

Knobbs Farm, Somersham

Phase 5B Investigations



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
Geology and Topography	2
Archaeological Background.....	2
Prehistoric	2
Romano-British.....	5
Medieval	6
Methodology	6
RESULTS	6
Overview.....	6
Dating.....	7
Phase One: Iron Age	7
Well and Pit Group	7
Phase Two: Mid 1 st Century Romano-British.....	9
Phase Three: Later 1 st Century to mid 2 nd Century Romano-British.....	10
Enclosure A and Trackway	10
Enclosure B and Building I.....	10
Linear burnt features.....	15
Enclosure C and Building II	15
Cremation F.707	16
Enclosure D.....	16
Wells and Pit Group.....	16
Phase Four: Mid to Late 2 nd to 4 th Century Romano-British.....	19
Enclosure A and Trackway	19
Inhumation Burials – F.700 and F.715	19
Enclosures B, C and D.....	22
Enclosure E.....	24
Undated.....	24
SPECIALIST REPORTS.....	25
Lithics - Emma Beadsmore.....	25
Roman Pottery - Katie Anderson.....	26
Romano-British Tile - Katie Anderson.....	31
Worked stone - Simon Timberlake	32
Human Remains - Natasha Dodwell.....	34
Faunal Remains - Vida Rajkovača.....	35
Environmental Assessment - Anne de Vareilles.....	40
DISCUSSION	43
REFERENCES	48
APPENDIX 1 – Feature Descriptions.....	52

INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) carried out investigations at Somersham Quarry, Knobbs Farm, Cambridgeshire, between September and October 2007. The excavation (site code SOM07) was part of an ongoing programme of archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of gravel extraction and was commissioned by Dr Isabel Lisboa (Archaeologica Ltd) on behalf of Lafarge Aggregates.

The 0.32ha excavation area was centred on TL 368 793 and was initiated as mitigation for an access road for Phase 5 of the quarry expansion (Figures 1 and 2). The area was subject to a trial trench investigation (Slater 2006) and the excavation followed an approved specification (Gibson 2007). The site was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA).

Geology and Topography

The site is situated at a height of between 0.50m and 1.50m OD with an underlying geology of First and Second Terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey 2002). To the west, disused arable land rises slightly towards Parkhill Road, which runs north to south along the crest of a low gravel bank. Somersham lies 1.6km to the south-southwest, also situated on the higher gravels. To the north, east and south the site is bounded by the quarry and beyond this the lower farmlands of Colne Fen, Chatteris Fen and Somersham High North Fen. The Somersham River, located 1.1km to the southeast of the excavation area, runs northeast from Somersham alongside the Chatteris road before turning south at Copen's Corner towards Earith as the Cranbrook Drain where it empties into the Old Bedford River.

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

The earliest artefacts recovered from the Knobbs Farm quarry site are several Palaeolithic hand axes (Lisboa 2000) recovered from periglacial deposits during gravel extraction. To the northwest of Knobbs Farm the Fenland Survey discovered an extensive Mesolithic flint scatter, covering 4ha, at TL357 809 and nearby, a Neolithic flint scatter at TL 359 808 (Hall 1992).

There is good evidence to show the presence of a Bronze Age population within the area covered by the quarry; however finding tangible occupation evidence has been less successful. Bronze Age pits have been recorded during the course of quarrying (Lisboa 2000) and several possibly Bronze Age ring ditches were mapped from aerial photographs within the eastern part of the quarry (Palmer & Cox 1996).

The Phase 2, 3 and 4 fieldwalking survey covered an area of 10.24ha located 100m to the south of the excavation area (Connoller 2000). This exercise recovered 153 pieces of worked flint and 89 pieces of burnt flint (1274g), the working technology indicating an Early Bronze Age date associated with possible 'Beaker' occupation

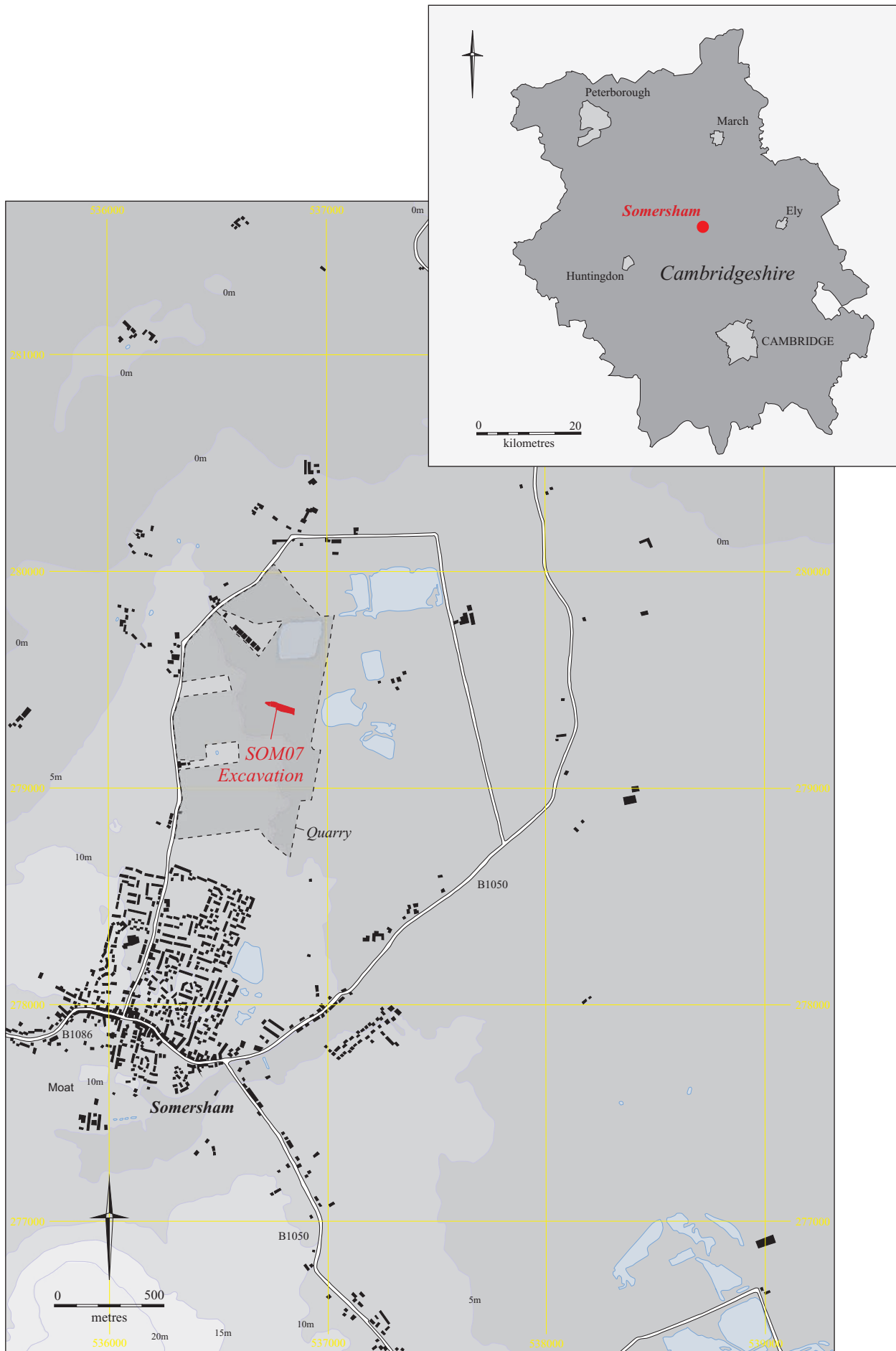


Figure 1. Location map



Figure 2. Phases of previous work and known cropmarks

(*ibid*). Diagnostic pieces included two barbed and tanged arrowheads, a bifacially flaked fragment and a number of distinctive thumbnail and other small sub-circular scrapers. A series of trial trenches excavated across the area failed to find any cut features from which the flint may have originated. During the 2006 trenching evaluation (part of the Phase 5 work schedule) a number of Bronze Age features were found in Trench 4 which suggested the remnants of a structure and possible occupation activity. This cluster of features lay approximately 90m due west of the current excavation area (Slater 2007). The remains of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and late Iron Age settlement, with an intervening period of disuse, was excavated to the south west at Parkhall Road, Somersham in May 2000 (Roberts 2002).

