

THE OVER LOWLAND INVESTIGATIONS (III)

Archaeological Evaluation in Hanson's Over / Needingworth Quarry

The 2007 Evaluation



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INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the results of evaluation fieldwork across a *c.* 105 ha area of the Over terraces along the lower reaches of the River Great Ouse. Constituting the third 'five-year pull' of Hanson's Over/Needingworth Quarry, the site lies on the eastern side of the River Great Ouse at its junction with the fens at Earith/Haddenham and encompasses the area of the 'northern', alleviated, *Crane's Fen* terrace (fig. 1). The methodologies employed in this programme directly continue those used during Phases I and II (Evans & Knight 1997; Evans & Webley 2003); the evaluation of this landscape and the preliminary excavation of the discovered individual sites within that area are referred to below.

The investigations revealed a wet landscape crossed by three palaeochannels and bordered to the east by marshes which correspond to the maximal extension of the fens. In contrast to the results of Phase II, only one 'gravel island' was recognised, lying in the south-western part of the area. The most significant feature of this landscape is the presence of two 'sand' ridges (the Godwin and O'Connell Ridges) which rise high above the surface and form two long narrow islands of dry land. All the archaeological remains have been found on these higher zones, partially protected from water activity. Otherwise, all potentially interesting layers have been either truncated by the high water-activity of the palaeochannels, or obliterated under heavy deposits of clay (fig. 2).

Archaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Background

The present archaeological programme continues the long-standing activity of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in the Hanson's Over/Needingworth quarry. This evaluation represents the eastern extension of an area of *c.* 165 ha surveyed and excavated in 2001 (Evans & Webley 2003).

This previous archaeological research has shown the intricacy of the human settlement pattern and of the reconstructed palaeo-environment. The landscape is dominated by the activity of the River Great Ouse and its numerous associated channels. Together, they form a delta-like landscape and delimit several 'gravel islands'. These constitute relatively dry areas where traces of human activity have been identified. Another zone of dry land, and hence potential locus of human settlement, is the Godwin Ridge, a ridge of sand which runs on a southwest – northeast axis across the entire investigated area (see below).

The archaeology of the Over quarry covers all periods from the early Mesolithic to the Roman period. The most important site is Site 13, identified during the previous evaluation and excavated from April to July 2007. This site is located on the western end of the Godwin Ridge and comprises a continuous archaeological sequence from the early Mesolithic to Roman times. Mesolithic (both early and late) and Iron Age remains are the most noticeably represented periods on this site. Given its unique situation and archaeology, the entire course of the Godwin Ridge has been extensively investigated in the course of this programme (see below).

The final stages of the Neolithic (Late Neolithic: Peterborough Ware, Grooved Ware) are also represented in the Over archaeological landscape, for instance by a large enclosure with associated pits (Sites 9 & 10) and smaller sites (Sites 15 & 16).

A major period of human activity in the area seems to have been the Bronze Age. This period is represented by a tight cluster of five barrows and a linear group of three barrows to the south of the investigated area (fig. 1; Evans & Knight 2000). These barrows echo a group of similar funerary monuments on Crane's terrace, which are discussed later in this report (Zones I and II; fig. 5). Further west, a large field system completes the Bronze Age landscape.

Methodology and Buried Soil Sampling

Following procedures established during the previous archaeological evaluations at Over (Evans & Knight 1997; Evans & Webley 2003), it was decided to undertake the sampling of the present area using two complementary techniques. Firstly, 102 5x5m test stations were dug on a 100 m grid across the area (TP 1-102; fig. 3). Their soil profiles were summarily recorded for the purposes of environmental study, and where buried soil survived it was sampled to investigate 'landscape' artefact densities (90 litres of soil hand-sorted for finds retrieval). These test stations aimed to reach the gravel deposits and thus allow further mapping of the various deposits and related sedimentary processes. Secondly, trenches were laid out to expose the site and potential archaeological features. This trenching was organised on a 100m grid, with several modifications according to significant features of the landscape, such as the two parallel sand ridges and the barrows observed during R. Palmer's topographic survey. Supplementary judgmental trenches were added on the basis of the presence and nature of archaeological features revealed during the first phase of trenching. A total of 125 trenches (Trenches 1-125; fig. 3) were eventually dug, with a total length of 10.3 km, representing 20,600 sqm of sampling cover. As for the test stations, when buried soil was encountered, 90 litre samples were taken and hand-sorted for finds retrieval. When adding the figures for the test stations and the trenching, some 123 buried soil samples were taken. The entire sampled area thus covers a surface of 25,610 sqm (5,010 sqm for the test stations and 20,600 sqm for the trenches), which represents approximately 2.5 % of the entire investigated area.

Given the importance played by palaeo-environmental reconstruction in the previous assessments of the Over/Needingworth quarry, it was decided to commission Dr. Steve Boreham (Dept. of Geography, University of Cambridge) to undertake a geological survey following results gained by the trenching and test stations; a sampling strategy was devised with him focusing on the three palaeochannels and the marshes (see below).

A well-preserved silty sandy buried soil has been encountered on both sand ridges and has been extensively sampled (58 samples for the Godwin Ridge, 56 for the O'Connell Ridge). Another heavily gleyed buried soil was encountered in the sole area of high gravel (9 samples). Given the differential state of preservation, it is not very surprising to note a major variation in the artefact densities. The highest figures were recorded for several parts of the Godwin Ridge, where it was possible to delineate four zones of concentration of archaeological remains (Zones IV-VII; fig. 5). Otherwise, the artefact densities were quite low, with values generally oscillating between zero and two pieces of flint (fig. 4).

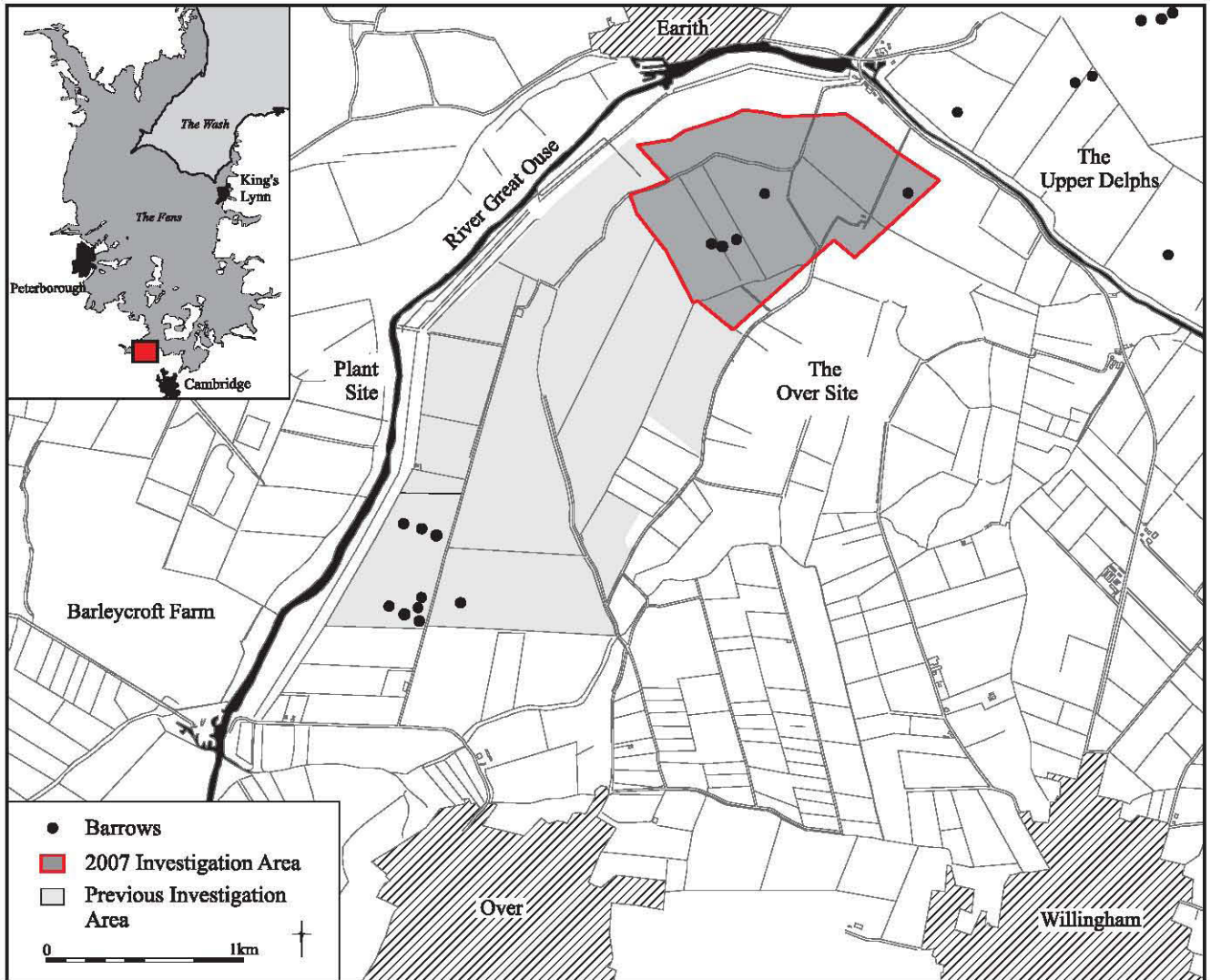


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Thickness of Sediment above Devensian Gravel

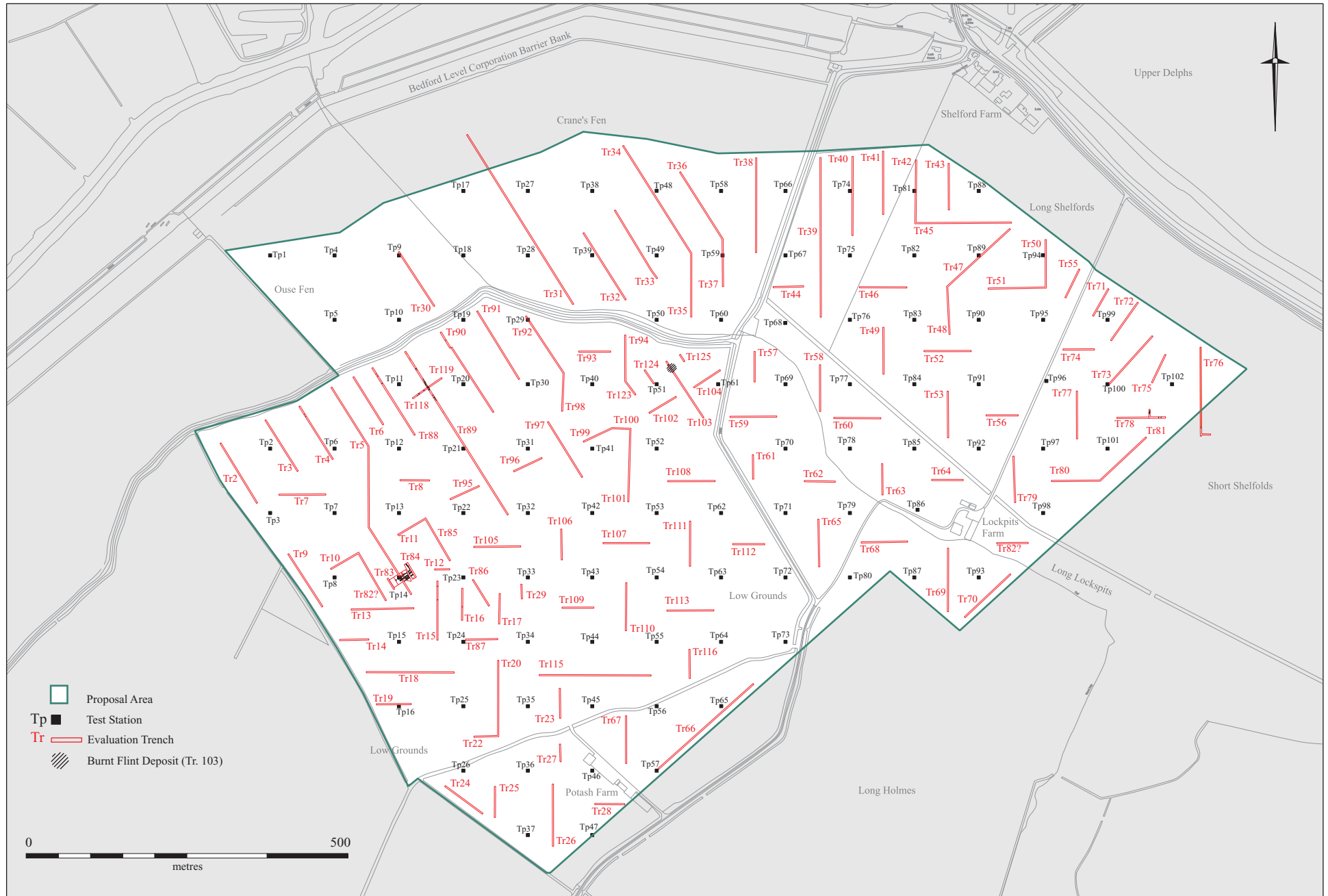


Figure 3. Trench and Test pit location

Assessment of the Buried Soils (C.A.I. French)

Buried soils were observed ubiquitously in this assessment both beneath the later prehistoric and historic fenland sequence, on the sand ridges and beneath the barrows of the northern barrow group at Over. The buried soil thins and disappears beneath the deeper deposits of the fen sequence located between the sand ridges. In most cases, the soil is dominated by fine-medium sand, and shows little horizonation but many secondary amorphous iron and calcium carbonate features.

Sequences for geo-chemical and micromorphological assessment were taken from three locations across the sand ridge associated with the extensive Mesolithic-Neolithic lithics scatter excavated in spring of 2007 at test pits 46U (Sample110), 989/2029 (Sample111) and 969/2039 (Sample112). These three locations at the centre and to either side of the ridge effectively create a transect of buried soil profiles across the buried land surface. The soils ranged in thickness from about 40-55cm, often with a very thick B/C zone of another 20-40cm containing artefacts beneath until sterile sand (or the C horizon) was reached.

In addition, the buried soil preserved on the next sand ridge to the east, associated with the northern barrow group was sampled, in this case beneath two of the barrows that were assessed in the autumn of 2007. In each instance, a turf mound survived of about 60-80cm thick and was situated on a well preserved buried soil of about 30-40cm thickness. The two barrows sampled were F. 281 and F.243.

These four profiles will contribute to the overall comparative analysis of the early prehistoric buried landscape and its soils from across the development area of the Hanson Over quarry. In particular, a number of questions about the Over buried landscape may be addressed: are these soils intact, are they truncated, are they receiving wind-blown/water reworked sediment from exposed surfaces on the ridges, how well developed are they, and what do they reflect in land-use terms?

Delineating the Landscape - Ridges and Channels

As observed during the previous evaluations, the main characteristic of the landscape in the Over/Needingworth quarry is the extensive presence of water. This is particularly true for the area under investigation here, which links the 'delta' of the River Great Ouse and associated 'gravel islands' to the west with the fens to the east; three major palaeochannels were identified in the course of the investigations. These are:

- I) The main palaeochannel of the River Great Ouse. It borders the area to the north and to the west and runs along a southeast-northwest axis up to the Godwin ridge, before swirling back to a southwest-northeast axis between the Godwin Ridge and the gravel terrace of Earith. The 10 test stations dug at the northern limit of the evaluated area have recorded alternate silt and clay deposits, of which the depth ranges between 2 and 3.4 m. This palaeochannel corresponds to Palaeochannels I and V of the previous evaluation (Evans & Webley 2003).

II) About 150 m wide and 1.6-3.4 m deep (based on nine test stations), a second palaeochannel runs on a southwest-northeast axis and corresponds to water flowing from the palaeochannel of the River Great Ouse which has been channelled by the two sand ridges.

III) About 100 m wide and 1.7-2.3 m deep (based on six test stations), a third palaeochannel runs on a southwest-northeast axis and borders the site to the south, connecting the main palaeochannel of the River Great Ouse to the fens.

To the east, the site marks the westernmost extension of the fens. This marshy environment is delimited to the north by the Godwin ridge and to the west and south by two terraces of high gravel. It is characterised by thick clay deposits (1.5-3.1m deep, based on 34 test stations) which cover approximately 45 ha.

