Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Following a trial trench evaluation undertaken in 2012 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a further programme of trial trenching and full excavation of targeted areas on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris (centred on TL 3881 8649). An intermittent watching brief was simultaneously carried out on the west side of the Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain to monitor groundworks associated with the relocation of the drain.

An open area excavation (0.43ha) focussed on an area of Roman activity identified by the evaluation, revealed the remains of an Early Roman saltern as well as a number of Roman features associated with peripheral settlement activity. Two additional trial trenches revealed the western part of the development area had been significantly truncated during the construction of the Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain. On the west side of the drain, features were limited to machine cut trenches and field drains related to post-medieval/modern agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 3881 8649) during September and October 2013. The development area comprised a total of *c.* 8ha either side of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*. On the east side of the drain, 0.43ha was targeted for archaeological excavation and further trenching, whilst an intermittent watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the relocation of the drain, to the west.

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 2013) 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

Located immediately to the west of Fenland Way (the A141) and approximately 500m west of Chatteris town centre, the development area is bordered by the Honeysome Industrial Estate to the south and by open fields to the north and west (Figure 1). The excavation area itself was located between Fenland Way and the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain,* whilst the northern and southern limits were defined according to the results of the 2012 evaluation (Tabor 2012). The area subjected to excavation had previously been rough pasture.

The site is situated at approximately 2m AOD and slopes gently from east to west. Alongside the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* a series of large earthworks and depressions are evidently associated with the initial cutting of the drain as well as subsequent re-routing and cleaning episodes. The underlying geology comprises Ampthill Clay.

The town of Chatteris occupies an area of high ground within the East Anglian Fenland, the largest area of former coastal wetland in Britain (Waller 1994). The development area is located on the western edge of this island of higher ground approximately 2km to the east of the present course of the River Great Ouse.

Archaeological Background

The East Anglian Fenland is known for its rich archaeological landscape, with 'islands' of higher ground developing as focal points for settlement and activity, especially during the Iron Age and later periods. Chatteris in particular, occupying one of these islands, is known for its Iron Age and Roman remains in the east and north-east of the island.

Prehistoric

Whilst limited Neolithic and Bronze Age activity has been recorded in the wider parish of Chatteris by the Fenland Project (Hall 1992), evidence within the immediate area is minimal. Occupation sites and flint scatters have been noted 2-3km southeast of Chatteris town with a further flint scatter located *c.* 1km to the west of the development area (*ibid*.) while evidence for some later Neolithic settlement is recorded to the south (Crowson *et al.* 2000). Two Neolithic stone axes have been found in Chatteris itself and pits containing Beaker and Collared Urn pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age have been excavated 500m east of the development area at New Road (Cooper 2004). A number of barrows (Early Bronze Age) have been identified along the southern edge of Chatteris island several kilometres from the development area and an extensive Bronze Age field system is recorded to the south-east at Block Fen (Crowson *et al.* 2000).

Following a period of lowland inundations and peat growth during the later Bronze Age, the Iron Age saw increased activity on the higher fen 'islands', and Chatteris was no exception. An evaluation at New Road found three Iron Age burials and structural evidence alongside a number of pits and ditches (Thatcher 2006). To the south of this, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Roman features were recorded adjacent to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in 2001 (Cooper 2004).

The Fenland Project has also recorded major Iron Age activity in the east and north-east of Chatteris island including at least six occupation/settlement sites and two cropmark complexes (Hall 1992). The extensive remains of an 'open settlement' at Langwood, sample excavated by the CAU, extend over *c.* 10 ha and span the Early-Late Iron Age, with some Late/Terminal Bronze Age overlap evident from the finds assemblage as well as a large Roman component (Evans 2003; Crowson *et al.* 2000).

Roman

As with the Iron Age activity, major settlement during the Roman period is similarly located in the east and north-east of Chatteris island. In fact, the settlements at Honey Hill and Langwood, as well as many smaller sites identified in the Fenland Project, demonstrate continuation of activity from the Iron Age through to the Roman period (Hall 1992). The vast majority of Roman remains identified at Langwood were ditched paddocks/enclosures associated with a northeast-southwest droveway, possibly linking this zone of activity to the nearby settlement at Honey Hill (Crowson *et al.* 2000). Found in conjunction with large quantities of Roman building material, the foundations of a large stone building (which appears to have fallen out of use in the mid 3rd century AD) were also investigated and imply the presence of an administrative centre or other community focal point (*ibid.*).

In addition to Roman remains excavated close to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (Cooper 2004), evidence for Roman activity has been found to the northwest of the development area at Womb Farm, where a series of Roman quarry pits were investigated during a field evaluation (Collins 2009). A Roman coin hoard has also been recorded close to New Road.

Medieval – present

During excavations north of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, several pits and post-built structures dated to the Saxon period, suggest some limited settlement activity in the area (Cooper 2004). The church itself, although largely rebuilt in the 19th century, originally dates from the 12th century and still displays many 14th century components. The settlement at Chatteris is recorded in the Domesday Survey, which mentions two manorial estates; one belonging to Ramsey and the other to Ely and subsequently Chatteris Abbey, founded in *c.* 980 AD.

From perhaps as early as the Roman period, and certainly throughout the medieval period, it is suspected that peat fen encroached as far as the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* and would have partially submerged at least the western side of the development area. The *Fenton Lode* is documented as early as 1285 AD and would have served as a major transportation and communication route between March and Chatteris (Hall 1992).

Following major fen-drainage programmes during the post-medieval period, the development area has been agricultural land, whilst extensive gravel quarrying has occurred to the north at Womb Farm (Collins 2009). The A141 (Fenland Way) exists along a former railway route between Cambridge and March, which was completed in 1848. Historic maps indicate that the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* exists today much as it has done for the last 200 years, albeit with some re-routing occurring in the late 20th century to form its present course.

Previous archaeological work

The development area was evaluated between June and July 2012 (Tabor 2012). A total of 25 trenches were excavated; 15 to the west of the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* and ten to the east. Post-medieval and modern agricultural features were recorded to the west of the drain and two undated ditches were speculated as perhaps belonging to part of a fen-edge field system or enclosure.

To the east of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*, significant modern disturbance was recorded to the north whilst elsewhere several features were identified as Roman and some as potentially Middle/Late Iron Age, having been dated by small assemblages of pottery and briquetage respectively. The projected extent of these features defined the area to be targeted for open area excavation.

Methodology

The trenches and open area were stripped using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and a height restrictor to enable safe machining beneath the overhead power cables. All machining was carried out under archaeological supervision. The site was located using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 or digitally using a Total Station and excavated by hand. 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.

RESULTS

The excavation area comprised of total of 0.43ha with a further *c.* 43m of trenching (Figure 2). The trenches were located close to the *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain* in an area not previously evaluated due to earlier site constraints, to assess the potential presence and extent of archaeological remains.

Trenches

The two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2; Figure 2) revealed a significant level of truncation; up to a metre of the upper layers of Ampthill clay geology is estimated to have been reduced during re-cutting and re-routing of the drain during the 20th century. Whilst this activity has certainly removed any archaeological horizons, three ditches associated with modern drainage were identified within the trenches. Ditches F.43, F.44 and F.45 were all characterised by their alluvial peaty-clay fills deriving from the existing local topsoil and subsoils. The edges of these features were poorly defined due to desiccation cracks in the natural clay geology infilled with leached ditch fills and subsoils. Only a few artefacts were recovered from these features and appear to demonstrate a mixture of modern field drain fragments and probable abraded briquetage fragments washed in from the archaeological activity located 'upslope' to the east.

The excavation

Upon stripping the excavation area, it became apparent that the ground level of the development area generally had been significantly disturbed. At the western edge, a north-south aligned cut line was revealed associated with the construction of the present *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain*. Truncation of the ground level also occurred in the north of the excavation area as well as in the two trenches detailed above and it was evident that the drain had been cut in a series of steps or 'shelves', broadening to the north. The excavation consequently focussed on an area, which was less disturbed around the Roman and possible Iron Age features identified by the 2012 evaluation (Tabor 2012).

At least four phases of archaeological activity were evident at Fenland Way including an Early Roman saltern, complete with hearth and possible 'settling' tanks or reservoir pits and enclosure (Figure 2). Multiple phases of enclosure and peripheral settlement activity were also recorded, including a potentially Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition period field system, and two subsequent Early Roman phases of field system and droveway. Within the Early Roman field system, further sub-phases are almost certainly present although dating evidence and direct relationships between features were extremely scarce and prevent detailed phasing.

The Saltern

The focal point of the excavation at Fenland Way was a small saltern, which comprised four main elements; a central hearth, several settling tanks and reservoir pits, a series of enclosure features (gullies and postholes) and a number of additional pits performing both storage and waste disposal functions (Figure 3).

Where the briquetage material is discussed in the text, the following terms have been implemented; 'troughs' refer to the gutter-shaped, round-based evaporation vessels and 'containers' indicate the more common flat-base evaporation vessels (see Lane, below).

The Hearth

The hearth was located at the relative centre of the saltern, seemingly enclosed by a series of gullies (as detailed below). However, it was evident from the relationships between these enclosure features and the associated saltern pits that they represent at least two, if not three phases of activity (see below) and the saltern may not necessarily have been completely enclosed for all of its working life. Later field system ditches had significantly disturbed the northern portion of the saltern, and the eastern droveway ditch (F.101, see below) had even cut through the northeast corner of the hearth and several saltern pits.

The hearth comprised a large rectangular pit (F.106), which was aligned east to west and measured 2.5m by 1.4m (Figure 4). The pit had moderately steep sides and a gently concave base, with a noticeable depression (fire pit) at its centre seemingly fed by a short, linear flue from the east. The central fire pit portion of the hearth was also rectangular in plan, aligned east to west, and with vertical sides and a concave base.

The basal fill of this fire pit comprised a mixture of burnt clay 'lining' with fired clay (briquetage) fragments and a thick lens of charcoal and ash (context [359]). Immediately above these was a layer of re-deposited natural clay. The upper edges of the fire pit (context [360]) consisted of mid reddish brown burnt clay with embedded fragments of burnt briquetage. The rest of the fire pit fills comprised successive layers of burnt clay and briquetage fragments and charcoal and ash-rich silt lenses. This sequence of fills suggests phases of use, build-up and collapse as well as episodic cleaning-out of the hearth and re-lining the fire pit.

Within the uppermost exposed fills of the fire pit two concave imprints of evaporation trough bases (round-based) were recorded. These imprints were both aligned lengthways along the central fire pit with the earlier set slightly askew from the east-west alignment. As such their position appears not to directly reflect how they and the hearth were used in salt production; it seems more likely that several briquetage evaporation containers would have been placed adjacent to each other, widthways above the central fire pit and held in place by briquetage 'spacers' and 'pedestals' (Lane, 2014 pers. comm.). Indeed, evidence for spacers was found amid the disposed briquetage material in adjacent pits and features. Furthermore, no evidence for pedestal imprints were found during excavation of the hearth to suggest that the trough imprints represented their intended positioning in the hearth.

The truncated remains of at least two postholes (F.107 and F.108) were found cutting the redeposited clay lining of the hearth to the northwest and southeast respectively. An additional posthole (F.125) was found at the east edge of the hearth, almost completely truncated by the later droveway ditch F.101, and a further two postholes (F.58 and F.59) were located nearby to the west of the hearth. Aside from the remnants of the flue, which was seemingly lined with ceramic material, there were no fragments amid the fired ceramics from the hearth or elsewhere to suggest there had been an oven or kiln structure associated with the hearth (see also Lane, below). It is more likely that if these postholes in fact relate to the life of the hearth they represent the remains of a temporary structure such as a thatched canopy to shield the hearth from wind and rain.

Saltern Pits

A total of 21 pits were excavated within the immediate vicinity of the saltern hearth, most apparently representing the remains of processes associated with salt production. Different phases of activity were identified during excavation of these features, although the precise function of each pit was not always evident. Several probable reservoir pits and settling 'tanks' were identified associated with the storage of brackish water and the separation of silts and heavy material from the water prior to evaporation. One pit has been tentatively categorised as a post-evaporation 'drying' pit given its particular location and finds assemblage. It can be assumed that later phases of pits (i.e. any pits largely cutting earlier features) were not used for clay extraction, however many pits likely performed a two-fold function with the clay extracted whilst digging a storage/settling pit may have been used in the local manufacture of briquetage (as suggested at March, see Lane & Morris 2008).

Settling Tanks, Reservoir Pits and Clay Extraction

Immediately adjacent to the hearth, three heavily truncated circular pits (F.66, F.67 and F.68) were excavated and contained only a few fragments of briquetage. Although shallow, these pits were considered to be the remains of settling tanks given their proximity to the hearth (Lane 2013 pers. comm.). Diatom samples were taken from these three pits and are awaiting future analysis.

A series of intercutting large sub-rectangular pits and smaller circular pits located to the west of the hearth (Figure 3) were also excavated and yielded high quantities of briquetage and charcoal-rich soils as well as a few fragments of animal bone. A couple of abraded sherds of 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery were found on the surface of two of the pits although this is perhaps insufficient material to confidently date these features. There appears to have been two principal phases of pitting. The earlier of these phases was represented by pits F.117, F.123 and F.141, which were considered to be broadly contemporary given their similar shape in plan and approximate dimensions as well as the regularity of their spacing. The fills of these pits comprised a high silt component with frequent briquetage concentrated especially within the upper limits. This sequence suggests the pits went into disuse and had partially silted up prior to episodic briquetage disposal during a later phase of saltern

use. It is presumed that these pits may have originally been utilised for water storage however it is not clear if all three pits were in use at the same time. Pits F.116 (see Figure 5) and F.133 represent a second main phase activity and were directly comparable in terms of shape in plan, depth and sequence of fills. These latter two pits were noticeably deeper than the earlier three and contained a series of distinct fills including evidence for disturbed clay linings. Unlike the shallow pits, it is thought that these larger two pits may have been re-used a number of times, as inferred by the disturbed and re-deposited clay linings. Larger quantities of briquetage were again encountered in the upper region of the pits and similarly suggest that when the pits had gone into disuse, they were utilised for waste disposal associated with later phases of saltern activity.

Five smaller, circular pits were also recorded within this area (F.114, F.115, F.120, F.121 (Figure 5), F.131, F.132). These pits were all comparatively shallow and contained large concentrations of briquetage suggesting their primary use was for saltern refuse. The relationship of F.115 to F.114 and F.120 to F.121 (the former cutting the latter in both cases) infers at least two phases of activity and the stratigraphic sequence also suggests that the pits probably all post-date the earlier phase of storage pits (F.117, F.123 and F.141). However, their relationship with the second phase of storage pits (F. 116 and F.33) is less clear.

To the south of the saltern hearth, a large, steep-sided circular pit (F.74) comprised a complex series of fills including evidence of clay lining, 'dumps' of charcoal-rich material, ashy deposits and waste briquetage (Figures 5 and 6)). The intermittency of the fill sequence of F.74, although notably more complex than that of pits F.116, F.133 and F.140, suggests it was also used repeatedly over a period of time, having seen several phases of cleaning-out and re-lining with clay.

Finally, three pits to the north-west of the main saltern site potentially represents a second, separate salt-making site. Here, a shallow sub-rectangular pit (F.50) was cut by a larger settling tank with disturbed clay lining material (F.140). Adjacent to these pits, a small circular pit (F.95) contained a large quantity of briquetage indicative of waste disposal. The distance of these features from the hearth and its enclosure features suggests they are not related and could in fact have been associated with a secondary saltern, possibly located in the area to the north and now lost to modern truncation. This is further supported by the dense scatter of briquetage within the topsoil adjacent to the excavation area.

Other Pits

Several other pits were excavated in the vicinity of the saltern hearth although the purpose of some of these features was less clear.

An elongated oval pit (F.77) located immediately east of pits F.66-68 contained a large quantity of briquetage, and may also have been used as a small settling tank, although it was not directly comparable to any of the other pit features.

To the south of the hearth, pit F.81 abutted a small circular pit (F.105) which contained a comparatively large quantity of briquetage waste and in turn, abutted

F.104 to the south. The larger sub-oval pit F.104 yielded several partially complete briquetage evaporation containers and pedestals, seemingly 'dumped' in a heap at the base (Figure 7) and itself cut two earlier features (pit F.122 and F.136), which also contained large quantities of smaller fragments of waste briquetage. One further pit, F.87, was also located on the southern side of the hearth and contained a large quantity of briquetage fragments, ashy material and hearth debris. These pits appear to represent several phases of saltern activity pre-dating the establishment of the southern boundary ditches. The quantity of hearth debris and ashy material in F.87 and F.136 suggests they were utilised for waste disposal associated with periodic emptying and cleaning-out of the hearth. Pit F.122 was almost completely truncated by F.104, although its depth suggests it may have originally been used as a settling tank or water storage pit. The later pit F.104 was clearly used for waste disposal, although its large sub-oval shape suggests it may have also served a primary water storage function.

Whilst most of the smaller, shallow pits appear to have been exclusively dug to house saltern refuse and the majority of the larger pits excavated around the saltern likely represent phases of water storage/settling tanks with evidence of re-use prior to serving a secondary waste-disposal function, there are a few pits that deserve some special attention. These are F.81 and F.104, whose briquetage assemblages were noticeably different from any of the other pits. Pit F.81 (Figure 6), although potentially related to a phase of circular water storage pits similar to pits F.66, F.67 and F.68, contained the remains of what appeared to be a carefully placed briquetage container in an upright position, located toward the upper region of the surviving pit. The fill of the pit itself was almost sterile, containing very few small fragments of briquetage and demonstrated that the container had been placed into the pit following a period of silt accumulation. Similarly, the 'dump' of partially complete containers and pedestals in the adjacent pit F.104 was of particular interest. On no occasional elsewhere were such 'complete' portions of briquetage containers found. It is tempting to suggest that after the salt had been scraped out of the briquetage containers, the surviving portions of the vessels were dumped in this region of the saltern, in pits which had formerly served as storage.