In general terms, aerial photographic evidence indicates that the higher gravel 'islands' located along the southern edges of the Fens were densely settled in the Iron Age (Lisboa 2000). A settlement site of this date, showing up as cropmarks representing ditched enclosures, droveways and field systems, once existed at Knobbs Farm. The core of the settlement, centred around TL 371 793, has been largely destroyed by quarrying, although some rescue work was undertaken (Tebbutt 1929, Phillips 1970, French & Wait 1988). The western fringes of this settlement were revealed within the Phase 4 excavation area where a group of Late Iron Age features and enclosure ditches were recorded (Wills 2004). Outlying Iron Age activity was also suggested by a pit excavated during the Phase 2 and 3 trenching evaluation (Hatherley 2001). Approximately 2km southeast of the current excavation area another extensive site dated to this period was excavated at Colne Fen, Earith. The Middle to Late Iron Age settlement consisted of at least 20 roundhouses, enclosure ditches and a possible square barrow (Regan and Evans 2000).

Romano-British

The aerial photographs identified a large Romano-British settlement showing probable trackways and a rectilinear field system superimposed upon the Iron Age landscape (Palmer and Cox 1996). The core of the settlement, and a possible villa, may have occupied the area to the immediate east of the excavation area, but this was removed by quarrying following minimal archaeological excavation in the 1960s (Lisboa 2000).

Chance finds of pottery, tile and ragstone may indicate the presence of a stone built Romano-British building at Turkington Hill 1km to the southeast of the excavation area (Philips 1971). Immediately opposite lay the extensive settlement of the Camp Ground separated by Somersham River and the Cranbrook Drain which was probably canalised during this period. The site, covering 5.4ha, was known to antiquarians through its earthworks and was excavated from 2000 to 2001 when it was found to represent a small Romano-British town overlying the remnants of an Iron Age settlement. The town was established around 120AD and seems to have been split into an area occupied by official buildings and another representing private ownership, divided by a formal roadway. The site was in use until at least the end of the Roman period, around 410AD.

Following the Camp Ground roadway to the south, an early post-Conquest farmstead was excavated at Langdale Hale. This lay approximately 2.4km southeast of the excavation area. The settlement was founded between 50 and 70AD but had declined by approximately 180AD. The farm complex comprised two series of enclosures in

linear strips aligned on both sides of the roadway. These contained buildings and light industrial areas that were probably associated with bulk grain processing.

Further interpretation of the aerial photographic evidence suggests that there are a number of these Romano British settlements strung along a main northwest to southeast axis represented by the roadway. This road ran parallel to the Fen edge linking together the settlements and farmsteads, perhaps the formalisation of a route originally linking Iron Age settlements overlain by the later occupation.

Medieval

To the south and west of the current excavation area aerial photographs have also revealed the remains of medieval ridge and furrow, the common fields of Somersham. The phase one evaluation revealed the remains of several furrows (Masser 2000) on an east-west alignment that corresponds to the known medieval remains. The excavations at Parkhall Road also found evidence for possible medieval gravel quarrying, perhaps a source for metallurgy used to surface an early route across the Fen to Chatteris (Roberts 2002).

Methodology

Under archaeological supervision the topsoil and subsoil were removed by a 360° tracked excavator utilising a 1.2m wide toothless bucket. A grid of survey points at 10m intervals was established across the opened area and once cleaned, the site was planned at 1:50 scale. Discrete single features were tested by a combination of half sections (e.g. pits and postholes) quarter-quadrant sections (pits over 1.00m diameter) and 1.00m wide slots through linear features and spreads (e.g. ditches). Where it was considered necessary, features were fully excavated and slots were extended. A metal detector was used to scan soil removed during the initial machining and to scan all features revealed in the excavations.

The CAU-modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990) was employed throughout: excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, a fill) were recorded as individual contexts, with interrelated events (e.g. a ditch cut and its associated fills) assigned feature numbers. Sections were drawn at 1:10, base plans at 1:50. The photographic archive consists of digital images, slide and monochrome film. Bulk environmental samples were taken where potential preservation was likely to be good.

RESULTS

Overview

The excavation area, which covered a total of 0.32ha, was a westward continuation of the 2004 Phase 4 excavation (Wills 2004). The site was punctuated by fencing put in place to exclude a badger population which effectively split the site into three. This report presents the results for all three zones as a single site. A total of 114 individual features were recorded representing burials (one cremation and two inhumations),

building elements (eight beam slots and 39 postholes), various features associated with settlement activity and a series of rectilinear gullies and ditches (Figure 3).

Dating

No earlier prehistoric features were recorded during the excavation; however residual finds of 24 worked flints and eight burnt flint chunks were recovered. This assemblage included elements of earlier Neolithic activity, indicated by the presence of a leaf shaped arrowhead, blade tools and a characteristic working flake. The majority of dateable material belonged to the Beaker/Early Bronze Age. Three scrapers and a retouched flake provided evidence of tool use, with additional evidence for flint working provided by two exhausted cores (see Beadsmore, p. this report).

Most of the features revealed by the 2007 excavations belonged to the Romano-British period, with a background presence of residual Iron Age pot sherds. The number of features from which pot sherds were recovered represented only around 20% of the total, resulting in the site phasing being based on the few securely dated features, with those remaining fitting into the sequence primarily through stratigraphic relationship and evident spatial relevance.

Phase One: Iron Age (Figure 4)

Well and Pit Group

The earliest features on site were almost certainly a series of pits or wells located to the west of the site. In all, seven features were identified that may have belonged in this first phase, **F.806** and **F.808** – **F.812**. Only **F.810** produced any finds; three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, 60 pieces of animal bone and one worked flint. **F.808** had a stepped cut profile, which strongly suggested it had been revetted with timber and **F.806** had a series of interleaved fills that suggested a water-lain accumulation of deposits (Figure 4). These two features were undated but appeared more likely to be wells rather than simply pits. **F.806** truncated three layers, [1131], [1132] and [1133], that also appeared to have been deposited within water. Again all three were undated but suggested a further water-filled feature was located to the east of **F.806**. An earlier date is further supported by the stratigraphic evidence, with redeposited gravel natural layers [1152] and [1153]/[1154] being laid down to stabilise the ground before the cutting of Roman well **F.732** (see *Phase 3, Enclosure D* below).

The precise dating of all these features was problematic due to a lack of finds, yet they formed a clear stratigraphic sequence from simple pits to deeper and perhaps more elaborate well structures. An inference made from these features might be that they represent an ongoing attempt at accessing water by the local Iron Age population, not necessarily just for themselves but also for their animals.

Ditch **F.701** may also be of Iron Age date as it is on a different alignment to the other ditches seen in this area, yet this runs roughly parallel to ditch **F.112** located on the 2004 excavation area and was securely dated to the Late Iron Age. Furthermore, one pot sherd retrieved from **F.702** within Slot 1, where it truncated **F.701**, was of Late Iron Age date, perhaps originally sourced from that feature.

Phase Two: Mid 1st Century Romano-British

No clear evidence was found of the earliest phase of Romano-British activity on the excavation area. However, the long sequence and depth of features outlined above may suggest a continuity of local settlement as reflected in continued water sourcing in that area from the Iron Age into the early Romano-British phase.

Phase Three: Later 1st Century to mid 2nd Century Romano-British (Figures 5 to 8)

Enclosure A and Trackway

Pottery analysis indicates that the start of this phase marks the beginning of Romano-British occupation on this part of the site, which sees a period of re-organisation and settlement activity (Figures 5 and 6). This corresponds with the evidence from the 2004 excavations, in particular the continuity of enclosure ditch **F.103** into the 2007 excavation area. This rectilinear enclosure ditch continued westwards as **F.702**. Dating this feature is problematic as the pot sherds recovered in the 2007 excavation were roughly split between the two phases; 43% could be placed in Phase Three and 57% dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, thereby placing the feature into Phase Four. However this may reflect an assemblage accumulated over time and suggests longevity of use.