The area is crossed by two parallel sand ridges: the Godwin Ridge to the north and the O'Connell Ridge to the south. These geological features stretch on several hundred meters across the area on a roughly southwest-northeast axis:

I) Already recognised during the Fenland Survey, the Godwin Ridge runs across the entire investigated area and was followed for approximately 1400 m. It is well preserved, with marked slopes raising *c.* 3m OD above the Ouse floodplain and is between 60 and 150 m in width. This Late Glacial feature presents a complex structure, with a skeleton of gravel, overlain by layers of silt and clay (30-80 cm thick) and sand (1.3-2.4m thick) (for a complete description of its geology, see Boreham 2003). Most of its surface is covered by a well-preserved buried soil (10-60 cm thick) which contains a large fraction of the archaeology. Related to its immediate proximity to the marshes, the eastern extremity of the Godwin Ridge has been subject to water erosion and no clear buried soil has survived there.

II) The O'Connell Ridge is significantly shorter, with a total length of 750 m, and is less marked in the landscape as it rises no more than 1.5 m above the Ouse floodplain. This ridge is on average wider than the Godwin Ridge, its width ranging between 100 and 200 m. This is perhaps related to a major deflation of the ridge, as it only consists of sand laying on top of the gravel. Both western and eastern extremities have been badly damaged by water erosion, due to Palaeochannel I to the west and the marshes to the east.

Delimited by Palaeochannels I and III, the O'Connell Ridge and the marshes, the south-western corner of the investigated area corresponds to a terrace of high gravel covering approximately 18 ha, much comparable to the 'gravel islands' discovered in previous evaluations (Evans & Knight 1997; Evans & Webley 2003). The gravel is buried under layers of topsoil, peat and alluvial deposits, no thicker than 1.2m (based on 15 test stations). These alluvial deposits, as well as the presence of local patches of clay, demonstrate that this terrace has also been periodically subject to water activity. A heavily gleyed buried soil has been identified and extensively sampled, but has not yielded a single artefact.



Figure 4. Flint densities along the Sand Ridges (with topsoil contour)

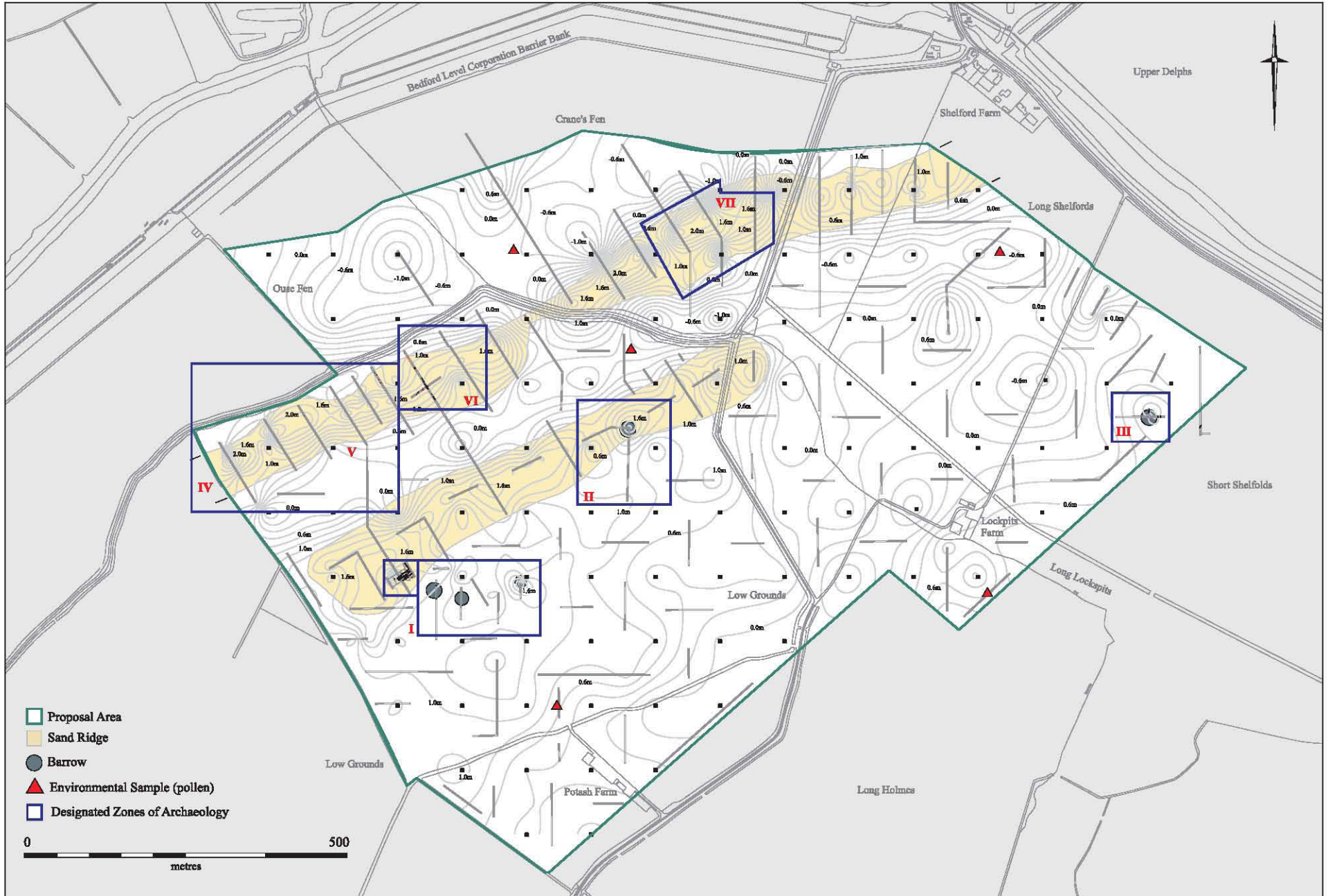


Figure 5. Zone designations and location of Environmental samples (with sub-surface contours)



Figure 6. Aerial Photograph (looking north)

Geological and Stratigraphic Analyses of Sediments (Steve Boreham)

This report presents the results of stratigraphic analyses from 102 trial pit excavations and five sections investigated and sampled for environmental analyses at Low Grounds, Lockpits Farm and Crane Fen at Over, Cambridgeshire

Figure 7 shows the locations of the 102 trial pit excavations at the site, carried out as part of the site assessment survey. Eleven west-east geological cross-sections (WE0-WE100) have been constructed from the trial pit data. These sections appear in Figures 8 & 9. The locations of the 5 environmental sections (A-F) are also shown in Figure 7. The stratigraphy and sampling of the environmental sections appears in Appendix 1.

Geological Sections

Figures 8 & 9 present eleven west-east geological cross-sections across the site. Note that whilst these sections are to scale, elevation data for them was not available at the time of writing. Therefore the sections have been 'hung' below a surface datum in this interim report, whereas in fact surface topography plays an important role in the interpretation of the geological features. Despite this drawback, the stratigraphy and three-dimensional architecture of the sediment can be plainly seen. It is immediately apparent that the basal gravel is rather variable in height across the survey area, exhibiting ridges and channels. The basal gravel unit is interpreted as braidplain sediment of last glacial (Devensian) age.

Resting directly on the basal gravel are 'sand' ridges that form visible landscape features on the site. The ridges have a complex and composite internal stratigraphy, often comprising a basal silt, occasionally associated with gravely clay, and overlain by a ridge of sand and sandy clay. Buried sandy clay soils are often associated with the higher parts of the ridges, and sandy material frequently forms wedges and lenses where it has washed off the ridge tops into the surrounding sediment. The 'sand' ridges are interpreted as Late Glacial stream courses running across the gravel braidplain surface. The organic silt within one of the ridges has been dated to the Late Glacial Period.

Between the ridges, a thin basal peat unit is often present directly overlying the basal gravel, or associated with a thin basal silt unit. Bog oaks and wood were frequently described from this peat. The basal peat is interpreted as the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age accumulation of organic material from wet woodland and freshwater fen environments.

Overlying the basal peat is a silty clay unit, which in places reaches in excess of 2 m in thickness. This unit fills up the channels between the 'sand' ridges, and in some places extends above them. There are occasional lenses of peat and gravel within the silty clay unit. This unit is interpreted as representing fluvial and possibly estuarine and inter-tidal marine Bronze Age deposits analogous to the Barroway Drove Beds that extend across much of southern Fenland; however, the survey area is at the extreme southern edge of the area thought to have been inundated by the Bronze Age marine transgression, and so detailed environmental analysis of these sediments has important archaeological significance in determining palaeoenvironment. It is possible that the peats within the silty clay unit represent saltmarsh, whilst the silty clays themselves may represent mudflat deposition. The gravel lenses seem to be small creeks or channels that temporarily cut into the mudflat

surface; however, it should be noted that in some places the silty clay contains freshwater shells, indicating a fluvial environment.

Above the silty clay unit is an upper peat of variable thickness, which covers all but the highest 'sand' ridges at the site. This unit has been radiocarbon dated and is known to represent Iron Age overgrowth of freshwater fen across the area. The alluvium that covers the whole site (the 'Romano-British Silt') is thought to represent over-bank flood deposits of the River Great Ouse from the Late Iron Age to Medieval times.

Sediment Thickness and Distribution

Figure 10 shows sediment thickness (isopach contours) above the basal gravel unit across the site. To the south of the survey area there is a ridge of gravel that rises up close to the ground surface that results in overlying sediment thicknesses of between 1 and 1.5m. To the north of the site there are several deeper areas where the sediment thickness exceeds 3m.

Figure 11 shows the distribution of the main sediment types across the site. It is immediately striking that the 'sand' ridges, plainly visible in the field, extend across the site from southwest to northeast, even where they are not apparent in the surface topography. There also appear to be sand ridges to the north and southeast of the survey area. Between the sand ridges are three deep southwest-northeast trending channels or 'gullies' containing various thicknesses and types of sediments. The northern and southern channels contain deep basal peat overlain by the thick silty clay unit. The central channel is rather narrow, and apparently only contains a thick silty clay sequence. At the northeast end of the central channel, a peat unit occurs within the silty clay sequence. This appears to be separate and distinct from the basal and upper peats that occur elsewhere on the site. It would seem that the base of the central channel is largely below the general level of the basal peat in the other channels. This suggests that either basal peat was never deposited in the central channel, or more likely it has been removed by erosion. It is possible that the central channel may have been an active fluvial channel or tidal creek during the Bronze Age, whilst the northern and southern channels were lower energy environments.

Environmental Sections

The stratigraphy and sampling of the environmental sections appear in Appendix 1. Environmental section A allows the nature of the basal peat and silty clay sequence from the northern channel to be investigated. Environmental section B provides material from the silty clay in the narrow part of the central channel, whilst environmental section C allows investigation of the peat unit within the silty clay at the northeast end of the site. Environmental sections D and F are marginal to the southern channel where environmental section E provides material from silty clay sequence from the centre of the channel.

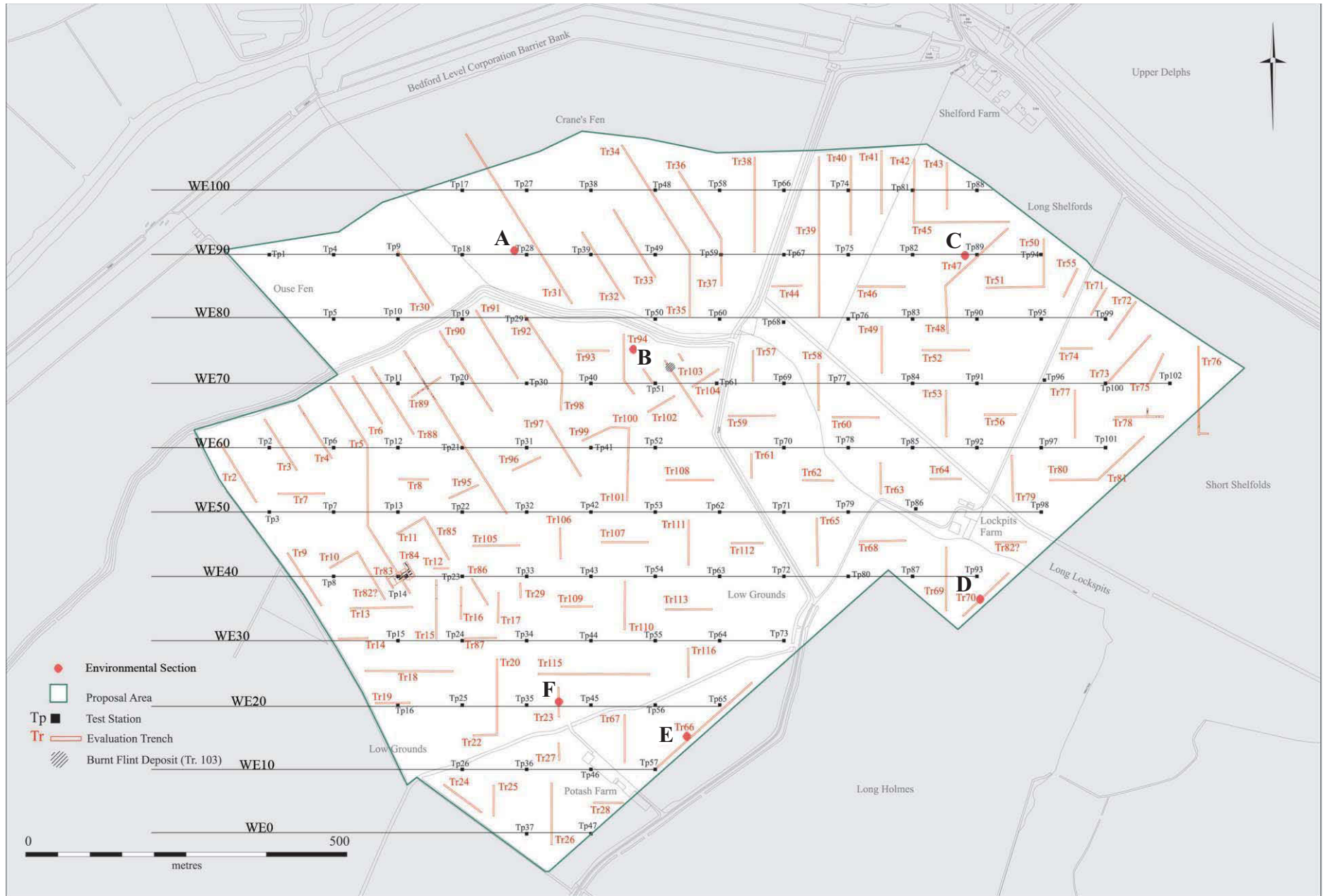
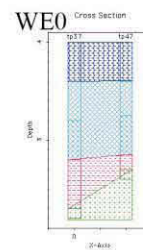
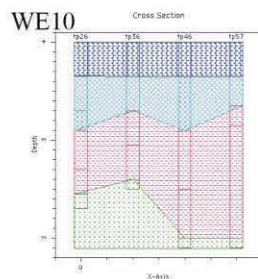
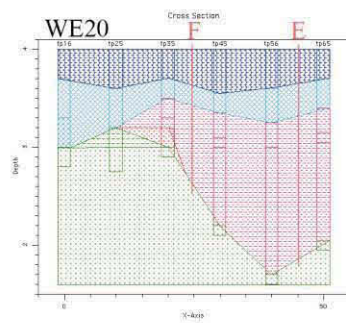
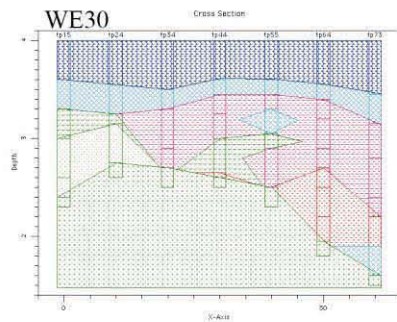
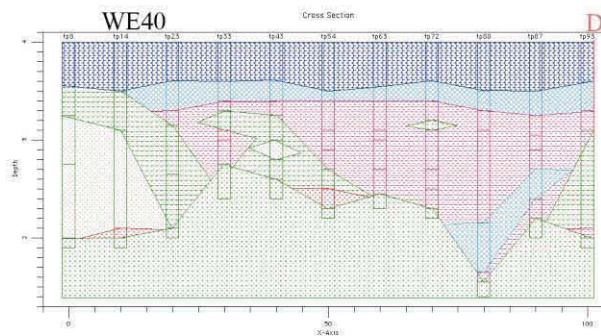
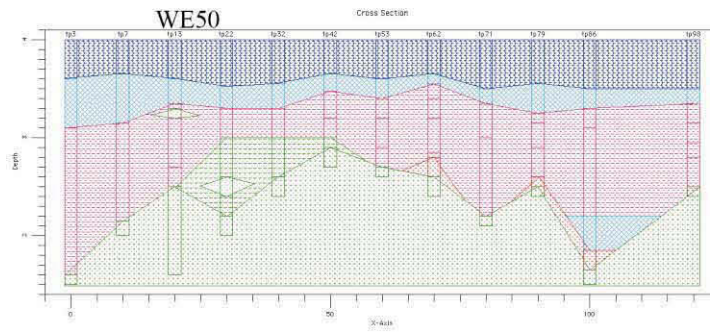


