

# Land at Manor Farm, Thriplow, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



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## **An Archaeological Evaluation**

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## *Summary*

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Manor Farm to the east of Thriplow, Cambridgeshire. The fieldwork comprised trial trenching, which revealed a Roman field system and trackway complex associated with extensive settlement in the nearby environs, known from cropmarks (Palmer 2013) and previous fieldwork (Lucas 1993, Scarle 2010). An Iron Age component to the Roman settlement was also identified.*

*A number of large periglacial hollows were investigated. However, they produced very few artefacts.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a trench-based evaluation within a 31 ha area of land located at Manor Farm, 1.3km east of Thriplow, Cambridgeshire, centred on national grid reference TL 44949 47004.

The evaluation was designed to assess the potential impact of a proposed solar farm on archaeological remains. The investigation was carried out on behalf Russell Smith Farms. The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification produced David Gibson (2013) of the CAU in response to a brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

### **Geology and Topography**

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated in a mixture of arable and fallow land, located on the floor and western flank of a shallow valley drained by Hoffer Brook, a tributary of the River Cam (Figure 1).

The underlying geology varies over the extent of the PDA. Up slope to the west the geology consists of Zig Zag Chalk and Holywell Nodular Chalk, components of the middle chalk formation. In the valley bottom, river terrace gravels of the quaternary period make up superficial deposits overlying the chalk formation.

### **Archaeological Context**

#### *Prehistory*

The earliest evidence of occupation within the direct vicinity of the PDA is a Palaeolithic handaxe located roughly 200m west of the PDA. A small number of Mesolithic and Neolithic findspots are also present nearby the PDA, a polished stone axe being the most significant of these. A Later Neolithic pit and material has been found at Heathfield 500m to the south of the PDA (Dodwell 1997). Of other note is a cropmark 200m southeast of the PDA, which appears to represent a causewayed enclosure. However, this cropmark is considered slightly spurious (Palmer 2013).

A Bronze Age barrow is located 550m west of the PDA. Excavation of the barrow revealed 13 cremations, as well as the remnants of the central inhumation, which appeared to have been disturbed by antiquarian excavation (Trump 1956).

A number of Iron Age barrows also exist within the vicinity of the PDA. All are roughly 150m east of the PDA. A group of five barrows, named the Chronicle Hills were levelled in 1819. All five mounds allegedly contained inhumations (Fox 1923). A further two barrows were revealed to contain inhumations within pebble built vaults lined with wood surrounded by a circular wall, which was then covered with soil to form the barrow mound (Fox 1923). Six more Iron Age barrows have been recorded within the Chronicle Hills cemetery complex as has a potential square barrow, an enclosure and Bronze Age ring ditch. A probable Iron Age enclosure and trackway were discovered approximately 500m west of the PDA very close to the previously mentioned Bronze Age barrow (Trump 1956). This and the discovery of a small

amount of pottery in Thriplow village make up the only evidence of utilitarian Iron Age activity in the area.

### *Roman*

An extensive Roman complex, scheduled as Chronicle Hills Roman settlement exists c.400m east of the PDA. This is defined by extensive cropmarks of rectilinear enclosures and a possible Villa (Palmer 2013), and large quantities of building debris and domestic artefacts present in the plough soil and collected during fieldwalking survey (Lucas 1993). Excavation in the scheduled area has revealed Roman buildings one of which was a bath house with a mosaic floor (Scarle 2010). These are located 150m east of the PDA. The foundations, cellar and porticos of a temple were also discovered just to the north of the Chronicle Hills, 150m east of the PDA (Scarle 2010). Cropmarks to the west of the PDA c.200m represent further rectilinear ditch systems, which are of likely Roman or Later prehistoric date (Palmer 2013). Also of relevance is the site of a probable Roman barrow, which was recorded 100m northeast of the PDA.

### *Post-Roman*

Following the Roman period limited evidence of activity exists in the proximity of the PDA. A number of buildings within Thriplow are as early as 15<sup>th</sup> century. The church contains reused 12<sup>th</sup> century material, and a small amount of medieval pottery has been discovered in the village. Relatively extensive ridge and furrow exists as a cropmark in the fields west of the PDA (Palmer 2013).

## **METHODOLOGY**

The trial trenching programme comprised 16 trenches, a total of 850m of trenching amounting to a 0.55% sample of the PDA. Trenches were located in order to provide even coverage of the PDA and to investigate cropmarks features. In an attempt to limit damage to crops only one trench was excavated in the middle field of the evaluation area, and no trenches were excavated in the western half of the south field.

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

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

## RESULTS

A consistent layer of plough soil was identified over the entire PDA. In some areas a thin layer of sub soil existed below. This appeared to have been subject to some degree of truncation through ploughing. The stratigraphy varied only where a number of large natural hollows had occurred. These hollows are presumably periglacial in formation.

### Periglacial features

#### *Hollows*

The PDA was pockmarked with a number of these apparent periglacial hollows. Some of these features were visible from the present land surface as large depressions measuring up to 100m in diameter. They were noted in a 2013 walkover survey as being of potential archaeological interest (Jefferson 2013).

A number of these features were encountered during trenching (F11, 19, 30 & 32). All of them appeared to have a relatively uniform sequence. This consisted of an initial formation of a thin terrestrial soil. In the deeper hollows a peat or peaty silt formed over this deposit indicating waterlogged conditions. The make-up of the peat appeared to consist of reed like organic material, except in F34 where woody matter was observed, potentially indicating the submersion of a previous terrestrial environment. In situ samples of the peat have been taken for possible further analysis. This deposit was sealed by a colluvially influenced build-up of subsoil.

