

The Showfields, Whittlesey

An Archaeological Evaluation



Ricky Patten

**The Showfields, Whittlesey:
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Ricky Patten

Illustrations by Bryan Crossan

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University of Cambridge

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Summary

In October and November 2013 a first phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the western area of the Showfields, Whittlesey, with a second phase in July 2014 on the eastern area (centred on TL 2759 9799) extending over c. 20ha. The work was commissioned by ULAS for Philip Rose in response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET). The investigations comprised an initial test pit survey on the northern limit of the western area, followed by a trench evaluation. Earliest evidence for occupation was identified in the form of an undated clay-lined pit of probable Iron Age date and suggestive of occupation. Two separate sites (1 and 2) of Romano-British occupation were recorded, most likely associated with the Fen Causeway, the main Roman routeway through the Fens. The two sites comprised a series of probable enclosure and boundary ditches with large pottery dumps occurring in at least two ditches. Other than these pottery dumps there were few finds recovered from either Site 1 or Site 2. This would seem to suggest peripheral settlement activity, the focus of which would have been to the south along the Fen Causeway. A third site (3) was identified in the second phase of investigation at the eastern end of the site. The corner of a double ditched enclosure of uncertain date was recorded within a single trench. The majority of the archaeology encountered throughout were furrows and clay land drains that were present throughout the development site and provided evidence for Late Medieval/ Post-Medieval land use.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken on behalf of ULAS for Philip Rose. The investigation was commissioned to define the scope of any archaeological activity on the Showfields site, to the east of East Delph, Whittlesey (centred on TL 2759 9799) as part of a planning proposal for a mixed residential development (Figure 1). This work was in response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (Gdaniec 2012) to provide information on any potential heritage assets of archaeological interest on the site through a series of test pits and trenched evaluation to support aerial and desktop surveys undertaken in 2001 (Hall 2001; Palmer 2001). The project followed a WSI set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Gibson 2013).

The site is located to the east of East Delph Road, on the northern fringes of Whittlesey, in the broad area of Bassenhally Field. The geology comprises Oxford clay overlain by river terrace drift (March Gravels) (Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) extended over an area of c. 20ha. and was situated within pasture and scrubland. This comprised

seven separate blocks, Fields A to G (Figure 2). Prior to the commencement of the evaluation all of the fields had been cleared of vegetation.

Archaeological Background

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

During the Romano-British period, Whittlesey was situated on the route of the Fen Causeway, a Roman road linking Peterborough to Denver, Norfolk, joining the Fen islands. The road crossed the Fen from Northey bisecting Whittlesey island, where it is thought to continue to Eastrea (CHER 11049). As a main Roman routeway through the fens, the Fen Causeway became the focus for activity with numerous settlements situated along it. The PDA is situated to the north of this routeway, which is thought to have followed the line of present day Bassenhally Road, and can be seen as a parchmark in Bassenhally field. Settlements have been identified at various points along the course of the Causeway (Phillips 1970) that may have utilised the opportunities for trade that such a route offered, either at crossings or nearby settlements.

Closer to the PDA the majority of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records (CHERs) relate to Medieval or Post-Medieval activity, with stray finds of metalwork or pottery, and a number of listed buildings identified. An aerial photographic assessment and evaluation at Stonald Field to the west of the PDA is the only record for prehistoric activity; a ring-ditch along with a series of ditches and pits were identified (CHER MCB17514, ECB2103; Murphy 2007). Along with the proposed line of the Fen Causeway the only evidence for Roman activity is in the form of a silver coin of Carausius 287-293AD (CHER MCB16746), and a sherd of pottery (CHER 01963A), both located to the south of the PDA. Possible Romano-British settlement, that may have continued through into the Anglo-Saxon period, has been identified through aerial photographic survey to the immediate south of Field E with enclosures, ring ditches, and Grubenhäus plotted (CHER 04281). Further south of

the PDA a Saxon inhumation cemetery was found in 1828, with seven east-west burials, each with a pot by the skull (CHER 10594). Archaeological investigations in the last 30 years have encountered evidence for either predominantly agricultural activity or Post-Medieval quarrying, with none of the investigations in the immediate area revealing evidence for Prehistoric or Romano-British activity.

Methodology

The evaluation was undertaken in two separate phases; the first (Phase 1) in October to November 2013 on the western half of the site, and the second (Phase 2) in July 2014 on the eastern half.

It was initially thought that due to the PDAs proximity to the edge of Whittlesey 'island' the northern area (in Fields D and E) could comprise deep Fen type deposits of silts and peats, which can exceed 1.2m in depth. Consequently a series of 25 test pits were proposed to compliment the evaluation in the event that the deposits were too deep to safely dig. In the event that trenching could be undertaken safely then the test pit plan was to be replaced by further trenches. After an initial visit to the site it was clear that the 'fen edge' was most likely further north, in the adjacent fields. Initial test pitting, therefore, concentrated on confirming this visual assessment with five test pits excavated in the northeast corner of Field E. The test pits were excavated down to the archaeological level, recorded and then back filled. Test pit record sheets were completed for all the test pits, with depositional depths recorded along with a description. The results from these five test pits showed that the ground surface here had been artificially raised, most likely in the last 20 years, with made ground comprising building rubble and imported topsoil overlying an original topsoil and subsoil similar to those encountered throughout the PDA. This was consistent with the local history for this area of the site, which was used to store and sort topsoil. The program shifted to trench based survey with the test pits replaced by the excavation of a further 17 trenches.

Once the investigation became purely trench based, with no further test pitting, a total of 54 trenches were proposed in Phase 1 and a further 11 in Phase 2. Due to a number of mitigating factors, the presence of hard standing track ways, overhead electricity cables, hedgerows, and after discussions with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team 62 trenches totalling 2,943m were excavated; 51 trenches, 2,307m in Phase 1 and 11 trenches, 636m in Phase 2. This was supplemented by a program of bucket sampling at designated points along the trenches where they intersected a predetermined 50m grid. The trenches were all excavated using a 360° tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist. They were excavated down to a level where archaeological features were visible; these were planned and hand excavated by a team of skilled archaeologists. Trench sheets were completed for all of the trenches to record

section profiles and geological variances and were accompanied by scale plans of all archaeological features (at 1:50) and the recording of excavated features with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10, complimented by digital photographs. The Unit-modified version of the Museum of London (MoL) recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.#) and all contexts assigned individual numbers ([context #]). The PDA was fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and a contour survey undertaken with a Global Positioning System (GPS). The Site was identified as WSF13.

RESULTS

As stated above five test pits were excavated before establishing that the PDA did not extend into the deeper Fen and that it would be possible to cut trenches throughout the development area (Figure 2). The resulting depths of these test pits are recorded below (Table 1). Much of the depth of these test pits was the result of made or built up ground formed by the storing and processing of topsoil in the recent past, and its compaction over time as heavy plant drove over the area.

Test Pit	Depth (m)
1	0.55
2	0.85
3	0.98
10	0.50
15	0.80

Table 1: Test pit depths

Once the test pitting was replaced by trenching, a bucket sampling program was undertaken. Initially a total of 73 points along trenches were to be bucket sampled as part of the investigation; 12 of these were not undertaken either because the trench was not cut (see above) or the trench was cut through made ground. As a result 61 points were bucket sampled, six produced finds ranging from pottery to brick/tile (Table 2; Figure 3).

Trench	Sample	Pottery	Animal Bone	Worked Stone	Shell	Glass	Brick/ Tile
29	54	1 (8g)	1 (10g)		1 (36g)	1 (20g)	
31	55	2 (18g)		1 (691g)	1 (6g)		
32	56		2 (5g)				
34	19	1 (10g)					
39	32	1 (41g)					
40	31						1 (32g)

Table 2: Finds from the bucket sampling

The level of background material suggested by the bucket sampling, although low, is indicative of the archaeology encountered across the PDA. The prominent feature type encountered was furrows and field drains. These were widespread throughout

the evaluated area occurring in 47 of the 64 trenches. A selection of the furrows were fully excavated and recorded (**F.8**, **F.9**, **F.11**, **F.14**, **F.17**, **F.19**, **F.20**, **F.23**, **F.24**, **F.26**, **F.31**, **F.32**, **F.54**, **F.55**, and **F.65**) with a further selection 'tested' to confirm that they were furrows, but not fully recorded. Each excavated furrow was on average 2.85m wide and 0.16m deep spaced at between 6.5m and 8.5m intervals.

The aerial photographic plot for Field D (Palmer 2001) may have been slightly confused by the furrows, although a distinction had been made. A number of the features identified as possible enclosure ditches were either not evident in the trenches or were in fact furrows. Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 all exposed features that corresponded with those on the aerial photographic plot, but only an east-west gully in Trenches 6 and 8 (**F.37** and **F.36** respectively) was not a furrow. These features were 0.38m and 0.44m wide and 0.20m and 0.35m deep with steep, almost vertical sides with slightly concave bases. Neither feature produced any datable material, although it is possible they were brush drains, they were aligned with a possible later prehistoric gully towards the northern end of Trench 6 (**F.39**).

Although there were no securely dated prehistoric features, a single pit, **F.38**, in Trench 6 was characteristically Iron Age (Figure 4). The pit was 0.63m in diameter and 0.11m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had been lined with a layer of bluish grey clay and was filled with burnt stone (38 fragments, 7674g), but there were no other finds present. Despite the lack of any datable material burnt stone pits such as this are characteristic of Iron Age settlement; at Bradley Fen a total of 28 such features were recorded and dated to the Middle Iron Age (Knight and Brudenell forthcoming). Clay-lined pits such as these are thought to have been constructed to hold and heat water, the clay lining retaining the water while heated stones were placed in to heat the water. It has been further suggested that there is a close spatial relationship between these features and roundhouses (Webley 2007, 141; Knight and Brudenell forthcoming), and although there was no direct evidence for roundhouses or settlement at the Showfields, to the immediate south of F.38 was east-west gully F.39, 0.48m wide and 0.09m deep. The close proximity of this feature to the clay-lined pit could indicate that the two were contemporary, indicating the presence of some form of occupation during the Iron Age.

