

West Cambridge Archaeology

Department of Veterinary Medicine Paddocks

An Archaeological Evaluation



Marcus Brittain and Christopher Evans



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Department of Veterinary Medicine Paddocks: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

A programme of archaeological trenching covering an area of 2240.4sqm revealed a previously unidentified geological variation of a ridge of diamict gravel over Gault Clay upon which an Early to Middle Iron Age settlement was identified. This comprised of at least two circular gully-defined dwellings with associated pits over a distribution clearly demarcated by a broken line of bounding ditches. A third structure was identified 25m away from the core settlement upon the Gault Clay landfall. An additional Iron Age site represented by a ditch and posthole was also identified, and a ditch-defined trackway may also be attributed to this phase. An extensive Romano-British fieldsystem overlay the settlement area and other considerable parts of the proposed development area.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on behalf of the University of Cambridge between 18th May and 1st June 2015. This comprised of thirty-seven excavated trenches totalling 1211.05m (2240.4sqm). Overall, a record of moderate archaeological coverage was documented covering prehistoric to post-Medieval eras with a denser archaeological return towards the centre of the proposed development area (PDA). This notably entailed a small Iron Age settlement or farmstead, an extensive ditched field pattern of probable Roman date, a Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrow system covering the majority of the PDA, and other localised evidence for historic-era land use.

To enable spatial reference the PDA has been divided east to west into three 'fields' (Table 1; Figure 1).

Field	Description	Trenches
1	Beside the Schlumberger Gould Research Centre	1-5, 35-36
2	Paddocks west of the Department of Veterinary Medicine	6-14, 28-33, 37
3	Paddocks east of the Department of Veterinary Medicine	15-27

Table 1: Investigation 'Fields' and their corresponding trenches

The green-field/open-land component of the PDA covers *c.* 9.8ha centred at TL 4240 5900 (i.e. area available for fieldwork). At present the land is used by the Department of Veterinary Medicine for stock-grazing. The site is bounded to the west by The Schlumberger Gould Research Centre, to the north by Madingley Road, by Charles Babbage Road to the south and by J.J. Thompson Avenue to the east, with the main buildings and adjoining paddocks of the Department of Veterinary Science bounding the east, north and west fields. The BGS Survey (map sheet No.188) indicates the solid geology as being of Gault Clay; however, the trenching revealed a mix of sandy gravels and clay that comprise a ridge of diamict deposits (Boreham 2002) that derive from material weathered off the lower chalk and Boulder clay ridge at Coton to the west. At its highest point the ridge lies slightly elevated at *c.* 21m OD, with the land dropping to *c.* 18.4m OD to the northwest and southeast, and to below 17.2m OD in the northeast (this falls to 15.50m OD at the High Cross site in the southwest). Trenches 5, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16, positioned along the north edge of the PDA, showed that here the landfall coincides with a geological transition to Gault Clay between 18.4m and 19.0m OD (Figure 2).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The only archaeological monitoring to have previously been carried out within the current PDA is observations recorded during the opening of six geo-technical test-pits in Field 2 in 1998 (Dickens 1999). Three of the test-pits contained possible archaeological features, but no finds were recovered and the conditions of the investigation were too limiting for meaningful archaeological statements.

The immediate area's archaeological potential was fully appraised in a desktop assessment (Alexander 1996), although the southern and eastern portions of the overall West Cambridge Development area have since been subject to archaeological evaluation of varying scales of sampling intensity (Dickens 1999; Whittaker & Evans

1999; Lucas 2000, 2001; Armour 2001; Whittaker 2001; Timberlake & Patten 2006; Hutton 2009, 2010; Slater 2011, 2012). The sites identified during these phases of evaluation have been formally investigated principally by two major excavations at Vicar's Farm to the east and High Cross to the south. Summarised in detail below, these illustrate sporadic and fairly low density earlier prehistoric visitation to the West Cambridge landscape with greater intensity of land use emerging during the Early Iron Age (c. 800 BC) in the southwest with Middle to Late Iron Age activity also represented to the east. Here, to the east, Romano-British settlement developed over three distinct phases, with the southwest later serving as part of a broad enclosed fieldsystem.

Vicar's Farm (TL 4309 5905) – Excavations carried out by the CAU at Vicar's Farm in 1999 and 2000 (Lucas & Whittaker 2001; Lucas 2002), and at the neighbouring Whittle Laboratory in 2011 (Slater 2011), revealed evidence of activity from the Mesolithic to Romano-British periods, with a substantial three-phased Romano-British settlement covering the entire excavated area.

Mesolithic to Bronze Age activity was largely confined to an assemblage of (residual context) worked flint, indicating sporadic visitation. In the Iron Age, there is evidence for more sustained use of the landscape and a number of features containing Iron Age pottery were excavated, although only two features were themselves Iron Age in date. Finds included a brooch dated to the 4th century BC and a late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD coin. Pottery from a ditch exposed in trenches opened in advance of works relating to the construction of the Nano Fabrication Building to the immediate south of the Vicar's Farm site confirmed its Middle to Late Iron Age date, which further suggests earlier origins of the subsequent Romano-British site's layout whilst also defining its southern limit (Amour 2001).

Romano-British activity commenced with the construction of a ditched system enclosing the central portion of the site. Phase I (AD 80-180) then saw the establishment of the core settlement together with many internal features that included a probable timber shrine, an aisled building and a cemetery containing eight cremations and two inhumed burials of neonates. In the second, middle phase of activity (AD 180-270) the site underwent major expansion to the south and a system of ditched field enclosure was initiated away from the settlement. In the settlement's core the aisled building and cemetery passed out of use as new features were established on the eastern side. The site transformed radically in Phase III (AD 270-410+) as a third area was added to the south, linking the main settlement with the southern fieldsystem. A cemetery was identified on the boundary of this fieldsystem that grew to 29 graves, containing the inhumed remains of at least 30 individuals. Features in the eastern half of the site's core developed into a new centre of activity, possibly as a location for marketing livestock. Backfilling of the site's eastern boundary opened the whole of the core to the east (beyond the limit of excavation). The settlement as a whole appears to have been abandoned in the early decades of the 5th century AD, turning to agricultural land until the end of the 20th century.

High Cross (TL 4240 5900) – Over the winter of 2009 and 2010 the CAU excavated an area of 2.2ha (Timberlake 2010), later supplemented by additional trenching (Slater 2012). Evidence for pre-Iron Age activity was limited to an early Neolithic pit and a length of ditch associated with a Middle Bronze Age pit-well. Early Iron Age occupation was located upon a thin spread of gravels, sands and silts overlying Gault Clay, and consisted of a half dozen distinct groups of pits, amongst which also lay pits dated to the Middle Iron Age. Two of the earlier pit groups had formed clusters dug on either side of the valley floor, between which passed a substantial Early Iron Age ditch. This may distinguish the presence of a former route, intimated by traces of an east-facing break or in-turned entrance in the course of the ditch; alternatively, the segments of the ditch may have been cut for the drainage of the water-filled pits that may originally have been quarried for material or dug as waterholes, perhaps for retting, finally to be filled by rubbish. Coverage of the southern pit cluster by a 'dark earth-type' deposit of silt following the Middle Iron Age, along with other environmental evidence, suggests that the area became increasingly damp. There is only ambiguous evidence to connect settlement to these features, with scarce pottery and post-hole settings; however, the presence of saddle-quern fragments associated with small assemblages of burnt stone within the pits suggests the presence at least of hearths and the possibility of nearby dwellings. The site may therefore represent either a short-lived or failed/abandoned Iron Age colonisation of the valley.