Saltern Enclosure

A series of gullies, some of which had been significantly truncated, were located to the north, east, south and west of the hearth, effectively enclosing it. Some of the saltern pits were also enclosed by these features, however portions of these gullies did truncate earlier saltern features in places. The differences in form between the gullies and their variable relationships to the saltern pits surrounding the hearth imply a number of phases of enclosure. No pottery was recovered from any of the enclosure features.

The northern arm of the enclosure comprised a shallow, truncated gully (F.57) and contained a re-deposited clay fill with virtually no briquetage. This gully was truncated by droveway ditch F.101 at its western end, but a short segment of gully to the west of this (F.149) could represent a continuation of this feature. A break was present in the ditch towards its central portion but was considered to be a result of truncation and not a real causeway. Unfortunately, the eastern portion of this gully

was truncated by both field system ditch F.80 and the western droveway ditch F.86, however, its alignment and the alignment of the eastern arm of the enclosure (F.51) suggest they may have formed a continuous section of the enclosure. Having said that, F.51 (although also truncated) was considerably narrower and completely infilled with briquetage fragments, which potentially represent former packing material and imply that the gully may have supported a small fence structure, shielding the hearth from winds.

To the south of the hearth, two disparate gullies (F.76 and F.139) were found to cut a series of earlier saltern pits (detailed above). The eastern of these (F.76) was a narrow, linear gully aligned west-north-west by east-south-east with a steep 'U' shape profile, which cut pit F.136 to the east and F.87 to the west. The other gully segment (F.139) was wider, with a stepped profile, the terminal of which also cut F.87. The western terminal of this gully turned sharply northwards where it was cut by the shallow pit F.114. Both gullies were infilled with a dark brown-grey clay silt material with concentrations of briquetage throughout their lower portions whilst F.139 also displayed a layer of re-deposited clay at its base. In one area of F.76, a particularly large concentration of briquetage occupying a roughly circular area was suggestive of possible post packing and implies that this gully might have also supported a fence structure. The stepped profile of F.139, with an 'ankle-breaker' base filled with re-deposited clay could also infer that it once held a fence, although this is speculative.

The western enclosure arm comprised a narrow gully (F.109) aligned south-south-west to north-north-east with three associated and three possibly associated postholes (F.110, F.111, F.147 and F.114, F.115, F.131 respectively) and was situated on the east side of the intercutting saltern pits. A parallel component comprising a short gully segment (F.112) and posthole (F.113) was directly comparable in terms of form and fills but was located on the west side of the intercutting pits. Furthermore, whilst gully F.109 turned at its northern portion in a westerly direction and was there cut by saltern pit F.123, an earlier phase of the gully (F.127) continued north-north-east and was eventually cut by the droveway ditch F.101.

A short segment of a north-south orientated gully (F.128) was also found almost completely truncated by saltern pit F.123 and suggests another phase of western enclosure. In fact F.127 and F.128 were distinguishable by their pale grey sandy clay fills, unlike the darker charcoal and briquetage-rich silt material infilling F.109, F.112, the associated postholes and the intercutting saltern pits. Two small postholes (F.126 and F.129), also cut by pit F.123 contained similar fills to the earlier gullies F.127 and F.128 and suggest a possible earlier phase of enclosure structure prior to the two phases of intercutting pits.

The two gullies F.51 (Figure 5) and F.109 almost certainly supported a fence structure and it is also likely that F.76 and F.139 may also have been associated with a fence. However, it is not clear which phases of the enclosure, if any, existed simultaneously. The series of large intercutting pits (see Figure 3) clearly represent at least two phases of activity; the earlier pits being completely in-filled before the larger pits F.116 and F.133 were cut. One of the pits of this first phase of activity (F.123) was seen to cut gully F.109 which suggests that this gully and its associated postholes went out of use prior to the first phase of pitting.

Settlement activity and field system

A total of 19 ditches, the majority occurring on a broadly north-west to south-east or north-east to south-west alignment were recorded within the excavation area. A lack of dateable material culture found across the site renders precise dating and phasing of the ditches difficult and this is only exacerbated by the fact that so few junctions/inter-relationships between ditches occur within the excavation area. However, the ditches clearly represent multiple phases of field system, with at least three phases clearly determinable from instances where ditches did intersect. To the south of the saltern a major boundary ditch appears to mark the southern extent of the Roman site.

On the whole finds from the field system ditches were few, however, one section of ditch (F.65) yielded a substantial midden-like deposit containing large amounts of pottery and animal bone. As such it provides relatively good evidence for nearby settlement.

The southern boundary ditch

A wide, roughly east-west aligned ditch (F.46; Figure 5) was exposed toward the southern end of the excavation area. Upon investigation, the ditch was found to be relatively shallow, measuring no more than 0.4m in depth. A total of 31 sherds (*c.* 2% of site assemblage) of 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery in the upper fills of excavated slots and collected from the surface were recovered suggesting an Early Roman origin for this feature. A coin was also recovered from the upper 0.1m of one of the excavated slots and dates from the late 1st or early 2nd century AD (see Hall, below). Towards its westernmost exposed extent, the upper ditch fills comprised a slightly peaty component, indicative of the encroachment of the fen peat during this period.

The ditch appeared to mark the southern limit of the archaeological activity and it is likely to have formed part of a large early Roman enclosure system associated with peripheral settlement activities. The relatively sterile clay-silt fills of the ditch in conjunction with the scarcity of material culture recovered support this function and imply a lack of occupation activity in the immediate area. It is likely that the ditch remained a constant boundary throughout the various phases of Roman activity found at Fenland Way.

Field system ditches

Located in the north edge of the excavation area, a steep-sided, flat-base 'V' shaped ditch (F.144) was aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 5). At its westernmost exposed limit ditch F.144 had been re-cut by a shallow, concave ditch (F.65), which yielded 1,307 sherds of Roman pottery (predominantly dating to the early-mid 2nd century AD and representing 88% of the entire site pottery assemblage). The pottery assemblage was dominated by jars and larger storage jars, with very few fine wares or vessels. Similarly with the faunal assemblage, of the 51 fragments of bone from the

Roman features, most were found within F.65. The assemblage comprised cow, sheep/goat and one fragment of coot bone. The bone and pottery assemblage is indicative of settlement/domestic waste and the concentration of disposed material here is perhaps suggestive of a middening zone.

To the south-west, a short stretch of a slightly curvilinear north-west by south-east aligned ditch (F.90) was exposed. The profile of this feature was very similar to that of F.144, suggesting it may be a return of the ditch system. F.96 (Figure 5) to the east of this appeared to be a continuation of F.90, again displaying a very similar profile, fill sequence and finds assemblage. F.90 and F.96 together seem to form a slightly curvilinear enclosure system that is potentially associated with F.144 and of Early Roman date; given the date of the artefact rich deposit in the re-cut of ditch F.144 (F.65), this seems likely to have been around the turn of the 2nd century AD.

Ditch F.75 in the north of the excavation area, aligned north-west to south-east was potentially associated with F.65. Whilst the former abuts, but has no physical relationship with the latter, a total of 56 sherds of Roman (predominantly 2nd century) were recovered from F.75 representing *c.*4% of the total site assemblage and the second largest quantity from any one feature. The concentration of pottery in F.75 and F.65 immediately adjacent lends weight to the notion of a possible midden zone and that the two ditches are contemporary. Consequently, the re-cutting of ditch F.144 by F.65 suggests that F.65 and F.75 represent a phase of redefinition of the earlier system.

Three further ditched boundaries have been interpreted as belonging to the various phases of field system, although once again truncation and the extent of the excavation area means it is difficult to relate them directly to other field system ditches. The westernmost of these, F.48/49, which was aligned north-west to south-east, had been significantly truncated and the 'breaks' in the ditch are almost certainly the result of this rather than representing true causeways or entrances. To the east of and roughly parallel to F.48/49, ditches F.80 and F.82 did however form a clear single boundary separated by an entranceway. Finally, approximately perpendicular to F.48/50 and F.80/82 a ditched boundary formed by F.79, F.93 and F.102 also appeared to have a narrow entranceway.

The droveway

Two parallel ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, have been provisionally interpreted as a droveway (it should also be noted, however, that given that so little of the feature fell within the excavation area, taken together with the fact that at least one further parallel ditch also occurs in this area of site, it is equally possible that the ditches represent successive phases of a single boundary). The southern arm of the droveway was punctuated by several gaps, probably a result of truncation levels and not necessarily an indication of entranceways. The southern stretch therefore comprised three ditch/gully segments (F.60, F.61 and F.101), with the latter turning toward the west at its northern terminus. A fourth gully segment (F.62) was exposed at the eastern edge of the excavation area, parallel to F.61 and may have been associated with a phase of the droveway.

The northern arm comprised a single unbroken ditch F.86 (Figure 5) which appeared to cut at least two earlier pits (F.71 and F.137) and gully F.51, which forms the eastern portion of the saltern enclosure. F.86 clearly cut through F.80 of the earlier field system, although the fact that the droveway falls within the general northwest-southeast alignment adhered to by the field system could infer that the droveway was incorporated into a pre-existing field system and did not replace it entirely. However, without sufficient dating material (owing to the lack of depositional practices associated with this agricultural activity, and the level of truncation and disturbance on site), it is not possible to further comment on this.

A small assemblage of briquetage was recovered from excavated slots through the droveway ditches, which truncated several features associated with the saltern. Given the large quantities of waste briquetage material associated with salt production, and the evident practice of dumping/re-using the material locally in pits or as structural packing, the residuality of the briquetage in later features is not surprising. Unfortunately, without pottery from secure contexts the phasing and dating of the droveway is approximate.

Other Features

Those features with noticeably large quantities of briquetage fragments or artefacts have been attributed to the use and immediate post-use of the saltern. The fact that waste briquetage clearly remained on site post use and was discarded in pits and on the ground surface, and in some features utilised as packing material, means it can be found in a number of contexts as re-used, residual or even intrusive material.

Three pits located to the south, south-west and west of the saltern (F.47, F.70 and F.148 respectively) contained small quantities of briquetage and their proximity to the saltern site suggests a possible association. F.47 and F.148 were cut by the boundary ditch F.46 and field system ditch F.48 respectively, and, if related to the saltern, would comply with a sequence of phasing, which places the saltern as one of the earliest features at the site.

Five small pits in the south-west of the excavation (F.52, F.53, F.55, F.56 and F.88) area and two larger pits to the north (F.73 and F.138) were probably not associated with the life and use of the saltern. With the exception of pits F.52 and F.73, which contained a few sherds of late 1st to 2nd century AD Roman pottery (including Samian ware), none of these pits could be dated. Pit F.138 was cut by the re-cut ditch F.65 and also contained a few fragments of Roman pottery although the suggestion of a midden in this vicinity implies the material in F.138 may be intrusive. F.73 also contained a few fragments of briquetage, although as stated above, small quantities of briquetage could occur residually or intrusively in non-saltern features. Three of the small pits to the south of the area (F.52, F.53 and F.88) were located ‘outside’ of boundary ditch (F.46), whilst the other two (F.55 and F.56) were situated on the ‘inside’. The pits were all small and shallow, sub-circular in plan with dark grey clay-silt fills and likely relate to peripheral settlement activity and are probably contemporary with the field system and enclosure ditches.

Watching Brief

In the area to the west of *Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain,* groundworks associated with the relocation of the drain were subject to an archaeological watching brief. The only features recorded were a series of parallel, machine-cut trenches cut into the natural geology and sealed only by a thin layer of topsoil. These features are clearly relatively recent and probably associated with post-medieval and modern agricultural practices.

DISCUSSION

The Fenland Project provides a detailed archaeological and palaeoenvironmental background for the Fenland Way site. From this extensive survey, we know that prior to the Bronze Age, the north, east and south-western edges of Chatteris island were bordered by marshland with vast channel networks stretching from the River Ouse on the west side of the parish. By the Iron Age and Roman periods, peat had formed over much of the landscape surrounding the island. During this period, the River Ouse occupied much the same course as it had done in the previous periods (some 2km west of the development area), but was by this time significantly smaller.

Early Roman settlement and field system

It is plausible that the field systems and enclosures at Fenland Way represent peripheral activity associated with settlement to the west and Roman remains excavated off the High Street, Chatteris some 500m to the east suggest that the area was previously the site of Roman settlement(s). Clearly, Chatteris was extensively settled during the Roman period and investigations at Langwood Farm, suggest it can be associated with a relative wealth of rich artefacts including pottery and fine metalwork (Evans 2003). Salt, as a significant commodity in both the Iron Age and Roman periods (Lane & Morris 2001), was possibly traded from the Fenland Way saltern and may have elevated the status of the island-top settlement. However, the small scale of the saltern and its probable sporadic use imply that salt was not produced in vast quantities seasonally, and what was produced may have only been sufficient to serve the adjacent settlement. Remarkably, no briquetage (Iron Age or Roman) has been previously found at Chatteris, either around the lower lying fields off the island, or upon the ridge.

The field systems at Fenland Way imply at least three phases of activity with the earliest potentially represented by the partially curvilinear enclosure (represented by F.144 etc.), this later developed into a more rigid northwest-southeast field system, which was further modified/developed to include a possible droveway. The partially curving ditch associated with the earliest enclosure system could have its origins in the Late Iron Age/Roman transitional period and almost certainly does not post-date the 1st century AD. The more rigid system, which included ditches F.65 and F.75, both abundant in Roman pottery) likely dates to the 2nd century AD and the lack of later 3rd and 4th century AD material suggests the latest phase of field division (including the possible droveway) is unlikely to be later than the late 2nd century AD.

One of the ditches assumed to be associated with the rigid field system also truncated the eastern enclosure feature associated with the saltern and suggests that at least that particular part of the saltern was out of use by the time the field system was established. That is not to say that the saltern was completely out of use by this time however, the evidence suggests the saltern may have been used over a long period of time as represented by the various phases of saltern pits and enclosure features and also potentially sporadically as suggested by the comparatively low quantities of charred plant remains (see Fryer, below). It is possible that the saltern existed for several generations, having been established as early as the early 1st century and been completely out of use by the later 2nd century when the droveway system truncated the saltern hearth. There is some suggestion that at least one other small-scale saltern may have originally been present at Fenland Way (see above pits F.50 and F.140) although the activity at this saltern also appears likely to have been sporadic as a result of the irregularity of the marine inundations of the River Ouse and surrounding fens, thought to be the source of the brackish water (see below).

The presence of the Early Roman saltern at the Fenland Way site (situated between 2.00m and 2.80m) suggests that during this period, the island edges were largely inhabitable, whilst the environmental sequence of the area suggests that settlement below the 2.00m contour did not occur during the Late Iron Age or Roman period; the conditions there being too wet and prone to flooding at this time (Evans 2003). In fact, the distribution of dateable material (coins and pottery) across the Langwood site has led to the suggestion of a settlement 'retreat' upslope to the higher ridge of the Chatteris island during the later Roman period (*ibid.*). This migration was undoubtedly spurred by the growth of peat and the encroaching wetlands on the lower lying levels. A complete lack of late 3rd and 4th century AD Roman coins found 'below' the *c.* 2.90m-3.00m level has been cited in this instance as evidence of an uninhabitable landscape below this contour. This would fit well with the limited sherds of 3rd and 4th AD century pottery collected at Langwood, and also the noticeable lack of pottery of this date at the Fenland Way site (Perrin, see below).

Salt making at Fenland Way

Whilst the Fenland Project identified Chatteris as an important location during the Roman period it was also considered to be "well away from the saltern industry" with an economy "most likely based on stock raising" (Hall 1992, 94). Bronze Age and Iron Age salterns are known in Lincolnshire and are located predominantly on the marine clays at the fen edge. Cambridgeshire does not encompass the same fen edge environment as Lincolnshire, and the saltern sites identified within Cambridgeshire appear to cluster at the northern extremities of fen 'islands', such as March, Manea and Ely (Littleport). With only one known Iron Age saltern in Cambridgeshire at Estover, March (Lane & Morris 2001; Gurney 1980)) the relatively few Cambridgeshire salterns, largely identified through surface collections of briquetage, have been dated to the Roman period (mostly 1st-2nd centuries AD) although later medieval examples are also known. Having said that, some of the sites are clearly associated with Late Iron Age/Roman 'continuation' settlements (see Hall 1992), and without excavation, it is not clear if the briquetage belongs to a strictly Roman phase of activity. The presence of the saltern at Fenland Way of presumed Early Roman date challenges our understanding of the geographical reach of the saltern industry

during the Roman period and has implications for both the environmental sequencing of the River Ouse and the surrounding Fenland landscape and also the economic organisation of the corresponding settlement on the Chatteris island.

The latest marine silts deposited in the north-west Cambridgeshire fens (around the Whittlesey and Thorney islands) occurred during the Late Iron Age, forming what are known as the Terrington Beds (French 2003, 150; Hall 1987). It has been argued that the Terrington Beds did reach as far as the south-central Cambridgeshire fens (including the Chatteris area), but that the sedimentation is confined to large river courses and major streams (Waller 1994). Presuming the River Ouse (located some 2km to the west of Fenland Way) was the source of the brackish water, the presence of a complete Early Roman saltern at the western edge of the Chatteris island may prompt some re-assessment of the extent of these marine inundations.