Romano-British activity was evidenced in two separate areas of the PDA, at the western edge of Field B, Site 1, and the southern edge of Field E, Site 2 (Figure 5). Site 1 was defined by a single linear feature recorded along the length of Trench 27 (Figure 6). This ditch, **F.44**, was 2.9m wide and 0.75m deep with steep sides and a concave base, filled with three successive deposits ([89], [90], and [91]). All of the material culture was recovered from the upper of these deposits [89] and comprised 10 sherds (324g) of pottery, 48 fragments (684g) of animal bone, and a single piece of flint. Within the confines of the trench the ditch appeared to curve towards the northeast; however, despite cutting Trenches 22 and 26 there was no evidence for a

return of the ditch, or of it forming part of an enclosure, and therefore it was most likely a boundary ditch. To the north of F.44, in Trench 27, were a series of intercutting features. Due to the angle of these features within the trench, and a high water table, it was not possible to fully excavate any of these features. It was, however, possible to determine that the northern end of this trench was dominated by a series of linear features orientated northeast-southwest (**F.42**) that successively cut through one edge of the preceding feature and aligned parallel to it. A small quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered (3 sherds, 32g) along with animal bone and burnt clay. Although not conclusive, as only a small section of the feature was exposed within the trench, it is possible that the successive re-cutting into natural gravel could indicate that they were strip quarries of Medieval or Post-Medieval date. A similar example of strip quarrying has been recorded at Bassenhally Road (Patten 2000), while more general evidence for Post-Medieval quarrying has been identified to the south (Lyons 2004; House 2008; Thatcher 2008; Murphy 2011). Cutting into the top of one of these features was a small pit, **F.43**, 0.6m in diameter and 0.22m deep. There was no datable material but there was a large concentration of charcoal and soil discolouration that suggested *in situ* burning.

The main focus of Romano-British activity was in Site 2 where Trenches 29, 30, 31 and 34 revealed features of mid 1st to late 2nd century AD date (Figure 7). Six features were recorded in Trench 29 (**F.25** and **F.28** to **F.32**), two of which were furrows (F.31 and F.32). Of the remaining features, F.25 was a north-south ditch, Features 28 and 29 north-south gullies and F.30, a posthole. Ditch F.25 was 1.4m wide and 0.54m deep, and was the only feature in Trench 29 to contain any material culture with 34 sherds (720g) of Romano-British pottery, 19 fragments (254g) of animal bone, and a single fragment of probable quern stone. Gullies F.28 and F.29 were 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep and 0.80m wide and 0.22m deep respectively, cut next to each other but with no clear relationship. There was no material recovered from either feature but they were on the same alignment as the Romano-British ditch F.25 and most likely represent a re-cutting of a boundary. The single posthole F.30 was 0.38m in diameter and 0.21m deep. There were no associated features and the posthole itself was sterile. Twelve features were recorded in Trench 31 (**F.10**, **F.13**, **F.14**, **F.15**, **F.16**, **F.17**, **F.18**, **F.19**, **F.20**, **F.21**, **F.22**, and **F.26**), five of which were furrows or silty hollows (F.13, F.14, F.17, F.19, F.20 and F.26). The remaining seven features were all linear features aligned north-south or northeast-southwest, and were situated in close proximity to each other. Feature 10 was a north-south aligned ditch 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep with a large 'dump' of pottery (403 sherds, 9122g) spread along its excavated length (Figure 7). No other feature produced anywhere near a similar quantity of material (F.15 produced only 16 sherds). The remaining features contained very little material culture suggesting that rather than being in the core of a settlement, these features were suggestive of peripheral activity. The only other feature to contain a large quantity of pottery was **F.12**, the terminal of a northeast-southwest linear in Trench 34, which contained a similar 'dump' of pottery

comprising 44 sherds (564g). The majority of these features were aligned north-south suggesting that this was the dominant alignment. Two features, F.12 and F.21, were aligned northeast-southwest, with F.12 containing a pottery assemblage of a similar date to F.10, possibly indicating two separate phases of occupation. It should be noted, however, that within the confines of an evaluation trench it may not always be possible to accurately determine the orientation of a ditch

A third, undated, site was revealed in the Phase 2 evaluation at the eastern end of the PDA. This was identified in Trench 64 as two sets of parallel ditches set 2.5m apart (**F.59**, **F.60**, **F.61**, and **F.62**). These ditches formed the northeast corner of a possible rectangular or square enclosure, the northern most side of which is visible on the aerial photographic plot. This was either a double ditched enclosure or an enclosure with a track way around it. Features 59 and 62 formed the 'outer' ditch with features 60 and 61 forming the inner. A possible entranceway between the two ditch lines was suggested by F.60, which was a southwest terminal forming an entranceway between the interior of the enclosure and either the outer ditch or track way. One metre sections were excavated across each of the ditches, but no material culture was recovered from any of them. With an absence of finds and no associated features it is not possible to date the enclosure. The crop mark plot does show a series of at least four enclosures in a ladder arrangement to the south towards the Fen Causeway (Figure 8). Although there does appear to be some similarity in the morphology of these enclosures, the one identified in the evaluation does not appear to be part of the same system.

In addition to the undated Site 3, there were a number of undated features, predominantly postholes and pits, dispersed throughout the PDA. These features are identified below (Table 3). The gullies and ditches were all orientated north-south or east-west, an alignment similar to that of the Romano-British features in both Sites 1 and 2, and it is possible that these features represent elements of a much wider fieldsystem that extends from the roadside settlements to the south towards the Fen. In Trench 58 a single ditch (**F.51**) orientated northeast-southwest contained no datable material but did contain two very distinct fills, one of which was alluvial derived. This would suggest a possible Romano-British or earlier date.

Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type
5	40	N-S Ditch
6	37	E-W Gully
32	35	Pit
39	1	Posthole
	2	Posthole
40	3	E-W Gully
42	6	N-S Gully
43	7	N-S Ditch
48	33	Posthole
	34	Posthole

Trench	Feature Number	Feature Type
55	67	NE-SW Ditch
	46	Posthole
57	47	Posthole
	48	Posthole
	49	Posthole
	50	NW-SE Ditch
60	53	NW-SE Ditch
61	52	NW-SE Ditch
63	56	NW-SE Ditch
	57	NW-SE Ditch

Table 3: Undated features

DISCUSSION

Although not securely dated, the earliest activity is represented by a single clay-lined pit (F.38) of probable Iron Age date. As is noted above such features are typical of Iron Age settlement and are often found in close relationship to roundhouses (Knight and Brudenell forthcoming; Webley 2007), and the gully F.39 could be part of such a structure. There was little evidence for further settlement activity, although a number of undated postholes and a pit could be an indication of dispersed settlement away from the fen edge.

The two areas of Romano-British activity (Sites 1 and 2) most likely represent the periphery of settlement that was situated to the south, closer to the probable route of the Fen Causeway and active in the mid 1st to late 2nd century AD (Figure 9). The single ditch F.44 at Site 1 could be part of an enclosure and the absence of any associated features could be a result of recent truncation to Field B, highlighted by the proliferation of building rubble throughout the field and in the upper fills of F.44. It is equally possible, however, that the ditch is part of a field boundary extending from the Fen Causeway. The dark upper deposit containing Romano-British pottery could indicate the relatively close proximity of a roadside settlement to the south. Site 2 represented either more intensive settlement or closer proximity to a settlement, with clear evidence for the purposeful deposition or 'dumping' of material. Despite the large quantity of pottery in F.10 the majority of associated features contained little, if any, suggesting that this was the 'back-end' of any settlement that again fronted onto the Fen Causeway. The plant macrofossils indicate the presence of scattered refuse, while the paucity of material would indicate that this is on the fringes of any activity. The further investigation of Sites 1 and 2 could help elucidate the nature of Romano-British settlement between a primary Roman routeway and the encroaching Fen.

The enclosure (Site 3) remains undated at present. As with Sites 1 and 2, it may be Romano-British in origin, part of a wider landscape pattern that utilised the Fen Causeway; however, it may equally predate this period.

In the post Romano-British periods the site appears to have been agricultural land, with field drains and furrows providing evidence of this. Recent activity was evident with large quantities of building rubble intermixed with the soils in Fields A and B, the product of their use as storage areas for building supplies, and machine cut test pits and trenches throughout fields D and E, the results of the training of prospective machine drivers (Rose Plant *pers comms*).

APPENDIX

Roman Pottery *Rob Perrin*

Pottery was recovered from 11 features within five trenches: Trench 27 (F.41, F.42 and F.44); Trench 29 (F.25); Trench 31 (F.10, F.14, F.15, F.16 and F.18); Trench 34 (F.12); and Trench 43 (F.9). The total assemblage comprises 573 sherds weighing 11.877 kilograms and with a rim estimated vessel equivalent of 9.64. Most of the pottery came from Trench 31 (Table 4) and over three quarters of the pottery from here was in ditch F.10.

Trench	Number of Sherds	Weight (g)	Rim%
27	18	460	
29	34	740	63
31	473	10029	889
34	46	638	12
43	2	10	
Total	573	11877	964

Table 4: Pottery quantification per trench

There were seven fabrics or fabric groups: shell gritted ware, miscellaneous quartz gritted grey, oxidised wares and cream wares, Lower Nene Valley grey (LNVGW) and colour coated wares (LNVCC) and Central Gaulish samian ware (CGS). Table 5 shows the proportion of these wares:

Fabric	Number of Sherds	Weight (g)	Rim%
Shell gritted	262	4914	322
Misc greys	154	3845	208
Misc oxidised	17	462	81
Creams	51	1386	127
LNVGW	75	1062	139
LNVCC	9	112	45
CGS	5	96	42
Total	573	11877	964

Table 5: Pottery quantification per fabric

The shell gritted wares vary in colour from reddish yellow to dark brown and in the size of the shell inclusions. The grey wares also vary in colour, and in texture, with some being far rougher to the touch. One grey fabric has small white flecks, possibly shell, while another has visible mica. The oxidised wares are mainly reddish yellow in colour but include one vessel which may have been mica dusted. Within the cream wares there is one fine and hard fabric and one coarser in texture.