Figure 7. Location of Environmental Sections A - F



Key for Figs 8 and 9

-  Alluvial ploughsoil
-  Silty Clay
-  Peat
-  Clay with peat
-  Sandy clay
-  Sand
-  Clay with gravel
-  Gravel and sand

Figure 9. Environmental Sections

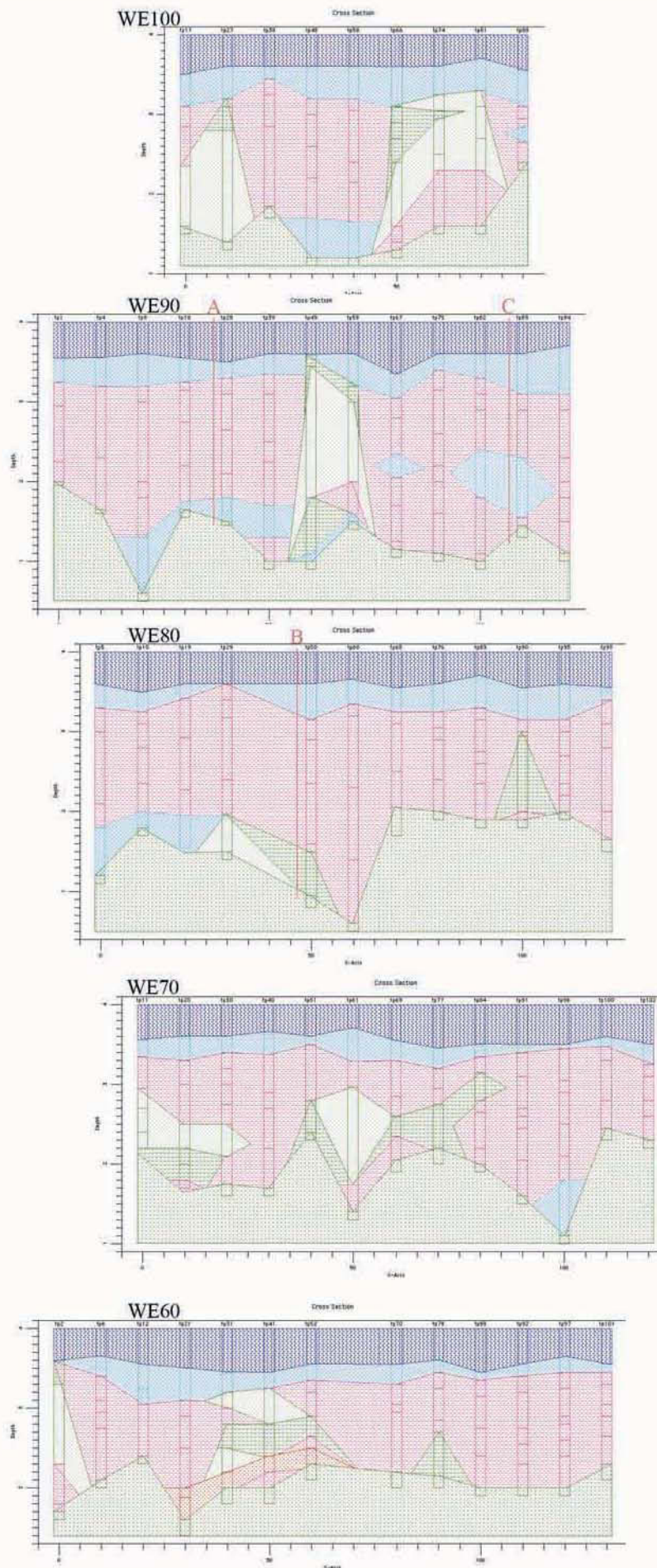


Figure 8. Environmental Sections

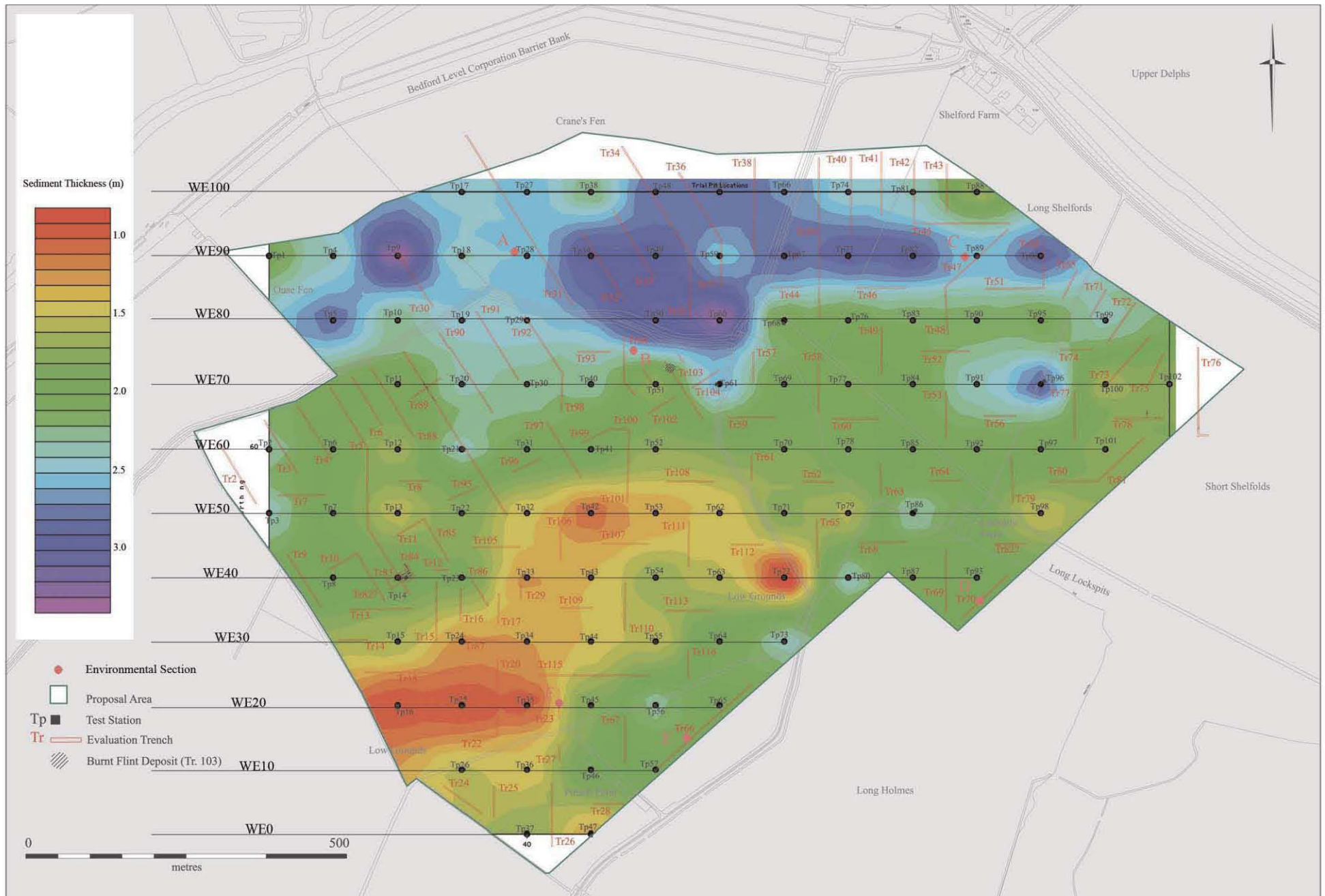


Figure 10. Thickness of Sediment above Basal Gravel

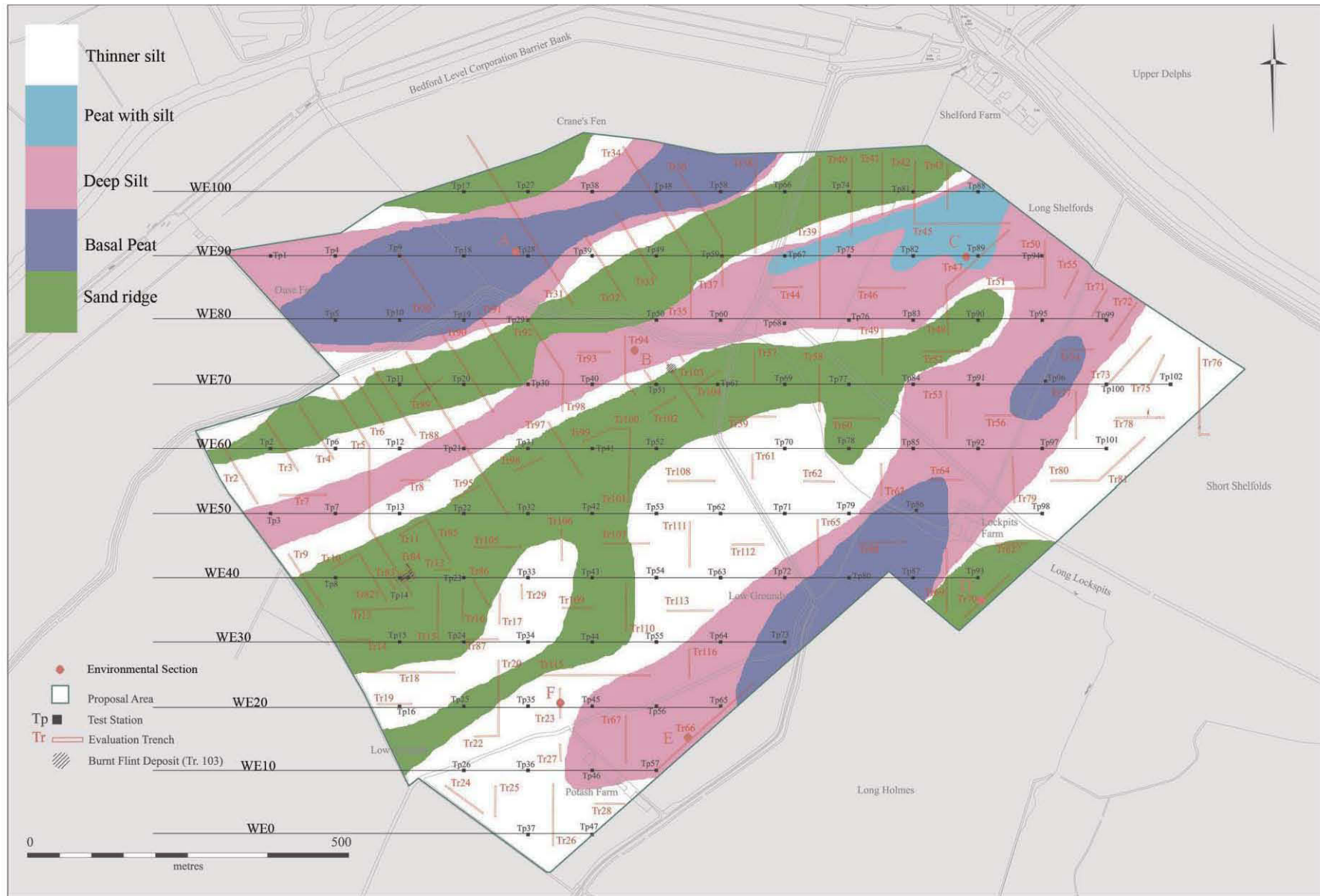


Figure 11. Distribution of main Sediment types

INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The evaluation of the area has allowed seven zones with concentrations of archaeological remains to be identified. These have been suggested for future intensive examination. The structure of the following report follows and elucidates the archaeological definition of these zones.

Zone 1

The first archaeological zone lies in the northern half of the 'gravel island', close to the edge of the O'Connell Ridge (fig. 5). This zone corresponds to a group of three barrows which were first observed during R. Palmer's topographic survey.

The trenching was designed to delineate the precise course of Palaeochannel I (Trenches 14, 18, 19, 21), the barrows (Trenches 15, 16, 29) and the 'gravel island' (Trenches 5C-D, 12, 13, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 115, 116). Further trenches were laid out to delineate the extent of two ditches originally observed in Trench 5C-D and the possible existence of comparable features in the vicinity of the barrows (trenches 82b, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 123, 124, 125).

The archaeology on this 'gravel island' is confined to three barrows (**F. 243**, **F. 244** and **F. 281**; fig. 12). A heavily gleyed buried soil was observed in several trenches and sampled (8 samples). No artefacts were retrieved.

Although the barrows vary in size (**F. 281**: 27m; **F. 243**: 23 m; **F. 244**: approximately 20m), they are very similar in shape and building technique. They do not possess any surrounding ditches and appear to be made of turf. A section dug at the top of barrow **F. 243**, where a modern field drain had partially damaged the archaeological layers, confirms that the barrow was made by de-turfing the surrounding area. The bulk of the mound corresponds to a deposit of sandy silty clay with frequent lenses of gravels, as well as inclusions of charcoal ([1268], thickness: 0.8m). Another layer of orange-brown sandy soil mixed with gravel on top of the previous one might relate to enlargement of the monument ([1267]).

Barrow **F. 281** (Trench 15) is only covered by a layer of topsoil ([1255]). The profile on the northern side records a succession of topsoil, peat ([1256]), a grey sandy-clay with iron concretions ([1257]), and then a black grey silty sand ([1258]). On the southern side, beneath the topsoil and the peat, these two layers of sandy clay and silty sand are only present as pockets lying on the slope of the barrow. The rest of the profile corresponds to a firm brown-grey alluvial clay ([1260]), on top of a layer of grey silty sand ([1261]), roughly similar to the layer of sand observed at the base of the profile on the northern side ([1258]). The presence of this alluvial clay only on the southern side of the barrow suggests that this part of the 'gravel island' has been flooded after the construction of the barrow. This is confirmed by several elements, including the profiles recorded for the two other barrows.

As for the previous barrow, **F. 243** (Trench 16) is only covered by the topsoil ([1266]). Both northern and southern sides present similar deposits, with a succession of topsoil, dark brown mixed 'soily' peat ([1265]), dark, quite well formed peat with occasional lenses of clay ([1264]), and then a mid reddish-grey silty clay, likely to be a buried soil ([1263]). On the southern side, these layers lie on top of a mid grey brown alluvial clayey silt ([1271]). This

last sequence is comparable to the one recorded on the southern side of barrow **F. 244** (Trench 29), with a succession of topsoil ([1277]), dark brown ‘soily’ peat ([1276]), well-formed dark brown peat ([1275]), orange brown clayey peat ([1274]), brownish grey silty clay with frequent iron pan and occasional flecks of charcoal, likely to be a buried soil ([1273]), and then a mid-orange/grey clayey silt alluvial deposit with frequent iron concretions and occasional natural gravel inclusions ([1272]).

The deposition of layers of peat against the slopes of the barrows, but not completely sealing them, suggests a general good preservation of these funerary structures. They also indicate that these monuments pre-date the Late Iron Age period of the beginning of the formation of this peat (Boreham 2003). This chronological indication is confirmed by the discovery of a few potsherds (especially fragments of a Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urn), cremated bones and worked flint (including an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead) during the cleaning of the surface of barrow **F. 243**.