The encroaching fen, thought to have reached the 2m contour by the later Iron Age and Early Roman period, may have seen phases of marine inundations which could have been exploited by the occupants of the Chatteris island. The Fenland Way site, occupying the 2.50m-3.00m contour would potentially have been ideally situated to take advantage of this encroaching wet environment, especially if channels branching off the main Ouse channel brought salt water close to the site. In this regard the results of analysis of bulk environmental samples from the saltern site appear significant. That no halophytes (eg. seaweeds) were found within the charred plant remains suggests that they were not being used for fuel (as is commonly recorded at saltern sites). Equally no evidence that any of the sampled pits ever contained saltwater was recorded. This suggests that the saltern was not situated in a particularly brackish environment and that salt production may have been periodic and associated with intermittent (or even rare) episodes of marine inundation.

Routeways maintaining movement and trade links between inhabited spaces across the East Anglian Fenlands were well established during the later prehistoric period and many were supported by, or even replaced with a system of canals and roads constructed during the Roman era. The Fen Causway, (linking south Lincolnshire/north Cambridgeshire to Denver in Norfolk via the March 'island'), comprises sections of both metalled roadway and canals and quantities of briquetage have been recovered from both the canal and roadside ditch fills, confirming the movement of salt between the northern Cambridgeshire fens and Norfolk (Lane & Morris 2001; Crowson *et al* 2000). However, the lack of briquetage found during excavations at Langwood suggests that salt may have been transported from the saltern to the associated settlement via different containers such as storage pots and jars.

Precise dating of the Fenland Way saltern is complicated by a number of factors. The first of these is the lack of associated pottery found within the fills of saltern features. Some of the Roman features are dateable by their finds assemblages or relationships to other features on site. However in the case of the saltern features, no pottery was recovered to provide an accurate date and the only meaningful physical relationship is between the saltern hearth and the droveway, the former cut by the latter, which itself appears to represent the latest phase of Roman activity. A couple of abraded fragments of Early Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of two of the saltern pits although dating the saltern on this alone is dubious. Equally, while there

are a few elements within the briquetage assemblage that are characteristic of a Middle-Late Iron Age saltern containers (Lane, see below), no absolute dating evidence exists from across the site to suggest any localised Middle Iron Age activity and certainly no Middle Iron Age pottery has been recovered during the excavations. Within the site assemblage, there are a few fragments of Late Iron Age vessel forms (see Perrin, below) found within the middened material but the quantity of this material compared with the 1st-2nd century Roman pottery suggests it is a residual component.

On the whole, as discussed further by Lane, below, the combination of briquetage types present at Fenland Way, and the presence of an oven-type heating structure, suggests a date in the Early Roman period, probably the 2nd century AD. That this corresponds broadly with the date of the settlement remains would appear to confirm the saltern's Early Roman attribution.

In terms of drawing comparisons with other known saltern sites in the region, it is clear that the Fenland Way saltern does not compare directly with Early Roman salterns across Cambridgeshire or even Lincolnshire. In terms of the general layout of the Fenland Way saltern (hearth, settling/storage tanks and enclosure system), broad comparisons can however be drawn with late Roman examples at Middleton, Norfolk and Stanford Wharf, Essex. Both of these sites comprise rectangular hearths set roughly centrally to a sub-rectangular enclosure ditch (or pair of ditches).

By the 2nd century, the scale of salt production and distribution had grown considerably, with large saltern sites positioned close to major routeways for transportation across the region. As with many types of Roman industry the layout of salt manufacturing sites was generally more rigidly structured and conformist; with regular rectangular reservoir pits and settling tanks located close to single or multiple formal hearths or oven structures. The rise in salt production and distribution would have raised the wealth and status of the surrounding community, and whilst there is evidence for a rich assemblage of metalworking at the Langwood site from around the 2nd century, the Fenland Way 'midden' zone contained no high status pottery wares or any metalworking. Perhaps the saltern went into disuse as large salt manufacturing sites were established elsewhere in the region.

It is not possible to make accurate predictions as to the quantities of salt produced or the lifespan of the saltern at Fenland Way. Indeed, the probable settling tanks identified at the north-west edge of the excavation area could have been associated with a separate saltern system, now lost to modern ground disturbance. The re-use of settling tanks is common at saltern sites, however, and the several phases of pitting associated with Fenland Way saltern could infer a relatively long life-span.

It is reasonable to assume that the large briquetage assemblage collected from the excavated features represents only a fraction of the waste produced during this time, and that briquetage dumps associated with the build-up of waste material may have been removed during hundreds of years of agricultural activity and modern ground levelling. It is difficult to speculate on the exact methods of salt production at Fenland Way. The clips and 'spacers' amid the briquetage assemblage imply that multiple containers were heated above the hearth at one time as seen at other Iron Age and Roman saltern sites (for example, Cowbit, Lincolnshire; Middleton, Norfolk in Lane

& Morris 2001; Stanford Wharf, Essex in Biddulph *et al* 2012). However the imprints of round-based troughs positioned lengthways along the hearth seem to contradict this evidence, which is why it has been suggested that these imprints represent activity post-use of the hearth for heating and evaporation.

CONCLUSION

The location of the Fenland Way saltern challenges the current understanding of the reach of the early Roman salt industry in Cambridgeshire, which until now, has only been identified on the northern extremities of the islands of March, Manea and Ely.

The lack of pottery associated with the saltern features has made precise dating difficult. The briquetage assemblage displays some characteristics typical of both Iron Age and Roman material but on the whole it is considerably thicker than comparative regional material (see Lane, below). Nor does the layout of the saltern directly compare well with Iron Age or Roman examples from across north Cambridgeshire and the Lincolnshire fens. However, in general there are more Early Roman aspects to both the assemblage and the saltern layout. Coupled with the pottery evidence from elsewhere across the Fenland Way site, this would seem to suggest the saltern was active during perhaps the 1st and early 2nd century AD.

The results from the evironmental analysis and the variation of briquetage containers and pedestals seems to point toward occasional use of the saltern. Most saltern activity is seasonal, but the presence of both freshwater and brackish water molluscs and the plant remains from across the hearth suggests that saline water may have only been occasionally available at Fenland Way. Similarly, a large quantity of the briquetage fragments displayed no evidence of salt bleaching and appeared to be ‘unused’. The variation on the briquetage material could suggest that containers were made as and when salt water was available, and possibly even at times, water was collected and heated but no salt was present.

The geographical location of the Fenland Way saltern, the uncertainty as to the source of the brackish water, the peculiarities of both the site layout and the style of briquetage, and the concerns regarding the exact date of the saltern render the Fenland Way site both interesting and important to the understanding of the development of the salt industry in the Later Iron Age and early Roman period.

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SPECIALIST STUDIES

The Flint – *Lawrence Billington*

A single secondary flint flake was found residually in saltern pit F.133. The flake is chronologically undiagnostic but likely dates from the Early Bronze Age or later.

Iron Age and Roman Pottery – *Rob Perrin*

Introduction

The pottery was sorted into fabrics and quantified by sherd count and weight per context. As an additional measure, vessels identifiable to form (mostly rim sherds) were recorded for each context by fabric.

The Roman pottery assemblage comprises 1485 sherds weighing 16,031g; 79 vessels were identified. The condition of the pottery varies, with the grog and shell fabrics, which were fired to lower temperatures, being abraded and vesicular, while the harder fabrics are in better condition (although their surfaces can also be abraded). The pottery derives from 16 contexts in seven features, all of which consisted of the fills of ditches or pits (Table 1). In addition, a single context in another feature contained three sherds of modern pottery and two contexts had a few fragments of what appears to be daub. Most of the pottery and 52 of the vessels identified came from the six contexts found in a 4 metre section of ditch F.65.

Feature	**NoSh**	**%**	**Wgt**	**%**
F46	42	2.8	452	2.8
F52	2		2	
F54	27	1.8	178	1
F65	1307	88	13703	85.5
F73	45	3	292	1.8
F75	56	3.75	1362	8.5
F138	6		42	
Total	**1488**		**16031**	

Table 1: Number of sherds per feature.

Fabrics

Table 2 shows the fabrics/fabric groups. The grog-tempered pottery varies in colour from reddish brown to dark brown and some sherds also contain small shell fragments. The shell-gritted ware is mainly reddish brown in colour, sometimes with a grey core and, as noted above, the shell inclusions often seem to have leached out. There is a wide variation in the colour of the grey wares with differing core, core edge and internal and external surface colours. The dark grey ware is mainly distinguished by having noticeably darker surfaces while the black ware has an overall darker colour. The other oxidised wares comprise sherds in light red, reddish yellow or

reddish brown coloured wares. The sherds in roughcast ware and Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware (LNVCC) both have a pale core and a light red and a brown colour coat, respectively. Imported wares comprise sherds in South (SGS) and Central Gaulish (CGS) samian ware.

The various reduced grey and oxidised wares are all quartz gritted. The amount of quartz is generally consistent and the grains are small in size and vary in colour from white and grey to multi-coloured. Some sherds with a coarser texture have more quartz grains while other sherds also have visible mica inclusions; one grey sherd seems to have additional grog inclusions.

Fabric	**NoSh**	**%**	**Wgt**	**%**
Grog	181	12	1700	10.6
Shell	130	8.75	3791	23.6
Grey	513	34.5	4650	29
Dark grey	344	23	2223	13.9
Black	11		124	
Buff	70	4.7	948	6
Cream	172	11.6	1917	12
Other oxidised	53	3.6	578	3.6
Roughcast	2		4	
LNVCC	1		4	
SGS	1		48	
CGS	7		44	
Total	**1485**		**16031**	

Table 2: Fabric types

Forms

Some 79 vessels were identified and Table 3 shows their occurrence by fabric.

Fabric/Forms	**J**	**J/B**	**B**	**D**	**B/D**	**FL**	**BKR**	**Total**
Grog	9				1			**10**
Shell	9							**9**
Grey	20	1	1	1	3			**26**
Dark grey	5		1	1				**7**
Black	3				1			**4**
Buff	4			2	1			**7**
Cream	5			1		2		**8**
Other oxidised	3	1						**4**
Roughcast							1	**1**
LNVCC							1	**1**
SGS				1				**1**
CGS				1				**1**
Total	**58**	**2**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**79**

Table 3: Vessel forms.

Jars account for almost three-quarters of the vessels. They occur in a range of sizes but those in the grog and shell tempered fabrics also include some large jars and storage jars. Most of the jars have simple curved rims but everted and bead rims are also represented. Decoration mainly comprises neck, shoulder or girth grooves and/or cordons but one vessel has a band of burnished lattice decoration on its neck and another has incised narrow combing around its girth.

One of the bowls has a bead rim and may be from an imitation of samian form 30 while the other is from a carinated vessel with a flat, externally grooved rim. The two samian ware dishes comprise a SGS form 18/31 and a CGS form 36. One of the buff ware dishes is of campanulate form and the other may be plain rimmed, or be part of a flange. The cream ware dish has a grooved rim and may be from a carinated vessel. The grey and dark grey ware dishes both have plain rims, while the base of the grey ware dish has radiating internal burnished lines. All three of these dishes have curved sides. The vessels, which are dishes or bowls include a carinated vessel with a grooved rim and two with triangular rims. The two flagons are both ring-necked types and the roughcast and LNVCC vessels are both small beakers.

Sources

The only pottery from regional production centres are the sherds of LNVCC and roughcast ware, with the latter possibly originating from Colchester or Pakenham, and the only continental imports are the samian vessels from La Grafesenque and, possibly, Les Martres de Veyre. The rest of the pottery is likely to be from more local sources such as those around Cambridge, including Horningsea, Godmanchester and the Lower Nene Valley (Swan 1984, 95-7, 134, 139, 148; Evans 1991; Evans, C J 2003; Evans, J 2003; Perrin 1999).

Date

Only a few sherds are of forms or fabrics which might date to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period but other forms could belong to the later 1st century. Pottery dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD is also absent. The ring-necked flagons, the CGS dish and the LNVCC and roughcast ware beakers are of 2nd century AD date, however, and the assemblage as a whole would perhaps best fit a Hadrianic to Antonine date (early to mid 2nd century AD).

Assemblage and occupation characteristics

The small amounts of regional and continental imports and the lack of specialist vessels such as mortaria and amphora, together with the preponderance of jars, suggests fairly basic, utilitarian activity. The few flagons, beakers, bowls and dishes do, however, suggest a domestic element, albeit rather limited. The CGS vessel has two rivet holes, showing that it was a valued possession and, possibly, that replacements were either difficult or expensive to obtain.

Statement of potential

There has been little archaeological investigation in the Chatteris area, so the results of the excavations at Fenland Way and the pottery assemblage recovered are of considerable local and regional importance. A more detailed study of the pottery should provide information on the trading connections of Chatteris in the 2nd century AD.

Recommendations for further work

Parallels for the recognisable vessels should be sought among the published assemblages from local and regional production centres and sites in order to provide more information on possible sources, their relative importance to Chatteris and the date of the pottery and features. The large assemblage from F.65 should be published in detail, together with selected additional material from other contexts. It is envisaged that around 20 vessels would warrant illustration.

Metalwork –*Andrew Hall*

Roman coin <47> F.46 [88] SF.1: A heavily corroded copper alloy coin of 25mm diameter, weighing 5g. The condition of the coin is very poor with little surface detail remaining. The portrait is possibly Vespasian (69-79 AD) or Domitian (81-96 AD). Under which specific emperor this coin was minted is difficult to determine, however a late 1st century AD date does seem appropriate.

Briquetage – *Tom Lane*

A large collection of briquetage, the ceramic debris from saltmaking, was recovered from the excavation. Four main classes of briquetage were present; containers, supports, structural material and miscellaneous. Together, these indicate that salt was being manufactured on the site. Such is the density of briquetage on many sites that all features, including those earlier and particularly later than the period when salt was being made, tend to contain the ceramic pieces. The term 'Saltern' is used herein to describe the group of features connected with saltmaking at the site – the heating structure, encircling gullies and the various pits.

Briquetage was common in features across the site. In total 11,283 container sherds (weighing 134,950g) were recovered, along with 221 fragments from pedestals, 12 clips/spacers and a minimum of six each of possible hearth wall and floor pieces. Some 3916 pieces were classified as miscellaneous. Of the latter, many are likely to be very small and unidentifiable pieces of container, although probable structural (heating structure) debris was also present. *In situ* a number of these appeared complete but such was their fragility that none could be lifted in one piece. There were relatively few obvious pieces to suggest that the heating unit had once had a superstructure and was a kiln or oven arrangement. Nevertheless the presence of the flue and floor pieces suggested that this type of structure was in use.

Classes and Form types

Containers are ceramic vessels in which the brine was heated to form salt crystals. Usually shallow – although no full profiles were present – the majority are rectangular in plan with rounded corners and flat bases. In one case, in Pit F.81, a rare near-complete base showed the minimum dimensions to be approximately 510mm long x 240mm wide (see Figure 6). By comparison the projected dimensions of containers from Ingoldmells Beach, Lincolnshire, were *c.*600mm long by a maximum width of 260mm (Crosby 2001a, Fig. 131). The Fenland Way example appeared not to have the width variations of the Ingoldmells containers which tapered from c. 260mm down to 160mm wide and from 75mm to 50mm deep.

Infrequent examples of sherds, which could be from 'gutter-shaped troughs' (identified predominantly on Middle Iron Age salterns in Lincolnshire, for example at Market Deeping (Morris 2001a, Fig. 92)), are present within the assemblage. However, given that the Fenland Way containers are taller than known examples from elsewhere (see below) it is also possible that these pieces may not be from rounded bases but rather are body sherds from the walls of containers with rounded corners. No full profile of a body sherd was identified to indicate the height of any of the containers, but many of the wall sherds tended to appear thicker and higher than examples from elsewhere. From F.51, the gully on the east side of the saltern enclosure, two joining pieces of base and wall sherd together measured 91mm high and the highest part, at 14mm thick, was probably still some distance from the upper rim. Elsewhere, the maximum depth of the Ingoldmells containers was 80mm (Crosby 2001a, Table 99). A full container profile from fieldwalking site MOR 49 in Morton Fen, Lincolnshire, was only 40mm high (Lane 1992, 224).

Crosby (2001b, Fig. 36) reporting on the excavated saltern in Morton Fen Lincolnshire notes that flat-based vessels, the most common form at Fenland Way, are known in both Iron Age and Roman sites nationally. Indeed, such variations are unsurprising given that they form part of the corpus of industrial material which were 'throw-away' items. The flat-based rounded-corner containers at Morton Fen (eg Crosby 2001b, Fig. 32, No 5) were dated to the second century AD (125-188 cal AD) (*ibid*, 133).

Rims

Rim sherds proved extremely rare within the assemblage, with only 50 identifiable (0.4% of the container assemblage by number). By comparison, at the Iron Age site at Cowbit, Lincolnshire 2% of the container sherds were rims (Morris 2001b, Table 4), 10% at Iron Age Market Deeping (Morris 2001a, Table 61), 7.4% at Iron Age Langtoft (Morris 2001c, Table 55), 1.6% at Early Roman Morton Fen (Crosby 2001b, Table 27) and 1.6% at Roman Cedar Close, March (Lane *et al* 2007, Table 2).