There appear to be around 40 possible different vessels in the assemblage, based on different rim forms and diagnostic sherds. Of these, 30 are jars, two jars or bowls,

two bowls or dishes, five dishes and one cup. All of the vessels in shell gritted ware, miscellaneous grey wares and the cream wares are jars. One of the latter is an unusual vessel with corrugated sides while one of the grey ware jars has a warped rim and some 'blisters' on the vessel wall. The cup is a CGS form 33 and the other CGS vessel is a form 31 dish. The other dishes are three in LNVCC and the possible mica dusted vessel.

The LNVGW and LNVCC will have been produced in the kilns to the west of Peterborough centred around Roman *Durobrivae* (Swan 1984, 95-7, 139; Perrin 1996, 116-18). Kilns producing shell gritted wares are also known in the same area and further to the west (eg Perrin 1999, 42-5; Evans 2003, 73-81), but some of this pottery was probably produced in bonfire kilns which leave little trace. Some of the grey ware is reminiscent of pottery produced in the kilns at Stanground to the east of Peterborough (Swan op cit; Perrin, op cit; Dannell *et al.* 1993, 51-93), while other vessels may be products of the kilns at Horningsea or one of the other kiln sites in the Cambridge area (Swan 1984, 134; Evans 1991, 33-43). The jar with warped rim and some 'blisters' is a 'second' which might suggest more local pottery production. The finer cream ware is probably also from the Lower Nene Valley kilns but the coarser fabric might be from the Godmanchester area (Evans 2003).

Some of the shell gritted ware with the larger shell inclusions appears to be of late Iron Age or early Roman date, though the particular fabric and the forms lasted in use, and perhaps production, well into the 1st century. Other shell gritted ware jars are 2nd century in date, though forms again continue in use. The CGS and the LNVCC dishes are of mid to late 2nd century date. The Stanground kilns were operating from the later 2nd century and jars similar to the possible Godmanchester vessel were made there in the later 2nd century. Overall, the date range is probably mid 1st to late 2nd century with the F.10 assemblage belonging to the end of the range.

The earliest pottery is from Trench 29. The bulk of the pottery is utilitarian but there are some vessels which hint at slightly higher status usage. The assemblage from F.10 in Trench 31 forms an important group with a wide range of fabrics and forms and the other contexts provide additional pottery of intrinsic interest, particularly the jar which might indicate pottery production in the vicinity. Overall, the assemblage has potential to contribute to local and regional knowledge.

If no further work on the site is undertaken, the F.10 assemblage and the vessels of intrinsic interest warrant further study and illustration (about 20 vessels). If more excavation is carried out, the assemblage should be integrated into the wider study of the additional assemblages recovered.

Faunal Remains *Vida Rajkovača*

The evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small faunal assemblage totalling 152 fragments (raw fragment count) with a total weight of 2780g. Following zooarchaeological analyses, some 76 assessable specimens were recorded, of which 42 were identified to species (Table 6). The zooarchaeological analysis 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. 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). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

Taxon	Romano-British						Undated	Post-Medieval
	Site 1 (Trench 27)			Site 2 (Trenches 29, 31 & 34)			Trench 39	Trench 33
	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	%NISP	MNI	NISP	NISP
Cow	5	33.3	1	12	46.2	2	1	.
Sheep/ goat	7	46.7	1	7	26.9	1	.	.
Sheep	.	.	.	1	3.8	1	.	.
Pig	1	6.7	1
Horse	2	13.3	1	2	7.7	1	.	.
Dog	.	.	.	4	15.4	1	.	.
Sub-total to species	15	100	.	26	100	.	1	.
Cattle- sized	22	.	.	4
Sheep- sized	4	.	.	3	.	.	.	1
Total	41 (1040g)	.	.	33 (1506g)	.	.	1 (230g)	1 (4g)

Table 6: Number of Identified Specimens and the Minimum Number of Individuals for all species from site – breakdown by area and phase

The preservation was overall moderate to quite good, with minimal surface erosion or weathering, and 64 specimens showed ‘quite good’ levels of preservation. Only two specimens were recorded as calcined and only one as charred. Butchery was noted on five specimens; all were fine knife marks and were recorded on bone from Romano-British features. Based on the location of marks and their character, these

appear consistent with skinning or meat removal. One of the butchered specimens was a horse tibia, and the remainder were cattle or cattle-sized elements. The majority of bone was recovered from the two Romano-British sites. Cow was the dominant species (Table 6), closely followed by ovicapra. The only other species were pig, horse and dog.

Ditch F.10 (Trench 31) and F.44 (Trench 27) generated more bone than other features, and combined totals accounted for almost half of the site assemblage by weight (1358g), although ditches in general tend to yield more bone waste. Based on three mandibles, it appears cattle were slaughtered around their third year, an ideal time for the production of prime beef. Two cattle mandibles were recorded with non-metrical traits. One of these showed the reduction of the posterior cusp of the third molar and the other the absence of the second premolar. Although their significance remains unclear, both conditions could be explained by the restricted gene pools of local populations of cattle (O'Connor 1988).

It is difficult to discuss the assemblage of this size any further, although it is important to note that the range of species and the character of butchery are in keeping with expected period patterns. The general good state of preservation certainly hints at the sites' potential to contribute to our understanding of the Romano-British economy in the area.

Charred Plant Macrofossils and other remains *Val Fryer*

Three samples were bulk floated and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 7. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were abundant within all three assemblages.

Once the modern roots were removed from the samples, the remaining assemblages were very small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and somewhat limited in composition. Individual, poorly preserved cereal grain fragments were present within all three assemblages, along with a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain, a possible thistle (*Cirsium* sp.) type seed and fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) nutlets. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were also scarce. Other remains included a fragment of burnt or fired clay, small pieces of black porous and tarry material and minute fragments of coal. At the time of writing it was unclear whether any of these other remains were contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants introduced via the post-depositional bioturbation of the deposits.

In summary, the paucity of these assemblages almost certainly indicates that the few remains which are recorded are derived from scattered refuse, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The primary deposition of

charred plant materials is not indicated, possibly suggesting that the features from which the samples were taken were peripheral to any particular focus of either domestic or agricultural/pastoral activity. Although the source of the material is unclear, it is possibly of note that fen-sedge, a common fenland plant, was frequently used as a capping material for thatched roofs.

Although the current assemblages are sparse, they do indicate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon in this area of Whittlesey. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation.

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	86	89	20
Feature No.	43	44	10
Feature type	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
Field No.	B	B	E
Plant macrofossils			
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)			x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xcfg	xcfg	x
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.			x
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.)Pohl	x		x
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	x
Charcoal >5mm			x
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material		x	
Black tarry material		x	x
Burnt/fired clay	x		
Small coal frags.	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	14	18	28
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table: x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens fg = fragment cf = compare

Table 7: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

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TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
There were modern disturbances towards the northern end of the trench. The deposits at the southern end of the trench appeared deeper reaching 0.80m at the end of the trench, this may have been a headland deposit, but was more likely the result of a furrow that cut across the trench NW-SE	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.27
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 2		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
Three furrows were recorded within this trench.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.22
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.23
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 3		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
Four furrows and two field drains were recorded within this trench	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 4		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Two furrows and two field drains were recorded within this trench.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.32
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.07
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	47

Trench 5							
General Description						Orientation	E-W
No subsoil horizon was identified in this trench. There were four furrows and a linear feature recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.00
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	48
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
40	N-S Ditch	79	Fill				
		80	Cut	1.00	0.19		

Trench 6								
General Description						Orientation		
The subsoil horizon was only present at the southern end of the trench. Two linear features, a clay-lined pit, and a furrow were recorded.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.02
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
				48				
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
37	E-W Gully	73	Fill					
		74	Cut	0.38	0.20			
38	Pit	75	Fill			36x Burnt Stone	Burnt stone, clay lined pit, possibly Iron Age.	
		81	Clay Lining					
		76	Cut	0.63	0.11			
39	E-W Gully	77	Fill				Small gully, possibly associated with F.38	
		78	Cut	0.48	0.09			

Trench 7								
General Description						Orientation		
This trench was cut at right angles, and abutting, Trench 8. No subsoil horizon identified in this trench. A single furrow was recorded.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.31
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.00
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						24		

Trench 8								
General Description						Orientation		
This trench was cut at right angles, and abutting, Trench 7. A subsoil horizon was only evident at the southern end of the trench. A single linear feature was recorded that appeared to continue into Trench 6, as F.37.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.30
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.05
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						21		

Trench 9								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout much of the trench but was absent from the southern end. A single field drain was recorded in the trench.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.30
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.08
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						50		

Trench 10								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout much of the trench but was absent from the eastern end. A total of five furrows were recorded.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.28
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.07
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						50		

Trench 11		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
A subsoil horizon was present although thicker at the northern end of the trench. A single furrow was recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 12		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
A subsoil horizon was only present in the eastern half of the trench. A single furrow was recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 13		
General Description	Orientation	
Not Excavated	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Length (m)	

Trench 14		
General Description	Orientation	
Not Excavated	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Length (m)	

Trench 15		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
There was no subsoil horizon present in this trench. Two furrows and a field drain were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	70

Trench 16		
General Description	Orientation	
Not Excavated	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Length (m)	

Trench 17		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
A subsoil horizon was present throughout the trench. There were no archaeological features.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.70
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	10

Trench 18		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
A subsoil horizon was deeper at the western end of the trench. There were no archaeological features.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.39
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	20

Trench 19		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
A subsoil horizon was present only in the northern half of the trench. Two furrows and a field drain were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.38
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	48

Trench 20		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
There was made ground at the eastern end of the trench where a drainage ditch had been backfilled. Along with the modern drainage ditch were two field drains.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	38

Trench 21		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
There was no subsoil horizon in this trench. A total of three furrows and a field drain were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.36
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	47

Trench 22		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
This trench was cut across Trench 27 to determine the extent of the Roman activity encountered in it. The only archaeology recorded was F.44, a Roman ditch.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	49