Another area with archaeological remains is included in this first zone because of its geographical (as well as functional?) proximity with the barrows. This consists of a series of three ditches and two cremations situated west of barrow **F. 281** (fig. 13).

Two parallel ditches (**F. 247** and **F. 248**) were initially discovered when extending Trench 5C-D in order to appraise the full width of the O’Connell Ridge. Because of their layout and proximity with the barrows, judgmental trenches were dug in order to identify the shape of these ditches and any associated features and/or enclosed space (Trenches 82b, 83, 84, 85 and eastwards extension of Trench 13); however, neither the ditches nor supplementary features were observed in these trenches. It was thus decided to extend the excavation for the whole distance between Trenches 83 and 84, for a total area of 550 sqm, only leaving two banks in order to record the full sections. This excavation led to the recognition of a third ditch (**F. 287**), as well as two cremations (**F. 285** and **F. 286**).

Both cremations **F. 285** and **F. 286** present a good preservation state and do not seem to have been truncated. In both cases, the cut was hardly distinguishable from the underlying natural sand ([1391], [1393]). Both features contained a moderate amount of charcoal in the upper 2 cm of the fill, and abundant cremated bone in the entire fill, indicating relatively complete bodies. The concentration of bone in the north-eastern corner of **F. 285** suggests the original presence of an organic container.

F. 287 is a rectilinear ditch, 20m long and 1m wide. Its eastern end is very shallow and hard to distinguish from the buried soil, which explains why it was not recognised when Trench 84 was initially dug. The ditch was cut into a natural yellow sand with a heavy iron pan. It was later subject to water erosion, as indicated by the laminated basal fill made of orange silty sand and grey sand ([1401]). **F. 248** is another rectilinear ditch, 25 m long and 1m wide, which runs parallel to ditch **F. 287**. Its eastern end is very shallow as well, with a marked discolouration of the natural sand underneath due to the presence of water in it. The ditch presents a concave cut and was dug into a grey sandy buried soil. Its fill is made of layers of natural sand which have slumped from the sides ([1409], [1411], [1412]), and, at the base, of washed buried soil ([1413]). The bank between these two ditches is still observable and consists of sand with heavy iron pan ([1403]), similar to the sand underlying **F. 287**. This bank seals an old buried soil ([1404]).

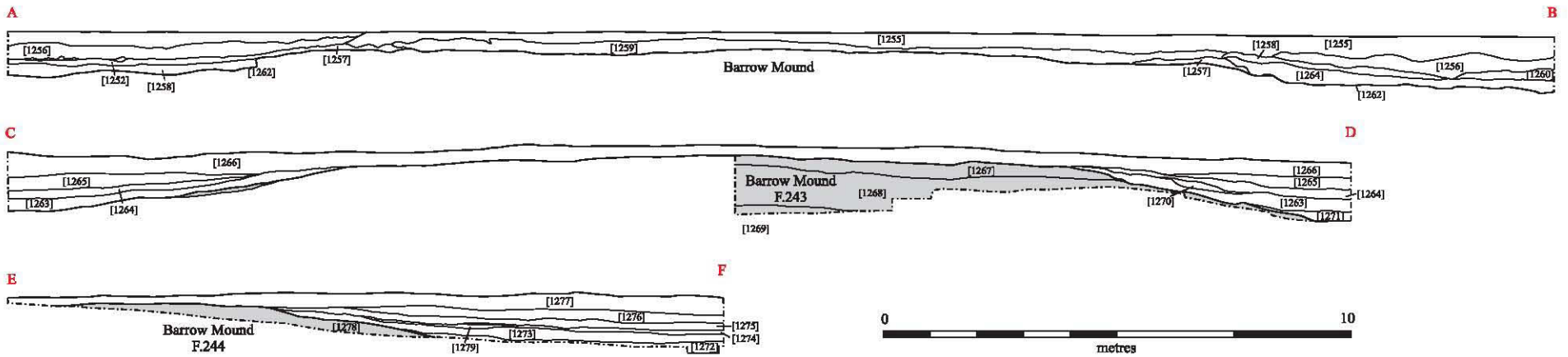
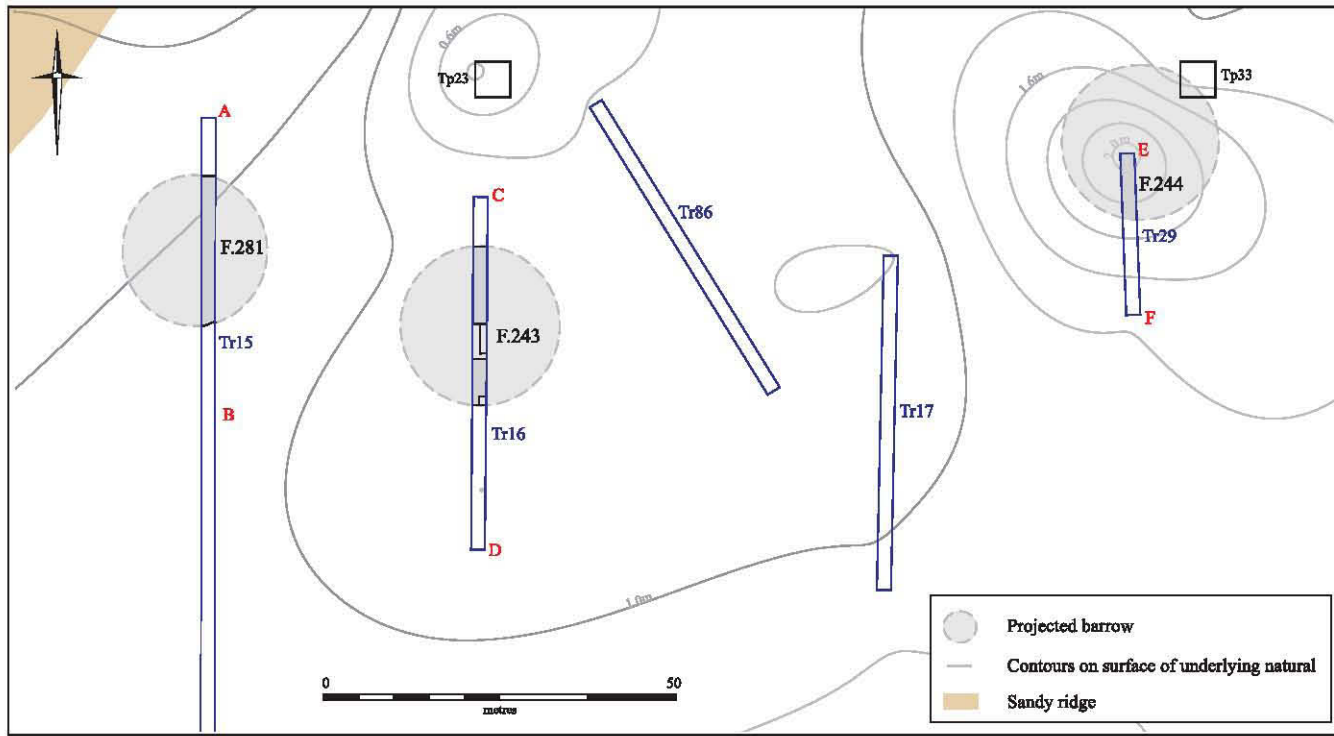


Figure 12. Zone I - Barrows F.281 (Trench 15), F.243 (Trench 16) and F.244 (Trench 29).

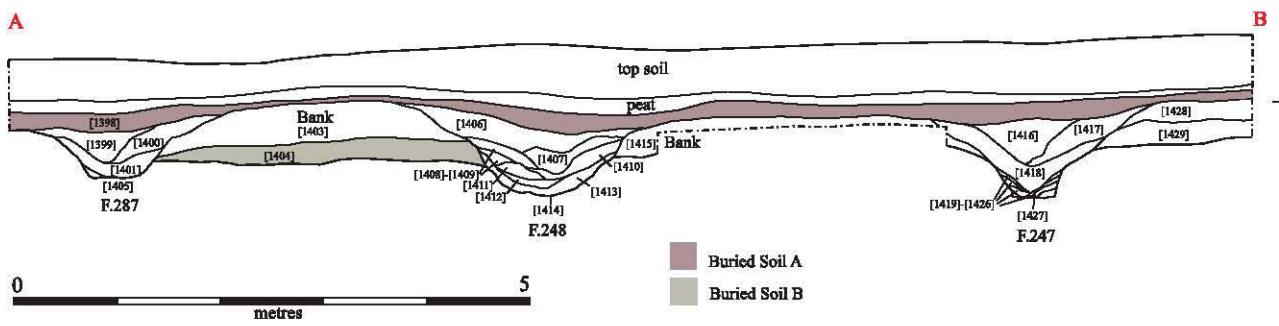
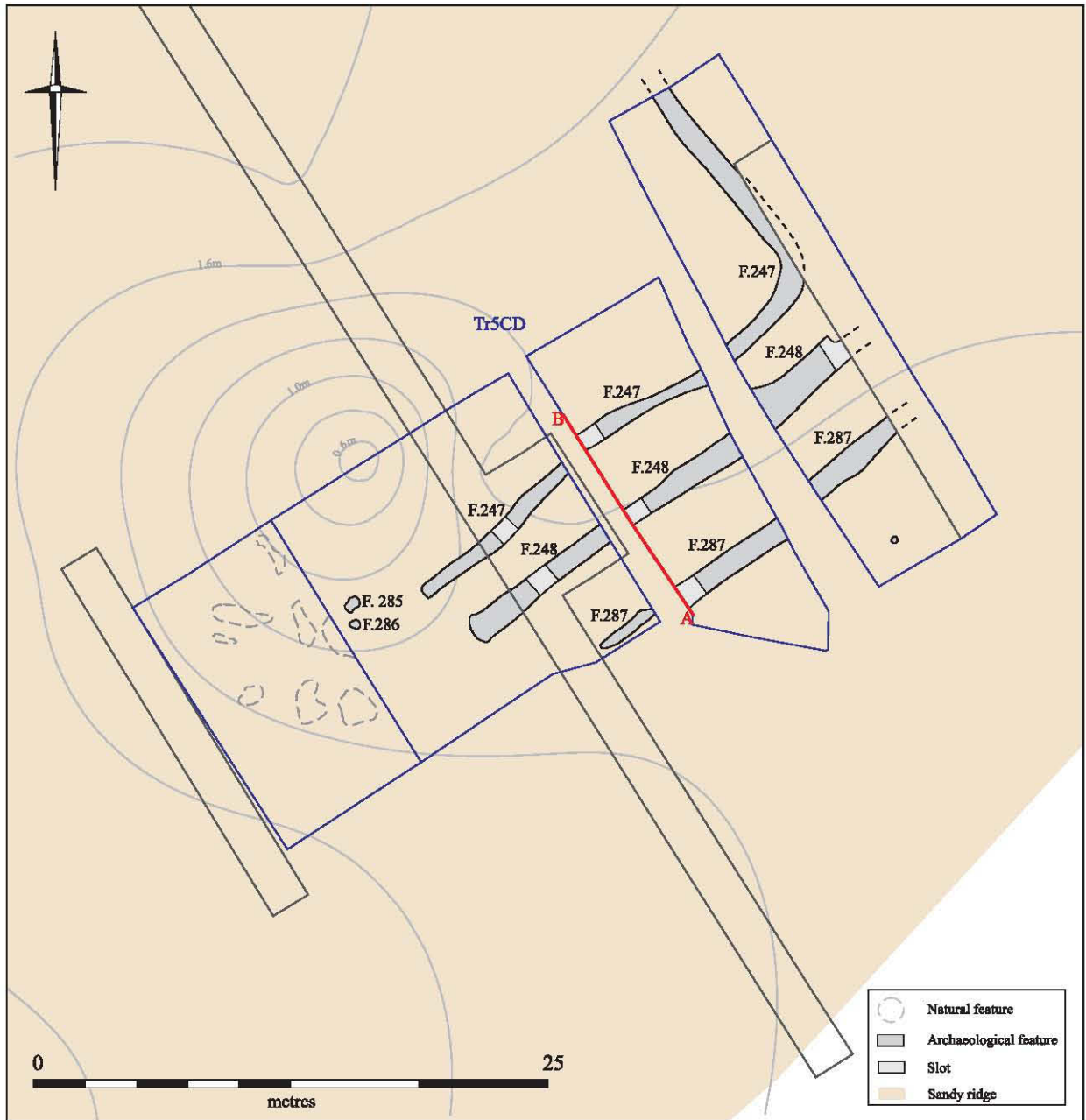


Figure 13. Zone I - Trench 5CD showing ditches F.247, F.248 and F.287, and cremations F.285 and F.286.

Ditch **F. 247** runs parallel to **F. 248** and **F. 287** for 26m, up to the end of the latter two ditches, and then switches back at 90° towards the northeast. Followed for 12m in this direction, its remaining course remains unknown as it has not been observed in any other trenches. This ditch presents a U-shaped cut, with a narrow flat base. It has been subject to water erosion, as indicated by the alternation of layers of grey silty sand ([1420], [1422], [1423], [1425]) and yellow brown sand ([1419], [1421], [1424]) at the base, sealed by a laminated fill of grey/yellow brown sand ([1418]). The bank between ditches **F. 248** and **F. 247** is also preserved and is made of a grey/brown sand ([1415]), comparable to the old buried soil sealed between the two other ditches.

The general layout of **F. 247**, **F. 248** and **F. 287** suggests that they constitute a coherent whole; however, as the precise extent of **F. 287** is unknown, it is difficult to understand its exact purpose. We are possibly dealing with an enclosure, but the nature of the enclosed space is uncertain. Formal similarities with the field systems discovered close to Sites 9 and 10 suggest that these features could form the south-eastern corner of a field system centred on the western edge of the O'Connell Ridge.

These interpretive difficulties are reinforced by the absence of artefacts to date these features. The presence of a light brown peat on top of the stratigraphy merely suggests a pre-Late Iron Age date, which would be consistent with an identification as a Bronze Age field system. Likewise, the relationship, if any, between these three ditches and the cremations, or between these cremations and the neighbouring barrows, remains unclear; the possibility that all these features are part of the same (funerary) landscape cannot be ruled out at this point.

Feature Description

Trench 15: Barrow **F. 281** ([1380]) is a round barrow (diameter: 27m) without any associated quarrying ditch. This suggests that the mound is probably made of turf.

Trench 16: Barrow **F. 243** is a round barrow (diameter: 23m) without any associated quarrying ditch. This suggests that the mound is probably made of turf.

Trench 29: Barrow **F. 244** is a round barrow (diameter: 20m) without any associated quarrying ditch. This suggests that the mound is probably made of turf.

Trench 5CD, extension: **F. 285** and **F. 286** (30cm wide) are two shallow cremations cut into the natural yellow sand of the O'Connell Ridge. Their cut was hardly distinguishable from the natural underlying sand ([1391], [1393]). Both contained a moderate amount of charcoal in the upper 2 cm of the fill and abundant cremated bone in the entire fill ([1392], [1394]). A concentration of bone in the north-eastern corner of **F. 285** suggests the original presence of an organic container.

F. 287 is a rectilinear ditch (20m long, 1m wide, and 0.5m deep). Its eastern end is very shallow (10 cm deep) and hard to distinguish from the buried soil. The ditch presents a V-shaped cut [1405], dug into a natural yellow sand with heavy iron pan. The ditch has been subject to water erosion as indicated by the laminated basal fill made up of orange silty sand and grey sand ([1401]). **F. 248** is a rectilinear ditch (25 m long, 1m wide, and 0.5m deep), parallel to ditch **F. 287**. Its eastern end is very shallow (10 cm deep), with a marked discolouration of the natural sand underneath due to the presence of water. The ditch presents a concave cut [1414], dug into a grey sandy buried soil. Its fill is made of layers of natural sand which have slumped from the sides ([1409], [1411], [1412]), and, at the base, of washed buried soil ([1413]). The bank between these two ditches is still observable and made of sand with heavy iron pan ([1403]), similar to the sand underlying **F. 287**. This bank seals an old buried soil ([1404]). Ditch **F. 247** runs parallel to **F. 248** and **F. 287** for 26m, up to the end of the latter two ditches, and then switches back at 90° towards the north-east. It has only been followed for 12m in this direction and its entire course remains unknown. This ditch, 1m wide and 0.4m deep, presents a U-shaped cut [1427], with a narrow flat base. It has been subject to water erosion, as indicated by the alternation of layers of grey silty sand ([1420], [1422], [1423], [1425]) and yellow brown sand ([1419], [1421], [1424]) at the base, sealed by a laminated fill of grey/yellow brown sand ([1418]). The bank between ditches **F. 248** and **F. 247** is preserved and

made of a grey/brown sand ([1415]), comparable to the old buried soil sealed between by the bank ditches **F. 248** and **F. 247**.