Within the rim sherds from Fenland Way flat, pointed and rounded forms, that are common in other assemblages, are present but also occasional in-turned and out-turned examples. One reason for the apparent paucity of the rim sherds at Fenland Way could be that a large proportion of the assemblage was unwashed at the time of examination, hampering identification. Moreover, it appeared that some rim sherds were not smoothed or pinched in the traditional way but just left unfinished. This need not necessarily be surprising as the manufactured container was a disposable industrial item, although leaving rims unfinished is not a common practice elsewhere. The combination of unwashed briquetage and unfinished rims, which can resemble strongly ancient breaks in the vessel, even when washed, will

have made many such rims unidentifiable. Moreover, a few other rims have apparent erosion or damage on the inside of the rim, perhaps indicating where salt had been scraped out.

It is believed that the containers were mould-made, formed around one or more pre-existing objects and therefore likely to be of a regular size, although thicknesses vary considerably. No cut marks (incisions in the wet clay running parallel to and indicating the eventual line of the rims) were present on the Fenland Way examples. These are common on Middle Iron Age examples in Lincolnshire suggesting the Fenland Way examples post-date the middle part of the Iron Age.

Bases

The majority of identified base sherds are from the junctions of the base and wall of the vessel, particularly from the corner of the vessel, where the fired vessel is strongest. Fragments of flat bases are difficult to distinguish from the vertical walls of the containers, particularly where there is variety of vessel thicknesses. Overall, many of the vessels are considerably thicker than those measured from Lincolnshire.

Body Sherds

Making up 92% (by number) of the container fragments the body sherd collection no doubt hides some flat-base sherds and some unfinished rim sherds. The variety exhibited in the body sherds is mainly in the size of the pieces, generally tapering in thickness from the base joins to the rim, and the intensity of their use, measured by the extent of 'salt-bleaching' (see below). The original heights of the containers cannot be identified but some are significantly taller than previous examples recorded elsewhere.

Supports

Supports are used to raise and stabilise the containers above the hearth floor and secure them in position within the heating structure.

Pedestals

In a heating structure pedestals stand either on the base/floor of the structure or on ledges or on fired clay 'floor' pieces within the structure and enable the heat to circulate around the vessels they support and elevate. Often these items are idiosyncratic and made especially for the single purpose of levelling a particular container within the structure. Nevertheless, these one-off objects do often follow certain styles. At Fenland Way, the forms seem to be largely variations of two types. Two near-complete pedestals resemble in size those classified as PD4 pedestals on Fenland salterns by Morris (2001d, fig.114, No 19), but, significantly, styled to locate flat-based, rather than gutter-shaped, vessels. PD4 types are dated to the Early and Middle Iron Age in Lincolnshire (Morris 2001d, 371), but as stated the Fenland Way examples are of unique form at the top. A single perforated pedestal (from F.96, a gully north-east of the saltern) has a residue on the broken perforation and down the side of the pedestal. This also resembles a perforated PD4 pedestal, similar to those found at Middle Iron Age Langtoft, in Lincolnshire.

Many of the remaining Fenland Way pedestals are more 'brick-like' in form, resembling the PD8 pedestals from Nordelph and Downham West in Norfolk (Morris 2001d, fig. 115, No 22) and objects described as 'bricks' from Morton Saltern in Lincolnshire (Crosby 2001b, 120-1). At all three of these sites the date is likely to be Early Roman (1st and 2nd century AD). A complete example of a pedestal from F.74 (a pit south of the saltern) has a sub-square base measuring 85 x 70mm, tapering to square flat top measuring 37 x 40mm and is 98mm tall. A further complete example, from Pit F.116, in the row of pits to the west, has a sub-square base measuring 75 x 65mm tapering to a flat top 53 x 48mm and 76mm high. These 'brick' pedestals were in use by the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods, possibly as a response to a new type of heating structure. Nevertheless, the hearth/oven at Fenland Way

is fairly rudimentary and there are few structural remains to suggest it once formed a sophisticated oven or kiln.

Aside from the few disc examples none of the taller pedestals are circular in plan, all being square or rectangular, in contrast to many of the known Roman briquetage assemblages, where 'pillar'-types predominate. A single disc pedestal from Pit F74 measures 50mm diameter by 30mm tall and would have probably been used one time only as a levelling device.

Clips/spacers

In addition to the pedestals, which hold the bulk of the weight of the containers, are a limited number of other stabilising devices. Several clips were identified. These were pieces of wet clay which were pushed down into the gaps between multiple containers in an oven or between a container and oven wall to stabilise the containers. The presence of clips in the Fenland Way assemblage, albeit few in number, is another suggestion of a Late Iron Age or, more probably, Early Roman date range for the saltern (Morris 2001d, fig 111).

Miscellaneous

A Miscellaneous category includes unidentifiable fragments. Mostly these are unidentifiable because of their small size. The majority of the almost 4000 pieces may well be fragments of container, but some highly irregular pieces are likely to be hearth/oven remains. Relatively few sherds were identified as from platforms or floor pieces covering the flue. Such pieces, from F.140, an isolated pit some 25m northwest of the 'hearth', are between 20 and 30mm thick, smoothed more on the surface which is salt bleached (been in contact with large amounts of salt water), but less smoothed on the under-side. They may, however, be the flat bases or straight walls from substantial containers. While the presence of platforms and the flue suggest the use of an oven or kiln-type heating structure there is relatively little recognisable superstructure debris in the briquetage assemblage. Nevertheless, the on-site record shows platform and floor pieces that were fragile and did not survive complete, these indicate an indirect heating structure (oven rather than simple hearth). Examples of indirect heating structures are found in Lincolnshire dating from the Late Iron Age onwards (eg. at Cowbit, Morris 2001b, 54).

Fabrics

As the majority of the assemblage was not washed by no means all of the assemblage was examined for fabric types. Instead, the items selected as special or key pieces, which were washed, were examined.

A total of five fabric types were recognised based on inclusions. Types 1, 3 and 4 had strong similarities, as did Types 2 and 5. The latter two types contained flint chunks in excess of 10mm and rare organic voids. Only a limited number of pieces (three from Type 2 and two from Type 5) were in these fabrics. A single pedestal fabric Type 5 from 352 in F.123 contained salt bleach. The remaining pieces of Types 2 and 5 were container fragments, those from F.80, F.96 and F.81 devoid of salt bleach and possibly unused. Type 2 items all came from post-saltern gullies.

Fabrics 1, 3 and 4 covered a wide range of objects including pedestals, clips, and containers and were characterised by common-to-frequent organic voids, but with rare inclusions of limestone, iron and oolite. All these inclusions probably reflect local production as the site is on the side of an island.

Salt bleaching/Intensity of Use

A large number of the pieces, containers and pedestals have a creamy/pale yellow coating indicating contact with salt water. In many cases, this has penetrated the entire fabric indicating a high degree of contact and a significant intensity of use in the saltmaking process. In other cases, however, particularly container sherds, there is no evidence at all for contact with salt water and it may be that some of the items were either used only rarely or not at all. Alternatively, it may be that different phases of saltmaking took place within an earlier, less intensive, phase, followed by later phases which heralded an intensification of production indicated by the items with significant amounts of salt bleaching.

Dating

Given the lack of associated domestic pottery, other closely dateable artefacts or scientific dating, a chronological fix for the site is reliant on briquetage. Given that briquetage is essentially discarded industrial debris, its use as a dating tool, by means of typology, is not an exact science. Nevertheless, previous work on briquetage assemblages, notably from the Fenland collections by Elaine Morris, has provided a set of broad date ranges for various classifications of briquetage.

The combination of briquetage types present at Fenland Way, and the presence of an oven-type heating structure, suggests a date in the later part of the Iron Age and into the Roman period, with the use of flat-bottomed rectangular containers and brick-like pedestals further refining the date to the Early Roman period, probably the second century AD, the equivalent of Morris' briquetage Phase 3 (Morris 2007, Fig.5).

Any results of scientific dating that may come from the residues on the containers recovered from the heating structure will be significant. (six fragments from hearth F.106). These each sported a white/creamy residue, possibly remains of ash in the hearth. A perforated pedestal from F.96, a gully north-east of the saltern, had a different type of residue within the perforation and running down the object. This should also been sent for analysis.

Various phases could be discerned from the excavation of the saltern-related features but from the individual briquetage collections from features there was no clear indication of such phases, with most of the collections being relatively homogenous. The 'tidiness' of saltern sites, the way that at the end of a saltern's lifespan, or at the end of a season of saltmaking, that the briquetage appears to have been backfilled into features has been noted previously (eg Crowson 2001, 248) and may well have happened at Fenland Way.

Discussion

Saltmaking debris comprising a variety of briquetage, containers for heating brine, a heating structure, various pedestals and clips used to secure the containers are all present at Fenland Way. The high intensity of use of some of the briquetage is indicated by the extent of salt-bleaching on and within the fabrics. The fabrics suggest local manufacture of the briquetage.

As a saltmaking unit the Fenland Way site differs in many ways from the nearest known sites. It appears to be isolated although the excavators thought there may have been a second heating structure just to the northwest beyond the limit of excavation (F.49/50 etc). Whether or not that was the case the site certainly differs from the nearest known equivalents, those at Cedar Close, March (Lane *et a*l 2007) and nearby Norwood (Potter 1981). There, multiple heating structures were present as opposed to the single, or sometimes paired, examples common in Lincolnshire.

The general configuration of the site is unlike its nearest known equivalents. With its 'encircling' features, gullies and pits it resembles more the Lincolnshire examples (Lane 2005, fig.4) but appears less formal. Lincolnshire examples of Early Roman date commonly have square or rectangular pits, interpreted as 'settling tanks', in a location similar to those occupied by pits F.67 and F.68 at Fenland Way. Settling tanks appear to become a feature of saltern sites during the later part of the Iron Age and into the Roman period, for example at Morton Fen (Trimble 2001, fig. 28) and are usually clay-lined. Certainly settling tanks would be expected among the features present at Fenland Way. F.104 was clay-lined and may have originated as a settling tank while the locations of Pits F.67 and F.68, in proximity to the heating structure, would make them likely settling tank candidates. Pit F.104 was also significant in the sheer volume of briquetage fragments it contained.

The Lincolnshire 'encircling ditches' are usually of one construction and significantly deeper than gullies F.51, F.57, F.109. Neither do they have posts inserted as found in F.109. Usually, these encircling ditches are interpreted as being drainage or for space delineation. A significant level of ground truncation may, however, have affected the Fenland Way features. Nevertheless, Fenland Way represents the only Cambridgeshire site with any suggestion of the encircling ditches present and common on Lincolnshire and Norfolk sites.

Not found on any of the Lincolnshire sites is the equivalent of the line of intercutting pits found to the west of F.109. One or more of these may have been clay-lined originally (and possibly been a source of clay for use in making briquetage) and been a local variation of the settling tank, but in terms of location, their position outside the encircling gullies, is previously unknown. Moreover, it would have proved an inconvenience to collect the brine from outside the saltern limits. It is possible that most of these pits, following clay extraction, merely served as dumps for broken briquetage and other waste from the process and served to keep the saltern interior relatively clean. Pits F.117, F.123 and F.141 were considered to be broadly contemporary given similarities in shape, proximity and sequence. F.116 and F.133 are also similar in dimensions and may have been a contemporary pairing of pits. These were deeper than the others and had evidence for disturbed clay linings. The

quantities of briquetage in Pits F.116 and F.133 are similar with 925 pieces (13,624g) and 1019 pieces (10,203g) respectively.

Whatever its date the site does not fit easily into the landscape as interpreted in the Fenland Survey (Hall 1992). From the present-day surface evidence there would appear to have been difficulty in obtaining sufficiently saline water at the site. A large creek on the west side of the island did run within 2km of the site (*ibid*, fig. 54) and it is this that must have been the source of the brine. Contemporary tidal channels through the peat and up to the site may have been present but subsequent peat shrinkage (and/or ground reduction) may have removed the evidence. The Fenland Way site is, nevertheless, up to 17km south of the Roman period salterns occupying the northern end of March island, which are the nearest equivalents.

Faunal Remains - *Vida Rajkovača*

The faunal assemblage totalled some 76 specimens weighing 557g. Bone came from 13 features associated with the Roman saltern and elements of the Roman field system (Table 4). A single cattle-sized fragment was also recovered from modern drainage ditch F.45.

Material came from seven of the saltern features and was dominated by sheep/goat or sheep-sized elements. Aside from three specimens recorded as charred or calcined, the bone showed a very good level of preservation with no signs of gnawing, implying quick deposition.

Bone from the Roman ditches was slightly more abundant, amounting to 51 specimens, or two-thirds of the assemblage. The bone was not as well preserved; four fragments showed weathering, and a further five were recorded as charred or calcined. The only three elements affected by butchery also came from Roman ditches and comprise a cow humerus, cow pelvis and a cattle-sized limb bone fragment.

	Saltern Features (IA/ER)			*Romano-British*			*Modern*			**Total**
Taxon	**NISP**	**%NISP**	**MNI**	**NISP**	**%NISP**	**MNI**	**NISP**	**%NISP**	**MNI**	**NISP**
Cow	.	.	.	5	*38.5*	1	.	.	.	5
Sheep/ goat	10	*91*	2	7	*53.8*	1	.	.	.	17
Pig	1	*9*	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Coot	.	.	.	1	*7.7*	1	.	.	.	1
Sub-total to species	**11**	*100*	.	**13**	*100*	.	.	.	.	**24**
Cattle-sized	2	.	.	14	.	.	1	.	.	17
Sheep-sized	11	.	.	24	.	.	.	.	.	35
Total	**24**	.	.	**51**	.	.	**1**	.	.	**76**

Table 4: Number of Identified Specimens and the Minimum Number of Individuals for all species from all features.

Assessment of bulk environmental samples – *Val Fryer*

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit, gully and ditch fills and from burnt deposits within the hearth. A total of fourteen were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by the CAU 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 5 Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of dry land herbs and wetland plants were recorded at a low to moderate density from all but two samples; 46 (from pit F.140) and 55 (from boundary ditch F.46)). Preservation was generally good, although some grains and seeds were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Cereal remains were generally scarce, although wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were moderately common within both of the hearth assemblages (samples 33 and 34 from F106). The majority of these grains were of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*), and a small number of spelt glume bases were also noted within the hearth assemblages and from the fill of pit F116 (sample 38). Oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were also recorded, although all were present as single specimens within an assemblage.

Seeds of common segetal weeds were noted from eight samples, with most occurring within the pit and hearth assemblages. Taxa noted included brome (*Bromus* sp.), which were particularly abundant within the assemblage from sample 34, medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), poppy (*Papaver* sp.), grasses (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). A number of seeds of an indeterminate umbellifer of possible hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) or water parsnip (*Sium latifolium*) type were noted within the hearth assemblages, but none were sufficiently well preserved for close identification. Fruits of common wetland plants, namely sea club-rush/club-rush (*Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and rush (*Juncus* sp.), were present within most of the pit and gully fills. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Fragments of charred root/stem and indeterminate culm nodes, some of which were very robust, were present or common within all of the pit assemblages. Although most were not particularly well preserved, the size of some nodes possibly indicated that a proportion were from reed (*Phragmites australis*) type stems.

Although small fragments of burnt/fired clay and burnt/blackened concretions were recorded within a number of the assemblages studied, other remains were generally quite scarce. However, both of the hearth assemblages contained moderate to high densities of siliceous globules and concretions. Such material, which is derived from phytoliths and intercellular silica, often forms when silica rich plant remains are burnt at a high temperature in well-oxygenated conditions. Similar assemblages associated with salt production have been noted at, for example, Blackborough End, Middleton, Norfolk (Murphy 2001).

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial, fresh water and brackish water species were present within the pit and hearth assemblages (Table 7). Some specimens (most notably those of the terrestrial species) retained delicate surface structuring and coloration, possibly indicating that they post-dated the contexts from which the samples were taken. However, many shells were fragmented and abraded and occasional specimens were also burnt, and it was considered most likely that these were contemporary with the excavated features. Of the terrestrial species, all four of Evans (1972) ecological groups were represented, with open country taxa indicative or short-turfed grassland and marsh/freshwater slum snails occurring mostly frequently. Overall, the mollusc assemblage was dominated by shells of freshwater obligate species including *Anisus leucostoma*, *Armiger crista*, *Bathyomphalus contortus*, *Gyraulus albus* and *Hippeutis nitida*, all of which are common in smaller bodies of fresh water. However, estuarine and salt marsh species (namely *Hydrobia ulvae* and *H. ventrosa*), including a number of burnt specimens, were predominant within the assemblage from sample 16 (pit F.74), with specimens also being recorded from samples 59 (pit F.81), 35 and 38 (pit F.116) and 34 (hearth F.106).

