palaeochannel immediately to the west. Indeed, this would seem to have been the predominant factor in the site's long-term development and a due-cardinal orientation was also common to both its subsequent Iron Age and Roman phases.

Although there is a temptation to directly link the axial arrangement of Phase III's minor linear system with the previous fieldsystem, and perhaps then attribute the former to the Late Bronze Age, given that almost no pottery of that period was recovered and only negligible Early Iron Age wares were present this would be misleading. Rather, based on this, one would have to see a hiatus in the site's usage during the first half of the first millennium BC. At that time the immediate area may well have undergone arable usage, with 'early' ploughing probably accounting for why no upcast banks survived in association with the Phase II fieldsystem boundaries.

Phase I - Pit Activity

Relatively few pre-Phase II/Middle Bronze Age features were present across the site (Fig. 7).

Early Neolithic

A small number of worked flints recovered from the buried soil and as residual material in later features provide evidence of an Early Neolithic presence at the site. In addition a pit (**F.342**) located in the northwest of the excavation area produced a significant finds assemblage (see Table 2), including Early Neolithic pottery and flint, and provides firm evidence of occupation. The pit measured 1.5m in diameter by 0.3m deep and contained two

fills, the uppermost of which was a charcoal-rich 'midden' deposit that produced the majority of the finds.

Pit	Pottery	Flint	Bone	Burnt Flint	Burnt Bone
342	116 (624g)	37 (290g)	12 (5g)	124 (542g)	10(286g)

Table 2: Pit F.342 assemblage breakdown.

One further pit (**F.104**), which may also date to the Early Neolithic was located in the south of the excavation area close to the entrance of Phase IV Structure 9. The pit, however, produced only a single small sherd (8g) of Early Neolithic pottery; potentially residual, it can only tentatively be attributed to this period.

Late Neolithic

A single pit (**F.91**) was the only later Neolithic feature encountered. Located in the north of the excavation area and truncated by the roundhouse-gully of Phase III Structure 1, this measured 0.38m in diameter by 0.2m deep and contained a single fill, which yielded 18 (84g) struck flints including two chisel arrowheads. A single sherd (weighing 1g) of Middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered, but was almost certainly intrusive and probably derives from the roundhouse-gully of Structure 1, which truncated pit F.91.

In addition, much of the unstratified flint assemblage recovered from the buried soil, as well as much of the residual flint recovered from Iron Age features, is characteristic of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age technologies and contains chronologically diagnostic pieces including scrapers (see Billington, below).

Early Bronze Age

Aside from unstratified and residual flint, evidence of Early Bronze Age activity was limited to two pits close to the northern edge of the excavation area. There, **F.05** and **F.10** each produced small finds assemblages comprising Early Bronze pottery and flint; quantities are provided in Table 3, below.

Pit	Pottery	Flint
F.05	3 (85g)	1 (4g)
F.10	10 (89g)	1 (1g)

Table 3: Early Bronze Age pits assemblage breakdown.

Phase II - The 'Pre-settlement' Fieldsystem

A series of linear ditches, the majority of which were clearly cut by one or more Phase III/IV settlement features or structures have been characterised as 'pre-settlement' and appear to represent part of an early, albeit currently undated fieldsystem (Fig. 8). The system, which extended beyond the edge of the excavation area in all directions comprised seven ditches (**Fs.9, 12, 43, 44, 122, 328** & **F.329**) and was aligned on a north-south axis. The ditches ranged from between 0.43m and 1.63m wide by between 0.18m and 0.69m deep, and were characterised by sterile fills and small numbers of, largely residual, finds. No secure dating evidence was recovered from any of the ditches, with only small fragments of pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age present in some of the ditches considered likely to be residual or intrusive.

Stratigraphic relationships between ditches were unclear – largely due to the sterile, homogenous fills – and while all the ditches are considered to represent part of a broadly contemporary system there is some evidence of

multiple phases or at least modification of the fieldsystem. For example, although the relationship between ditches F.09 and F.43 – which effectively represent the same boundary - was not determined, it is perhaps most logical to interpret F.09 as an extension of the existing boundary marked by F.43.

Phase III - 'Pre-enclosure' Iron Age Settlement (earlier Middle Iron Age)

While the ditched and embanked enclosure (F.01, see below) is the most striking of the Middle Iron Age settlement features, it is clear that it was only the culmination of a relatively lengthy sequence of Iron Age occupation. The first phase of Iron Age settlement – based on pottery associations – appears to date from the later Early Iron Age/earlier Middle Iron Age (*c.* the fourth century BC) extending into the Middle Iron Age. It appears to have been an 'open settlement' potentially associated with a broadly contemporary fieldsystem, which partially based on the presence of Scored Ware pottery (see Brudenell, below), can be divided into two sub-phases (Fig. 8).

Phase III.1

Based on the absence of Scored Ware pottery and their 'replacement' by a sequence of later Phase IV roundhouses, two post-built structures (16 & 17) in the southwest of the excavation area have been attributed to an early phase of transitional Early-Middle Iron Age occupation (Fig. 8). Notably different from the later structures in the sense that they lacked eavesdrip gullies, the two structures nevertheless appear to have been 'roundhouses' although there remains some ambiguity concerning their size and form.

Structure 16 - A cluster of 16 postholes 'within' the roundhouse-gully of Phase IV.2 Structure 8 (see below), marked the location of an earlier post-built structure measuring *c.* 5m in diameter. The postholes ranged in diameter from 0.16m to 0.45m and were a maximum of 0.28m deep (**Fs.71-73, 78, 79, 106, 107, 121, 123, 127, 154, 155, 183, 186, 187** & **F.205**). The various postholes produced a small assemblage (11 sherds) of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as limited quantities of burnt clay and burnt stone/flint. Also of note was the recovery of the disarticulated partial remains of a lamb/juvenile sheep from posthole F.78; such remains are commonly considered to be votive deposits associated with Iron Age structures (see Rajkovača, below).

Structure 17 - To the south of Structure 16 a second cluster of postholes marked the position of a second possible structure belonging to Phase III.1. Comprising 14 postholes (**Fs.61, 62, 65, 68, 189, 190, 191** & **Fs.193-199**) the potential structure was once again sub-circular and had an estimated diameter of *c.* 4-5m. The structure produced only three sherds of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery (all from a single posthole), together with small quantities of burnt stone. Once again, the presence of disarticulated partial lamb/juvenile sheep remains in posthole F.62, appear to add weight to the identification of a structure at this location.

Only one further feature can be confidently attributed to this early phase of Iron Age occupation: Pit **F.13**. Truncated by two later Middle Iron Age pits and located in the northeast of the excavation area, this yielded a small assemblage of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery (10 sherds), as well as small quantities of animal bone and burnt stone.

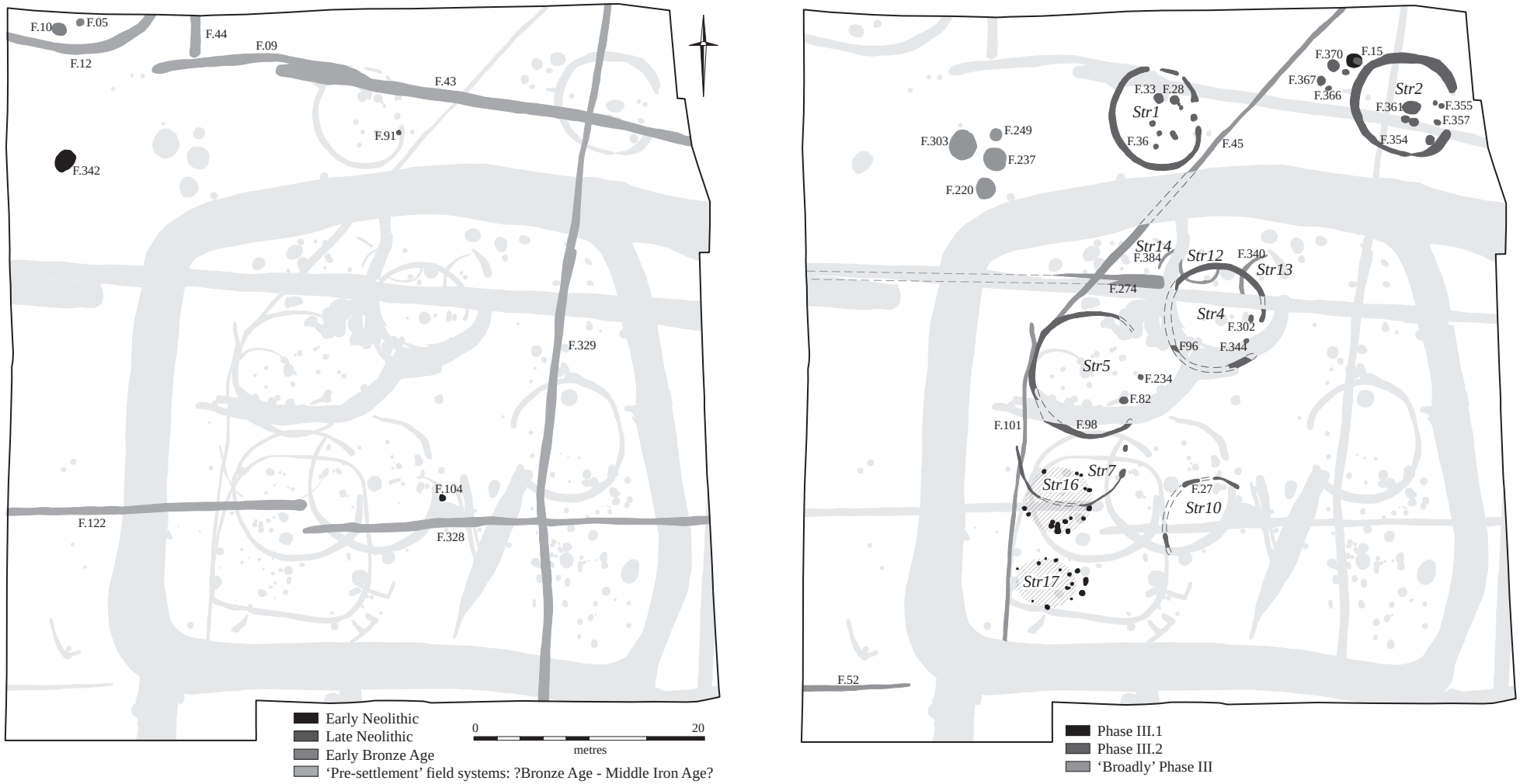

Figure 8. Plan of pre-Iron Age features (Phases I & II), left; Phase III features, right

Phase III.2

Still apparently part of the 'pre-enclosure' phase, but now dated to firmly within the Middle Iron Age period (and associated with Scored Ware pottery assemblages), the first gully-defined roundhouses have been attributed to Phase III.2 (Fig. 8). In terms of their architecture, most if not all of the gully-defined roundhouses at Barleycroft (including the Phase IV structures), appear to have been constructed in a similar manner. Surrounded by pennanular eavesgullies, which are not considered to have had any structural function (apart from roof-drip drainage), few of the structures had any convincing posthole arrangements within their interiors. Given the exceptional preservation and lack of truncation afforded by the overlying alluvial layers, this suggests that structural timbers effectively rested on the ground surface rather than being inserted into postholes. That said, many of the structures had two postholes clearly marking the doorway, which presumably required deeper postholes for their entranceway structural support.

Up to nine potential roundhouses, surviving to various degrees, have been attributed to Phase III.2. Of these, four were well-preserved (Structures 1, 2, 4 & 5), two were heavily truncated but survived sufficiently to estimate diameter (Structures 7 & 10), while three survived only as truncated sections of curvilinear gullies (Structures 12, 13 & 15). The finds assemblages recovered from the better preserved structures are detailed in Table 4, below.

	No. of 1m segments excavated	**Pot** (qty.)	**Animal Bone** (qty.)	**Burnt clay** (qty.)	**Total**	**Average per 1m segment**
Structure 1	8	24 (100g)	53 (224g)	8 (15g)	85 (339g)	10.6 (42.4g)
Structure 2	7	23 (330g)	22 (47g)	1 (5g)	46 (382g)	15.3 (55g)
Structure 4	7	8 (35g)	84 (179g)	6 (29g)	98 (243g)	14 (35g)
Structure 5	5	3 (27g)	6 (3g)	1 (6g)	10 (36g)	2 (7g)
Structure 7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Structure 10	3	0	7 (4g)	2 (1g)	9 (5g)	3 (2g)

Table 4: Phase III roundhouses assemblage breakdown (major finds groups only).

Structures 1 and 2 were located to the north of the later line of the Phase IV enclosure and were sealed by its northern bank (F.30):

Structure 1 - This gully-defined roundhouse measured 8-9m in diameter and had an east-facing entrance. The roundhouse-gully (**F.36**) itself measured between 0.38m and 0.7m wide by between 0.03m and 0.22m deep, and contained a single fill that yielded a limited finds assemblage that included Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Within the roundhouse, six postholes (**Fs.37**, **38**, **306**, **307**, **308** & **F.332**) were recorded at least some of which are presumably related to the structure. In addition, two clay-lined pits were located 'inside' the roundhouse (**F.28** & **F.33**); while there was no firm evidence that these pits were contemporary with the structure, it does though seem likely.

Structure 2 - This had an east-facing entrance and a diameter of 9m. The roundhouse-gully (**F.354**) measured between 0.41m and 1.05m wide by between 0.11m and 0.38m deep. It contained a single fill that yielded a small quantity of finds including Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone, as well as fragments of burnt stone, amongst which was a burnt fragment of a saddlequern. Part of a second possible gully (**F.386**) was recorded extending from the northern terminus of F.354, suggesting the roundhouse-gully may have been re-cut. Within the structure the base of a centrally located clay-lined hearth (**F.361**) was recorded,

along with three pits (**Fs.358, 359** & **F.360**) and four postholes (**Fs.355, 356, 357** & **F.362**), two of which, appear to represent door-posts.

Structures 4 and 5 were located to the south of Structures 1 and 2. These were cut by numerous settlement features – including pits and roundhouse gullies – associated with the Phase IV occupation of the site:

Structure 4 - This roundhouse was located almost exactly on the site of the later Phase IV.1 Structure 3 and may well be a direct precursor. It measured up to 10m in diameter and had a southeast-facing entrance. The roundhouse-gully (**F.96/282**) was between 0.35m and 0.56m wide and 0.14-.26m deep, and contained a single fill; once again, it yielded only a small finds assemblage, albeit including Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and burnt stone, including a burnt fragment of possible saddlequern. Although numerous postholes and pits were recorded in and around the structure, with the exception of probably doorway-related postholes, **F.302** and **F.304**, none can be directly associated with Structure 4 and are possibly more likely to result from the more intensive Phase IV activity in this immediate area.

Structure 5 - To the southwest of Structure 4, gully **F.98/260** defined roundhouse Structure 5. Measuring *c.* 11m in diameter the almost complete roundhouse-gully was truncated by a number of later features and the gully termini marking its exact entrance did not survive; however, the entrance was clearly east-facing and two postholes potentially mark the location of door-posts (**F.234** & **F.82**). The roundhouse-gully (F. 98/260) itself measured between 0.27m and 0.7m wide by between 0.07m and 0.37m deep. It contained a single fill, which yielded only a few finds, but including three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. Once again, although numerous postholes and pits were recorded in the vicinity none can be confidently associated with Structure 5 due to the intensity of later activity similarly present within this area.

To the south of Structures 4 and 5, two heavily truncated roundhouse gullies marked the site of Structures 7 and 10, which were truncated by Phase IV.2 Structures 8 and 9. Although attributed to Phase III.2 on this basis, neither structure produced any dating evidence (see Table 4).

Structure 7 - An incomplete roundhouse-gully marked the location of Structure 7. Less than half of it (**F.102/112**), which had an estimated diameter of *c.* 10m, survived; the gully measured a maximum of 0.28m wide by 0.07m deep. Two postholes (**F.113** and an unrecorded feature to the north) may represent door-posts for the roundhouse. If this were the case, however, then their location on the line of the roundhouse-gully suggests that, in contrast to the other structures recorded at Barleycroft, the gully represents a wall-trench rather than an eavesgully.

Structure 10 - The remnants of an arcing gully (**Fs.27, 126** & **F.240**) marked the location of Structure 10, slightly to southwest of Structure 7. Surviving only intermittently and with only the northeastern part of the roundhouse-gully remaining, the structure is estimated to have measured 8-9m in diameter and appears likely to have had an east-facing entrance; the latter, however, could not be confirmed. The roundhouse-gully measured a maximum of just 0.23m wide by 0.16m deep, and contained a single fill that yielded only a very small quantity of animal bone and burnt clay.

A number of other features and structures can also be attributed more broadly to Phase III, although they produced no secure dating evidence and are difficult to place into the stratigraphic and spatial framework used to define sub-Phases III.1 and III.2. Four further structures were recorded as traces of curvilinear gullies, which were exposed only upon final machine-stripping of the site down to natural sand; as such they are more fragmentary and less confidently identified than the aforementioned structures. Three appear to be heavily truncated roundhouses (Structures 13, 14 & 15), although they could also represent the remains of hayricks (at Wardy Hill similar features were

interpreted as such; Evans 2003), while the fourth is perhaps better interpreted as the remains of a small animal pen (Structure 12).

Structure 12 - Comprising a curvilinear gully (**F.384**), which potentially marked the site of a structure *c.* 3.5m in diameter, Structure 12 was sealed by the enclosure's internal bank (F.29) and was truncated by Structure 4. The gully itself, which measured a maximum of 0.2m wide by 0.09m deep, contained one fill and yielded no finds.

Structure 13 - To the east of Structure 12 and once again sealed by bank F.29 and cut by the roundhouse-gully of Structure 4, the remains of Structure 13 comprised a truncated curvilinear gully *c.* 4.5m in length (**F.340**); it produced no finds.

Structure 14 - The remains of Structure 14 comprised a truncated curvilinear gully (**F.383**) recorded for a total length of *c.* 2.5m. It was 0.22m wide by 0.11m deep, and contained a single fill that yielded no finds.

Structure 15 - Largely truncated by later features (including Structure 5), a curvilinear gully **F.254** defined the northern side of Structure 15. This was recorded for a total length of *c.* 6m and yielded no finds.

A series of truncated minor/narrow 'pre-enclosure' boundary ditches also evidently belong to Phase III. Two were aligned east-west (**F.52** & **F.256**) and another was north-south (**F.101**). These appear to be the fragmentary remains of a wider fieldsystem, which is likely to have been contemporary to at least some of the Phase III features. The ditches yielded few finds, suggesting contemporary occupation may not have been dense, although sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Two clusters of pits, outside the Phase IV enclosed settlement, have been attributed to Phase III by virtue of an apparent association with Structure 2 (F.14, *etc.*) and being sealed by the Phase IV bank (F.220, *etc.*):

To the northwest of Structure 2, a cluster of six pits (**Fs.14, 15, 365, 366, 367** & **F.370**) may well have been associated with the structure, although this cannot be confirmed. The pits measured between 0.44m and 1.03m in diameter and were 0.1-.32m deep. Each yielded a few sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (13 sherds in total), but no other significant finds.

A second clearly defined cluster comprised four relatively large pits located just outside the northwestern corner of the Phase IV enclosure and partially sealed by its bank. Of these, F.237 was distinct in being 0.94m deep and is the only real candidate for a 'well' on the site. The remaining three pits measured were 1.1-2.46m in diameter and between 0.14 and 0.55m deep. Only one of the pits (F.220) produced dating evidence in the form of seven sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Finally, ditch/gully **F.45** is included in Phase III, although in reality it is something of enigma in that it markedly deviates from the dominant north-south alignment of the site's other Iron Age ditches; yet, it yielded a small finds assemblage, including a sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Phase IV - Enclosure Settlement (Middle/later Iron Age)

The enclosed Middle Iron Age settlement phase appears to have seen the site's most intense occupation, much of which relates to the final ditched and embanked enclosure (**F.01**; Phase IV.2; Fig. 9). However, it is clear from both stratigraphic and spatial relationships that this enclosure was established relatively late in the site's sequence and that much of the Middle Iron Age

occupation pre-dates it and, instead, relates to a sequence of earlier enclosures, which were truncated by the main enclosure ditch (F.01).

Phase IV.1

The evidence for the Phase IV.1 enclosure system comprised four ditched boundaries - **F.49** (a re-cut of the earlier **F.252;** see Fig. 12), **F.55**, **F.218** and **F.352** - truncated by the Phase IV.2 enclosure (F.01; Fig. 9), three of which yielded minor quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery. Detailed in Table 5 below, the ditches effectively represent remnants of an enclosure system – largely truncated by the Phase IV.2 enclosure within the excavation area – which clearly determined the position and extent of the later enclosure. We can, therefore, be relatively confident that at least three sides of the final Phase IV.2 enclosure to the north, west and south originally existed as ditches F.49/252, F.55 and F.352, respectively, in Phase IV.1. The fact that all of the features attributed to Phase IV – and indeed most of the excavated features – respect these boundaries would appear to confirm this. Due to the limited size of the excavation area, the extent of the enclosure system to the south and east remains unknown (see *Discussion*, below), however, it does not appear to have extended to the north and west.

Ditch	**Alignment**	**Recorded length*** (m)	**Width** (m)	**Depth** (m)	**Finds**
F.49	E-W	13	3.1-4	1.3-1.4	Pottery, animal bone, flint, burnt clay, burnt stone (inc. saddlequern frag.)
F.252	E-W	6.5	3.15	0.9	None
F.55	N-S	5	2.1	> 0.7	Pottery, animal bone
F.218	N-S	1.5	1.7	0.82	Pottery, animal bone, burnt stone
F.352	E-W	7	> 1.05	> 0.41	Animal bone, flint

Table 5: Details of Phase IV.1 enclosure ditches (* indicates length as exposed within the excavation-area).

A number of features and at least one structure within the Phase IV.2 enclosure (which respect the ditched boundary but were sealed by its bank), can, therefore, be relatively confidently attributed to Phase IV.1. These appear to be concentrated in the northwest of the enclosure system, where a roundhouse (Structure 3) and a sequence of ditches – acting as an internal sub-division – appear to define an area of activity.

Structure 3 - Located 'within' the enclosure towards its northern edge, Structure 3 was defined by an 'incomplete' pennanular gully (**Fs.283, 289, 290** & **F.293**), with the northern side of the roundhouse apparently defined by the enclosure boundary. The roundhouse was up to 11m in diameter and had an east-facing entrance. The pennanular gully defining it was, in fact, made up of three separate gullies (Fs.289, 290 & F. 293), indicating that the feature was 're-cut' on at least two occasions. The gullies were all between 0.2m and 0.9m wide and 0.07-.35m deep, and contained a single fill. Structure 3 produced a relatively large finds assemblage (see Table 6) – at least in comparison to the other recorded structures – although this is perhaps to be expected given its apparent longevity indicated by its re-cut gully. No clear door-postholes or other structural postholes were identified, although some of the numerous pits and postholes in this area seem likely to relate to the structure.

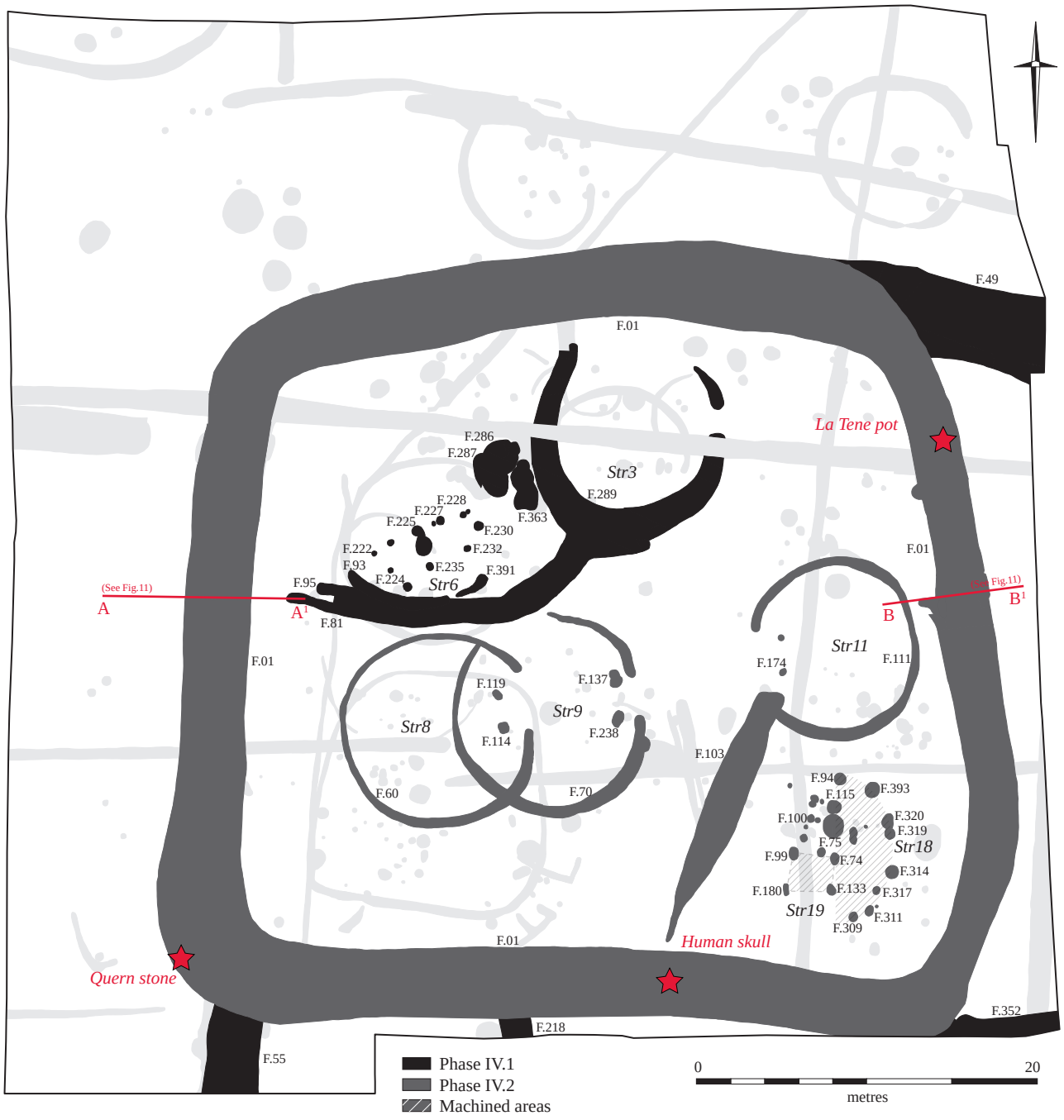

Figure 9. Phase IV features

Figure 10. The Phase IV.2 enclosure (top, ditch F.01 and interior upcast bank F.29, facing north; below, exterior bank F.30, facing north)

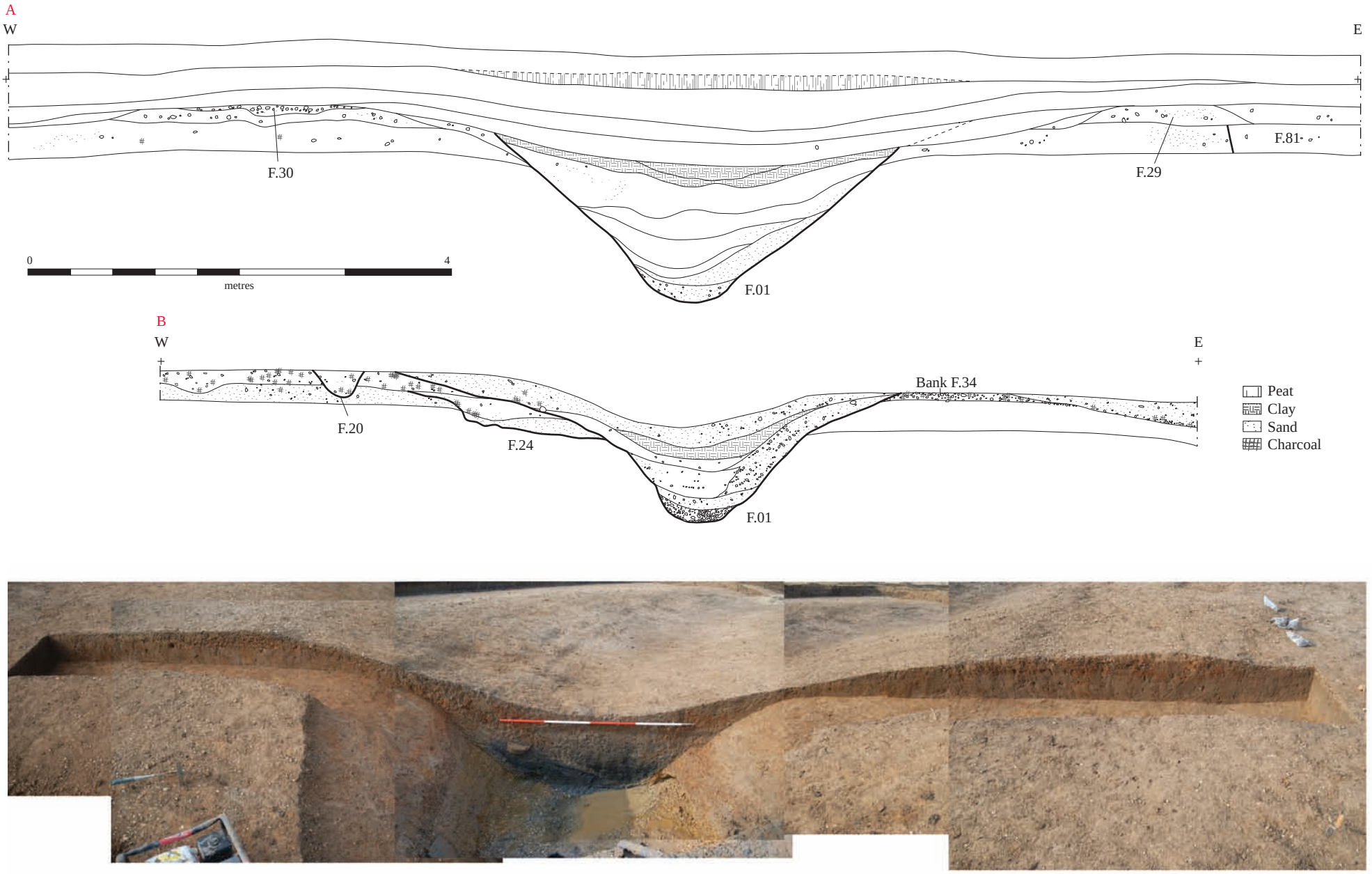

Figure 11. Sections and photograph (facing north) of enclosure ditch F.01 and associated upcast banks

Figure 12. Phase IV.2 enclosure ditch F.01: top, human skull in lower ditch fills (facing south); bottom, ditch F.01 cutting earlier Phase IV.1 ditch F.49 (facing east)

Figure 13. Structure 18 and associated hearth F.75 during excavation (top); Phase IV.2 roundhouse Structures 8 and 9 (bottom)

	No. of 1m segments excavated	Pot (Qty.)	Animal Bone (Qty.)	Burnt clay (Qty.)	Total	Average per 1m segment
Structure 3*	6	68 (1551g)	103 (409g)	62 (330g)	233 (2290g)	38.8 (382g)*
Structure 6	4	3 (31g)	9 (31g)	11 (114g)	23 (176g)	5.8 (44g)
Structure 8	8	20 (150g)	180 (738g)	23 (269g)	223 (1157g)	27.9 (145g)
Structure 9	8	23 (181g)	177 (701g)	538 (7876g)	738 (8758g)	92.3 (1095g)
Structure 11	7	16 (307g)	30 (164g)	1 (13g)	47 (484g)	6.7 (69g)*

Table 6: Phase IV roundhouses assemblage breakdown (major finds groups only; *Structure 3's roundhouse-gully comprises at least three phases of building).

