

Land West of Fenland Way Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation.



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LAND WEST OF FENLAND WAY, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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Summary

A trial trench based archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 3881 8649) in June/July 2012. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises c. 8 ha either side of Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain to the north of Honeysome Industrial Estate.

A total of 30 archaeological features were recorded and while the majority of features were either undated or relate to post-medieval agriculture, a group of features in the east of the PDA represent a clear zone of Iron Age and Roman activity. The features, largely ditches and gullies are potentially settlement related however the low quantities of pottery and animal bone recovered suggest the site probably lay on the periphery of the main settlement foci. The remains appear to be confined to the east of the site, however, two undated ditches in the west of the site could potentially also be later prehistoric.

INTRODUCTION

A trial trench based archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 3881 8649) in June/July 2012. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises *c.* 8 ha either side of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* to the north of Honeysome Industrial Estate.

The project was undertaken in order to address a condition placed upon planning consent for the construction of a foodstore and builder's merchants at the site. Work was carried out in accordance with a project design specification (Beadsmoore 2012) produced by the CAU in response to a brief issued by Dan McConnell of the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

The work was commissioned by Liz Dent of Icis Consulting.

Location, Topography and Geology

The PDA is located immediately to the west of Fenland Way (the A141) and less than 500m to the west of Chatteris town centre (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the south by Honeysome Industrial Estate, and by open fields to the north and west. The site is bisected by a large dyke known as *Fenton Lode* or the *Twenty Foot Drain*. At the time of evaluation land to the east of the drain was rough pasture, while to the west the PDA comprised agricultural fields left fallow.

The PDA is situated at approximately 2m AOD and on the whole flat although major earthworks resulting from the excavation, re-routing and cleaning of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* occur along its route. The underlying geology comprises Ampthill Clay.

Archaeological Background

The PDA lies within the East Anglian Fenland, the largest area of former coastal wetland in Britain (Waller 1994) and a rich archaeological landscape. Chatteris is essentially an island of higher ground within this area of former fen and has consequently been a focus for settlement throughout much of history and prehistory; particularly notable are the Iron Age and Roman remains in the east and north-east of the 'island'.

Prehistoric

Evidence of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity within 1km of the PDA is relatively limited although a flint scatter is recorded to the west and two stone axes have been found in Chatteris itself. In addition, pits containing Beaker and Collared Urn pottery, dating to the Early Bronze Age, were revealed during excavations to the south of New Road, Chatteris (Cooper 2004). More extensive Neolithic and Bronze

Age sites, including artefact scatters and barrows have been identified by the Fenland Project along the southern edge of Chatteris 'island' c. 3-4km to the south of the PDA (Hall 1992).

Evidence of later prehistoric activity is abundant both within the immediate area and across the wider area of Chatteris 'island'. Approximately 500m to the east of the PDA, at New Road, an archaeological evaluation identified three Iron Age burials and the remains of a post-built structure as well as ditches and pits (Thatcher 2006), while immediately to the south of this, further remains were recorded to the north of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in 2001 (Cooper 2004). Here, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features were recorded alongside Late Iron Age/Roman ditches, pits and postholes (*ibid.*).

Further afield evidence of more extensive Iron Age sites has been recorded by the Fenland Project in the east and north-east of Chatteris 'island' including six occupation sites and two cropmark complexes (Hall 1992). Of these, the site at Langwood, which has subsequently been sample excavated by the CAU, is one the largest later prehistoric 'open settlement' scatters recorded in Britain and extends over c. 10 ha (Evans 2003). Occupation remains dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age through to the Roman period are associated with significant quantities of artefacts including pottery and metalwork and clearly represent a major settlement complex.

Roman

In addition to the Roman remains recorded to the north of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (Cooper 2004), Roman finds in the near vicinity comprise a Roman coin found to the north of New Road and a series of Roman quarry pits recorded during archaeological evaluation at Womb Farm, immediately to the north of the PDA (Collins 2009). The quarry pits at Womb Farm yielded 54 sherds of Roman pottery and are potentially indicative of nearby settlement (*ibid.*).

As in the Iron Age, major settlement during the Roman period appears to have been concentrated in the east and north-east of Chatteris, where settlements at Honey Hill and Langwood continued well into the Roman period. At Langwood large quantities of artefacts as well as the remains of a stone building have been recorded (Evans 2003), while at Honey Hill occupation debris, as well as paddock boundaries and a possible temple site, have been identified by the Fenland Project (Hill 1992).

Medieval – present

Evidence of Saxon activity in the area is limited although post-built structures and pits dating to this period were recorded during the excavations to the north of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (Cooper 2004). Chatteris is recorded in the *Domesday Survey* as comprising two main manors; prior to the dissolution one belonged to Ramsey and the other to Ely and subsequently Chatteris Abbey. The abbey, established in c. 980 AD, is thought to have stood in Park Street where architectural stone fragments have been found. The parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul was largely rebuilt in the 19th

century but dates from the 12th century and retains some 14th century elements. No major settlement evidence has been recorded in the town although medieval deposits and features have been recorded during groundworks at a number of sites.