Trench 23		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
A single furrow was recorded in this trench.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 24		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
There were no archaeological features within this trench.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	28

Trench 25		
General Description There was modern disturbance throughout this trench with any soils mixed with a large quantity of building rubble; the trench was 0.77m deep. The only feature was the remnant of a single furrow.	Orientation	N-S
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	48

Trench 26		
General Description There was modern disturbance throughout this trench with any soils mixed with a large quantity of building rubble; the trench was 0.60m deep. The only features were the remnants of a five furrows.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	75

Trench 27							
General Description There was very little surviving of a subsoil horizon in this trench, and the topsoil had been mixed with building rubble that had been incorporated into the Roman features in the trench.						Orientation	N-S
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.33
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	46
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
41	Ditch	82	Cut	0.50	0.24	5x Pottery; 4x Bone	Small section cut into Roman boundary, the same feature as F.44
		83	Fill				
42	NW-SE Linear	87	Fill			3x Pottery; 16x Bone	A series of strip quarries only partially excavated, each context is a different strip.
		93	Fill				
		94	Fill				
43	Pit	95	Cut	2.70	0.40		A small pit cut into the quarries F.42
		84	Cut	0.60	0.22		
		85	Fill				
44	Ditch	86	Fill			10x Pottery; 128x Bone; 15x Fired Clay; 1x Flint; 1x Cinder; 7x Charcoal	Roman boundary / enclosure ditch
		89	Fill				
		90	Fill				
		91	Fill				
		92	Cut	2.90	0.75		

Trench 28a		
General Description The topsoil was intermixed with building rubble to a depth of 0.36m-0.44m, upon compacted topsoil 0.24m thick. A single furrow and the edge of quarry were recorded.	Orientation	E-W
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	25

Trench 28b		
General Description There was rubble made ground matrix 0.30m thick, upon a disturbed ground 0.22m thick and a compacted topsoil 0.20m thick. A single furrow was recorded in the trench.	Orientation	E-W
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	15

Trench 29								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present only in the centre of the trench. A total of three Romano-British linear features were recorded along with a single undated post hole.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.41
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.12
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		38
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
25	Ditch	49	Cut	1.40	0.54	34x Pottery; 19x Bone		
		50	Fill					
28	N-S Gully	55	Fill					
		56	Cut	0.60	0.20			
29	N-S Gully	57	Fill					
		58	Cut	0.80	0.22			
30	Post hole	59	Fill					
		60	Cut	0.38	0.12			
31	Furrow	61	Fill					
		62	Cut	3.00	0.10			
32	Furrow	63	Fill					
		64	Cut	2.90	0.10			

Trench 30								
General Description						Orientation		
The topsoil deposit was mixed at the northern end of the trench and it was at this end that the subsoil horizon was present. Two furrows were recorded along with an undated gully.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.36
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.11
						Width (m)		1.8
						Length (m)		49
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
27	E-W Gully	53	Fill					
		54	Cut	0.39	0.02			

Trench 31								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout the eastern half of the trench. A total of six Romano-British features were recorded along with five furrows and a hollow.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.12
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						47		
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
10	N-S Ditch	19	Fill			464x Pottery; 34x Bone; 35x Fired Clay; 4x Burnt Stone; 1x Nail	A large quantity of Roman pottery had been 'dumped'.	
		20	Cut	1.20	0.40			
13	Hollow	25	Cut	1.45	0.32			
		26	Fill					
14	Furrow	27	Cut	2.60	0.25	12x Pottery		
		28	Fill					
15	NE-SW Ditch	29	Cut	1.30	0.25	16x Pottery; 20x Bone		
		30	Fill					
16	N-S Ditch	31	Cut	0.80	0.31	2x Pottery; 6x Bone	Terminal	
		32	Fill					
17	Furrow	33	Cut	2.00	0.15	1x Bone; 2x Tobacco Pipe		
		34	Fill					
18	N-S Ditch	35	Cut	0.80	0.20	1x Pottery		
		36	Fill					
19	Furrow	37	Cut	1.50	0.20			
		38	Fill					
20	Furrow	39	Cut	2.00	0.32			
		40	Fill					
21	NW-SE Gully	41	Cut	0.50	0.12	5x Bone		
		42	Fill					
22	NE-SW Gully	43	Cut	0.60	0.05		Terminal	
		44	Fill					
26	Furrow	51	Cut	3.00	0.36			
		52	Fill					

Trench 32								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout, but was thickest at the northern end. A single pit was recorded.						NE-SW		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.27
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.40
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						47		
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
35	Pit	69	Cut	1.70	0.50			
		70	Fill					

Trench 33							
General Description						Orientation	NW-SE
The topsoil was mixed at either end of the trench and the subsoil horizon was only present within the centre. Two furrows and a field drain were recorded, one of which was excavated.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.37
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	47
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
24	Furrow	47	Fill			1x Pottery; 1x Bone	
		48	Cut	2.00	0.12		

Trench 34							
General Description						Orientation	N-S
A subsoil horizon was present, although absent from the southern end. The terminal of a ditch and two furrows were recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.38
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.09
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	48
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
12	NE-SW Ditch	23	Fill			46x Pottery; 5x Bone	Terminal
		24	Cut	0.75	0.14		

Trench 35a							
General Description						Orientation	NW-SE
There was no subsoil horizon present. A single furrow was recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
						Width (m)	1.8
						Length (m)	18

Trench 35b							
General Description						Orientation	NW-SE
There was no subsoil horizon present. A single field drain was recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	17

Trench 36							
General Description						Orientation	N-S
A subsoil horizon was present but only in the northern half of the trench. There were no archaeological features.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	48

Trench 37							
General Description						Orientation	NW-SE
Topsoil and a subsoil horizon was only present at the northern end of the trench, the rest was made ground with a depth of 1.03m There were no archaeological features.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	40

Trench 38			
General Description A subsoil horizon was present throughout. Two furrows and a field drain were recorded.	Orientation		E-W
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.29
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.14
	Width (m)		1.80
	Length (m)		40

Trench 39								
General Description A subsoil horizon was present throughout. Two unrelated and undated postholes and two furrows were recorded. A piece of post-Medieval pottery was recovered from the bucket sample (32) of this trench.						Orientation		N-S
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.30
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.17
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		74
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
1	Post hole	1	Fill			1x Pottery	Small undated pottery sherd (1g).	
		2	Cut	0.30	0.19			
2	Post hole	3	Fill					
		4	Cut	0.05	0.14			
4	Furrow	7	Fill			7x Bone		
		8	Cut	0.52	0.20			
5	Furrow	9	Fill			2x Pottery	Small undated pottery sherds (13g total).	
		10	Cut	0.40	0.12			

Trench 40								
General Description A subsoil horizon was present throughout, although it was mixed at the southern end. A single gully was recorded						Orientation		N-S
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.61
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.24
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		47
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
3	E-W Gully	5	Fill					
		6	Cut	0.44	0.09			

Trench 41								
General Description A subsoil horizon was present throughout, although mixed at the northern end. Two field drains were recorded.						Orientation		N-S
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.35
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.17
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		49

Trench 42								
General Description A subsoil horizon was present throughout the trench, although it was mixed in the western half of the trench. A single gully was recorded.						Orientation		E-W
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.40
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.18
						Width (m)		1.8
						Length (m)		48
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
6	N-S Gully	11	Fill					
		12	Cut	0.45	0.09			

Trench 43								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout. A single ditch and furrow were recorded.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.39
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.17
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		22
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
7	N-S Ditch	13	Fill					
		14	Cut	1.15	0.16			
9	Furrow	17	Fill			2x Pottery; 1x Tobacco Pipe		
		18	Cut	3.60	0.18			

Trench 44								
General Description						Orientation		
There was no subsoil horizon present. A single furrow was recorded.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.51
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		-
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		42
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
8	Furrow	15	Fill				Tested	
		16	Cut	-	-			

Trench 45								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present throughout. A single furrow was recorded						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.32
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.12
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		48
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
11	Furrow	21	Fill				Tested	
		22	Cut	-	-			

Trench 46								
General Description						Orientation		
A subsoil horizon was present, although it was mixed at either end of the trench. A single furrow was recorded.						NW-SE		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.45
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.12
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		35
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
23	Furrow	45	Fill					
		46	Cut	3.95	0.10			

Trench 47		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
No subsoil horizon was present. A single furrow was recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	48

Trench 48							
General Description				Orientation		E-W	
A subsoil horizon was present in the eastern half of the trench. Two postholes were recorded.				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.27	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.25	
				Width (m)		1.80	
				Length (m)		50	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
33	Posthole	65	Fill				
		66	Cut	0.49	0.06		
34	Posthole	67	Fill				
		68	Cut	0.44	0.07		

Trench 49		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
A subsoil horizon was present throughout. Four furrows were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.32
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.08
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	46

Trench 50		
General Description	Orientation	E-W
A subsoil horizon was present with 0.20m thick redeposited gravel overlying the topsoil at the western end of the trench. There were no archaeological features.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.20
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.07
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 51		
General Description	Orientation	NW-SE
A subsoil horizon was present in the western half of the trench. A modern ditch and a furrow were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.27
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	50

Trench 52		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Much of the ground had been formed from building debris and rubble intermixed with soils. At the northern end a buried top and subsoil were present at a depth of 1m, but this was confined to the first 5m of the trench. A single field drain and the edge of a modern quarry were recorded.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	20

Trench 53			
General Description		Orientation	N-S
Topsoil and subsoil were present but these contained building material and overlay made ground. The edge of a modern quarry was recorded.		Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
		Width (m)	1.80
		Length (m)	21

Trench 54			
General Description		Orientation	N-S
A form of topsoil and subsoil were present but much of the ground was formed from building rubble intermixed with soil. A furrow, field drain, modern ditch and the edge of a modern quarry were recorded.		Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
		Width (m)	1.80
		Length (m)	44

Trench 55							
General Description						Orientation	E-W
An alluvial and peaty top soil mix over an orange brown silty clay sub soil. A single undated ditch was recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.09
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	30
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
67	Ditch	139	Fill				
		140	Cut	0.80	0.22		