Finds Recovered

A total of six worked flints were retrieved from Zone I, four from F.281 in Trench 15 and two from F. 243 in Trench 16. The latter included a barbed and tanged arrowhead of Early Bronze Age date. A single platform core from Trench 15 can also be dated to the Early Bronze Age and is similar to an example found in association with Collared Urns at Fengate (Beadsmoore 2005). Pottery itself is represented by 15 sherds, 14 of which were found in the mound of Barrow F. 243. With one exception, all of the pottery from the latter belonged to a MBA Deverel Rimbury urn.

The two cremations in Extension A of Trench 5 consisted of an older juvenile/subadult and an adult. The adult burial may also have included some elements from a child.

Zone II

The second zone corresponds to a fourth barrow (**F. 283**), located at the contact between the O'Connell Ridge and the 'gravel island' (fig. 14).

The trenching on the O'Connell Ridge included trenches which cut it perpendicularly (Trenches 9, 5CD, 89, 97, 103), and others which cut it along its main axis (Trenches 10, 11, 95, 96, 102, 104). Another series of trenches was laid out in order to assess the existence of barrows which were suspected on the basis of R. Palmer's topographic survey of the area (Trenches 11, 99, 100, 101). While the two potential barrows to the west of the ridge turned out to be non-existent (Trench 11), a well-marked barrow to the east was indeed revealed by the excavation.

Despite the presence of a well-defined buried soil covering most of the surface of the ridge, very few archaeological finds were retrieved from the 56 samples taken (34 pieces of flint: mean value 0.6 per sample, 1.7 excluding nil values).

With the exception of the features discussed in the previous section, the archaeology on the O'Connell Ridge is confined to barrow **F. 283**. This structure is 30m in diameter and is surrounded by a quarrying ditch. In contrast to the barrows previously described, this mound is made of gravel. The ditch, observed on the western and southern sides of the barrow, is 1.5m wide and 1m deep, with a V-shaped cut. In the slot dug on the western side, the fill of the ditch was made of two layers of grey waterlogged sand ([1388], [1389]). On the southern side, the fill presented a succession of layers of dark grey silt, with a marked organic component ([1382], [1383], [1384], [1385], [1386]). Environmental samples were taken in both slots and submitted to test the state of organic preservation.

A small deposit of burnt flint, which yielded fragments of worked wood, was also observed at the contact between the O'Connell Ridge and Palaeochannel II (northern end of Trench 103).

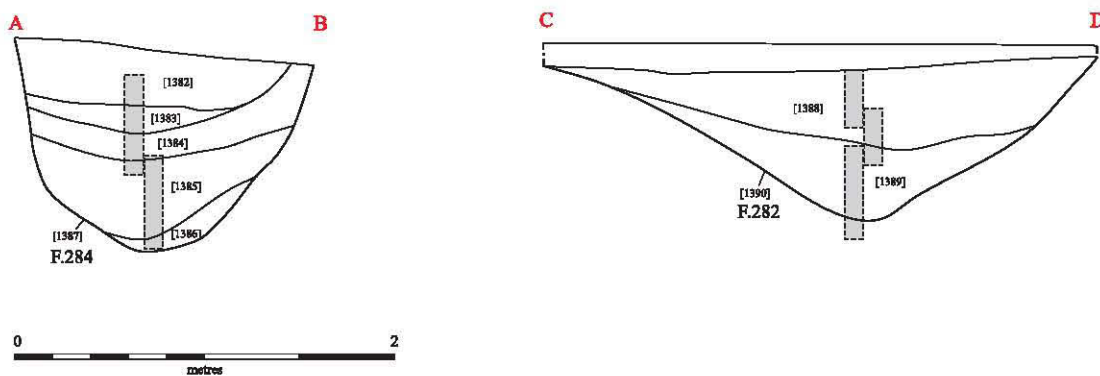
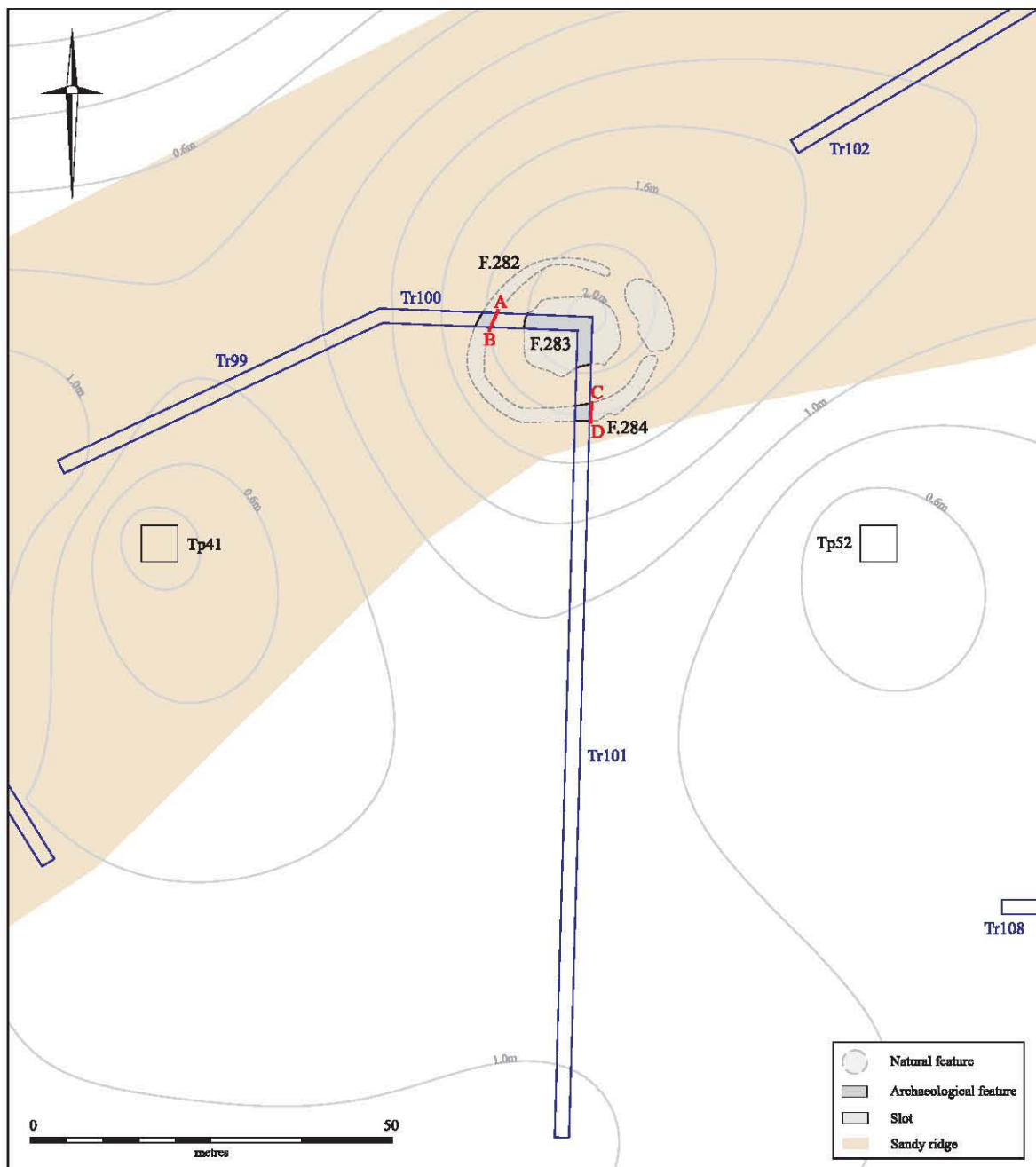


Figure 14. Zone II - Trenches 99, 100 and 101 with Barrow F.283 and associated ditches F.282 and F.284.

Zone I and Zone II together make up the only obvious traces of archaeology on the one 'gravel island' identified during this archaeological programme. Given the exclusive presence of these four barrows, it is tempting to consider that this area functioned as a funerary landscape at some stage during prehistory, most probably during the Bronze Age. During this period, this 'gravel island' would have marked the eastern boundary between the 'delta' of the River Great Ouse and the fens, adding to the potential special significance of the area.

Feature Description

Trenches 100-1: Barrow **F. 283** is a round barrow (diameter: 30m), with a mound of gravel, and surrounded by a quarrying ditch (**F. 282**, **F. 284**). On the western side of the barrow (Trench 100), the quarrying ditch **F. 282** is 1.5m wide and 1m deep. It presents a U-shaped cut [1390], dug into the natural yellow sand of the O'Connell Ridge, and a fill made of two layers of grey waterlogged sand ([1388], [1389]). On the southern side of the barrow (Trench 101), the quarrying ditch **F. 284** is also 1.5m wide and 1m deep. It presents a V-shaped cut [1387] dug into the same natural yellow sand, with a fill made of a succession of layers of dark grey silt, with a marked organic component ([1382], [1383], [1384], [1385], [1386]).

Finds Recovered

The only find retrieved from Zone II was a secondary flint flake for which a definitive date could not be established.

Zone III

The third zone incorporates a fifth barrow (**F. 250**; fig. 15), which was previously unknown and discovered entirely by chance. The trenching had been designed here to assess the relation between the evaluated area and the terrace of high gravel which borders it to the north-east (Trenches 70, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82a). This barrow lies exactly on the fringe of this terrace (Trench 78). After the fortuitous discovery of this barrow, it was decided to extend the neighbouring Trench 76 southwards and eastwards to see whether or not slightly raised parts of the nearby landscape were other barrows. This extra trenching was unsuccessful in identifying archaeological features.

The dimensions of Barrow **F. 250** are difficult to evaluate as the trenching was not aimed at investigating it and did not cut its centre; its diameter must thus lie between 21 and 25m. No surrounding ditch has been observed on the western side. A potential ditch was observed on the north-western side of the barrow (Trench 117), but, after excavation, it turned out to consist of alluvial deposits which partially cover the surface of the barrow. Either no ditch existed on this side of the barrow, or it has been completely truncated by the water responsible for the heavy clay deposits found there. A quarrying ditch, 1m wide, has been observed on the eastern side of the barrow, dug in to the gravel.

The cleaning of the surface of the barrow has led to the discovery of the phalanx of a cow (with butchery marks, see below faunal report) and the extremity of a bifacial arrowhead. This could be either part of an Early Bronze Age arrowhead associated with the barrow, or part of a residual leaf-shaped Neolithic arrowhead.

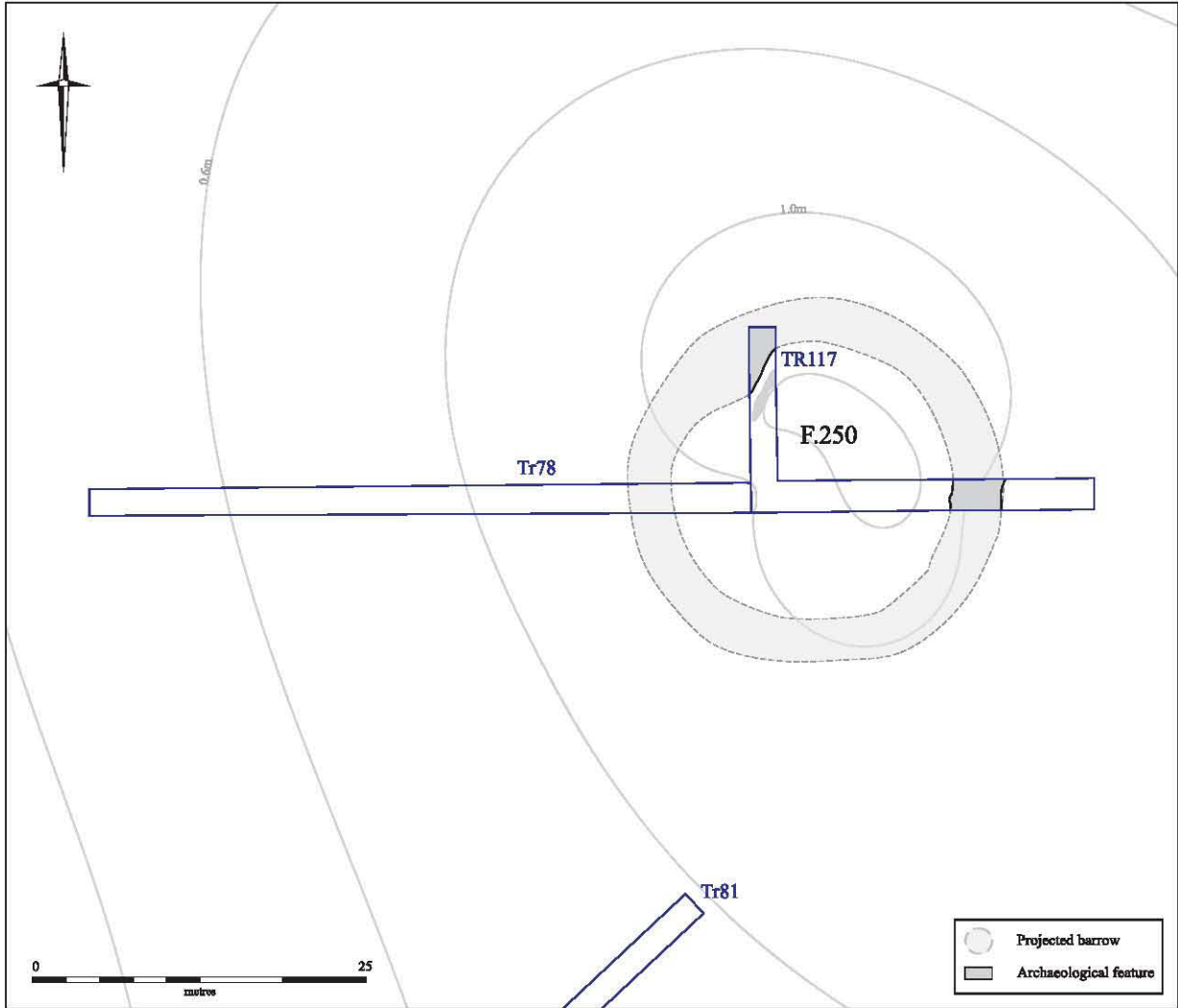


Figure 15. Zone III - Trenches 78 and 117 with Barrow F.250

The fifth barrow, discovered during this archaeological programme, seems at first sight isolated, lying as it is on the other side of the western end of the fens; however, when considered as part of the wider landscape, this barrow appears to constitute the south-western extremity of a line of barrows stretching from Haddenham.

Feature Description

Trenches 78, 117: Barrow **F. 250** is a round barrow (diameter: 21-25m), with a mound made of gravel. A quarrying ditch, 1m wide and dug into the gravel, was only observed on the eastern side of the barrow.

Finds Recovered

A Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age arrowhead and a secondary flint flake were recovered from F. 250. In addition, two animal bones, including a cow phalanx with evidence of butchery, were found in Zone III.

Zone IV

Located on the western end of the Godwin Ridge, this fourth zone corresponds to the eastern extension of Site 13, excavated from April to July 2007. Unsurprisingly, this area bears a lot of comparisons with this site, with rare, if any, features and most of the archaeology preserved in the buried soil.

The trenches dug on the Godwin ridge (Zones IV-VII) cut it perpendicularly and were aimed at precisely delineating its course and its interface with Palaeochannels I and II (Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5A-B, 6, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92; fig. 16). The first zone of archaeological remains (Zone IV) was designated on basis of the results for Trenches 2, 3 and 4. This segment of the ridge is approximately 80m wide. As shown by the distribution of the samples, the buried soil is mostly found on the northern slope of the ridge, the southern side having been damaged by flooding(s) of Palaeochannel II.