In terms of the PDA itself, during the medieval period – and probably also during the preceding Roman period – peat fen is thought to have encroached as far as the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* effectively ‘submerging’ the western half of the site. *Fenton Lode* is recorded as *lode de Fenton* as far back as 1285 and would have served as a key transport and communications link with March to the north during the medieval period (Hall 1992).

Since the draining of the fens in the post-medieval period the PDA appears to have been agricultural land, although extensive gravel quarrying is recorded at Womb Farm to the north (Collins 2009). Immediately to the east of the site, Fenland Way (the A141) was previously a section of the Cambridge to March railway line completed in 1848. Nineteenth century maps show the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* largely as it is today although in the late 20th century it was diverted to the north-west to follow its present course. A range of buildings is also shown in the north-east of the PDA as well as a small structure/enclosure labelled as a *Pound*.

Methodology

The trial trenching programme comprised 25 trenches, a total of 1070m of trenching (Figure 2). Trenches were generally located in order to provide an even coverage of the PDA although trench locations were partially determined/limited by the location of the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*. In the east of the site, trench location was also limited by the presence of overhead power lines and existing fence lines and tracks.

Trial trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and operating under direct archaeological supervision at all times. Trenches were located using an advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights obtained. Potential archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and subsequently sample excavated with all archaeological finds retained. A written record of archaeological features was created using the CAU recording system (a modification of the MoLAS system) and sections drawn at an appropriate scale.

The work was carried out in full accordance with the IFA’s *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

RESULTS

For the purposes of this assessment the PDA has been divided into two areas, A and B to the west and east of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* respectively (see Figure 2). Fifteen trenches were located in Area A and ten in Area B.

Trial trenches revealed a clayey top soil and subsoil (maximum depth 0.6m) directly overlying natural subsoil over the majority of the site although in the north of Area B,

much of the ‘topsoil’ was made up of dumps of 20th century rubbish. The natural subsoil comprised a mixed grey/brown clay over all of Area B and the eastern half of Area A although in the western half of Area A it changed markedly to a sandy gravel.

Of the 25 trenches (detailed in Appendix 1) twelve revealed archaeological features.

Area A

A total of eight features – as well as frequent shallow ‘cultivation features’ - were recorded in Area A. The majority were post-medieval in date and associated with agriculture.

Post-medieval features

Trench 21, in the north of Area A contained two post-medieval ditches (**F.22/23** and **F.24**). Both are considered to have been former boundary ditches; F.22/23 corresponds closely to a boundary marked on early Ordnance Survey maps while F.24 was aligned parallel to the present day boundaries.

A series of shallow linear trenches occurring across Area A (not recorded in detail) provide further evidence of agriculture. Running parallel to the present day field boundaries and containing artefacts such as clay pipe fragments and post-medieval pottery, these features can be firmly dated to the post-medieval period and are thought to represent trenches dug in order to incorporate subsoil and improve the structure of the topsoil (see also Collins 2012).

A group of features in Trench 12 are harder to put into context although all were certainly post-medieval or modern. The feature group comprised a brick wall foundation (**F.29**), a probable ‘soakaway’ pit (**F.30**) and a modern trench and are potentially related to a former structure in this area possibly associated with *Orchard House* (formerly *Gault Farm*) to the south. No structures in this area are marked on historic maps however and the exact nature/function of these features remains unknown.

Undated features

A number of features in Area B remain undated. In Trench 22, an isolated pit (**F.21**), which yielded no finds or evidence of function, was recorded while to the south in Trenches 14 and 20, two ditches, which are potentially of more significance, were encountered. The ditches (**F.19** and **F.20**) were aligned east to west and east-north-east to west-south-west respectively. Both ditches were located on gravel subsoil and did not appear to extend on to the heavy clay subsoil to the east, in fact the eastern terminus of ditch F.19 was recorded within Trench 14. Neither ditch contained finds and the processing of environmental bulk samples from each also failed to yield any significant results or evidence of date/function (see de Vareilles, below).

Area B

A total of 22 archaeological features were recorded in Area B. Once again a number of the features were of post-medieval/modern date, however, a group of features in Trenches 5 and 6 represent a clear zone of Iron Age and Roman activity (Figure 3).

Iron Age features

F.07 in the north of Trench 6 yielded 20 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery/briquetage and two fragments of burnt clay. The edges of the feature were poorly defined but the feature appeared to be linear in form (aligned east-west) and *c.* 0.45m wide and by 0.3m deep with a rounded profile. Just to the south of F.07, ditch **F.01**, aligned south-east to north-west, contained five sherds of Iron Age pottery/briquetage. The ditch was 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill.