In the case of F11 a modern dump of gravels and chalk material filled the top of the hollow, presumably for the purpose of increasing the height and drainage of the land for improved agricultural usage.

The terrestrial soil formation in the base of these hollows was excavated by test pitting as there was a potential this deposit could contain sealed in situ archaeological remains. This exercise produced no artefacts except in the case of F35 where a small amount of burnt stone and a cattle tooth was recovered, indicating some form of previous activity. On account of the limited material discovered in these periglacial hollows it is difficult to understand their age and the chronology of the formation of deposits within them. If these features are in fact periglacial they are likely to have formed pre-Holocene or in the early Holocene, and the sequence of deposits within them developed throughout the succeeding prehistoric period. The presence of burnt flint in the basal soil formation in hollow F34 is suggestive of prehistoric activity (see Burnt Flint, this report). Open land mollus species obtained from hollows F35 and F11 may indicate forest clearance, possibly suggesting a Neolithic or post-Neolithic date. The cattle tooth from F35 demonstrates the presence of domestic animals, again suggesting a Neolithic or post-Neolithic date.

#### *Channels*

Some of periglacial channels were encountered in the trenches in the north of the PDA. A number of these were excavated as they appeared to resemble post-medieval strip quarrying.

## **Roman/Later Prehistoric ditch system and trackway**

A number of trenches were positioned to investigate cropmarks. A corresponding archaeological feature was discovered in all cases except for Trench 7 where no such feature could be found.

A number of other ditches were discovered, which are not represented by cropmarks, however they appear to share the same alignment (F5, 9, 10, 12, 15, 24, 26 & 33). Only a single sherd of Roman pottery and two sherds of animal bone were recovered from these ditches. This leaves their association with the Roman and prehistoric cropmarks (Palmer 2013) as the only indication of their date. Their apparent sterility may indicate that they are located away from the main settlement foci, which has been identified to the west of the PDA. It therefore seems likely that these ditches demarcate field boundaries or paddocks associated with the broader settlement complex.

### *Iron Age ditches*

One ditch, F21 in Trench 6 contained 60g of middle Iron Age pottery. The ditch is rectilinear in form potentially forming an enclosure. F25, also in Trench 6 is similar in form and may also be Iron Age.

### *Undated ditches*

Several other ditches (F6, 16, 20 & 34) were encountered which shared no alignment to the Roman system and contained no artefacts.

### *Trackway*

Trench 13 was designed to investigate cropmarks representing a potential Roman trackway (Palmer 2013). Excavation of the trench revealed two parallel ditches (F7 & 8) corresponding with the cropmarks. Slumped bank material could be noticed in the fill sequence of the southern ditch. Between the two ditches was what appeared to be a hollowed out way (F18), potentially created by constant trampling. The material filling this 'hollow way' was a mottled mixture of brown grey silt and orange chalky gravel, which again potentially represents the mixing of top soils and sub soils as a result of constant trampling. However, slight evidence of cambering of the deposit suggests the material may have been dumped to create a firmer surface for the trackway. This interpretation should perhaps be tempered with the notion that the 'hollow way' could in fact be a coincidental area of disturbed natural geology.

No artefacts were discovered to help assign a date to the trackway. However, its alignment with the cropmarks to the east of the PDA may suggest the trackway relates to the nearby Roman settlement complex.

## **Modern**

A pit (F31) in Trench 1 contained a probable sheep burial alongside three corroded shotgun cartridges. The remains were identified in the field and not kept.



## **DISCUSSION**

The trial trenching program has confirmed that the cropmarks of Roman or later prehistoric origin (Palmer 2013) are a representation of genuine archaeological features. It has also demonstrated that the ditch complex appears to be more extensive than the cropmarks suggest. The lack of material retrieved from these ditches indicates that they are located some distance from the main settlement foci, most likely within land used for field complexes and trackways associated with the broader settlement. It also seems apparent that the cropmarks are only representative of high density settlement areas, therefore, the surrounding less intensive field systems are unrepresented. This certainly seems to be the case with the cropmarks to the east as they are associated with large quantities of artefacts including building material.

Evidence of Iron Age occupation was also detected in the evaluation. This may relate to the Iron Age remains previously discovered in Trumps's (1956) excavation, indicating a trend of Iron Age settlement evidence to the west of the PDA. This may suggest some of the cropmarks identified on the western side of the PDA may be Iron Age in date. The presence of an extensive Iron Age barrow cemetery at Chronicle Hill suggests some form of permanent Iron Age occupation across the broader landscape, which may have acted as a precursor to the Roman settlement.

A number of periglacial hollows were encountered in the trial trenching program. Although they proved to hold limited evidence of past occupation, there is the potential that the terrestrial soil formation in these features could contain in situ archaeological remains, and the peat formation could be used to provide valuable insight into the environmental sequence of the landscape. As previously mentioned, it seems likely these features are more likely to be relevant to prehistory, and could further understanding developed from known prehistoric sites such as, the Bronze Age barrow (Trump 1956), Heathfield (Dodwell 1997) and the possible causewayed enclosure.

### **Acknowledgements**

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## SPECIALIST STUDIES

### **Struck Flint** – *Emma Beadsmoore*

The flint assemblage consists of two secondary flakes, one undiagnostic, the other possibly Neolithic or later. Both were retrieved from F18, [45], and were undoubtedly residual. As with a small number of other flint artefacts found in the vicinity of the PDA they represent no more than a general prehistoric presence in the landscape.