Extending from the southern edge of Structure 3, a curving boundary marked by at least three successive ditches/gullies (**Fs.81**, **95** & **F.253**) – at least one of which would appear to be contemporary with Structure 3 – together with a length of ditch/gully (**F.300**) to the north of Structure 3, formed an internal sub-enclosure in the northwest corner of the main enclosure. It seems logical that some sort of structure would have been situated within this 'compound' and a cluster of postholes (**Fs.221-229** & **Fs.233-235**) may well relate to this (although equally they may relate to the earlier Structure 5). A more definite structure in this part of the site surviving only as a partial roundhouse-gully (Structure 6), may also be contemporary, although it was seen to cut the (presumably) earliest phase of the sub-enclosure boundary (F.95).

Structure 6 - Less than half of this roundhouse survived, with only the southern edge being defined by an interrupted curvilinear gully (**F.93** & **F.391**) *c.* 9m in length. The gully contained a single fill, which yielded three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. The gully itself was 0.3-.38m wide and between 0.01m and 0.2m deep. Two postholes potentially marked the location of door-posts and indicate a probable east-facing entrance (**F.230** & **F.232**).

Also 'within' this northwest sub-enclosure and potentially contemporary, two groups of pits represented the most intensive pitting on the site. A group of eight intercutting pits, **Fs.284-287**, **F.338**, **F.387**, **F.389** and **F.390,** yielded small quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone, while a group of three inter-cutting pits (**F.363, F.364** & **F.382**) had various finds, including Middle Iron Age pottery and, more significantly, a large assemblage of charred cereal grains (see de Vareilles, below).

Phase IV.2

The Phase IV.2 ditched and embanked enclosure marks the final episode of the site's Middle-later Iron Age occupation; it survived as an earthwork feature into the Roman period when it was sealed by alluvium and, thereby preserved as an earthwork (Figs. 5-7). Derived from the layout of the preceding Phase IV.1 enclosure system, the enclosure was sub-square in plan and enclosed an area of around 1550sqm (Fig. 9). The ditch was between 2.8m and 4m wide by between 1.2m and 1.51m deep, and had a rounded 'V'-shaped profile (**F.01**), which had clearly been significantly altered by slumping of the gravel sides during its lifetime (Figs. 10-12). The ditch had a sequence of up to twelve fills, comprising 'organic' basal silts – well-preserved through waterlogging – slumped deposits and buried soil-derived

upper silting deposits. To the north, west and south, the ditch was accompanied by the remnants of a bank on both the interior and the exterior. Clearly eroded and 'flattened', the banks comprised upcast gravel and buried soil from the excavation and/or 'cleaning out' of the main enclosure ditch (Figs. 10 & 11). The interior bank measured an average of *c.* 3m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.16m (**F.29**), while its exterior counterpart measured 2-3.5m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.2m (**F.30**). The banks appeared more substantial along the western side of the enclosure, although it is impossible to say whether this is merely due to differing degrees of preservation. In contrast to the other sides, along the eastern edge of the enclosure, no bank was recorded on the interior and only the very eroded and incomplete remains of a possible bank were recorded on the outside (**F.34**). The fact that the ditch was also noticeably narrower and shallower along the eastern side, suggests that an entrance/bridging point may well have been located here, probably – given the location of internal features such as Structure 11 (see below) – in the northeast corner.

Not surprisingly, enclosure ditch F.01 produced the most significant finds assemblage of all the site's Iron Age features – both in terms of number and importance – and this suggests that its occupation was at its most intense during Phase IV.2. The enclosure ditch yielded 158 sherds of Middle/later Iron Age pottery (4576g), including the almost complete remains of a La Tène-style decorated vessel (see Fig. 14 and Brudenell, below). In terms of site economy and environment, a wide range of animal and bird bone was recovered (393 fragments; 10907g), including cow, horse, pig and sheep/goat, as well as wild species such as deer, wild boar, swan and crane, and which attest to both woodland and wetland environments within the vicinity. The remains of two rotary querns – including a complete upper stone – were recovered from the ditch (see Timberlake, below), as well as small quantities of burnt stone. Finally, a human skull was recovered from the southern arm of the enclosure ditch (see Fig. 12 and Dodwell, below), although on the whole it seems that the ditch did not see significant deposition of human remains and certainly not on a scale such as that recorded at the Iron Age site on the nearby Godwin Ridge (Evans *et al*. 2008).

The organic fills of the enclosure ditch (F.01) were well-preserved through waterlogging, and an initial assessment of environmental samples suggests that the assemblage of charred plant remains is particularly significant (see de Vareilles, below). The latter shows a predominance of barley, with the presence of barley chaff indicating that it was cultivated locally. The organic basal fills also contained preserved wood, including large fragments; however, while the waterlogged wood was inspected for evidence of working, no worked pieces were recovered.

Given the finds assemblage recovered from the enclosure ditch, it is reasonable to assume that many of the internal features belong to Phase IV.2 and three roundhouses have been identified as being probably contemporary (the details of the structures' finds assemblages are detailed in Table 6, above):

Structure 8 - This was defined by a complete pennanular gully (**F.60**). The roundhouse measured *c.* 11m in diameter and had an east-facing entrance, with two postholes marking the location of door-posts (**F.114** & **F.119**; Fig. 13). The roundhouse-gully was 0.17-.51m wide and between 0.07m and 0.22m deep, and contained a single fill; it yielded Middle Iron Age

pottery, animal bone and burnt clay, as well as burnt stone, amongst which was a burnt fragment from a possible rubbing stone. A number of postholes and pits were recorded within the structure; however, few are considered to be associated and most have been attributed to the earlier Structure 16 (see above).

Structure 9 - Slightly to the east of Structure 8 and truncated by its eavesgully, this also measured *c.* 11m in diameter and, once again, had an east-facing entrance with two postholes marking the doorway (**F.137** & **F.238**; Fig. 13). Although relatively well-preserved, the pennanular roundhouse-gully (**F.70**) – which was 0.22-.7m wide and between 0.12m and 0.27m deep – was not 'complete' and it no longer survived in the northwest of the structure. It contained up to three fills, from which was retrieved Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and burnt stone, including two fragments of burnt saddlequern. Of particular note, a dump of fired clay – evidently the remains of an oven structure - was encountered in the north gully terminus (see Appleby, below). 'Within' the gully's interior-area a number of postholes were identified, of which an arc of three appear to form the northern part an inner structural ring (**F. 152** and two unrecorded).

Structure 11 - In the east of the enclosure, Structure 11 was defined by a pennanular gully, 10-11m in diameter (**F.111**). Perhaps significantly, Structure 11 was the only roundhouse with a west-facing entrance (orientated toward Structures 8 & 9). The gully was 0.36-.51m wide and between 0.18m and 0.4m deep, and contained up to three fills; its finds assemblage included Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. A total of seven postholes were located within the interior-area of the roundhouse, although only those of the door-posts can be confidently attributed to the structure (**F.174** and an unrecorded posthole).

Given that Structure 8, truncated Structure 9, it is clear that not all three of the Phase IV.2 roundhouses were contemporary; indeed, it can be argued that Structure 8 was a direct replacement for Structure 9. However, it is reasonable to assume – given their spatial relationship and the fact that the entrances faced each other – that Structure 11 was contemporary with either or both of Structures 8 and/or 9.

A number of other features can be confidently attributed to late in Phase IV.2 due to their stratigraphic relationship to Structure 8, 9 and 11. Of these, pit **F.89** is noteworthy in having produced a fragment of polished, burnt animal bone decorated with ring-and-dot motifs (see below), along with a small assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Ditch **F.156**, also clearly belonged to the very end of Phase IV.2, having been seen to cut the roundhouse-gully of Structure 11. The ditch was 16.5m long and 0.41-2.3m wide, and between 0.18m and 0.63m deep. It contained up to three fills, which yielded a comparatively large finds assemblage, including 126 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone, a worked bone pin-beater or awl and burnt stone, amongst which were fragments of burnt saddlequern. The ditch would appear to have been contemporary with the embanked enclosure given that it not only terminated just to the north of its ditch, but also noticeably shallowed and narrowed in the area of the former bank suggesting that the ditch 'rose' over the bank. The function of the ditch seems likely to have been to screen or define an area of activity within the southeast interior of the main enclosure. Within the area defined/screened by F.156, a high density of features suggests relatively intense activity, potentially associated with one or both of two structures (Structures 18 & 19) identified in this area of site:

Structure 18 - A structure was identified from surface deposits comprising a 'hearth' feature and the remnants of a potential clay floor surface (see Fig. 13; French, above). Upon excavation a total of some 30 postholes/post pits were revealed – including an arc of 10

postholes (**Fs.94, 309, 311, 314, 317, 319, 320, 330, 331** & **F.393**) apparently representing the eastern side of a sub-circular structure *c*. 8m across. The postholes/post pits ranged from 0.19m to 0.75m in diameter and were 0.06-.29m deep. The possible 'hearth' comprised a shallow 'cut' (measuring 1.6m in diameter by 0.27m deep; **F.75**) containing a reddish/orange brown silty sand fill overlain by a deposit of burnt, partially burnt and unburnt stone. To the south of F.75, a potentially associated pit (**F.115**; 0.85m diam. and 0.45m deep) had a clayey primary fill packed with burnt stone cobbles. In close proximity to F.75 and F.115, 11 postholes potentially represent some kind of structure or screen associated with the 'hearth' (**Fs.83-85, 88, 97, 100, 147, 321, 322** & **F.392**).

Unfortunately, the various postholes and 'floor deposits' of Structure 18, as well as the hearth and associated pit (F.75 & F.115), produced little dating evidence that would confirm its Phase IV.2 attribution and association with 'screening' ditch F.156. Indeed, the pottery assemblage from all of Structure 18's features amounted to only 14 sherds from four features and comprised only generic Middle Iron Age material, alongside three sherds of earlier to Middle Iron Age pottery. As such, the possibility that it belongs to an earlier phase should be entertained, especially given its proximity to Phase IV.2 bank F.29, which suggests that, if the two features were contemporary, the southern edge of the Structure 18 would then have stood almost on top of the bank.

Given this ambiguity in Structure 18's Phase IV.2 attribution, the presence of a four-post structure (Structure 19) in the area defined by ditch F.156 may be significant.

Structure 19 - This four-poster comprised postholes **F.74**, **F.99**, **F.133** and **F.180**, which were between 0.19m and 0.63m in diameter and 0.27-.35m deep. Each contained a single fill, none of which yielded any finds.

Phase III/IV - Pits and Postholes

A total of 118 pits (excluding earlier prehistoric and 'post-settlement' features) were recorded and, although in many cases securely dated to the Middle Iron Age and clearly associated with either Phase III or Phase IV, the majority cannot confidently be tightly phased (Fig. 7). Consequently, while a number – discussed above – can be associated with individual structures or broad phases, on the whole they must be discussed as a general Middle Iron Age feature-group. The size of the pits, which were largely circular or sub-circular, varied from 0.16-2.46m in diameter and from between 0.05m to 0.94m in depth. The Middle Iron Age pits generally produced remarkably low quantities of finds, indeed only ten produced in excess of five sherds of pottery, with only pit **F.124** producing a relatively 'large' assemblage of 35 sherds. Nevertheless, a number of pits fall into specific categories – such as those with clay-linings – or produced interesting finds or environmental assemblages and, therefore, warrant further discussion:

Clay-lined Pits

A total of 18 pits contained a well-preserved clay-lining and were often associated with fills containing large deposits of burnt stone cobbles and/or heat shattered stone fragments. Pits belonging to this group were between 0.4m and 0.94m in diameter and 0.1-.45m deep. They often appeared to be associated with individual structures – see, for example, pits F.28 and F.33, mentioned above in relation to Structure 1 – although in areas of intense activity it was impossible to identify direct associations. Generally the clay-lined pits produced few finds, although eight had sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

In addition, three pits, although initially identified as clay-lined, upon excavation were found to be almost entirely clay-filled (**F.79**, **F.301** & **F.115** mentioned above in relation to Structure 18). Whether these clay fills represent a collapsed lining, or otherwise the 'puddling' of clay within pits, remains unclear.

Burnt Stone-filled Pits

A number of non-clay-lined pits were also found to contain large deposits of discarded burnt stone. Of these, **F.23** is worthy of mention having contained eight fragments of burnt saddlequern (7976g).

Pits F.173 and *F.363*

Of the feature fills submitted for environmental analysis, those from Middle Iron Age pits **F.173** and **F.363** had large amounts of cereal grains (see de Vareilles, below). Pit F.173 was located 'within' the interior of the roundhouse-gully of Structure 11, although given its position it seems unlikely to have been contemporary. Pit F.363 was located in the area of relatively intense activity within the northwest of the enclosure and potentially associated with Structure 6. The assemblages are certainly significant, although further work is required to confirm whether they represent the remains of a stored product or crop processing waste.

Of the postholes recorded within the excavation area, in addition to the those confidently associated with buildings and discussed above (i.e. the structural postholes of Structures 16-18 and the door-posts of Structures 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9 and 11), a further 92 postholes/post pits were recorded. The postholes/post pits 0.1-.64m in diameter and between 0.03m and 0.56m deep, and ranged from isolated postholes with no clear function to distinct clusters; the latter are likely to have been structural, yet could not be clearly associated with any identified structure.

Phase V - Aftermath (Roman and Post-Medieval)

Following the decline of the Iron Age settlement the site saw limited use prior to its complete abandonment, probably (given the presence of surface finds of the period) during Romano-British times (Fig. 7). Features dating to this post-settlement phase were characterised by alluvial fills, indicating that seasonal flooding would have undoubtedly affected the site at this time; indeed, the structure of the upper 'alluviated' buried soil horizon suggests the area may have been something akin to a flood-meadow (C. French, pers. comm.). During this period the bank and ditch of the Iron Age enclosure would have certainly existed as earthworks; however, as boundaries they do not appear to have been incorporated into the Phase V field layout. Rather, a 'new' fieldsystem was established during this period represented by an east-west ditch (**F.03**) – with traces of an associated bank to the south - which 'cut' across the northern part of the enclosure, and a north-south ditch falling just within the excavation area in the southeast corner (**F.04**). The only finds recovered from the ditches' alluvial fills comprised a few small fragments of animal bone and four sherds of – almost certainly residual – Middle Iron Age pottery.

A small number of other features have also been attributed a Romano-British date based largely on their alluvial, clay-based fills. A small sub-rectangular

enclosure formed by a steep sided gully (**F.17**) – probably an animal pen of some description (Structure 20) – was located in the southern half of the area. In addition, a small pit (**F.18**) that contained an alluvial clay fill and truncated pit F.17, can also be attributed to Phase V. Finally, re-fitting sherds of mortaria were recovered from the buried soil in the southwest corner of the site; the skeleton of a cow, found within the top of the ditch of the Iron Age enclosure and sealed by alluvial deposits, also seems likely to be Romano-British and could reflect the period's pastoral land-use.

Finally, one pit located in the east of the excavation-area and cut through the alluvial clay (**F.02**) can, on that basis, be dated to the post-Medieval/modern period. It contained the partial/truncated remains of a cow skeleton.

Undated/Natural Features

A few remaining features cannot be fitted into the above phasing sequence or are considered to be natural. These include three slightly irregular gullies in the south of the excavation-area (**F.21**, **F.203/204** & **F.211**), which were potentially natural features resulting from burrowing animals. Having said that, the right-angle form of F.21 particularly suggests they could also possibly have been structural. Only F.21 produced a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery, which seems highly likely to be residual.

Two truncated ditches in the south of the excavation-area, **F.245** and **F.246**, also presently remain unphased. No dating evidence was recovered from them and, although their close proximity to the entrances of Structures 9 and 11 suggests that they pre-dated Phase IV.2, they could potentially belong to either Phase III or IV.1.

Two tree-throws (**F. 32** & **F.200**) were also recorded within the excavation-area. While F.200 produced only a single fragment of burnt stone, F.32 yielded a coherent assemblage of Late Neolithic flint. Given that the latter feature cut the Phase III ditch F.43 and lay in close proximity to Late Neolithic pit F.91, it seems likely this flintwork is residual.

Human Bone Natasha Dodwell

Human Bone was recovered from two features: an adult skull from the enclosure ditch F.01 (Fig. 12) and a neonate humerus from gully F.300. The sharp orbits, lack of brow ridges or occipital protuberance and the small mastoid process suggest that the skull is that of a female. Metrical data was used to determine the age of the neonate (Schaefer 2009).

Feature	Context	Element	Age	Sex	Comments
01	[004]	Skull (frontal, parietals, occipital & r. temporal)	adult	female	Fragmentary (refitting post-mortem breaks); stained a dark brown
300	[998]	Right humerus	neonate (38-40wks)	?	

Table 7: Human bone.

Material Culture

Worked Flint Lawrence Billington

A total of 338 struck flints and 291 (2873g) unworked flints were recovered, with the assemblage quantified in Table 8. The majority of the worked flint, 220 pieces, was recovered from the excavation of cut features whilst sampling of buried soil deposits through surface collection and test pitting yielded a further 106 pieces. Aside from two coherent assemblages from Neolithic pits F.91 and F.342, relatively low densities of flint were encountered both within the buried soil and the cut features and largely represent material considerably predating the Iron Age occupation of the site.

	Test Pits	**Surface Finds**	**F.91**	**F.342**	**Other features**	**Buried soil [145]**	**Totals**
chip	8	1		3	5		17
irregular waste	3	3		3	10		19
Flake	47	17	14	35	113	12	238
blade/let	7	4	2	5	7		25
crested blade					1		1
flake core	2	2		1	1		6
blade core	2						2
core on polished flint axe				1			1
tested nodule	1				2		3
core fragment				2	1		3
Scraper	2	1		1	6		10
retouched flake	2	2			2		6
chisel arrowhead	1		2				3
Denticulate	1						1
flake knife					1		1
serrated flake					1		1
bifacially flaked tool				1			1
total worked	**76**	**30**	**18**	**52**	**150**	**12**	**338**
burnt unworked no.	70	12	1	108	100	0	291
burnt unworked weight (g)	872	150	10	426	1415	0	2873

Table 8: The flint assemblage.

Raw Material and Condition

The assemblage is made up entirely of flint. The majority of cortical pieces bear the thin and abraded cortex characteristic of material from secondary glacial/fluvial sources, probably the local terrace gravels. Smaller amounts of chalk flint were, however, present. A fragment of polished flint axe which has been reused as a core was recovered from Early Neolithic pit F.342. This was made on a mottled grey opaque flint with cherty inclusions. Polished axes made on similar material are a distinctive component of Early Neolithic assemblages across southern Britain (see Bayliss et al 2011: 783-4) and although such flint is often known as 'Lincolnshire flint', Healy has demonstrated that it can be obtained from superficial deposits in East Anglia (1988: 33).

The condition of the assemblage is generally good although many pieces display edge rounding and occasional light spalling suggestive of trampling or minor disturbance. Twelve pieces are recorticated, mostly bearing a light blue clouding. In general the recorticated material appears to be dominated by pieces with technological traits suggestive of an early (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) date.

Surface Collection

The assemblage derived from surface collection consists largely of unretouched flake-based material. The majority of removals are relatively broad and thick with hard hammer struck unprepared striking platforms. Little of this material is strongly diagnostic but is typical of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age technologies. A much smaller proportion of material is made up of narrow flake-/blade-based pieces, generally soft hammer struck, of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. Just three retouched pieces were recovered, a single small sub circular scraper and two retouched flakes. One of the retouched flakes was made on of the distal end of a broad, relatively thin flake which has had its proximal end intentionally removed and is possibly an abandoned blank for a chisel arrowhead.

Test Pits

Seventy-six worked flints were recovered from the test pits. The assemblage is closely comparable to the material derived from the surface collection with a predominance of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flake-based material. Among this material are two distinctive flakes with finely faceted platforms struck from levallois-like cores. Such flakes are characteristic of specialised Late Neolithic core reduction technologies (Bjarke Ballin 2011). A small amount of earlier, Mesolithic or Early Neolithic material is also present in the form of carefully struck blades and narrow flakes and a single core with fine narrow flake scars. Several pieces exhibit a marked lack of knapping skill in the form of repeated errors and unsystematic working which might suggest a later prehistoric date. These pieces include two irregular flake cores and a crudely manufactured denticulate tool. Although potentially representing flintwork contemporary with the Iron Age occupation of the site this material could equally relate to middle or late Bronze Age activity or could represent a more expediently worked component of earlier assemblages. Aside from the denticulate the few retouched pieces from the test pits are made up of scrapers and informally retouched pieces characteristic of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblages and includes a retouched flake struck from a late Neolithic levallois-like core.

Early Neolithic Pit F.342

A relatively large assemblage of 52 worked flints was recovered from the excavation of pit F.342. 108 pieces of unworked burnt flint (426g) were also recovered and a high proportion (40%) of the worked flint was burnt. The assemblage is dominated by small waste removals but includes several fine blades and larger flakes, several of which have been utilised. Cores are well represented by two fragmentary cores and an exhausted but neatly worked flake core. Also present is a relatively large flake core made on a section of extensively reworked polished axe that retains a very small area of polished surface. Two retouched tools were present, an end scraper and a small bifacially flaked implement, perhaps a poorly executed laurel leaf. The technological characteristics of the material, particularly the presence of several fine true blades suggests an Early Neolithic date for the assemblage.

Late Neolithic Pit

A smaller assemblage of 19 worked flints was recovered from pit F.91. The assemblage is in very fresh condition and largely consists of tertiary flake-based removals, several of which have been removed from levallois-like cores. Two retouched pieces were recovered; one is a complete and very fine chisel arrowhead whilst the other is a snapped flake with a concave area of invasive retouch that may represent a chisel arrowhead broken during manufacture. The presence of Levallois-like technological traits and the chisel arrowhead clearly suggest a late Neolithic date for the assemblage.

Features

The excavation of other cut features yielded a further 108 flints. Tree-throw F.32 contained a relatively large assemblage of 14 flints including a large proportion of tools including two scrapers and two informally retouched flakes. One of the scrapers and several of the flakes were clearly struck from levallois-like cores and the material as a whole appears to represent a fairly coherent late Neolithic assemblage. The remainder of the flintwork was thinly distributed and comparable in condition and composition to the material derived from the buried soil deposits. Mesolithic or early Neolithic blade-based material is scarce, represented only by seven blades and bladelets. This early material is greatly outnumbered by flake-based flintwork largely of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date and includes four late Neolithic removals struck from levallois-like cores. Retouched forms were dominated by scrapers and informally retouched flakes, consistent with a late Neolithic/early Bronze age date and also included a blade-like flake with fine serration along one edge, probably of Neolithic date.

Very little of the flintwork assemblage can be associated with the Iron Age activity at the site. Although occasional pieces exhibiting the casual and expedient approach to flint working that characterises later prehistoric flintwork are present in the assemblage these could very easily relate to earlier activity. It appears that the working and use of flint at the site during the Iron Age was, at most, a rare and informal circumstance. With the exception of the assemblages derived from pits F.342 and F.91 and tree-throw F.32, the flintwork from all contexts, whether feature or buried soil derived are closely comparable and represent a chronologically mixed assemblage. Notwithstanding the rich assemblage from pit F.342, Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintwork is relatively poorly represented, with the assemblage as a whole dominated by late Neolithic/early Bronze Age material. The fairly common occurrence of Late Neolithic material throughout the assemblage perhaps suggests a substantial amount of the less diagnostic material also belongs in this broad period. Certainly there is an absence of diagnostic early Bronze Age forms such as thumbnail scrapers and invasively retouched knives.