Roman features

Trench 5

A north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**F.14**) was located in Trench 5. The ditch (width: 1.1m, depth: 0.42m) produced a small finds assemblage comprising animal bone, a fragment of possible briquetage and four sherds of Roman pottery including a fragment from a Nene Valley greyware bowl (see Anderson, below). To the north, an undated ditch (**F.18**) was aligned parallel to F.14 and appears likely to be contemporary, as does gully **F.17** which was positioned perpendicular to both.

Trench 6

To the south of Middle Iron Age ditch F.01, two gullies (**F.02** and **F.04**) appeared to form two sides of a small enclosure. Gully F.02 (width: 0.25m, depth: 0.15m) contained frequent fragments of possible briquetage as well as two fragments of probable *imbrex* tile and was aligned north-east to south-west. To the north, gully F.04 (not excavated) was positioned at a right angle to F.02 and appeared to truncate ditch F.01.

Finally, a possible ditch or pit, **F.03** (width: 2.4m, depth: 0.5m) produced fragments of possible briquetage and burnt clay, and two undated gullies (**F.05** and **F.06**) also appear likely to be associated to be Roman in origin.

Post-medieval/modern features

A concentration of post-medieval/modern features was located in the far north of Area B. The excavation of Trench 1 revealed that this area of site has been relatively recently used to dump not only clay/silt 'cleaned out' from the adjacent *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*, but also large amounts of general refuse, much of which clearly dated to the second half of the 20th century. Sealed beneath these dumped

deposits two parallel brick wall foundations (**F.25** and **F.26**) were recorded, which correspond to the *Pound* depicted on early Ordnance Survey Maps and clearly date to the 19th century.

Dumping of general refuse in the 20th century was also recorded in Trench 2, to the east of Trench 1. Much of this dumped material was found to infill a large pit (**F.28**), a minimum of 1.35m deep, which was at least 40m in length and extended to the south of Trench 2. No trace of the buildings marked on early Ordnance survey maps in this area were encountered presumably having been truncated by the modern pit.

Undated Features

In Trenches 3 and 4 a series of shallow amorphous pits/hollows were revealed (six of which were sample excavated (**Fs. 9-13** and **F.15**). None of the features were revealed in their entirety although all were found to be less than 0.3m in depth. All had largely sterile fills and produced no finds except for the occasional very small fragment of brick/tile.

One further undated feature was recorded, an isolated posthole (**F.08**) in Trench 9.

DISCUSSION

The majority of the features in Area A clearly relate to post-medieval agriculture although the two undated ditches (F.19 and F.20) are worthy of further discussion. Confined to the western part of the site where the underlying geology is sandy gravel rather than clay, the ditches potentially represent part of a 'fen edge' field system and could be later prehistoric or Roman in date (although the latter is less likely given that the peat fen is thought to have extended further 'inland' by this period).

In Area B, the cluster of Middle Iron Age and Roman features in Trenches 5 and 6 are clearly of more significance. Middle Iron Age F.07 was poorly defined but appears likely to be a ditch, potentially part of a field system, or perhaps an enclosure/paddock. Ditch F.01, which contained Iron Age pottery/briquetage may also belong to a Middle Iron Age phase although there is a possibility that the finds are residual, especially given that the alignment of the ditch appears to follow that of the later Roman features. The other ditches and gullies in Trenches 5 and 6 are all likely to be Roman and appear to represent a sequence of enclosures/boundaries and associated features. While the presence of a probable *imbrex* tile suggests a building may have been located in the vicinity, the quantities of pottery and animal bone recovered are small and the site seems likely to be peripheral to a main settlement foci. The assemblage of possible briquetage recovered from Iron Age and Roman features is interesting, however, the Roman saltern industry is not generally considered to have extended this far inland (see Hall 1992). Furthermore paleoenvironmental evidence indicates that marine conditions did not extend this far south during the Iron Age and Roman period (Waller 1994). This suggests that the briquetage may well represent the remains of containers in which salt was transported, having arrived on site from elsewhere, rather than evidence of on-site salt production.

The extent of the remains within the PDA appears to be limited; evidently they do not extend to the south where Trenches 7-10 contained no archaeological features except for an isolated posthole (F.08) and to the west the settlement clearly does not extend beyond the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*. To the north, the undated shallow pits recorded in Trenches 3 and 4, may well be contemporary with the Iron Age/Roman remains although their function remains unclear being rather too shallow to be comfortably interpreted as quarry pits. Regardless, the main concentration of Iron Age/Roman features does not appear to extend this far and certainly to the north of Trench 3 any remains would have been truncated by post-medieval activity. It seems likely, therefore, that the remains probably lie on the edge of a settlement extending 'inland' to the east and potentially even 'linking up' with the broadly contemporary settlement remains recorded at New Road c. 500m to the east (Cooper 2004, Thatcher 2006).

In terms of the context of the Middle Iron Age and Roman settlement remains their presence at Fenland Way is in many ways unsurprising. The sites recently excavated to the east, in Chatteris itself, as well as the Roman pottery recovered from Womb Farm (indicating Roman occupation nearby) suggests that Roman and potentially Middle Iron Age settlement may have been relatively extensive across the area around Chatteris. Although clearly not on the scale of the major settlements at Honey Hill and Langwood in the east and north-east of Chatteris, the west of the 'island' would nevertheless appear to have been widely settled.