### **Charred Plant macrofossil and Other Remains** – *Val Fryer*

#### *Introduction*

Evaluation excavations at Thriplow, undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU), recorded features associated with a field system and farmstead of probable Roman date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch fills and from three soil formation layers within natural periglacial hollows. A total of six samples were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by 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 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant remains and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. All tabulated plant remains are charred, but un-charred seeds/fruits were also noted within most assemblages. The date of the latter was unknown and, therefore, identification was not undertaken as part this evaluation. However, it was noted that preservation was exceptionally good, possibly indicating that they were moderately recent inclusions within the deposits.

#### *Results*

Plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce, comprising a small number of poorly preserved cereal grains (including specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.)), occasional pieces of charcoal/charred wood and an indeterminate seed. Other remains (namely small fragments of black porous material and pieces of coal) are also scarce, and it is thought most likely that all are intrusive within the feature fills. However, all six assemblages do contain shells of terrestrial and marsh/freshwater molluscs, with the highest density occurring within the sample from ditch F7 (sample 5). As most of the shells are moderately well preserved, it is currently unclear whether any are contemporary within the features from which the samples were taken. Open country species are predominant, but it would appear that at some stage, features were both partly shaded and sufficiently damp/wet to form microhabitats suitable for a limited range of marsh and freshwater species, particularly those most commonly found within small bodies of water prone to seasonal drying.

Sample No.	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	81	91	15	11	33	54
Feature No.	F35	F30	F11	F7	F15	F21
Feature type	BS	Hollow	Hollow	Ditch		Ditch
Trench No.	10	3	12	13	15	6
Date				Rom	Rom	IA
<b>Plant macrofossils</b>						
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)				x	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)				x		
Charcoal <2mm		x		x		x
Indet. seed				x		
<b>Other remains</b>						
Black porous 'cokey' material	x			x	x	x
Small coal frags.	x				x	x
<b>Mollusc shells</b>						
<b>Woodland/shade loving species</b>						
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.				x		
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	xx			xxxx		
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.				x		
<i>Pomatius elegans</i>		x				
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>				x		
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.				x		
<b>Open country species</b>						
<i>Helicella itala</i>	x				x	x
Helicidae indet.			x			
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	x		x	xxx	xx	x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	x			xxx	x	
<i>V. costata</i>	x			xx		
<i>V. excentrica</i>						x
<i>V. pulchella</i>	xcf					
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	x			xxxx	x	x
<b>Catholic species</b>						
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	x			xxx	x	
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>				x		
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	x			xx		
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	xx		x	xxxx	x	x
<b>Marsh/freshwater species</b>						
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	x		x	xx	x	x
<i>Bithynia</i> sp.			xcf	x		
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.				x		
<i>L. glabra</i>				xcf		
<i>L. truncatula</i>				x		
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.				x		
<i>Planorbis</i> sp.				x		
<i>P. planorbis</i>				x		
<i>Succinea</i> sp.				x		
<i>Valvata cristata</i>	x			x	x	x
<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	x			xx		
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Volume of flot (Litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>

**Table 1** – Environmental remains x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare BS = buried soil Rom = Roman IA = Iron Age  
**Conclusion and recommendations**

In summary, as so few plant remains are recorded within these assemblages, it would appear most likely that the sampled features were entirely peripheral to any main focus of domestic/agricultural activity. The few remains which are recorded are probably derived from scattered or trampled detritus, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

On the basis of the current assemblages, it is difficult to make any recommendations for future sampling, should the opportunity of further excavations arise. However, it is suggested that additional samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume should be taken from well-sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation, particularly if the features appear to be either agricultural or domestic in nature.

### **Prehistoric Pottery – Mark Knight**

#### *F.21 [54] Trench 6*

The pottery assemblage comprised seven sherds weighing 60g (MSW 8.57g). Three of the sherds refitted to form the mouth, neck and shoulder of a small bipartite jar with a flattened rim decorated with sharp slashes. All of the sherds shared the same compact fabric (hard with frequent sand). Both the form and fabric are indicative of Middle Iron Age wares.

### **Faunal Remains – Daniel Manson Sharman**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
12	23	9	Cow (pelvis)	2	12
	81	10	Cow (Tooth)	1	7
	81	10	unidentified	15	6

The faunal remains recovered were in a state of poor preservation, showing signs of high fragmentation and surface erosion. The recovery of some bone, however, suggests some areas and features hold better places of preservation.

### **Roman Pottery – Richard Newman**

One small sherd of pottery was retrieved from F12. It was a dark grey in colour, and had a hard, sand tempered fabric, and is likely to be Roman.

### **Burnt Flint – Simon Timberlake**

35 fragments weighing 165g of burnt flint were recovered from the soil formation in periglacial hollow F35, Trench 10, 33 fragments from [65] and 2 fragments from [81]. All fragments were relatively small, no bigger than 40mm x 35mm. All of them demonstrated extensive fire cracking and fracturing, some showed reddening or whitening to the exterior surface. Burnt flint is usually associated with prehistoric occupation or domestic practice, however, not exclusively.