Figure 1. Site location (showing Fields 1-3) and previous investigations

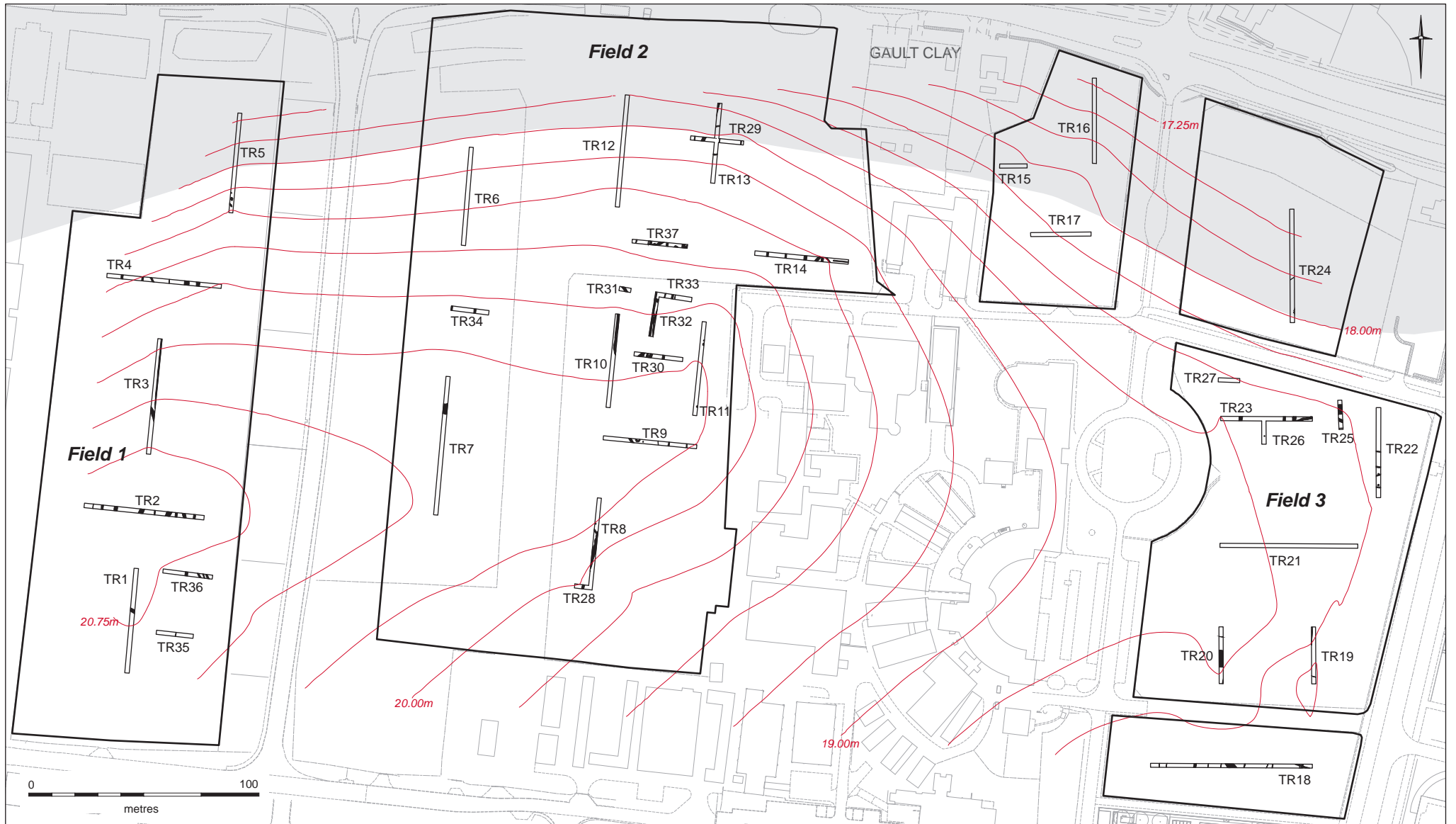


Figure 2. Site topography and solid geology

The Romano-British phase of occupation was limited to a ditched fieldsystem established upon the south-facing slope. Three fields each covered c. 0.6 ha and a small amount of Early Roman fineware pottery was recovered from their slight ditches as well as from a small enclosure close to the south-western limits of the excavation and which possibly attests to the fringes of a west-lying settlement. To the east, a somewhat larger ditch crossed the valley, marking perhaps a similar boundary to that already defined in the Iron Age.

On the south side of the valley floor was a trackway that has been equated with the Medieval 'Coton' or 'Sheepcote Way'. Traces of adjoining field boundaries, plus abutting plough-furrow, were also noted, and the south-facing slopes were covered by medieval or post-Medieval agricultural ridge and furrow.

The Medieval landscape of the PDA was encompassed by strips of land known as the West Fields of Cambridge (Hall & Ravensdale 1976), and aerial photography has identified additional traces of ridge and furrow cultivation in Fields 1 and 2 of the current investigation. This illustrates furlongs evenly distributed upon a broadly north-south axis (Alexander 1996: 3). Here the course of Madingley Road marked one of three major divisions of the West Fields.

The Enclosure Map of 1805 shows the fields of the PDA to belong to Merton College of the University of Oxford, and Baker's Map of 1830 continues to depict the PDA as strips of land unencumbered by buildings. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the 1880s position buildings of Merton Hall Farm erected on the south side of Madingley Road west of today's J.J. Thompson Avenue. Additional buildings probably connected with the farm emerge in the 1903 OS map in the northwest corner of Field 2, and south of Merton Hall Farm in the 1920s OS maps, and vestiges of these buildings remain today. Planning for a Veterinary School on the site was begun in 1947 with building works ensuing in 1950. Merton Hall Farm was appropriated by the School in 1951 and adapted for the purposes of animal health, with the main buildings and hospital of the School being completed in 1955 (Figure 3). By the 1970s considerable southward expansion of the buildings of Merton Hall farm was established; these were demolished by 2002, but the foundations extend into the east side of Field 3 of the current investigations.

Methodology

In advance of this project a geophysical survey was carried out in March 2015 by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy. There were limited geophysical anomalies within the survey results. Marked on Figure 4 in red, these included a possible circular ditched gully and related linears. Strong geophysical responses (indicated by mixed black and white linear or stippled anomalies) were aligned with known features of modern origin, namely underground services, fencing and ferrous – probably agricultural – objects likely deriving from the ploughsoil.

In total, thirty-seven trenches (Figure 7) were excavated using a 360° rubber-tracked excavator with a 1.85m wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated to a level where archaeological features were visible; these were planned and hand excavated. Data sheets were

completed for all of the trenches to record section profiles and geological variances and were accompanied by plans at a scale of 1:50 of all archaeological features and the recording of excavated features with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10, complimented by digital photography. The CAU-modified version of the Museum of London recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.#) and all contexts assigned individual numbers ([context #]). The PDA was fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and a contour survey undertaken with a Global Positioning System (GPS). All trenches were reinstated upon completion of the excavation programme.

Information detailing the character of the trenches (e.g. data sheets, digital photography and survey record) has been catalogued together within an archive following procedures outlined in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006). This is being stored with the processed material record at the CAU offices, under the site code VET15.

Acknowledgements

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Figure 3. Aerial photograph, looking northeast, of Vetenary School on it's opening, 1955



Figure 4. Trench plan with geophysical survey results



Figure 5. Trench plan with excavated features and phasing projections

RESULTS

Archaeological features, totalling 56, were identified in all but nine trenches (Tr. 6-7, 12, 15-17, 19, 27, 35). These are quantified in Tables 2 and 3. Fields 1-3 varied in their relative density of identifiable archaeological features and deposits (Table 4); these are outlined by period below.

Number of:	Archaeological Feature
Features Recorded	56
Excavated Features	40
Excavated Contexts	96

Table 2: Feature totals

Feature category	Total	%
Linear	31	55.5
Pit	14	25.0
Furrow	4	7.0
Posthole	2	3.6
Wall foundation	2	3.6
Drain	1	1.8
Natural hollow	1	1.8
Tree throw	1	1.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 3: Feature frequency

Field	No. of Trenches	No. of Recorded Features	% of Total Recorded Features	Prehistoric	Roman	Med/post-Med
1	7	16	28.6	8	2	5
2	17	27	48.2	19	6	2
3	13	13	23.2	3	2	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>

Table 4: Total number of trenches and features by area

A total of 401 (4537g) artefacts were recovered from cut features (Table 5). The detail of these features is outlined below by order of feature category; a complete overview of each trench is provided in the Appendix.

Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	224	860
Brick/Tile	3	79
Burnt Stone	15	2669
Glass	1	23
Metalwork	1	2
Pottery	136	761
Shell	7	18
Tobacco Pipe	1	2
Worked Flint	13	123
<i>Total</i>	<i>401</i>	<i>4537</i>

Table 5: Total number of finds by category

Prehistoric

Earliest prehistoric activity was evinced by a small amount of worked flint (see Beadsmoore, below) found either as residual intrusions within later features or, in the case of F.5 in TR18, from subsoil deposits caught within hollows over the solid geology (a similar hollow was identified in Tr.7 & Tr.20). In the absence of diagnostic specimens, a broad timeline of the Neolithic and Bronze Age is likely for these items.

Three sites of Early to Middle Iron Age date were recorded. These produced 664g of pottery that represents 87.3% of the total recovery (by weight) for the PDA. Of this total, 87% derived from Trench 30. Pottery dating to the Iron Age was also recovered from a single linear feature in Site 3 (Field 1), although the security of this finding as evidence for an Iron Age date for this and related linears in Field 1 is not deemed as reliable.

Site 1 - Located in Field 3, Site 1 comprised a single ditch (F.2) and a posthole. The ditch (F.2) was observed as passing through Trenches 23 and 25 and just south of an east-west alignment, and appeared to terminate somewhere before Trench 26. Two slots were excavated, each confirming the ditch's width of 1.0m and a depth of between 0.53m and 0.68m. Silting of the ditch was represented by a lower fill of yellowish-brown sandy-clay silt – [3] and [23] – sealed by dark grey clayey silt speckled with charcoal flecks and containing 8g of pottery: [4] and [22]. The posthole (F.30) was situated in direct alignment with F.2 to the west of its terminus. Circular in plan with a diameter of 0.35m and sharp concave sides to a near flat base at 0.1m depth, the posthole contained a single dark silt fill [69] with occasional charcoal flecks.

Site 2 - A series of linear and curvilinear ditches with associated pits and postholes were investigated in Field 2 at the centre of the PDA (Figure 6) over a north-south distribution across Trenches 8-11, 13 and 28-33 (Table 6) covering upwards of 1.48ha (14800sqm). The core of Site 2 was investigated by Trenches 9-11 and 30-33, in which shallow, tightly set and curving linears (F.17, F.22, F.27, F.29, F.31 & F.37) illustrate a dense hub of activity of at least two phases. None of the linears exceeded depths of 0.35m, each displaying a profile of sharp sloping sides towards a near flat base filled with a single deposit mainly of mid greyish brown silt. An exception here was F.27 that contained a very dark, nearly black deposit of charcoal rich silt from which 439g of pottery was recovered, with 422g of animal (cow and sheep/goat) bone and at least two possible stone 'rubbers'. By comparison, the finds retrieval from the remaining 'core' features was of moderately low density. It is difficult to posit a clear picture of the nature of the linears within this 'core' and their relation to one another, but it is nevertheless possible to suggest a layout composed of two or three gully-defined structures bounded by a line of ditched enclosure (Figure 6). A two-phase sequence may be determined from the relationship of features either in section or in plan. This was most clearly illustrated by the cutting of an oval pit (F.28) by the curve of linear F.27. In essence the pit was a thin slot of 0.25m by 1.45m that produced no finds, and yet was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. This too contained a fill of mid greyish brown silt. To the north of this, in Trench 32, F.27 again appeared to cut the curving linear F.29 (this was clearly observed in plan rather than an excavated section), and in Trench 10 linear F.22 was either enlarged along its north arm or was cut afresh by a pit (F.23), either way displaying a two-stage sequence of events.