Trench 56							
General Description						Orientation	N-S
An alluvial and peaty top soil mix over an orange brown silty clay sub soil. A clay field drain and a probable field drain were recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.34
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
						Width (m)	1.80
						Length (m)	102
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments
66	Gully	137	Fill				
		138	Cut	0.35	0.12		Probable drain

Trench 57									
General Description						Orientation			
An alluvial and peaty top soil mix over an orange brown silty clay sub soil. At the eastern end of the trench is a thin band of pale grey brown alluvium between the top and sub soil. Four possible postholes and an undated ditch.						E-W			
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.23	
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.18	
						Width (m)		1.80	
						Length (m)		28	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments		
46	Posthole	96	Fill						
		97	Cut	0.20	0.12				
47	Posthole	98	Fill						
		99	Cut	0.45	0.08				
48	Posthole	100	Fill						
		101	Cut	0.45	0.05				
49	Posthole	102	Fill						
		103	Cut	0.20	0.05				
50	Ditch	104	Fill						
		105	Cut	0.50	0.15				

Trench 58									
General Description						Orientation			
An alluvial and peaty top soil mix over an orange brown silty clay sub soil. A single ditch was recorded with an alluvial capping.						E-W			
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.30	
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.20	
						Width (m)		1.80	
						Length (m)		40	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments		
51	Ditch	106	Fill				Upper fill [106] was alluvial derived.		
		107	Fill						
		108	Cut	0.25	0.45				

Trench 59									
General Description						Orientation			
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies the natural gravels. Three furrows were recorded in this trench.						E-W			
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.32	
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		-	
						Width (m)		1.80	
						Length (m)		43	

Trench 60									
General Description						Orientation			
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies a pale brown silty sub soil. One undated ditch, three furrows and two clay field drains were recorded.						N-S			
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.32	
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.07	
						Width (m)		1.80	
						Length (m)		102	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments		
53	Ditch	111	Fill						
		112	Cut	0.65	0.15				
54	Furrow	113	Fill						
		114	Cut	0.90	0.09				
55	Furrow	115	Fill						
		116	Cut						

Trench 61								
General Description						Orientation		E-W
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies the natural gravels; sub soil is present at the west end of the trench. A single undated ditch and two field drains were recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.28
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.04
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		38
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
52	Ditch	109	Fill			1x Pottery (12g)	13 th -15 th Century pottery sherd	
		110	Cut	0.75	0.12			

Trench 62								
General Description						Orientation		E-W
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies a pale brown silty sub soil. Three furrows were recorded within the trench.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.33
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.31
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		35

Trench 63								
General Description						Orientation		N-S
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies natural at the southern end and a pale brown silty sub soil 0.21-0.24m thick between 50-75m from the south. Two undated ditches and a natural feature were recorded.						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.29
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.11
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		102
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
56	Ditch	117	Fill					
		118	Cut	0.50	0.07			
57	Ditch	119	Fill					
		120	Cut	0.37	0.08			
63	Natural	131	Fill				Periglacial?	
		132	'Cut'	0.90	0.19			

Trench 64								
General Description						Orientation		
A hard dry and compact top soil overlies a pale brown silty sub soil that is consistently thicker here than elsewhere on site. Four ditches of a probable enclosure, a furrow and two natural features were recorded.						E-W		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.27
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.29
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
				77				
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Selected Artefacts	Comments	
58	Pit/ Natural	121	Fill					
		122	'Cut'	0.50	0.08			
59	Ditch	123	Fill				Enclosure?	
		124	Cut	0.90	0.18			
60	Ditch	125	Fill			1x Animal bone (10g)	Enclosure?	
		126	Cut	0.80	0.27			
61	Ditch	127	Fill				Enclosure?	
		128	Cut	0.85	0.27			
62	Ditch	129	Fill				Enclosure?	
		130	Cut	0.60	0.16			
64	Natural	133	Fill				Periglacial?	
		134	'Cut'	1.05	0.27			
65	Furrow	135	Fill					
		136	Cut	1.10	0.15			

Trench 65								
General Description						Orientation		
A hard dry and compact top soil, with modern rubbish at the southern end, overlying a pale brown silty sub soil. Two furrows with clay drains along their edges were recorded.						N-S		
						Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.33
						Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.20
						Width (m)		1.80
						Length (m)		
						39		