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## APPENDIX

Trench 1							
Description				Length (m)	Topsoil (m)		
Periglacial hollow accounts for deepened subsoil				50	0.3		
					Subsoil (m) 0.2-0.7		
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
93	Fill	31	Pit	Subsoil derived			Modern
94	Cut						

Trench 2							
Description				Length (m)	Topsoil (m)		
				65	0.3		
					subsoil (m) 0.2		
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	date
39	Fill	16	Ditch	Subsoil derived	1.1	0.3	Undated
40	Cut						
41	Layer	17	Periglacial channel	Subsoil derived			
73	Layer			Sand and gravel			
74	Layer			Sand and gravel			

Trench 3							
Description				Length (m)	Topsoil (m)		
				50	0.3		
					Subsoil (m) 0		
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
48	Layer	19	Periglacial hollow	Subsoil derived			
49	Layer			Subsoil derived			
50	Layer			Organic silt			
52	Fill	20	Ditch	Subsoil derived	0.8	0.27	Undated
53	Cut						
89	Layer	30	Periglacial hollow	Subsoil derived			
90	Layer			Subsoil derived			
91	Layer			Peaty organic silt			

Trench 4							
Description				Length (m)	Topsoil (m)		
				55	0.3		
					Subsoil (m) 0 - 0.2		

Trench 5							
Description				Length (m)	Topsoil (m)		
				50	0.3		
					Subsoil (m) 0 - 0.20		
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
76	Layer	27	Periglacial channel	Sand and gravel			
77	Layer			Silt and sand			
85	Layer	28	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			
87	Layer	29	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			

Trench 6							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
				45		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0 - 0.20	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
54	Fill	21	Ditch	Subsoil derived			IA
55	Cut				0.65	0.3	
56	Fill						
57	Cut				0.3	0.1	
58	Layer	22	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			
60	Layer	23	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			
62	Fill	24	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
63	Cut				0.8	0.2	
69	Fill						
70	Cut	25		Subsoil derived	0.45	0.2	IA

Trench 7		
Description	Length (m)	Topsoil (m)
Deepened sub soil at SE. Possibly encountering a small periglacial hollow or colluvial build up.	50	0.3
		Subsoil (m)
		0.10 - 0.80

Trench 8							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
				55		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0 - 0.10	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
33	Fill	15	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
34	Cut				1.1	0.23	
36	Layer	14	Periglacial channel	Subsoil derived			
37	Layer				Silt and sand		

Trench 9							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
				55		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0.05 - 0.10	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
23	Fill	12	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
24	Cut				1.6	0.32	
31	Layer	13	Periglacial channel	Silt and sand			
71	Fill	26	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
72	Cut				0.85	0.35	

Trench 10							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
Dips into periglacial hollow at the NE end accounting for deepening subsoil				60		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0 - 0.60	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
65	Layer	35	Periglacial Hollow	Terrestrial soil formation			
66	Layer			Terrestrial soil formation			
68	Layer			Colluvium			
79	Layer			Colluvium			
81	Layer			Terrestrial soil formation			
82	Layer			Terrestrial soil formation			

Trench 11							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
				50		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0.15	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
19	Fill	9	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
20	Cut			1.2	0.22		
21	Fill	10	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
22	Cut			0.9	0.34		

Trench 12							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
Encountered periglacial hollow at SE end accounting for deepening and complex sequence of sub soil.				50		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0 - 1.30	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
13	Layer	11	Periglacial Hollow	Subsoil derived			
14	Layer			Peat			
15	Layer			Terrestrial soil formation			
25	Layer			Subsoil derived			
26	Layer			terrestrial soil formation			
27	Layer			Possible tree throw			
28	Layer			Possible tree throw			
29	Layer			modern made ground			
30	Layer			modern made ground			



Trench 13									
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)			
				60		0.3			
								Subsoil (m)	
								0	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date		
10	Fill	7	Trackway ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.		
11	Fill			Subsoil derived					
12	Cut				1.4	0.47			
16	Fill	8	Trackway ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.		
17	Fill			Material derived from bank					
18	Cut				1.5	0.57			
83	Fill			Subsoil derived					
84	Fill			Subsoil derived					
43	Layer	18	Trackway	Subsoil, sand and chalk			Roman/Later prehist.		
44	Layer			Subsoil, sand and chalk					
45	Layer			Subsoil, sand and chalk					
46	Fill	34	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Undated		
100	Cut				0.48	0.10			

Trench 14									
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)			
				50		0.3			
								Subsoil (m)	
								0 - 0.20	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date		
6	Fill	5	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.		
7	Cut				0.55	0.28			
8	Fill	6	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Undated		
9	Cut				0.6	0.12			

Trench 15									
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)			
Encountered periglacial hollow at SW end ecounting for deppened sub soil.				65		0.3			
								Subsoil (m)	
								0.10 - 0.75	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	date		
95	Layer	32	Periglacial hollow	Subsoil derived					
96	Layer			Peat					
97	Layer			Terrestrial soil formation					

Trench 16							
Description				Length (m)		Topsoil (m)	
				65		0.3	
						Subsoil (m)	
						0	
Context	Type	Feature	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
2	Layer	4	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			
3	fill	1	Field drain	Mixed subsoil, topsoil and chalk			Modern
4	Layer	2	Tree throw	Subsoil derived			
98	Fill	33	Ditch	Subsoil derived			Roman/Later prehist.
99	Cut						