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

Although much of the PDA was found to contain no archaeology save for post-medieval features, a clear zone of Iron Age and Roman activity was identified in the east of the PDA and the potential for further remains at the site is relatively high. Having said that, the small quantities of pottery and animal bone recovered suggest the site was located away from the main settlement foci, which was almost certainly located to the east. The possible briquetage recovered suggests links to a salt production site nearby, but it is highly unlikely that salt production was taking place at the site itself. The remains appear to be confined to the east of the site, however, two undated ditches in the west of the site could potentially also be later prehistoric.

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The work was commissioned by Liz Dent of Icis Consulting. Dan McConnell of CHET monitored the project. The trial trenching programme was directed by Jonathan Tabor and Leanne Zeki who were assisted on site by Lizzie Middleton, Chris Wakefield and Matt Wood. Donald Horne was responsible for field survey and report graphics were produced by Bryan Crossan. The project was managed by Emma Beadsmoore.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

Iron Age pottery – Matt Brudenell

A total of 26 sherds of possible Iron Age pottery/briquetage were recovered from the excavation, weighing 137g. The sherds were in light corky fabrics containing a combination of shell and/or chopped vegetable matter. No diagnostic feature sherds were identified, though the character of the fabrics suggests some material in SVE1 wares may be briquetage. The pottery was recovered from three features: F.1 (five sherds, 49g); F.7 (20 sherds, 85g) and F.14 (one sherd, 3g). Dating is problematic, but it seems likely that this material belongs to the Middle/late Iron Age, c. 350-AD 50.

Fabrics series and quantification

VEQ1: Moderate to common linear voids from burnt out vegetable matter and quartz sand. Three sherds, 35g

SVE1: Moderate medium to coarse shell (mainly 1-3mm), and moderate linear voids from burnt out vegetable matter. 22 sherds, 90g

Q1: Sparse sand, powdery texture. One sherds, 12g

Roman pottery and brick/tile – Katie Anderson

Four sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 138g were recovered from a single ditch on the site (F. 14). This comprised a Nene Valley greyware beaded bowl (123g) with tooled lattice decoration on the exterior; a technique attempting to imitate the Blackburnish ware type decoration. This vessel dates to AD150-300. Two whiteware body sherds (AD150-400) were also recovered, along with a fine sandy greyware beaded rim sherd (AD50-400). The size of the assemblage suggests that this site was not a focus of settlement activity during the Roman period.

Two fragments (183g) of probable *imbrex* tile were recovered from gully F.02.

Finally, additional ceramic material recovered from Roman and Iron Age features, much of which is possibly briquetage is detailed in Table 1.

Feature	Context	Qty.	Wt(g)	Material
2	3	10	165	Briquetage?
3		3	22	Briquetage?
3	5	1	4	Burnt clay
5	1	2	54	Briquetage?
7	9	2	37	Briquetage?
14	16	1	15	Briquetage?

Table 1: Additional ceramic material from Iron Age/Roman features

Faunal remains - Vida Rajkovača

The animal bone assemblage comprised two specimens (15g) recovered from two contexts within Roman ditch F.14. A sheep/goat metatarsus was recovered from fill [15] and an unidentifiable cattle-sized fragment came from fill [16].

Bulk environmental samples – Anne de Vareilles

Methodology

Twenty four litres of soil from features F.19 [31] and F.20 [33] 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. The >4mm fractions of the heavy residues were sorted by eye by J.Hutton; the occasional finds recovered have been added to Table 2. Sorting of the flots and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification) by the author. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, university of Cambridge. Floral nomenclature follows Stace (1997). All environmental remains are listed in Table 2.

Preservation and Results

All plant remains recovered are charred. Practically no charcoal was retrieved, along with no cereal grains and only five wild plant seeds, all from F.20. The samples contain no evidence for the cultivation and use of cereals or other cultivars. There is insufficient material for AMS dating.

Sample number	1	2
Context	31	33
Feature	19	20
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date	Prehistoric?	
Sample volume - litres	15	9
Charcoal volume - millilitres, estimates	<1	<1
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)		-
medium charcoal (2-4mm)		
small charcoal (<2mm)	+	++
Non Cereal seeds		
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	Goosefoots	2
cf. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	possible Stinking Chamomile	1
Indet. Seed		2
Finds from >4mm heavy residues		
Baked clay		
Modern rootlets	P	P

Table 2: Charred Plant Macro Remains and other Finds from the Bulk Soil Samples Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 items. P = present.