Discussion

Salt production was a major industry in the Fens during the later prehistoric and Roman periods, with many contemporary sites being known at, for example, March (Lane et. al. 2008), Morton in Lincolnshire and Middleton and Nordelph in Norfolk (Lane and Morris 2001). The current samples are all from contexts identified as components of a saltern, including a hearth and pits which may have acted as settling tanks/water storage facilities. Although there appears to have been at least two phases of activity in and around the early Roman period, there are potential problems of interpretation, as analysis of residues on samples of briquetage have shown no evidence of salt and very low levels of any elements indicative of the burning of seaweed, terrestrial plant materials or peat, which are the fuels most commonly identified from elsewhere. So, given these issues, is it possible to ascertain how the site at Chatteris may have functioned? In some respects, the assemblages are different to those recorded elsewhere, for example, seeds/remains of halophyte plants are entirely absent. But in general, the remains are closely paralleled at other saltern sites, and it would appear most likely that this was the intended function of the features. Hearth F.106 had definitely been heated to very high temperatures and, as with the hearth at Morton (Murphy 2001), it had been subsequently cleaned, presumably as a means of preventing accidental fires. Waste from the heath appears to have been accidentally or deliberately distributed across the site, occurring particularly within the fills of pits F.116 and F.142. The composition of these assemblages would appear

to indicate that a mixture of fuels were being used including riverine plant materials (i.e. reeds), wood/charcoal and cereal processing waste, although the latter seems to have been at a particular premium, presumably because so few cereals were being produced within the local Fen area. The abundant saw-sedge nutlets may also suggest that small quantities of peat were being utilised, as at Nordelph (Murphy 2001), and it is assumed that the shells of the brackish water molluscs, which are so abundant within pit F74, were probably accidentally burnt along with the imported estuarine plant materials to which they were attached.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages from Chatteris are broadly similar to those from the nearby saltern at Cedar Close, March (Lane et.al. 2008) although at the latter site it would appear that more peat was being used, presumably because it was so locally abundant. The composition of the assemblages from Chatteris appears to indicate that salt production was being carried out on a small scale, with a range of fuels being used as and when they became available. Why these fuels are poorly represented within the test results from the briquetage is not known, although the extremely low density of charred plant materials may suggest that the saltern was only used very sporadically. Indeed, the abundance of freshwater mollusc shells within the pit fills does appear to suggest that some of the features very rarely, if ever, held brackish water, even allowing for the fact that some specimens may be slightly later in date.

As the assemblages are mostly very small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and limited in composition, further quantification/analysis would add little to the data already included within this assessment and, therefore, no further work is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Sample No.	**16**	**59**	**35**	**38**	**53**	**32**	**46**	**49**	**24**	**47**	**55**	**56**	**33**	**34**
Context No.	**187**	**191**	**344**	**348**	**447**	**328**	**408**	**436**	**293**	**411**	**89**	**138**	**339**	**340**
Feature No.	**F74**	**F81**	**F11**	**F11**	**F11**	**F11**	**F14**	**F14**	**F76**	**F76**	**F46**	**F65**	**F106**	**F106**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Gully**	**Gully**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Hearth**	**Hearth**
Cereals														
Avena sp. (grain)			xcf											
Hordeum sp. (grains)				xcf				x						
Triticum sp. (grains)	xcf							x					xx	xx
(glume bases)								x						
(spikelet bases)													x	x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)				x									x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x							x					x	x
Herbs														
Apiaceae indet.													x	xx
Atriplex/Sueada sp.				x										
Bromus sp.			x	x				xx					x	xxx
Chenopodium album L.				x										
Chenopodiaceae indet.	x		x	x		x								
Fabaceae indet.								x						
Lapsana communis L.				xcf										
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.														x
Papaver sp.								x						
Small Poaceae indet.						x		xcf					x	
Large Poaceae indet.													x	
Rumex sp.												x		x
Rumex/Carex sp.						x								
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.)Schultz Bip														x
Wetland plants														
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.	x		x											
Carex sp.	x		x	x	x	x								
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl	x	x	xx	xx	x	x		x	xx	x				x
Juncus sp.			x					x	x					
Other plant macrofossils														
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x	xx	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	xxx	x	x	x	x	x	x		xx	x		
Charcoal >5mm			x	x			x		x		xx			
Charcoal >10mm											x	x		
Charred root/stem	xx	x	xxx	xxx	x	x		x		x				
Indet. culm nodes	xx		x	xx	x	x	x	x						
Indet. seeds	x		x	x	x			x						x
Indet. tuber/bulb	x													

Table 5: Idenified plant remains from the processed environmental bulk samples.

Sample No.	**16**	**59**	**35**	**38**	**53**	**32**	**46**	**49**	**24**	**47**	**55**	**56**	**33**	**34**
Context No.	**187**	**191**	**344**	**348**	**447**	**328**	**408**	**436**	**293**	**411**	**89**	**138**	**339**	**340**
Feature No.	**F74**	**F81**	**F116**	**F116**	**F116**	**F118**	**F140**	**F142**	**F76**	**F76**	**F46**	**F65**	**F106**	**F106**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Gully**	**Gully**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Hearth**	**Hearth**
Other remains														
Black porous 'cokey' material	x													
Black tarry material			x	x				x		x	x	x	x	
Bone	xx	x												
Burnt/blackened concretions	xxxx	x	xxxx	x	xxx		x							
Buff/white concretions	xx													xx
Burnt/fired clay	xx	xx	xx	xx		xx	x	x	x	xx			x	xx
Fish bones	x													
Ostracods				x			x							
Siliceous globules				x									xxxx	xx
Small coal frags.	x		x			x			x	x		x		x
Small mammal/amphibian bone			x											
Vitreous material	x			x	x	x							x	x

Table 6: Other materials from the processed environmental samples

Sample No.	**16**	**59**	**35**	**38**	**53**	**32**	**46**	**49**	**24**	**47**	**55**	**56**	**33**	**34**
Context No.	**187**	**191**	**344**	**348**	**447**	**328**	**408**	**436**	**293**	**411**	**89**	**138**	**339**	**340**
Feature No.	**F74**	**F81**	**F116**	**F116**	**F116**	**F118**	**F140**	**F142**	**F76**	**F76**	**F46**	**F65**	**F106**	**F106**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Gully**	**Gully**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Hearth**	**Hearth**
Molluscs														
Woodland/shade loving species														
Punctum pygmaeum														x
Open country species														
Helicidae indet.		x	x											
Pupilla muscorum	x		x				x	x						
Vallonia sp.	x	x	x					x					x	x
V. excentrica	xcf		x										x	x
V. pulchella						xcf								
Vertigo pygmaea	x	x	x	x		x		x					x xb	x
Catholic species														
Nesovitrea hammonis							x							
Trichia hispida group	x						x							x
Marsh/freshwater slum species														
Carychium sp.	x	x												
Lymnaea sp.			x xb			x								
L. palustris	xcf													
L. truncatula	x		x	x			x							
Succinea sp.	x		x	xx	x									
Freshwater obligate species														
Acroloxus lacustris	x													
Anisus leucostoma	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x	x							
Aplexa hypnorum							xcf							
Armiger crista	x		xx	xxx	x	xx	x							
Bathyomphalus contortus			x	x	x	x	x							
Bithynia sp.		xcf				x								
(operculum)	x													
Gyraulus albus	x		xx	xxx	x	x								
Hippeutis sp.		x	x	xx	x									
H. nitida			xcf	xx										
Physa fontinalis				x										
Pisidium sp.	x													
Planorbis sp.	xcf			x			xcf							
P. planorbis		x	x		x									

Sample No.	**16**	**59**	**35**	**38**	**53**	**32**	**46**	**49**	**24**	**47**	**55**	**56**	**33**	**34**
Context No.	**187**	**191**	**344**	**348**	**447**	**328**	**408**	**436**	**293**	**411**	**89**	**138**	**339**	**340**
Feature No.	**F74**	**F81**	**F116**	**F116**	**F116**	**F118**	**F140**	**F142**	**F76**	**F76**	**F46**	**F65**	**F106**	**F106**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Gully**	**Gully**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Hearth**	**Hearth**
Valvata cristata			x			x								
Brackish water species														
Hydrobia sp.	xx		x											
H. ulvae	xb			xcf										
H. ventrosa	xxx	x xb	x xb	x										x
Sample volume (litres)	8	20	30	10	8	10	27	3	7	22	30	15	14	5
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 7: Identified mollusc remains from the processed environmental samples.

Key to Tables

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare b = burnt

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APPPENDIX A

Context/Feature descriptions

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
72	Fill			Peaty soil. Very dark grey brown humic peaty clay silt. Friable/crumbly.				
73	Cut	43	Ditch	Roughly E-W linear ditch, unclear edges and base unknown		0.65?	>0.3	Drainage feature associated with dyke. Unclear edges due to cracks in natural (truncated clay geology)
74	Fill			Peaty soil. Very dark grey brown humic peaty clay silt. Friable/crumbly.				
75	Cut	44	Ditch	Shallow drainage ditch with gently sloping sides and a gently concave base. Aligned SE-NW		0.55	0.1	Shallow drainage feature associated with dyke
76	Fill			Mixed/mottled mid reddish brown and grey brown silty clay. Occasional CBM fragments, coke and possible briquetage. Moderately firm.				
77	Cut	45	Ditch	Probable drainage ditch terminus. Edges unclear. Variable sides and base unknown		1.05	>0.3	Probable drainage feature associated with dyke. Edges unclear due to cracking of natural clay geology
78	Layer	N/A		Topsoil. Alluviated soil. Very dark grey, crumbly, friable clay silt with moderate to frequent bioturbation and moderate patches of pale grey clay.				Tr 1 & 2
79	Layer	N/A		Alluviated subsoils. Dark grey clay silt with patches of pale grey with orange streaks clay. Moderate biotubation. Crumbly/friable.				Tr 1 & 2
80	Layer	N/A		Alluviated subsoils. Dark brown grey clay silt with seams/patches of mid orange fine gravels and pea grit. Moderately crumbly.				Tr 1
81	Layer	N/A		Very dark grey brown humic, peaty clay silt. Crumbly. Occasional patches of CBM and coke. Moderate bioturbation.				Tr 2
82	Layer	N/A		Natural substrate layer. Dark blue grey and brown grey mixed clays with streaks/patches of iron oxidised (orange) pea grit. Occasional flecks of coke and CBM/briquetage.				Tr 1 & 2
83	Layer	N/A		Alluvial layer of natural substrate. Mid-pale mottles brownish grey and fine orange silty clays. Fine structure, less 'blocky' and less friable. Sticky/plastic.				Tr 1 & 2
84	Layer	N/A		Artificial archaeological level. As (82) but with frequent gravel patches and seams. Occasional medium stones and fossil fragments.				Tr 1
85	Layer	N/A		Level beneath Ampthill clay geology. Dark grey-blue silt clay with seams of fine sands and larger coarse (quartzite) grains. Horizontally bedded, forming cracks along desiccation lines. Probable shallow sea bed.				Tr 1 & 2
86	Fill			Dark greyish brown silty clay with dark orange brown patches. Occasional small stones. Compact.				
87	Cut	46	Ditch	Roughly E-W aligned ditch with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.		2.1	0.3	Roman boundary ditch

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
88	Fill			Dark grey blue slightly peaty clay. Compacted. Rare to moderate small and medium stones.				Coin SF#1
89	Fill			Dark, slightly blue/green clay. Occasional small and medium stones and occasional briquetage.				
90	Fill			Compacted yellowish grey clay. Frequent small and medium stones. Moderate briquetage flecks.				
91	Cut	46	Ditch	Roughly E-W aligned ditch with moderately sloping sides and a flattish/slightly concave base.		2.57	0.46	Roman boundary ditch
92	Fill			Compact dark grey silt clay.				
93	Fill			Compact mid-darkish grey clay.				
94	Cut	46	Ditch	Roughly E-W aligned. Moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.		2.7	0.43	Roman boundary ditch.
95	Fill			Compact dark grey clay.				
96	Cut	47	Pit	Oval in plan, with steep sides and a concave base.	1.85	1.15	0.2	
97	Fill			Dark grey compacted silt clay. Rare small stones and frequent briquetage fragments.				
98	Cut	48	Gully	Roughly NW-SE aligned gully with gradual sides and a slightly concave base.		0.59	0.14	Heavily truncated. Probable Roman field enclosure system.
99	Fill			Dark grey compacted silt clay. Rare small stones and frequent briquetage fragments.				
100	Cut	48	Gully	Roughly NW-SE aligned gully with gradual sides and a slightly concave base.		0.34	0.09	Truncated possible terminus.
101	Fill			Very dark grey silt clay. Moderately firm.				
102	Cut	49	Gully	Shallow NW-SE aligned linear with moderately gradual sides and a gently concave base.		0.35	0.12	Truncated gully terminus forming segmented ditch with F48
103	Fill			Dark brown grey silty clay with patches of re-deposited pale brown-grey natural clay.				
104	Cut	50	Pit	Shallow pit, possibly sub-circular to oval in plan. Gently sloping sides and a gently concave base.			0.17	Possibly associated with saltern activity.
105	Fill			Mid brownish grey clay silt matrix with abundant briquetage fragments. Gradually more clayey toward the base.				
106	Cut	51	Gully	Curvilinear gully. Very steep, near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.3	0.17	Gully packed with briquetage for possible structural use (i.e. packing for a wattle fence wind-break).
107	Fill			Dark greyish brown compacted clay with rare small stones.				
108	Cut	52	Pit	Circular pit or posthole with steep sides and a concave base.	0.45	0.4	0.13	
109	Fill			Dark greyish brown compacted clay with rare small stones.				
110	Cut	53	Pit	Circular pit or posthole with near vertical sides and an uneven/irregular base.	0.65	0.6	0.13	

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
111	Fill			Mottled pale-mid grey brown clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and small stones.				
112	Cut	46	Ditch	Roughly E-W ditch with moderately gradual sides and an uneven/slightly concave base.		1.4	0.35	Roman boundary ditch.
113	Fill			Mid greyish brown clay, slightly silty toward upper horizon. Occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.				
114	Cut	46	Ditch	Roughly E-W, moderately gradual sides and a gently concave base.		2.64	0.3	Roman boundary ditch.
115	Fill			Dark greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.				
116	Cut	55	Pit	Sub-oval in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base.	0.7	0.5	0.11	
117	Fill			Dark greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.				
118	Cut	56	Pit	Elongated oval in plan. Steep sides with a gently concave base.	0.8	0.35	0.13	
119	Fill			Mid-pale grey/yellowish grey sandy/gritty clay. Firm. Iron staining patches.				
120	Cut	57	Gully	Gully terminus. Steep sides and concave base.		0.35	0.12	Gully segment terminus.
121	Fill			Mid grey slightly silty clay. Firm.				
122	Cut	149	Gully	Truncated gully. Flattish base, no further details available.		0.33	0.02	Truncated gully.
123	Fill			Dark brown-grey (black) slightly silty, gritty clay. Firm. Occasional to moderate charcoal flecks and flecks of briquetage. Rare small stones.				
124	Cut	58	Posthole	Oval posthole. Gradual sides and gently concave base.	0.24	0.15	0.04	Truncated posthole possibly associated with hearth construction/shelter.
125	Fill			Dark brown-grey (black) slightly silty, gritty clay. Firm. Occasional to moderate charcoal flecks and flecks of briquetage. Rare small stones.				
126	Cut	59	Posthole	Circular posthole. Near vertical sides and flattish base.	0.22	0.21	0.07	Truncated posthole possibly associated with hearth construction/shelter.
127	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown silt clay Moderately soft. Moderate briquetage.				
128	Cut	60	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear ditch, with gently sloping sides and a flat/slightly irregular base.				Truncated linear ditch. Part of agricultural droveway (?).
129	Fill			Very dark (blackish) brown soft silt clay with moderate briquetage.				
130	Cut	61	Gully	NE-SW aligned. Gradual sloping sides and flattish/irregular base.				Truncated linear ditch. Part of agricultural droveway (?). Irregular base due to bioturbation.
131	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown soft silty clay with moderate briquetage.				
132	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown compacted clay with rare briquetage.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
133	Cut	62	Gully	Gully terminus. NW-SE aligned. Variable sides with a concave base.				
134	Fill			Dark slightly blue grey compacted clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Frequent briquetage.				
135	Cut	63	Posthole	Sub-oval in plan. Moderately steep sides with an irregular base.	0.48	0.41	0.12	Posthole possibly associated with hearth/shelter construction.
136	Fill			Dark slightly blue grey clay with occasional stones and charcoal flecks. Frequent briquetage.				
137	Cut	64	Pit/ posthole	Sub-oval in plan with moderately steep sides and a concave base.	0.45	0.37	0.06	Posthole/pit possibly associated with hearth/shelter construction.
138	Fill			Mid brownish (black) soft clay silt. Frequent pottery and rare small stones.				
139	Cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned linear ditch, with moderately gradual sides and a concave base.		1.2	0.34	Early Roman ditch with LOTS of pottery.
440	Fill	65		Mid brownish grey compacted clay (basal clay). Rare small stones.				
140	Fill			Mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent briquetage and charcoal throughout.				
141	Cut	66	Pit	Oval in plan with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	0.5	0.4	0.07	Possible truncated settling tank adjacent to hearth. Diatom sample <60>.
142	Fill			Mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent briquetage and charcoal throughout.				
143	Cut	67	Pit	Circular pit in plan. Gradual sides and a flattish base.	1.1	1	0.1	Possible truncated settling tank adjacent to hearth. Diatom sample <61>.
144	Fill			Mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent briquetage and charcoal throughout.				
145	Cut	68	Pit	Oval pit in plan. Gradual sides and a flattish base.	1.6	1.45	0.1	Possible truncated settling tank adjacent to hearth. Diatom sample <62>.
146	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay with occasional gritty patches.				
147	Cut	80	Ditch	Shallow ditch terminus, NW-SE aligned. Moderately gradual sides and an irregular base.		0.22	0.14	
148	Fill			Dark grey silty clay. Compacted. Occasional charcoal and moderate briquetage.				
149	Fill			Compacted mottled grey-blue clay and dark grey silty clay. Occasional charcoal and moderate briquetage.				
150	Cut	70	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with steep sides and an uneven base.	0.95	0.85	0.25	Briquetage-rich pit adjacent to boundary ditch F46.
151	Fill			Mottled mid-dark brown silty clay with patches of a more peaty clay silt material. Moderate charcoal.				
152	Cut	65	Ditch	NE-SW aligned linear with moderately gradual sides and a concave base.		0.8	0.25	Roman pottery. Ditch heavily truncated.
153	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay silt. Occasional small stones.				
154	Cut	71	Pit	Shallow pit, sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and an irregular base.	0.46	0.4	0.14	