In total, eleven samples of buried soil were taken in these trenches and in the test stations dug between them. Values oscillate between 0 and 11 pieces of worked flint (overall mean 4.5 per sample, 5.6 excluding nil values; Table 1).

Preliminary analysis of the recovered flints indicates a mixed flint assemblage with Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (blades, bladelets and a small blade core) as well as Late Neolithic components (proximal fragment of a large blade, with a faceted platform and taken from a discoid core; long heavily retouched flake in the shape of a point or knife). The small pottery assemblage is also very mixed and indicates uses of the ridge during the Late Neolithic (2 sherds of Peterborough Ware), the Early Bronze Age (1 sherd of rusticated Beaker), the Late Bronze Age (Post Deverel-Rimbury phase) and the Early Iron Age.

Heavily fragmented human remains of a possibly small individual (rib, skull, clavicle, scapula, phalange, vertebrae) were discovered at the northern contact between the ridge and Palaeochannel I (northern end of Trench 3). Similarities (small size of the skeletal remains, same topographical setting) between these remains and those found on Site 13 (*e.g.* perforated skull found during the evaluation, nearly complete skeleton found during the 2007

excavation) suggest that we are dealing with deposits belonging to the same period, presumably the Iron Age given the associated finds on Site 13.

Location	Flint	Burnt flint	Potsherds	Bone
Trench 2, Sample1	4	5		
Trench 2, Sample2	4			
Trench 2, Sample3	6		2	
Trench 3, Sample1	3		2	65 (incl. human)
Trench 3, Sample2				
Trench 4, Sample1	7		16	10
Trench 4, Sample2	2	6	1	
Trench 4, Sample3		1		9
Test Station 2	7	1	21	6
Sample 200	6		9	2
Sample 201	11		4	5

Table 1: Summary of finds for Zone IV

As with the neighbouring Site 13, we are dealing here with a multi-period site, covering the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic, as well as the Early Bronze Age, the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. At this stage, the absence of features is hardly conclusive, given the limited surface which was excavated. It must be noted for instance that, on Site 13, the features were nearly all situated on the crest of the ridge. The presence of human remains in the same topographical location as on Site 13 is particularly important since these might be the remnants of a continuous cemetery or zone used to dispose of human remains. Given the relative scarcity of human remains for the Iron Age in southern Britain (if this date is to be confirmed), this could shed light on the funerary practices of this period.

Feature Description

Trench 4 contained a single feature. **F. 241** is a small pit or posthole, 36cm long, 32cm wide and 8cm deep. It presents a concave cut [1250] and a fill of light grey silty sand with frequent burnt stone ([1249]).

Finds Recovered

Zone IV contained a mixed assemblage of 38 worked flints, dating from the late Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age and spread between all three trenches. The Neolithic assemblage included flakes, blades and a core rejuvenation flake, whilst a flake knife may be attributed either to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

55 sherds of prehistoric pottery were retrieved from Zone IV. The earliest pottery is represented by two sherds of Peterborough Ware and one of Beaker, whilst the majority of the assemblage is post-Deverel Rimbury and therefore Late Bronze Age in date. Finally, 16 sherds could be dated to the Early Iron Age.

Animal bone was recovered from Trenches 3 and 4, as well as Test Station 2, all within Zone IV. This included a mixture of domestic (cow and ovicaprid) and wild (red deer) species. An ovicaprid metacarpal showed evidence of butchery.

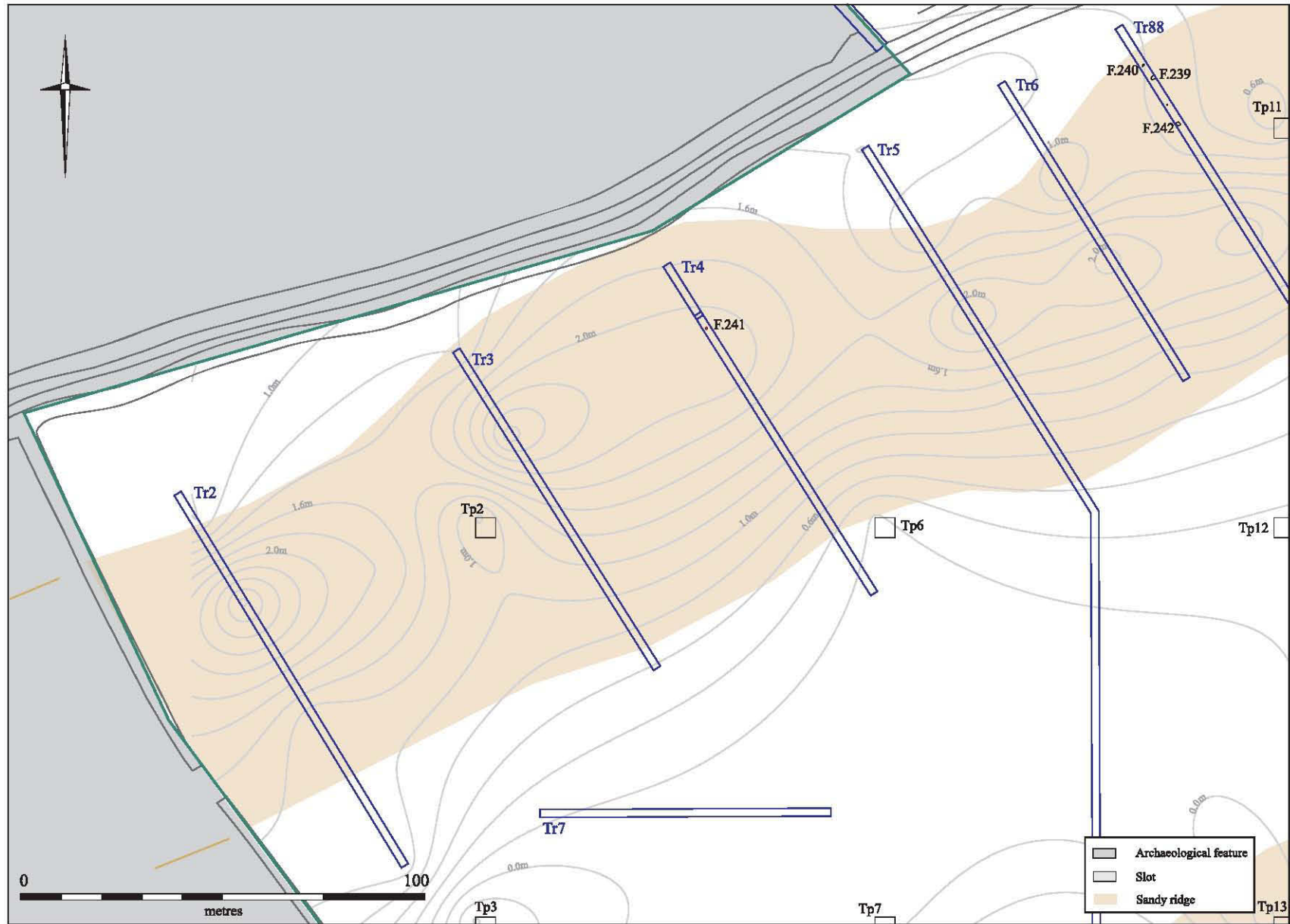


Figure 16. Zones IV-V.

In addition to animal bone, a small sample of human bone was recovered from Trench 3. This was made up of the partial disarticulated remains of an adult.

Zone V

Located east of Zone IV on the Godwin Ridge, this zone is defined on basis of one trench (Trench 6), five buried soil samples and the presence of one definitive feature (**F. 242**; fig. 16).

Trench 6 was initially set up in order to test the potential existence of a large archaeological feature suggested by aerial photographic records of the site obtained through the software Google Earth (see also <http://www.flashearth.com>). The observed trapezoidal shape, suggestive of an Early Neolithic long barrow, proved not to be an anthropogenic feature, but a natural narrowing of the ridge (45 m width). At this point, the northern side of the ridge has indeed been heavily flooded and truncated by Palaeochannel I.

Although the trenching did not encounter the expected results, the zone proved to be rich in archaeological remains (Table 2). The obtained flint values for the five samples of buried soil range between 0 and 7 (overall mean 3.6, 5.5 without nil value).

Preliminary analysis indicates a mixed flint assemblage with Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (small core and two associated rejuvenating tablets in **F. 242**) as well as Late Neolithic components (one, maybe two, transverse arrowheads from Trench 6, Sample3). Neolithic or Late Bronze Age, as well as Iron Age potsherds were also discovered (Trench 6).

F. 242 is a small pit, with pieces of burnt clay and a mixed assemblage of flint and bones (cattle and bird bones; see Rajkovaca below). Although the association of blades with domestic bones suggest a Neolithic date, it cannot be ruled out that the flint is residual.

Location	Flint	Burnt flint	Potsherds	Bone
Trench 6, Sample1		1		
Trench 6, Sample2	4	1	1	
Trench 6, Sample3	7	4	3	
F. 242	7	2		33

Table 2: Summary of finds/features for Zone V

As for the previous area, Zone V seems to represent a spread of archaeological remains mostly preserved in the thick buried soil which covers the sand ridge. Flint and pottery finds indicate dates ranging from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to the Iron Age, which are consistent with other chronological estimates for the rest of the Godwin Ridge.

Feature Description

Trench 6 contained a single feature. **F. 242** is a small pit (1m long, 80cm wide and 20cm deep), with a sharp clean concave cut [1254]. Its fill was made of a dark grey silty sand with charcoal spots ([1251]) and abundant burnt clay ([1252]). The basal fill was made of a light grey washed sand ([1253]). This pit contained a mixed assemblage of flint and bones.

Finds Recovered

30 flints were recovered from Zone V, dating from the Late Mesolithic to the later Neolithic. As well as various blades and two multiple platform cores, these included a piercer and a transverse arrowhead of Late Neolithic date.

Only five pottery sherds were found, none of which can be dated more precisely than 'prehistoric'. The animal bone assemblage was dominated by cow and bird bones (nine specimens of bird bone were identified).

Zone VI

Located east of Zone V on the Godwin Ridge, this zone stands out as it is defined not only on the basis of buried soil samples with high values, but also on the basis of the high frequency of features (ditches, pits and postholes; fig. 17).

Following the general sampling procedure adopted for the Godwin Ridge, two trenches were cut perpendicularly to its main axis (Trenches 89, 90). Two judgmental trenches were further laid out to perpendicularly cut Trench 89 where a concentration of features had been encountered (Trenches 118, 119).

The ridge is 80 m wide in Zone 6, of which about 50 m are covered by a sandy silt buried soil (10-50 cm thick). The flint values obtained for the seven samples range between 0 and 14 (Table 3; overall mean per sample 5.4, 6.3 excluding nil value). The flint assemblage has not yielded any diagnostic piece and can only roughly attributed to the Mesolithic-Neolithic period.

As previously mentioned, this zone is remarkable because of the quantity of observed features. Three aligned ditches, running on a roughly north-south axis (**F. 258**, **F. 259**, **F. 262**) might be part of a larger segmented ditch. These features are associated with, and sometimes cut, a small group of pits (**F. 263**, **F. 265**, **F. 280**) as well as two postholes (**F. 278** and **F. 279**), the latter found to the west of this possible segmented ditch. In terms of absolute chronology, all elements suggest an Iron Age date. Pit **F. 280** has yielded sherds of a Late Iron Age wheel-turned jar. An (apparently) isolated pit found nearby in Trench 90 (**F. 257**) has yielded several potsherds ascribed to the Middle/Later Iron Age, as well as three residual Early Bronze Age Beaker sherds.

Feature Description

Trench 89 contained the highest concentration of features of the entire Godwin Ridge, with three ditches and several pits. **F. 258** is a ditch terminus (1.1m long, 91cm wide and 31cm deep), running on a roughly N-S axis. It presents a U-shaped cut [1322] and a fill made of mixed grey sandy silt, beige sand and orange sand, with rare charcoal inclusions ([1321]). Two other long ditches running on the same roughly N-S axis are aligned on **F. 258**. **F. 259** is 4m long, 70 cm wide and 26 cm deep. It presents a concave cut [1324] and a fill made of a mixed grey sandy silt, orange sand and light orange sand, with rare charcoal inclusions. **F. 262** is 4m long, 47 cm wide and 10cm deep. It presents a shallow concave cut [1334] and a fill made of a dark grey sandy silt ([1333]).

In addition to these ditches, a number of pits were also observed. **F. 260** is a small shallow pit (72cm long, 60cm wide and 14cm deep), cut by ditch **F. 259** and by another small pit, **F. 261**. It presents a concave cut [1330] and a fill made of a light blue-grey sandy silt mixed with orange sand ([1329]). Pit **F. 261** (98 cm long, 17 cm deep) presents a concave cut [1332], dug into the natural yellow sand and, partly, into pit **F. 260**. Its fill is made of a

dark grey sandy silt, heavily mixed with orange sand and rare charcoal inclusions ([1331]). **F. 263** is a small shallow pit (33cm long, 40cm wide and 25 deep), with a U-shaped cut [1336], and a fill made of a grey sandy silt with occasional iron concretions ([1335]). None of the above ditches or pits has yielded finds. A single burnt flint flake was found in the basal fill ([1340]) of the small pit **F. 265**.

Trench 90 contained a single shallow pit, **F. 257** (48 cm long, 46 cm wide and 16 cm deep). It presents a concave cut [1320] and a fill made of a dark grey sandy silt, with occasional iron pan and inclusions of charcoal ([1319]) and several Iron Age potsherds.

Trench 118: **F. 278** is a posthole (49 cm wide, 17 cm deep), with a clear flat base and slightly concave sides ([1373]). Its fill is made of a dark grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions and iron concretions ([1375]). Its basal fill is made of dark brown compact sandy clay ([1374]) and contained some small bones and a flint flake. Another posthole **F. 279**, (40 cm wide, 14 cm deep) presents sub-vertical sides and a concave basis ([1376]), dug into the natural yellow sand. Its fill is made of a dark grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal and rare burnt wood ([1377]). **F. 280** is a truncated pit, which yielded a few flints, some bone and the fragments of a Late Iron Age pot in the upper part of the fill at the interface with the peat.

Location	Flint	Burnt flint	Potsherds	Bone
Trench 89, Sample1	14	6		
Trench 89, Sample2				
F. 258				
F. 259				
F. 260				
F. 261				
F. 262	2			2
F.263	3	1		
F. 265		1		
Trench 90, Sample1	7			
Trench 90, Sample2	11	2		
Trench 90, Sample3	1			
F. 257			48	2
Trench 118, Sample1	4	3		
F. 278	1			2
F. 279				
F. 280	2		20	8
Trench 119, Sample1	1			

Table 3: Summary of finds/features for Zone VI

Considering that the features found in Trenches 89, 90 and 118 probably constitute a unique system, this part of the Godwin Ridge could represent a (Late?) Iron Age settlement. Bearing in mind the restricted surface actually excavated, the number of investigated features is very promising for future research. The existence of such settlement is also interesting since Iron Age finds are recurrent on the western half of the Godwin Ridge (see Table 5).

The presence of Mesolithic-Neolithic finds in the buried soil is not surprising given the archaeological potential of the Godwin Ridge and fits perfectly with chronological indications gathered for the other zones.