Ditch **F.702** was cut into, and then followed, an existing ditch, **F.716**, to form the western side of the enclosure. Ditch **F.716** was largely truncated by the cutting of **F.702** and all that remained was the southern terminal end. The date of this ditch is uncertain due to a lack of pottery but it is evidently earlier. The corresponding ditch on the other side of the track was identified as **F.731** and **F.796**. This was recorded but not specifically identified in the slots to the south where it terminated in parallel with **F.716**. None of these features had pottery associated with them so their original date seems uncertain, however their alignment is clearly that of the Romano-British system and are considered an early feature of that landscape.

The western trackway ditch was re-cut and extended south by **F.720**. This was identified in all slots excavated and produced an assemblage of pottery that was largely 2nd to 3rd century in date but which also contained pot sherds of 1st to 2nd century date, possibly derived from the earlier ditch (see Anderson, p.26 this report).

Enclosure B and Building I

Enclosure B was defined to the east by ditch **F.720**, to the south by ditch **F.723** and to the west by ditch **F.708**. All three were later re-cuts of the enclosure which had almost entirely removed the earlier enclosure ditches identified to the east as **F.731** and to the west as **F.708**; the southern ditch had been completely removed by **F.723** with the exception of approximately 2.50m at the eastern extremity where it was cut by **F.720**. None of these ditches or the re-cuts contained pottery with the exception of **F.720** which, as noted above, contained an assemblage of mixed date which placed it within Phase 3 and into Phase 4. The stratigraphic sequence therefore suggests that this enclosure is part of the early re-organisation of the Romano-British landscape. It should be noted that the relatively slight nature of ditches **F.708**, and **F.723** are suggestive of internal divisions within a larger boundary system. The reason for this



Figure 5. Phase 3 features - late 1st to mid 2nd centuries



Figure 6. Phase 3; enclosures

interpretation is almost certainly that they defined the location of Building I, which lies within Enclosure B (Figure 7).

Building I consisted of a spatially cohesive group of five beam slots and fourteen postholes located to the north of the site and apparently extending beneath the northern limits of excavation. Dating is again scanty for this building; the earliest pottery was found in **F.710**, a rectangular posthole that was seen to abut beam slot **F.711** and which may represent an extension or repair to this structure. The pot sherds could be accurately dated to the mid - late 1st century AD, suggesting that the actual beam slot was of similar or else earlier foundation. **F.711** was one of three beam slots that appeared to form the sides of a room, the others being **F.712** and **F.713**, which also produced one mid to late 1st century AD pot sherd. **F.712** was almost twice as wide (0.50m) as the other two which, given its location, indicates it probably formed the back wall of the structure. This feature projected northwards beneath the limit of excavation, suggesting that the building continued in this direction.

At a ninety degree angle to **F.712** were two further beam slots, **F.745** and **F.744**, which were aligned southeast to northwest and projected towards the track. They were slightly shifted to the north of **F.713**, the intervening gap being occupied by posthole **F.745**. The beam slots were again substantial, averaging approximately 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep, which suggested that they formed the southern end of Building I. The traces of a possible beam setting were seen in **F.745**, which had a layer of pure blue/grey clay placed in the base of the slot. This wasn't identified within the other slots but was seen in some of the postholes associated with this building and also Building II to the south.

The terminal date of Building I was established by the discovery of a dump of pot sherds and animal bone at the western end of beam slot **F.744**. This assemblage (50 sherds) was essentially domestic in nature and included three pieces of 2nd century Samian and a sherd of greyware mortaria. This suggested that the building had been abandoned and the beams rotted or removed by the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD in Phase 4. The slots were separated by a gap of 2.40m which was partly filled by a substantial post-pit, **F.757**, which measured 1.21m wide by 0.60m deep and had a probable post-pipe, from which three sherds of pottery were recovered dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Projecting towards, and extending beneath, the northern limit of excavation was a wide and shallow feature, **F.756**, that could have represented a large central foundation running up the middle of the building. However, this had been largely truncated by ploughing and the identification was by no means certain. It also produced one pot sherd dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Between ditch **F.723** and the part of Building I constructed with beam slots were a group of ten postholes that appeared to form either a separate wing or an ancillary structure. This was based around four principal postholes, **F.726**, **F.727**, **F.760** and **F.784**, set in a rectangular shape. The southern pair, **F.726** and **F.727**, both had blue clay padding/packing and **F.726** also contained a broken quern re-used as a post pad which produced one undiagnostic sherd of early Romano-British pottery. With the exception of **F.784** which had been largely truncated by ploughing, the other postholes were on average 0.70m in diameter and between 0.30 - 0.50m deep.

To either side of this rectangular setting were further pairs of smaller postholes. To the east were **F.786** and **F.783** and to the west **F.728** and **F.758**. Neither of the pairs of postholes were dated and all were shallow and truncated. One additional posthole,

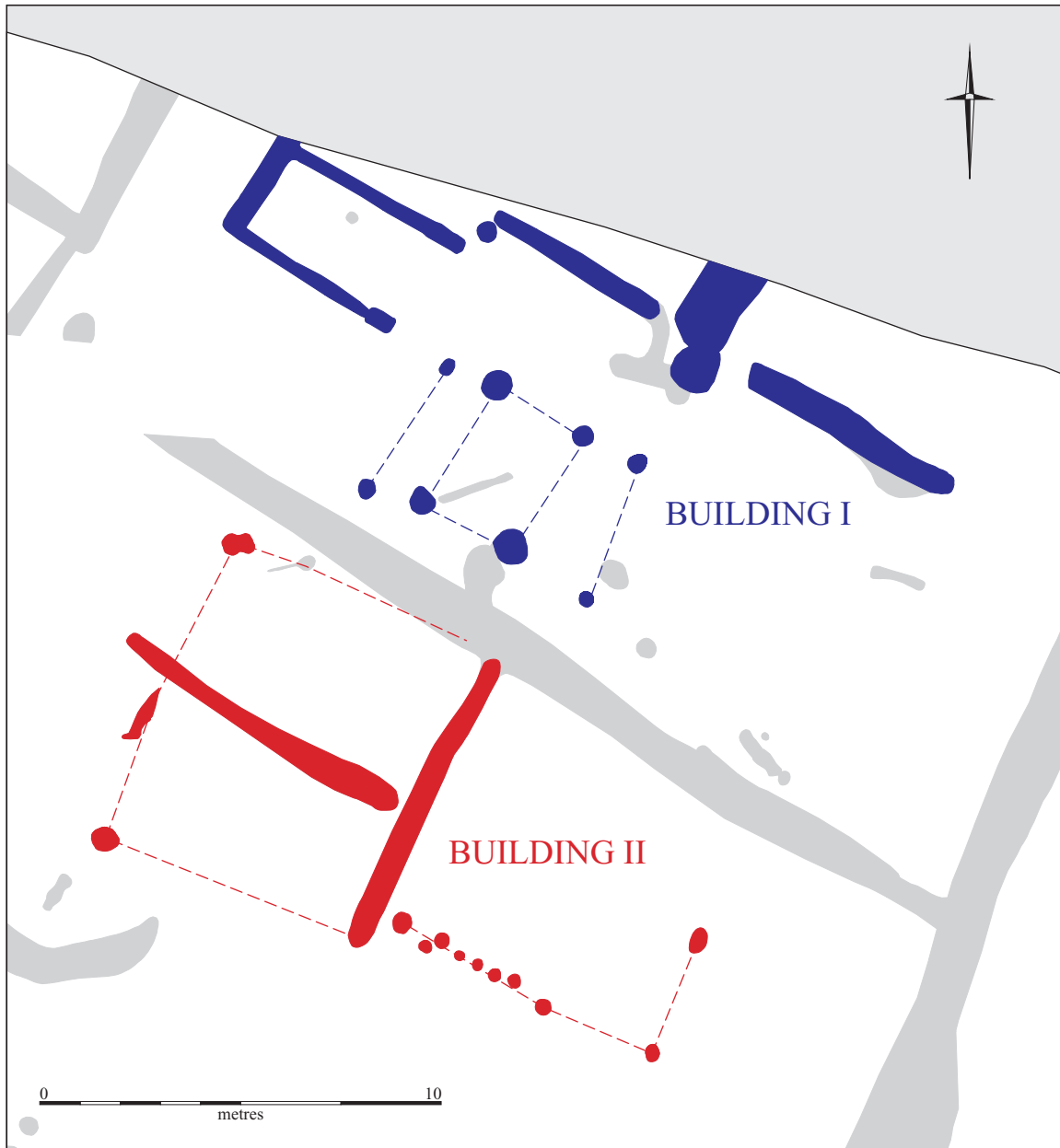


Figure 7. Phase 3; buildings 1 and 2

F.782, was located on the same alignment as the southern postholes and was the furthest east of the post-built structure. It seems quite possible therefore that this part of the building did continue further east but that its pair had been removed through ploughing.