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APPENDIX 1

Trench descriptions

Trench 1							
General Description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained only modern features; a ditch and the remains of two brick walls. Natural subsoil exposed comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay, overlying this a mixed deposit largely comprised modern refuse from 20 th century tipping.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.47
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.98
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
25	Brick wall foundation	-	-	0.5	-	-	Post-med/modern
26	Brick wall foundation	-	-	0.8	-	-	Post-med/modern
27	Ditch/gully	-	-	0.35	-	-	Post-med/modern

Trench 2							
General Description					Orientation		NE-SW
The trench exposed a large modern pit containing quantities of modern rubbish, which covered the majority of the trench. The small amount of natural subsoil exposed at the north-eastern end of the trench comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.38
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.51
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
28	Pit	-	-	>2m	-	Modern glass, pottery and general refuse	Modern

Trench 3							
General Description				Orientation		N-S	
Trench exposed a series of 11 shallow pits/hollows all less than 0.15m in depth and containing sterile fills. Five were sample excavated, all remain undated although small fragments of possible CBM noted within the fills suggest they were probably post-medieval. The exposed natural subsoil comprised mixed light grey/brown clay.				Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.15	
				Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.45	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		52	
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
9	Pit/hollow	56	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		57	Cut	3.15	0.1	-	
10	Pit/hollow	12	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		13	Cut	2	0.2	-	
11	Pit/hollow	58	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		59	Cut	2.1	0.1	-	
12	Pit/hollow	60	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		61	Cut	>3	0.15	-	
13	Pit/hollow	62	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		63	Cut	2.6	0.1	-	

Trench 4							
General Description				Orientation		E-W	
Trench exposed a shallow pit/hollow – very similar to those exposed in Trench 3 – and a modern pit, which remained unexcavated. The natural subsoil exposed comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.				Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.2	
				Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.45	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		24	
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
15	Pit/hollow	19	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		20	Cut	0.26	0.3	-	
16	Pit	-	-	-	-	-	Post-med/modern
		-	-	>4.3	-	Pot	

Trench 5							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.2
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
14	Ditch	15	Fill	-	-	Pot, bone, iron obj.	Roman
		16	Fill	-	-	Bone, tile	
		17	Fill	-	-	-	
		18	Cut	1.1	0.42	-	
17	Gully	25	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		25	Cut	0.25	0.08	-	
18	Gully	26	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		27	Cut	0.25	0.1	-	

Trench 6							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.4
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.6
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		38
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
1	Ditch	1	Fill	-	-	Pot	Iron Age?
		2	Cut	0.65	0.25	-	
2	Gully	3	Fill	-	-	Pot	Roman?
		4	Cut	0.25	0.15	-	
3	Ditch/pit?	5	Fill	-	-	Pot	Roman?
		6	Cut	2.4	0.5	-	
4	Gully	-	-	-	-	-	Unexc. Roman?
5	Gully	-	-	-	-	-	Unexc. Roman?
6	Gully	7	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		8	Cut	0.25	0.15	-	
7	Ditch	9	Fill	-	-	Pot	Iron Age
		10	Cut	0.45	0.3		

Trench 7		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
Trench exposed no archaeological features. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	20

Trench 8		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Trench exposed no archaeological features. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.55
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	43

Trench 9							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
Trench exposed a single undated posthole. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.15
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.6
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		33
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
8	Posthole	11	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		12	Cut	0.2	0.08	-	

Trench 10		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
Trench exposed no archaeological features. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	48

Trench 11		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Trench exposed no archaeological features. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.85
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	19

Trench 12							
General Description					Orientation		E-W
Trench exposed a wall foundation, a ‘soakaway’ pit and a trench, all probably modern. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.3
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		40
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
29	Brick wall foundation	-	-	-	-	-	Modern
		-	-	-	-	-	
30	Pit	-	-	-	-	-	Modern?
		-	-	-	-	-	

Trench 13							
General Description					Orientation		E-W
Trench exposed no archaeological features. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2	
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.4	
					Width (m)	2	
					Length (m)	25	

Trench 14							
General Description				Orientation		N-S	
Trench exposed a series of four post-med. 'cultivation' trenches, which contained clay pipe fragments and post-med. pottery. An undated ditch on a different alignment was also recorded. The exposed subsoil comprised an orange brown slightly clayey sandy gravel.				Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.45	
				Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		85	
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
19	Ditch	28	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		29	Cut	0.71	0.34	-	

Trench 15							
General Description					Orientation		E-W
Trench exposed two post med, 'cultivation' features – aligned with those recorded in Trench 14. The exposed subsoil comprised an orange brown slightly clayey sandy gravel.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.4	
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	N/A	
					Width (m)	2	
					Length (m)	27	

Trench 16							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
Trench exposed a series of post-med. 'cultivation' features, which contained clay pipe fragments. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3	
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.5	
					Width (m)	2	
					Length (m)	32	

Trench 17		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Trench exposed a series of post-med. 'cultivation' features, which contained post-med. pottery. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.4
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	N/A
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	61

Trench 18		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
Trench exposed a series of post-med. 'cultivation' features, which contained post-med. pottery. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	N/A
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	23