Earlier Prehistoric Pottery Mark Knight

A small assemblage of earlier prehistoric pottery was recovered made up of 156 sherds weighing 854g. The collection includes large fragments in good condition, alongside some smaller abraded pieces. Three principal fabric types were identified: hard with frequent burnt flint and sand (F1), medium with frequent voids (S1), and medium hard with common small grog (G1). Decoration was absent and feature sherds were rare. The fabric division corresponded to sherds belonging to two recognisable types: Early Neolithic hemispherical bowls (F1 & S1) and Early Bronze Age urns (G1). The former included plain neck and body fragments of simple and 'S'-shaped profiled vessels, whilst the latter included pieces of a narrow diameter base and splayed lower body fragments. The bulk of the material comprised Early Neolithic (76.7% by weight). An absence of decoration on the Early Neolithic sherds was countered by the presence of applied internal and external slips typical of plain assemblages, including those found at the nearby Barleycroft Paddocks site both within tree-throws and pit features.

Catalogue	Feature	Context	SF	Type	Number	Weight (g)
288			93	?Early Neo	1	4
361			167	Urn EBA or loomweight	1	20
541	5	20		Urn EBA	3	85
545	9	244		Urn EBA	1	1
547	10	30		Urn EBA	8	8
549	10	31		Urn EBA	2	81
823	107	459		Early Neo	1	8
1089	342	1103		Early Neo	74	333
1094	342	1104		Early Neo	42	291
1275	342	1103		Early Neo	12	4
1276	342	1103		Early Neo	11	19

Table 9: Earlier prehistoric pottery.

The Later Prehistoric Pottery Matthew Brudenell

The investigations yielded a total of 1021 sherds (16478g) of later prehistoric pottery, with a relatively high mean sherd weight (MSW) of 16.1g. With the exception of two wheel-made sherds of Late Iron Age or Romanizing pottery (*c*. AD 40-60) - both recovered as surface finds (SF6, 33g, Fabric GQ2) - all the material was handmade, with the vast majority dating to the Middle Iron Age, *c*. 350-50 BC. The ceramics were in fair condition, although shell and other calcareous inclusions from the surface of sherds were often leached, and many fragments were partially encrusted with iron pan.

This assessment report offers a summary of the character and chronology of the assemblage, highlighting avenues for further analysis. All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of carbonized residues. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small'; sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium', and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large'. A programme of refitting was also conducted, and sherd joins were noted within contexts. The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held in the site archive.

Assemblage Characteristics

In total 24 fabrics types were distinguished in the assemblage, belonging to 13 major fabric groups (Table 10). Despite this diversity, 60% of the pottery (by weight) was shell-tempered, with 18% sandy wares, and 12% with a combination of sand and shell. The remaining 10% was shared between relatively minor fabrics groups: flint and sand (1%); grog (<1%); grog and sand (1%); limestone (<1%); sand and organic matter (3%); shell and flint (<1%); shell and grog (<1%); shell and limestone (2%); shell and organic matter (2%), and unidentified/miscellaneous (<1%).

On the basis of fabric, some of the material can be identified as belonging to the Post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) tradition of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (*c*. 1100-800 BC), namely sherds with burnt flint inclusions – Fabrics FQ1-3 and SF1. This amount to just 28 fragments (208g), most of which are surface/test-pit finds, or residual sherds from later features. Other single sherds in a range of fabrics can also be dated to this tradition, based on rim-form and/or decoration. They include a fingertip decorated shoulder sherd, a fineware fragment with a dimple on the belly, an incised body sherd, and two rims; one belonging to a shouldered jar with a triangular/T-shaped rim adorned with finger tipping on the rim-top. These sherds are almost certainly of Early Iron Age origin, c. 600-350 BC, perhaps suggesting that most of the 'early' material belongs to the tail end of the PDR tradition; however, arriving at a more exact figure for its quantity in the assemblage is difficult. This is because there are a number of small discrete feature assemblages which contain only plain shell-tempered sherds, which may or may not be of *earlier* Iron Age date (pre-*c*. 350 BC). Certainly, some of these *probably* pre-date the emergence/introduction of Scored Wares in this region (especially that from F.13), and could belong to the very end of the Early Iron Age/beginning of the Middle Iron Age, *circa* the fourth century BC. But other groups could easily be later, and simply not contain any contemporary Scored Wares.

What we can say with more confidence is that the sites' post-built structures - which are stratigraphically early in the sequence - have failed to yield any Scored Wares whatsoever (see Table 12). Their assemblages are dominated by shelly wares, and contain a few forms which are mostly of 'standard' Middle Iron Age-type (the exception being a large burnished barrel-shaped jar from Pit F.106, Structure 16, which has an internally flanged rim- a trait more common in later Early Iron Age assemblages), but lack scoring . On this basis, and given current understandings about the local currency of Scored Wares, these structures and their associated assemblages probably date to the fourth century BC.

Fabric type	**Fabric group**	**No./wt.** (g) **sherds**	% (by wt.)	**No./wt.** (g) **sherds burnished/ scored**	**% fabric** (by wt.) **burnished/ scored**	**MNV**	**MNV burnished**	**MNV scored**
FQ1	Flint & sand	10/103	0.6	-/-/-/-	-/-	1	-	-
FQ2	Flint & sand	9/36	0.2	-/-/-/-	-/-	1	-	-
FQ3	Flint & sand	6/29	0.2	1/3/-/-	10.3/-	1	-	-
G1	Grog	5/25	0.2	-/-/-/-	-/-	-	-	-
GQ1	Grog & sand	7/89	0.5	-/-/-/-	-/-	2	-	-
GQ2	Grog & sand	13/117	0.7	1/8/1/14	6.8/12.0	2	-	-
L1	Limestone	2/99	0.6	-/-/-/-	-/-	-	-	-
Q	Sand	16/19	0.1	-/-/-/-	-/-	-	-	-
Q1	Sand	136/2766	16.8	9/191/6/36	6.9/1.3	16	2	-
Q2	Sand	30/181	1.1	3/27/-/-	14.9/-	8	1	-
QS1	Sand & shell	14/381	2.3	1//22/4/251	5.8/65.9	5	1	1
QS2	Sand & shell	44/911	5.5	-/-/4/251	-/4.8	2	-	-
QS3	Sand & shell	37/460	2.8	-/-/2/8	-/1.7	8	-	-
QS4	Sand & shell	18/158	1.0	-/-/2/14	-/8.9	2	-	-
QVE1	Sand & organic	13/495	3.0	-/-/1/18	-/3.6	1	-	-
S	Shell	83/116	0.7	-/-/3/3	-/2.6	5	-	-
S1	Shell	40/1540	9.3	-/-17/1213	-/78.8	5	-	2
S3	Shell	455/7555	45.8	24/886/86/3253	11.7/43.1	49	3	9
S4	Shell	45/766	4.6	6/252/12/243	32.9/31.7	14	2	2
SF1	Shell & flint	3/40	0.2	-/-/-/-	-/-	-	-	-
SG1	Shell & grog	8/124	0.8	-/-/-/-	-/-	2	-	-
SL1	Shell & limestone	19/282	1.7	-/-1/41	-/14.5	4	-	-
SVE1	Shell & organic	7/154	0.9	-/-/-/-	-/-	2	-	-
M1	Misc.	1/41	0.2	-/-/-/-	-/100.0	1	-	1
TOTAL	-	*1021/16487*	*99.8*	*45/1389/138/5179*	*8.4/31.4*	*131*	*9*	*15*

Table 10: Fabric frequency and the relationship to burnishing, scoring and vessel counts (MNV = minimum number of vessels, calculated as the total number of different rims and bases).

Shell Fabrics (S)

S1: Moderate to common coarse to very coarse shell, poorly sorted (mainly 2-5mm in size)
S2: Moderate to common medium and coarse shell, poorly sorted (1-3mm in size)
S3: Moderate to common medium shell, moderately sorted (mainly 1-2mm in size)
S4: Sparse to moderate shell flecking with rare medium or coarse shell, moderate to poorly sorted (mainly <1-1.5mm in size)

S: Sherds with shells inclusion too small or abraded to classify further

Shell and Limestone Fabrics (SL)
SL1: Sparse to common fine to coarse shell (up to 3mm in size), and sparse to moderate medium or coarse limestone (1-3mm in size)

Shell and Organic Matter Fabrics (SVE)
SVE1: Sparse to moderate medium/and or coarse shell (1-3mm), and moderate linear voids from burnt-out organic matter

Shell and burnt flint Fabrics (SF)
SF1: Sparse to common shell flecking or medium shell (<2mm in size), and rare to moderate medium and/or coarse brunt flint (1-3mm in size)

Shell and Grog Fabrics (SG)
SG1: Sparse medium or coarse shell (1-4mm in size) and sparse or moderate fine to medium grog (<2mm). Clay matrix may contain quartz sand or rare/very rare medium burnt flint (1-2mm in size)

Sand Fabrics (Q)
Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand. Sherds may contain rare linear voids from burnt-out organic matter and/or coarse, partially burnt, rounded flint gravel grits (mainly 2-3mm in size). Fabric is abrasive to touch.
Q2: Sparse to moderate quartz sand. Clay matrix may be slightly micaceous in some sherds. Other inclusions as in Q1
Q: Sherds with sand inclusions too small or abraded to classify further

Sand and Shell Fabrics (QS)
QS1: Moderate quartz sand and moderate medium and coarse shell, poorly sorted (1-3mm in size)
QS2: Moderate to common quartz sand and rare to sparse medium and coarse shell, poorly sorted (1-3mm in size)
QS3: Moderate to common quartz sand and sparse medium shell (mainly 1-2mm in size)
QS4: Moderate quartz sand and sparse to moderate shell flecking (mainly <1mm in size)

Sand and Organic Matter Fabrics (QVE)
QVE1: Moderate to common quartz and moderate common linear voids from burnt-out organic material (visible on the sherds surface and in the sherd break)

Burnt Flint and Sand Fabrics (FQ)
FQ1: Moderate to common coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm in size) in a sandy clay matrix
FQ2: Moderate to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm in size) in sandy clay matrix
FQ3: Sparse to moderate fine burnt flint (mainly <1mm in size) and moderate to common quartz sand

Grog Fabrics (G)
G1: Moderate fine and medium grog (<2mm in size)

Grog and Sand Fabrics (GQ)
GQ1: Sparse to common medium and coarse grog (1-3mm in size), and moderate sand
GQ2: Sparse to common fine or medium grog (<2mm) and moderate sand

Limestone Fabrics (L)
L1: Sparse medium and coarse limestone (1-3mm), and sparse sand. Sherds may contain coarse, partially burnt, rounded flint gravel grits (mainly 2-3mm in size)

Miscellaneous Fabrics (M)
M1: Common dark brown rounded grains (<1mm). Very distinctive, soft, and visible to the naked eye, possibly glauconite

Leaving aside the finer distinctions between the Early-Middle Iron Age transitional ceramics (pre-Scored Ware related) and those of the 'full' Middle Iron Age (Scored Ware related), the identified vessel forms comprised the usual range of slack shouldered jars and bowls, barrel-shaped vessel and globular bowls common to this *later* Iron Age period (post-*c*. 350 BC) in the lower Ouse Valley. Based on the total number of different rims and bases recovered, the assemblage is estimated to include a minimum of 131 different vessels (92 different rims 36 different bases, and three complete profiles. By date, three of the vessels are probably Early Iron Age; five of Early-Middle Iron Age, and 123 of 'full Middle Iron Age). Of these, 54 could be assigned to form, including 181 sherds, weighing 7350g. These occurred in a range of sizes, with small vessels being particularly well represented (in total, there were 49 different measurable vessel rims). That being said, the rims of at least three very large jars were

identified, each measuring over 32cm in diameter. The mouth of the largest vessels was 40cm wide, and would have belonged to a substantial jar, probably used for storage.

Other individual vessels worthy of mention include the two largely complete late 'La Tène-style' decorated vessels from the enclosure ditch F.1: one a burnished globular bowl with lattice motif ([65]) and perforated holes drilled through the base of the pots; the other an elaborately decorated barrel-shaped jar with curvilinear and geometric design incorporating a triskele (from [14]; Fig. 14). The metalwork affinities of the latter are immediately apparent, though the motif is currently unparalleled (to the author knowledge) by published late La Tène-style vessels from Eastern England or the East Midlands. The lattice design on the former, however, is recorded on pots from Hunsbury. The Northamptonshire 'affinities' are therefore evident, though this vessel was made in Fabric S3, which like most of the shell-tempered pottery from the Plant Site, is thought to be local.

The barrel-shaped jar, on the other hand, is sand-tempered, and may derive from further afield (petrology will be required to establish whether there is glaucontite in the clay matrix). Although the standout feature of this pot is its decorative design, the vessel has other intriguing characteristics. Notable is the fact that the motif is poorly executed, with evidence that some of incised lines were rubbed out, and smoothed back over. Fingertip impressions also imprint on some of the design (the marks being remarkably small, and arguably child-like /adolescent), and show how the potter held the vessel when applying the decoration. The pots itself is well fired, but poorly built, and has fractured horizontally along at least three different coils (which gives a very clear insight into how it was formed). The survival of carbonized residue in the coil breaks suggest this fracturing began whilst the pot was in use. Indeed, the fact that there are carbonized resides on the vessel is itself quite unusual for this type of pot – vessels that are normally thought of as finewares, and presumed to have played a role in serving rather than cooking (an interpretation supported by the fact that most are burnished/carefully smoothed). The form of the pots is also atypical. Whereas most examples from the region have a distinctive globular bowl-like profile, this vessel is clearly barrel-shaped and jar-like in proportion.

One possibility is that these two decorated pots constitute some kind of 'vessel set', with opposing characteristics – bowl/jar; fineware: coarseware; serving: cooking; shell-tempered: sand-tempered; geometric decoration: geometric and curvilinear decoration; well made: poorly made; local: non-local (?). But this seems a little too neat. Perhaps a more persuasive argument is that the barrel-shaped jar was some sort of 'novice's pot', which may explain why it is relatively crudely fashioned, and the decoration poorly executed. Given the size of the fingertip impressions still visible on the interior and exterior, it does seem likely that this was a pot made by a young potter who was not yet fully accomplished in their craft. This is certainly an exciting possibility, and raises questions about specialisation and the character of potting apprenticeships in Iron Age communities – topics which are normally quite difficult to address.

Returning to the assemblage as a whole, decoration was quite prolific, with a number of vessel rims displaying fingertip or nail impressions, diagonal slashes, or tool impressions on the rim-top. Scoring was present on a total of 138 sherds (5179g), accounting for 31.4% of the assemblage by weight, or 13.5% by sherd count. Bearing in mind that not all of the pottery is of Middle Iron Age origin, these figures are slightly higher if all the PDR pottery, Early-Middle Iron Age 'transitional' ceramics (i.e. those from the post-built structures), and the single Late Iron/early Roman sherd are removed from the total (55 sherds, 780g) - the scoring percentage climbing to 3.0% by weight or 14.3% by sherd count. In terms of other forms of surface, treatment burnishing was present on just 45 sherds (1389g), with soothing identified on a further 32 sherds (384g). Evidence for vessel use was recognisable from carbonized residues adhering to sherd surfaces (sooting marks and food crusts). These were found on a total of 82 fragments (3871g), many of which could potentially be sampled for radiocarbon dating, especially the food crusts preserved on the interior of 29 of these sherds (1451g). This residue data should be analysed against the vessel form and rim diameter data to discuss pottery function and culinary practice at the site.

Pottery from the Buried Soil Horizons and Cut Features

A total of 83 (1261g, MSW: 15.2g, MNV: 12) sherds were recovered as surface finds, with a further 145 deriving from test-pits (905g, MSW: 6.2g, MNV: 15), and 21 sherds from other buried soil deposits ([107], [108], [272], [274]; 188g, MSW: 9.0g). The rest of the assemblage was recovered from cut features (757 sherds, 13938g, MSW: 18.4g, MNV: 102), the upstanding bank (14 sherds, 113g, MSW: 8.1g, MNV: 2) and a single tree-throw (1 sherd, 82g) – see Table 11 for quantification by feature type, and Table 12 for summary by structure.

Feature type	No. features	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Pits	47	195	2966
Ditch	8	151	3124
Enclosure ditch (F.1)	1	158	4576
Gully/ditch	5	7	24
Hearth base	1	4	39
Posthole	17	24	257
Pit/posthole	7	29	262
Fieldsystem ditches	2	4	9
Roundhouse-gully	18	185	2681

Table 11: Pottery quantification by cut feature type.

Structure	Gully	Pit	Posthole	Pit/posthole	Presence of Scored ware	Total
1	24/100	-/-	2/9	-/-	N	26/109
2	23/330	-/-	2/18	-/-	Y	25/348
3	68/1551	-/-	-/-	-/-	Y	68/1551
4	8/35	-/-	-/-	-/-	Y	8/35
5	3/27	-/-	-/-	-/-	Y	3/27
8	20/150	-/-	2/25	-/-	Y	22/175
9	23/181	-/-	1/7	-/-	Y	24/188
11	16/307	-/-	-/-	-/-	Y	16/307
16	-/-	6/253	2/49	3/20	N	11/322
17	-/-	-/-	3/10	-/-	N	3/10
18	-/-	-/-	3/29	-/-	N	3/29
TOTAL	*185/2681*	*6/253*	*15/147*	*3/20*	-	*209/3101*

Table 12: Pottery quantification by structure (sherd count/wt. [g]).

Although a handful of PDR ceramics and a small collection of Early-Middle Iron Age 'transitional' sherds were recovered from the Plant Site, the bulk of the material belongs to the region's 'full' Middle Iron Age-type potting tradition, and may be classed as a Scored Ware assemblage (Elsdon 1992). It is characterised by a limited range of weakly shouldered handmade jars, bowls and tub/barrel-shaped vessels, commonly displaying externally-scored surfaces. In the lower Ouse Valley, and western fen-edge generally, these kinds of ceramic assemblage are thought to have a currency between c. 350/300 BC-AD 50 (Hill & Braddock 2006, 190). In this context, however, a date later than c. 50 BC seem unlikely, as there are no wheel-made vessels (bar the Romanizing sherds from the surface), or forms with any obvious 'Belgic' influence. Admittedly grog-tempered fabrics, common to the Late Iron Age, are present; but these are also known to occur in Middle Iron Age assemblages and often feature in groups dating to the Early-Middle Iron Age transition (e.g. Rhee Lakeside South, Brudenell forthcoming). In terms of origins, it certainly seems likely that there was some form of sustained settlement at the site during the fourth century BC, as indicated by the presence of post-built structures and their pre-Scored Ware/Early-Middle Iron Age transitional assemblages. Activity during the second and/or first centuries BC is also attested by the two late La Tène-style pots from the enclosure ditch. As such, we are potentially looking at a ceramic assemblage

which was generated over the course of several centuries. Given this time frame (which needs to anchored with absolute dates), the number of structures on the site, and the intensity of the excavation strategy, estimates for the minimum number of vessels are surprisingly low, as is the overall sherd count. This is especially so for the buried soil, which may suggests that a lot of the refuse was actually moved off-site. Of course, occupation need not have been permanent, and it is plausible that some of the building were seasonal dwellings, particularly the post-built ones.

Roman Pottery Katie Anderson

A small assemblage of Roman pottery, totalling 19 sherds and weighing 232g was recovered. All of the pottery was examined and recorded in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Study Group for Roman Pottery.

The pottery was all collected as surface finds, with no material from cut features<< what of <455>, which is reflected in the relatively low assemblage mean sherd weight of 12.2g. The sherds were generally small, with most noted as being abraded, with only one vessel-form identified: 12 sherds (193g) from a Hadham red-slipped mortaria, dating AD200-400 (SF15), with a further sherd likely to be from the same vessel (SF14). These, however, sherds were heavily abraded, with much of the surface and interior grits heavily worn, although this is likely to be a result of post-breakage damage rather than reflecting usewear.

Four coarse sandy oxidised sherds were also recovered (17g; SF185); no form could be identified and, thus, these sherds can only be dated AD43-400. The remaining two sherds comprised a whiteware body sherd (<455>), dating AD100-400 and a possible heavily abraded Samian sherd (SF195), dating AD120-250.

The assemblage is indicative of a Roman presence in the area, although the quantity and condition imply this was likely to be the periphery to any settlement, rather than the foci of it.

Metalwork Grahame Appleby

Two pieces of metalwork were found during excavation, a copper alloy disc-shaped object and a broken piece of iron (<378>), probably a blade or fragment from an agricultural tool (14g).

<545> - Corroded and partially concreted copper alloy disc measuring *c.* 45mm in diameter, weight 22g. The disc has concretion and corrosion products on the convex surface, potentially obscuring any surface detail. The concave surface (underside) reveals the piece to have been cast to a high standard with a marginal grove (lip) with a smaller, stepped circle, with an internal diameter of *c.* 25mm. A large area of concretion/corrosion product is present on one side of the underside and unlike the pale green/grey patina evident over the rest of the disc, this also has a pale brown colouration; a groove is potentially present in this area. The concretion/corrosion product may thus be obscuring further diagnostic detail, for example a pin or loop. This finely made object may be a disc-brooch (Hall pers. comm.) or a horse-harness pendent of a type that originated in the Iron Age and continued in use through the Roman period (or similar; see Bishop & Coulston 2006, fig 70, 3). An X-ray of the disc (both sides and lateral orientations) may provide further diagnostic features that will aid identification of this piece.

Slag and Burnt Stone Simon Timberlake

Only one piece of slag was recovered from the site:

<1166> F.89 [402] 50 x 40mm (30g) - A piece of highly fused clay as part of a metalworking hearth lining, with traces of associated iron. Most likely associated with iron smithing.

A total of c. 84.20kg (566 pieces) of burnt stone was recovered from the excavation of this site (including environmental sample residues). However, the dominant amounts (>4kg each) came from Fs 159, 115 and 23, with slightly lesser quantities from F.66, and <2kg each from Fs 29, 70, 49, 103, 156 and 210.

Cat. no	SF no	Feature/ Test Pit	Context	Nos. frags	Size (mm; max)	Weight (g)	Geology	Notes
442	250			1	75	192	fine dolerite	reddened
439	246			1	90	366	basalt	x1 pebble
452	259			1	40	22	calcar sstn	
444	252			(2)	60	176	calcar micac sstn	calcined
449	256			1	60	92	quartzitic grit	
437	244			4	(x1)80	276	calcar sstn	incl x3 bits of pebble
421	228			1	80	314	arkosic metaquartzite	
422	229			1	90	338	basalt	
456				1	40	36	quartz porphyry	
423	230			1	60	74	micaceous greywacke	
347	153			1	90	214	quartzitic sstn	sarsen pebble
284	88			1	120	662	med gr sstn	reddened
406	213			1	70	336	quartzitic sstn	pebble
384	190			1	100	382	sarsen type micac sstn	WS (rubbing stone)*
388	194			1	120	642	med grain sstn	cracked pebble
405	212			1	80	312	carstone (LGS)	
318	124			1	110	352	micac sstn	pebble
344	150			1	100	348	quartz gneiss	as 470 ?
337	143			1	60	148	gritstone	
382	188			1	90	522	med gr sstn	cobble
381	187			1	110	412	sarsen?	
261	64			2	100	724	dolerite	cobbles
383	189			1	65	240	laminar sstn	
256	58			1	70	120	micac sstn	
255	57			2	60	56	micac sstn	
254	56			1	70	142	quartzite	
265	68			1	50	74	ignimbrite	
259	61			1	45	128	calcar sstn	
290	95			1	60	142	quartz sstn	
359	165			1	60	92	fine gr calc sst	
234	35			2	90	288	rhyolite tuff + dolerit/ andesit	
227	28			1	65	110	qtz sst sarsen?	
264	67			1	25	10	ignimbrite	
418	225			1	70	92	calcar sstn	
262	262			1	65	132	chert	pebble
218	19			1	20	4	burnt flint	
222	23			1	15	8	chert	
283	87			1	85	226	metaquartzite	Bunter cobble
306	111			1	45	102	Palaeozoic sst	
242	44			1	10	8	calcar sstn	
400	206			1	45	44	med gr sstn	cracked
342	148			1	35	28	carstone	
360	166			2	55	106	med gr sstn	
352	158			1	55	52	fine gr quartz sstn	
348	154			1	45	126	med gr micaceous greywacke	
289	94			1	50	68	fine gr qtz sstn	
282	86			1	40	18	burnt flint	

407	214			1	35	16	quartzite	
308	113			1	30	16	metaquartzite	
368	174			1	25	10	calcar sstn	
275	79			1	20	6	burnt flint	
520		F.1	194	1	90	306	calcar sstn	reduced
515		F.1	192	2	70	414	quartz sstn + calc sstn	pebbles
480		F.1	12	2	80	612	hard med gr sstn	cracked pebble
497		F.1	65	1	60	118	micac flag + calcar sstn	
470		F.1	02	1	100	508	quartz gneiss	
473		F.1	03	1	70	196	fine gr sstn	
1211	14	F.1	290	5	40	32	sstn	
1139		F.364	1191	13	90	1974	various: sstn and BF	x1 WS (frag saddlequern)*
1061		F.287	949	2	85	484	calcar micac sstn + quatzitic micac sstn	
1105		F.354	1139	2	75	374	fine gr qtz sstn	x1 WS (frag saddlequern)*
1115		F.354	1169	4	110	654	dolerite/basalt + oolitic lmstn	
1109		F.354	1141	2	70	96	BF + metaquartzite	
1116		F.354	1171	1	50	122	dark gneiss	well round pebble
1131		F.363	1196	1	90	242	qtz micac sstn	pebble
1127		F.363	1195	1	40	40	BF + sstn	
1064		F.295	968	1	100	400	qtz sstn (sarsen?)	
1093		F.342	1103	9	65	288	med to coarse sstn	
1213		F.342	1103	1	50	30	sstn	
1031		F.275	923	1	120	684	med gr qtz micac sstn	LGS?
1026		F.264	400	2	100	1080	fine-med gr micac sstn + micac calc sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern frag)* prob of LGS?
1021		F.257	877	2	90	588	quartz sstn + calc sstn	
1011		F.250	835	2	95	556	micac + qtz sstn + fossil sstn	incl x1 M.Jurassic Deltaic Series
1207	42	F.250	835	4	70	234	med gr sstn	
1205	40	F.240	808	2	35	14	sstn	
1050		F.286	942	2	75	312	micac sstn + metaquartzite	
1053		F.286	948	1	60	112	jasperized chert	pebble
1007		F.245	818	2	45	122	laminar sstn	
1157		F.388	1217	1	60	68	sstn	
1077		F.319	1053	1	60	72	sstn	
1083		F.329	1023	1	35	34	sstn	
988		F.231	790	1	40	40	calc sstn	
1080		F.326	1068	1	30	34	qtz sstn	
1040		F.283	940	2	30	26	sstn	
995		F.237	827	1	25	18	coarse sstn-grit	
1050		F.273	908	1	25	22	sstn	
1003		F.238	804	2	30	26	BF + sstn	
1120		F.358	1150	2	30	28	vein qtz + sstn	
1045		F.283	994	1	30	6	sstn	
903		F.145	575	6	100	880	ferrug sstn (carstone?) + decomp lmstn	x1 WS (saddlequern frag)*
947		F.199	693	4	85	576	calcar sstn + fossilif LGS(?) + biotite quartz porphyry (x2)	
954		F.205	709	3	75	362	x3 frags micac sstn	
948		F.200	698	2	125	554	laminar micac sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern rubber stone)*
883		F.130	535	2	60	170	micac sstn	
963		F.210	735	2	110	1158	dolerite(?) + sstn	x2 WS (possible rubbing stones)*
983		F.227	776	3	90	686	dolerite + micac calc sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern frag)*
927		F.159	927	16	100	4200	dolerite+quartz porphyry+andesite(?)+ micac calcareous sstn + micac ferrug sstn + fine gr orthoquartzitic fossilif sstn	x4 WS (saddlequern frags + rubbing stone)*
923		F.156	594	6	100	1914	basalt+fine grain orthoquartzitic sstn + calcar sstn + metasandstone (ORS?)	x2 WS (saddlequern)*
926		F.156	1074	3	90	680	calcar micac sstn + hard siltstone	x1 WS (saddlequern)*
971		F.218	756	1	110	472	calcar fine gr sstn-siltstone	