Additional small pits filled with near black, charcoal-infused silt were identified across the east and south of the Site 2 core in Trenches 8-9 and 11: F.17, F.38-40 and F.42-43. One of these was investigated (F.17), issuing an oval plan, 0.3m by 0.5m, and a shallow depth of 0.1m. Although no finds were forthcoming they are most likely contemporary with the Iron Age phase of activity here. Similar features were identified in two trenches opened to evaluate the archaeological potential of the New Stable Block in the southeast corner of what is now identified as Site 2 (Lucas 2000). No signs of Iron Age activity were noted during this stage of investigation, and the pits, postholes and related linears were pronounced as Medieval in date. It is possible now to perhaps view these as part of a broader spread of features connected with the Iron Age phase of activity, thus extending the site's southeast distribution.

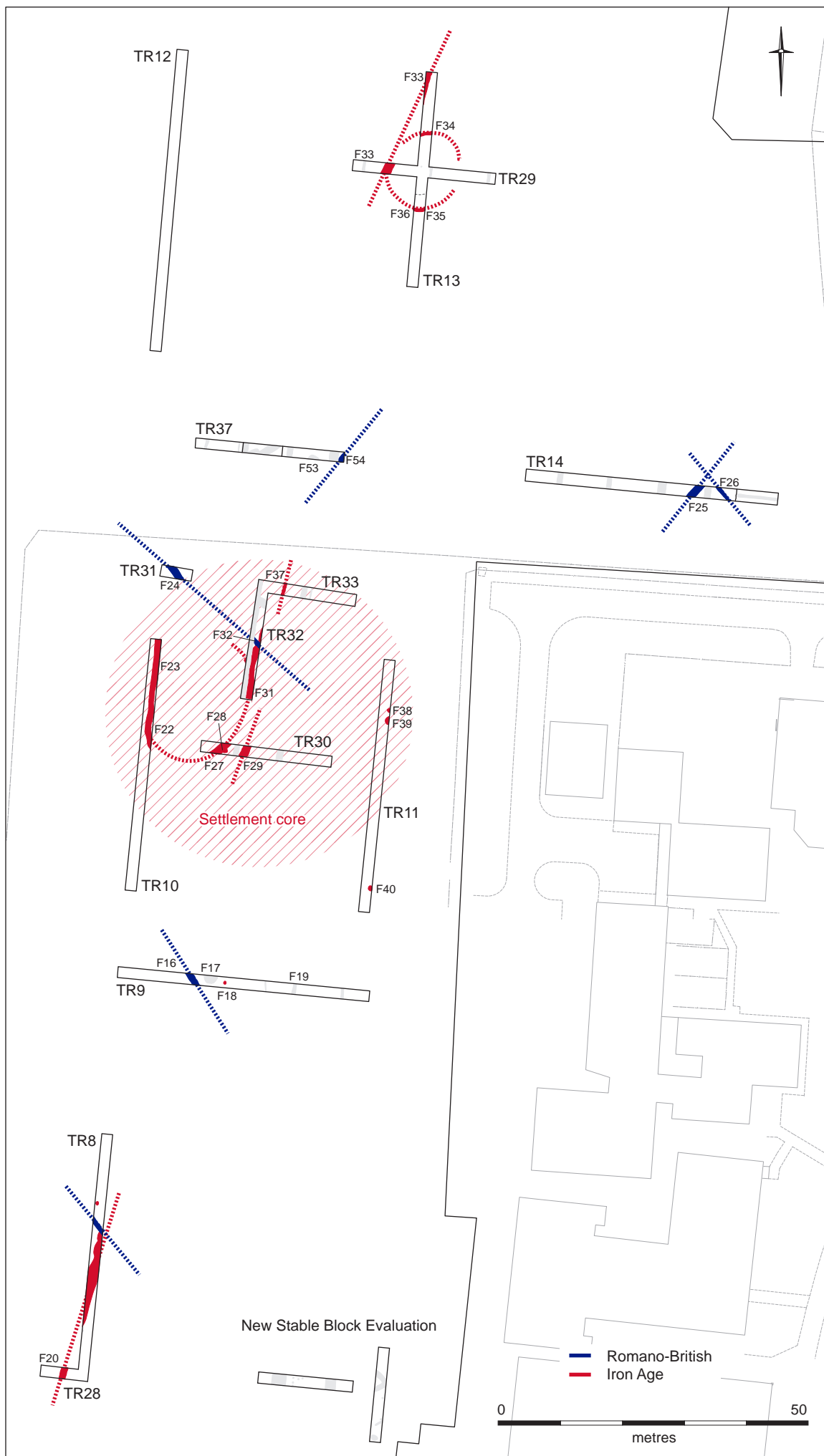


Figure 6. Early to Middle Iron Age settlement in Field 2 (Site 2)

The southern extent of Site 2 was defined in Trenches 8 and 28 by a linear (F.20) oriented north-northeast to south-southwest. This was more substantial than the curvilinears of the Site 2 core to the north, with the excavated slot displaying a depth of 0.56m at a width of 1.1m that looked to increase in plan as it stretched northward and where it appears to terminate beyond Trench 8. The linear was filled primarily by moderately firm light brownish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones [53] that overlay a basal fill, approximately 0.1m thick, of soft grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions [54]. Finds included bone of both sheep and cow, and the base of the linear had struck the watertable. A similar linear (F.33) was investigated in Trenches 13 and 29, set upon the same alignment as F.20. This was 1.27m wide and cut to a depth of 0.4m containing two fills from which a small assemblage of sheep bone and Iron Age pottery was collected. The upper fill [75] consisted of moderately stiff dark grey silty clay infused with occasional flecks of charcoal and small sub-angular stones; this capped a deposit of stiff mid to dark yellowish brown gritted sandy clay [93]. Together, to the north and south of Site 2, F.33 and F.20 marked the western limit of the Iron Age feature distribution, and they each traversed a slight landfall from the Site 2 core. Of particular note is that F.33 crossed both the diamict till and Gault Clay geological boundaries. Here, also positioned upon this geological boundary horizon, two linears were noted as curving slightly towards one another in Trench 13. These were initially thought to be a part of a single curvilinear gully, perhaps delineating a small circular structure, but this was problematized by a lack of return through the Trench 29 cross-trench. Even if these are separate features, they may nonetheless be structurally related. The southern linear (F.35), stretched east-west across the trench, and curved northwards. This was cut to 0.3m depth and contained a single fill of moderately firm mid grey silt [79] with no finds. Eight metres north of F.35 was F.34, also running east-west from each side of the trench and with a south oriented curve. The dimensions of this linear were near to identical with those of F.35 (0.44m wide and 0.2m deep) and contained slightly darker and firmer (but equivalent) grey silt [77], again with a lack of finds; however, this was cut by either a linear terminus or a pit (F.36), 0.63m wide by 0.4m deep. This contained two fills: a clayey band of silting [94] overlain by moderately firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks [81], Iron Age pottery and a fragment of sheep/goat bone.

Feature no.	Trench	Shape/ Orientation	Length/ Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
17	9	Small oval pit	0.5/0.3	0.1	-
20	8,28	Linear oriented NE-SW	1.1	0.56	BN
22	10	N-S Linear, curving east. Cut by F.23	0.68	0.12	-
23	10	N-S Linear or pit cutting F.22	0.56	0.45	PT,BN,FL
27	30	Linear oriented NE-SW, curving west. Cuts F.28	1.35	0.27	PT,BN,FL,BS
28	30	Oval pit cut oriented E-W. Cut by F.27	1.45/0.25	0.4	-
29	30,32	Linear oriented NE-SW	1.05	0.35	PT,BN
31	32	Linear oriented NNE-SSW. Cut by F.32 (Roman ditch)	0.95	0.25	PT,BN
33	13,29	Linear oriented NE-SW	1.27	0.4	PT,BN,BS
34	13	E-W Linear; possible ring gully. Cut by F.36	0.44	0.2	BN
35	13	E-W Linear; possible ring gully.	0.46	0.3	-
36	13	E-W Linear; possible ring gully.	0.63	0.4	PT,BN

37	33	Linear oriented N-S. ?as F.31.	0.4	0.15	-
38	11	Unexcavated pit	-	-	-
39	11	Unexcavated pit	-	-	-
40	11	Unexcavated pit	-	-	-
42	8	Unexcavated pit	-	-	-
43	8	Unexcavated pit	-	-	-

Table 6: Summary of Site 2 Iron Age features

It is clear that the core of Site 2 represents a settlement of Iron Age date comprising of habitational structures, pit storage and/or disposal, and clearly defined boundary lines at least on its west aspect. It is at present less clear as to the role of the possible structural features identified in Trenches 13 and 29 to the north of the core settlement. This does appear to stand apart from the main area of activity, perhaps separated by some 25.0m and on the cusp of the downward slope to the Gault Clay; as indicated by Law below, this cluster would though seem to be of somewhat earlier date (Late Bronze/earliest Iron Age) than the main site.