Trench 19		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
Trench exposed two groups of post-med 'cultivation' features/trenches on slightly different alignments. Features from both groups yielded post-med. ceramics and clay pipe fragments. The exposed subsoil comprised an orange brown slightly clayey sandy gravel.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.4
	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	N/A
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 20							
General Description				Orientation		N-S	
Trench exposed a series of post-med. ‘cultivation’ trenches, which contained. An undated ditch on a different alignment and truncated by the post-med. features was also recorded. The exposed subsoil comprised an orange brown slightly clayey sandy gravel.				Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.35	
				Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		33	
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
20	Ditch	33	Fill	-	-	-	-
		34	Cut	0.59	0.19	-	

Trench 21							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
Trench exposed three post-med. boundary ditches. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.3
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.55
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		51
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
22	Ditch	42	Fill	-	-	Pottery	Post-med.
		43	Cut	0.58	0.22	-	
23	Ditch	44	Fill	-	-	-	Post-med.
		45	Cut	0.29	0.22	-	
24	Ditch	46-54	Fills	-	-	Iron obj.	Post-med.
		55	Cut	1.87	0.55	-	

Trench 22							
General Description				Orientation		E-W	
Trench revealed only a single undated pit. The exposed natural subsoil comprised a mixed light grey/brown clay.				Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.45	
				Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		49	
Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected artefacts	Comments
21	Pit	35	Fill	-	-	-	Undated
		36	Fill	-	-	-	
		37	Fill	0.45	0.1	-	

Trench 23							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
Trench exposed a series of post-med. 'cultivation' features, which contained post-med. pottery and tile. The exposed natural subsoil comprised an orange brown sandy gravel.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.55
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		39

Trench 24							
General Description					Orientation		N-S
Trench exposed no archaeological features except a poorly defined 'furrow', which yielded no finds and contained a sterile fill. The exposed natural comprised 'patchy' sandy gravel overlying clay.					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.45
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		80

Trench 25							
General Description					Orientation		E-W
Trench revealed no archaeological features. The exposed natural comprised 'patchy' sandy gravel overlying clay					Max. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.4
					Max. Subsoil Depth (m)		N/A
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		48