877		F.124	525	1	115	548	ditto	
966		F.214	742	6	70	274	dolerite+spotted sstn+metasandstone+ LGS	x1 WS (saddlequern?)*
976		F.220	726	1	80	230	laminar micac sstn	
1208	47	F.145	575	2	20	14	sstn	
907		F.146	577	2	70	260	andesite(?)+med grain quartzitic sstn	
1209	48	F.146	577	3	30	12	sstn	
895		F.139	558	1	60	114	hard fine-med gr sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern)*
944		F.188	673	2	60	110	burnt flint+spotted sandstone	
918		F.155	657	1	55	44	laminated micaceous medium gr sstn	
931		F.161	608	1	35	36	micac sstn	
961		F.206	727	1	60	100	white calcar sstn	
1206	39	F.206	712	2	30	30	sstn	
938		F.173	638	1	40	44	metasandstone	
870		F.120	511	1	55	40	micac sstn	
945		F.192	681	5	30	40	dolerite	all one
946		F.198	696	3	25	22	calcar sstn	
1215	54	F.198	696	2	40	52	sstn	
891		F.138	555	1	20	6	med gr sstn	
958		F.206	712	1	30	6	sstn	
873		F.120	512	1	15	1	sstn	
186		TP43	120	4	60	180	x2 white limeston+ x2 fossilif marly lmstn	
184		TP43	120	1	85	126	metaquartzite (Bunter Trias pebble?)	
185		TP 43	120	2	110	748	coarse gr sstn grit + orthoquartzitic sstn	
191		TP44	120	4	80	166	med gr calcar sstn	all from x1 WS (saddlequern)*
181		TP42	121	2	70	218	orthoquartzitic sandstone	
173		TP42	120	5	100	462	dolerite+med gr sstn +calcar sstn	
194		TP45	120	1	50	22	calcar fossilif sstn	
169		TP41	120	3	70	144	med-coarse grain sstn	
172		TP41	121	3	40	40	dolerite + white calcar sstn	
168		TP41	120	4	60	202	orthoquartz sstn+ metasandstone+ vein quartz	
047		TP13	120	2	80	230	lamin metasandstone+ calcar sstn	
090		TP22	120	5	85	416	calcar sstn + quartz sstn + metasandstone	
163		TP40	120	3	55	256	micac qtz itic sstn + calcar sstn	
045		TP12	121	2	50	90	chert + quartzite	
041		TP12	120	3	90	400	micac qtzitic sstn (LGS?)+ metasandstone + metaquartzite (Bunter)	x1 WS (saddlequern frag)
158		TP38	121	1	80	298	andesite	
002		TP2	120	1	70	114	med gr sstn	x1 WS (rubbing stone)
069		TP17	121	1	50	34	hard med gr sstn	
094		TP23	120	5	45	156	calcar grey med gr sstn + coarse gr sstn	
072		TP18	120	2	40	110	metaquartzite + med gr sstn	
133		TP32	120	1	70	176	micac quartzitic sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern)*
130		TP31	121	2	70	212	metaquartzite+ coarse sstn	
127		TP31	120	6	50	264	calcar grey-white sstn (LGS?) +laminar flaggy sstn	x1 WS? (saddlequern)*
125		TP30	120	1	80	162	light grey calcareous sstn	
118		TP29	120	1	100	270	medium-coarse qtz sstn	
143		TP34	121	1	70	138	micac quartzitic sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern)*
144		TP34	120	1	60	62	calcar micac sstn	
196		TP1	1230	5	35	108	BF + med-coarse sstn	
016		TP4	121	2	30	40	micac flaggy sstn	
013		TP4	120	1	80	160	white orthoquartzitic sstn	
053		TP14	120	1	60	122	grey micac metasandstone	
147		TP35	121	1	60	72	flaggy micac sstn	
098		TP24	120	1	60	84	BF	v lightly burnt

101		TP24	121	1	50	22	quartzite	
097		TP24	120	1	30	46	light grey calcar sstn	x1 small WS (saddlequern)*
023		TP7	121	1	35	30	quartz porphyry	x1 WS (saddlequern)*
062		TP16	120	1	20	16	calcar sstn	
085		TP21	120	1	45	22	micac fossilif qtz sstn	
154		TP37	121	1	45	96	metasandstone	
081		TP20	120	3	40	46	metaquartzite (Bunter) + fine-med gr quartzitic sstn	
012		TP3	121	4	25	18	calcar sstn	
035		TP10	120	1	35	12	micac sstn	
032		TP9	121	1	25	10	calcar sstn	
863		F.115	501	30	110	5524	calcar sstn + micac ststn + flaggy sstn + quatzitic sstn + andesite+ dolerite+ metaqauartzite	x6 WS (saddlequern + rubbing stone frags)* 1 of 2
863		F.115	501	26	130	5096	calcar sstn + quartzitic sstn + dolerite + basalt + quartz schist + carstone	x3 WS (saddlequern or rubbing stone)* 2 of 2
859		F.115	500	2	65	354	flaggy micac sstn + calcar sstn	
848		F.111	628	1	70	124	hard fine gr sstn	
846		F.111	574	2	60	192	calcar sstn, qtzit sandstone-siltstone	
838		F.110	472	3	60	122	BF + calcar sstn (LGS)	
814		F.103	452	5	65	422	micac calcar sstn (LGS?) + flaggy sstn + med gr qtz sstn	
819		F.103	453 + 454	11	110	1240	quartz porphyry (felsite) + clacar sstn + micac sstn + flaggy sstn + fine gr sand/siltstone	x1 WS (top surface of saddlequern)*
803		F.98	450	1	20	4	volc tuff	
808		F.98	474	1	25	14	calcar sstn	
777		F.89	402	6	55	248	fine gr quartzitic sstn + fossilif sstn +chert + metasandstone	x1 piece SL removed
776		F.89	402	1	65	102	part decalcified lmstn	
759		F.391	426	1	100	760	large crystal quartz porphyry	periglacially weathered cobble
701		F.66	250	4	120	1212	pale ?calcar sstn + med gr qtz sstn + ferrug sstn	cobbles
702		F.66	350	17	80	1366	calcareous grit + pale med gr calc sstn (LGS?) + dolerite? + micac sstn	x2 WS (saddlequern frags)*
763		F.82	390	2	90	466	med gr micaceous qtz sstn	
681		F.60	424	2	90	526	pale qtzitic sstn	x1 WS (poss rubbing stone?)
679		F.60	417	4	70	226	BF + micac quartzitic sstn + metasandstone	
685		F.60	436	6	40	58	calc siltstone +chert + goethite nodule	
671		F.60	342	1	40	44	calc sstn	
1212		F.60	342	2	50	58	basalt?	
1214		F.64	346	1	15	4	calc sstn	
756		F.391	392	4	50	182	soft decomposed ferrug sstn + micac flaggy sstn	
770		F.85	398	1	70	266	dolerite (or diorite)	
751		F.79	384	1	90	216	med gr sstn	
744		F.75	463	14	85	856	quartzitic sstn + BF + chert + flow-band rhyolite	
642		F.49	267	3	90	1458	metasandstone + qtz sstn (sarsen) + dk grey siltstone	
645		F.49	277	1	130	638	micac sstn	cobble
639		F.49	258	2	85	602	coarse gr quartzite/ metaquartzite + metasandstone	x1 WS (saddlequern?)*
739		F.70	603	7	75	362	med gr sstn + BF	
623		F.70	496	5	60	230	med gr calc sstn + micac sstn + chert	
719		F.70	456	11	90	974	micac sstn + pale calc sstn + qtz sstn + ferrug siltstone	x1 piece BC removed + x1 piece to WS (saddlequern frag?)*

722		F.70	484	1	65	94	quartzitic sstn	
733		F.70	545	6	50	142	metaquartzite + vein quartz + volc tuff + BF + qtz sstn	
729		F.70	497	2	40	56	metaquartzite (Bunter) + calc sstn	
794		F.96	413	2	55	234	micac sstn + pal e calc sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern? fragment)
124	35	F.54	320	1	30	18	sstn	
657		F.53	317	1	80	146	micac qtzitic sstn	
634		F.48	256	1	70	326	micac qtzitic sstn	
627		F.42	223	7	90	944	fine-med gr grey micac sstn + qtzitic sstn + BF	x1 WS (saddlequern frag?)
1159		F.364	1192	1	45	58	micac sstn	
710		F.69	583	2	50	82	micac sstn + BF	
789		F.94	812	1	40	50	med gr dk grey calc sstn	
1210	25	F.92	407	2	40	30	sstn	
629		F.45	248	3	45	64	fine-med gr sstn + calc sstn	
772		F.88	396	1	55	76	calc sstn	
592		F.29	162	1	90	668	micac qtzitic sstn	
597		F.29	204	4	70	664	dolerite + quartz porphyry + fine-med gr sstn with trace fossils (burrows)	
587		F.26	128	1	32	20	med gr sstn	
580		F.25	126	1	25	14	pale calc sstn	x1 WS (saddlequern frag?)
558		F.14	71	3	30	40	calcar sstn	
561		F.15	74	1	35	6	quartzitic sstn	
555		F.13	69	3	50	140	quartz porphyry + metasandstone + pale calc sstn	
572 (1 of 3)		F.23	114	15	110	4606	fossil qtzitic sstn + med gr ferrug sstn + dolerite + calc sstn + lmstn/chert + micac sstn + micac quartzitic sstn + fossilif sstn	x3 WS (saddlequern?)*
572 (2 of 3)		F.23	114	8	140	4702	trachyandesite? + dolerite + micac ferrug sstn + fossilif (bivalve) sstn	x4 WS (large frags saddlequern – some from same)
572 (3 of 3)		F.23	114	3	160	7536	trachyandesite + andesite + calc sstn	x1 possible WS (associated fragment with above)

Table 13: Burnt stone (SF indicates Surface Find).

Most of the material identified is fairly typical of the range of Iron Age burnt stone assemblages recovered within the Cambridge region (Timberlake 2010). Although the proportion of exotic rocks (in particular the far-travelled igneous cobbles) within this is a little higher (i.e. at 10-15%) than found at most near-Cambridge sites, the latter probably just reflects the availability of these particular rock types amongst the stone found to be present within the boulder clay, glacio-fluvial gravels, or river terrace gravels in this part of the Ouse valley. However, it has also been noted that certain dense crystalline rocks perform much better when burnt and used as a heat source, and that some prehistoric cooking mound technologies may well have focussed on this fact, exploiting the use of some rocks as opposed to others (Larsson 1990). Generally though, in Britain, we do not see many assemblages where the selection of different rock types is in any way statistically evident. Nevertheless, what we can see from those local assemblages studied is that that the much denser igneous rocks usually don't fragment when heated and immersed in water, the latter being a particular problem associated with burnt flint, limestone, and some of the softer, particularly the calcareous or carbonate-cemented sandstones (Timberlake *et al*. forthcoming).

Some 18.6kg (22%) of the Barleycroft burnt stone examined consisted of discarded and re-cycled quernstone, most of the latter coming from broken-up saddlequern, with the majority of it being sandstone. This phenomenon of re-using discarded quernstone as burnt stone is fairly commonplace in Iron Age settlements, at least within the Cambridgeshire area (Timberlake 2010).

Worked Stone Simon Timberlake

A total of 35.31kg of worked stone came from the excavation, the majority of it being fragments of saddlequern recovered during the recording of the collected burnt stone. Also found was part of a large Hunsbury-type rotary quern (Fig. 14).

Rotary Quern

The assemblage includes one small fragment plus a complete upper stone from an early form of rotary quern hand mill used for milling grain (total weight 16.91kg).

<516> F.1 [192] - Rim fragment of lower (?) stone of a rotary hand mill; 90 x 80 x 65mm (thick); weight 0.71kg. Probably part of a Hunsbury-type quern of Iron Age date, which has a tilted grinding (wear) surface and a very pronounced concentric score line or furrow just inside of the rim (Curwen 1941). The quern is made of a rock composed of a coarse grit-type facies of the Lower Greensand, one which has both large white quartz grains and still larger grain inclusions of brown-black lyddite stone, thus may be a variety such as the Culham Greensand. This stone was quarried near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and was sometimes used for making querns (such as during the Iron Age – Roman period).

<517> F.1 [193] (Fig. 14) - Complete upper stone of a rotary quern hand mill (overall dimensions: external top rim 175 x 160mm; base 290 mm; height 130 – 150mm; internal circumference of hopper 85 mm (top) + 50 mm (middle); axle hole (base) 38 mm; weight 16.2kg).

A rotary quern of the Iron Age 'Hunsbury' type (see Curwen 1941, 17, fig. 2 and Watts 2002, fig. 9c for 'best' matches) with a lop-sided cone-shaped and flat- rimmed top profile, a wide cone-shaped grain hopper and a round to oval-shaped spindle-hole/feed-eye, and a flat basal grinding surface. The handle hole is cone-shaped and is 44 mm diameter where it penetrates the side of the quern 20mm above the base of the slightly lower external face. The handle hole then extends at a slight angle upwards to meet the central axle hole at around 30mm above the base, at the bottom of the feed hopper; this is flattened and wedge-shaped (60mm wide x 30mm high), and connects with the feed hopper (a distance of 80-90mm). On the opposite side of the quern a small hollow on the base of the external face marks where an attempt was made, perhaps, to excavate a hole for a handle, and was then abandoned, being clearly too low. There is also another small hole (25 x 20mm) excavated on the external face at 90° to the handle, one which may originally have been intended for another. A crescentic-shaped embayment in the basal external rim of the stone immediately below the handle hole may have been made for ease of holding it, but equally this may have acted as a 'sweep' where the ground grain (flour) exited from the mill.

The lithology of this sandstone quern suggests its origin as quarried and worked stone from one of the Southern England Lower Greensand outcrops. Small clasts of brown-black lyddite (max. 3mm diameter) can be seen in the body of this mixed pale coloured to red-brown coarse-medium grained calcareous and ferruginous sandstone, yet this is not obviously the Culham Greensand, a stone which was exploited from Iron Age – Roman times for use in the manufacture of querns.

The 'Hunsbury Type' of quern spread from Northamptonshire across the Midlands, and then east and south during the Later Iron Age, giving rise to local variants of these beehive rotary querns (Curwen 1941). Examples of this type of quern, most likely manufactured from the Culham Greensand quarried near Abingdon, Oxfordshire were found at Vicar's Farm in Cambridge (see Hayward in Lucas & Whittaker 2001), yet there have also been several others recently recovered from the Iron Age settlement at Trumpington Meadows (see Timberlake in Patten forthcoming). One of the

Trumpington Meadows querns was found upside down within a pit and still contained traces of the iron axle spindle and 'wood surround' (either a wooden cylinder the length of the axle pipe which held this in place (Curwen 1941, 24), or else a wooden rhynd (a bridge support for this that was wedged across the grain feed hopper). Additionally, there have been other finds of querns complete with their iron axles, and also occasionally with their handles, such as those from the Holmbury Hillfort in Surrey (Watts 2002, 31) and from the Hunsbury Hillfort in Northamptonshire (Curwen 1941, 18). Because of these finds our knowledge of how these earliest rotary querns were used is moderately good. A later Iron Age date for the use of the Barleycroft quern seems more likely in this case.

Saddlequern

Approximately 18.4kg of cracked and heat-broken fragments of saddlequern or rubbing stone were recovered from the examined burnt stone assemblage from this Iron Age site.

<384> Surface Find 190 - A small burnt stone fragment of what is probably a rubbing stone for use with a saddlequern: 100 x 60 x 40mm; weight 382g. Polished and slightly convex grinding surface. Not a Geensand, but possibly made from sarsen (Lower Tertiaries) or Middle Jurassic medium grain micaceous sandstone.

<1139> F.364 [1191] - Small fragment of probable saddlequern (intensively heat-cracked and broken); 65 x 50 x 80mm (thick); 332g. Grinding surface is very slightly concave. Rock is a calcareous and very slightly micaceous sandstone, and is probably a Lower Greensand facies.

<1105> F.354 [1139] - Small fragment from the end of a thin slab saddlequern; 75 x 60 x 47mm; 298g. Grinding surface is flat and highly polished, probably as this is a hard but very fine grained rock. Composed of a quartzitic sandstone-siltstone. Perhaps a Lower Greensand facies?

<1026> F.264 [400] - Fragment of edge of thin slab saddlequern; 80 x 80 x 35mm; 346g. Grinding surface is perfectly flat. Probably rock is composed of a very slightly calcareous fine-med grained Lower Greensand facies. Cracked from burning.

<903> F.146 [575] - Fragment of saddlequern; 100 x 60 x 50mm (thick); 432g. Grinding surface is slightly concave and fairly smooth. Composed of a medium-coarse grained ferrug sandstone, possibly a carstone, and most likely Lower Greensand. Reddened and sooted from burning.

<948> F.200 [698] - Complete small rubber stone (?) used with saddlequern; 125 x 70 x 40mm; 500g. Grinding surface is flat and fairly well polished. Composed of a small triangular-shaped pebble of laminar sstn.

<963> F.210 [735] (a) - Heavy rubbing stone (100mm + x 80 x 50mm (thick)), weight 736g, composed of dolerite or ultramafic rock with a flat, though quite heavily weathered and pock-marked grinding surface; (b) a flat pebble of fine grained sandstone/siltstone which may have been used on one face (for a short length of time) as an expedient rubbing stone, weight 412g.

<983> F.227 [776] - Fragment of thin slab saddlequern; 80 x 60 x 35mm (thick); weight 224g. Flat worn grinding surface. Composed of slightly micaceous calcareous sandstone, possibly a Lower Greensand facies (as others). Burnt and cracked fragment.

<927> F.159 [597] - Four fragments of saddlequern within burnt stone assemblage: a) 110 x 65 x 60mm, weight 470g. Edge of slab-type saddlequern with worn, flat grinding surface. Composed of slightly calcareous fine-medium grained sandstone; b) 50 x 45 x 60mm (thick), weight 298g. Cracked fragment of saddlequern with flat, worn grind surface. Composed of orthoquartzitic siltstone-fine sandstone with trace fossils (burrows). Sandstone possibly from Middle Jurassic Deltaic Series(?); c) 70 x 50 x 55mm (thick), weight 346g. Edge of saddlequern. Composed of a medium grained micaceous sandstone, partly ferruginous; d) 60 x 50 x 40mm (thick), weight 314g. Possibly part of a rubbing stone. Very weathered. Composed of dolerite(?).

<923> F.156 [594] - Two fragments of saddlequern: a) 80 x 50 x 85mm (thick), weight 436g. Small edge fragment of a deep quern with flat to very slightly concave grinding surface. Composed of a medium

grained, possibly slightly calcareous sandstone, most likely a Lower Greensand facies.; b) 35 x 30 x 15mm (thick), 34g. Very small fragment of edge and surface of flat-topped saddlequern. Composed of a medium grained micaceous and calcareous sandstone, probably a Lower Greensand facies.

<926> F.156 [1074] - Fragment of end of slab-type saddlequern with well-used and slightly indented flat grinding surface on top, and another only partly-used grind surface on base: 80 x 40 x 40mm (weight 294g). Composed of a fine-medium grained grey calcareous sandstone, possibly Lower Greensand. Burnt.

<966> F.214 [742] - Tiny fragment from surface of burnt and destroyed saddlequern; 20 x 5 x 30mm (thick), weight 8g. Composed of fine-medium grained micaceous calcareous sandstone (Lower Greensand facies).

<895> F.139 [558] - Small fragment of saddlequern with slightly uneven but smooth grind surface. Composed of a fine grained indurated white sandstone, possibly of Lower Greensand: 50 x 25 x 60mm, weight 114g.

<191> TP44 [120] - Four fitting fragments of one piece of burnt and cracked saddlequern. Has a now cracked and pitted upper grind surface: 80 x 50 x 40mm, weight 166g.

<041> TP12 [120] - Small fragment of heat-cracked saddlequern; 70 x 40 x 50mm (thick), weight 212g. Possesses a flat well-worn grinding surface. Composed of a medium grained and slightly indurated (quartzitic) grey sandstone complete with fossil burrows.

<002> TP2 [120] - Half of flat 'pebble-like' rubbing stone; 70 x 55 x 17mm (thick), weight 112g. Possesses a flat and polished grinding surface. Composed of a fairly hard (silicified) fine-medium grained sandstone.

<133> TP32 [120] - Edge of small saddlequern; 70 x 40 x 50mm (thick), weight 174g. Flat-slightly uneven and convex grind surface. Micaceous, grey and slightly quartzitic sandstone, possibly a Lower Greensand facies.

<127> TP31 [120] - Small fragment of heavily burnt and cracked saddlequern, with traces of a flat to slightly concave grind surface, now heavily pitted; 50 x 30 x 30mm; weight 68g. Composed of calcareous sandstone, probably a Lower Greensand facies.

<143> TP34 [121] - Small fragment of fire-cracked saddlequern with traces of flat grind surface; 50 x 45 x 70mm; weight 138g. A fine grained hard micaceous quartzitic sandstone.

<097> TP24 [120] - Very small fragment of saddlequern with just faint traces of burnt and pitted grind surface; 30 x 25 x 30mm (thick), weight 46g. A pale calcareous sandstone.

<023> TP7 [121] - Very small fragment of saddlequern grind surface, highly polished; 30 x 20 x 30mm, weight 30g. Composed of a hard and light grey coloured quartz porphyry (or felsite).

<863> F.115 [501] (1 of 2) - Six saddlequern fragments from larger burnt stone assemblage: (a) 70 x 40 x 40mm, weight 258g. Flat smooth grind surface with rounded (convex) edges. Rock is a calcareous micaceous sandstone; (b) 90 x 40 x 40mm, weight 232g. Smooth grind surface, same rock-type, and possibly also the same quern as a); (c) the edge of a slab-type saddlequern or rubbing stone, 50 x 35 x 45mm, weight 126g. Composed of a coarse grained calcareous sandstone; (d) The flat to slightly convex grind surface from the top of a quern or rubbing stone, 50 x 40 x 20mm, weight 56g. Moderately smooth. Composed of a hard indurated med grained micaceous sandstone; (e) A small fragment detached from the edge of a saddlequern, with a flat to slightly concave grind surface, 50 x 50 x 35mm (thick), weight 118g. Rock-type is a dense igneous rock, possibly an andesite; (f) A slab-type saddlequern, 55 x 55 x 40mm (thick), weight 222g, composed of a fine grain quartzitic siltstone/sandstone which has taken on a moderately high polish on the flat but tilted grind surface of the quern.

<863> F.115 [501] (2 of 2) - Three possible saddlequern/rubbing stone fragments: (a) end edge of saddlequern with well-polished flat to slightly concave grind surface developed at right angles to grain or fissile cleavage of sandstone; (b) possibly a thin flat rubbing stone, 70 x 75 x 25mm (thick), weight 256g, composed of a fissile and slightly ferruginous micaceous sandstone; (c) a possible convex-surfaced rubbing stone 85 x 60 x 50mm, weight 302g.

<819> F.103 [453] [454] - Detached sheet of upper grind surface of flat-topped saddlequern – removed by heat. Extensive use wear evident, and no concavity in surface, 100 x 65 x 15mm, weight 186g. Quern of hard quartz porphyry (felsite)

<681> F.60 [424] - Heat-cracked fragment of a rounded cobble fragment with slightly ground + polished bottom – possibly a rubbing stone? 90 x 50 x 52mm (thick), weight 432g. Composed of hard quartzitic sandstone.

<639> F.49 [258] - End of cracked and heat-broken saddlequern with fine polished and v.slightly flat-concave grind surface, 75 x 75 x 80mm (thick), weight 502g. Composed of a very coarsely crystalline/grained quartzite or metaquartzite.

<794>F.96 [413] - Small fragment of possible broken-up saddlequern or rubbing stone, with very small area of grinding surface surviving (15 x 15 x 50mm+ (thick)). Composed of heat-fragmented calcareous sandstone (possibly Lower Greensand?).

<719>F.70 [456] - Fragment of end corner of heat-cracked and fragmented saddlequern made from a pale green-light grey medium grained calcareous sandstone (probably a Greensand facies); 70 x 40 x 55mm (thick), weight 170g. Has a perfectly flat and well ground (polished) upper surface.

<627> F.42 [223] - Small possible fragment of the flat grinding surface of a saddlequern (?) composed of a medium-grained quartzitic sandstone; 60 x 40 x 35mm, weight 62g.

<702> F.66 [350] x2 re-fitting fragments of a heat-cracked saddlequern composed of fine-med grained calcareous sandstone. Features a corner of saddlequern with a flat and well-polished grinding surface; 65 x 60 x 45mm, weight 306g.

<580> F.25 [126] - Very small fragment of heat-cracked saddlequern (?); flat ground surface 25 x 15mm x25mm (thick), weight 14g.

<572> F.23 [114] (1 of 3; a) - Possibly part of a fragment of saddlequern or rubbing stone with narrow flat-convex grinding surface on one side consisting of 65 x 40 x 110mm, weight 752g, and with stone composed of micaceous calcareous-quartzitic sandstone; (b) possible rubbing stone with ?ground flat surface with convex edge to it 60 x 50 x 60mm (thick), weight 424g, composed of cobble of fine-med gr crystalline leuco-dolerite(?); (c) heat-cracked fragment of saddlequern with flat-concave surface, 45 x 45 x 80mm (thick), weight 374g, composed of fine-med grained dolerite.

<572> F.23 [114] (2 of 3) - Two associated (but not re-fitting) fragments from probable same large saddlequern as 'a' above, one of these is a rim edge fragment with moderately worn but slightly uneven grinding surface of 90 x 50 x 120mm, the other piece with part of base and pecked (shaped) side, but with no grinding surface (140 x 80 x 120mm (thick)). Total weight = 2942g. Composed of medium grained crystalline igneous rock, possibly a trachyandesite or equivalent; (b) x1 edge of top and side of a saddlequern with flat to slightly concave grinding surface 75 x 80 x 90mm (thick), weight 828g, composed of a fine-medium grained leucodolerite; (c) x1 fragment of a micaceous dark grey sandstone with a small flat to very slightly convex area of surviving saddlequern surface (55 x 45mm) which is orientated a right angles to fissile bedding, the quern being *c*. 110mm deep. Weight 536g.

<572> F.23 [114] (3 of 3) - Large fragment of possible saddlequern , a fragment of a) above (110 x 100 x 120mm, weight 2172g), but with no diagnostic grinding surface visible. Composed of trachyandesite or its intrusive equivalent.

From the beginning of the Early Iron Age in Cambridgeshire we are witnessing this re-use of the abundant worn and discarded saddlequern fragments as stone for the purposes of cooking, either within pit-ovens or for boiling, perhaps specifically therefore for use as potboilers (Timberlake 2010). As such these assemblages are very important indicators of domestic activity, and consequently the presence and also scale of settlement and dwellings. What is striking here from the examination of this material is the use of certain rock types as querns, in particular the pale calcareous-quartz cemented sandstones/siltstones of just one or two different Lower Greensand rocks, and also (perhaps not unexpectedly) some of the harder and denser crystalline igneous rocks, many of which were probably collected as large cobbles or glacially-transported boulders from the boulder clay or from the glacio-fluvial gravels and gravel river terraces.