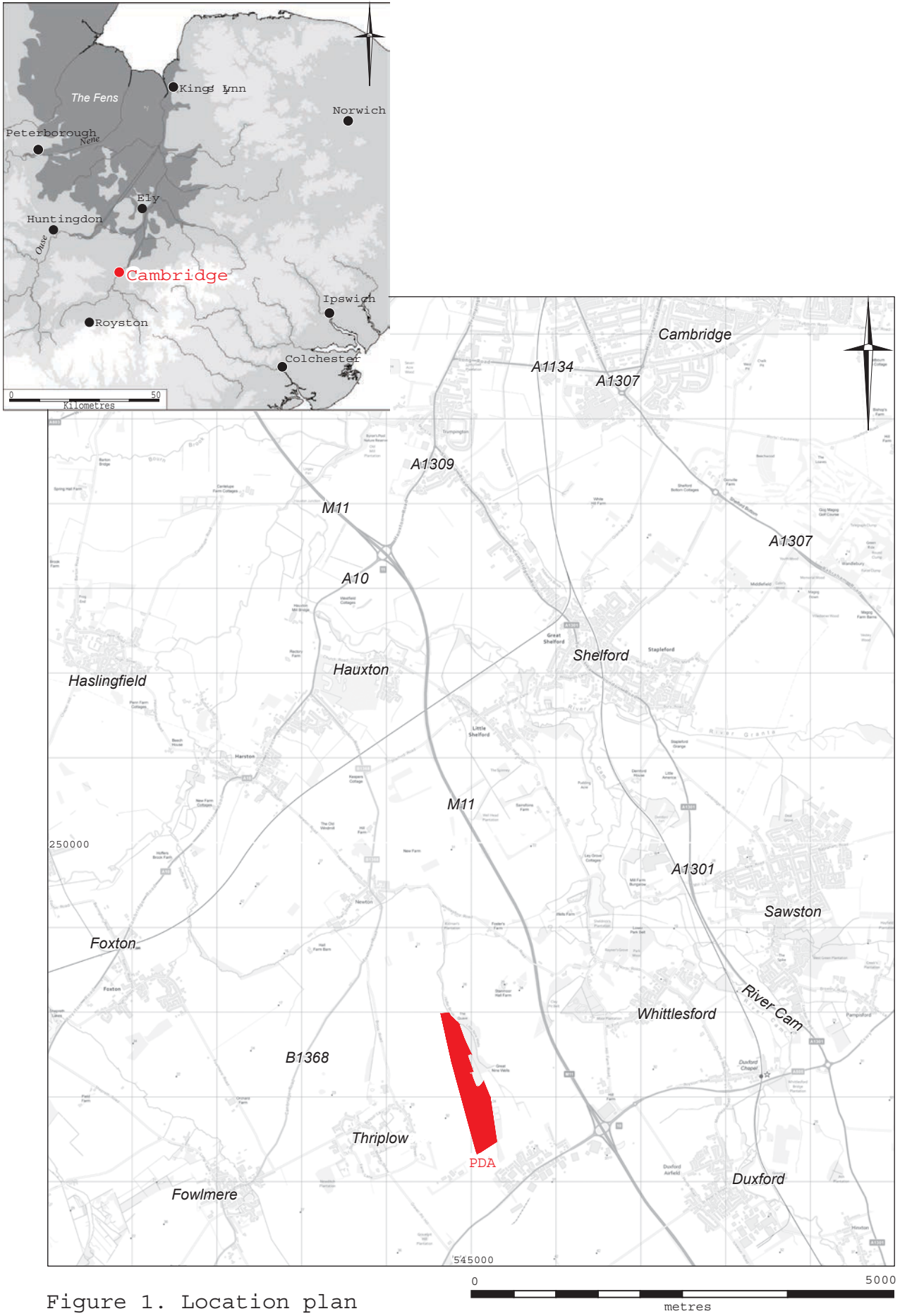


Figure 1. Location plan

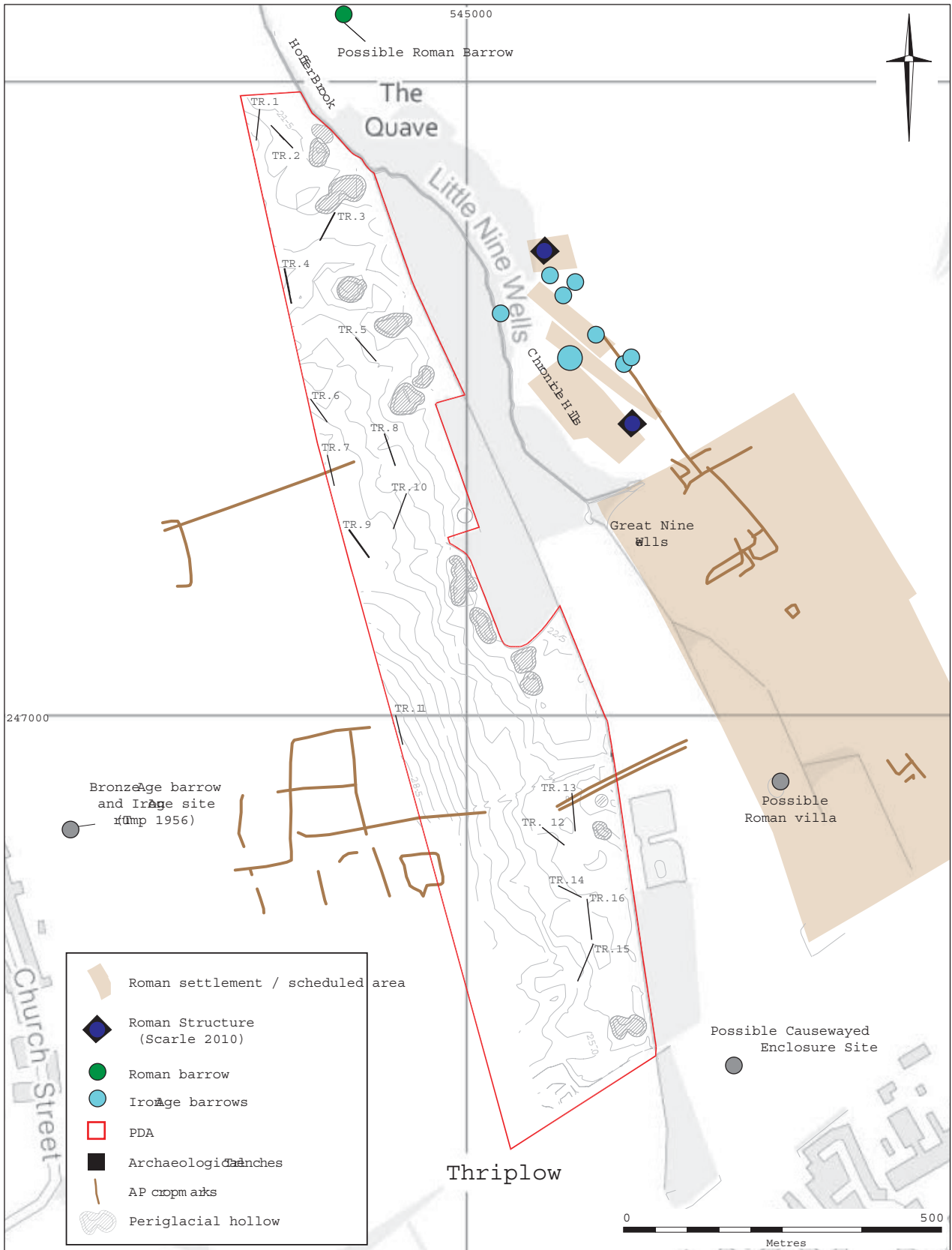


Figure Trench plan