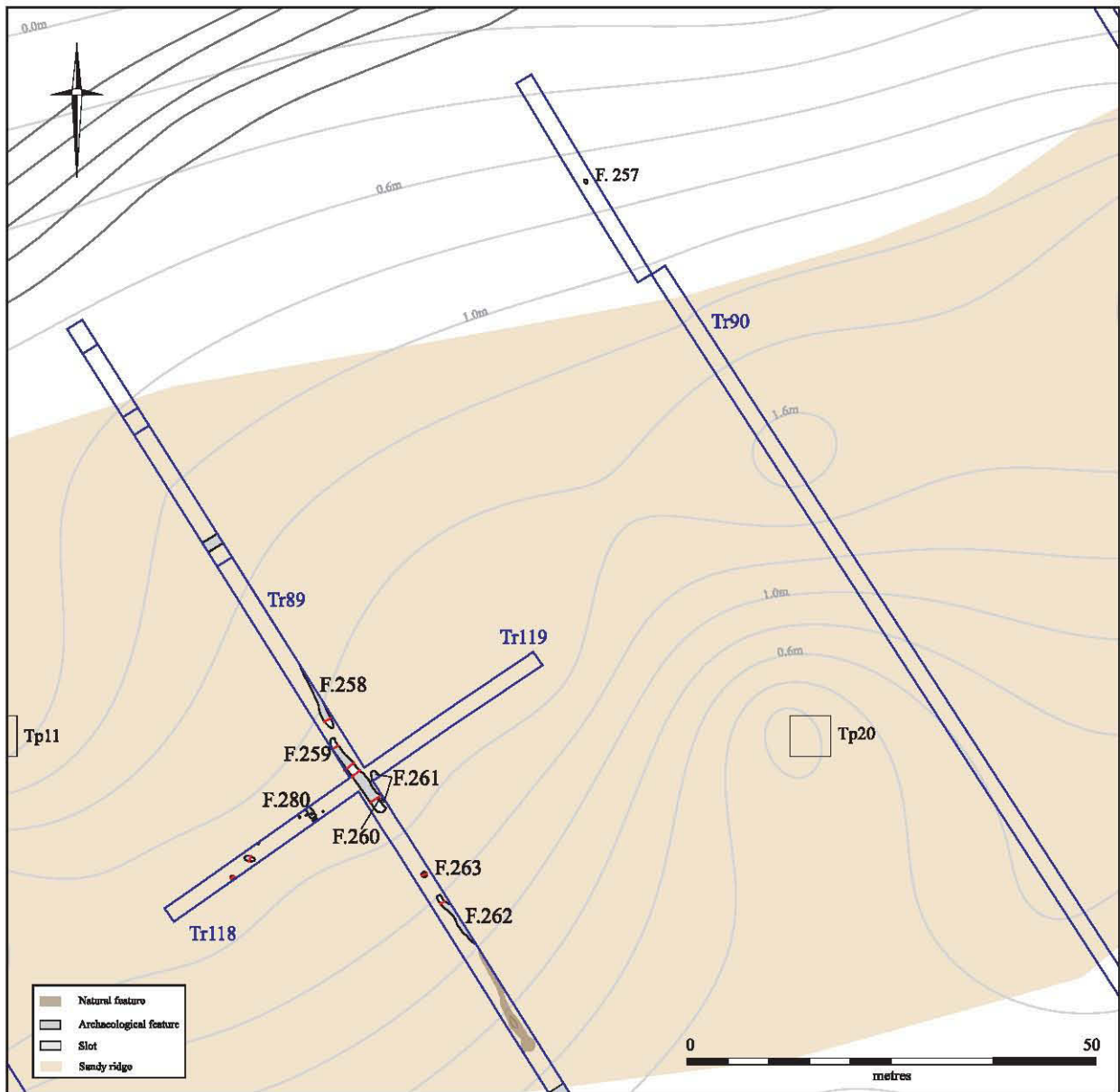


Figure 17. Zone VI - Trenches 89, 90, 118 and 119.

Finds Recovered

Zone VI was relatively rich in finds, with the second largest flint assemblage and the largest pottery assemblage of any of the zones. 43 flints were identified, of which the earliest dated to the late Mesolithic and the latest to the Beaker/Early Bronze Age (a scraper from Trench 90). Typologically Neolithic flint was recovered from Trench 89 and Trench 90 and included two serrated flakes, two edge-used flakes, a core and a discoidal core.

The pottery assemblage included 75 sherds. Three were (residual) Beaker sherds from F. 257, whilst the remainder of the dateable material was Middle-Late Iron Age. 40 sherds could be refitted to form an almost complete Score Ware jar and 19 sherds from F. 280 belonged to a Late Iron Age wheel-turned jar.

Although animal bone was retrieved from Zone VI, it was too poorly preserved to allow identification to species.

Zone VII

The last area of archaeological concentration on the Godwin Ridge lies at the northern limit of the evaluated area. This zone is delineated by three trenches (Trenches 34, 36, 38). At this point, the Godwin Ridge is extremely large, up to 150m wide. On its southern side, the ridge corresponds to a large surface of grey waterlogged sand which barely raises above the ground and did not yield any feature or artefact. Unsurprisingly, the archaeological concentration is located on the raised part of the slopes, where the buried soil has been preserved (up to 60 m wide).

While Zone IV, V and VI cluster together, Zone VII is separated from them by a rather long distance of approximately 350 m. The reasons for this gap are uncertain because it partly corresponds with a modern drainage ditch and associated track which have destroyed the corresponding segment of the sand ridge. Nevertheless, the low values obtained for eight samples of buried soil to the west of Zone VII suggests that this lack of archaeological remains may correspond with the real past situation.

Eight samples of buried soil were taken in the trenches and between them in order to achieve a continuous sample. Numerous surface finds were also made during the digging of the trenches, especially Trench 38. The values for the eight samples range between 1 and 13 flints per sample (Table 4; overall mean 5.9).

Preliminary analysis indicates a mixed assemblage with Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (blades, bladelets, conical microlithic cores) as well as Late Neolithic components (large blades, discoid cores, retouched flakes, scrapers, fragment of polished thin-butted flint axe). Pottery finds also point out a Early/Middle Bronze Age presence.

Location	Flint	Burnt flint	Potsherds	Bone
Trench 34, Sample1	13	2		
Trench 34, Sample2	4		2	
Trench 36, Sample1	1			
Trench 36, Sample2	10		1	1
Trench 36, Sample3	1		1	
Trench 38, Sample3	7	1	5	2
Sample 207	4	1		
Sample 208	7	1		1

Table 4: Summary of finds for Zone VII

Despite its somewhat isolated location, Zone VII presents similar archaeology to the previous described zones of the Godwin Ridge, with the absence of features and high quantities of flint and potsherds trapped in the covering buried soil (Table 4). The same range of periods is also represented, with Mesolithic/Neolithic and Late Bronze Age elements.

Finds Recovered

This area included the greatest number of flints, a total of 55. This assemblage produced evidence for late Mesolithic activity, concentrating on Trench 34. Evidence for Neolithic flint use included a section of a polished axe. Some of the remaining flakes may have been either waste from systematic Neolithic flint production or the result of expedient flint use during the Bronze Age.

Early Bronze Age activity is also supported by the ceramic evidence, with three sherds of Beaker from Trench 38. One other sherd was of Middle Bronze Age date, whilst the remaining eight were of general prehistoric attribution.

Although some animal bone was recovered from Zone VII, this was very poorly preserved and therefore unidentifiable.

Concluding Discussion

The findings of this archaeological evaluation confirm and extend the results of the previous archaeological investigations carried out in the Hanson's Over/Needlingworth quarry by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The defining aspect of the archaeology and surrounding landscape of this area is the overwhelming presence of water, in the form of the River Great Ouse and the associated "delta" of palaeochannels to the west and the extremity of the fens to the east. Following information provided by Steve Boreham, there is no indication so far that this "delta" pre-dates the maximal extension of the sea and associated tidal influence during the Bronze Age.

In this context, it is hardly surprising that the archaeology is limited to the relatively dry zones, these being the 'gravel islands' and the elevated sand ridges. The possible existence of further archaeological remains in these areas obliterated by the palaeochannel deposits has not been demonstrated during this programme. These dry zones have been used for various purposes during different time-periods, ranging from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. Table 5 presents a summary of the location of the finds attributable to these various periods.

	Late Meso/Early Neo	Late Neo	EBA-MBA	LBA	Iron Age	Roman
Zone I			●			
Zone II			?			
Zone III			?			
Zone IV	●●	●●	●	●●	●	
Zone V	●	●		?	?	
Zone VI	●	●	?		●●	?
Zone VII	●●	●●	●●			

Table 5: Chronological summary for all investigated sites

Key: ? = possibly present, ● = present, ●● = well-established

In this respect, one of the most important results of this evaluation is the confirmation of the archaeological potential of the Godwin Ridge. This had been previously recognised during the evaluation and then excavation of its western end (Site 13). On basis of the present research, the ridge now appears as a nearly continuous suite of archaeological sites stretching over more than a kilometre and covering many archaeological periods. This can only be counted as an extraordinary archaeological complex. The sand roddon of what had been a Palaeolithic river course would have later stood proud amid the wet landscape and have variously served as both a focus of settlement and hunting/foraging activities, and also acted as a ‘communication corridor’ (i.e. route-way).

The Mesolithic and Neolithic periods are only documented on the Godwin Ridge (Zones IV-VII). This exclusive distribution could either point to a privileged use of the ridge as a well-drained and relatively high point in the landscape, or to the fact that all contemporary traces have been truncated and/or obliterated by the later activity of the palaeochannels. No features, as such, with the possible exception of F. 242 in Zone V, can be attributed to these two periods. Therefore, all artefacts have been retrieved from samples of the well-preserved buried soil which covers much of the surface of the ridge.

The earlier stages of the Bronze Age (Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age) are also present on the Godwin Ridge, as demonstrated by a restricted, but definitive, series of sherds. The five described barrows and, maybe the three ditches (field system?) and the accompanying cremations recorded at the western edge of the O’Connell Ridge also belong to these periods. Despite their changing modes of construction (turf-stack alone vs. gravel-capping with quarrying ditch), these barrows all point to the use of the ‘gravel islands’ and the eastern terrace of high gravel as loci for funerary activity. This particular function is possibly indicative of the special significance given by Bronze Age communities to these liminal zones at the edge of the fens. As already stated, at this point in time, the influence of the sea on the River Great Ouse was at its maximum extent and led to the formation of the delta-like landscape and the associated ‘gravel islands’.

Variouly located either on or immediately beside the southern, O’Connell Ridge, the four round barrows in Zones I and II obviously represent a distinct grouping. Lying 1.1km to the east, the status of the single Zone III barrow is somewhat more ambiguous. As is apparent in Figure 1, the key issue is whether it related to the western roddon grouping or was itself a part of the eastward Hermitage Farm barrow cemeteries at Haddenham (see Evans & Hodder 2006). Though, of course, in many respects this is just a matter of academic ‘hair-splitting’, as together these all relate to the larger, southern (former) Ouse-side fen-edge barrow cemetery alignment (*ibid.*).

While the Late Bronze Age is indicated by a small pottery assemblage in Zone IV (and possibly present in Zone V), the Iron Age is well represented on the western half of the Godwin Ridge (Zones IV-VI). The discovery of human remains in Zone IV, if their attribution to the Iron Age is confirmed, is particularly exciting as it echoes similar finds made on Site 13. Beyond the potsherds found in Zone IV and V, the most important Iron Age location is the likely settlement defined on the basis of the features excavated in Zone VI. This series of finds points to a complex use by the Iron Age communities of the Godwin Ridge, as a relatively dry locale within an otherwise wet landscape.

Roman usage is only suggested by a single potsherd found in Zone VI, on the Godwin Ridge.

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APPENDICES

1) *Environmental Sample Stratigraphy* (Steve Boreham)

Section A – Trench 32 (bottom-up) – abandoned due to collapse

TL 38755 74378

Lower Section

- 0-26cm: soft grey silt with shell fragments and rootlets
- 26-55cm: grey silty clay with abundant shells and rootlets
- 55-65cm: brown organic silt
- 65-93cm: chocolate brown organic silt
- 93-100cm: orange grey mottled silty clay

Upper Section 100=0cm

- 0-25cm: orange grey mottled silty clay
- 25-35cm: brown grey organic (peat)
- 35-75cm: ploughsoil (grey alluvium)

Samples: Bulks step 1: 0 to 100cm, 5cm intervals n = 20
 Bulks step 2: 5 to 75cm, 5cm intervals n = 14

Borehole A – Trench 32 (describe top-down) – to replace collapsed section

TL 38752 74374

- 0-40cm: ploughsoil (grey alluvium)
- 40-45cm: brown grey organic (peat)
- 45-95cm: grey brown silty organic with rootlets
- 95-180cm: grey silt clay with rootlets and shells
- 180-235cm: brown peat with rootlets and reed stems
- 235-297cm: gravel and sand

Samples: Bulks, 35-235cm, 10cm intervals n = 20

Section B – Trench 94 (described bottom-up)

TL 38878 74214

Below 0cm: gravel and sand

- 0-27cm: blue grey silty clay
- 27-50cm: black brown wood peat
- 50-62cm: grey brown organic silt with wood fragments
- 62-70cm: light grey sandy silt with shells
- 70-102cm: soft brown silty clay with shells and marl
- 102-122cm: grey brown silty clay
- 122-142cm: grey green silt with shells and rootlets
- 142-155cm: grey silt with shells and reed stems
- 155-195cm: brown crumbly peat
- 195-230cm: ploughsoil (grey alluvium)

Samples: Bulks, 20 to 185cm, 5cm intervals n = 34

Section C – Near TP 89 (described bottom-up)

TL 39398 74284

Lower Section

- 0-32cm: soft grey silty clay
- 32-58cm: grey brown soft silt with wood
- 58-75cm: brown organic silt
- 75-78cm: pale silty clay
- 78-93cm: grey organic silt with shells
- 93-112cm: grey silt with wood and shells
- 112-132cm: grey silt with shells (*Bithynia*) and rootlets

Upper Section 132 = 0cm

0-15cm= grey green silt with shells and fibrous rootlets
 15-28cm: grey silt
 28-42cm: orange iron stained silt clay
 42-56cm: grey silty clay
 56-80cm: brown grey organic (peat)
 80-116cm: ploughsoil (100-116cm: grey alluvium)

Samples:	Pollen tubes, 0-130cm (not 120cm), 10cm intervals	n = 14
	Pollen tubes, upper 10-40cm, 10cm intervals	n = 4
	Bulks lower < 0, 10-20, 20-29, 40-50, 65-70cm	n = 5
	Bulks upper, 0-10, 30-40, 100-110cm	n = 3

Section D – Trench 70 (described bottom-up)

TL 39382 73749

0-20cm: orange brown sandy gravel
 20-29cm: grey silty sand
 29-50cm: organic silt
 50-61cm: brown organic (peat)
 61-72cm: orange brown clay
 72-92cm: brown organic clay
 92-120cm: ploughsoil (organic clay)

Samples:	Bulk 35-45cm (from 29-50cm)	n = 1
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Section E – Trench 66 (described bottom-up)

TL 38913 73523

Lower Section

0-24cm: grey-green sandy silt (slightly organic)
 24-33cm: sandy silt with flint pebbles and carbonate (race)
 33-51cm: mottled grey slightly organic silty clay
 51-71cm: grey-black shelly silt with rootlets
 71-100cm: grey-brown silt with shells and rootlets

Upper Section, 100 = 0cm

0-13cm: grey-brown organic organic silt with shell fragments
 13-42cm: silty organic with abundant plant remains
 42-58cm: brown-black silty organic with rootlets
 58-90cm: ploughsoil (grey-brown alluvial silty clay)

Samples:	Pollen tubes 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90cm	n = 10
	Bulks, 5-10cm to 85-90cm, 5cm intervals, 5 cm gaps	n = 9
	Bulks, 15-25, 30-35, 45-50, 60-65, 80-85cm	n = 5

Section F – Trench 23 (described bottom-up)

TL 38755 73590

Lower Section

0-9cm: grey-green sand and gravel with some silt
 9-23cm: grey silty clay with some organic and shells and pebbles
 23-34cm: grey-violet organic clayey silt with occasional shells
 34-46cm: grey-black silty organic with abundant shells (inc. *Bithynia*)
 46-57cm: buff-black silty organic with rootlets and occasional shell fragments
 57-76cm: black-grey silty organic with reed stems and occasional shells
 76-86cm: grey-buff silty organic with abundant bivalve shells

Upper Section, 86 = 0cm

0-21cm: grey-brown silty organic silt with shells
 21-42cm: dark brown-black organic (peat) with a little silt
 42-62cm: red-brown rubified silty clay
 62-85cm: grey-brown mottled silty clay
 85-110cm: ploughsoil (grey-brown alluvial silty clay)

Samples:	Pollen tubes, 10, 20, 30, 40cm	n = 4
	Pollen tubes, 10 to 80 cm, 10cm intervals	n = 8
	Bulks, 15-20, 25-30, 35-40, 45-50, 60-65, 78-80cm	n = 6
	Bulks upper, 5-10, 15-20, 25-30, 35-40, 45-50cm	n = 5

2) *Worked Flint* (Emma Beadsmoore)

A total of 200 (<1833g) flints were recovered; 161 (<1457g) are worked, 16 (129g) are worked and burnt, whilst 23 (247g) are just burnt. The flint is listed by context and type in Table 6.