Site 3 - Identified in Field 1 (Figure 7), two separate parallel lines of shallow ditching (Table 7) amounting to a total of five linears and crossing Trenches 3-5 and 36 were originally assumed to belong to the Romano-British fieldsystem. Two factors argue in favour of these instead being of earlier attribution. The first is their misalignment to the Romano-British fieldsystem that was set upon a northwest-southeast axis; by contrast the five linears were positioned on a north-northwest to south-southeast axis. The second factor raising doubt in a Romano-British date is the recovery of a single rim sherd (broken into three pieces) of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery from F.11 in Trench 12. What these instead appear to represent are two lines of a trackway spaced c. 11m apart, the origin and destination of which are not certain. The north arm of the trackway consisted of an unexcavated linear **F.56**, 0.6m wide, with the south arm distinguished by two or three tightly set parallel linears, **F.11/12/50** (forming a single ditch length), **F.44/45/51** (also forming a single ditch length) and **F.52**, where F.11/12/50 was shown to cut F.44/45/51. All linears contained a single fill of moderately firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones, and each was comparable in their dimensions, with widths of between 0.55m and 0.75m, and depths of 0.11m to 0.15m. The intercutting nature of these linears is suggestive of maintenance of the south arm of the trackway.

Field	Trench	Feature no.	Orientation	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Notes
1	2,3,36	11/12/50	NW-SE	0.68-0.75	0.13-0.15	PT	-
1	2,3,36	44/45/51	NW-SE	0.55-0.7	0.11-0.14	-	-
1	36	52	NW-SE	-	-	-	Unexcavated
1	4	56	NW-SE	0.6	-	-	Unexcavated

Table 7: Summary of Site 3 possible Iron Age features

Romano-British

Nine features have been assigned to the Romano-British phase of activity (Table 8) on account of a small pottery assemblage and the results from previous stages of investigation at High Cross and Vicar's Farm. All of these features are linears that form ditched field boundaries mainly across Fields 1 and 2 (Figures 6 & 7), with a single linear in Field 3 possibly connected to this phase. For ease of presentation the fields are discussed here separately, although it is important to note that the linears observed in Field 1 encompass Site 3.

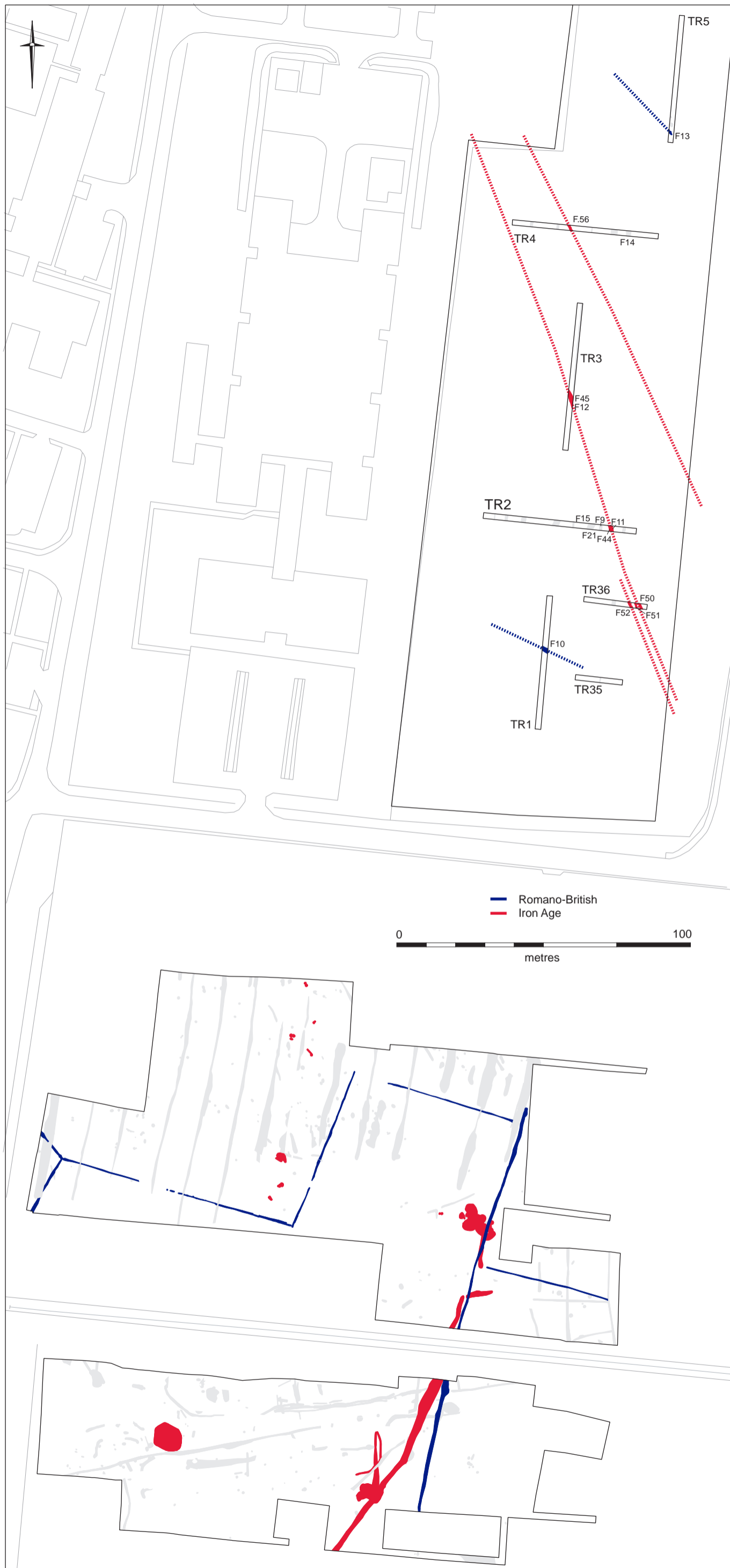


Figure 7. Detail of early field system (Site 3) and the High Cross site

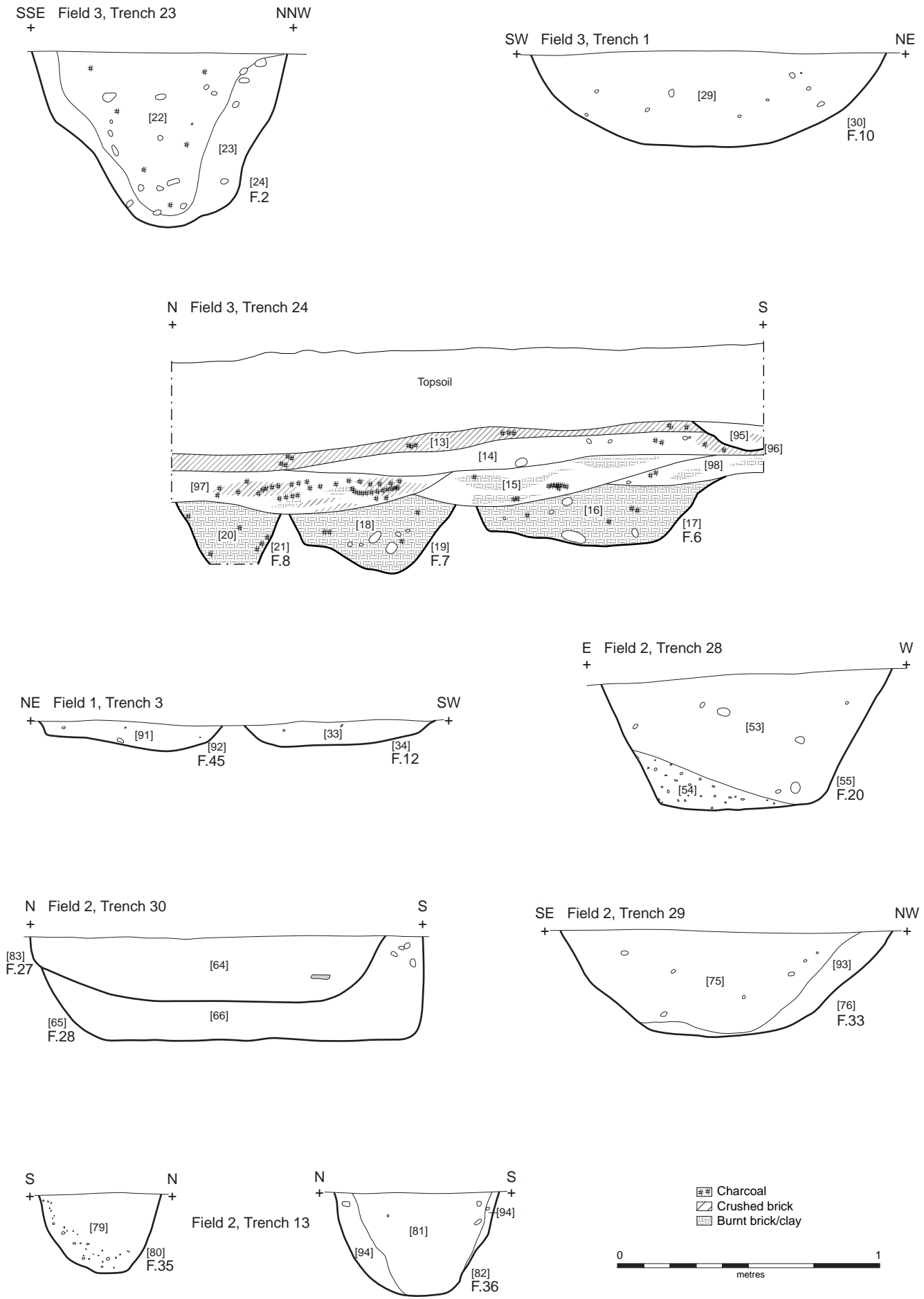


Figure 8. Selected sections

Field	Trench	Feature no.	Orientation	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Notes
1	1	10	NW-SE	1.36	0.36	FL,BS	-
1	5	13	NW-SE	0.58	0.17	-	Terminus
2	9	16	NW-SE	0.6	0.16	-	-
2	14	25	NE-SW	1	0.2	-	-
2	14	26	NW-SE	0.44	0.13	-	-
2	31,32	24/31	NW-SE	0.7-1.2	0.2-0.25	PT,FL	-
2	32	41	NW-SE	-	-	-	Unexcavated
2	37	54	NE-SW	-	-	-	Unexcavated
3	18	3	NW-SE	0.32-0.52	0.11-0.21	FL	-