Figure 3a. Plan of northern end of site excavation

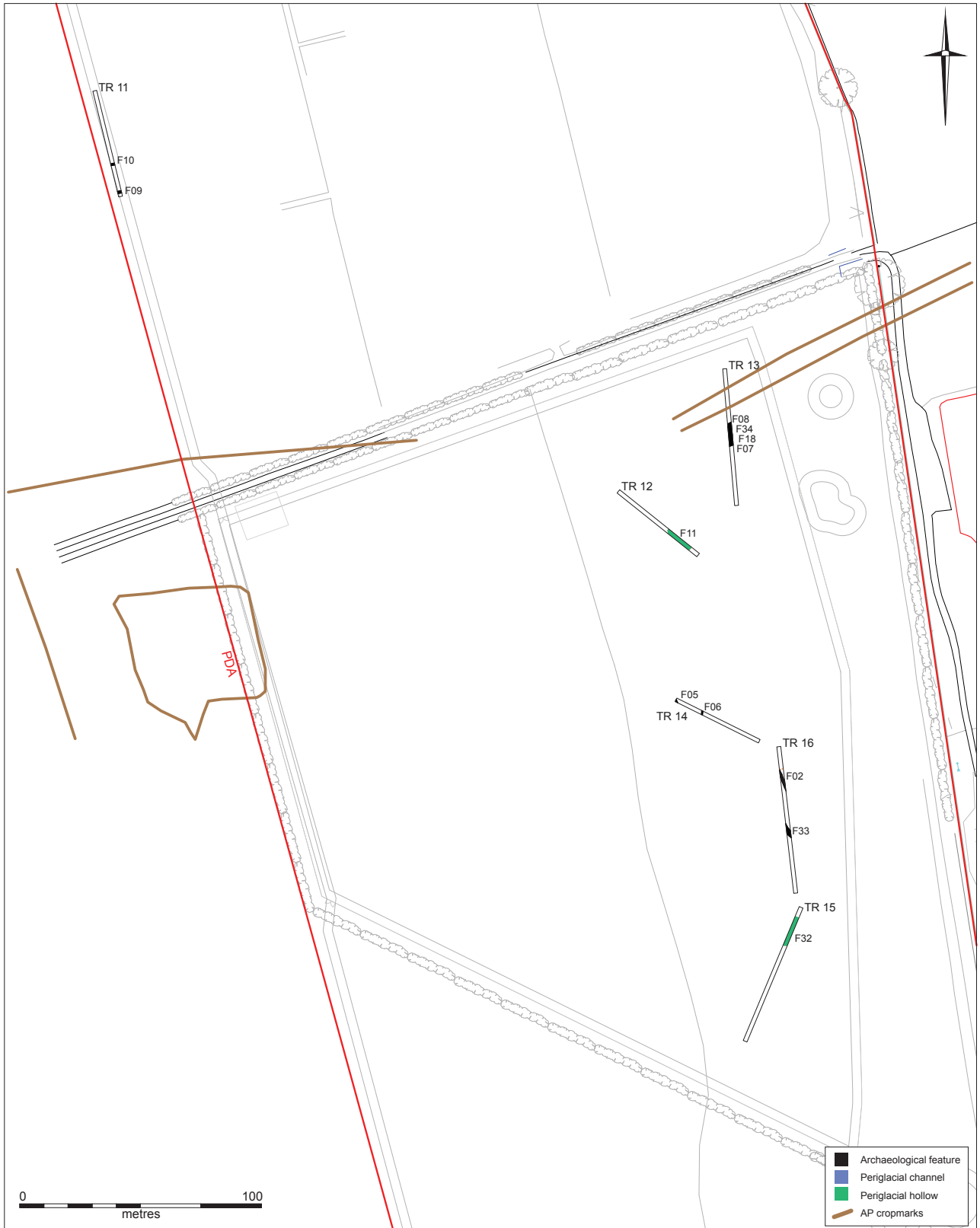


Figure 3b. Plan of southern end of site excavation