The diverse assemblage of burnt quern fragments separated out from the much larger collection of burnt stone from this site were looked at for possible re-fits, as well as for possible same-quern associations. Just two re-fitting quern fragments were found, both as it turned out from the same feature (<572> F.23), but clearly fragmented in antiquity. More interesting was the

number of close and possibly same quern associations identified across the site. Amongst these associations were possible related quern fragments observed within F.115 and F.159 (<863> & <927>), F.159 and F.364 (<927> & <1139>), F.70 and F.96 (<719> & <794>), F.66 and F.264 (<702> & <1026>) and F.60 and Test Pit 32 (<681> & <133>). Such evidence would appear to indicate the dispersal of broken-up quern amongst features, and perhaps even as a spread across certain parts of the site.

Fired Clay Grahame Appleby

This assessment examined 717 pieces of fired clay, weighing 12,455g, recovered from 38 features (651 fragments, weight 11196g), nine test pits (46 pieces, weight 419g) and 11 recorded as small finds (20 pieces, weight 840g). Of the fired clay, 515 pieces were recovered from roundhouse Structure 9 (F.70) and 45 pieces from pit F.360. The majority of the pieces are undiagnostic, with fabric ranging in colour from pale pink surfaces to dark grey, reduced, interiors. Fabrics consist of sandy, friable clay with small flint or shell inclusions, to fine clay with very rare inclusions; organic temper is also frequently evinced by voids and traces within the clay. Numerous pieces are highly fired and converted to ceramic. Selected individual fragments or groups are described below, with quantitative data from the test pits presented in Table 14.

Features

<622> F.70 [469] - Large quantity of fired clay fragments (245, weight 2723g) ranging in size from less the 10mm to 130mm wide/long. The fabric is relatively soft and friable, but has been exposed to heat, with external surfaces ranging in colour from pale pink to red; numerous small voids are present, indicating the use of an organic temper. The surfaces also display smoothing and working by hand with frequent finger impression present. The underside surfaces demonstrate that the larger object was made from small pieces of clay worked and compressed together, creating a swirl-like or folded pattern. The two largest fragments, weighing 289g and 168g (130mm and 110mm long, respectively), have rounded to flat edges, are curved and vary in thickness from 48.6-33mm for the largest fragment and between 19mm and 33mm for the smaller piece. This smaller piece displays finger marks perpendicular to the incomplete flat edge/rim, which has been partially formed over these marks. The larger piece has a complete rounded edge/rim and displays that both surfaces were exposed. Opposite the rim/edge the clay has been deformed from one side where a large perforation/hole is present. It is probable that this material, identical in fabric and appearance to that described below (<714>, <728> & <732>), is related to oven or hearth construction.

<670> F.60 [342] - Well formed egg-shaped dark grey clay object with irregular striations, 43.6mm long, 32mm wide and 16mm thick; attached to a rounded spheroidal-shaped lump (similar to the examples from F.364). Identifying a function for the egg-shaped object is problematic as it is superficially similar in plan view to a sling-shot, but is too thin in section to be certain of this identification.

<677> F.60 [417] - Irregular shaped lump of highly fired clay with shelly inclusions, with a pale grey surface and dark grey interior. Weighing 167g and measuring *c.* 80mm long and 50mm wide, this fragment is included here as its fabric and weight is subjectively and distinctly different to the assemblage.

<714> F.70 [368] (23 fragments, 465g); <728> [497] (42 fragments, 327g); <732> [545] (203 fragments, 4079g) - The combined entries for F.70 comprise 268 fragments with a total weight of 4871g. Size, weight and fabric of these pieces are very similar to those described above (<622>), with the 203 fragment from [545] excavated immediately adjacent to those from [469]. Similar shaped large fragments (two refitting) were recovered from [545] to those from [469]; the two refitting pieces taper from a rounded rim/edge *c.* 42mm wide to over 70mm wide at the break. Of the four fragments

examined from this context that possess rim/edges, these are concave and range in width from the 42mm described above to *c.* 30mm; partially surviving perforations are present on two of the fragments (all from [545]). It is thus possible that more than one oven or hearth, or construction phase, is represented in these assemblages.

<769> F.85 [398]/[399] - Three fragments (two refitting) of very soft and friable clay. The external surface is smoothed and rounded, coloured orangey red where it has been exposed to heat. The interior shows 'swirl' like patterning, indicating the clay was initially worked in small pieces; total weight 68g. Probable hearth or oven related.

<858> F.115 [500] - Irregular shaped relatively thin (12-16mm thick), poorly fired fragment with possible wood grain impression on one side and parallel finger-whipping impression on the external surface; finger widths estimated at 13mm (sub-adult size?). Weight 38g. Probable daub.

<862> F.115 [501] - Small, curved concave 'rim' fragment with rounded edge. The external surface is pale red/orange in colour with a sandy-like texture and uneven finish. The exposed internal surface shows that the clay was expediently applied or worked and deformed into place; the fabric is soft and friable, similar to the material recovered from Structure 9. Weight 87g, 71.5 x 59 x 23.3mm.

<906> F.146 [577] - Two highly fired fragments of buff to light pink fine clay and a smaller fragment consisting of reduced clay with brown flat surface (weight 10g). Of the two larger pieces, the largest fragments has a rounded lip/edge with a smoothed, albeit, slightly irregular external surface (*c.* 80 x 64 x 28mm; weight 98g). The smaller piece is of a lighter buff colour with more evident small voids where the organic temper has either been burnt off or decayed (68 x 45 x 26mm; weight 54g).

<1142> F.364 [1192] - Four fragments of partially fired clay (with occasional very small to rare small/medium-sized flint inclusions) with a buff/orange colour. Three pieces refit, forming a probable corner to a large loomweight *c.* 60mm thick; a longitudinal half-section of a through perforation is present that extends to either side of the weight, with a complete diameter of *c.* 11.5mm.

Surface Finds

<205> (Surface Find 6) - Fifteen fragments of a reasonably well fired, large triangular loomweight (total weight 909g). The largest fragment preserves one corner of the weight, measuring 59mm thick, a complete perforation is located 29mm from the corner, with a diameter of 11.6mm; one edge is slightly flattened, creating a bezel-like appearance, possibly indicative of wear. The height of the complete weight is estimated at around 200mm.

<319> (Surface Find 125) - Large fragment of thick walled or similar fired clay, measuring 111mm long and 42mm thick, with a concave rim (roughly flat and right-angled), partially surviving (*c.* 75%) tapering perforation (29-22mm) and one external surface with evidence of concentric finger-whipping where the clay has been smoothed; weight 284g. This fabric is soft, having been exposed to relatively low temperature and is thus friable and biscuit-like, varying from buff to orange in colour. This fragment is very similar to the 515 pieces recovered from the butt-end of Structure 9 and is most likely contemporary in date. Hearth or oven related.

<386> (Surface Find 192) - Pale buff to pink fragment of handmade tile or brick, weighing 173g. The fragment has one partially surviving flat surface with longitudinal striations indicative of a pallet or similar having been drawn across it to remove excess clay. The colour and manufacturing technique and its fully fired nature identifies this as of either Roman or later date.

<426> (Surface Find 233) - Relatively heavy (176g) fragment with a hard, fine fabric with occasional flint inclusions. Fired to a high temperature, this piece measures *c.* 97mm long with partially surviving flat surfaces angled at 90° to each other, indicating this may be a fragment of loomweight. The external surface is dark brown to purple, the interior dark grey with paler, mottled areas where it has been exposed.

Test Pits

Table 14 presents the quantities of fired clay recovered from the test pits; the pieces are generally small and friable with few diagnostic traits; however, the fragments recovered from Test pit 43 are more highly fired, with the four larger pieces refitting to form the corner of a moderately large triangular loomweight; estimated thickness *c.* 50mm, height 135mm+.

Test Pit	3	13	17	23	28	29	31	32	42	Total
Quantity	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	28	6	**46**
Weight (g)	3	13	28	43	1	12	8	91	220	**419**

Table 14: Fired clay quantities from test pits.

Although only comprising a relatively small assemblage, the quantity and type of material recovered is of note, including three large triangular loomweights and a significant quantity of hearth or oven material. In terms of the loomweights, these conform to known Iron Age triangular-shaped weights, with numerous examples recovered from Iron Age settlement contexts, both locally and nationally, such as at Wardy Hill, Ely (Montiel & Gdaniec in Evans 2003, 190, fig. 93). The hearth material from Structure 9 (F.70) is significant as the fragments clearly show how the clay was worked together to form the walls and bases of these features. Interestingly, where evidence of perforations in the wall or base survive, these are reasonably large, in one example in excess of 50mm (<732>). In addition to the two refitting pieces already identified, further refits may also be possible. Fired and baked clay recovered from prehistoric contexts is frequently cited as evidence for hearths and ovens, with few diagnostic traits present. The assemblage from Structure 9, however, conforms to the general pattern, shape and form of other example recovered from other sites in East Anglia, such as Cat's Water sub-site, Fengate (Pryor 1984, 166, Fig. 119).

Worked Bone Vida Rajkovača and Simon Timberlake

Six worked bone pieces were recovered from the excavations and are described below.

<123> [120] TP30 - Sheep or sheep-sized right tibia fashioned into a pin-beater or a spearhead. Proximal end chopped axially with one of the sides of the shaft being used to secure the wooden shaft. Distal end chopped at an oblique angle and highly polished. The very tip of the working end is broken off and missing. Surviving length 149mm.

These objects are present from Bronze Age and common from Iron Age contexts and they continue to be in use for some time. Originally regarded as pin-beaters, these are now thought to be spearheads (Ian Riddler, pers. comm.).

<453> F.89 [402] (Surface Find 260; Fig. 15.3) - A fragment of a worked and polished piece of burnt animal bone of light grey colour (4g), which had originally been described as being made of jet or shale. This small triangular to lozenge-shaped fragment of decorated bone would appear to have been cut from the long-bone shaft of a cattle or horse-sized animal. This ornamentation consists of two lines of drilled (die cut) ring-and-dot motifs (four of which survive each 5mm diam.). However, these motifs are only to be found on the outer polished surface of this bone piece. In fact, the uppermost motif has been partly removed by a subsequently cut and polished edge, suggesting that this may once have been part of larger piece of decorated bone – perhaps a weaving comb – has been re-worked into a lozenge-triangular shaped pendant or token.

Andrews and Penn (1999) describe similar ring-and-dot motifs used as a decoration upon small strips made from the scapula or rib bones of sheep or horse at the Late Saxon sites of St Nicholas and Guildhall Street, Thetford, Norfolk, and these it was considered were made as fittings for wooden caskets, examples of which were in use from the late Roman to early medieval period (see Williams 1979, 315). Somewhat similar size/shaped ring-and-dot motifs were found drilled onto the faces of a 12^{th}-13^{th}-century jet gaming dice from Coppergate, York (Ottaway & Rogers 2002, 2949-50), but still more appropriately, the same motifs have also been found die-cut onto the surface(s) of some Late Iron Age bone weaving combs. One example of these is known from the collections of the Devizes Museum

(info. M. Brudenell), whilst other Iron Age-Pictish decorated combs are known from sites in the Orkneys such as the Broch of Burian (the latter being a ring-and-dot motif-decorated weaving comb made from whale or porpoise bone). There are yet other more local examples of these motif-decorated objects. One of these was a comb and bone handle with a ring-and-dot decoration of Late Iron Age date found at Mallard Close, Earls Barton in Northamptonshire (Chapman & Atkins 2005; Figure 10), whilst another described as a decorated 'connecting plate' was found associated with a Late Iron Age–Romano-British composite double-sided comb at the Cambourne New Settlement in Cambridgeshire (Wright *et al*. 2009, object no. 366). More similar to the form of the Barleycroft example was that of an isolated small bone plate fragment covered with ring-and-dot decoration which was recovered from the Iron Age settlement excavated outside of the Battlesbury hillfort, Warminster (Ellis & Powell 2009, fig. 4.9:19). One possible explanation is that this small triangular plate from Barleycroft was intentionally fabricated as a counter or pendant. An alternative explanation is that it was re-fashioned from a functionally quite different but similarly decorated object, but then was used for a similar purpose. Given its well-polished appearance and careful arrangement of these ring-and-dot motifs in two vertical lines of three, therefore six dots in total, the use of this as a gaming counter, or perhaps for the purposes of augury or divination, seems a reasonable, if not likely explanation.

Similar-sized and -shaped parallelopiped flat bone and antler dice or playing pieces were found accompanying an Late Iron Age burial at the Knowth passage grave site in Co. Meath (see Riddler in Eogan 2012, Burial 9) and at Ballyboy I (Riddler in McNamara 2010). Meanwhile Riddler (*pers.comm*.) refers to a limited number of other sites in Scotland and Ireland (but also in England) which have produced these Late Iron Age (late 1st century BC – 2nd century AD) gaming counters, noting their relative rarity, but also their probable Central European origin (style). Also interesting is the clear continuity in the use of this style of gaming piece which ranges from the Late Iron Age and Roman through to the Saxon, Viking and Early Medieval periods. Typically the Iron Age pieces are numbered with just three to six dots (as is suggested by this flat parallelopiped example from Barleycroft) whilst the Roman, sometimes cubic examples of dice are higher.

In conclusion therefore, the probable date for this object is Late Iron Age (1st century BC?), and the most plausible interpretation is that it is part of a polished burnt bone gaming piece or dice.

<531> [1135] F.1 - Mid portion of an ovicaprid metacarpus displaying two perforations *c.* 7mm in diameter. The surviving length is 93mm. One was created through the anterior surface in the proximal half of the shaft and the other, more ambiguous one, recorded on the posterior of the shaft could in fact represent a canine tooth puncture mark.

<761> [390] F.82 (Fig. 15.2) - Pig tibia chopped at an oblique angle with polished edges and a circular perforation (*c.* 7mm diam.) in the distal end of the shaft. The working end is broken off and missing and the surviving length is 109mm. The presence of a perforation in the distal end could have been used to secure this object to a wooden shaft. Similar to the <123>, it could be interpreted as a pin-beater or a spearhead.

<1136> [1191] F.364 (Fig. 15.1) - Mid portion of a cattle rib 55.6mm long with deep blade insertion marks on both ends and two circular perforations (*c.* 6mm diam.) through the middle positioned on each end of the fragment, possibly fragment of a fitting or some manner of pendent. Comparable two-hole-drilled rib bone lengths have recently been found on Iron Age settlements at Colne Fen, Earith and Little Paxton (Evans *et al*. in press; Jones 2011).

<1161> [61] F.1 - Medium-sized mammal rib fragment roughly fashioned into a point/awl *c.*66mm in length. Based on its appearance and simplified working, this object is more likely to represent a make-shift tool.

<1163> [452] F.103 - Calcined sheep-sized limb bone fragment (22mm long) probably representing a working end of a pin-beater or an awl.

[120] TP30 - Ovicaprid femur shaft fragment with distal end removed and the proximal end chopped off at an oblique and irregular angle. The shaft was hollowed out, probably to be used in combination with a wooden shaft. The working end is irregular in shape, yet highly polished. Surviving length 67mm.

Figure 14. La Tene-style pot (left) and Hunsbury-type quern (right)

1

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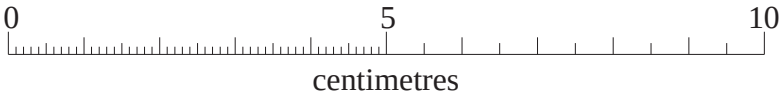

3

Figure 15. Worked bone

Environmental and Economic Data

Faunal Remains Vida Rajkovača

The hand-recovered assemblage amounted to 1315 assessable specimens weighing 34708g, with the overwhelming majority recovered from cut features (1036 specimens; 78.8%) compared to 279 specimens from investigation of the buried soil through surface collection and test pit sampling. With the exception of the Early Neolithic pit F.342 and Romano-British ditch F.3, the bulk of the faunal material came from an Iron Age ditched enclosure and a series of gully-defined and possibly earlier posthole structures. The small quantity of bone from features of post-Iron Age date is considered at the end of this assessment. In addition to the hand-recovered material, 28 bulk soil samples generated additional 514 specimens (weight 420g), of which only 71 were identified to species.

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and Grahame Clark Laboratory, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Most, but not all, caprine bones are difficult to identify to species; however, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep or goat from the assemblage, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Halstead (Halstead *et al.* 2002). Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982; Payne 1973) and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). Where possible, the measurements have been taken (Von den Driesch 1976) and withers height calculations follow the conversion factors published by Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

The preservation was varied throughout the assemblage with some fragments showing minimal surface erosion and others suffering from severe exfoliation with concretions adhering to the surface of the bone. As a rule, bone from the buried soil displayed the greatest degree of erosion, especially the material collected from the surface (i.e. top of the buried soil; Table 15). The assemblage was highly fragmented, which resulting in only three measurable specimens. Ageable material amounted to 19 specimens in total. Overall, although only a small percentage of bone was affected, the preservation allowed for a series of butchery marks to be recognised. Of all butchered bone, 64% came from ditches.

Taphonomy	***Buried Soil***	***Ditches***	***Pits***	***Structures***	**Total**	% (of assemblage)
Eroded	29	11	12	16	68	5.2
Gnawed	6	44	14	6	70	5.3
Butchered	4	27	5	6	42	3.2
Burnt	2	3	1	4	10	0.8

Table 15: Number of fragments suffering from erosion, gnawing activity, butchery or burning given by origin of material and feature type.

Occurrence of Species

As a whole, the assemblage is dominated by sheep, which accounted for more than half of the identified species' count. Cattle were of secondary importance, followed by pig and horse. Dog and cat are also present, as well as a relatively varied range of wild species (Table 16). As is evident from the

table below, the ratio of species varied by feature type and this will be discussed later in text.

	Buried Soil		*Early Neolithic*	*Iron Age Features*					
Taxon	**SF**	**TP**	**Pit F.342**	**Ditch and Bank**	**Structures and Associated Features**	**Linear Features, Gullies and Ditches**	**Pits and Postholes**	**Total NISP**	**Total** *%*
Cow	16	14	.	48	25	33	15	151	*25.6*
Ovicaprid	13	44	.	50	96	29	83	315	*53.5*
Sheep	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	2	*0.3*
Pig	2	7	.	14	18	7	15	63	*10.7*
Horse	2	.	.	26	1	3	3	35	*6*
Dog	.	.	.	1	5	1	2	9	*1.5*
Cat	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	*0.3*
Red deer	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	2	*0.3*
Roe deer	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	2	*0.3*
Wild boar	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	*0.2*
Wild cat	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	*0.2*
Hare	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	*0.2*
Crane	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	2	*0.3*
Swan	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	*0.2*
?Corvidae	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	*0.2*
Vole *sp.*	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	*0.2*
Sub-total ID to family or species	**33**	**67**	**.**	**146**	**148**	**75**	**120**	**589**	*100*
Cattle-sized	37	39	.	63	50	42	44	275	
Sheep-sized	29	72	9	53	118	62	104	447	.
Mammal n.f.i.	2		.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.
Total	**101**	**178**	**9**	**262**	**316**	**179**	**270**	**1315**	.

Table 16: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) for all species: breakdown by feature type; total NISP for Iron Age assemblage as a whole; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Buried Soil Sampling

In contrast with the large quantities of faunal material from buried soil deposits from The Over Narrows' investigations (see Rajkovača in Evans *et al*. forthcoming), here less than a third of the assemblage came from the surface and test pit contexts. Quantities of faunal material recovered from the surface and test pitting are given in Table 17. The buried soil sub-set is largely dominated by ovicaprids and cattle, with other species being under-represented. An interesting discovery made from Test Pit 19 ([120]) is a wild cat distal humerus. The confident distinction of wild cat from a domestic cat is a challenge, especially when dealing with fragmented elements. Measurements, however, were distinguishing criterion here and confirm that this specimen does indeed belong to the wild cat as they are some 25% bigger than their domestic counterpart (Kitchener & O'Connor 2010, 87).

Taxon	Surface Collection			Test Pit Material			Buried Soil Totals
	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	
Cow	16	*48.5*	1	14	*20.9*	1	30
Ovicaprid	13	*39.4*	1	44	*65.7*	4	57
Sheep	.	.	.	1	*1.5*	1	1
Pig	2	*6.05*	1	7	*10.4*	1	9
Horse	2	*6.05*	1	.	.	.	2
Wild cat	.	.	.	1	*1.5*	1	1
Sub-total ID to species	**33**	*100*	.	**67**	*100*	.	**100**
Cattle-sized	37	.	.	39	.	.	76
Sheep-sized	29	.	.	72	.	.	101
Mammal n.f.i.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Total	**101**	.	.	**178**	.	.	**279**

Table 17: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) from the buried soil- surface collection and test pit material quantified separately; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Cut Features

Early Neolithic Pit F.342 - This yielded nine medium-sized mammal bones, all calcined.

Enclosure Ditch F.1 and Bank - The widest range of species came from enclosure ditch F.1, where more than half of the bone was identified to species level (Table 18). The faunal 'signature' recorded from F.1 is also remarkably varied: deer and wild boar representative of the nearby woodland, with crane and swan indicating the use of wetland fen resources. The *use* was confirmed by two fine knife marks recorded on crane carpo-metacarpus (distal articulation). Horse is also quite high and this is more likely to be due to the general tendency to dispose of large horse elements in ditches and other house-peripheral features.

Taxon	Ditch F.1/Hand-dug			Ditch F.1/Machine-dug			Bank		
	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	21	*22.8*	3	20	*52.6*	3	1	*33.3*	1
Ovicaprid	35	*38*	3	11	*29*	3	2	*66.7*	1
Sheep	1	*1.1*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	10	*10.9*	2	4	*10.5*	2	.	.	.
Horse	19	*20.6*	2	2	*5.3*	1	.	.	.
Dog	1	*1.1*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red deer	1	*1.1*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Roe deer	2	*2.2*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wild boar	1	*1.1*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Crane	1	*1.1*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Swan	.	.	.	1	*2.6*	1	.	.	.
Sub-total ID to species	**92**	*100*	.	**38**	*100*	.	**3**	*100*	.
Cattle-sized	47	.	.	9	.	.	3	.	.
Sheep-sized	43	.	.	3	.	.	4	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**182**	.	.	**50**	.	.	**10**	.	.

Table 18: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) from ditch F.1; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Structures - Before discussing the ratio of species, what should be stressed of the structures' faunal sub-set is the small quantity of bone generally. This is not just compared to other similarly dated assemblages from the area (e.g. Evans & Hodder 2006; Evans *et al*. in press), but also relative to the number of investigated features, litres of excavated and wet-sieved soil. Of 13 structures producing animal bone, eight yielded negligible quantities ranging between one and 18 fragments. Conversely, the three largest gully-defined (8, 9 & 11) and two posthole structures (16 & 17) accounted for 77% of the structures' faunal material. When it comes to the occurrence of species, the bone recovered from the structures was overwhelmingly dominated by sheep/goat (67%), with cattle and pigs only accounting for 18% and 12.2% respectively (Table 19). This is common and the reasons for it are many. Just as it can be interpreted as reflecting the community's preference for mutton, this is undoubtedly also a reflection of different depositional practices between diverse feature-types, with the remains of larger domesticates being deposited in peripheral features away from dwellings.

Taxon	**Structures Total NISP**	**Structures % Total**
Cow	25	*18*
Ovicaprid	93	*67*
Pig	17	*12.2*
Horse	1	*0.7*
Red deer	1	*0.7*
Hare	1	*0.7*
Vole sp.	1	*0.7*
Sub-total ID to species	**139**	*100*
Cattle-sized	49	.
Sheep-sized	109	.
Total	**297**	**.**

Table 19: Total Number of Identified Specimens for all species from all structures.

	Structure 1		*Structure 2*			*Structure 3*	*Structure 4*	*Structure 5*	*Structure 6*		**Total NISP**
Taxon	**Gully F.36, 92**	**Postholes F.37, 306**	**Gully F.354**	**Pit F.358**	**Pit cluster F.13, 365, 367**				**Gully**	**Pit F.227**	
Cow	2	.	.	.	.	2	1	1	.	.	6
Ovicaprid	.	1	1	.	2	4	2	.	.	.	10
Pig	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	1	7
Dog	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	5
Horse	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Sub-total ID to species	**3**	**1**	**1**	**.**	**7**	**7**	**8**	**1**	**.**	**1**	**29**
Cattle-sized	2	.	1	1	.	5	1	1	1	.	12
Sheep-sized	3	4	4	1	8	5	9	2	.	.	36
Total	**8**	**5**	**6**	**2**	**15**	**17**	**18**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**48**

Table 20: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from Structures 1-6.

Iron Age roundhouses also tend to produce large numbers of disarticulated, more or less complete lamb or juvenile sheep remains and these deposits have been interpreted as 'votive' deposits (Serjeantson 2006, 246; Higbee in Evans *et al.* in press). Despite having high sheep count, only two postholes positively associated with structures had *juvenile* sheep remains: partial sheep skeleton (F.78, Structure 16) aged to 18 months and another partial, although more complete sheep skeleton (F.62, Structure 17) with an age at death of 10-13 months. The occurrence of the so-called 'votive' or 'foundation' deposits of lamb remains within posthole-defined structures is most likely linked to their earlier date, as hinted at by the slightly earlier pottery dates from those settings (see Brudenell, above). In addition, with the exception of two cattle and one cattle-sized specimen, the earlier posthole structures are exclusively sheep-defined (Table 21).

If we specifically look for all partially complete lamb remains from pits and postholes, a few other features can be added to the list: pit F.67, part of a cluster located north of Structure 11, as well as postholes and pits F.153 and F.206 (?Structure 17); possibly associated with Structure 18, clay-lined pit F.115 also contained lamb remains aged to <10 months and, nearby, pit F.138 contained a near-complete lamb skeleton aged between 10 and 13 months. Assuming that lambing took place in spring, some lambs were evidently kept over their first winter and slaughtered in late winter/early spring and others during the summer months.

	Gully-defined Structures				**Posthole Structures**				
Taxon	***Structure 8***	***Structure 9***	***Structure 10***	***Structure 11***	***Structure 16***	***Structure 17***	***Structure 18***	**Total NISP**	**% Total**
Cow	5	10	.	2	.	.	2	19	*15.9*
Ovicaprid	18	13	.	12	15	23	5	86	*72.2*
Pig	5	5	.	1	.	.	.	11	*9.2*
Red deer	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	*0.9*
Hare	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	*0.9*
Vole sp.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	*0.9*
Sub-total ID to species	**28**	**31**	**.**	**15**	**15**	**23**	**7**	**119**	*100*
Cattle-sized	8	22	.	7	.	.	1	38	.
Sheep-sized	26	37	1	12	5	.	1	82	.
Total	**62**	**90**	**1**	**34**	**20**	**23**	**9**	**239**	.

Table 21: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from gully-defined Structures 8-11 and post-built Structures 16-18.

Other Linear Features, Gullies and Ditches - Within this category, 15 features produced 179 specimens. This is one of the few sub-sets within the assemblage demonstrating a slight prevalence of cattle over sheep within the NISP count (Table 22). The bone was highly fragmented and showed greater degree of surface erosion than the rest of the assemblage. There were no complete bones and more than half of all bone had only between 10-50% of the specimen surviving. A distal tibio-tarsus of a crane came from F.49 within the northeast corner of enclosure ditch F.1.

Taxon	Linear Features, Gullies and Ditches		
	NISP	**%NISP**	**MNI**
Cow	33	*44*	3
Ovicaprid	29	*38.6*	4
Pig	7	*9.35*	1
Horse	3	*4*	1
Dog	1	*1.35*	1
Crane	1	*1.35*	1
Cat	1	*1.35*	1
Sub-total ID to species	**75**	*100*	.
Cattle-sized	42	.	.
Sheep-sized	62	.	.
Total	**179**	.	.

Table 22: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals for all species from all linear features, gullies and ditches.