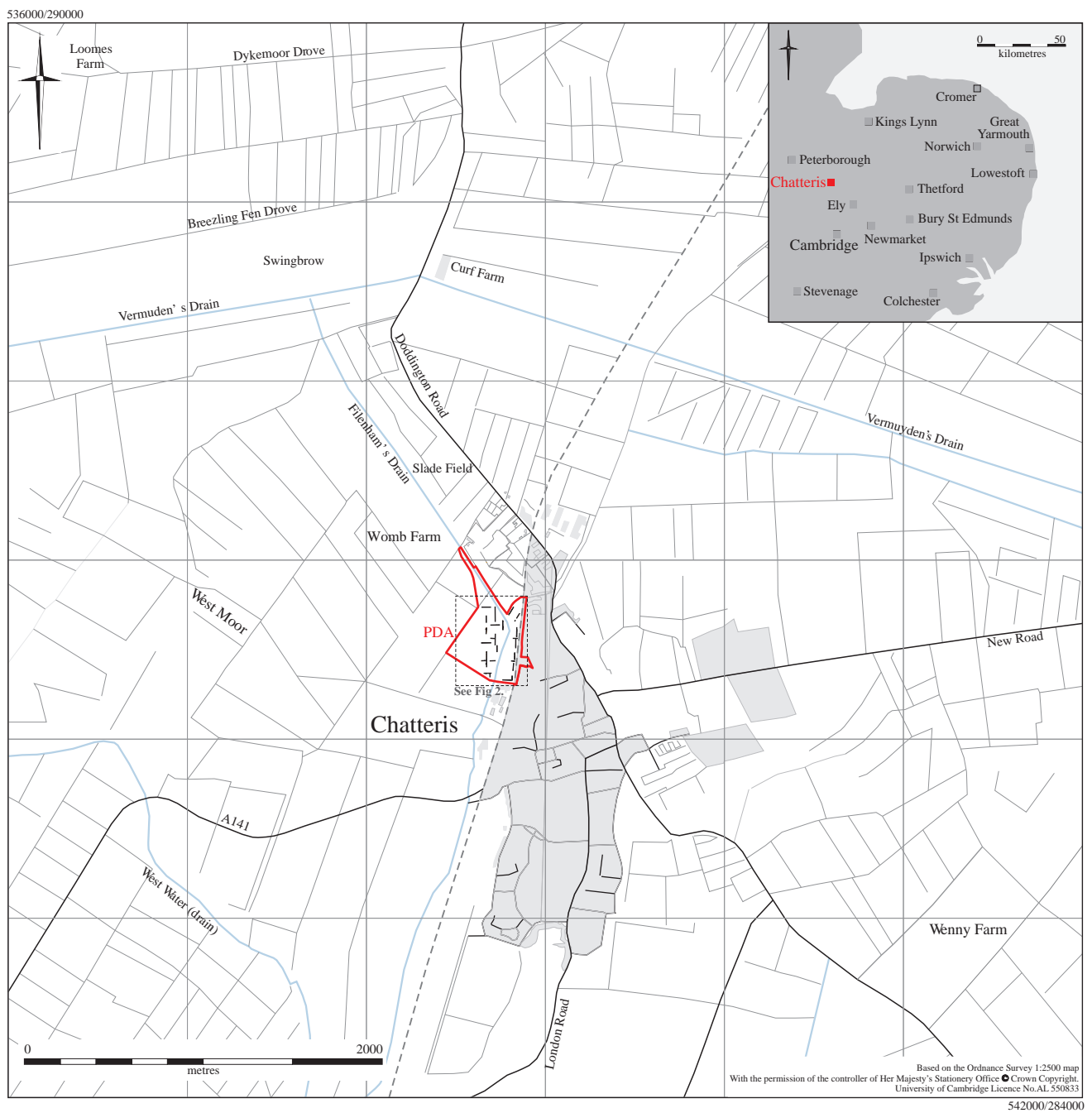


Figure 1. Location Map.

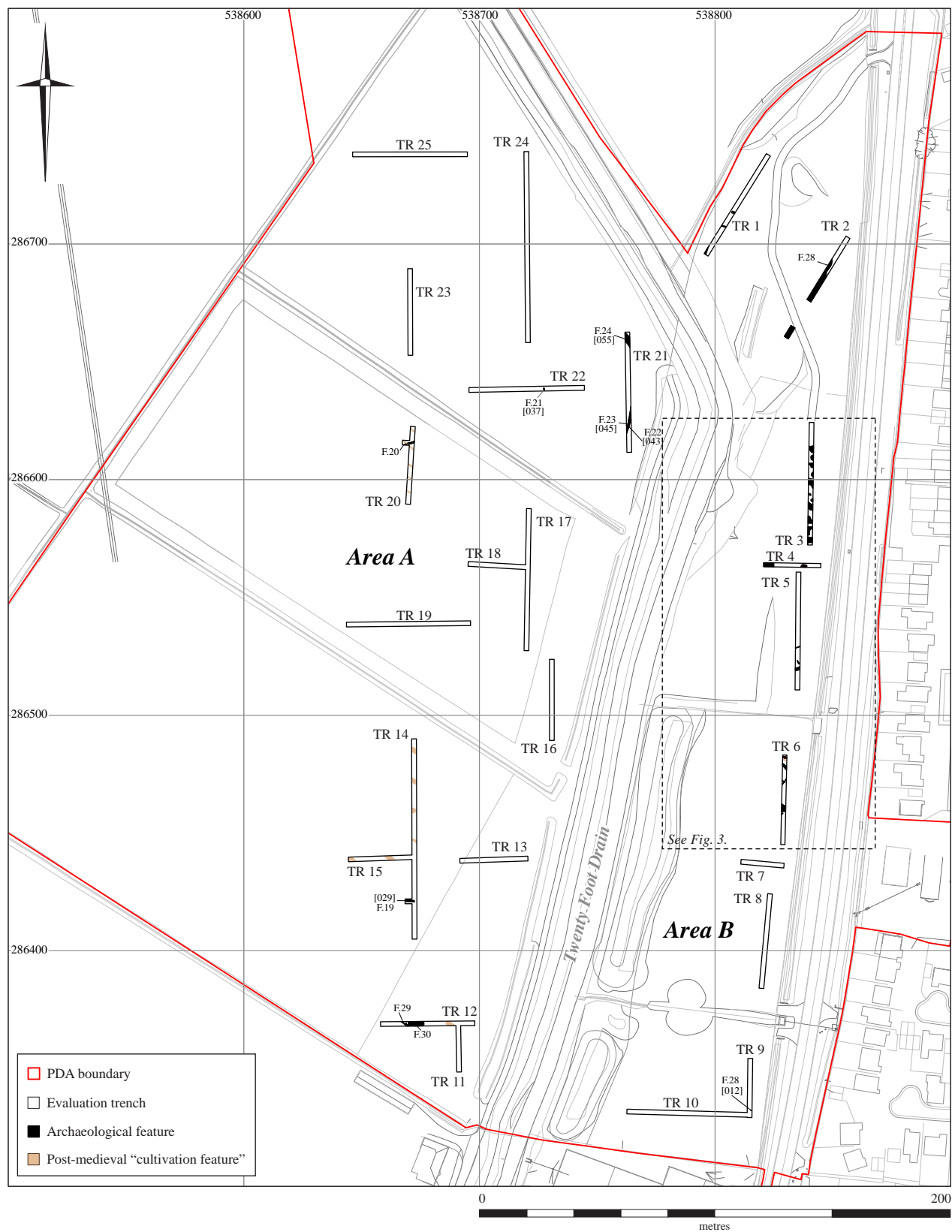


Figure 2. Trench Plan.