Both parts of Building I seem to follow the same chronology, having been constructed in the 1st century AD and dismantled or fallen into ruin by the late 2nd century AD. That they were part of the same building seems certain due to the close spatial arrangements of the separate elements and the use of blue clay as a padding or water-proofing agent.

Linear burnt features.

Three linear features; **F.736**, **F.737** and **F.738** had evidence of *in situ* burning and were identified within Enclosure B to the east of Building I. All three were narrow, aligned southeast to northwest, and had signs of a heat reddened interface between the cut edges and the underlying natural. The cuts were filled with a charcoal-rich primary fill and backfilled secondary deposits. Samples were taken for flotation at set intervals across the three features. Analysis of these indicated that the primary fills were heavily impregnated with residual waste from crop processing activities (de Vareilles, p.40 this report). Pot sherds recovered from **F.736** were of the mid-late 1st century AD, however the stratigraphic relationship of this feature cutting **F.723** makes it more likely that the sherds are residual. Neither of the other two linear burnt features produced finds.

Enclosure C and Building II

The enclosure was located directly to the south of Enclosure B and was defined by ditch **F.720** to the east, ditch **F.723** to the north and gully/slot **F.753** to the west, the enclosure continued beneath the southern limit of excavation and bounded Building II to the north.

Building II measured approximately 8m by 8m in plan and respected the regular northeast to southwest alignment of the enclosures. The two principal beam slots, **F.724** and **F.754** were approximately 8.00m long and were arranged with **F.754** set at a 90° angle to **F.724**, which formed a T-shape in plan. The structure was squared-off with postholes **F.729** and **F.792** representing the remaining two corners. In common with Building I, an additional structure of earth-fast posts was projected from the beam slot construction. This consisted of thirteen postholes which formed an L-shape in plan and extended the building approximately 8m to the east. The majority of postholes, which included **F.773** – **F.780** and **F.791** (also three postholes excavated during the evaluation in 2006) formed the southern side, whilst a single larger posthole, **F.787**, represented the eastern side. This ended roughly in line with beam slot **F.754**.

Within the structure was located feature **F.755**, possibly a truncated flue or hearth which had an elongated shape and charcoal-rich fill. The feature had been badly affected by ploughing and much of the fill was dragged into the surrounding natural. Due to this potential contamination no environmental samples were taken.

The dating of Building II was again problematical as the only evidence available was from deposits accumulated after abandonment. However, the post-built extension to the main structure produced three more instances of blue or bluish grey clay and stone used as post packing material. This suggested a similar foundation date for both buildings and construction using the same techniques and materials.

Cremation burial F.707

F.707 was the earliest dated feature located within Enclosure C. The bone from this indicated that the cremation was of an individual who had reached adulthood but not old age (see Dodwell, p.34 this report). The remains had been placed within a large shell-tempered jar associated with a black slipped pedestal beaker. Unfortunately, a deep plough scar had severely disturbed the centre of the cremation burial so the relative positions of the vessels to each other was lost. The resultant damage also made it hard to state categorically that all the cremated bone had been interred within the jar.

Enclosure D

Located towards the western part of the site, Enclosure D was roughly rectangular in plan and measured 24m long by 18m wide. Features **F.799**, **F.798**, **F.753**, **F.765**, **F.766**, **F.767** and **F.751** formed the eastern side and internal divisions of the enclosure. These features all appeared to have been created as either beam slots or post-trenches. The predominant profile was of a flat or nearly flat base and steep straight sides, but in places the profile was of deep convex sides leading to narrow slots. A section through **F.751** appeared to indicate that a beam had been extracted and a charcoal-rich deposit had accumulated in its place. The narrow post-trenches were seen to the south and north of the enclosure in features **F.767** and **F.766** and a posthole, **F.772**, was recorded at the corner of **F.767** (Figure 8). The regularity and spatial arrangement of these features suggested a space enclosed by fences, hurdles or palisades. Only two slots produced finds and these were of animal bone; no datable evidence was collected.

The western side of the enclosure was bounded by **F.801** and the northern side by **F.802**. Both these features appeared to be ditches rather than beam slots and remained undated. No finds were recovered from the ditches and they were filled with a sterile dark grey silt suggesting a natural accumulation of material over time. The interface of the corners between Enclosures B and D displayed a peculiar arrangement of ditch, pit and beam slot profiles. In the southwest corner of Enclosure B, the primary ditch **F.708** was truncated by **F.709**, a far more substantial ditch. **F.709** was later cut through by beam slot **F.742** and finally by pit **F.743** which was cut into the southern end of **F.709**. There were very few finds from any of the linear features, only three small sherds of undiagnostic coarse sandy greyware; however, pit **F.743** produced 50 bones and bone fragments from foxes (see Rajkovača, p.35 this report).

Wells and Pit Group

It seems that one possible reason for the establishment of Enclosure D was the continued use of this area for water acquisition into the Romano-British period, the

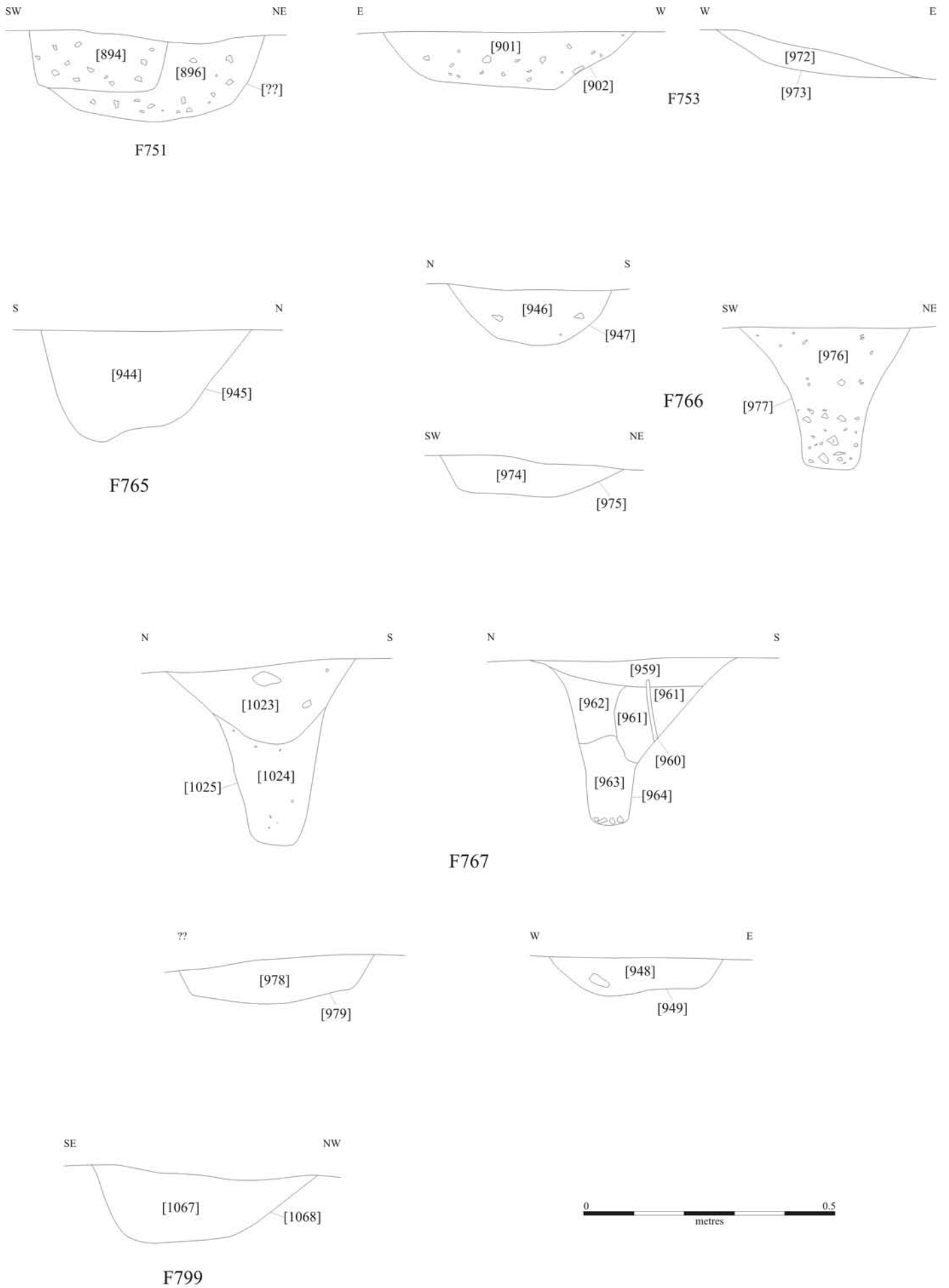


Figure 8. Phase 3; sections of Enclosure D

wells being neatly enclosed within the northwest corner. This was marked by the backfilling of the depression left by previous activity with two layers of clean natural quarried from elsewhere. Layers [1152] and [1153]/[1154] were both *c.*0.38m thick at their deepest points and covered an area of at least 8m by 10m.