Table 8: Summary of Romano-British linears

Field 1 (Site 3)

Consisting of two linears, F.10 and F.13, the character of the Romano-British ditched fieldsystem here is an extension of that first identified in the High Cross site to the southwest, namely on a northwest-southeast orientation. This was dated to the Early Roman (1st-2nd centuries AD) period. **F.10**, located in Trench 1 to the south of Field 1, was cut to a width of 1.36m with a sharp profile of concave sides and slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.36m. This was filled with a single deposit of moderately firm mid orangey brown clayey sandy-silt with rare charcoal flecks [29] and a single fragment of heat-affected stone. Trench 35 was opened in order to ascertain the southeast continuation of F.10, but it appears unfortunately to have been cut short of its projection, which was therefore not determined. **F.13** was the rounded terminus of a linear that ran along the north edge of the diamict geology immediately before its break on the landfall to Gault Clay. Smaller than F.10, this was 0.58m in width and 0.17m in depth.

Field 2 (Site 2)

Six linears (**F.16**, **F.24-26**, **F.41** & **F.54**) oriented at right angles on a northwest-southeast axis were identified in five trenches in Field 2: Numbers 9, 14, 31-32 and 37. These each contained a single fill of firm mid to light orangey brown gravelly clay, and were cut to a width of between 0.4m and 1.2m at a depth of 0.13-0.25m. Four sherds of Early Roman (1st-2nd centuries AD) pottery from three different vessels were recovered from one of these – F.24 – which was also found to cut one of the Iron Age ditches (F.32) in Trench 32. No additional relationships could be ascertained.

Field 3

A single linear (**F.3**) was observed in Trench 18 oriented northwest-southeast in the southeast corner of Field 3. Two slots were excavated to reveal a sharp concave cut of between 0.32m and 0.52m width varying to a depth of 0.11m to 0.21m. This contained a single fill of firm mid brown clayey silt and occasional gravel with no finds.

Medieval and Post-Medieval

Sixteen features of Medieval or post-Medieval date were recorded, although finds only of post-Medieval date were identified.

Across each of Fields 1-3 was a north-south swathe of agricultural furrows, regularly spaced between c. 6-8m, of which four were excavated: **F.9**, **F.14-15** and **F.19**. These ranged between 0.4m and 1.33m in width and 0.07m to 0.15m in depth, the variation reflecting the variation in furrow survival across the PDA. Finds from these features were predominantly mid-19th century in date, although a spread of 18th century pottery was also observed (though not collected) in the topsoil over the west half of Trench 2 in Field 1. Ceramic drains were broadly found to lie on a similar alignment, although most were filled with sediment and were evidently non-functional. A single cut containing a ceramic drain was formally tested and recorded as **F.21** in Trench 2; this, however, may have been connected with foundations (**F.47** and **F.48**) for farm buildings constructed in the 1970s and demolished in the early 2000s. A number of other modern services and features related to these foundations were recorded: **F.1** and **F.46-48**.

The north paddocks of Field 3 were unusual in that the present land surface was shown in Trenches 15-17 and 24 to be largely artificially built-up ground with layers of imported clay and rubble overlying the original ground surface to a thickness of up to 0.6m in the north half of Trench 16 (a similar, though shallower, profile was observed by Hutton [2010] during trenching prior to the construction of student accommodation south of Tr.17). Material recovered from the rubble layers was modern, thereby confirming landscaping as a feature of the construction of the Veterinary School in the 1950s. These did, however, conceal the horizons below, although the only features uncovered were three sub-square or rectangular pits in Trench 24: **F.6-8**. These were up to 0.3m deep and approximately 0.5m to 0.9m wide and were filled with a compact deposit of burnt and degraded red brick. Baker's Map of the area for 1830 depicts a 'Brick Kiln' between the north side of Madingley Road and Gravel Hill Farm, and it is likely that these three pits relate to similar production activities.



Figure 9. Selected photographs: F.27 and F.28 (top left), F.34 and F.36 (top right), F.29 (bottom right), and Trench 32 (bottom left)

FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Environmental Assessment - Val Fryer

Six samples were collected for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages from fills within five ditches (four Iron Age, one Romano-British).

The samples were bulk floated by the CAU and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dry flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 9. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010) for the plant remains and Kerney and Cameron (1979) for the mollusc shells. All plant macrofossils were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Results

Plant macrofossils are generally scarce, although sample 5 (ditch F.27) does contain a moderate density of charcoal/charred wood fragments. Other macrofossils include occasional wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) and indeterminate small grasses (Poaceae) and a spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) nutlet. Most are quite poorly preserved. Other remains are also scarce but include fragments of black porous and tarry material, small pieces of coal and small mammal/amphibian bones, all of which are likely to be intrusive within the features' fills.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial and marsh/freshwater slum snails are present within all but sample 1. However, as most retain excellent colouration as well as delicate surface structuring, it is considered most likely that all are intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken.

The recovered assemblages are very small and sparse, and it would appear that many of the excavated features have suffered some degree of post-depositional disturbance/bioturbation. The few remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from scattered detritus of either domestic or agricultural origin. However, the paucity of material probably suggests that the ditches were entirely peripheral to any main focus of activity.

On the basis of the current assemblages, it is difficult to make recommendations for a future sampling strategy should further interventions be planned. However, as the area does include a known Iron Age settlement as well as some evidence for later activities, it is suggested that any future work should include the taking of additional samples (preferably of 40-60 litres in volume) from any archaeological features which are both dated and well-sealed. Analysis of such samples could help to pinpoint specific settlement foci as well as identify which particular activities were occurring on or near the site during the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Context No.	[3]		[81]	[61]	[64]	[68]
Feature No.	F.2		F.36	F.24	F.27	F.29
Date	Iron Age		Iron Age	Romano-British	Iron Age	Iron Age
Plant macrofossils						
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)					x	
Cereal indet. (grains)					xfg	
<i>Bromus</i> sp.					x	
Fabaceae indet.				x		
Small Poaceae indet.			x		x	x
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.					x	
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x		xxx	x
Charcoal >2mm			x	x	xx	
Charcoal >5mm			x		x	
Charcoal >10mm					x	
Charred root/stem			x		x	
Indet. seeds			x			x
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x	x	x	x
Black tarry material		x	x			
Bone					x	
Small coal frags.	x		x	x		
Small mammal/amphibian bones					x	
Mollusc shells						
Woodland/shade loving species						
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>						x
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.						x
<i>Carychium</i> sp.					x	x
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.					xcf	xcf
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.						x
<i>Trichia striolata</i>					x	
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.						x
Zonitidae indet.					x	
Open country species						
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>						x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		x		x	x	x
<i>V. excentrica</i>			xcf			
<i>V. pulchella</i>				xcf		
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>				x	x	x
Catholic species						
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.					x	x
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group			x	x	x	x
Marsh/freshwater slum species						
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>						x
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.			x		x	
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	15	15	16	15
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 9. Summary of Environmental data. (Key: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 11 – 50 specimens, xxx = 51 – 100 specimens, fg = fragment, cf = compare, IA = Iron Age, Rom = Romano-British).

Animal Bone - Vida Rajkovača

A small faunal assemblage was recovered totalling 224 (860g) bone fragments. 144 fragments (645g) were recovered by hand and the remainder (80 fragments/ 215g) collected from heavy residues of the processed environmental bulk soil samples.

Following the zooarchaeological assessment, 49 assessable specimens were recorded from the hand-excavated slots, with just under half being assigned to species (23 specimens, *c.* 47%). A further 27 specimens were recorded from the heavy residues, only four of which were possible to identify to species.

The assemblage was recovered from a small number of contexts assigned to linear features or ditches. A number of these were Iron Age in date, although most are undated. Overall, the bone was very fragmented and the preservation was moderate to quite poor.

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1999) along with reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Where possible, unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories (this information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count), and butchery, pathology and gnawing were noted. Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses. The ageing data of Silver (1969) was used to assess epiphyseal fusion of the post-cranial elements. The analyses of tooth eruption and mandibular toothwear stages were recorded following Payne (1973) for ovicapra and Grant (1982) for cattle and pigs.

Representation of Species

The only two identified species were cow and sheep/ goat, recorded in similar numbers (Table 10). This relatively even representation was reflected in size-category NISP counts. Skeletal element count showed a slight prevalence of mandibular elements and teeth, though a cow radius and ulna demonstrated that remains of joints of higher meat value were also represented. Results from the three identified sites may be summarised in the following way:

Site 1: A single cow ulna fragment from F.2.

Site 2: This generated more than half of the assemblage.

Site 3: Only four fragments of bone, with one being identified as sheep/ goat.

Bone from Heavy Residues

Material came from three samples, recovered from the area of dense archaeological occupation in the Field 2/ Site 2. Cow was the only species positively identified, represented by loose tooth, calcaneus and metapodial fragment (Table 11).