Other Pits and Postholes - Almost all pits and postholes which could not be securely associated with any of the structures produced some bone, but in remarkably limited quantities. This resulted in 74 features yielding some 270 specimens. A greater number of fragments per feature from ditches, when compared to that from pits, could be due to the even greater fragmentation and differences in bone deposition between these two feature types. The bias towards sheep/goat and pig-sized elements (Table 23) reflects the pattern of bone disposal common to majority of domestic sites across the country: more 'manageable' bone waste was evidently being disposed of within areas of immediate domestic activity, with horse and cattle-sized elements discarded in ditches.

Taxon	Pits and Postholes		
	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	15	*12.5*	1
Ovicaprid	83	*69.2*	5
Pig	15	*12.5*	2
Horse	3	*2.5*	1
Dog	2	*1.7*	1
Cat	1	*0.8*	1
?Corvid	1	*0.8*	1
Sub-total ID to species	**120**	*100*	.
Cattle-sized	44	.	.
Sheep-sized	104	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	2	.	.
Total	**270**	.	.

Table 23: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) for all species from pits and postholes; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Roman - The negligible quantity of animal bone recovered from ditch F.3 is given in Table 24. In addition, a large deposit of cattle remains identified in the field as a cow skeleton came from F.11. The analysis confirmed the presence of the minimum of two animals aged 18-36 months. Humeri and scapulae were more complete, with other skeletal elements showing greater fragmentation; a single chop mark was recorded on one of the tibiae.

Taxon	Romano-British ditches
Ovicaprid	3
Pig	1
Horse	1
Sub-total ID to species	**5**
Cattle-sized	4
Sheep-sized	4
Total	**13**

Table 24: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) for all species from Romano-British contexts.

Fauna from Heavy Residues

Additional faunal material came from bulk soil samples from 23 features scattered across the site. To start with the earliest, Early Neolithic pit F.342 produced 57 fragments of white calcined bone, only one of which was possible to assign to sheep/goat. The only bone recovered by hand from that feature was also calcined and unidentifiable.

Assuming that vole and amphibian remains are not anthropogenic in origin, the remainder of the assemblage mirrors the ratio of species recorded from the hand-recovered assemblage. The crucial difference is the presence of a single and probably not identifiable fish specimen from gully F.283, part of Structure 3.

	Heavy Residues		
Taxon	**NISP**	**%NISP**	**MNI**
Cow	9	*12.7*	1
Ovicaprid	40	*56.3*	2
Pig	5	*7*	1
Dog	1	*1.4*	1
Vole sp.	2	*2.9*	1
Frog/toad	14	*19.7*	1
Sub-total ID to species	**71**	*100*	.
Cattle-sized	14	.	.
Sheep-sized	315	.	.
Rodent-sized	11	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	99	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	6	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	1	.	.
Total	**517**	.	.

Table 25: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) for all species from heavy residues; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Despite commonly accepted belief that sheep-dominated assemblages characteristic to the Wessex and southern England represent an anomaly in this low and wet part of the country, the findings from the Lower Great Ouse valley continue to produce large quantities of Iron Age sheep remains. With this in mind, if we were to compare this assemblage with Over Godwin Ridge, Earith Colne Fen and Haddenham assemblages, the Barleycroft faunal 'signature' follows the same pattern of sheep prevalence, albeit with slightly higher pig counts at Over and Barleycroft (Table 26). This is certainly an environmental indicator as much as it is a cultural definer. In other words,

with minor differences, Barleycroft assemblage has the majority, if not all of the locally recorded traits.

Sites	Cattle %	Sheep/goat %	Pig %
Barleycroft Farm, Plant Site (this report)	28	60	12
Godwin Ridge, Over (Rajkovača in Evans *et al*. forthcoming)	22	58	20
Earith, Colne Fen Sites I, IV & VII (Higbee in Evans *et al*. in press)	38	56	6
Haddenham V & VI (Serjeantson 2006)	22	70	8

Table 26: Relative frequency of the three main livestock species for the four sites included in comparison. Percentages are 'normalised'.

With the site's inhabitants apparently largely reliant on domestic species, the assemblage had only a small portion of wild fauna and which amounts to less than two percent of the identified species count. This stands in contrast with the remarkably wild-rich assemblages recorded at Haddenham and even Godwin Ridge at Over (Serjeantson 2006; Stimpson in Evans *et al*. forthcoming). As confirmed by the presence of cut marks on the crane carpo-metacarpus from enclosure ditch F.1, although scarce, wild faunal resources were evidently utilised.

Starting from conventionally important aspects of an assemblage commonly used for interpreting sites' economy practices - the ageing, sexing and biometrical data - the material is probably not sufficient for the reconstruction of the settlement's husbandry regimes. The importance of the assemblage's 24 cattle, sheep and pig mandibles to assess tooth-eruption and -wear rather lies in its cumulative potential when combined with the data from other project sites.

The fact that we are able to identify juvenile sheep ('votive') deposits from posthole-defined structures at a somewhat earlier in date than previously, as well as confirm their absence from gully-defined roundhouses (all of which have produced Scored Ware pottery), may well be significant finding concerning the exploration of such practices. Therefore, although relatively small, the Barleycroft assemblage holds considerable interpretative potential, especially when put into contexts with other contemporaneous sites from the Lower Great Ouse Valley.

Bulk Environmental Samples Anne de Vareilles

Four pre-settlement and 26 Middle/later Iron Age settlement samples 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 and heavy residues were dried indoors prior to analysis. J. Hutton sorted the >4mm fractions of the heavy residues by eye; their plant remains are not though included in this assessment. Ten waterlogged samples were taken; one was wet-sieved to assess its state of preservation. Sorting of the flots and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification) by the author. Only estimates of wild plant seeds were given for some of the samples. 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 27-32.

All archaeobotanical remains recovered from the 30 samples are charred. Preservation levels are excellent with many delicate plant parts and tiny seeds (<1mm across) surviving in large quantities. The waterlogged samples also appear to contain numerous very well-preserved plant remains, which should be analysed for the site's publication. It would not be surprising if such elements as those that do not survive charring (e.g. leaves and buds) were found through waterlogged.

Neolithic Features

Both Neolithic features were sampled: Early Neolithic pit F.342 and Late Neolithic F.91. Neither had any cereal grains other than a fragment from F.342, which also contained some hazel-nut shells (*Corylus avellana*). Despite being described as 'charcoal-rich' very little charcoal was recovered from F.342. It remains possible that the matrix contained high concentrations of finely comminuted charcoal that might have dissintergrated during flotation. Both pits produced typical Neolithic, plant-poor samples.

Sample Number		**57**	**58**	**24**	**55**
Context		1103	1103	405	1024
Feature		342	342	31	329
Feature description		Pit		Pit	Ditch
Phase / Date		**Early Neolithic**		**L. Neo.**	**MBA**
Sample volume - litres		10	5	6	8
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)			-		
med. charcoal (2-4mm)			++	-	
small charcoal (<2mm)		++	+++	+++	++
estimated charcoal volume (millilitres)		<1	2	<1	<1
Cereal grains and chaff					
Total grains excluding fragments		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Indeterminate cereal grain fragments			1		
Wild plant seeds/other plant parts					
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel-nut shell fragment		12		
Chenopodium album L.	White campion			9	
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		1	12	
Stellaria media (L.) Vill	Common Chickweed		1		
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel				1
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoils				1
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover			2	
Trifolium sp.	Clover	4			
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes			1	
small Poaceae	small wild grass	3			
Indet wild plant seed	non-identifiable seeds		1	2	1
Total wild plant seeds		**7**	**15**	**26**	**3**

Table 27: Environmental Bulk Soil Samples.

Pre-Settlement Fieldsystem

Ditch F.329 was sampled and no plant remains other than three tiny seeds and charcoal dust, probably intrusive from the subsequent Middle/later Iron Age, occupation were found.

Middle/later Iron Age Settlement Features

All but six of the 26 samples contained cereal grains and all had wild plant seeds. The samples richest in cereal grains were predominantly from pits rather than roundhouse gullies. Indeed, Structure 3 was the only roundhouse where more than 50 cereal grains were found in its gully. The three samples richest in cereal grains, by almost 100-fold, came from ditch F.1, pit F.363 and pit F.173 - all features external to roundhouses. Such grain quantities have only been found at a few other later prehistoric sites; examples include the a Late Bronze Age at Over Site 9 and, elsewhere, storage pits within various Iron Age hillforts. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare sl.*) was dominant in five of the seven cereal-rich samples. However, spelt and possibly emmer (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) were more numerous in two of the very rich samples: pits F.363 and F.173. The overall predominance of barley is unusual though not unique. A similar pattern in cereal types was noticed at Iron Age Trumpington (de Vareilles in Patten forthcoming) and was also seen by G. Jones at HAD V (2006). As at the latter, barley chaff was also found, especially from ditch F.1, providing supporting evidence for local cultivation.

Wild plant seeds were prolific throughout, often outnumbering cereal grains. The proportions of grains and seeds suggest that most of the burnt plant remains are crop-processing waste rather than stored crops for human consumption. Waste is, afterall, more likely to be burnt. Evidence that barley was being separated from its weeds and chaff suggests it was not merely (if at all) grown as animal fodder; the absence of any germinated grains provides no evidence for beer manufacturing.

Interestingly, the pits with large quantities of wheat (F.363 & F.173) had wild plant seed assemblages mostly composed of large wild grass seeds. Samples rich in barley had other dominant weed types, such as dock (*Rumex* spp.) and spike-rushes (*Eleocharis* sp.), neither of which are absent from F.363 and F.173. Grass seeds are harmless and may have been left as desirable contaminants in both wheat and barley crops. If so, the wheat-rich assemblages may represent semi-cleaned stored crops for consumption. Feature 173 has an almost 1:1 ratio of grain to glume base, suggesting that grains were still in their glumes when charred. Spelt and emmer are best stored as spikelets, their glumes protecting them from disease and decay. Further detailed work on the composition of assemblages should confirm whether the remains are from crop-processing waste or product. If, as a result, barley is in fact only seen in assemblages of crop waste, one has to ask weather it was ever a crop in its own right (as opposed to an admixture with wheat).

The wild plant seeds are likely to represent the arable weeds growing and harvested with the crops. Seeds of spike-rushes and sedges (*Carex* spp.), amongst others, suggest cereals were grown on damp soils. These were not heavy, clay-rich soils, but damp fields: areas where the water-table must have seasonally risen to ground level. Although the surface rhizomes of sedges are sensitive to ploughing, Iron Age tools and techniques are likely to have been less intrusive and more precise. The frequent occurrence of sedge nuts within prehistoric arable assemblages has led to the conclusion that these were probably arable weeds of damp soils (*cf.* Jones 1984; Stevens in Evans *et al*. 2007). Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), and wild legumes point to both fertile and nutrient poor soils.

The site's Middle/later Iron Age inhabitants were evidently growing and processing spelt and barley, though the importance and use of the latter cereal is still unclear. They were grown on damp soils, alongside a wide range of arable weeds. Clay-lined pits were apparently used for storing grain. Crop-processing waste was burnt and quickly discarded into pits and ditches where they have lain undisturbed until now. The plant remains provide an unusual and unique array of evidence for the daily lives and natural surroundings of this Middle/later Iron Age settlement.

Sample Number		42	33	67	51	11	14
Context		835	402	1197	638	14	290
Feature		250	89	363	173	1	1
Feature description		Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Encl. Ditch	
Sample volume - litres		8	15	8	18	15	15
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100	100	50
large charcoal (>4mm)		++	-	++			++
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+++	++	+++	+	-	+++
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
estimated charcoal volume (millilitres)		6	2	7	2	2	8
indeterminate parenchyma	Frag plant storage tissue				1		
Cereal grains and chaff							
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	barley grain	11	4	26	59	45	206
Triticum spelta/ dicoccum	spelt or emmer wheat gr.	1	6	101	72	1	27
Triticum sp.	Indet. wheat grain		1				
Hordeum / Triticum sp.	barley or wheat grain	2	6	31	55	12	32
Total grains excluding frags.		**14**	**17**	**158**	**186**	**58**	**265**
Indet. cereal grain fragments		1	11		42	13	22
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	6-row barley rachis node				1	5	5
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	2-row barley rachis node					9	4
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	barley chaff			1	1	27	4
T. spelta L. spikelet fork (=2 glume bases)	Spelt chaff			3		1	1
T. spelta L. glume base	spelt chaff		2	10	36	2	39
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. spikelet fork	spelt or emmer chaff		1	3	1		4
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. glume base	spelt or emmer chaff			18	33	3	22
Wild / cultivated Poaceae culm node	grass straw node			2	1		2
Wild / cult. Poaceae root nodes	grass roots			4	1		12
Wild plant seeds/other plant pts							
Ranunculus acris /repens/bulbosus	Buttercup			3			
Papaver somniferum L.	Opium poppy			-			
Fumaria officinalis L.	Common Fumitory			1			
Chenopodium album L.	White campion	2	7				8
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	3	9	++	++		3
Atriplex patula /prostrata	Oraches			1			
Indet. Chenopodiaceae	seed of goosefoot family		1				3
Montia fontana ssp. *minor* Hayw.	Blinks	1	1	++	+		
Stellaria pallida (Dumort.) Crép	Lesser Chickweed	1		-	-		
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Marsh Stitchwort	1	2	+	-	1	
Cerastium sp.	Mouse-ears					1	
Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria			1	1	1	1
P. minor (Hudson) Opiz	small Water-pepper				1		
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass			2	2		28
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A´ Löve	Black bindweed		5	7	10	10	13

Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel	1	2	+++	++		
R. conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus	Small seeded Dock			10	6	7	> 500
Rumex sp.	Dock				1		
Indet. Polygonaceae	seed of the dock family			2			3
Thlaspi arvense L.	Field penny-cress				1		
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	Wild radish pod frag.			1	1		2
Indet. Brassicaceae	Cabbage family		3	1	3		4
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoils			+	-		
Aphanes sp.	Parsley-pierts (PP)		1				
Aphanes / *Alchemilla* sp.	PP/ lady's-mantle		1	1			
Vicia/ Lathyrus/ Pisum/ Lens	possible cultivated pulse		1				1
small Vicia / *Lathyrus* sp.	Vetches/ Wild Pea 2mm		1	1		9	13
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover	1	1	++	++		7
Trifolium sp.	Clover		6	+	+		
Conopodium majus (Gouan) Loret	Pignut root bulb		1 cf.				
Pastinaca sativa L.	Wild Parsnip						2 cf.
Daucus carota L.	Wild carrot						2
Hyoscyamus niger L.	Henbane			1		1	13
Lycopus europaeus L.	Gipsywort			1 cf.			3
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain	2					
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort plantain		1	2	1		5
Odontites verna (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red Bartsia		4	+	+	4	2
Sambucus nigra L.	Elder						2
Valerianella dentata (L.) Pollich	Narrow-fruited ornsalad			1			
Carduus/Cirsium sp.	Thistles					1	3
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Schultz-Bip.	- scentless mayweed		1	+	+		22
Indet Asteraceae	seed of the daisy family						1
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes		7	+++	++		1
large trilete Carex sp.	triangular sedge seed		2	4	3		2
large trilete Carex sp. Type 2	triangular sedge seed			2	1		
large, lenticular *Carex* sp.	large flat Sedge seed					1	
small lenticular *Carex* sp.	small, flat sedge seed						1
Arrhenatherum elatius (L.) P.Beauv.	False oat-grass bulbs			4			
Lolium sp.	Rye-grass						134
Agrostis sp.	Bents		5			3	3
large Poaceae	large wild grass		4	*c*.130	*c*.250	4	56
medium Poaceae	medium wild grass			1	4	3	2
small Poaceae	small wild grass	2	10	++	++	2	1
Indet Poaceae caryposes	Wild or cult. grass seeds	4		7	15	8	9
Indet wild plant seed	non-identifiable seeds	1	2	3	4	4	13
Total wild plant seeds		**19**	**78**			**60**	**>863**
Wild Poaceae culm internode	wild grass straw frags.					2	6
Indet. Root/tuber					1		

Table 28: Middle Iron Age Environmental Bulk Soil Samples (1).

Sample number		10	25	61	62
Context		163	407	1139	1141
Feature		36	92	354	354
Feature description		St. 1 gully		St. 2 gully	
Sample volume - litres		10	10	15	12
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)		-	++		
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+	+++	-	-
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	++
est. charcoal volume (millilitres)		3	2	<1	<1
Cereal grains and chaff					
Hordeum / *Triticum* sp.	barley or wheat gr.			2	1
Total grains excluding frags		**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**
Indeterminate cereal grain frags				3	
T. spelta L. glume base	spelt chaff				1
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. glume base	spelt or emmer chaff	1			
Wild / cultivated Poaceae culm node	grass straw node	1			
Wild plant seeds/other plant pts					
Chenopodium album L.	White campion				1
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots			+	6
Montia fontana ssp. *minor* Hayw.	Blinks			+	
Stellaria pallida (Dumort.) Crép	Lesser Chickweed			-	
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Marsh Stitchwort			-	1
Silene nutans L.	Nottingham catch-fly	4, 1cf.			
P. minor (Hudson) Opiz	small Water-pepper				1
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A´ Löve	Black bindweed				1
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel			+	2
R. conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus	small seeded Dock				1
Malva sp.	Mallows				4
Aphanes sp.	Parsley-pierts	1 cf.			
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover			+	
Trifolium sp.	Clover	1		-	
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain			-	
Odontites verna (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red Bartsia			-	
Galium aparine L.	Cleavers		1		
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes			+	9
small lenticular *Carex* sp.	flat sedge seed			++	
Lolium sp.	Rye-grass				1
large Poaceae	large wild grass				1
small Poaceae	small wild grass	2			
Indet wild plant seed	non-ident. seeds				1
Total wild plant seeds		**9**	**1**		**29**

Table 29: Middle Iron Age Environmental Bulk Soil Samples (2).

Sample Number		46	47	48	17	28	26
Context		940	575	577	346	450	426
Feature		283	145	146	64	98	81
Feature description		St. 3 gully			St. 4	St. 5	St. 6
Sample volume - litres		16	12	15	12	9	8
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)			-	+	-		
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+	++	++	++	-	
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
estimated charcoal volume (millilitres)		<1	3	3	2	<1	<1
indeterminate parenchyma	piece of plant storage tissue		2				
Cereal grains and chaff							
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	barley grain	1	40	21	2		
Triticum spelta/ dicoccum	spelt or emmer wheat grain	1	7	10	3		5
Hordeum / Triticum sp.	barley or wheat grain	5	17	11	2		1
Total grains excluding fragments		**7**	**64**	**42**	**7**	**0**	**6**
Indeterminate cereal grain fragments		2	33	18	3		3
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	barley chaff		2				
T. spelta L. glume base	spelt chaff		3	3			1
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. glume base	spelt or emmer chaff			3	1		2
Wild / cultivated Poaceae culm node	grass straw node		1				
Wild plant seeds and other plant parts							
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel-nut shell fragment					1	
Chenopodium album L.	White campion	+			6		3
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	++	++	++	6		1
Indet. Chenopodiaceae	seed of goosefoot family				1		
Montia fontana ssp. *minor* Hayw.	Blinks	+	-	+			3
Stellaria pallida (Dumort.) Crép	Lesser Chickweed		+	+			
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Marsh Stitchwort	-	+	+			1
Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria	2	1				
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass		2				1
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A´ Löve	Black bindweed			7	1		
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel		-	+			3
R. conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus - small seeded Dock			1	3			
Indet. Polygonaceae	seed of the dock family			1			
Malva sp.	Mallows		1				1
Rorippa sp.	Water-cress		-				
Thlaspi arvense L.	Field penny-cress		1				
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	Wild radish pod frag.			1			
Indet. Brassicaceae	Cabbage family		2	3			
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoils			-	1		
Aphanes sp.	Parsley-pierts			-	1		

Aphanes / *Alchemilla* sp.	Parsley-pierts / lady's-mantle			-			
small Vicia / *Lathyrus* sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea <2mm	1	3	1			
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover	+	+	+			4
Trifolium sp.	Clover		+	+			1
Daucus carota L.	Wild carrot		-				
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain						1
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort plantain	2	1				
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Schultz-Bip. - scentless mayweed			-				1
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes	++	++	+	5		1
Isolepis cetacea (L.) R. Br.	Bristle Club-rush	-	-				
large trilete Carex sp.	large, triangular sedge seed	1	2	2			
Lolium sp.	Rye-grass		12	7			
large Poaceae	large wild grass	4	20	16	4		9
medium Poaceae	medium wild grass		1	3			
small Poaceae	small wild grass	+	+	++			5
Indet Poaceae caryposes	Wild or cultivated grass seeds		9	11	1	1	
Indet wild plant seed	non-identifiable seeds		5	3			3
Total wild plant seeds					**26**	**2**	**38**

Table 30: Middle Iron Age Environmental Bulk Soil Samples (3).

Sample number		**16**	**23**	**21**	**68**	**40**
Context		342	417	368	545	808
Feature		60	60	70	70	240
Feature description		St.8 gully		St. 9 gully		St. 10
Sample volume - litres		9	8	14	5	4
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)				-		
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+	+	+		+
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+	+++
Est. charcoal volume (millilitres)		6	<1	<1	<1	1
indeterminate parenchyma	piece of plant storage tissue					
Cereal grains and chaff						
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	barley grain	5		4		1
Triticum spelta/ dicoccum	spelt or emmer wheat grain	6		1		
Triticum sp.	indeterminate wheat grain	2				
Hordeum / *Triticum* sp.	barley or wheat grain	3				1
Total grains excluding fragments		**16**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**2**
Indet. cereal grain fragments		16				2
T. spelta L. glume base	spelt chaff	2				1
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. spikelet fork	spelt or emmer chaff	1				

T. spelta/ dicoccum L. glume base	spelt or emmer chaff	7		3		1
Wild / cultivated Poaceae root nodes	grass roots	1				
Wild plant seeds and other plant parts						
Papaver somniferum L.	Opium poppy					1
Chenopodium album L.	White campion	7		14		1
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	5	4	8		
Atriplex patula /prostrata	Oraches		1	1		
Montia fontana ssp. *minor* Hayw.	Blinks			4		
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Marsh Stitchwort		2			
Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria		1			
P. minor (Hudson) Opiz	small Water-pepper	1 cf.				
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass	1	1	3		
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A´ Löve	Black bindweed	2				
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel			4		1
R. conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus - small seeded Dock		9		1		
Malva sp.	Mallows			3		1
Indet. Brassicaceae	Cabbage family	1				
Aphanes sp.	Parsley-pierts			1		
Aphanes / *Alchemilla* sp.	Parsley-pierts / lady's-mantle				1	
small Vicia / *Lathyrus* sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea <2mm			1		
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover	3		2		
Trifolium sp.	Clover			1		
Carduus/Cirsium sp.	Thistles	1	1			
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Schultz-Bip. - scentless mayweed		2				
Indet Asteraceae	seed of the daisy family			1		
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes	2	4	35		7
large trilete Carex sp.	large, triangular sedge seed			2		
large, lenticular *Carex* sp.	large, flat Sedge seed			2		
small lenticular *Carex* sp.	small, flat sedge seed					1
Lolium sp.	Rye-grass					1
Agrostis sp.	Bents	1	1	3		
large Poaceae	large wild grass	36	1	1	3	2
medium Poaceae	medium wild grass	2				1
small Poaceae	small wild grass	2		5		
Indet Poaceae caryposes	Wild or cultivated grass seeds	2				
Indet wild plant seed	non-identifiable seeds	13				1
Total wild plant seeds		**90**	**16**	**92**	**4**	**17**

Table 31: Middle Iron Age Environmental Bulk Soil Samples (4).

Sample number		**35**	**50**	**39**	**29**	**54**
Context		320	478	712	501	696
Feature		54	111	206	115	198
Feature description		St. 11 gully		Pit St.11	Pit St.14	St.17?
Sample volume - litres		15	10	15	10	8
Flot fraction examined -%		100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)				+	+	
med. charcoal (2-4mm)			-	++	++	-
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Est. charcoal volume (millilitres)		<1	<1	3	1	<1
indeterminate parenchyma	piece of plant storage tissue			1		
Cereal grains and chaff						
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	barley grain	1	1	42		1
Triticum spelta/ dicoccum	spelt or emmer wheat grain		1	2		
Triticum sp.	indeterminate wheat grain			1		
Hordeum / Triticum sp.	barley or wheat grain	1	1	9		
Total grains excluding fragments		**2**	**3**	**54**	**0**	**1**
Indeterminate cereal grain fragments		1		7		
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	6-row barley rachis node			1		
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	2-row barley rachis node			1		
H. vulgare sl. rachis node	barley chaff			1		
T. spelta L. spikelet fork	spelt chaff			1		
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. spikelet fork	spelt or emmer chaff		1			
T. spelta/ dicoccum L. glume base	spelt or emmer chaff			3		
Avena sp. awn floret base	oat awn	1				
Wild plant seeds/other plant pts						
Ranunculus acris /repens/bulbosus	Buttercup	1				
Papaver somniferum L.	Opium poppy		+			
Chenopodium album L.	White campion	1				
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		+	*c*.300	2	+
Atriplex patula /prostrata	Oraches			2		
Indet. Chenopodiaceae	seed of goosefoot family	1				-
Montia fontana ssp. *minor* Hayw.	Blinks	1		1		
Stellaria pallida (Dumort.) Crép	Lesser Chickweed			5		
Stellaria uliginosa Murray	Marsh Stitchwort			6		
Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria			11		
P. minor (Hudson) Opiz	small Water-pepper	2				
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass		3	3		
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A´ Löve	Black bindweed			3		
Rumex acetosella L.	Sheep's sorrel	1	+	5		-
R. conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus - small seeded Dock		1		9		

Indet. Brassicaceae	Cabbage family			1		
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoils		-			
Aphanes sp.	Parsley-pierts		-	1		
Aphanes / *Alchemilla* sp.	Parsley-pierts / lady's-mantle		-	1		
small Vicia / *Lathyrus* sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea <2mm		1	1		
Medicago / *Trifolium* sp.	Medics or Clover		+	7		
Trifolium sp.	Clover	6		1		
Indet Apiaceae	seed of carrot family	1				
Hyoscyamus niger L.	Henbane	1				
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain				1	
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort plantain		1			
Odontites verna (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red Bartsia		-			
Carduus/Cirsium sp.	Thistles	1				
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Schultz-Bip.	- scentless mayweed	1	-	2		
Indet Asteraceae	seed of the daisy family			1		
Eleocharis sp.	Spike Rushes	5	+	3		
Isolepis cetacea (L.) R. Br.	Bristle Club-rush		-	1		
Lolium sp.	Rye-grass	1	2	7		2
Agrostis sp.	Bents	1		3		
large Poaceae	large wild grass	1		29		1
medium Poaceae	medium wild grass	1	1	3		1
small Poaceae	small wild grass		+	11		
Indet Poaceae caryposes	Wild or cultivated grass seeds			7		
Indet wild plant seed	non-identifiable seeds	1		1		
Total wild plant seeds		**28**		***c*.425**	**3**	
Indet. Root/tuber				1		

Table 32: Middle Iron Age Environmental Bulk Soil Samples (5).

Pollen Analysis Steve Boreham

This report presents the results of assessment pollen analyses from three sub-samples of sediment taken from a single 50cm monolith <8> sampled from the main ditch of the Middle/later Iron Age enclosure (F.1). The basal organic silty clay ([194]; 0-23cm) was sampled for pollen at 6cm & 20cm. The overlying sand and gravel material (23-42cm) was not sampled for pollen. The upper organic silty clay ([192]; 42-50cm) was sampled for pollen at 48cm. The three 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 three samples is presented in Table 33.

The pollen concentrations of the three sub-samples ranged between 50,331 and 82,518 grains per ml. There was occasionally poor preservation of fossil pollen grains (palynomorphs), and finely divided organic material hampered pollen counting to some degree. 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 although one exceeded 100 grains, 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.