Enclosure ditch **F.801** was cut into the top of these layers and a new well, **F.807**, was excavated through them to a depth of 1.85m. The lower shaft of this feature appeared to have been revetted with wooden stakes, perhaps with a wattle infill of which only reddish brown organic stains were left. This was seen in section through the identification of a stakehole, **F.813**, at the eastern side of the cut and the remnants of a rotten stake to the west. This lining preserved the vertical sides of the well shaft and left a sharply defined interface clearly seen in section (Figure 8). There were no finds recovered from this feature. It should be noted that the internal divisions of Enclosure D seem to have been designed to separate the well from the rest of the area.

F.807 seems to have fallen into a state of disrepair, perhaps through a gradual accumulation of soil material in the base through erosion of the upper sides and wind blown particles. This was suggested by the frequent interleaved silt and sand lenses of fills, [1109]–[1111], which suggested an accumulation beneath water and the differential settling out of lighter and heavier material. Once the well-shaft was choked beyond use the feature was re-cut by a second well, **F.732**.

Well **F.732** is one of the more significant features on site because once redundant it was backfilled with a mixture of redeposited sand, gravel and domestic refuse thus providing good dating evidence. Again, the well shaft profile suggested some form of lining, no sign of which remained, and the lower fills showed evidence of accumulated deposition under water (see de Vareilles, p.40 this report). The first deposit to be intentionally thrown into the well was a nearly complete large sandy greyware jar broken *in situ* into 68 sherds (1428g) and dated to the mid-late 1st century AD (see Anderson, below). Within the remnants of this jar 34 fish bones were recovered, probably from the carp family (see Rajkovača, p.35 this report). Fish-scales were also noted in the flotation residue from the primary fill, suggesting that some of the lighter contents of the jar had floated out and settled into the deposits below. This was followed shortly after by fill [1103], which appeared to have sunk into the top of fill [1104], the soft underlying material. Above this were two fills of redeposited natural followed by fill [880], also redeposited natural, but which also produced a second near complete vessel of 11 sherds (837g) from a black-slipped ovoid, narrow-mouth beaker dated to the mid 1st-2nd century AD. Other potsherds of the same date were recovered from a sandy greyware jar. Above this, fill [879] contained nine sherds from a whiteware ring neck flagon, dating to the mid 1st-2nd century AD. The penultimate fill, [878], produced 15 sherds, including one Nene Valley whiteware mortaria sherd and two Horningsea greyware vessels, both dated to the 2nd-4th century AD. The sequence was completed by a capping of post-Roman inundation material.

Feature **F.732**, therefore provided a terminal date of probably the early to mid 2nd century AD for this sequence of activity. It also seems likely that wells **F.732** and **F.807** were replaced by a shallower but larger ‘well’, or perhaps more accurately a tank or sump represented by **F.739** which was located some five metres to the southeast. It appears probable that **F.739** was constructed on the cusp of Phases 3 and 4, but was primarily used during Phase 4 and will therefore be discussed below.

Three metres to the east of **F.732** was a pair of pits of uncertain date and function; **F.770** was sub-rectangular, extensive but shallow (0.29m), whilst **F.771** was circular, smaller but deeper (0.52m), and produced one worked flint.

Phase Four: Mid to late 2nd to 4th Century Romano-British (Figures 9 to 12)

This phase saw the abandonment of the buildings and a re-cutting of the enclosure boundary ditches (Figure 9). The field system may have been extended to the west and two inhumation burials were placed in the south west corner of Enclosure A.

Enclosure A and Trackway

A major episode of re-cutting was seen across the top of ditch **F.720** which formed the western side of the trackway. This involved cutting ditches **F.719** to the north and **F.748** to the south with two terminal ends leaving a clear point of access into Enclosure C approximately 7m from the southern edge of excavation. Both terminals had accumulated significant quantities of finds. **F.719** produced an assemblage of 70 potsherds (1043g) which included Nene Valley colour-coated wares, this pushing the date of the assemblage into the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Occasional earlier sherds suggest a degree of residuality of the material. Other finds included 15 pieces of animal bone and a twisted wire copper alloy bracelet. **F.748** contained a similar pottery assemblage (from two slots) of 81 sherds (1311g) which were dated more generally to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Again, a number of earlier pot sherds were identified that suggested the inclusion of residual material.

Perhaps significantly, no major re-cutting episodes were identified for the ditches of Enclosure A with exception of **F.804**, a segment of ditch cut into the eastern side of **F.702**. The feature was slightly off alignment and was better orientated with burials **F.700** and **F.715**, suggesting it was a marker for those rather than a re-cut of the earlier ditches. A posthole, **F.805**, seen cut into the northern terminal of **F.804** might further support this interpretation.

Inhumation Burials – F.700 and F.715

The burials were located in the southwest corner of Enclosure A and were aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. **F.700** was approximately 2.50m north of **F.715**. Both had originally been interred only slightly beneath the level of the subsoil and had therefore suffered considerably from truncation and compression. This degradation was made worse by the acidic nature of the natural sand and gravel into which they had been placed. As a consequence the condition of the bone was very poor and less than half the projected original length of each burial survived.

Burial **F.700** was supine, orientated with the feet to the north, and had been decapitated, the skull and three vertebra having been placed between the lower legs (Figure 10). None of the upper part of the body survived truncation with the exception of a rib fragment. Examination of the teeth suggested an age of between 35 to 45 years old but nothing survived that could be used to diagnose the sex of the individual (see Dodwell, p.34 this report). A possible cut mark was also identified on the skull. Nine very fragmentary pot sherds from three vessels were found in the vicinity of the feet