Site	3		2							1	Total		
Trench	Tr.3	Tr.2	Tr.28	Tr.10		Tr.30	Tr.30	Tr.32	Tr. 13,29	Tr. 13		Tr. 23	
Feature	F.12	F.15	F.20	F.23		F.27	F.29	F.31	F.33	F.36		F.2	
Context	[33]	[39]	[53]	[58]	[59]	[64]	[68]	[72]	[76]	[81]		[22]	
Date	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	Iron Age				nd		Iron Age	
Taxon													
Cow	-	-	1	-	3	3	3	1	-	-		1	12
Sheep/ goat	-	1	1	-	1	5	-	-	2	1		-	11
Sub-total species to	-	1	2	-	4	8	3	1	2	1		1	23
Cattle-sized	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	1	-	-		-	10
Sheep-sized	-	2	5	1	-	2	-	-	2	3	-	15	
Mammal n.f.i.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Total	1	3	7	1	4	14	8	2	4	4	1	49	

Table 10. Number of identified faunal species from all features (the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes the specimen that could not be further identified).

Trench	30	30	13
Feature	F.27	F.29	F.36
Context	[64]	[68]	[81]
Date	Iron Age		nd
Taxon			
Cow	4	-	-
Sub-total to species	4	-	-
Cattle-sized	3	-	-
Sheep-sized	8	5	1
Mammal n.f.i.	3	-	3
Total	18	5	4

Table 11. Number of identified faunal species from heavy residues (the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes the specimen that could not be further identified).

An assemblage of this size only allows for quantification and characterisation of species identification; further meaningful assessment is not possible, although it is clear that the potential for the retrieval of a fuller assemblage is likely in the event of further investigations, particularly within Site 2. The presence of domesticates in ditches, most likely of Iron Age date, is in keeping with expected local and period-specific patterns of economy that are heavily reliant on domestic sources of food.

Prehistoric Pottery - Rob Law

A total of 123 later prehistoric pottery sherds with a combined weight of 684g was recovered from twelve evaluation trenches. The material has been assigned to one of three categories according to fabric type (see below): Later Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age (c. 1000 - 600 BC); Early to Middle Iron Age (c. 600 - 50 BC) and Later Iron Age / Early Roman (c. 50 - AD 50). Small sherds dominate the assemblage with 108 (88%) being classified as small (4cm and under) and 15 (12%) as medium-sized (measuring >4cm and <8cm). The mean sherd weight (MSW) is 5.6g. Most of the sherds show relatively fresh breaks indicating they entered the ground shortly after being broken. A small number of sherds show slight signs of abrasion. All of the sherds, with the possible exception of two from Trench 30 (F.27 [64]) derive from handmade vessels. Amongst the 123 sherds, 18 are diagnostic: 14 rims and 4 base sherds. A small number of these are refitting sherds.

Date				LBA-EIA		EIA-MIA		LIA-E.Rom		Total	
Trench	Feature	Context	Sample	No. Sherds	Wt (g)	No. Sherds	Wt (g)	No. Sherds	Wt (g)	No. Sherds	Wt (g)
2	11	31	-	-	-	3	24	-	-	3	24
10	23	58	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	3	27
10	23	59	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
13	36	81	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	2	7
23	2	22	-	-	-	3	8	-	-	3	8
25	-	Subsoil	-	-	-	3	9	-	-	3	9
29	33	76	-	6	17	-	-	-	-	6	17
30	27	64	-	19	59	26	353	2	27	47	439
30	29	68	-	-	-	17	39	-	-	17	39
32	31	72	-	2	18	-	-	-	-	2	18
30	27	64	5	3	34	28	72	-	-	31	106
30	29	68	6	5	9	-	-	-	-	5	9
<i>Total</i>				40	151	81	506	2	27	123	684

Table 12. Quantification of pottery from evaluation trenches.

Fabrics types:

- 1: Sand and straw / grasses
- 2: Sand and finely crushed quartz. Small, frequent and well distributed
- 3: Finely crushed shell and sand. Small, frequent and well distributed
- 4: Finely crushed shell. Small, frequent and well distributed
- 5: Sand

Fabric	Description	No. sherds	Period
1	Sand and straw / grasses	39	Later Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age
2	Sand and finely crushed quartz. Small, frequent and well distributed	1	Later Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age
3	Finely crushed shell and sand. Small, frequent and well distributed	49	Early to Middle Bronze Age
4	Finely crushed shell. Small, frequent and well distributed	15	Early to Middle Bronze Age
5	Sand	19	Early to Middle Iron Age (inc. Later Iron Age/ Early Roman)

Later Bronze Age/Earliest Iron Age (c. 1000- 600 BC)

There are 40 sherds likely to date from between the Later Bronze Age (LBA) to the Earliest Iron Age (Earliest IA). Of these, 39 are tempered with sand and straw (Fabric 1), while a single sherd contains sand and finely crushed quartz (Fabric 2). Two small rim sherds, in a hard black sandy fabric with remnants of straw or grass, are the only diagnostic sherds within this fabric group. Both are crudely formed: one rounded and expanded externally, the other flat and rounded externally. The later carries a single nail impression on the flattened rim. Both originate from small vessels.

Early to Middle Iron Age (c. 600 - 50 BC)

There are 81 sherds likely to date from the Early to Middle Iron Age (EIA - MIA): 49 in Fabric 3, 15 in Fabric 4 and 17 in Fabric 5. Amongst them are 10 rim sherds (one from Tr.2 and nine from Tr.30) and four base sherds (all from Tr.30). The rim sherd from Trench 2 is flattened and in Fabric 5. One of the rim sherds from Trench 30, also in Fabric 5, has a round rim, short upright neck and a high rounded shoulder, similar to Brudenell's F3 (2012, Figure 4.1). There are a further seven rounded rim sherds which are slightly expanded externally and all in Fabric 3. Four of these refit to form part of a vessel with a short upright neck and rounded shoulder. While the edges of these sherds appear relatively fresh, their exterior surface is rather worn. Despite this, some decoration is still visible on each of the sherds and includes diagonal and horizontal scoring along with impressed tool marks- the later forming the outline of a triangle. Four body sherds and two base sherds, in an identical fabric, refit to form the lower section of what appears to be a bowl-like vessel. If these sherds are from the same vessel as the refitting rim sherds, then the vessel is likely to have been a round bodied bowl, similar Brudenell's K3 (*ibid.*). The remaining rim sherd has a crudely flattened rim, rounded externally, which carries diagonal nail impressions. It is in an hard blackened sandy fabric (F.5) The two remaining base sherds, both in Fabric 5, come from a thick-walled urn-like vessel.

Later Iron Age / Early Roman period (c. 50 -AD 50)

There are two rim sherds, both in Fabric 5 and from Trench 30 (F.27, [64]), that may belong to a wheel thrown (or wheel finished) vessel and thus more likely to date from the Later Iron Age (Later IA) or possibly the Early Roman period (ER). They have everted tapered lips and concave collars and may belong to the same vessel.

Trench 30 produced the greatest quantity of pottery: 100 sherds weighing 593g or 81% of the total assemblage and 87% of the total weight. The pottery dates from the LBA through to the Later IA/ER period. Of the 100 sherds, 27 (102g) can be assigned to the LBA-Earliest IA; 71 (464g) to the EIA-MIA and 2 (27g) to the Later IA/ER period. In contrast, Trenches 13, 29 and 32 produced only LBA-Earliest IA pottery, while Trenches 2 and 23 (plus the subsoil from Trench 25) only EIA-MIA.

Romano-British Pottery - Francesca Mazzilli

Four small sherds of early Romano-British pottery, c. 1st-2nd century AD, representing three vessel types were recorded from a single feature, ditch F.24 [61], in Trench 31 (cat. nos. <40> & <45>). The combined weight of these sherds totalled 10g.

Post-Medieval Pottery - Marcus Brittain

Nine sherds of post-Medieval pottery were collected from Fields 1 to 3 (88g). These are all of mid- to late 19th century date and derive from agricultural furrows, the fill of a service trench and as residual to earlier features. Overall these are consistent with the historical use of the PDA for agriculture.

<6> F.15 [39], Tr.2: Five sherds of 19th century ceramic and stoneware pottery, weight 50g. Includes two rim sherds of white china cups and a white china mug handle, with two sherds of mid reddish brown glazed stoneware.

<22> Service trench, Tr.22, weight 2g. A single sherd of mid-19th century blue and white printed white ware ceramic.

<24> F.1 [1], Tr.22, weight 9g. A single sherd of mid reddish brown glazed stoneware.

<41> F.31 [72], Tr.32, weight 19g. A single sherd of mid-19th century blue and white printed white ware ceramic.

Furrow, Tr.14, weight 78g. A near complete pedestal base of a vase or container with blue and white printed floral design along the footing and a 'MILKMAID' stamp on the base. This belongs to a popular mid-19th century design of a country scene in which the main feature is a cow and milkmaid (Coysh & Henrywood 1989: 136).

Worked Flint - Emma Beadsmoore

A total of six (85g) flints were recovered from three features. The material comprised working waste. Feature 2 yielded a secondary flake comparable to the later Neolithic products of discoidal cores. A chronologically non-diagnostic secondary flake was recovered from F.5. Whilst F.10 yielded three secondary flakes and a chunk, all of which were chronologically non-diagnostic.

Worked & Burnt Stone - Marcus Brittain

Stone collected from linear features in Field 1 and Field 2 (Site 2) were submitted for analysis (2669g), of which 838g were heat affected. Three (one burnt and two unburnt) show signs of possible modification, with two having potentially been used as rubbers or polishing implements, and the other perhaps originally serving as part of a quern. There are no stones of an obviously non-local source.

<2> F.10 [29], Tr.1. Unworked small heat affected stone with slightly reddened exterior surface, weight 91g.