6cm <8> ([194]) - This sub-sample produced a pollen spectrum dominated by grass (Poaceae; 41.2%), with a limited assemblage of herbs including members of the thistle family (Asteraceae [Asteroidea/Cadueae]; 7.8%), sedges (Cyperaceae; 2.9%) and mugwort (*Artemisia* type; 2.9%). The disturbed-ground indicator ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) was present at 2.0%, and cereal pollen was present at 3.9%. Arboreal taxa comprised oak (*Quercus*; 4.9%), hazel (*Corylus*; 3.9%), alder (*Alnus*; 2.9%), elm (*Ulmus*; 2.0%), juniper (*Juniperus*; 2.0%) and pine (*Pinus*; 1.0%). Fern spores together accounted for 11.8%, and obligate aquatics were represented by the bur-reed (*Sparganium*), which was present at 2.0%.

20cm <8> ([194]) - This sub-sample produced a pollen spectrum dominated by grass (Poaceae; 40.6%), with a limited assemblage of herbs including members of the thistle family (Asteraceae [Asteroidea/Cadueae]; 8.7%), sedges (Cyperaceae; 8.7%) and members of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae; 4.3%). Cereal pollen was present at 2.9%. Arboreal taxa comprised hazel (*Corylus*; 4.3%), oak (*Quercus*; 2.9%), alder (*Alnus*) and juniper (*Juniperus*; both 1.4%). Spores of the polypody fern (*Polypodium*) were present at 1.4%, and other fern spores together accounted for 13.0%. Obligate aquatics were represented by the bur-reed (*Sparganium*; 4.3%) and reedmace (*Typha latifolia*; 1.4%).

48cm <8> ([192]) - This sub-sample was dominated by grass (Poaceae; 47.8%), with a limited assemblage of herbs including members of the thistle family (Asteraceae (Asteroidea/Cadueae); 9.0%), sedges (Cyperaceae; 4.5%) and members of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae; 4.5%). Cereal pollen was apparently absent. Arboreal taxa comprised hazel (*Corylus*; 3.0%), oak (*Quercus*; 3.0%), pine (*Pinus*) and juniper (*Juniperus*; both 1.5%). Fern spores together accounted for 14.9%, and obligate aquatics were represented by the bur-reed (*Sparganium*), which was present at 1.5%.

Taken together these samples all appear to represent a post-clearance landscape dominated by agricultural activity. The two from the basal context ([194]; 6cm & 20cm) contain cereal pollen, and one of them has the disturbance indicator ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). The upper sample (48cm) does not appear to contain cereal pollen. A range of open-ground communities including tall-herb dominated meadows and bank-side riparian habitats are represented in all the sub-samples. Trees and shrubs represent more than 17% of the assemblage in the basal sample (6cm) and suggest mixed-oak woodland close to the site. Although arboreal pollen is less abundant in the sample from 20cm, the presence of polypody fern (*Polypodium*) strongly suggests that fragments of woodland with mature trees could not be far away. This sample also contains elevated sedges and obligate aquatics that suggest locally higher water tables. The presence of slightly elevated Asteraceae pollen and fern spores in these sub-samples suggests that the pollen signal has been degraded by post-depositional oxidation of palynomorphs by microbial and oxidative soil processes. The survival of some delicate pollen grains suggests that this has not been severe.

The basal sample (6cm) produced a pollen spectrum with an interesting combination of woodland, pasture and cereals not often encountered in Middle/later Iron Age environments. It seems likely that in this case hedgerows and small copses of woodland must have existed alongside pastoral meadows and fields of arable crops. In contrast, the upper sample (48cm) appears to represent a more typical Iron Age pollen signal, where meadow and pasture dominates the landscape at the expense of woodland fragments and arable fields.

As always, it is important not to over-interpret the pollen signal from assessment pollen counts. Despite an amount of post-depositional modification of the pollen signal, the samples from the enclosure ditch at Barleycroft have produced a useful 'snapshot' of environments in the Middle/later Iron Age.

	<8>		
	[194]	[194]	[192]
	6cm	20cm	48cm
Trees & Shrubs			
Pinus	1.0	0.0	1.5
Ulmus	2.0	0.0	0.0
Quercus	4.9	2.9	3.0
Alnus	2.9	1.4	0.0
Corylus	3.9	4.3	3.0
Juniperus	2.0	1.4	1.5
Herbs			
Poaceae	41.2	40.6	47.8
Cereals	3.9	2.9	0.0
Cyperaceae	2.9	8.7	4.5
Asteraceae (Asteroidea/Cardueae) undif.	7.8	8.7	9.0
Artemisia type	2.9	1.4	0.0
Cirsium type	2.0	0.0	0.0
Caryophyllaceae	1.0	0.0	1.5
Chenopodiaceae	0.0	1.4	1.5
Brassicaceae	0.0	4.3	4.5
Fabaceae	1.0	1.4	0.0
Filipendula	1.0	1.4	1.5
Plantago lanceolata	2.0	0.0	0.0
Ranunculus type	0.0	1.4	3.0
Rumex	2.0	0.0	1.5
Apiaceae	2.0	1.4	1.5
Liliaceae	1.0	1.4	0.0
Lower plants			
Polypodium	0.0	1.4	0.0
Pteropsida (monolete) undif.	9.8	11.6	11.9
Pteropsida (trilete) undif.	2.0	1.4	3.0
Aquatics			
Sparganium type	2.0	4.3	1.5
Typha latifolia	0.0	1.4	0.0
Sum trees	10.8	4.3	4.5
Sum shrubs	6.9	5.8	4.5
Sum herbs	70.6	75.4	76.1
Sum spores	11.8	14.5	14.9
Main Sum	102	69	67
Concentration (grains per ml)	82518	60473	50331

Table 33: Pollen percentages.

DISCUSSION

By the standards of the Barleycroft/Over landscape, the density of the site's test pits' worked flint – 1.8 average – would have to rank as relatively low (i.e. not a flint scatter 'site' *per se*). Yet, taken as a whole, at 388 pieces its worked flint assemblage can be considered respectable and certainly demonstrates that the terrace was utilised prior to the Middle/later Bronze Age. The bulk of the material is of later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date – predominantly the former – with there being a general paucity of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintwork. Having 52 worked flints and more than 100 small Mildenhall Ware sherds, the one Early Neolithic feature present, pit F.342, would seem comparable to those elsewhere within the local landscape, particularly The Barleycroft Paddocks pit cluster (see Evans & Knight 1997 and Garrow 2006). Four other 'early' features were otherwise recovered, one of apparently Late Neolithic attribution – pit F.91 (19 flints) – and two small Early Bronze Age pits (F.5 & F.10) in the site's northwestern corner. As to the latter, while no clear demonstration can demonstrated between them and a curvilinear length of Phase II ditch-line in which they lay (F.12), that nevertheless remains a possibility.

While we were able to successfully excavate all the site-area that was preserved and, with it, the entirety of the main Iron Age sub-square enclosure, this clearly did not encompass all of the terrace's (dense) settlement swathe of that period. Phase IV enclosure-components clearly extended both further south and west of the main area of excavation. While the latter cannot have extended for more than 8-10m before presumably terminating in relationship to the terrace-side palaeochannel, reflecting the limits of the plant site complex's footprint, only a single evaluation trench continued south beyond the final limits of excavation; therefore, at this time we cannot say how far the settlement-area runs in that direction (*c.* 20m+; see below). There is more evidence of the extent of 'loss' to the north. Not only does this include the fact that settlement-related features clearly continued beyond the edge of excavation, but – falling *c.* 10m northeast-ward of the final excavation-area – evaluation Trench 54 clearly exposed further Iron Age settlement features.

It is perhaps not surprising that, arising from the quality of its buried soil and experimental excavation procedures, given the intensity of the site's sequence – and its many building 'fragments' and the long-term continuity of its palaeochannel-determined boundary alignments – there are seemingly irresolvable aspects of its archaeology. One is what seems to be the fact that a northern ditch length of the Phase II Bronze Age fieldsystem, F.44, so directly coincided with the western side of the Phase IV enclosure (and, particularly, its ditch-line F.55). Another is the status of the narrow, trough-like boundary F.45. Based on its character and apparent interrelationships, it seems that it should be associated with the Phase III ditch system. Yet, in contrast to all of the site's other boundaries, its 'skewed' northeast-southwest orientation sits uncomfortably with that system; equally, it doesn't seem sympathetic with any of the other phases' layouts. It is not alone in this and a series of short rectangular trough-settings in the south of the site – F.21, F.204 and F.211 – just as the sub-rectangular arrangement of features within the interior-area of Structure 5, also seem 'ajar'.

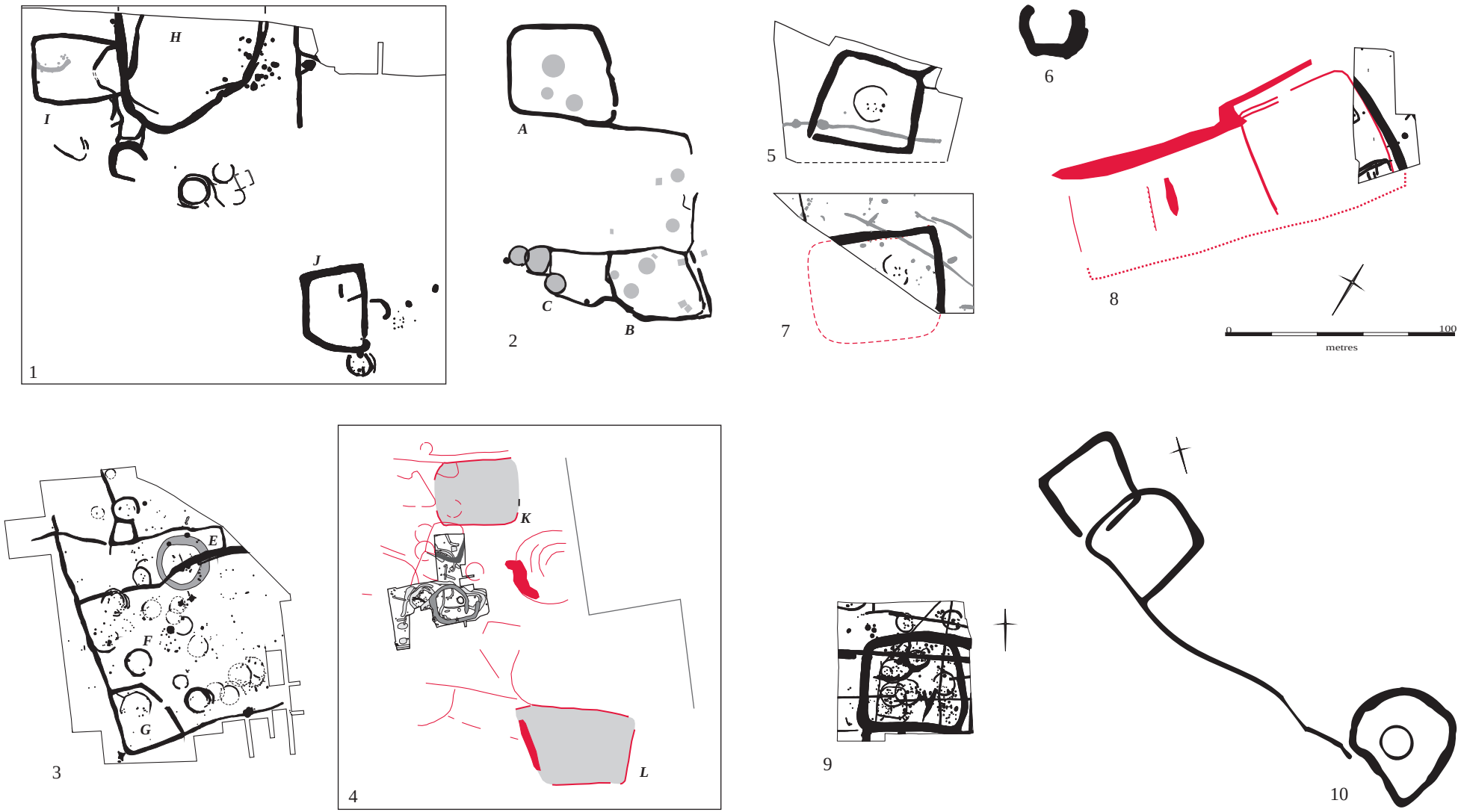

Figure 16. Lower Ouse environs Iron Age enclosures (see following page)

With a ditched interior extending over *c*. 1550sqm, both by its scale and plan morphology the Plant Site enclosure is comparable to other Middle/later Iron Age sub-square household compounds that have been investigated within the Lower Ouse Environs. This would include the boundary-linked HAD V and VI enclosures on the Upper Delphs, Haddenham (Evans & Hodder 2006) and the eight enclosures of that type that were excavated at Colne Fen, Earith (Evans *et al*. in press). Of the later, the most directly equivalent would be the two Site I compounds (A & B) and those that lay adjacent to the Rhee Lakeside (Appleby *et al*. 2007; Brudenell & Evans 2007; Evans *et al.* in press). Yet, none of these had more than three-roundhouse sequences (HAD V having six in total). Indeed, no greater contrast can be offered in terms of near-equivalent area-exposure and enclosure morphology than with the Rhee Lakeside North's *c*. 1370sqm compound (Appleby *et al*. 2007), but which had only a single roundhouse; at *c*. 15m diameter, that large building lay in the enclosure's centre and its situation seemed to present a 'pristine' model of Iron Age household-compound settlement space.

Settlement Trajectories

Akin in some respects to the HAD V enclosure's sequence, the Plant Site investigations charted a number of significant 'settlement-architecture trajectories'. On the one hand, occurring between its Phases III.1 and III.2/IV, is the development from posthole-built (-only) roundhouses to eavesgully-surrounded buildings. Of the latter, it may well be telling that none of the Plant Site's gullies approached the scale of the main HAD V's roundhouse (0.95-1.50m wide, 0.50-.70m deep and 14m diam.), with this site's largest such structures' – Numbers 3, 8, 9 and 11 – being relatively small in comparison (0.50-.90m wide, 0.2-.40m deep and 10-11.50m diam.). On the other hand, there is also that both sites trace a development from more open modes of boundary-allotment to full settlement enclosure. Yet, here again there are also crucial differences, with the Plant Site's sequence being far more complicated and intense; leaving aside matters of technique/preservation, this essentially related to the fact that its 'full' Middle Iron Age sequence was probably some two centuries longer than that of HAD V.

Set against the background of the terrace's Bronze Age fieldsystem and handful of earlier pits (Phases I & II), the Plant Site's earliest Iron Age settlement layout would seem to have essentially been restricted to the eastern three-quarters of the site-area and largely curtailed by the F.101 boundary (see above concerning the status of ditch F.45). Its earliest post-built roundhouses all lay within the southern portion of the site (III.1; Structures 16-18), but by Phase III.2 had extended throughout the exposed length, with six main roundhouses locations identified: Structures 1, 2, 4 (*et al*.), 5 (*et al*.), 7, and 10.

Figure 16 (previous page). *Lower Ouse Environs Iron Age Enclosures* – Colne Fen (1–8): 1) The Camp Ground; 2) Site I; 3) Site IV; 4) Plant Site; 5) Rhee Lakeside North (Compound R); 6–8) Rhee Lakeside South, Compounds M (6), N (7) and O–Q (8; red indicates cropmarks); 9) Barleycroft Farm Plant Site; 10) Upper Delphs, Haddenham, HAD V & VI.

It was in Phase IV that the Plant Site saw the establishment of its main 'big boundary' enclosure system. In all honesty, given the restrictions of the site's exposure, it is essentially impossible to be certain of its initial scale or plan. The situation and size of ditches F.49 and F.55 (*et al.*), respectively extending northeast and southwest beyond the sides of the subsequent square enclosure (Phase IV.2), probably related to a substantially larger sub-square/-rectangular setting. This could have only continued for a further *c.* 10m eastward before 'stopping' at the river; unfortunately, due to the restrictions of the evaluation trenching, its southern extent cannot be satisfactorily determined. While the F.211 ditch within Evaluation Trench 56 must equate with F.55 and, therefore, its line must have extended for at least a further 12m south of the final square enclosure, just how much further it went in that direction is unknown (the evaluation's east-west ditch, F.214, south of that point is unlikely to have been related and was, instead, probably associated with the Phase II fieldsystem). By this reckoning, the Phase IV.1 enclosure would have extended for *c.* 60m E-W x 60m+ N-S. As regards to its scale and that it was probably un-ditched along its eastward wet-edge-side, the layout of this phase's settlement enclosure might have been comparable to Colne Fen's Site IV, with its 'fenward-open', 'L'-arranged boundaries (Fig. 16; Evans *et al*. in press).

Another real question is whether the Phase IV.1 enclosure was itself internally sub-divided: did the southern ditch F.352 continue west to join with its western F.55 boundary or did a return axis of ditch F.218 join with F.55 to form a smaller enclosure-interior compound? This we simply lack sufficient exposure to resolve. We can, though, be certain that within the primary enclosure, as marked by the extensively recut gullies of Structures 3 and 6, its main buildings occurred in the northwest-centre corner.

The ensuing Phase IV.2 sub-square enclosure, which most closely approximated that of HAD V (if with much more minor main ditches), seems to reflect a reduction in the size of the enclosed area (ditches F.49 & F.55/*et al.* appeared to be truncated by it and not thereafter maintained). The establishment of its ditched eastern perimeter – as opposed to the Phase IV.1 enclosure's probable riverside 'openness' – would suggest a greater degree of 'closure'. Indeed, its circuit had no entranceway interruption whatsoever and, rather, its interior must have been accessed *via* a bridge-crossing within the northeastern corner. While the final-phase enclosure's main buildings were axial-arranged across it (Structures 8-11; see below), the manner in which they lay south of its central axis might indicate that the main Phase IV.1 buildings then still stood (Structures 3 & 6); the situation of Structures 8 and 9 would, otherwise, have to suggest an intentional desire to avoid building upon the previous house-plots.

Where there is a fairly obvious parallel between the two sites is in the arrangement of their main final enclosure-phase buildings. Both lay along an east-west cross-enclosure axis, with there finally being paired buildings at either extreme: Structures 8/11 at the Plant Site and Buildings 6/7 at HAD V (though the latter's easternmost roundhouse was oriented eastward and would have opened directly upon its enclosure ditch's bank; in contrast – and most unusually – the Plant Site's Structure 11 faced westward towards the enclosure's interior). The other trait that both sites evidently shared is that, in

both instances, the westernmost of their final buildings represented (the Plant Site's No. 8 and HAD V's 7) an offset rebuilding of their respectively main roundhouses that lay just to the east (respectively Structures 9 & Building 4). At HAD V it was clear that the floor surface of the earlier main enclosure-phase building (No. 4) had later been reused as a forecourt for the subsequently built roundhouse to the west, with their 'circles' overlapping by approximately a quarter; the same arrangement can also be presumed in the interrelationship of the Plant Site's Structures 8 and 9.

As detailed by Brudenell above, along with enclosure layout, the Plant Site also shared with the other Lower Ouse Environs' settlements a distinct pottery type - Scored Ware - and chronology. Of the first, as indicated in Table 12 it would seem that the uptake of Scored Ware pottery post-dated the Phase III.1 settlement, with no such wares occurring within its post-built roundhouses (i.e. non-gullied). While suggestive of a propensity, this need not, however, imply that there was a one-to-one relationship between building-form and ceramic-style change. In this capacity it is relevant that, while having a relatively substantial pottery assemblage, no Scored Ware was associated with the Phase III.2 eavesgully roundhouse, Structure 1. Given, moreover, that these wares occurred in association with Phase III.2 buildings and prior to the enclosure-phase, their uptake also clearly preceded the advent/adoption of sub-square-plan settlement enclosures.

Of the site's chronology, like the other Lower Ouse square-enclosure settlements there was no definite evidence in the form of wheel-made wares, Late Iron Age coinage or brooches to suggest that its Iron Age occupation actually continued until the first half of the first century AD (its Roman-period reuse essentially seeming to be incidental and a matter of conveniently utilising the enclosure as an earthwork and not reflecting settlement continuity *per se*). At Colne Fen it has, in fact, been demonstrated that its Scored Ware-associated sub-square enclosure settlements were, at the end of the first millennium BC, superseded by more organic-plan enclosures and which also included 'hallmark' Late/terminal Iron Age artefact traits (wheel-made pottery, coins and brooches; Evans *et al*. in press). This suggests that some manner of social settlement-succession was responsible for the abandonment of the sub-square compound settlements and not 'other' factors (e.g. environmental deterioration).

Although the sheer number of round buildings that registered within the site-area - 18 - may seem extraordinary, 'played out' in time there need not represent anything special in this regard. If the Plant Site's Iron Age occupation lasted some 400 years, then assuming that, at least, two structures were contemporary at any one time and that the duration of such roundhouses was no more than 50 years, this then would amount to 16 structures; in other words, just shy of the site's actual number. Indeed, if trying to actually demonstrate long-term direct local settlement continuities, then intense sequences such as this should rather be the norm; that they aren't must surely either reflect a failure of excavation technique (i.e. limited/faulty building-detection) and/or that in many cases such oft-cited direct occupation continuity is simply not valid.

As touched upon above, the establishment of the Phase IV enclosure system would, if anything, appear to mark a reduction in/concentration of the immediate area's settlement. The two Phase III.2 roundhouses (Structures 1 & 12) falling on its northern exterior did not afterward see any rebuilding; whereas it was the building localities within the enclosure that had far greater rebuilding sequences. In its southern corner, three episodes of rebuilding were evinced: Structures 16 (Phase III.1) > Structure 7 (III.2) > Structure 8 and, thereafter, 9 (both IV.2). Similarly, within its north-centre, a three- to five-fold sequence was apparent: Structures 4/13/14 > Structure 4 (all III.2) > Structure 3.

There would appear to have been a general propensity for the size of the site's roundhouses to increase over time/sequence. Some of earliest structures only survived as fragments and it is impossible to judge their true scale (e.g. Structure 4). While, at only 3.5m diameter Structures 12's 'half-circle' probably related to a hayrick or the like, at *c.* 5-6m Structure 13 and 15's gullies would surely attest to buildings *per se* and these were distinctly smaller than, for example, Structures 8 and 9's 11m diameters (both; see Evans 2003 on Iron Age roundhouse size). Having said this, though the *c.* 5m diameter of the seemingly small, two Phase III.1 post-built roundhouses (Structures 16 & 17) would appear to reflect this trend, it should be recognised that their wall-lines probably fell *c.* 1m beyond their post-rings. By this gauging, the true size of their buildings proper would be some 7m. The would make them broadly comparable – if not even a bit larger – to such Phase III.2 structures as Numbers 4 and 10, whose wall-lines would have lain approximately the same distance inside their eavesgullies (*c.* 8.50m diam.); in other words, their buildings proper would have only been *c.* 6.50m across. Indeed, even the large Phase IV.2 buildings (*proper*; Structures 8-11) would have only been slightly larger: *c.* 8-9m diameter. Against this, there would also be the very large, *c.* 8.50m diameter post-circle of Structure 18. Though certainty is not possible in its case, if its wall-line also lay at the afore-cited interval beyond its posts then, at *c.* 10.50m diameter, it could then have actually been the site's largest roundhouse.

Settlement Register, Economy and Influence/Identity

There are aspects of the site's register that seem contradictory; primarily, its low artefact numbers in the light of how many buildings were present. As mentioned above, only its saddlequern assemblage would seem in any way sympathetic to the number of structures that registered; whereas, at only some 1150 sherds and 2900 pieces, its pottery and animal bone numbers seem, respectively, surprisingly low. In response, it could be argued that this might just reflect the fact that much of the settlement's refuse had been conveniently thrown into the adjacent palaeochannel. While this may have been the case, it would still be reasonable to expect that most pottery vessels would have actually broken on the site itself and only have had the bulk of their pieces discarded in that manner. If so, this should – based on rim sherd numbers – have resulted in a greater minimal (Iron Age) vessel count than the some 130 accredited by Brudenell. This does, in fact, pose a problem that is not easily countered; interpretative recourse might be made to the locale's seasonal-only usage during at least part of its sequence, but such a model would not accord

well with its obvious arable land-status and which is normally associated with permanent 'home-base' occupation.

The recognition on the area's aerial photographs that there appears to be a Middle/later Iron Age sub-square settlement enclosure, matching that excavated at the Plant Site, opens up the interesting possibility of 'paired' occupation compounds (Fig. 2). The potential social dynamics of such arrangements have been fully explored within the context of the Upper Delphs, Haddenham and Colne Fen, Earith (Evans & Hodder 2006, 317; Evans *et al.* in press) and need not be repeated here. What should, though, be stressed is that any interrelationship between the two Barleycroft enclosures may not have been direct as they would have been separated by a loop of the Ouse's palaeochannel system, with the cropmark enclosure located upon a mid-stream island. Given how relatively little Iron Age settlement is known from the larger project's immediate environs, their proximity nonetheless seems significant. Indeed, their complementary situation might even suggest – in terms of larger 'inter-enclosure community definition' – a sense of territorial 'arrival' (or departure) in relationship to along-river progression.

At a more general level within the context of the project as a whole, the sheer density of the settlement revealed at the Plant Site terrace (i.e. sequence intensity) is only comparable to that exposed through evaluation and the training dig investigations within the southern Over-side fields beside the river (Evans & Webley 2003), where intense evidence of later Bronze/earlier Iron Age settlement has been forthcoming. This is important as, to date, most of the project's main investigations have stood back from the main river proper and suggests that, at least locally, these channel-side locales may have seen high densities of later second and first millennium BC occupation, with immediate river-access obviously being an attraction (the utilisation of *The Narrows*' mid-stream sand ridges being differently 'special'; see Evans *et al*. forthcoming).

Of the settlement's economy, the high quantity of cereals from its features would seem to directly accord with the number of quernstone fragments recovered, as well as the frequency of cereal pollen registering within the basal fills of the enclosure ditch's sequence: 2.9 & 3.9% (see Boreham, above). There can, therefore, be little doubt that the enclosure lay directly adjacent to fields and that these were probably located on the land immediately west/behind it (in the course of the 1995 evaluation, ardmarks were also found in a trench nearby). That said, as indicated by de Vareilles above, the wild plant seed assemblages would actually suggest that the site's much-evident cereals were actually grown on quite damp soils.

Despite what seems to have been a emphasis upon arable production, the settlement's inhabitants obviously practiced a mixed economy. In accordance with most of the area's Iron Age settlements, its faunal remains were dominated by sheep/ovicaprid (*c*. 54-56% generally, rising to *c*. 67% in the structures alone), with the occurrence of pig bone at 10.7% being moderately high. While the occurrence of both crane and swan within the main enclosure ditch reflects it adjacent wetland/floodplain conditions, when compared to the Upper Delphs HAD V settlement the absence of such wetland species as beaver is marked. Equally, that both deer and wild boar were found within

the same ditch deposits probably correlates with the pollen evidence and attests to a degree of local woodland. Of the site's economy, two other points warrant notice. First, is that while the representation of horse at *c.* 16% within the F.1 ditch is high, its overall site register was only 6%. The other point pertains to negative evidence and the fact that even though the bone assemblage from the samples' heavy residues were recorded (Table 25; there was also dry sieve-sampling of the site's main building-related deposits), only one fish bone was recovered. Clearly, despite living beside a river channel, fish were not a significant part of the diet (this apparently in contrast to *The Narrows*' Iron Age; Evans *et al*. forthcoming).

All be them relatively modest, mention must be made of the settlement's clear ritual practices. The recovery of occasional (-only) human bone – especially skulls – and near-complete juvenile sheep and lamb skeletons (disarticulated) deposited within roundhouse postholes (Structures 16 & 17, plus possibly No. 18) were common to the period's settlements at the Upper Delphs, Haddenham and Colne Fen (Evans & Hodder 2006, 246-7; Evans *et al.* in press), and suggests a common 'ritual language'.