Ditch F2Trench 6 looking north

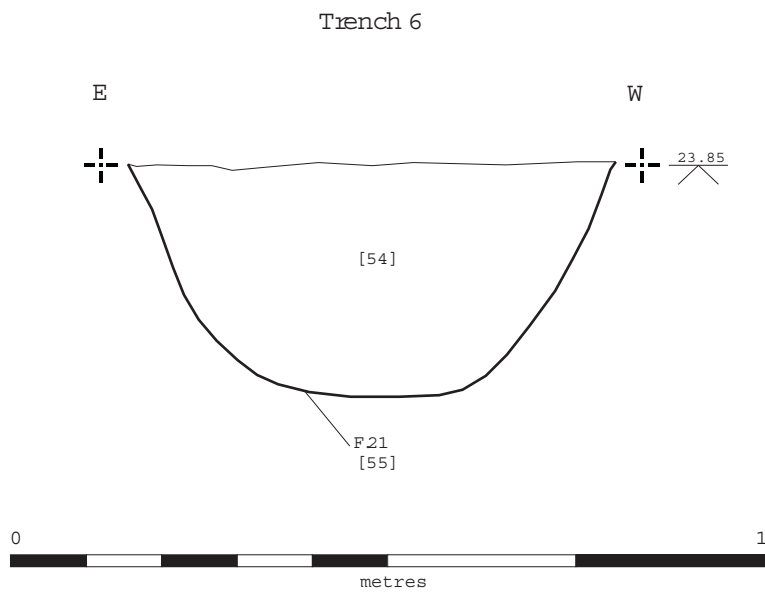
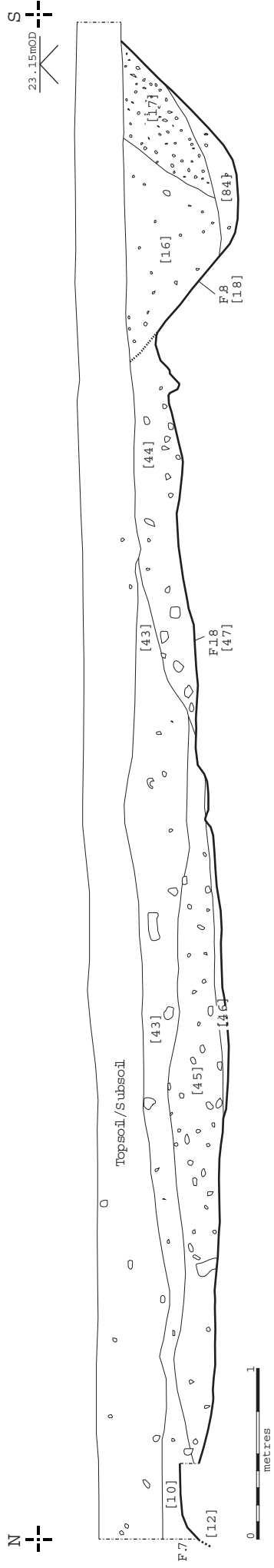