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
155	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay silt.				
156	Cut	86	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderately steep sides and an irregular base.		0.94	0.18	
157	Fill			Compacted mid-dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt clay/briquetage fragments.				
158	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Pale, mottled orange-brown with brown/grey mix.				
159	Cut	73	Pit	Oval pit in plan. Steep sides with a concave base.	1.65	1.1	0.3	Some Samian pottery found. Close to F65 (with LOTS of Roman pottery)
160	Fill			Friable, mottled pale greyish white ashy silt with grey brown silty clay. Occasional briquetage.				
161	Fill			Matrix of firm grey brown silty clay with abundant (mostly) briquetage.				
162	Fill			Friable, whitish mortar (?) or ashy silt.				
163	Fill			Friable mottled dark brown clay silt and pale grey clay silt. Moderate charcoal flecks.				
164	Fill			Friable, whitish mortar (?) or ashy silt.				
165	Fill			Friable very dark brown silty clay.				
185	Fill			Friable, very dark brown silty clay.				
186	Fill			Firm, blue grey clay.				
187	Fill			Friable pale grey/whitish clay silt with patches of dark grey brown silty clay. Moderate charcoal flecks.				
188	Fill			Firm dark blue grey clay.				
189	Cut	74	Pit	Oval pit in plan with vertical, slightly undercutting sides and a sloped, slightly concave base.				Diatom sample <44>. Pit appears to be a possible settling tank, periodically lined with clay and cleaned out.
166	Fill			Mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with lenses of silt and some (blackish) brown silt.				
167	Cut	65	Ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch with steep sides and a concave base.		0.35	0.06	Small slot to remove partial complete vessel. Ditch NOT BOTTOMED HERE.
168	Fill			Dark brownish grey soft silt.				
169	Cut			NW-SE aligned ditch with very steep sides and a gently concave/slightly irregular base.		0.65	0.18	Ditch abuts F65
453	Fill	75	Ditch	Mid brownish grey moderately soft clay.				
171	Fill			Very dark (blackish) grey clay silt. Rare charcoal flecks.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
172	Cut	76	Gully	E-W aligned gully with very steep sides and a concave base.		0.24	0.16	Gully segment cuts F87.
173	Fill			Mid to dark grey clay silt with moderate pale (ashy?) silt patches and briquetage. Occasional charcoal.				
174	Cut	77	Pit/gully segment	Elongated oval/lozenge in plan with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	1.3	0.45	0.13	Possible gully segment or settling tank.
175	Fill			Mid-dark slightly bluish grey silty clay. Firm. Moderate bioturbation and oxidised patches.				
176	Cut	78	Pit	Rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base.	1.42	0.68	0.17	Probable modern feature.
177	Fill			Mid-pale grey/yellowish grey sandy/gritty clay. Firm. Iron staining patches.				
178	Cut	79	Gully	ENE-WSW aligned gully with moderately gently sloping sides and a gently concave base.		0.45	0.11	Gully terminus forming 'entranceway' with F93
179	Fill			Dark grey slightly silty clay. Firm. Moderate briquetage and occasional charcoal flecks.				
180	Fill			Very dark grey silty clay. Moderately firm. Very frequent briquetage and occasional to moderate charcoal flecks.				Some pottery fragments. Concentration of material close to face of cut section.
181	Fill			Basal fill. Mid-pale grey clay with moderate oxidised patches.				
182	Cut	80	Gully	Linear gully, NW-SE aligned with near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.36	0.18	Possibly associated with agricultural droveway? Although dump of material suggests industrial association.
183	Fill			Mid grey clay silt with frequent briquetage and ashy silt. Occasional charcoal.				
184	Cut	77	Pit	Elongated oval/lozenge in plan with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	1.3	0.45	0.15	Possible gully segment or settling tank.
190	Fill			Dark grey brown silt with occasional charcoal and moderate bioturbation.				
191	Fill			Firm dark greyish brown clay silt with moderate briquetage and charcoal.				
192	Cut	81	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	1.1	0.9	0.17	Base of evaporation trough at centre of pit. Partial complete, missing sides possibly due to truncation.
193	Fill			Mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and frequent briquetage.				
194	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with gently sloping sides and a concave base.		0.28	0.04	Heavily truncated possible terminus associated with agricultural droveway (?).
195	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown compact silty clay with frequent briquetage.				
196	Cut	80	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.3	0.2	Appears to be cut/masked by a shallow pit/spread of material above (F85).
197	Fill			Dark greyish brown compact clay with occasional briquetage.				
198	Cut	96	Ditch	E-W aligned linear with moderately steep sides and a concave/sloping base.		0.3	0.2	Ditch terminus. Appears to abut 'droveway' system.

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
199	Fill			Dark brownish grey (black) soft clay silt with very frequent briquetage.				
200	Cut	84	Pit/ spread	Sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	0.7	0.5	0.11	Shallow pit/spread of material in the upper fill of ditch F96.
201	Fill			Dark brownish grey (black) compacted silty clay with very frequent briquetage.				
202	Cut	85	Pit/ spread	Circular in plan with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base.	0.6	0.5	0.1	Shallow pit/spread of material in the upper fill of gully F80.
203	Fill			Mid greyish brown compacted silty clay with rare briquetage.				
204	Cut	86	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and a concave base.		0.5	0.14	Truncated ditch, appears to either terminate or be completely truncated immediately west of slot.
207	Fill			Mid-pale grey clay silt (ashy) with frequent charcoal.				
208	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Pale creamy grey-brown clay with rare charcoal.				
405	Cut	87	Pit	Oval in plan with moderately steep sides and a sloping base.	?	?	0.19	Similar to F136 - dumps of ashy material and briquetage.
209	Fill			Mid greyish brown slightly silty clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal.				
210	Cut	88	Pit/ Posthole	Circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	0.4	0.4	0.1	Adjacent to boundary ditch F46.
211	Fill			Mid-dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal and stones and moderate briquetage.				
212	Cut	60	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.22	0.07	Truncated, possible gully terminus, aligned with truncated linear gully F101.
213	Fill			Dark greyish brown clay silt occasional charcoal and stones and moderate briquetage.				
214	Cut	90	Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a flat-based 'V' profiles.		0.6		LIA/E Roman (?) enclosure ditch? Possibly associated with F96
215	Fill			Mid grey with orange streaks slightly silty clay. Rare medium stones. Firm.				
216	Cut	101	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear gully with steep sides and a flat base.		0.48	0.06	Heavily truncated gully. Possible terminus, turning a right angle off NW-SE aligned F101.
217	Fill			Mid to dark grey clay with oxidised patches and streaks. Rare briquetage and charcoal. Firm.				
218	Cut	92	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a flattish base.		0.62	0.13	Gully terminus forming 'entranceway' with F80 [182]. Droveway system?
219	Fill			Pale grey and mid-pale orange brown mixed slightly gritty/sandy clay. Rare charcoal. Firm.				
220	Cut	93	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear with moderately steep sides and a gently concave base.		0.54	0.18	Truncated. Part of fill removed by machine lifting out blocky clay. Forms possible causeway with F79.
221	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay with occasional stones.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
222	Cut	94	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with moderately steep sides and an irregular concave base.				
223	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown silty clay with frequent briquetage.				
224	Cut	80	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with moderately gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular, concave base.		0.25	0.04	Truncated gully. Part of possible droveway system?
225	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown silty clay with frequent briquetage.				
226	Cut	86	Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear with shallow sloping sides and a concave base.		0.55	0.2	Part of possible droveway system.
227	Fill			Mid to dark brown coarse, gritty silt with charcoal flecks and patches of re-deposited pale cream brown clay.				
228	Cut	95	Pit	Oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a gently concave base.	0.8	0.55	0.17	
229	Fill			Firm mod greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal and rare briquetage. Moderate gritty silt patches throughout.				
230	Cut	96	Ditch	E-W aligned linear with very steep sides and a flattish base.		0.8	0.5	Deep, flat-based 'V' shaped ditch. No pottery.
231	Fill			Firm grey brown silty clay.				
232	Cut	97	Gully	Circular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base.	0.4	0.4	0.07	Truncated pit/posthole cut by F98.
233	Fill			Firm, dark grey silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and moderate patches of pale grey ashy clay-silt.				
234	Cut	98	Posthole	Circular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base.	0.5	0.5	0.07	Shallow pit cutting F97 and F99.
235	Fill			Firm dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks.				
236	Fill			Firm blue grey silty clay.				
237	Cut	99	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with vertical sides and concave base.		0.35	0.25	Gull terminus, part of possible droveway system.
238	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay silt with charcoal, patches of gritty silt and flecks of briquetage.				
239	Fill			Dark brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal.				
240	Cut	96	Ditch	E-W aligned linear with steep sides and a flat ‘based 'V' profile.		0.75	0.44	Possibly associated with F90.
241	Fill			Pale grey slightly gritty/sandy clay.				
242	Cut	100	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.				
243	Fill			Dark brown silty clay. Rare small stones and briquetage.				
244	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with moderately steep sides and an irregular, concave base.		0.2	0.14	Possible droveway system.

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
245	Fill			Firm dark brownish grey slightly silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal.				
246	Cut	144	Ditch	NE-SW aligned linear with gently sloping sides and a concave base.		0.65	0.5	
247	Fill			Dark brownish grey compacted silty clay.				
248	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.25	0.25	Part of possible droveway system.
249	Fill			Dark brownish grey silty clay.				
250	Cut	102	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear with gently sloping sides and a flattish base.		0.26	0.09	Truncated linear, appears to cut F101.
251	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay silt with occasional briquetage.				
252	Cut	103	Posthole	Sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	0.3	0.2	0.04	
253	Fill			Firm, dark grey brown silty clay.				
254	Cut	86	Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.45	0.15	Part of possible droveway system.
255	Fill			Firm, dark grey brown silty clay.				
256	Cut	80	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.35	0.1	Part of possible droveway system.
257	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown clay silt with occasional small stones and frequent briquetage.				
258	Cut	104	Pit	Oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base.	1.6	0.6	0.25	Slabs of briquetage containers at base of pit.
270	Fill			Dark reddish brown soft silt.				
259	Fill			Firm, mid to dark greyish brown clay silt with moderate briquetage and gradually becoming more clayey toward base.				
260	Cut	105	Pit	Sub-circular (?) in plan with steep sides and a gently concave base.	0.8	0.4	0.17	Truncated pit, abutting F81.
261	Fill			Friable orangey red clay silt. Frequent briquetage and burnt material.				
262	Fill			Firm blue grey clay.				
267	Fill			Friable very dark grey brown clay silt. Frequent patches of off-white ashy silt/mortar.				
281	Fill			Friable off-white ashy silt /mortar?				
282	Fill			Firm blue grey clay.				
311	Fill			Friable orangey red clay silt. Frequent briquetage and burnt material.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
312	Fill			Friable orangey red clay silt. Frequent briquetage and burnt material.				
313				Firm, blue grey clay with frequent briquetage.				
339	Fill			Friable very dark grey brown clay silt with frequent patches of ashy silt and occasional patches of briquetage and burning.				
340	Fill			Friable charcoal lens/band.				
341	Fill			Firm, off-white ashy silt/mortar?				
358	Fill			Firm blue grey clay.				
359	Fill			Friable orangey red clay silt with frequent briquetage and burnt material.				
360	Fill			Friable orangey red clay silt with frequent briquetage and burnt material.				
431	Fill			Firm blue grey clay.				
432	Cut	106	Hearth	Rectangular hearth pit cut and lined with thick clay deposit. Aligned E-W with flue at east end. Elongated (rectangular) fire pit at centre of clay lining with a central dip/low point to house fire. Apparently cleaned out and patched up several times. Contains collapsed material.	2.5	1.4	0.3	Saltern hearth.
263	Fill			Firm grey brown silty clay.				
264	Cut	108	Posthole	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a concave base.	0.2	0.2	0.05	Truncated posthole possibly associated with hearth structure/shelter.
265	Fill			Very dark brown clay silt matrix with very frequent briquetage 'packing'.				
266	Cut	51	Gully	Slightly curvilinear in plan (SW-NE-N). Near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.2	0.15	
268	Fill			Firm blue grey clay. Occasional patches of ashy silt/mortar?				
269	Cut	107	Posthole	Circular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base.	0.25	0.25	0.05	Truncated posthole possibly associated with hearth structure/shelter.
271	Fill			Very dark brown clay silt matrix with very frequent briquetage 'packing'.				
272	Cut	51		Slightly curvilinear in plan (SW-NE-N). Near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.25	0.13	
273	Fill			Firm very dark (blackish) brown grey clay with occasional stones and charcoal.				
274	Cut	109	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a concave/'V' profile.		0.15	0.07	Part of saltern enclosure structure?
275	Fill			Dark (blackish) grey clay silt with occasional stones. Slight grittiness.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
276	Cut	110	Posthole	Circular in plan, steep sides and a concave base.	0.25	0.25	0.13	Part of saltern enclosure structure?
277	Fill			Dark (blackish) grey clay silt occasional stones and gritty patches.				
278	Cut	111	Posthole	Circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	0.25	0.25	0.1	Part of saltern enclosure structure?
279	Fill			Firm very dark (blackish) brown grey clay with occasional stones and charcoal.				
280	Cut	109	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a concave/'V' profile.		0.25	0.1	Part of saltern enclosure structure?
283	Fill			Very dark (black) grey clay silt.				
284	Cut	112	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.1	0.05	Truncated gully, parallel to F109 and possibly associated with saltern enclosure structure.
285	Fill			Very dark (black) grey clay silt.				
286	Cut	112	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.1	0.05	Truncated gully, parallel to F109 and possibly associated with saltern enclosure structure.
287	Fill			Very dark (black) clay silt.				
288	Cut	113	Posthole	Circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	0.25	0.22	0.13	Posthole cutting gull F112.
289	Fill			Very dark brown-grey clay silt with occasional charcoal and small stones. Moderately firm.				
290	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Pale slightly green-brown-grey clay with flecks of briquetage and charcoal.				
291	Cut	139	Gully	Roughly E-W aligned gully, slightly turning northwards. Gently sloping sides and a flattish base.		0.4	0.14	Gully forming part of saltern enclosure structure? Shallow terminus.
292	Fill			Upper fill/slightly spread of material. Dark grey (blackish) silty clay (slightly peaty). Moderately firm with occasional to moderate charcoal flecks.				
293	Fill			VERY dark (black) grey clay-peaty-silt. Moderately soft with moderate to frequent charcoal.				
294	Fill			Re-deposited clay natural. Mid grey blue slightly silty clay with very dark grey silty streaks, orange mottling and briquetage fragments.				
295	Fill			Basal re-deposited natural clay. Pale blue with orange streaks.				
296	Cut	139	Gully	E-W aligned linear with steep, stepped sides and a flat, ankle-breaker base.		0.78	0.28	Gully forming part of saltern enclosure structure?
297	Fill			Mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional stones and frequent briquetage.				
298	Cut	136	Pit	Circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	0.7	0.7	0.3	Pit in series of pits with briquetage refuse. Close to central hearth. Cut by gully terminus F76.
301	Fill			Dark brown clay silt with occasional gritty patches and gravel.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
302	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Greenish/creamy brown clay with veins of dark grey silt. Less compact than natural clay.				
303	Cut	114	Posthole	Oval in plan with steep sides and a pointed base.	0.55	0.55	0.2	Posthole associated with saltern enclosure structure.
304	Fill			Mid brown clay silt with occasional grits and gravels.				
305	Fill			Re-deposited blue grey clay with occasional charcoal smears.				
306	Cut	115	Posthole	Oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	0.5	0.5	0.2	Posthole associated with saltern enclosure structure.
307	Fill			Loose, dark brown slightly peaty silt with occasional briquetage and gritty patches.				
308	Fill			Slightly compact mid brown slightly peaty silt with occasional clay lenses and patches.				
309	Fill			Loose, pale grey ashy silt at base of pit.				
310	Cut	116	Pit	Oval/sub-rectangular in plan with steeply stepped sides and an undulating base.		0.7	0.25	Settling/storage tank.
314	Fill			Dark brown clay silt with moderate briquetage and slight grittiness.				
315	Cut	114	Posthole	Oval in plan with steep sides and a pointed base.			0.06 (exposed)	Only slight edge of feature exposed in this slot.
316	Fill			Very dark brow clay silt with occasional small stones and pea grit.				
317	Cut	139	Gully	Very edge of gully terminus aligned E-W-N.				Only part of gully terminus exposed in slot.
318	Fill			Very dark brown silt with rare stones.				
319	Cut	?	Posthole	Sub-circular in plan with gently concave sides and a concave base.	0.25	0.2	0.14	Small pit or posthole cutting an earlier settling/storage tank.
320	Fill			Very dark brown silt with rare stones.				
321	Cut	117	Pit	Oval/sub-rectangular in plan with moderately steep sides and a concave base.	1.3	0.6	0.17	Settling/storage tank.
322	Fill			Pale brownish grey sandy clay.				
323	Cut	122	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	0.8	0.5	0.35	
324	Fill			Very dark (black) brown grey clay silt (slightly peaty) with frequent briquetage, Moderate friable.				
325	Fill			Basal fill. Dark brown grey clay silt with moderate patches/lumps of re-deposited pale blue (natural) clay. Firm. Occasional briquetage.				
338	Cut	117	Pit	Sub-rectangular in plan with moderately gradual sides.				Partially exposed pit in slot.
326	Fill			Upper fill. Dark grey brown clayish peaty silt. Friable. Frequent briquetage, ashy deposits and				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
				bioturbation.				
327	Fill			Briquetage dump. Dark grey brown (blackish) clay silt matrix. Abundant, densely packed briquetage fragments.				
328	Fill			Very dark (black) grey brown peaty clayish silt. Friable. Rare briquetage.				
329	Fill			As 328 but a very fine, loose silt.				
331	Cut	116	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit with stepped sides (gently then near vertical) and a flattish base.			.33 (exposed)	Partially exposed pit in slot.
332	Fill			Upper fill. Very dark (blackish) grey brown clay silt with moderate to frequent briquetage.				
333	Fill			As 332 but with occasional lumps of re-deposited natural clay and packed with briquetage.				
334	Fill			Basal fill of posthole shaft. Mid-dark clay silt mix. Blackish silts with friable blue grey clay. Firm.				
335	Cut	120	Pit/ Posthole	Large circular/sub-circular shape in plan with off centre posthole shaft. Gentle sides then near vertical at shaft. Concave base.		0.6	0.18	Cuts F121.
336	Fill			Upper fill. Very dark (blackish) grey brown clay silt with moderate to frequent briquetage.				
337	Cut	121	Pit	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a flattish base.	0.8	0.8	.15 (exposed)	
342	Fill			Dark friable slightly peaty silt with occasional briquetage and pea grit.				
343	Fill			Mid yellowish orange compact clay/briquetage/burnt clay mix. Layer/dump.				
344	Fill			As 343 but an earlier deposit.				
345	Fill			Mix of dark brown peaty silt and pale whitish-grey ashy silt. Moderate charcoal, occasional briquetage and pea grit.				
346	Fill			Mid-pale whitish grey ashy silt with 'mortar'(?) and briquetage throughout. Friable. Patched of red/orange burnt clay towards base .				
347	Fill			Re-deposited grey blue natural clay. Firm. Occasional briquetage and charcoal. Probably slumped edge with bioturbation.				
348	Fill			Dark grey ashy silt with occasional briquetage at base of pit. Relatively localised at central part of pit. Loose to friable.				
349	Cut	116	Pit	Oval/sub-rectangular in plan with stepped sides and a flattish/uneven base.			0.6	Settling/storage tank. Appears to have been used for waste material and possibly periodically cleaned out.
350	Fill			Very dark grey brown clay silt matrix with densely compacted, abundant briquetage fragments.				
351	Fill			Dump of ashy silt and briquetage. Off-white to beige-grey. Friable. Matrix of dark grey clayish silt.				