The material includes an assemblage of Mesolithic material; comprising flint working waste; blades, flakes, core rejuvenation flakes and exhausted single or multiple platform blade cores; as well as utilised flints; edge used flakes, scrapers, a burin and a microlith. The microlith, a convex-backed blade with inverse basal retouch, potentially belongs to the Honey Hill group, which is found predominantly in East Anglia and the Midlands and with rough dates between 9000 and 8500 BP (Barton & Roberts 344:2004). However, comparatively small blade cores and fine waste blades suggest that Late Mesolithic flint may also be amongst the material. Mesolithic flint was recovered from Trench 2, Samples 1, 2 and 3; Trench 4, Sample 1; Trench 6, Samples 1 and 2; and the Trench 6 extension at 5m; Trench 36, Sample 2; Trench 38, Sample 3 and at 90m; Trench 89, Sample 1; in the Buried Soil, Samples 200 and 201, from Sample 208 and TS 2. However, Trenches 34, Samples 1 and 2, and Trench 90 [1354] and [1355], yielded the largest quantities of material.

The flint assemblage recovered from the site also contained a Neolithic component, comprising flint working waste and occasional utilised flakes and tools. Two serrated flakes, flakes and a core were recovered from Trench 89, Sample 1, whilst Trench 90 [1355] yielded two edge-used flakes and a discoidal core. Flakes, utilised flakes, blades and a core rejuvenation flake were recovered from Trench 2, Samples 1 and 2; Trench 4, Sample 1; Trench 6, F. 239 [1247] and Trench 34, Sample 1. A section of burnt Neolithic polished axe was recovered from Trench 38 at 73m. Trench 6 yielded a small group of potentially Late Neolithic flint; a Late Neolithic transverse arrowhead was amongst the material, whilst several of the other flints are the possible products of comparable discoidal core technology. A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age knife was also recovered from Trench 4, Sample 1.

Early Bronze Age material was also identified amongst the flint from the site. A distinctive core type was recovered from F. 281 in Trench 15. Comparable cores have been recovered in association with Collared Urns in Fengate (Beadsmoore 2005). Whilst a Beaker/Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from F. 243 in Trench 16. F. 250 in Trench 78 yielded a second arrowhead fragment, which potentially formed part of a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead or a Beaker/Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead. A Beaker/Early Bronze Age scraper was recovered from Trench 90 [1354].

The assemblage of material also includes an expedient manufactured component. Struck with hard-hammers from unprepared cores with no visible concern over the form of the removals or the use-life of the core, the flints are either the chronologically non-diagnostic waste of systematic Neolithic flake production/core reduction strategies, or the result of more expedient Bronze Age flint working. The flakes were recovered from Trench 2, Sample 3; Trench 36, Sample 2; F. 280 [1379] in Trench 118, three from the Buried Soil Sample 201 and one from Sample 207.

Trench/ Feature/ Sample	Type																		totals									
	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	secondary blade	tertiary blade	core rejuvenation flake	irregular core	single platform core	multiple platform core	discoidal core	core fragment	miscellaneous retouched flake	edge used flake	serrated flake	end scraper	thumbnail scraper	sub-circular scraper		flake knife	piercer	burin	microlith	transverse arrowhead	barbed and tanged arrowhead	arrowhead fragment	flint polished axe fragment	unworked burnt chips/chunk
T 2/S 1			1	1		1										1											5	9
T2/S 2				3		1																						4
T2/S 3			1	2								1	1	1														6
T3/S 1			2	1																								3
T4/F. 241																										2	2	
T4/S 1	1		2	1		1						1							1									7
T6/F. 239			1	1																						3	5	
T6/F. 240	1		2																									3
T6/stray				1																								1
T6/S 1			3	3						1										1			1			3	12	
T6/S 2			1	1		1						1																4
T15/F. 281	1		1						1																	1	4	
T16/F. 243			1																					1				2
T34/S 1			7	1		2	1			1	1																	13
T34/S 2			2						1	1																		4
T36/S 1				1																								1
T36/S 2	1		4	2						1						1		1										10
T36/S 3				1																								1
T3873 m																									1			1
T38/90 m				2	1																	1				6	10	
T38/S 3	2		1	2	1	2																						8
T78/F. 250			1																						1			2
T89/F. 262	1		1																									2
T89/F. 263			2	2																								4
T89/S 1	1		3	5						1	1			2						1								14
T90/F. 257																										1	1	
T90/[1354]			2	4		1	2							1		1										2	13	
T90/[1355]			2			2				1				2														7
T100/16 m			1																									1
T118/F. 280											1																	1
T118/[1374]			1																									1
T6 ext/5 m	1	1		1			1			1						1												6
F. 265				1																								1
BS/S 20	2		2	1	1																							6
BS/S 21	1		4	1	1			1	1						1		1											11
south/S 208	1	1	3	1	1	1										1		1										8
S 207			1	1				2																				4
TS 2			5	2		1																						8
Sub totals	13	2	57	42	5	13	4	4	2	8	1	2	3	4	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	200

Table 6: Flint types and Contexts

The evaluation yielded flint that ranges from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age, providing evidence for flintworking and tool-use within the landscape. The majority of the datable material is Mesolithic and Neolithic, however, evidence for Early Bronze Age activity is provided by a few, key, chronologically diagnostic flints in association with the barrows.

3) *Prehistoric Pottery* (Matt Brudenell & Mark Knight)

162 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the excavations (2645g). The material dates from the Neolithic through to the end of the Iron Age. Most is small and abraded, though two features on Godwin Ridge produced fragments of freshly broken Iron Age vessels.

Zone I

15 sherds of prehistoric pottery (70g) were recovered from Zone I. With the exception of a single small, abraded sherd from the buried soil, all the pottery was recovered from the mound material of F. 243. The pottery from the mound included an abraded burnt-flint tempered body sherd, possibly from a Neolithic or Late Bronze Age vessel (5g), and 13 sherds belonging to a shell-tempered Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urn (64g). The single sherd from the buried soil is too small for identification, and is given a generic prehistoric date.

Zone IV

Zone IV yielded 55 sherds of prehistoric pottery (528g). The material was recovered from the sample stations, the buried soil and stray finds from the machining of Trenches 2-4. The earliest pottery included two abraded sherds of Peterborough Ware recovered from Sample 3, Trench 2 (14g), and a single abraded sherd of grog-tempered rusticated Beaker recovered from Test Station 2 (8g). However, the bulk of the pottery belongs to the Late Bronze Age, and is characterised by burnt flint-tempered sherds, including at least three base sherds and a single rim. The Late Bronze Age pottery belongs to the Plainware phase of the Post-Deverel Rimbury ceramic tradition, and probably dates between c.1000-800BC. Pottery of this date was recovered from Test Station 2 (20 sherds, 269g), spoil from Trench 4 extension (one sherd, 1g), Sample 1 in Trench 3 (two sherds, 11g), Sample 200 in the buried soil (nine sherds, 95g) and Sample 2001 in the buried soil (four sherds, 44g). The latest pottery was recovered from Sample 1 in Trench 4 (16 sherds, 86g). This pottery was characterised by mixture of fabrics, including those with shell, finely crushed burnt flint, fine quartz-sand and rare grog. The small assemblage contained three rim sherds and a shoulder sherd decorated with finger nail marks. The pottery dates to the Early Iron Age, c.800-350BC.

Zone V

Five sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from Zone V (12g). All were small and abraded, and cannot be closely dated. The pottery was recovered from F. 239 (a shallow depression in the sand) and from the Samples 1 and 2 in Trench 6 and the Trench 6 extension. Samples 1 and 2 yielded burnt-flint tempered sherds, either dating to the Neolithic or Late Bronze Age (Sample 1: three sherds, 2g. Sample 2: one sherd, 7g), whilst the single sherd from F. 239 (3g) is probably of Iron Age date, c. 800 BC-43 AD.

Zone VI

The largest assemblage of pottery was recovered from Zone VI (75 sherds, 1964g). The pottery was recovered from pit F. 257 and [1354] in Trench 90, and pit F. 280 in Trench 118. Pit F. 257 yielded a total of 48 sherds (1097g), included three residual Beaker sherds (14g). The remaining pottery in the pit dated to the Middle/Later Iron Age, c. 350BC-50 AD, and was characterised by shell-tempered fabrics. 40 of the sherds (946g) re-fitted to form a near-complete open-profiled Score Ware jar with a simple direct-rim and a pinched base (Hill & Horne

2003, Form K). The jar was 15cm high, and had a rim diameter of 18cm (60% intact) and a base diameter 8cm (100% intact). Finds of complete or near complete pots are rare in the Iron Age, and are sometimes interpreted as ‘ritual’ deposits. Context [1354] contained seven sherds of abraded pottery (23g). The sherds cannot be closely dated, but are presumably Iron Age on basis of the fabrics. Pit F. 280 in Trench 118 contained 20 sherds of pottery (844g); 19 of which belonged to a large, sand-tempered Late Iron Age wheel-turned jar with beaded rim (dating after 1 AD). The jar had a rim diameter of 30cm (50% intact), and displayed horizontal combing across the body. The pit also yielded a single worn sherd of Early Roman pottery, 8g in weight (K. Anderson *pers. comm.*); this is probably intrusive.

Zone VII

12 sherds of abraded prehistoric pottery were recovered from Zone VII (71g). The pottery was retrieved from sample points in Trenches 34, 36 and 38, and from the spoil in Trench 38. The earliest datable pottery included three sherds of Early Bronze Age Beaker, found the spoil of Trench 38 (Cat <3614>, 18g). The only other datable sherd derived from Sample 3 in Trench 38, which contained the rim of a grog and flint-tempered Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urn with diagonal slashing on the rim-top (22g). The remaining four sherds (14g) from this sample point had similar fabrics to the urn, and may also be of Middle Bronze Age date. The single sherd from Sample 3 Trench 36 (14g) is undiagnostic, whilst the two crumbs of pottery from Sample 2 Trench 34 (1g) are too small for identification, as is the ‘crumb’ from Sample 3 Trench 36 (2g).

4) *Faunal Assemblage* (Vida Rajkovic)

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from evaluation fieldwork. The overall size of the assemblage numbered 81 fragments, of which 54 (66.7%) were identifiable to element and 22 (27.1%) further identified to species. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Dobney & Reilly (1988), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Measurements were taken as indicated by von den Driesch (1976). The site is divided into several zones and six subdivisions have been made in order to study the assemblage. Animal bone was recovered in Zones I, III, IV, V, VI and VII.

Of 15 contexts analysed, only one context showed good preservation, with two others identified as demonstrating ‘quite good’ preservation. This indicated bones with minimal or no weathering or bone damage. In contrast, two contexts demonstrated ‘moderate’, seven ‘quite poor’ and three contexts poor preservation. This equates to a total number of 25 fragments showing quite good or good preservation, compared to 56 fragments with bone damage or signs of weathering.

The remains were dominated by cattle bones (NISP: 17) followed by ovicaprids (NISP: 3; Table 7). Wild species were evidenced by red deer and a cyprinid bone, both represented by one identified element. All the identified species had MNI counts of one animal (Table 8).

Species	NISP	% NISP
Cow	17	77.3
Sheep/Goat	3	13.6
Red Deer	1	4.55
Cyprinid	1	4.55
UUM	2	7.4 ($\Sigma=27$)
ULM	14	43.75 ($\Sigma=32$)
UMM	6	18.75 ($\Sigma=32$)
USM	3	13.6 ($\Sigma=32$)
UUB	9	40.1 ($\Sigma=32$)

Table 7: Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal; UUB = Unidentified Bird; UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 22. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for USM, UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM).

Species	MNI	% MNI
Cow	1	25
Sheep/Goat	1	25
Red Deer	1	25
Cyprinid	1	25

Table 8: Species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

The majority of bones recovered in Zone I (Trenches 15 & 1, Round Barrow) could not be identified, with the exception of one fish bone assigned to cyprinids. Within Zone III, only two animal bones were found, in Trench 78 (one cow phalanx showing signs of butchering on the distal articulation). The only other evidence of butchering on the site was an ovicaprid metacarpal, showing signs of bone breaking (Trench 4, Zone IV). Zone IV is situated in the northeast field and bone material was recovered from this Zone in Trenches 3 and 4, Sample 201 and Test Station 2. The majority of the bones found in Zone IV were identifiable to both element and species: cow bones were humerus, calcaneum and tibia; red deer bones were represented by an astragalus; ovicaprid bones were made up of a metacarpal and loose teeth. Zone V was dominated by cattle and bird bones (bird represented by nine specimens; unfortunately they could not be assigned to species), found in Trench 6. Animal bones recovered in Trenches 36, 38, 89, 90, and 118 were quite poorly preserved and could not be assigned to species.

In conclusion, it is difficult to discuss this assemblage further in the absence of any toothwear data, and the near absence of butchery or measurements. However, the general size of the elements would seem to indicate large domesticates. Further analysis should involve the analysis of the age structure of the common domestic stock species with a view to interpreting the site economy. The presence of wild fauna (red deer, birds and fish) presents considerable potential for evaluating the surrounding palaeoenvironment and geography.

5) *Human Bone* (Natasha Dodwell)

Two unurned cremation burials, F. 285 and F. 286 were identified in Extension A, Trench 5 adjacent to each other (see fig. 13); no dateable material was recovered from either.

In both features, all of the soil was collected and wet sieved. Bone >5mm was extracted for osteological analysis. The smaller residues were scanned and identifiable elements extracted. Age was assessed by the stage of dental and skeletal development (Ubelaker, 1989 and Scheuer and Black 2000). It was not possible to attribute sex to the remains.

F. 285 was a large but shallow rectangular pit (0.89 x 0.5 x 0.12m) with a concentration of burnt bone fragments in the north eastern corner, suggesting that the cremated bone was originally contained in an organic container. A small quantity of burnt bone was recovered from the main fill and charcoal fragments were concentrated in the upper 20mm of the fill. A total of 421g of white, well calcined bone >5mm was analysed and elements from every part of the skeleton were identified. The loose epiphyses, the unfused limb fragments and the size of the elements suggest that these are the remains of an older juvenile/young subadult (c.8-14yrs).

F. 286 was a small, ovoid pit (0.38x0.49x0.11m) filled with 1030g of cremated bone >5mm, mixed with a dark brown silt. The upper 20mm of the fill were charcoal stained but no charcoal fragments were recovered. Although the bone fragments were relatively large, with 48.6% being >10mm, the scanned (unsorted) fraction <5mm was predominantly cremated bone and weighed 773g. In addition, a small quantity (26g) of burnt bone has been tentatively identified as animal. This has been separated for identification by the faunal specialist.

In both burials, the excavator believed that despite the shallowness of the graves, little bone would have been lost to truncation. From the weights of bone recorded in each feature it seems probable that all or most of the cremated body was collected from the pyre for burial. The lack of charcoal and other carbonised remains (see Table 9 below) and other elements of pyre debris suggests that the retrieval of bone from the pyre site was not only careful, but that the inclusion of pyre debris as part of the funerary deposit was not deemed significant.

During the assessment of the faunal remains several fragments of human bone were identified. Adult skull fragments, a right clavicle (gracile), fragments of scapula, rib shafts and a proximal phalange were identified in Sample 1 from Trench 3 (box 22/22, <3509>).

	F. 285 [1392]	F. 286 [1394]
Charcoal >2mm	+++	++
Burnt Bone frags. <2mm	++	+
Small Asteraceae seed – daisy family	1	
Small indeterminate seed	1	

Table 9: Analysis of the flots from the cremation burials

Key: + = <10, ++ = 10-25, +++ = 25-50 items.

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