Figure 9. Phase 4 features - 2nd to 4th centuries



Figure 10. Phase 4; inhumation F.700

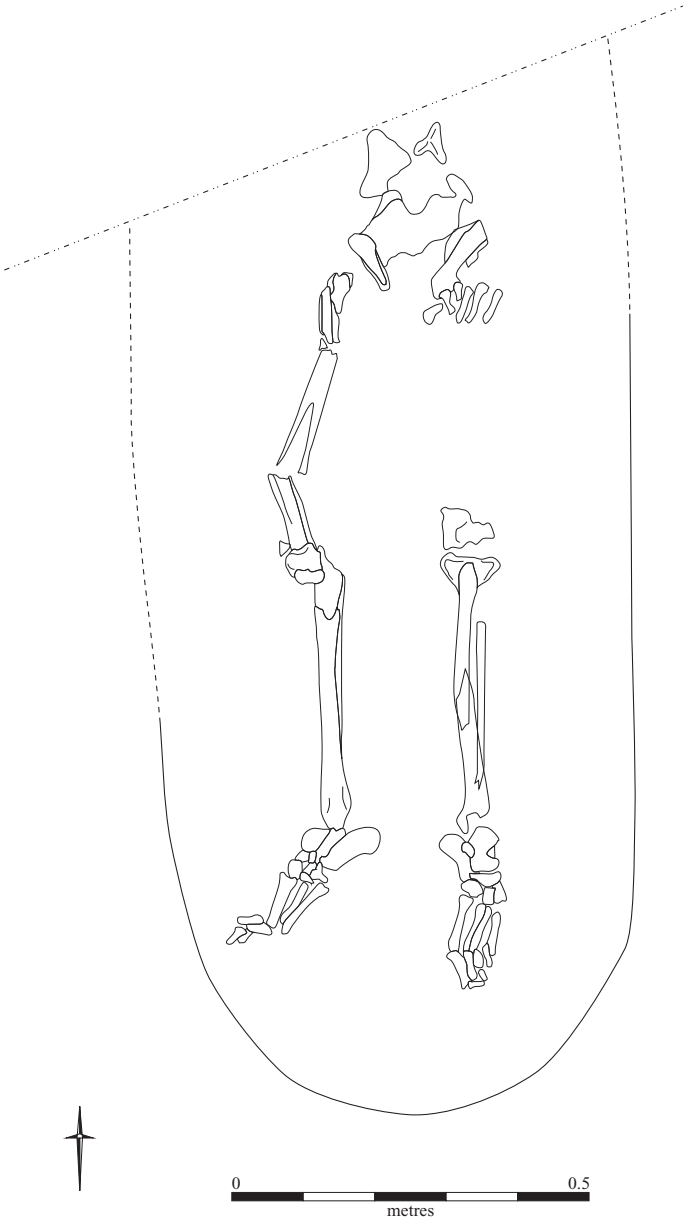


Figure 11. Phase 4; inhumation F.715

and these may have represented grave goods; the sherds were dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

Burial **F.715** was also supine, the body orientated with the head to the north (Figure 11). All that survived of this burial was the lower left leg, the right leg, fragments of pelvis and the fingers of the left hand. The skeleton was that of an adult, but such poor preservation precluded other information from being gathered through analysis. No grave goods were identified and the burial was undated, although it did truncate ditch **F.701**.

Enclosures B, C and D

It is noticeable that neither the division between Enclosures B and C nor the internal division within Enclosure D appeared to have been re-cut. However, the western ditches of Enclosure D were re-cut with **F.797** which in turn re-cuts **F.749/F.750**. A modest amount of later Romano-British pot sherds were recovered from these features; however, it was enough to place these re-cutting episodes within the Phase 4 timescale. Despite this paucity of material culture, a large quantity of burnt and charred material had been dumped within **F.797**, suggesting that domestic activity was still occurring nearby (see de Vareilles, p.40 this report).

Within Enclosure C, south of Building II, was a group of six pits and postholes, **F.706**, **F.789**, **F.790** and **F.793-F.795**. These produced a few sherds of later Romano-British pottery but otherwise provided only unremarkable evidence of unspecified activity continuing in this area. Within Enclosure D the well/tank **F.739** was probably in use.

Feature F.739

Feature **F.739** was roughly rectangular and measured 5.00m long by 3.27m wide by 1.16m deep. Construction seems to have involved the insertion of a planked lining with backfilled deposits surrounding it. The section (Figure 12) indicates one near vertical interface present within the fills towards the eastern side of the feature and a waterlogged plank ([830]) which was found near the base in between fills [834] and [822]. This was in poor condition due to the drying-out of the deposits as a result of a falling water table. It remains possible that a better preserved part near the centre of this might be effectively dated through dendrochronology and so a section of this was taken as a sample. The wood was 930mm long by 240mm wide and between 15-25mm thick and was probably of oak (Randall, *pers. comm.*). This showed no signs of conversion although the end was squared and the plank seemed well formed.

The finds within the construction deposits contained 15 sherds of the 1st to 2nd and 1st to 3rd centuries AD and three sherds dated to the Late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. Nine pieces of tile and a quernstone fragment were also retrieved. This variation of materials and dates suggested that the deposits were from mixed sources. Pottery dating places the construction phase of the feature at approximately the right time for it to be a replacement for the earlier wells.

The primary deposit in the backfilling sequence was [822], which showed signs of having been deposited into water. Seven pot sherds were recovered along with 225

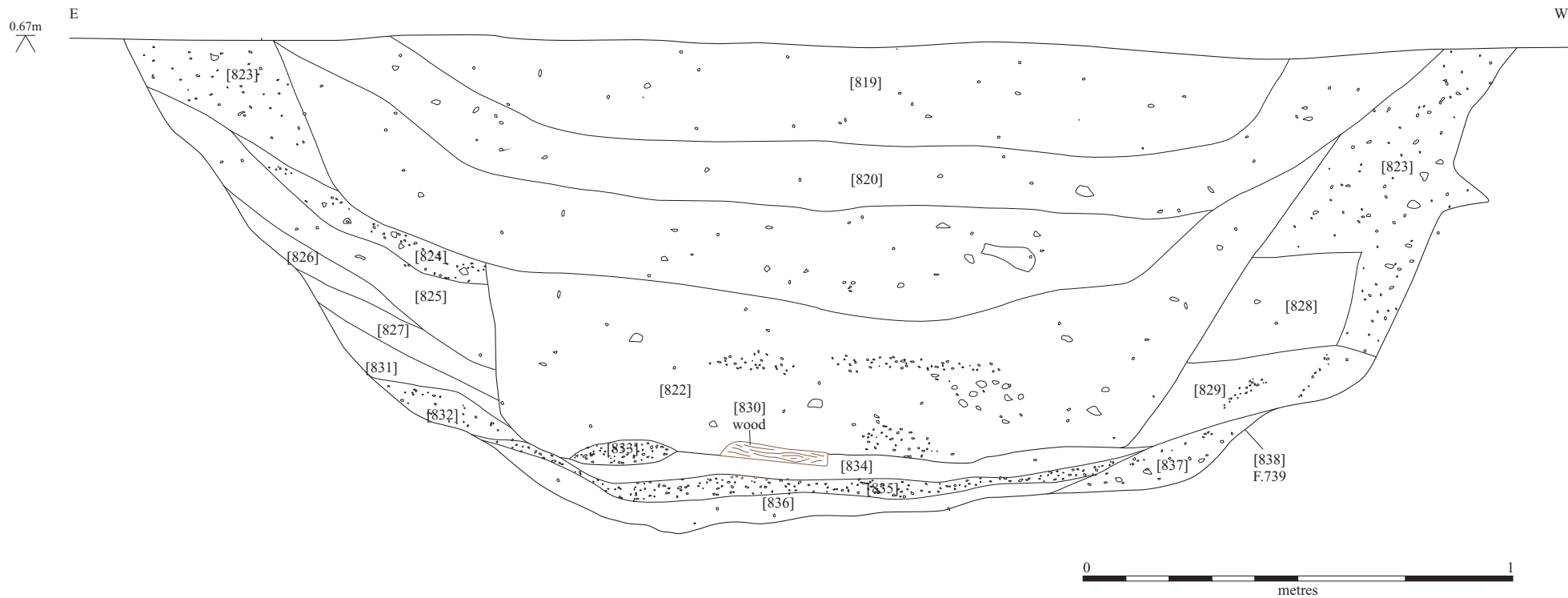


Figure 12. Phase 4; section of F.739

pieces (4581g) of animal bone, which included a large proportion of fox (see Rajkovača, p.35 this report). The secondary backfill [821] also contained 39 pieces animal bone (3377g), four pot sherds and 11 pieces of tile. The latest fill was sterile of finds and was capped by a post-Roman inundation deposit.

Enclosure E

This enclosure lay to the west of Enclosure D and was formed by ditch **F.800/F.797** to the east, ditch **F.764** to the west and ditch **F.722** to the south. Although **F.764** was orientated further east of the alignment set by **F.800/F.797**, the spatial similarities were clear. Both ditches terminated in an arc that suggested adherence to a more extensive alignment not seen in the excavation area. Ditch **F.722**, although heavily truncated by animal activity and ploughing, clearly suggests a return of the enclosure towards the terminal end of **F.800/F.797**. Additionally, it appeared clear that the probable northern extent of the enclosure was provided by ditch **F.802/F.750**. As related to Enclosure E, the small part of this feature that was exposed in the excavation area showed a clear alteration in alignment which, if projected, would have formed a square return to the ditch **F.764**.

Ditch **F.764** was fairly substantial, measuring 1.20m wide by 0.52m deep and produced six pot sherds of the 2nd to 4th centuries AD from its upper fill. The dating of this enclosure was probably contemporary with the other enclosures, but as no full length re-cuts were identified and the pottery was definitively later than those representing Phase 3, it has been placed into this phase. A small segment of ditch, **F.781**, was re-cut on the eastern side mid-way along its length.