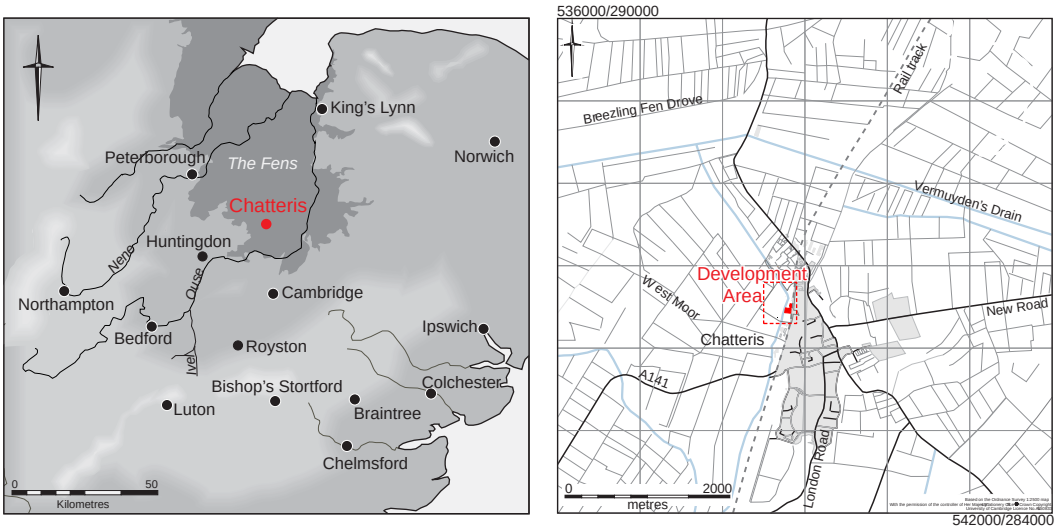
Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
352	Fill			Firm dark (blackish) brown clay silt (slightly peaty) with charcoal flecks.				
353	Fill			As 352 but with moderate to frequent briquetage fragments and patches of ashy material. Also some pedestal pieces of briquetage.				
354	Cut			Oval to sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	1.5 (exposed)	1.1 (exposed)		
367	Fill			Firm (blackish) brown silt with slight organic content. Occasional charcoal. Possible basal fill of a settling process?				
368	Fill	123	Pit	Re-deposited clay natural. Pale brown and grey clay with seams of dark grey silt and rare charcoal.				Settling/storage tank.
361	Fill			Friable dark grey brown silty clay.				
362	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.45	0.15	Part of agricultural 'droveway'.
363	Fill			Friable dark grey brown silty clay.				
364	Cut	125	Posthole	Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.	0.3	0.3	0.08	
365	Fill		pit	Greyish beige firm slightly sandy clay with occasional charcoal and briquetage. Some organic (?) staining.				
366	Cut	126	Gully	N-S aligned gully with near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.35	0.15	Part of earlier saltern structure?
369	Fill			Pale grey slightly sandy clay.				
370	Cut	127	Gully	N-S aligned linear with moderately steep sides and a flattish base.		0.33	0.17	Part of earlier saltern structure?
371	Fill			Pale grey sandy clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay.				
372	Cut	128	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a flattish base.		0.42	0.2	Part of earlier saltern structure?
373	Fill		Gully	Dark brown silt with rare small stones.				
374	Cut	129	Posthole	Circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	0.2	0.2	0.14	Part of earlier saltern structure?
375	Fill			Very dark brown (black) clay silt with occasional briquetage.				
376	Fill			Dark brown silt.				
377	Fill			Very dark brown silt matrix with abundant, packed briquetage.				
378	Cut	130	Pit	Sub-circular to oval in plan with irregular sides and an uneven, slightly flattish base.	0.5 (exposed)	0.7 (exposed)	0.32 (exposed)	Settling/storage tank.
379	Fill			Pale grey sandy clay.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
380	Cut	131	Pit	Sub-circular pit with moderately steep sides and an uneven base.		0.55	0.22	Settling/storage tank.
381	Fill			Dark brown silt.				
382	Cut	132	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base.	0.4	0.4	0.12	
383	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown clay silt with frequent briquetage.				
384	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown silty clay with frequent briquetage.				
385	Cut	133	Pit	Sub-oval/sub-rectangular in plan with variable sides and a concave base.	1.6 (exposed)	1.1 (exposed)	0.3 (exposed)	Settling/storage tank.
388	Fill			Mid brownish grey compacted clay with rare charcoal.				
390	Fill			Mid brownish grey silty clay. Compacted.				
391	Cut	128	Gully	E-W aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.4	0.2	Part of earlier saltern structure?
392	Fill			Dark brownish (black) soft clay silt with frequent briquetage.				
393	Cut	132	Pit	Sub-oval/sub-rectangular in plan with variable sides and a concave base.	0.3 (exposed)	0.2 (exposed)	0.18 (exposed)	Settling/storage tank.
394	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown clayey, slightly peaty silt with charcoal and briquetage tip lines.				
395	Cut	120	Pit	Oval/sub-circular in plan with steeps sides and a flat base.	0.15 (exposed)	0.2 (exposed)	0.14 (exposed)	
396	Fill			Friable dark (blackish) brown clay silt with moderate charcoal, pea grit and briquetage.				
397	Fill			Re-deposited natural/eroded base. Pale blue grey soft clay with a concentration of briquetage at base and occasional charcoal.				
398	Cut	137	Pit	Sub-oval in plan with steeps sides and a flattish base.	1.2	0.9	0.37	Settling/storage tank.
399	Fill			Friable dark (blackish) brown clay silt with charcoal, pea grit and briquetage.				
400	Cut	86	Gully	E-W aligned linear with near vertical sides and a flattish base.		0.55	0.16	
401	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown clay silt matrix with abundant 'packed' briquetage.				
402	Cut	51	Gully	Slightly curvilinear in plan (SW-NE-N). Near vertical sides and a concave base.		0.2	0.05	Cut by F86.
403	Fill			Mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small stones, pea grit and charcoal.				
404	Cut	138	Pit	Sub-oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base.	1.6	1.4	0.16	Cut by F65.
4.6	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Pale grey blue with orange mottles/streaks. Firm.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
407	Fill			Peaty/alluvial soil. Dark brown clayey silt. Soft to friable.				
408	Fill			Pale grey gritty/sandy clay. Firm. Moderate to frequent charcoal.				
409	Fill			Basal clay. Re-deposited natural. Pale brown grey with orange streaks.				
410	Cut	140	Pit	Sub-circular in plan (?). Stepped sides and flat base.	1.3	?	0.35	Partially obscured by edge of excavation area. Contains briquetage.
411	Fill			Very dark (blackish) brown grey clay silt.				
412	Cut	76	Gully	E-W aligned linear terminus with steep sides and a 'V' profile.		0.3	0.18	Cuts pit F136.
413	Fill			Very dark (black) brown grey clay silt.				
414	Cut	139	Gully	E-W-N gully terminus. Moderately steep sides and a slightly sloped/stepped base.			0.15	Gully enclosure with F76?
415	Fill			Mid grey silty clay matrix with abundant briquetage. Firm.				
416	Fill			Mid-pale grey clay silt/ashy silt. Frequent charcoal.				
417	Cut	87	Pit	Oval in plan with gradual, changing to steep sloped sides and a sloping base.	?	?	0.21	Pit, similar to F136?
418	Fill			Dark grey clay silt with occasional to moderate charcoal.				
419	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a flat base.		0.65	0.31	Part of agricultural 'droveway' system.
420	Fill			Very dark (black) grey brown clay silt with very abundant/packed briquetage.				
421	Fill			Mixed very dark grey clay silt with patches of re-deposited natural pale brown grey clay.				
422	Fill			Basal clay. Creamy grey clay with orange streaks and moderate biuoturbation.				
423	Cut	141	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a sloped base.	?	?	0.21	Cut by F133 and gully F101.
424	Fill			Dark brownish grey clay with rare stones.				
425	Cut	101	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a flattish base.		0.6	0.3	Part of agricultural 'droveway' system.
426	Fill			Pale grey sandy/gritty clay with occasional charcoal.				
427	Cut	127	Gully	N-S aligned linear with moderately steeps sides and a concave base.		0.25	0.1	Part of earlier saltern structure?
428	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown clayish silt.				
429	Fill			Pale brown clay (re-deposited natural).				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
430	Cut	133	Pit	Sub-rectangular/oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base.		0.8 (exposed)	0.55 (exposed)	Settling/storage tank.
433	Fill			Firm grey clay with occasional patches of very dark grey silts (rooting/burrowing?).				
434	Fill			Firm dark grey silty clay with frequent briquetage and charcoal.				
435	Fill			Firm very dark blue grey clay.				
436	Fill			Friable very dark grey (black) charcoal rich clay silt.				
437	Cut	142	Pit	Oval in plan with moderately gently sloped sides and a concave base.	0.85	0.7	0.22	Cut by saltern hearth pit.
438	Fill			Friable dark grey clay silt.				
439	Cut	143	Pit	Circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base.		0.59	0.06	Cut by F142 and F101.
441	Fill			Mid grey compacted clay.				
442	Cut	144	Gully	NE-SW aligned linear with steep sides and a 'V' profile.		0.2	0.15	
443	Fill			Mid grey soft clay.				
444	Cut	145	Pit/ Posthole	Sub-circular/oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base.	0.38	0.3	0.22	Possible earlier posthole associated with gully F144.
445	Fill			Mid grey soft clay.				
446	Cut	146	Pit/ Posthole	Circular/sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base.	0.26	0.24	0.28	Possible earlier posthole associated with gully F144.
447	Fill			Loose dark grey brown silt with molluscs and organic flecks.				
448	Fill	116	Pit	Firm re-deposited natural clay. Blue-grey clay with rare charcoal.				Settling/storage pit. See also contexts 307-310, 326-331 and 342-349.
449	Fill			Dark (blackish) brown silty clay.				
450	Cut	109	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a flattish base.		0.14	0.1	Part of saltern enclosure structure?
451	Fill			Very dark brown clay silt.				
452	Cut	147	Posthole	Sub-circular in plan with steeps sides and a concave base.	0.32	0.32	0.11	Part of saltern enclosure structure? Cuts F109.
454	Fill			Dark grey compacted silt clay. Rare small stones and frequent briquetage fragments.				
455	Cut	48	Gully	NNW-SSE aligned linear with moderately steeps sides and a concave base.		0.22	0.11	Part of field (?) system.
456	Fill			Very dark grey clay silt with occasional briquetage and charcoal. Moderately firm.				

Cont	Type	Feat	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
457	Fill			Re-deposited natural clay. Pale greyish brown, slightly silty clay with very rare briquetage flecks from bioturbation.				
458	Cut	48	Gully	NNW-SSE aligned linear with steep sides and a gently concave base.		0.6	0.22	Cuts pit F148.
459	Fill			Mid-pale greyish brown silty clay.				
460	Cut	148	Pit	Uncertain shape in plan. Gently concave sides leading to gently concave base. Imperceptible break of slope.			0.1	Cut by F48.
461	Fill			Very dark (black) grey brown clay silt with moderate to occasional briquetage.				
462	Cut	80	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.			0.18	Cuts F51.
463	Fill			Very dark (black) grey brown clay wilt matrix with abundant/packed briquetage.				
464	Cut	51	Gully	SW-NE aligned slightly curvilinear gully with near vertical sides and a concave base.				Cut by F80.
465	Fill			Very dark (black) brown grey clay silt with frequent briquetage.				
466	Fill			Mixed 'black' and pale grey (ashy) clay silt. Firm. Charcoal lens maximum of 0.01m thick at base of fill.				
467	Fill			Basal clay. Mixed dark grey silt clay and pale grey natural clay. Firm.				
468	Cut	123	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit with gradual sides and a concave base.			0.28	Settling/storage tank.
469	Fill			Very dark (blackish) grey clay silt. Slightly mixed with patches of pale-mid grey blue natural clay.				
470	Cut	109	Gully	S-N-NW aligned gully. Moderately steep sides and a concave base.		0.2	0.1	Part of earlier saltern structure?
471	Fill			Mixed very dark grey clay silt and pale blue grey natural clay. Firm.				
472	Fill			Pale grey slightly gritty/sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Very firm/compacted.				
473	Cut	127	Gully	N-S aligned linear with steep sides and a concave base.		0.21	0.18	Part of earlier saltern structure?
474	Fill			Pale grey slightly gritty/sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Very firm/compacted.				
475	Cut	129	Gully	N-S aligned linear with moderately steep sides and a sloped/undulating base.			0.18	Part of earlier saltern structure?