Figure 4. Photograph and section of ditch

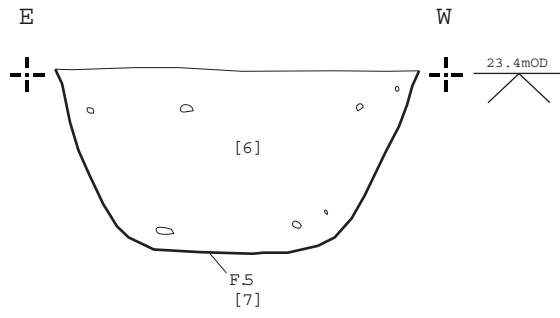


Trackway F7, F8, F18, Trench 13, looking north-east

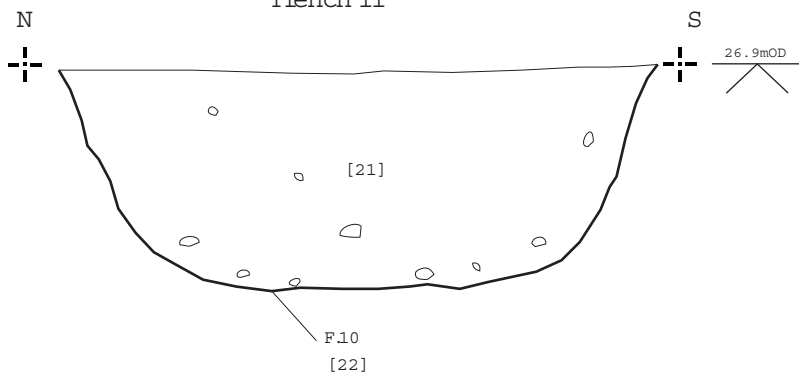
Figure 5 Trackway, Trench 13



Trench 14



Trench 11



Trench 9

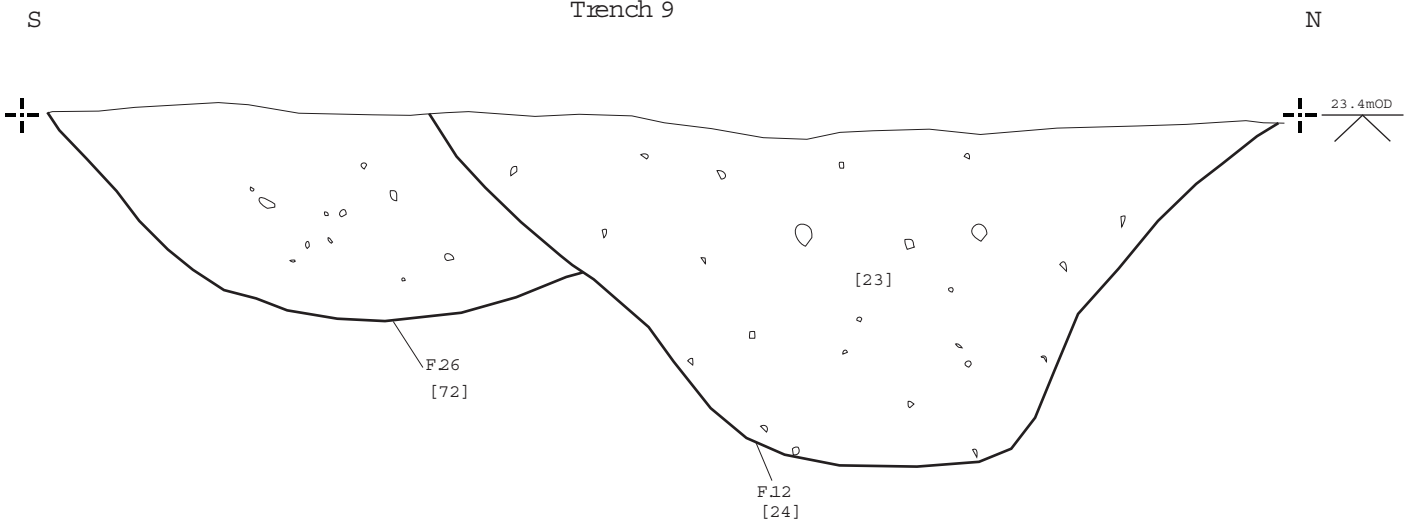


Figure 6. Roman field system



F.11-periglacial hollow, Trench 12, looking north-east



F.32-periglacial hollow Trench 15, looking south-west

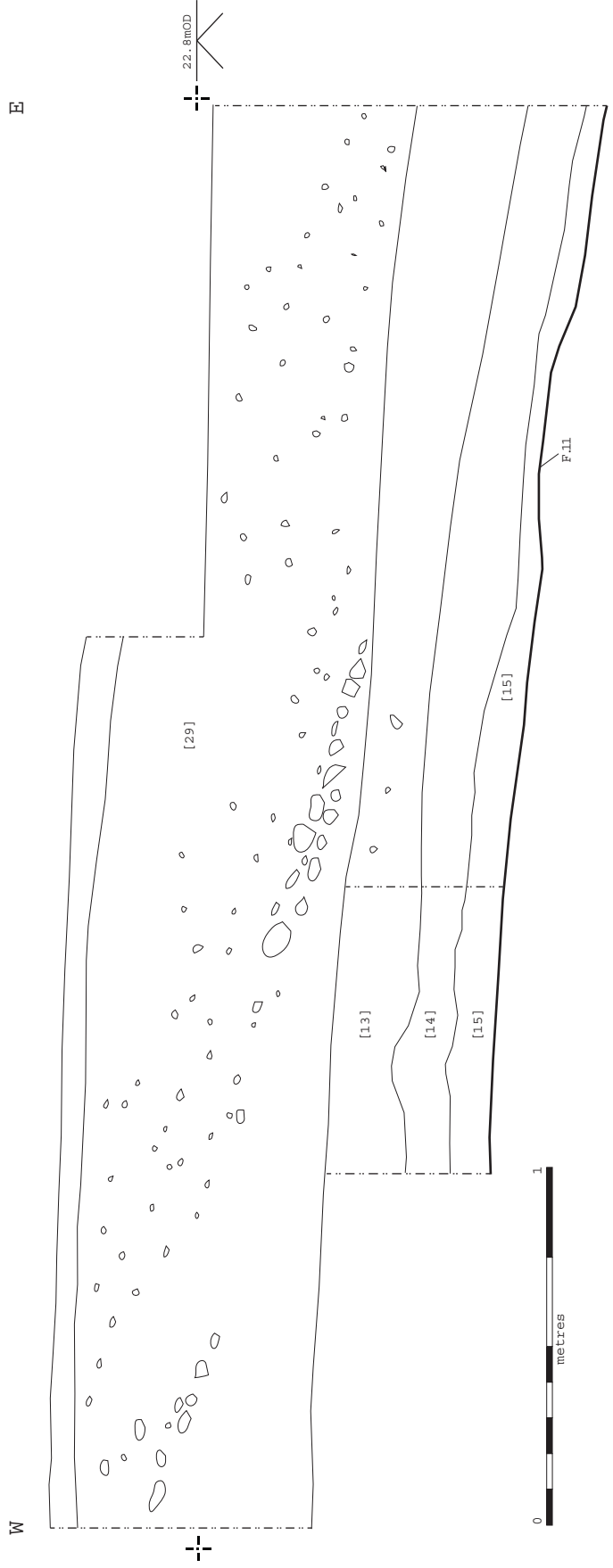


Figure 7. Periglacial hollow

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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-191470**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Manor Farm, Thriplow
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Manor Farm to the east of Thriplow, Cambridgeshire. The fieldwork comprised trial trenching, which revealed a Roman field system and trackway complex associated with extensive settlement in the nearby environs, known from cropmarks (Palmer 2013) and previous fieldwork (Lucas 1993, Scarle 2010). An Iron Age component to the Roman settlement was also identified. A number of large periglacial hollows were investigated. However, they produced very few artefacts.
Project dates	Start: 06-08-2014 End: 16-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE THRILOW Land at Manor Farm, Thriplow
Study area	31.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 449 470 52.1018931624 0.115819038376 52 06 06 N 000 06 56 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.50m Max: 26.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator David Gibson  
Project director/manager David Gibson  
Project supervisor Alasdair Wright

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Land at Manor Farm, Thriplow, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Wright, Alasdair  
Other bibliographic details CAU Report No. 1257  
Date 2014  
Issuer or publisher Cambridge Archaeological Unit  
Place of issue or publication Cambridge  
Description A4 laminated report consisting 28 pages with some figures and tables

Entered by Alasdair Wright (ajw238@cam.ac.uk)  
Entered on 1 October 2014

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