Undated

Ditches **F.761** and **F.762** were revealed at the far western extremity of the excavation area. They formed the right angled corner of a part of a rectilinear field system and were heavily truncated. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered and so the period and field system to which they belonged remain obscure.

To the west, beyond Enclosure E, were a small group of features, possible pits and postholes; **F.733**, **F.734**, **F.735**, **F.761**, **F.740** and **F.741**. None of these contained dateable evidence and given their proximity to a considerable amount of disturbance through badger related activity these features should perhaps be viewed with caution.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

Lithics (*Emma Beadsmore*)

A total of 32 (275g) flints were recovered from the site; 21 (102g) flints were worked, three (30g) were worked and burnt, whilst eight (143g) were just burnt. The material is listed by feature and type in Table 1, below.

Feature	Type														Totals	
	chip/chunk	secondary flake	tertiary flake	tertiary blade	irregular core	single platform core	core fragment	leaf shaped arrowhead	miscellaneous retouched flake	edge used flake	edge used blade	end scraper	sub-circular scraper	thumbnail scraper		unworked burnt chips/chunk
702		1							1							2
709															1	1
719			1						1			1				3
720	1	1	1		1	1									3	8
732		2													2	4
735											1					1
739				1									1			2
741									1							1
744			1													1
750			1													1
759		1														1
771			1													1
797															2	2
810		1														1
stray finds							1	1						1		3
Sub totals	1	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8	32

Table 1: Flint types and quantities

All of the flint was residual on the site, either in the plough soil or in later features. Evidence for earlier Neolithic activity is provided by a leaf shaped arrowhead, an edge used blade, a blade fragment and a flake. Three additional flakes, one of which was utilised, potentially date broadly to the Neolithic.

An assemblage of material also provides evidence for Beaker/Early Bronze Age activity at the site; comprising flint working and tool use. Three Beaker/Early Bronze Age scrapers and a retouched flake provide evidence of tool use. The scrapers comprise a thumbnail, a sub-circular and an invasively retouched end scraper. Whilst evidence for Beaker/Early Bronze Age flint working was provided by two cores, one irregular and one single platform, both were thoroughly and extensively worked down with hard hammers. A few additional, potentially Bronze Age flakes were also

recovered. The remaining flint comprises chronologically non-diagnostic flint working waste and unworked burnt chunks.

Although the flint is not contemporary with the features exposed at the site, it provides evidence for earlier background activity at the site, dating from the earlier Neolithic to the Beaker/Early Bronze Age.

Roman Pottery (*Katie Anderson*)

The site yielded a total of 711 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 10605g and representing 16.40 EVEs. All of the material was analysed and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear, EVE and date, where possible were recorded.

Assemblage Composition

The assemblage comprised sherds of varying size and condition, from large unabraded sherds and refits, to small abraded, fragmented sherds. The mean weight of the assemblage as a whole was moderately high at 14.9g.

Feature	No.	Wt(g)	EVE		Feature	No.	Wt(g)	EVE
F.700	9	20	0		F.756	1	9	0
F.702	50	462	0.34		F.757	33	6	0
F.705	1	26	0		F.758	7	95	0
F.707	54	274	1		F.759	19	167	0
F.708	1	5	0		F.764	6	138	1.4
F.710	9	34	0.08		F.778	1	7	0
F.713	2	1	0		F.789	1	50	0.2
F.719	144	1601	4.61		F.793	1	5	0
F.720	42	242	0.12		F.794	1	18	0.12
F.724	9	392	0.22		F.796	1	8	0
F.726	1	4	0		F.797	7	67	1
F.729	9	343	0.5		F.804	11	193	0.47
F.732	119	3209	1.72		F.742	2	9	0
F.736	3	15	0		F.744	50	462	0.34
F.739	29	636	2.04		F.748	81	1311	1.75
F.742	2	9	0		F.750	1	5	0
F.744	50	462	0.34		F.751	25	156	0
F.748	81	1311	1.75		F.756	1	9	0
F.750	1	5	0		F.757	33	6	0
F.751	25	156	0					

Table 2: Pottery by Feature

A moderately wide range of vessel fabrics were present in the assemblage, although coarseware fabrics dominated the assemblage. In particular, generic sandy greywares were abundant, totalling 228 sherds weighing 2410g. Although within this a variety of fabrics were present, the fabric compositions suggest that the majority were locally produced. Shell-tempered wares were well represented within the assemblage, with 135 sherds weighing 924g. These wares were commonly produced on sites in Cambridgeshire and around Peterborough at many sites, particularly between the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Fabric	No.	Wt(g)
?Brampton WW	4	146
?Verulamium WW	9	482
Black-slipped	82	1345
Buff sandy	3	18
CG Sam	14	244
CS GW	228	2410
Grog temp	1	10
Horn GW	127	3008
London ware(NV?)	2	30
Mancetter Hartshill	2	314
Nene Valley GW	21	517
Nene Valley whiteware	6	398
NVCC	29	371
Oxidised sandy	26	257
Sandy	4	16
SG Sam	1	1
Shell temp	135	924
Wattisfield GW	2	16
Whiteware	15	98
TOTAL	711	10605

Table 3: All pottery by fabric

Horningsea wares totalled 127 sherds, weighing 3008g. This relatively large quantity is not necessarily surprising considering the sites relative proximity to the Horningsea kilns, although a large number of sherds from a single jar has skewed the figures. Nene Valley products were also present, including colour-coats, whitewares and greywares, although the colour-coated sherds were the most frequent and were also the most commonly occurring finewares in the assemblage. The overall quantity of Nene Valley wares is noticeably low (7.8%), considering that Nene Valley products were very common in this area (such as Earith Camp Ground; Anderson forthcoming). It may therefore be a reflection on the date of the site, although the site's apparent peak in the mid/late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century AD is a period which saw rapid growth of the Nene Valley industry and its wares distributed widely. Another possible explanation is that the trade networks serving the site were more locally based, or that this type of site did not require such a large quantity of finewares. It is also possible that the small quantity of Nene Valley products recovered is merely a result of the type of sampling strategy followed.

Only small quantities of pottery from other Romano-British production centres were represented in this assemblage. These comprised single examples of a Wattisfield reduced ware, and single examples of Mancetter Hartshill, Brampton and Verulamium mortaria.

Imported wares were poorly represented, comprising 15 sherds in total, 14 of which were Central Gaulish wares, along with a single sherd of South Gaulish Samian. This is a low number of sherds when one considers that this site was occupied for a relatively long period, and specifically during the period when quantities of Samian were at a peak (2nd century AD). The relative lack of material therefore may be a reflection on the trade networks (implying the site did not have good access to these). However, analysis of sites within the immediate vicinity including Langdale Hale and

Earith Camp Ground (Anderson forthcoming) shows that imported wares were then readily available in this area. These low quantities therefore may be a reflection of the wealth/nature and/or status of the site, or simply a reflection of the sampling strategy.

The vessel forms recorded are typical of a rural Roman settlement. Whilst containing a variety of different vessel forms, this assemblage was dominated by jars which represented *c.* 75% of the sherds recovered representing 7.09 EVEs. Of these there were a range of different sizes present, from small, narrow mouth jars to large storage-type jars. This included two vessels which when refitted were half complete.

Form	No.	Wt(g)	EVE
Beaker	31	1026	2.6
Bowl	15	315	0.74
Cup	4	92	0.47
Dish	21	525	0.89
Flagon	13	566	2
Jar	275	4621	7.69
Mortaria	8	722	0.51
TOTAL	367	7867	14.9

Table 4: All diagnostic sherds by form

Beakers were moderately well represented with 31 sherds weighing 1026g and representing 2.6 EVEs, although this only represented seven different vessels. This included 11 sherds (837g) from a black-slipped, ovoid, narrow mouth beaker which was over half complete and came from a small well. This dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century AD. There were also 14 sherds (47g) from a pedestal base of a beaker in a black-slipped fabric dating to the mid 1st to 2nd century AD. Other sherds from beakers included two Nene Valley colour-coated indented beakers (mid 2nd to 3rd centuries AD) and one greyware indented beaker, an unusual fabric for this vessel form.