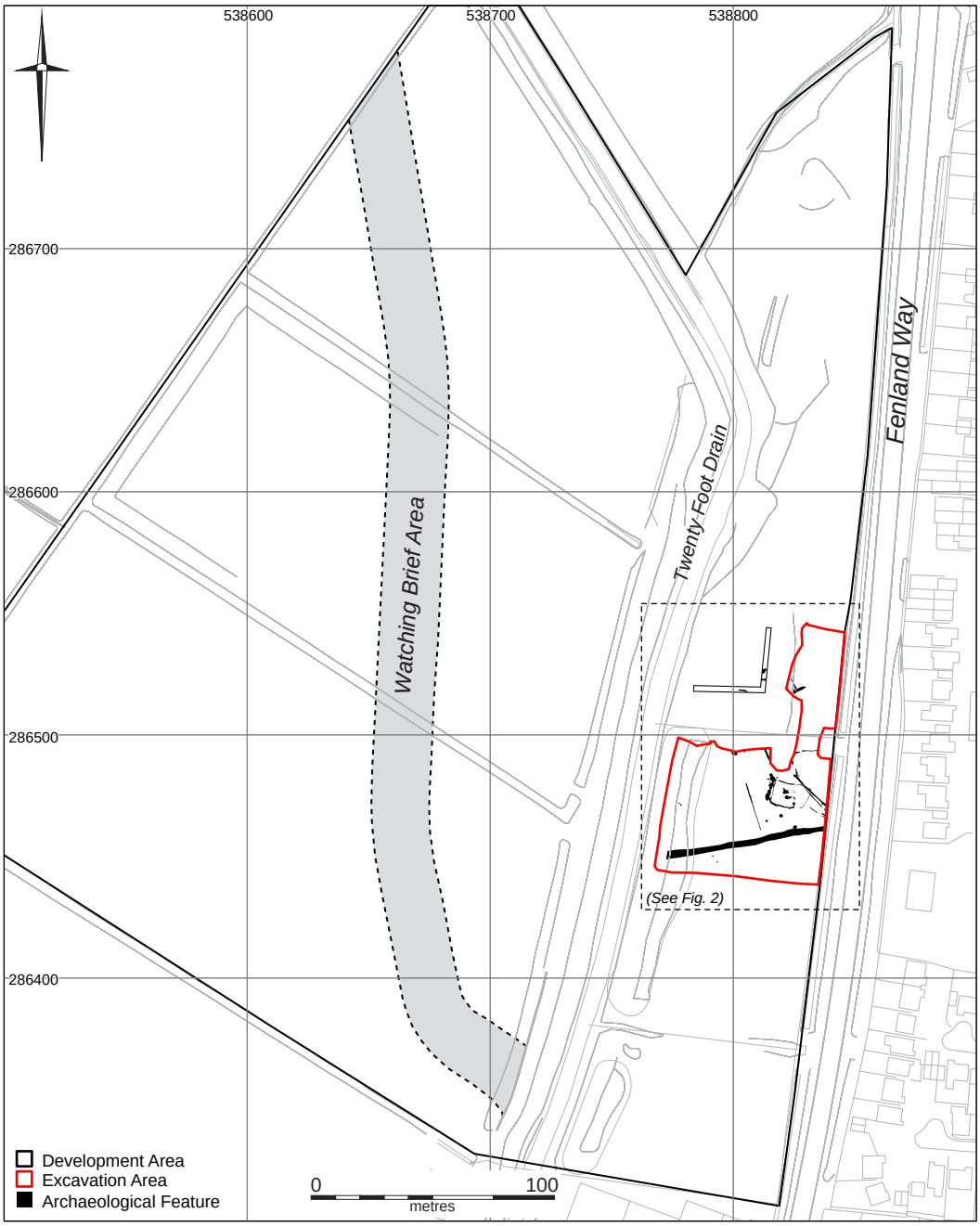


Figure 1. Location Plan

Figure 2. Plan of trench and excavation area

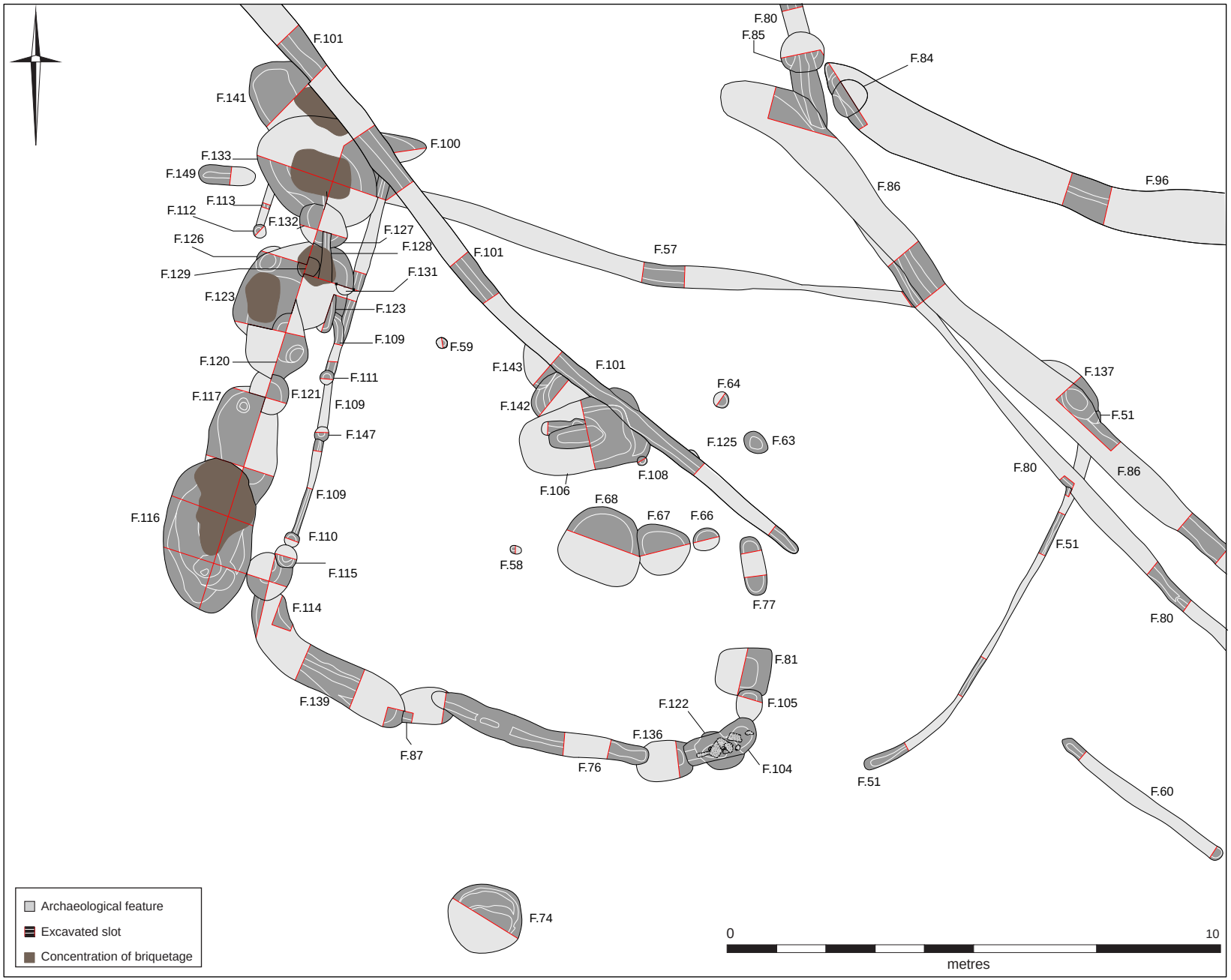


Figure 3. Plan of saltern

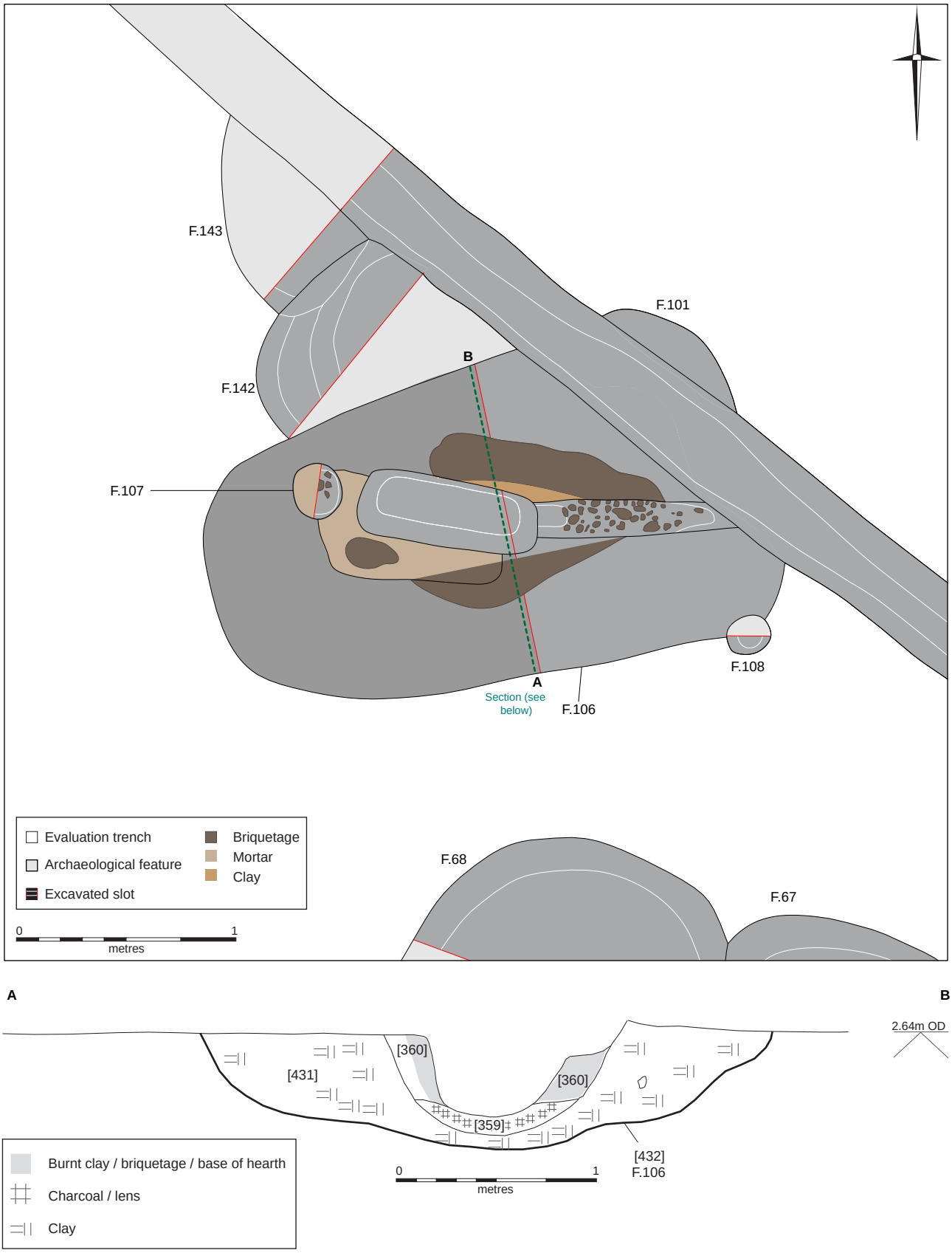


Figure 4. Plan and section of hearth

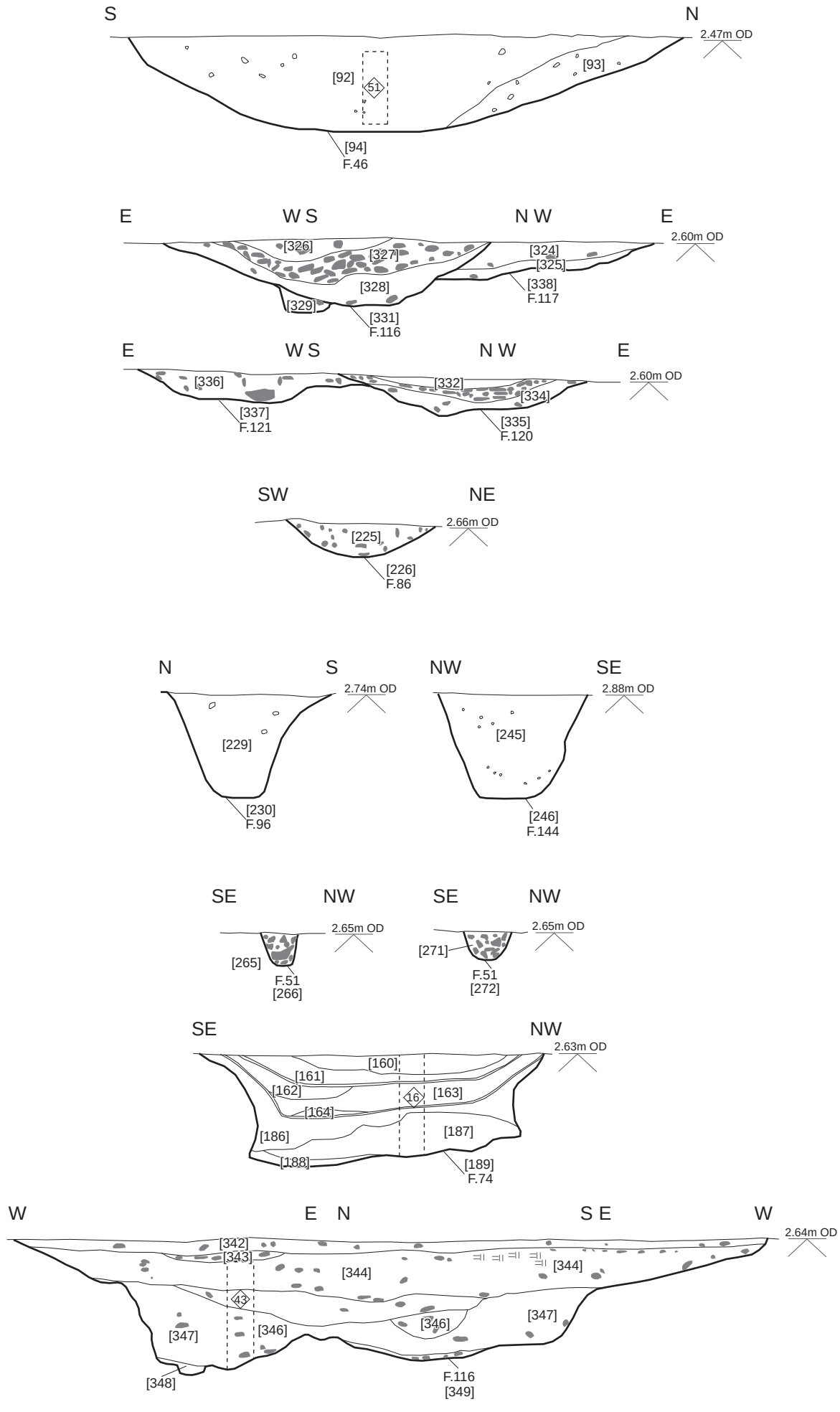


Figure 5. Feature sections

Figure 6. Photographs of F. 74 and F.81

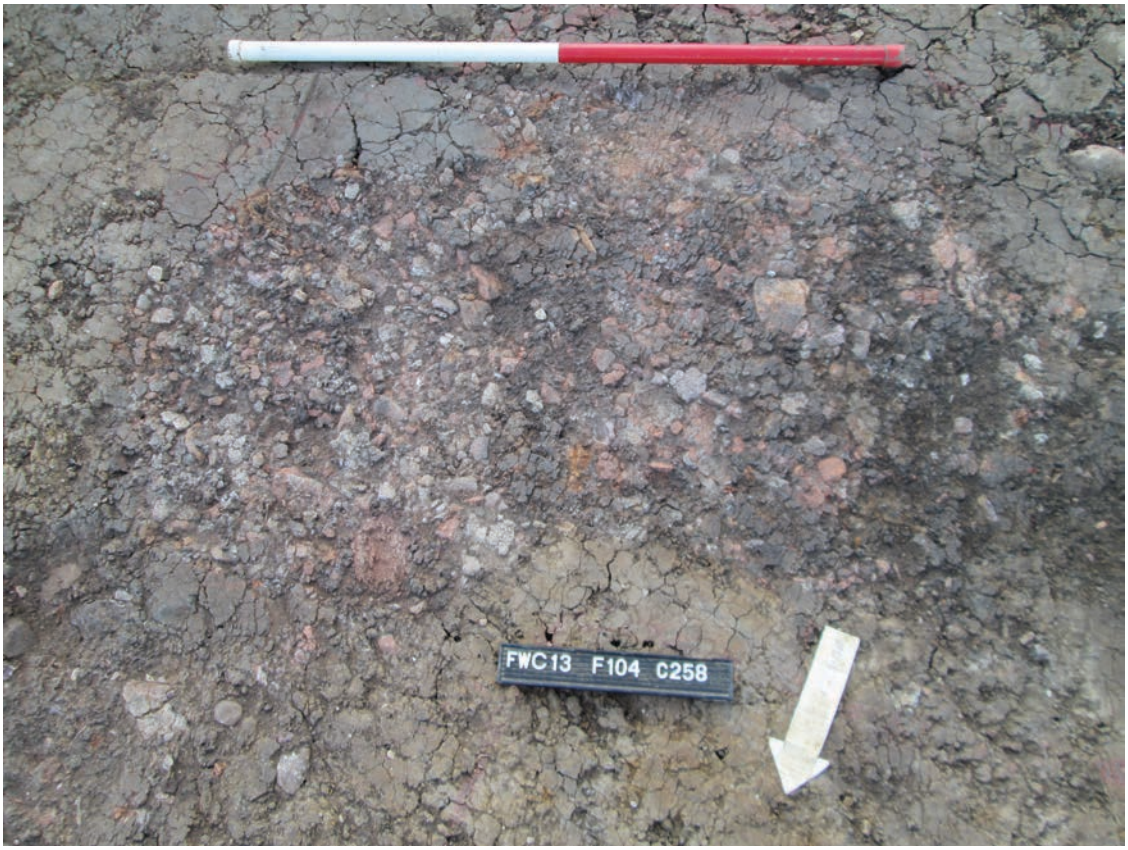


Figure 7. Photographs of briquetage in F.104

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-183342

Project details

Project name	Fenland Way, Chatteris
Short description of the project	Following a trial trench evaluation undertaken in 2012 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a further programme of trial trenching and full excavation of targeted areas on land west of Fenland Way, Chatteris (centred on TL 3881 8649). An intermittent watching brief was simultaneously carried out on the west side of the Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain to monitor groundworks associated with the relocation of the drain. An open area excavation (0.43ha) focussed on an area of Roman activity identified by the evaluation, revealed the remains of an Early Roman saltern as well as a number of Roman features associated with peripheral settlement activity. Two additional trial trenches revealed the western part of the development area had been significantly truncated during the construction of the Fenton Lode/Twenty Foot Drain. On the west side of the drain, features were limited to machine cut trenches and field drains related to post-medieval/modern agriculture.
Project dates	Start: 30-09-2013 End: 24-10-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	FWC13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3980 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	SALTERN Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Investigation type	"'Part Excavation"'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS Fenland Way
Postcode	PE16 6PQ
Study area	0.43 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3881 8649 52.45830075 0.043216836535 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	Shannon Hogan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	ICIS Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	FWC13
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Industrial"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	FWC13
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Industrial","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	FWC13
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Industrial","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Fenland Way, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Excavation

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