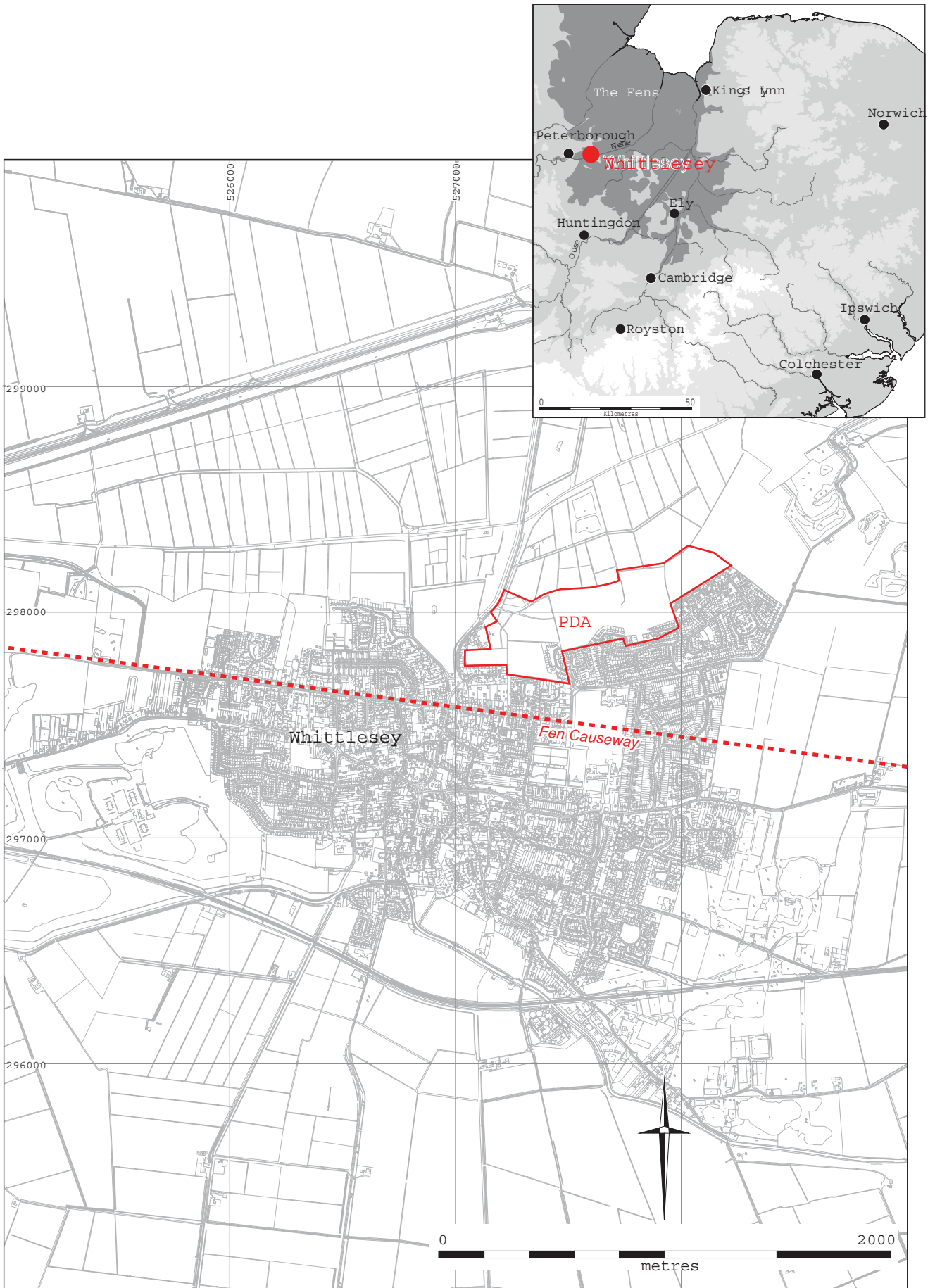


Figure 1. Location Plan

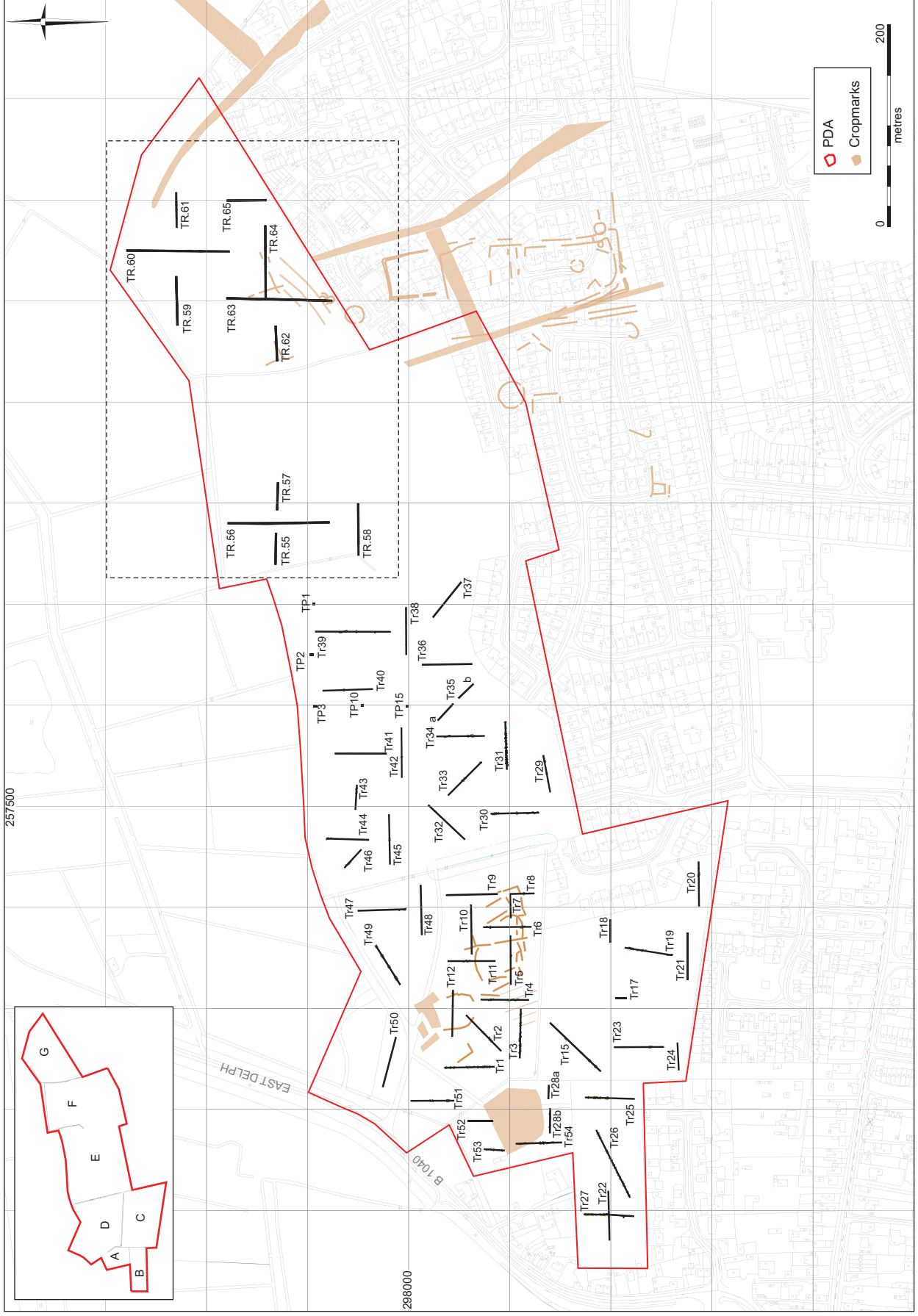


Figure 2. Trench and test pit location plan; inset Field labels.

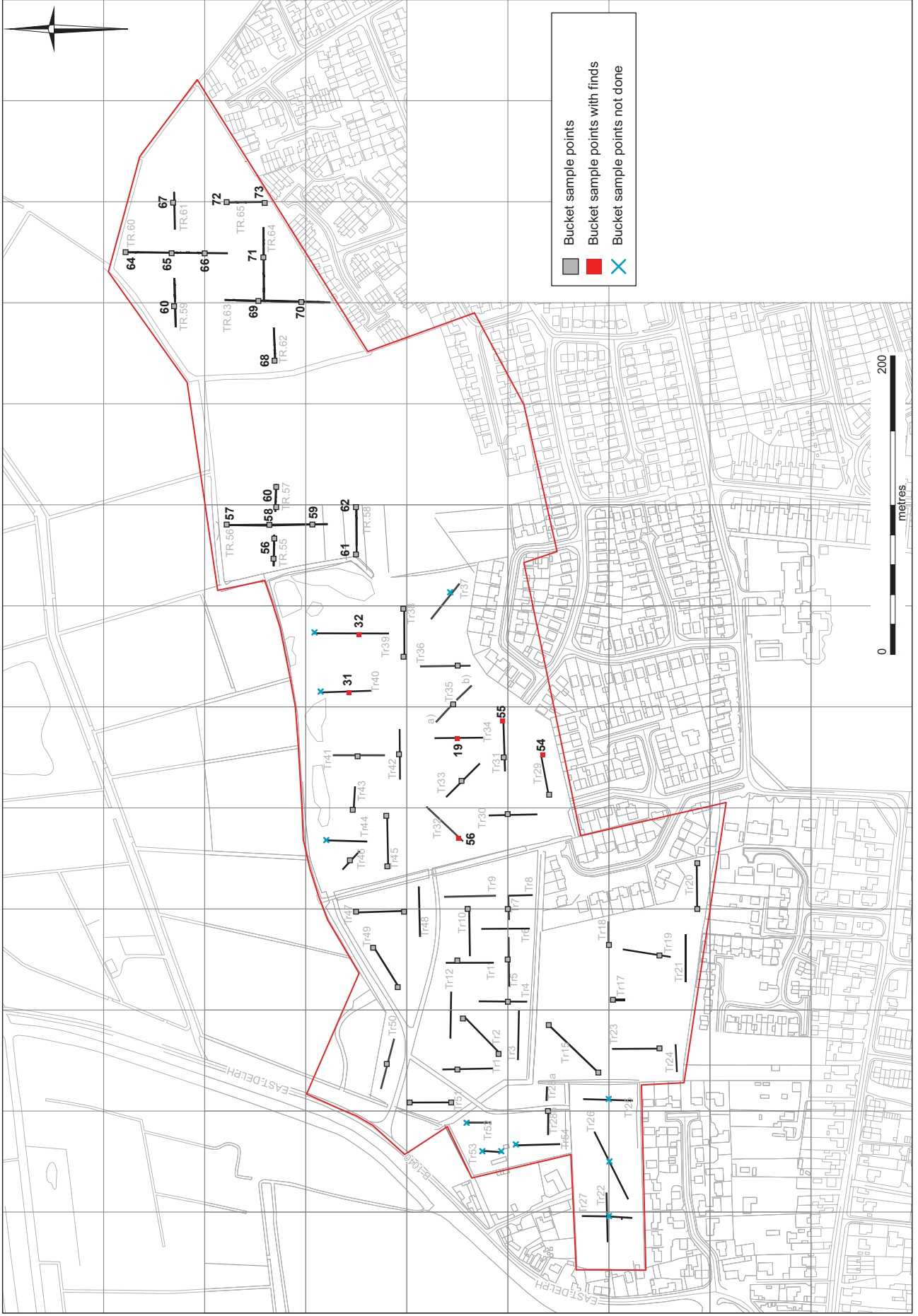


Figure 3. Bucket sampling results.

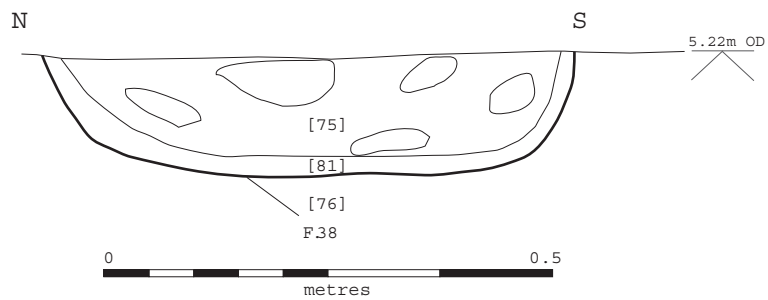
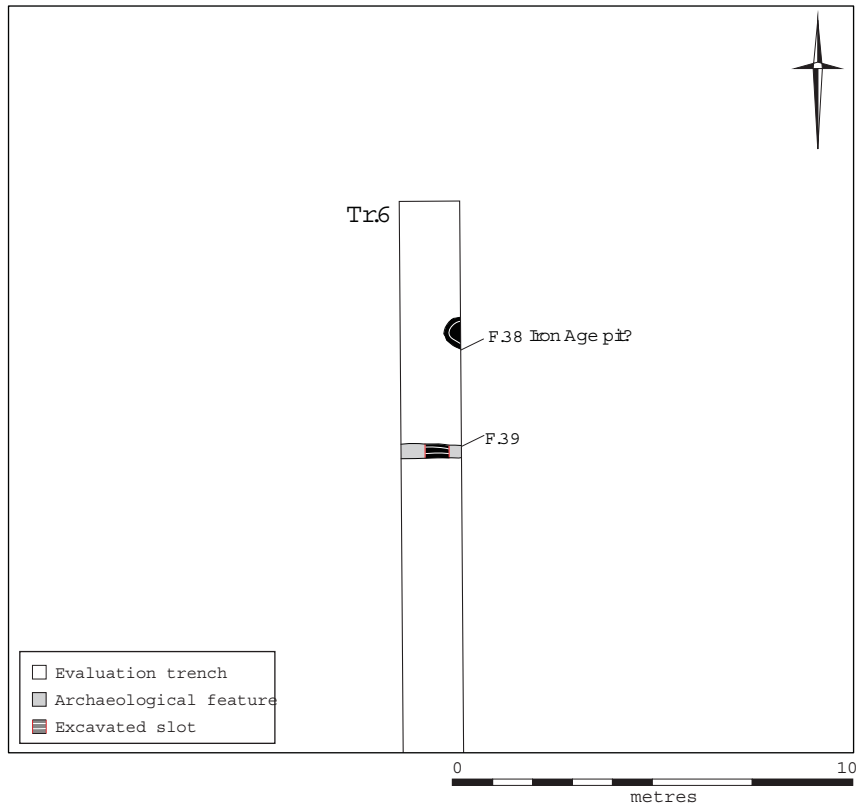


Figure 4. Iron Age activity in Trench 6 (Photograph of south facing section of F.38).