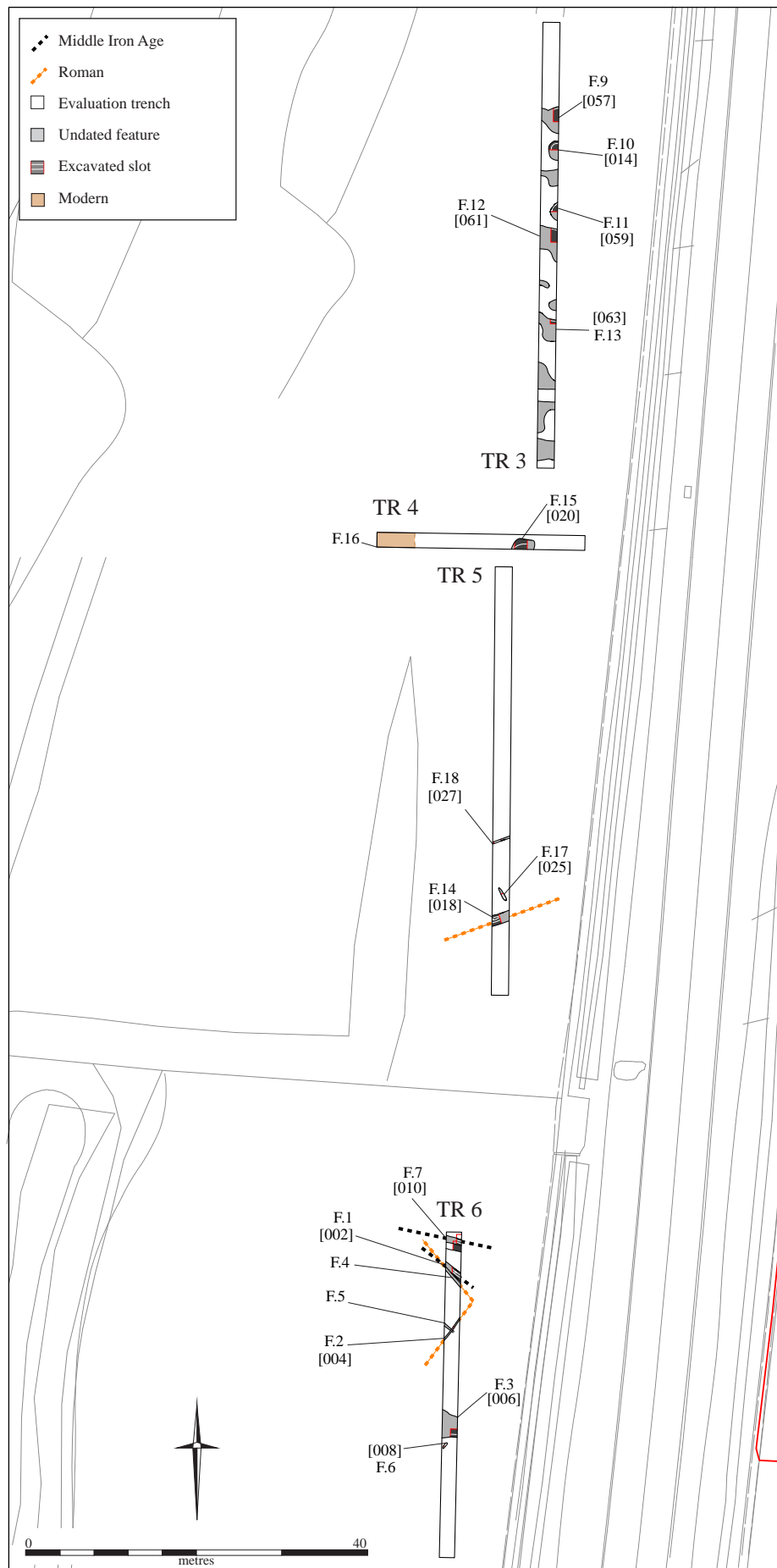


Figure 3. Plan of features in Trenches 3-6.

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-132162

Project details

Project name	Land West of Fenland Way, Chatteris
Short description of the project	A trial trench based archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 3881 8649) in June/July 2012. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises c. 8 ha either side of Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain to the north of Honeysome Industrial Estate. A total of 30 archaeological features were recorded and while the majority of features were either undated or relate to post-medieval agriculture, a group of features in the east of the PDA represent a clear zone of Iron Age and Roman activity. The features, largely ditches and gullies are potentially settlement related, however, the low quantities of pottery and animal bone recovered suggest the site probably lay on the periphery of the main settlement foci. The remains appear to be confined to the east of the site, however, two undated ditches in the west of the site could potentially also be later prehistoric.
Project dates	Start: 25-06-2012 End: 05-07-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FWC12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3777 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE? Uncertain

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS Land West of Fenland Way
Postcode	PE16 6RG
Study area	8.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3881 8649 52 0 52 27 29 N 000 02 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.00m Max: 2.00m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
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