<28> F.2 [22], Tr.23. Five non-refitting small heat affected stones with slightly reddened exterior surface, weight 465g.

<34> F.33 [76], Tr.29. One unburnt and unworked stone with two medium heat shattered stones, one with slightly reddened surface, and the other with a polished 'skin' of reddening on the exterior surface and black charring of the interior structure; possible quern fragment.

<37> F.27 [64], Tr.30. Three stones (not heat affected), of which two display a slightly concave or hollowed and polished short surface, perhaps resulting from modification through rubbing/polishing. Weight 1548g. Source of the stones may be of boulder clay as observed at the High Cross site to the south west (Timberlake 2010).

DISCUSSION

The paddocks of the Department of Veterinary Medicine represent an important and previously unexplored gap in the extensive archaeological landscape of the West and North West Cambridge hinterland. The intensity of prehistoric and Romano-British activity upon the gravels overlooking the lower and generally wetter plains composed of Gault Clay has become well established in the picture emerging from detailed and targeted investigation. Whilst it had long been assumed that claylands were a *terra nullius* unattractive to early agricultural communities, this view has since been eroded against a growing body of data returned from now extensive excavation within these contexts across Cambridgeshire and the Midlands more broadly. The expectation prior to the current project, and in part based upon the mapping of the British Geological Survey for the area, was that the paddocks were located upon Gault Clay.

Ambiguities regarding the prehistoric archaeology at the High Cross Site to the southwest of the PDA have been of a particular concern. Here Early to Middle Iron Age (and some Bronze Age) activity provided evidence for colonisation of damp and potentially marginal land that was short-lived and a seemingly failed venture. The degree to which this land could be described as 'marginal' was difficult to estimate in light of the character of the archaeology: a part-enclosure or boundary ditch with large pits and possible wells. The status of the activity was equally difficult to define, either as a settlement, a peripheral activity area or otherwise. Vicar's Farm, to the east, revealed just a single Early Iron Age pit and residual pottery over an area of 3.6ha (Lucas 2001), with but one Middle to later Iron Age ditch in the Nano Fabrication Centre evaluation (Amour 2001). A contrast to this, on gravels raised upon a ridge at the North West Cambridge Site, the so-called Traveller's Rest Sub-site was a small enclosed Middle Iron Age settlement evident in longer-term use (Evans 2015b), with associated Early to Middle Iron Age pits, wells and other activity areas established elsewhere along the ridge (Site V; Brittain 2014). There activities in the lower lying Gault Clay lands were really only intensified in the Late Iron Age (Site VI; Timberlake 2014), which has only presented a further challenge to explaining the dynamics of the locational-context of the High Cross settlement. This may partially be resolved by recourse to Site 2's situation upon a slightly raised, more gravelly till-like ridge running almost directly between High Cross and Vicar's Farm. This appears to consist of a small and partially enclosed settlement, with its northwest and southwest edge defined by at least two broken lines of ditch transecting the ridge from both its north and south landfalls. At its core, a minimum of two circular, gully-defined dwellings and associated pits and other postholes pertain to domestic habitation, with key intersecting features illustrative of an extended duration (and perhaps modification) of occupation. A possible third gully-defined structure was noted on the edge of the Gault Clay, 25m north of the core. As discussed by Law above, this northern cluster would actually seem to be of earlier date (Late Bronze/earliest Iron Age) than the main Middle Iron Age settlement core there; that said, there are also indications of Early Iron Age activity within the southern area.

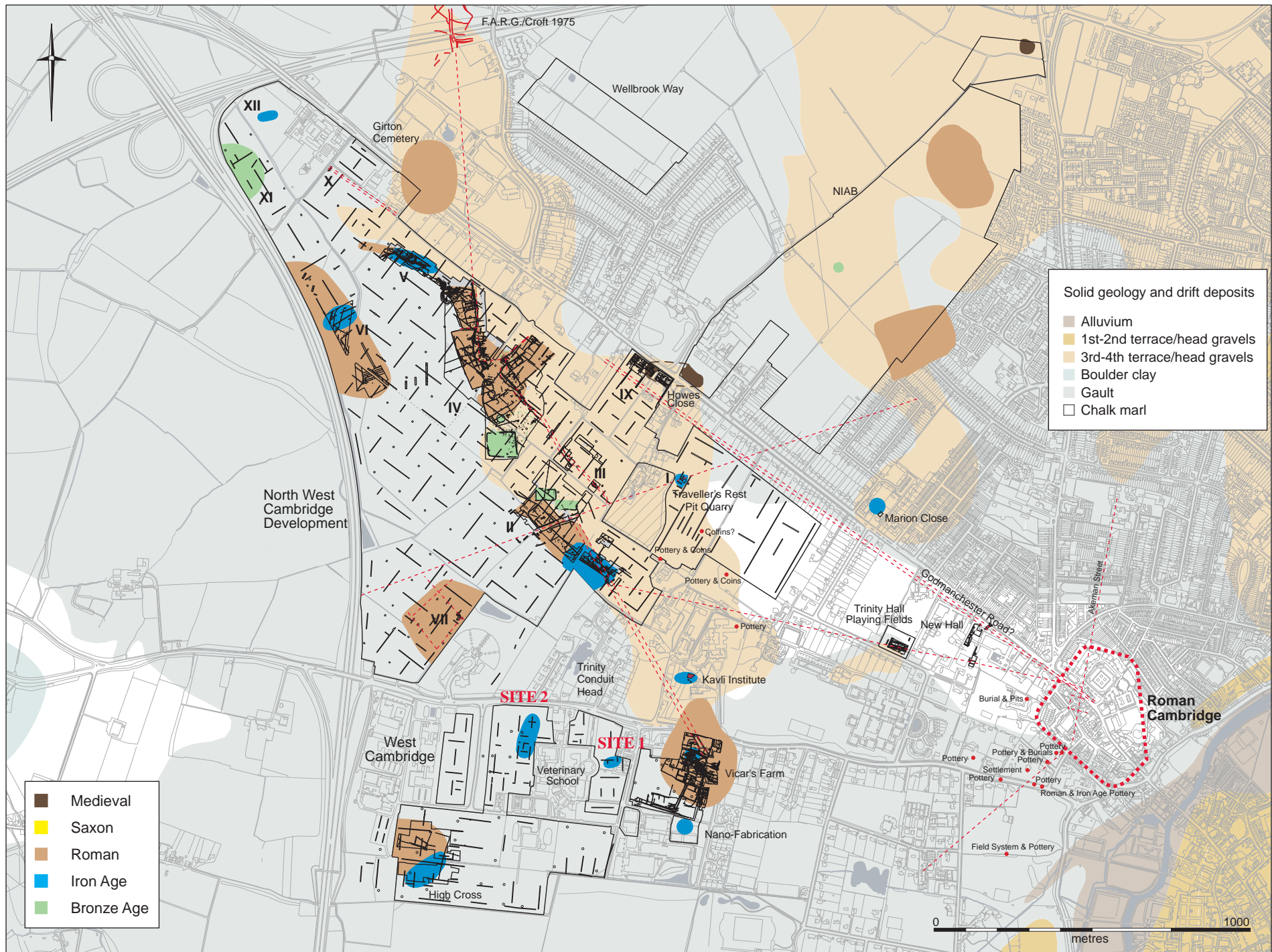


Figure 10. Site distributions

There is a comparative distinction between the Iron Age features of Site 2 and those recorded at High Cross. At the latter there was a complete absence for clear evidence of dwelling structures as such, in spite of a fragment of quern having been recovered from one of the pits. The pits themselves were of moderate size, but evidence for storage was typically scant with any prior use having been subsumed by later refuse discard. Quarrying and well-sinking were also posed as alternative prior usage. Ultimately, non-permanent settlement or seasonal encampment was reasonably suggested to account for these residues (Timberlake 2014: 50-1). Current evidence from Site 2 seems to portray a marked contrast. Here large pits and pit clusters are absent, with smaller discrete pits and possible posthole groupings more readily apparent. The clearer evidence for dwelling structures is also an obvious contrast to High Cross. Common to both, perhaps, are the 'broken' or interrupted ditches marking the limits of activity and running against the break of slope, along the east edge of the High Cross site and along the west edge of Site 2. With these demarcating boundaries effectively defining a threshold to each site, and the possibility of different activities taking place within them, there is scope to consider a complimentary relationship between the two topographically distinct sites.

Any further detailing of the area's later prehistory must await the eventual excavation of Site 2. What does, though, warrant notice is the very recovery of two further Middle Iron Age settlements in the West/North West Cambridge environs. As mentioned, only one settlement proper of the period was found upon the latter's gravel ridge (Traveller's Rest Sub-site; Evans 2015b), with none there found on the low-lying clays. This is in contrast to the number of the area's Late Iron Age settlements; with there also being a high density of Bronze/Early Iron Age settlements, this led to speculation that during the Middle Iron Age there may have been a location shift onto the lighter and obviously highly fertile Kimmeridge Clays to the north of the area, such as found at Longstanton or the southern end of the A14 investigations (Evans, *et al.* 2008; Evans & Standring 2012). The mixed till-like qualities of the West Cambridge's diamict ridge would seem directly comparable to Kimmeridge deposits and this could well explain the occurrence of Sites 1 and 2 settlements here.