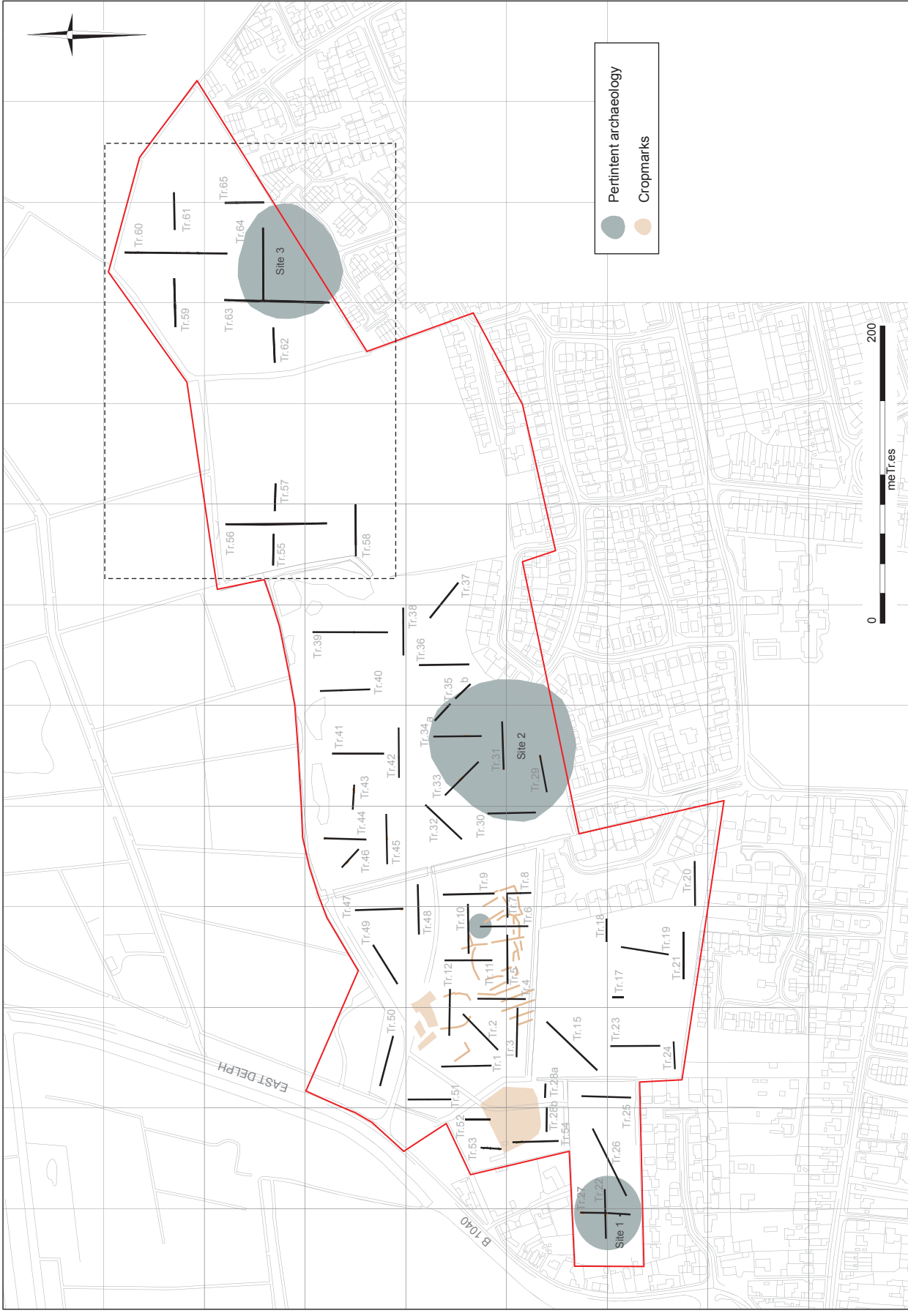


Figure 5. Cropmark plot and areas with pertinent archaeology.

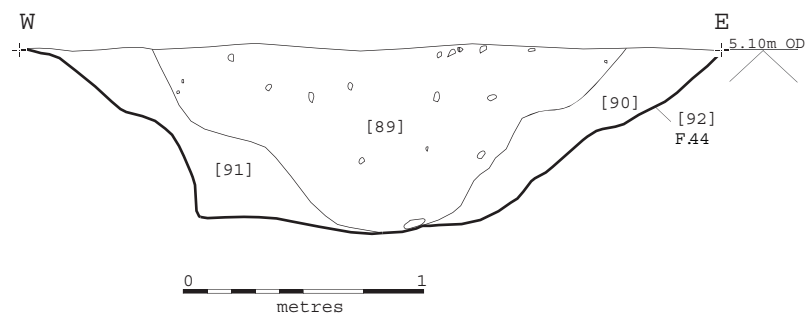
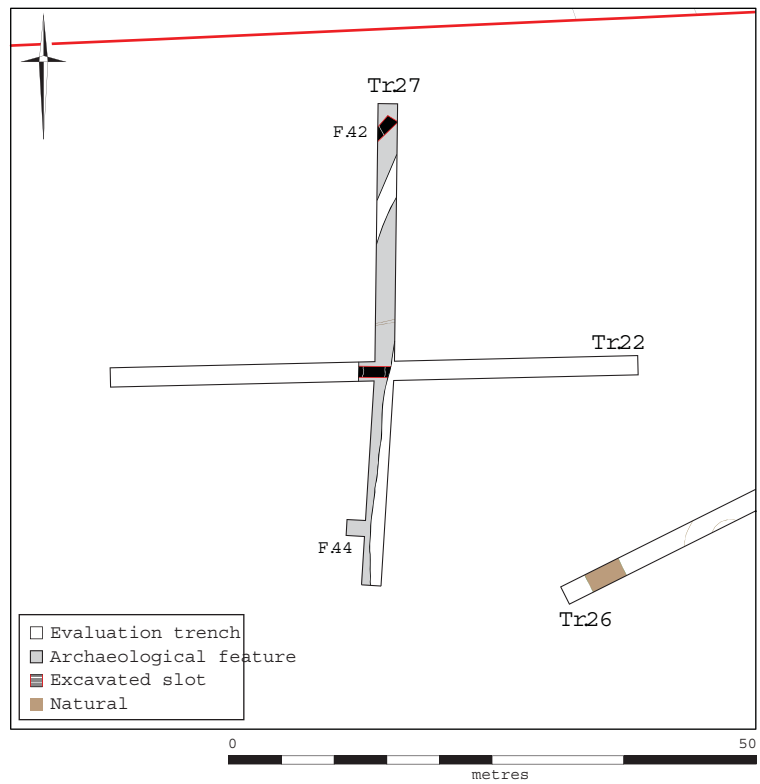


Figure 6. Site 1 archaeology (Photograph of south facing section of 41)

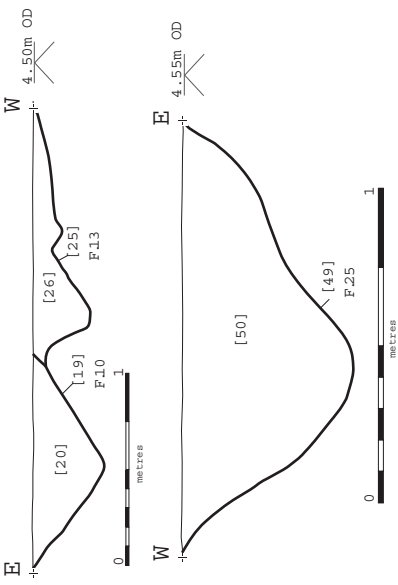
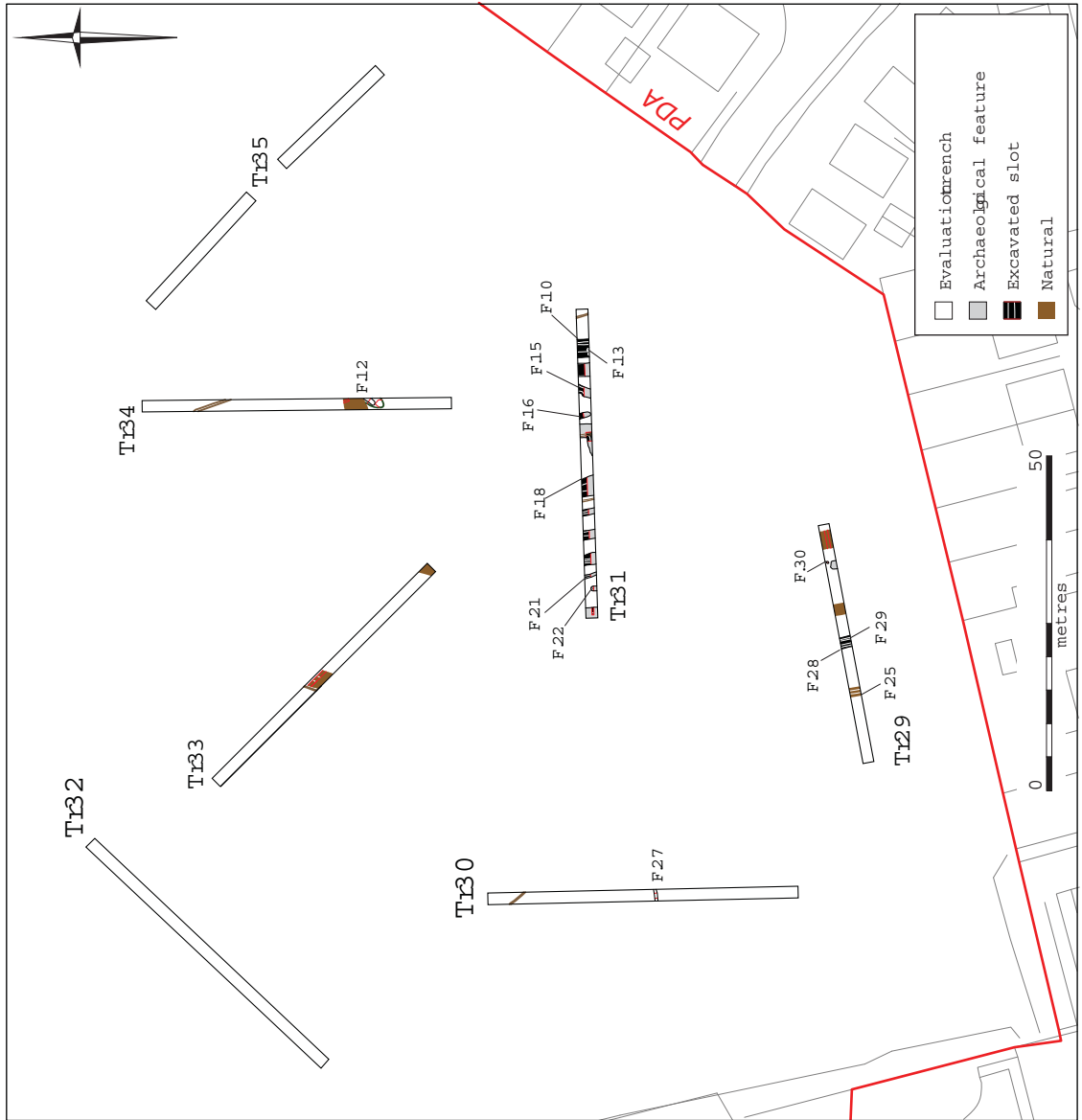