Also possibly acting as a greater community 'signature' is the two-holed cattle rib length from F.364. This exactly matches with pieces found at Colne Fen (see Riddler in Evans *et al.* in press) and, also, further upstream on the Ouse at Little Paxton (Jones 2011). While maybe somehow relating to weaving or some manner of fitting, the other possibility is that these were strung and worn as neck-pendants. As such, they may well have served as markers of identity.

Turning now to issues of the Plant Site community's more distant contacts, the recovery of the extraordinarily decorated pot with alternating panels of La Tène and basket-weave decoration is a truly significant finding (Fig. 14); it is, effectively, *a pot like no other* known (such apparent uniqueness being something surprisingly rare given the pace/frequency of current development-led archaeology). Given that its basket-weave decoration would have parallels with styles of later Iron Age metalwork decoration, particularly the period's mirrors (see e.g. Joy 2010), it therefore raises the possibility that, rather than other La Tène style pots *per se* – such as the other vessel of that type recovered, but which had burnished lattice decoration – La Tène metalwork may have influenced its design. This in turn highlights that though the Lower Ouse Environs are not particularly renowned for its 'quality' metalwork of the period, some is known: the dagger chape from Over Site 5 (Evans 2002), as well as the decorated tankard handle and hoard of enamelled linch pins from Colne Fen (Rigby in Evans *et al.* in press).

Equally, considering issues of what external influence/connections the Plant Site settlement's community may have had, the scale of its quern assemblage – and, especially, its complete 'Hunsbury Type' rotary quern (Fig. 14) – denotes the importance of northwestern Midlands contacts. Not only was that the source-area of most of the site's quernstones (plus the region's iron), but also the core-area of the Scored Ware pottery-style shared by the site. Accordingly, this suggests a major axis of trade/influence and is a theme deserving of further exploration.

By way of any conclusion, while the 2012 Plant Site investigations were relatively small-scale, the results reflect upon a number of broader issues. Due largely to its superb buried soil (and plant remains) survival and multiple-level site-stripping procedures, these range from the nature of settlement sequences and building representation/register in terms of time/chronology – plus the 'trajectory' of allotment-to-enclosure – to the area's axes of outside influence and even the potential interrelationship of diverse material culture style-sources (pottery *vs*. metalwork). In short, this small site uniquely throws light on many of the period's 'big themes'.

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Appendix: Feature List

Feature	Context Nos.	Length	Width	Depth	Description	Phasing
1	1-5, 8, 12-15, 41-48, 80-87, 191-197, 250, 257-264, 207-219, 289-300, 303-308, 750-754		2.8-4	1.2-1.51	Main enclosure ditch	IV.2
2	6-7	0.91	0.99	0.12	Pit	V
3	9-11, 236-239		2.51	0.57	Ditch	V
4	16-19		1.22	0.48	Ditch	V
5	20-21	0.6	0.58	0.21	Pit	I
6	22-23	0.24	0.22	0.05	Posthole	
7	24-25	0.18	0.17	0.04	Posthole	
8	26-27	0.38	0.28	0.04	Pit/Posthole	
9	28-29, 240-241, 244-245		0.88	0.48	Ditch	II
10	30-32	1.2	0.97	0.38	Pit	I
11	33			N/A	Cow skeleton	IV
12	34-35		0.75-.82	0.45-.51	Ditch	II
13	69-70		1.35	0.22	Pit	III.1
14	71-73		0.45	0.1	Pit	III.2?
15	74-75		0.57	0.32	Pit	III.2?
16	76-79		1.45	0.5	Ditch (same as F.03)	V
17	88-89, 92-94, 97-104, 205-208		0.2-.54	0.16-.21	Small Enclosure (gully)	IV
18	90-91	0.58	0.55	0.3	Pit	IV
19	95-96		1.18	0.21	Pit	III/IV
20	105-106		0.36	0.18	Roundhouse gully (same as F.111)	IV.2
21	109-110	0.7	0.37	0.15	Irregular gully?	III/IV
22	111-112	0.4	0.37	0.21	Pit	
23	113-114	0.57	0.4	0.21	Pit	III/IV
24	115-119		1.5	0.5	Natural feature/erosion on edge of F.1	III/IV
25	126-127, 487-488		0.22-.4	0.12-.25	Roundhouse gully (same as F.70)	IV.2
26	128-130		0.4	0.56	Posthole	III/IV

27	131-132		0.2	0.16	Part of truncated roundhouse gully	III.2
28	175-179	0.76	0.72	0.3	Pit	III.2?
29	136-139, 159-162, 201-204, 230-231, 271-272, 309-311		1.8	0.16	Enclosure Bank (inner)	IV.2
30	133-135, 155-158, 198-200, 226-228, 273-274, 312-314		3	0.2	Enclosure bank (outer)	IV.2
31	140-142		0.4	0.12	Pit	
32	180-182	0.9	1.45	0.45	Tree throw	
33	183-186	0.8	0.78	0.22	Pit	III.2?
34	143-145		1.9	0.07	Remnant of Enclosure bank (outer) on east side	IV.2
35	146-148		1.9	1.12	Enclosure bank (outer)	IV.2
36	163-170		0.38-.7	0.03-.22	Roundhouse gully	III.2
37	171-172		0.24	0.03	Posthole	III.2?
38	173-174	0.38	0.21	0.23	Posthole	III.2?
39	187-188	1.03	0.7	0.07	Possible pit	
40	189-190	0.75	0.65	0.32	Irregular feature	
42	223-225	0.45	0.42	0.11	Pit	
43	242-263, 334-335		0.43-1.63	0.53-.69	Ditch	II
44	246-247		0.8	0.45	Ditch	II
45	248-249		0.3	0.2	Ditch/gully	III
46	251-252	0.98	0.54	0.14	Pit	
47	253-254	1.02	0.56	0.19	Pit	III/IV
48	255-256	0.82	0.64	0.21	Pit	
49	265-270, 275-288, 841-850		3.1-4	1.3-1.4	Ditch	IV.1
50	1231	1.1	1.1		Unexcavated pit on inner edge of F.1 (north-east slot)	III/IV
51	301-302	0.45	0.2	0.3	Truncated/eroded pit	
52	315-316		0.28	0.06	Gully	III
53	317-318		N/A	N/A	Ditch	
54	319-322		N/A	N/A	Roundhouse gully (same as F.111)	IV.2
55	323-328		3.15	0.9	Ditch	IV.1
56	330-333		2.75	0.9	Tree throw/natural slumping?	

57					Ditch to south of ditch F.3	
58					Isolated patch of outer bank deposit	
59	336-337	0.3	0.16	0.18	Posthole	
60	342-343, 424-425, 436-437, 468-469, 476-477, 503-504		0.17-.51	0.07-.22	Roundhouse gully	IV.2
61	338-339	0.3	0.21	0.12	Posthole	III.1
62	340-341	0.4	0.28	0.05	Posthole	III.1
63	344-345	0.91	0.31	0.18	Pit	
64	346-347		0.55	0.26	Roundhouse gully	III.2
65	348-349	0.35	0.28	0.32	Posthole	III.1
66	350-352	0.7	0.65	0.23	Pit	
67	583-584	0.84	0.82	0.33	Pit	III/IV
68	355-356	0.35	0.3	0.15	Posthole	III.1
69	357-359		0.43	0.05	Pit	
70	368-369, 456-457, 484-486, 496-499, 545-546		0.5-.7	0.19-.27	Roundhouse gully	IV.2
71	360-361	0.22	0.21	0.11	Posthole	III.1
72	362-363	0.24	0.2	0.07	Posthole	III.1
73	364-365	0.16	0.16	0.09	Posthole	III.1
74	366-367		0.19	0.27	Posthole	IV.2?
75	446-447, 462-463	1.3-1.6	1.5	0.25-.27	Hearth/pit	IV.2
76	370-371	0.6	0.49	0.11	Pit	III/IV
77	372-374	0.69	0.63	0.18	Pit	
78	380-382		0.24	0.15	Pit/Posthole	III.1
79	383-385		0.8	0.24	Pit	III.1
80	386-387		0.29	0.08	Roundhouse gully (same as F.60)	IV.2
81	388-389, 421-422	0.86-1.1	0.5-.85	0.13-.17	Ditch/gully	IV.1
82	390-191		0.3	0.12	Posthole	III.2
83	376-377		0.3	0.15	Posthole	IV.2?
84	378-379		0.15	0.15	Posthole	IV.2?
85	398-399	0.37	0.3	0.2	Posthole	IV.2?
86	400-401	0.27	0.22	0.2	Posthole	

87	394-395		0.2	0.12	Roundhouse gully	III.2
88	396-397		0.37	0.17	Posthole	IV.2?
89	402, 423	0.71	0.36	0.13	Pit	IV.2
90	403-404	1.62	0.49	0.17	Pit	III/IV
91	405-406	0.38	0.31	0.2	Pit	I
92	407-408, 438-439, 1009-1010, 1011-1012		0.47-.6	0.17-.2	Roundhouse gully (same as F.36)	III.2
93	440-441	0.56	0.3	0.01	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
94	411-412		0.72	0.18	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
95	444-445		0.44	0.36	Ditch/gully	IV.1
96	413-414		0.56	0.21	Roundhouse gully (same as F.64)	III.2
97	415-416		0.43	0.21	Posthole	IV.2?
98	450-451, 442-443, 448-449, 474-475		0.27-.7	0.08-.37	Roundhouse gully	III.2
99	428-429		0.63	0.32	Posthole	IV.2?
100	430-431	0.7	0.55	0.18	Posthole	IV.2?
101	432-433, 517-518		0.27-.4	0.12-.13	Gullly/ditch	III
102	434-435		0.28	0.07	Roundhouse gully	III.2
103	452-455, 604-607		0.41-2.3	0.18-.58	Ditch	III/IV
104	452-456	0.59	0.21	0.2	Pit	I
105	452-457	0.24	0.23	0.38	Stake hole?	
106	452-458	0.44	0.4	0.12	Pit/Posthole	III.1
107	452-459	0.6	0.4	0.08	Pit/Posthole	III.1
108	468-469		N/A	N/A	Roundhouse gully (same as F.60)	IV.2
110	472-473	0.2	0.19	0.12	Posthole	III/IV
111	478-481, 573-574, 599-600		0.4-.51	0.25-.4	Roundhouse gully	IV.2
112	491-492		0.01	0.04	Roundhouse gully?	III.2
113	493-495		0.78	0.32	Pit/Posthole	III.2
114	489-490	0.66	0.52	0.32	Pit/Posthole	IV.2
115	500-502, 521		0.85	0.45	Pit	IV.2
116	505-506	0.25	0.16	0.08	Posthole	
117	482-483		0.15	0.11	Posthole	

118	507-508		0.18	0.12	Posthole	
119	509-520	0.78	0.54	0.18	Pit/Posthole	IV.2
120	511-514	0.94	0.4	0.17	Pit	
121	515-516	0.23	0.21	N/A	Posthole	III.1
122	519-520		0.7	0.2	Ditch	II
123	523-524	0.36	0.34	0.13	Posthole	III.1
124			0.34	0.12	Pit	III/IV
125					Pit	
126	527-528	0.77	0.22	0.08	Gully	III.2
127	529-530	0.39	0.29	0.11	Posthole	III.1
128	531-532		0.13	0.05	Posthole	
129	533-534		0.15	0.05	Posthole	
130	535-536	1.2	1.1	0.2	Pit	
131	537-538		0.37	0.29	Posthole	
132	539-540	0.25	0.23	0.15	Posthole	
133	542-541	0.65	0.5	0.35	Posthole	IV.2?
134	543-544		0.55	0.05	Pit/Posthole	
135	547-548		0.57	0.29	Posthole	
136	549-550		1.1	0.1	Pit	
137	551-552	0.88	0.38	0.21	Pit/Posthole	IV.2
138	553-555	0.58	0.5	0.27	Pit	III/IV
139	556-560	0.75	0.5	0.3	Pit	M-LIA
140	561-562		0.35	0.1	Posthole	III.2
141	562-563		0.27	0.17	Posthole	III/IV
142	565-566	0.51	0.45	0.3	Posthole	III/IV
143	567-568		0.35	0.17	Posthole	
144	569-570		0.38	0.12	Posthole	
145	575-576		0.4	0.26	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
146	577-578		0.75	0.25	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
147	579-580		0.2	0.05	Roundhouse gully	IV.2?
148	581-582		N/A	N/A	Roundhouse gully	III/IV

149	585-586	0.33	0.29	0.25	Posthole	
150	587-589	0.6	0.55	0.23	Pit/Posthole	
151	590-591	0.35	0.21	0.14	Posthole	
152	1232-1233		0.45	0.1	Posthole	IV.2
153	653-654		0.25	0.05	Posthole	
154	655-656		0.3	0.12	Posthole	III.1
155	657-658		0.2	0.14	Posthole	III.1
156	594-595, 1074	1.57	1.56	0.63	Ditch	IV.2
157	592-593	0.3	0.3	0.05	Posthole	
159	596-598	0.7	0.7	0.27	Pit	
160	601-602	0.7	0.7	0.4	Pit	III/IV
161	608-609		0.99	0.27	Pit	
162	610-611		0.4	0.08	Posthole	
163	612-613		0.25	0.08	Posthole	
164	614-615		0.45	0.04	Posthole	
165	616-617		0.25	0.1	Posthole	
166	618-619		0.2	0.11	Posthole	
167	620-621		0.15	0.05	Posthole	
168	622-623		0.2	0.1	Posthole	
169	624-625		0.47	0.22	Pit	III/IV
170	626-627		0.82	0.35	Pit	
171	630-631		0.8	0.2	Pit	
172	632-633		0.58	0.22	Pit	
173	638-640		1.34	0.41	Pit	III/IV
174	641-642		0.4	0.43	Pit/Posthole	IV.2
175	643-644	1.02	1.3	0.31	Pit	III/IV
176	645-646		0.2	0.09	Irregular linear gully?	
177	647-648	0.8	0.5	0.16	Pit	
178	649-650	0.19	0.2	0.08	Pit/Posthole	
179	651-652	0.25	0.24	0.08	Pit/Posthole	
180	700-701				Posthole	IV.2?

181	659-660		0.2	0.05	Posthole	
182	661-662		0.35	0.1	Posthole	
183	663-664		0.3	0.16	Posthole	III.1
184	665-666		0.4	0.1	Posthole	
185	667-668		0.1	0.05	Posthole	
186	669-670		0.25	0.15	Posthole	III.1
187	671-672		0.4	0.15	Posthole	III.1
188	673-674		0.47	0.22	Ditch (same as F.328)	II
189	675-676		0.1	0.04	Posthole	III.1
190	677-678		0.25	0.1	Posthole	III.1
191	679-680		0.3	0.3	Posthole	III.1
192	681-682		0.35	0.15	Posthole	
193	683-684		0.45	0.08	Posthole	III.1
194	685-686		0.45	0.22	Posthole	III.1
195	687-688		0.15	0.05	Posthole	III.1
196	689-690		0.35	0.25	Posthole	III.1
197	691-692		0.1	0.2	Posthole	III.1
198	696-697		0.66	0.12	Pit/Posthole	III.1
199	693-695		0.72	0.25	Pit	III.1
200	698-699	2	0.5	0.2	Tree throw	
201	702-703		0.2	0.3	Posthole	
202	704-705	1.1	0.55	0.28	Irregular gully?	III/IV
203	706-707	1.9	0.23	0.12	Irregular gully?	
204	708-709	2.5	0.25	0.11	Irregular gully?	
205	710-711		0.45	0.28	Pit/Posthole	III.1
206	712-713, 725-727		1.1	0.68	Pit	III/IV
207	719-720		0.75	0.33	Ditch (same as F.122)	II
208	721-722	0.5	0.48	0.15	Pit	
209	723-724	0.53	0.39	0.11	Pit	
210	734-737	0.65	0.6	0.15	Pit	III/IV
211	728-731		0.23-.25	0.06-.08	Curvilinear gully	

212	732-733	0.45	0.42	0.09	Pit	
213	738-739		0.1	0.05	Posthole	
214	742-743		0.46	0.22	Pit/Posthole	
215	744-745		0.43	0.4	Ditch/gully	
216	746-747		1.06	0.48	Ditch/gully	
217	748-749		0.4	0.08	Roundhouse gully (same as F.98)	III.2
218	755-759		2.1	min 0.7	Ditch	IV.1
219	760-761		1.37	min 0.56	Pit	
220	762-763		2.05	0.35	Pit	III
221	764-765	0.26	0.28	0.08	Posthole	IV.1?
222	766-767	0.2	0.21	0.06	Pit/Posthole	IV.1?
223	768-769	0.25	0.24	0.07	Pit/Posthole	IV.1?
224	770-771	0.31	0.29	0.08	Pit/posthole	IV.1?
225	793-795		0.86	0.35	Pit	IV.1?
226	774-775	0.24	0.23	0.08	Posthole	IV.1?
227	776-778	0.43	0.41	0.18	Pit	IV.1?
228	779-780	0.24	0.23	0.11	Posthole	IV.1?
229	781-782	0.19	0.2	0.12	Posthole	IV.1?
230	783-784	0.51	0.5	0.46	Posthole	IV.1
231	789-792		1.14	0.35	Pit	III/IV
232	802-803	0.37	0.35	0.36	Posthole	IV.1
233	785-786	0.28	0.26	0.07	Posthole	IV.1?
234	787-788	0.38	0.37	0.14	Posthole	III.2
235	772-773		0.42	0.12	Pit/Posthole	IV.1?
236	800-801		0.52	0.14	Pit	III/IV
237	826-829		1.9	0.94	Pit	III
238	804-805, 831-832		0.78	0.29	Pit/Posthole	IV.2
239	806-807		0.29	0.09	Posthole	
240	808-809		0.23	0.05	Roundhouse gully	
241	810-811		0.57	0.08	Pit/Posthole	
242	812-813		0.22	0.08	Posthole	

243	814-815		0.53	0.35	Posthole	
244	816-817		0.5	0.2	Gully	
245	818-819		0.5	0.18	Gully	III/IV.1
246	820-821		0.64	0.15	Gully	
247	822-823		0.28	0.11	Posthole	
248	824-825		0.25	0.1	Posthole	
249	832-833		1.1	0.14	Pit	III
250	835-837		0.6	0.17	Pit	III/IV
251	838-839		2.04	0.16	Pit?	
252	852-856		1.7	0.82	Ditch	IV.1
253	857-858		0.43	0.24	Ditch	IV.1
254	863-864		0.2	0.05	Gully	III.2
255	867-868		0.79	0.64	Pit	III/IV
256	869-870		0.53	0.13	Ditch/gully	III
257	877-879		0.6	0.33	Ditch	III/IV
258	875-876		0.28	0.08	Posthole	III/IV
259	880-882		0.35	0.22	Gully	
260	883-884		0.33	0.07	Roundhouse gully	III.2
261	885-887		0.6	0.26	Pit	III/IV
262	888-889		0.54	0.32	Pit	
263	890-891		0.46	0.25	Pit	
264	892-893		0.7	0.2	Pit	
265	894-895		0.95	0.28	Pit	
266	896-897		0.52	0.24	Pit	
267	898-899		0.21	0.16	Gully	
268	913-914		0.93	0.14	Pit	
269	900-901		1.5	0.44	Pit	
270	902-903	0.29	0.27	0.14	Posthole	
271	904-905		0.45	0.12	Pit/Posthole	
272	906-907	0.26	0.25	0.11	Posthole	
273	908-910		0.79	0.31	Pit/Posthole	III/IV

274	915-916	0.28	0.26	0.12	Pit	
275	921-922	0.34	0.31	0.08	Posthole	
276	923-924	0.33	0.32	0.16	Posthole	
277	927-929		0.59	0.19	Pit	III/IV
278	930-931	0.24	0.22	0.33	Posthole	
279	932-933	0.3	0.3	0.1	Posthole	
280	934-935		0.24	0.13	Gully	
281	936-937		0.67	0.32	Gully	
282	938-939		0.46	0.26	Roundhouse gully?	III.2
283	940-941, 994-995		0.2-.9	0.28-.35	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
284	954-958		1.4	0.52	Pit	IV.1?
285	952-953		0.85	0.18	Pit	IV.1?
286	942-948		1.15	0.52	Pit	IV.1?
287	949-951		0.9	0.54	Pit	IV.1?
288	959-961		0.9	0.22	Pit	
289	966-967		0.3	0.3	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
290	964-965, 978-979		0.27-.3	0.07-.13	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
291	984-985		0.55	0.3	Gully/ditch	
292	982-983		0.4	0.14	Gully/ditch	
293	976-977		0.32	0.05	Roundhouse gully	
294	962-963		0.58	0.28	Pit	
295	968-969		0.6	0.1	Pit	
296	970-971		1.05	0.28	Roundhouse gully	
297	972-973		0.85	0.45	Pit	
298	974-975		0.94	0.39	Pit	
299	996-997		0.18	0.17	Roundhouse gully?	
300	998-300		0.88	0.39	Ditch/gully	IV.1
301	1001-1003		0.89	0.29	Pit	
302	1004-1006		0.5	0.22	Pit/Posthole	III.2
303	1007-1008		2.46	0.55	Pit	III
304	1013-1014		0.19	0.03	Posthole	III.2
305	1015-1016	0.4	0.16	0.35	Pit	

306	1017-1018	0.45	0.3	0.3	Pit/Posthole	III.2?
307	1019-1020	0.35	0.17	0.15	Pit/Posthole	III.2?
308	1021-1022	0.37	0.21	0.15	Pit/Posthole	III.2?
309	1037-1038		0.55	0.18	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
310	1033-1034		0.4	0.17	Pit/Posthole	
311	1039-1040		0.62	0.11	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
312	1035-1036		0.64	0.12	Pit/Posthole	
313	1041-1042		0.5	0.1	Pit/Posthole	
314	1059-1061		0.8	0.24	Pit	IV.2?
315	1070-1071		1.5	0.31	Pit	III/IV
316	1045-1046		0.29	0.04	Pit/Posthole	
317	1031-1032		0.45	0.15	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
318	1047-1048		0.38	0.07	Pit/Posthole	
319	1053-1054		0.75	0.21	Pit	IV.2?
320	1055-1056		0.71	0.19	Pit	IV.2?
321	1043-1044		0.43	0.12	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
322	1057-1058		0.34	0.13	Pit/Posthole	IV.2?
323	1072-1073		0.23	0.21	Posthole	
324	1062-1063		0.5	0.23	Pit/Posthole	
325	1064-1065		0.46	0.34	Pit/Posthole	
326	1068-1069		0.26	0.15	Posthole	
328	1029-1030, 1049-1050		0.57	0.18	Ditch	II
329	1065-1066		0.6	0.32	Ditch	II
330	1051-1052		0.19	0.06	Posthole	IV.2?
331	1066-1067		0.31	0.2	Posthole	IV.2?
332	1075-1076	0.4	0.3	0.25	Pit/Posthole	
333	1077-1078		0.5	0.2	Pit/Posthole	
334	1082-1083		0.48	0.31	Pit	
335	1084-1085		0.4	0.07	Pit	
336	1086-1087		0.61	0.1	Pit	
337	1088-1089		0.48	0.12	Pit	

338	1090-1091		0.45	0.26	Pit	IV.1?
339	1092-1093		0.43	0.09	Pit	
340	1094-1097				Roundhouse gully?	III.2
341	1101-1102		0.68	0.08	Pit	
342	1103-1105	2	1.5	0.3	Pit	I
343	1106-1108		0.76	0.19	Pit	
344	1109-1110		0.5	0.28	Pit	
345	1111-1112		0.35	0.3	Gully/ditch	
346	1113-1114		0.47	0.18	Gully/ditch	
347	1115-1116		0.52	0.14	Gully	III.2
348	1117-1119		0.9	0.29	Pit	
349	1120-1121			0.35	Ditch/gully	
350	1122-1124		0.78	0.12	Pit	III/IV
351	1125-1126		0.48	0.13	Pit	
352	1129-1130		1.05 min	0.41 min	Ditch	IV.1
353	1132-1133		0.65	0.1	Pit	
354	1139-1140, 1161-1164, 1167-1172		0.41-1.05	0.11-.38	Roundhouse gully	III.2
355	1144-1145		0.4	0.06	Pit/Posthole	III.2
356	1145-1146		0.32	0.15	Pit/Posthole	III.2?
357	1148-1149		0.46	0.23	Pit/Posthole	III.2
358	1150-1151		0.7	0.08	Pit	III.2?
359	1152-1153		0.86	0.05	Pit	III.2?
360	1154-1155, 1160		0.54	0.06	Pit	III.2?
361	1156-1157		1.48	0.12	Hearth base	III.2?
362	1158-1159		0.4	0.14	Pit/ Posthole	III.2?
363	1195-1198		1.32	0.2	Pit	IV.1?
364	1190-1194		1.59	0.57	Pit	IV.1?
365	1173-1174		0.44	0.15	Pit	III.2?
366	1175-1176		0.54	0.12	Pit	III.2?
367	1177-1178		0.7	0.23	Pit	III.2?
368	1179-1180		0.46	0.22	Pit/Posthole	

369	1181-1182		0.33	0.13	Pit/Posthole	
370	1183-1186		1.03	0.32	Pit	III.2?
381	1199-1200		0.98	0.32	Ditch (same as F.43)	II
382	1202-1205		0.55	0.34	Pit	IV.1?
383	1206-1207		0.22	0.11	Gully	III.2
384	1208-1209		0.2	0.9	Gully	III.2
385	1210-1211		0.2	0.02	Gully	
386					Pit?	III.2
387	1214-1216		1.06	0.29	Pit	IV.1?
388	1217-1220		1.7	0.42	Pit	III/IV
389	1221-1220		0.52	0.22	Pit	IV.1?
390	1223-1224		0.5	0.16	Pit	IV.1?
391	392-393, 426-427		0.35-.38	0.15-.2	Roundhouse gully	IV.1
392	409-410		0.14	0.27	Posthole	IV.2?
393	419-420	0.9	0.75	0.29	Posthole	IV.2?

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-130858

Project details

Project name	Barleycorft Farm, Plant Site
Short description of the project	An excavation undertaken in order to provide additional space for gravel storage at Hanson's Needingworth Quarry Plant Site revealed the remains of a Middle-later Iron Age enclosed settlement. The site had previously been preserved in situ following identication by trial trench evaluation in 1995. Relatively deep deposits of alluvial overburden afforded the survival of buried soils and upstanding banks either side of the enclosure ditch and the settlement on the whole was very well preserved. A total of 19 Iron Age structures - largely roundhouses - which probably spanned up to 400 years of settlement were recorded alongside features including pits, postholes and in situ hearth features. Evidence of pre-Iron Age occupation of the site comprised three Neolithic pits and two Early Bronze Age pits as well as the remains of a pre-settlement field system, which is thought to date to the MIddle or Late Bronze Age.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2012 End: 18-05-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BAR95 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	BAR12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3818 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	PIT Late Neolithic
Monument type	ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT Iron Age

Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Iron Age
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Iron Age
Significant Finds	QUERNSTONE Iron Age
Significant Finds	WORKED BONE Iron Age
Significant Finds	BROOCH? Iron Age
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Investigation type	""Full excavation""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BLUNTISHAM Needingworth Quarry
Postcode	PE17 3RJ
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3636 7262 52 0 52 20 03 N 000 00 05 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.00m Max: 2.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Christopher Evans
Project director/ manager	Christopher Evans
Project supervisor	Jonathan Tabor
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Hanson Aggregates

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	BAR12

Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	BAR12
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Survey","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	BAR12
Paper Contents	"Worked stone/lithics","Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Survey","Worked bone"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Excavations at Barleycroft Farm, Plant Site 2012
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Evans, C. and Tabor, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 1104
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