Regardless of whether the trackway that appears to run across the length of Field 1 is actually of later prehistoric date, the scale of what seems to be the Romano-British fieldsystem within Fields 1 and 2 is impressive. No evidence of contemporary settlement as such was found in the PDA and it is difficult to know which of the wider area's previously identified settlements it might have related to: High Cross to the south or North West Cambridge's Site VII just north of Madingley Road. Given that the latter was clearly of a high status and possibly even a villa (Evans & Newman 2010), it seems the most likely candidate and that, once again, most of its accompanying arable lands probably lay on the till-like diamict-bed lands rather than the Gault Clays below it (though see Timberlake 2014 for the low-ground Romano-British planting beds recovered to the north at Site VI).

In conclusion, while the fieldwork programme essentially amounts to an 'infilling' exercise of the area's evaluation cover, the recognition of the diamict ridge and the attraction it obviously had for later prehistoric and Romano-British land-use has contributed a crucial element to the understanding of the Cambridge's western hinterlands.

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Appendix: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.28	Features (n=1): F.10. A single linear of possible Roman date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.13	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	45.3	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 2		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=9): F.9, F.11, F.15, F.21, F.44 Eight Medieval or post-Medieval linears of an agricultural furrow system and possible trackway, with one linear of possible Roman date. West half of trench contained 18 th and 19 th century ceramic in topsoil.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	52.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 3		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=2): F.12, F.45 Two linears of possible Roman date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.16	
Max Depth (m)	0.47	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	50.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 4		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.28	Features (n=5): F.14 Four Medieval or post-Medieval linears of an agricultural furrow system with one linear of possible Roman date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.18	
Max Depth (m)	0.48	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	49.6	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 5		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.27	Features (n=1): F.13 Terminus of a linear within a possible Roman fieldsystem; corresponds with landfall and break in geology from gravels to Gault Clay.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15-.29	
Colluvium (m)	0.24	
Max Depth (m)	0.83	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	43.3	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay to Gault Clay		

Trench 6		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.24	Features (n=0) No archaeology. Break in geology on landfall from gravels to Gault Clay.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.03	
Max Depth (m)	0.28	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	42.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay and Gault Clay		

Trench 7		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.22	Features (n=0): Agricultural headland observed along with recent built-up topsoil to south of trench.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Headland Max Thickness (m)	0.48	
Max Depth (m)	1.24	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	60.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 8		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=4): F.20, F.42, F.43 Single modern linear cutting Early to Middle Iron Age linear with two small pits or postholes of possible prehistoric date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.2	
Max Depth (m)	0.55	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	39.8	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 9		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=7): F.16, F.17, F.18, F.19 A linear of possible Roman date alongside a small pit or posthole and tree-throw of possible prehistoric date, with two Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows and two ceramic field drains.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.30	
Max Depth (m)	0.55	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	40.6	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 10		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=2): F.22, F.23 An Iron Age linear with a re-cut.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	40.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 11		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=3): F.38, F.39, F.40 Three probable Iron Age pits.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	40.7	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 12		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=0) No. archaeology. Geological change on landfall to Gault Clay
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.20	
Max Depth (m)	0.50	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	48.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay and Gault Clay		

Trench 13		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.31	Features (n=5): F.33, F.34, F.35, F.36, F.49 Early to Middle Iron Age linear with two gullies possible relating to a structure, along with a modern posthole and a geological change in the north of the trench from gravel to Gault Clay.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.20	
Max Depth (m)	0.43	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	34.8	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay and Gault Clay		

Trench 14		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=7): F.25, F.26 Four Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows and a modern service trench, overlying two linears of possible Roman or earlier date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.48	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	40.7	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 15		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.34	Features (n=0) No archaeology.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.16	
Max Depth (m)	0.50	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	12.2	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 16		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.12	Features (n=0) Two ceramic drains. Built-up ground probably relating to construction of Veterinary Science buildings.
Clay Import (max-min m)	0.14-.45	
Buried Topsoil (Avg. m)	0.3	
Buried Subsoil (Avg. m)	0.16	
Max Depth (m)	1.07	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	37.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gault Clay		

Trench 17		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.22	Features (n=0) Two ceramic drains. Built-up ground probably relating to construction of Veterinary Science buildings.
Clay Import (max-min m)	0.06-.12	
Buried Topsoil (Avg. m)	0.25	
Buried Subsoil (Avg. m)	0.12	
Max Depth (m)	0.67	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	26.8	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gault Clay		

Trench 18		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=13): F.3, F.5 Six Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows with seven ceramic drains, a natural hollow filled with subsoil and containing a single knapped flint, along with a linear of possible Roman date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.26	
Max Depth (m)	0.54	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	70.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 19		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.31	Features (n=0) Two ceramic field drains.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.22	
Max Depth (m)	0.6	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	24.6	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 20		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.21	Features (n=1) A single Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrow with a ceramic field drain and a natural hollow filled with subsoil to a depth of 0.75m (from modern ground surface).
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.20	
Max Depth (m)	0.41	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	24.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 21		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=9) A modern posthole and two inactive modern services overlay four medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows and five ceramic field drains.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.61	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	59.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 22		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.26	Features (n=6): F.1, F.4, F.46, F.47, F.48 Two modern wall foundations and two service trenches with two small sub-rectangular pits containing animal (sheep) bone in a greasy black deposit with a layer of crumbly white substance (unexcavated). Considerable demolition material within the topsoil and subsoil.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.18	
Max Depth (m)	0.46	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	39.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 23		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.30	Features (n=3): F.2 Two Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows with a ceramic field drain and a linear of possible Iron Age date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15	
Max Depth (m)	0.50	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	39.6	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 24		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.28	Features (n=4): F.6, F.7, F.8, F.55 Considerable built-up ground with demolition material at upper south end of trench and imported clay and topsoil northwards from mid-way along trench. This is probably associated with the construction of the Veterinary Science buildings. At south end the demolition layers conceal at least three square or sub-rectangular pits containing fired clay and burnt hand-made brick, probably post-Medieval.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.27	
Clay Import (max-min m)	0.03-.14	
Buried Topsoil (Avg. m)	0.22	
Buried Subsoil (Avg. m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	1.05	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	49.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 25		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.38	Features (n=1): F.2 Eastward continuation of linear F.2 of possible Iron Age date. South half of trench shows modern disturbance of solid geology.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.23	
Max Depth (m)	0.61	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	12.7	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 26		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=1): F.30 Single posthole in line with course of linear F.2; Possibly of Iron Age date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	10.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 27		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=0) No archaeology.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	10.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 28		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.32	Features (n=1): F.20 Linear of probable Early to Middle Iron Age date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.23	
Max Depth (m)	0.55	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	7.65	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 29		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.31	Features (n=1): F.33 Linear of probable Early to Middle Iron Age date, with three ceramic field drains possibly connected to agricultural furrow system.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.20	
Max Depth (m)	0.43	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	23.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 30		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=5): F.27, F.28, F.29 Two Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows with two linears of Early to Middle Iron Age date, one cutting an earlier pit.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	21.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 31		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=1): F.24 Linear of probable Roman date.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	5.00	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 32		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=5): F.31, F.41 At least five features of Iron Age, Roman and Medieval or Post-medieval date, all linears, densely packed.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	19.3	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 33		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=2): F.37 A possible Iron Age linear with a Medieval or Post-medieval agricultural furrow.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.44	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	14.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 34		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.27	Features (n=2) Two medieval or post-Medieval agricultural furrows.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.15	
Max Depth (m)	0.48	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	16.4	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 35		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.25	Features (n=0) One ceramic field drain, but no continuation of F.10 from Trench 1.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.18	
Max Depth (m)	0.46	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	16.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 36		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.30	Features (n=4): F.50, F.51, F.52 Three probable Roman linears possibly curving to the south (and towards F.10). Also a single Medieval or post-medieval agricultural furrow.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.20	
Max Depth (m)	0.52	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	21.5	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

Trench 37		
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>		<i>Summary Description</i>
Avg. Topsoil Thickness (m)	0.29	Features (n=7): F.53, F.54 A modern service trench traverses the centre of the trench. Three Medieval or post-medieval agricultural furrows and a drain overly a single linear of possible Roman date and a sub-square pit or terminus.
Avg. Subsoil Thickness (m)	0.19	
Max Depth (m)	0.48	
<i>Trench Length (m)</i>	24.0	
<i>Solid Geology</i> – Gravelly Clay		

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-216574

Project details

Project name	West Cambridge Archaeology Department of Veterinary Medicine Paddocks: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological trenching covering an area of 2240.4m2 revealed a previously unidentified geological variation of a ridge of diamict gravel over Gault clay upon which an Early to Middle Iron Age settlement was identified. This comprised of at least two circular gully-defined dwellings with associated pits over a distribution clearly demarcated by a broken line of bounding ditches. A third structure was identified 25m away from the core settlement upon the Gault clay landfall. An additional Iron Age site represented by a ditch and posthole was also identified, and a ditch-defined trackway may also possibly be attributed to this phase. An extensive Romano-British field system overlay the settlement area and other considerable parts of the proposed development area.
Project dates	Start: 18-05-2015 End: 01-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4458 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Iron Age
Monument type	TRACK Iron Age
Monument type	ROUNDHOUSE Iron Age
Monument type	FIELDSYSTEM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling", "Geophysical Survey", "Measured Survey", "Metal Detectors", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE West Cambridge Archaeology Department of Veterinary Medicine Paddocks: An Archaeological Evaluation
Postcode	CB3 0HB
Study area	2240.40 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4240 5900 52.210370503 0.0843729829652 52 12 37 N 000 05 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.50m Max: 21.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Christopher Evans
Project director/manager	Christopher Evans
Project supervisor	Marcus Brittain
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Cambridge

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	VET15
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	VET15
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Geophysics","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	VET15
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Plan","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
------------------	---

Title	West Cambridge Archaeology Department of Veterinary Medicine Paddocks: An Archaeological Evaluation
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