Figure 7. Site 2 archaeology with photograph of south facing section of F showing *in-situ* pottery

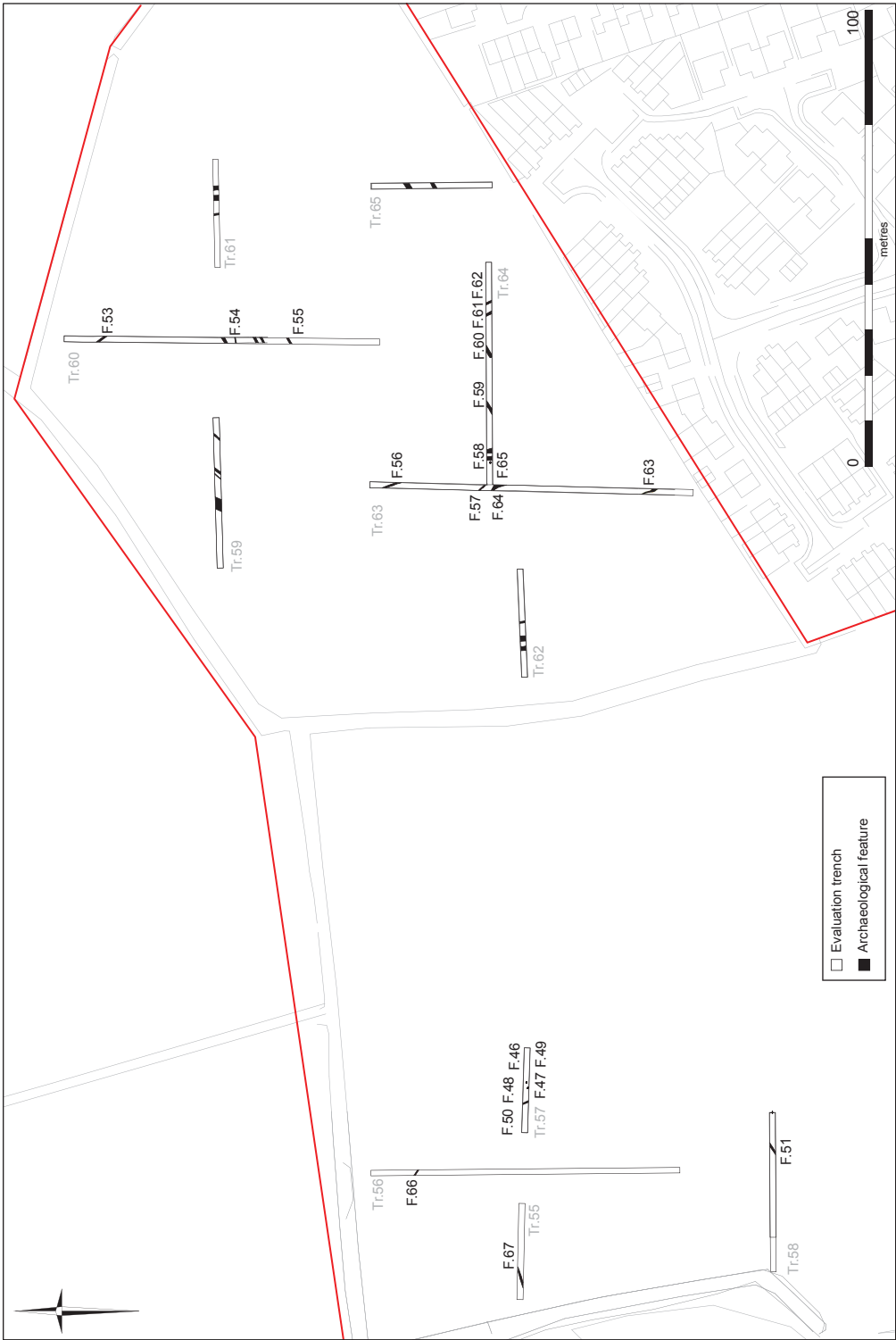


Figure 8. Phase 2 and Site 3 archaeology with its relationship to nearby cropmarks.

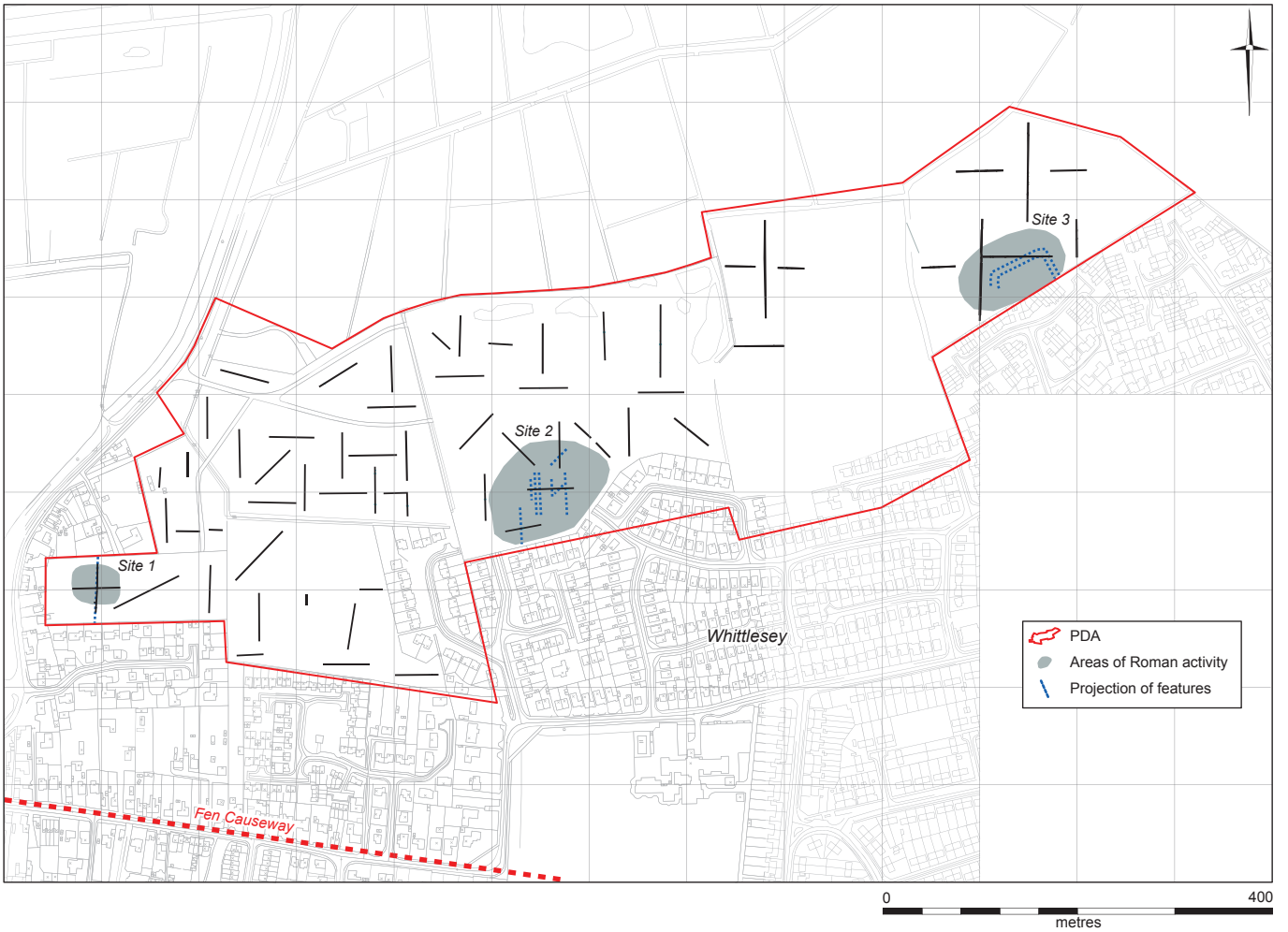


Figure 9. Plan of Roman activity.

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Project details

Project name	The Showfields, Whittlesey: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In October and November 2013 a first phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the western area of the Showfields, Whittlesey, with a second phase in July 2014 on the eastern area (centred on TL 2759 9799) extending over c. 20ha. The work was commissioned by ULAS for Philip Rose in response to a request from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET). The investigations comprised an initial test pit survey on the northern limit of the western area, followed by a trench evaluation. Earliest evidence for occupation was identified in the form of an undated clay-lined pit of probable Iron Age date and suggestive of occupation. Two separate sites (1 and 2) of Romano-British occupation were recorded, most likely associated with the Fen Causeway, the main Roman routeway through the Fens. The two sites comprised a series of probable enclosure and boundary ditches with large pottery dumps occurring in at least two ditches. Other than these pottery dumps there were few finds recovered from either Site 1 or Site 2. This would seem to suggest peripheral settlement activity, the focus of which would have been to the south along the Fen Causeway. A third site (3) was identified in the second phase of investigation at the eastern end of the site. The corner of a double ditched enclosure of uncertain date was recorded within a single trench. The majority of the archaeology encountered throughout was furrows and clay land drains that were present throughout the development site and provided evidence for Late Medieval/ Post-Medieval land use.
Project dates	Start: 21-10-2013 End: 28-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSF13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4099 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Post Medieval

Monument type	FIELD DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WHITTLESEY Showfields
Postcode	PE7 1NT
Study area	20.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 275 979 52.5635960843 -0.118784912274 52 33 48 N 000 07 07 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.98m Max: 5.45m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Showfields, Whittlesey: An Archaeological Evaluation of the Western Area
Author(s)/Editor(s) Patten, R.
Date 2013
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Place of issue or publication Cambridge

Entered by Ricky Patten (rp257@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on 15 August 2014

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