The number of sherds from bowls, although less than the total of beaker sherds, represented yet more individual vessels. Most of the bowls dated to the 2nd to 3rd century AD and included several different sandy greyware beaded bowls and one Nene Valley colour-coated Caster box. One of the more unusual vessels was a small bowl with a 'pinched' rim from feature F.739 which was Late Iron Age to Early Roman in date.

The range of dishes present was fairly limited, with four examples of Central Gaulish Dr18/31 types, one Dr31 type and two sandy greyware straight-sided dishes. These vessels broadly date to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. Cups accounted for just four sherds, representing three vessels, all of which were Central Gaulish Dr33 types dating to the 2nd century AD.

Four flagons were identified, comprising two Nene Valley whitewares, dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, one possible Verulamium whiteware dating to the late 1st to 2nd century AD and one unsourced whiteware dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD.

Eight sherds from mortaria, representing seven different vessels were collected. This included three vessels from the Nene Valley kilns, and one from Mancetter Hartshill, with a complete stamp reading 'VIIDIAC'. All of the mortaria date 2nd-3rd century AD.

Feature Analysis

The pottery was recovered from a range of different features, in varying quantities. For the purposes of this report, a number of Features have been selected for more detailed analysis.

Feature F.719

This feature, a re-cut of an earlier ditch (F.720), contained the largest quantity of pottery, with a total of 144 sherds, weighing 1601g and representing 4.61 EVEs. The material included several sandy greyware jars, a Nene Valley colour-coated Castor box, as well as an indented beaker. Two whiteware flagons were recovered along with a half complete (when refitted; 53 sherds 335g) shell-tempered jar with a post-firing hole in the centre of the base, which in parts appears to be spalled. The hole in the base is likely to have been related to a secondary function of the vessel.

All of the pottery from this feature dated broadly to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. However, a more specific date of the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD is likely due to the lack of any definitive 'late' Roman vessels. There was no apparent earlier Roman pottery, despite the fact that this was a re-cut of an earlier ditch.

Feature F.748

This feature was also the re-cut of the earlier ditch F.720, with a butt end that left a small gap between this feature and F.719. It contained a total of 81 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 1311g and representing 1.75 EVEs, from a single context.

The pottery included four Central Gaulish Samian sherds, one of which had part of the stamp remaining reading 'IVS??NA?' as well as a small 'X' marked on the underside of the base, which was relatively common on Samian vessels and is thought to be related to ownership or stock control. There were also several sandy greyware beaded bowls dating to the 2nd-3rd century AD, as well as a sherd from a Nene Valley colour-coated indented beaker (but not the same vessel as from F.719). Two refitted sherds came from a 'London ware' type bowl, which is likely to have come from the Nene Valley area. These sherds were from an imitation Samian Dr37 bowl with arc decoration. Parallels for this form and type of decoration come from the Nene Valley and suggest a mid to late 2nd century AD date (Perrin 1999).

Both Features F.719 and F.748 contained pottery of a similar date which therefore supports a view that they were dug around the same time as one another.

Feature F.720

Feature F.720 was a ditch re-cutting an earlier ditch and which itself was re-cut by F.719. This contained 42 sherds weighing 242g and representing 0.12 EVEs. Most of the sherds date to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and these include one Central Gaulish Dr33, a Nene Valley colour-coated sherd and a Wattisfield greyware sherd. There were however a small number of earlier sherds comprising three early black-slipped vessels dating to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD. The mixed date of the pottery from this feature can be explained by its re-cutting.

Feature F.710

Feature F.710, a large posthole, contained nine sherds of pottery, weighing 34g. All of the material from this feature is earlier Roman in date, dating to the mid 1st-2nd century AD. This included one small South Gaulish Samian sherd, one whiteware reeded bowl and one sandy greyware jar with a small cordon. This feature is one of the few to contain exclusively early Roman pottery, and therefore suggests an earlier Roman date for the structure.

Feature F.732

Feature F.732 was a well containing 119 sherds, weighing 3209g and representing 1.72 EVEs. The material was recovered from four different fills which gives a useful chronological and stratigraphic sequence. The lowest fill with pottery was [1103] which contained 68 sherds weighing 1428g from a single vessel. This was a half complete, large sandy greyware wide mouth jar dating to the mid-late 1st century AD. Above this another near complete vessel was recovered from context [880]; comprising 11 sherds (837g) from a black-slipped, ovoid, narrow-mouth beaker. This vessel dates to the mid 1st to 2nd century AD. Within this context there were also 14 sherds (285g) from a sandy greyware jar and one small grog-tempered sherd. The context above this [879] contained 9 sherds weighing 482g coming from a whiteware (possibly Verulamium) cupped ring neck flagon dating to the mid 1st-2nd century AD. Finally the upper fill contained 15 sherds weighing 145g. This included one Nene Valley whiteware mortaria sherd and two Horningsea greyware vessels broadly dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

The pottery from this feature suggests it was initially dug in the early post-Conquest period, yet it appears to have been filled over a relatively long time. The presence of some near complete vessels within two of these fills ([880] and [1103]) is interesting, implying that these vessels may have been deposited whole, something which is not uncommon in large Roman pits and wells. Other examples of this are known at Langtoft (Anderson 2008) and at Tower Works, Peterborough (Anderson 2005). Although this is not necessarily evidence of ritual behaviour it does indicate a different pattern of deposition.

Feature F.736

Three sherds (15g) were recovered from this feature, all of which were Late Iron Age/Early Roman in date. This comprised one small sandy greyware sherd dating to the mid-late 1st century AD and two sandy sherds dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Although these sherds were small and abraded the lack of any other sherds from this feature suggests that they may be contemporary rather than residual.

Feature F.707

Feature F.707 was a cremation burial containing sherds from two different vessels. However, it was unclear as to whether these were from vessels used to hold the cremated bones or whether they represented grave goods. The first vessel consisted of 40 sherds (227g) from a medium sized shell-tempered jar, the second, 14 sherds (47g) from a black-slipped beaker with a pedestal base. Both of these vessels date to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD and consist only of the bases, the tops having been damaged and probably lost through ploughing.

Feature F.702

The large enclosure ditch F.702 contained a total of 50 sherds weighing 462g and representing 0.34 EVEs. The material was collected from a number of different slots across the feature and comprised pottery of different dates. For example, context [705] contained several earlier Roman sherds, including a sandy greyware bowl with a small beaded rim dated to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD. There was also a small sandy Iron Age sherd recovered from this context. Other slots across the feature produced later sherds, for example pottery from [749] included a Horningsea greyware sherd (2nd-4th century AD) and the base of a Nene Valley greyware dish (mid 2nd-4th century AD). Context [1089] contained a single sherd from a Nene Valley colour-coated indented beaker. Examination of the material from the different slots shows that all of the early material had come from slots where ditch F.702 cut earlier features. Therefore it seems likely that the earlier Roman sherds were associated with the earlier underlying features and had been incorporated into F.702 through re-cutting.

Discussion

The assemblage from Knobb's Farm is in many ways typical of a small, rural domestic site. The majority of vessels were produced locally and coarsewares dominate. There was usewear evidence on many of the sherds, in particular sooting associated with being placed over a fire and interior limescale typical of a vessel holding water.

The small quantity of Samian sherds present in the assemblage comprised the relatively common dish and cup repertoire. However, the overall quantity of Samian was surprisingly low given the date of occupation of the site and its proximity to some of the larger sites which had Samian in abundance (especially Earith Camp Ground). Perhaps this lack of material is a reflection of the status and relative wealth of the site compared to the larger settlements.

The activity can be separated into two main phases; mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD, and 2nd to 3rd or 4th centuries AD. Nevertheless, this probably reflects continuous occupation. The assemblage is comparable with pottery collected from the previous 2004 excavation, in particular the cemetery grave goods (Anderson in Wills 2004). The evidence from this also suggested two phases of activity based on the pottery. This would seem to support the view that the cremation burials and some of the inhumation burials were contemporary with local occupation. Although many of these broadly date to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, there is still a lack of definitely late Roman vessels (3rd to 4th century AD). This could imply that the site went into decline towards the end of the 3rd century AD.

Romano-British Tile (*Katie Anderson*)

The excavations produced a moderately large quantity of Roman tile, totalling 47 pieces weighing 3142g. All of the tile was examined and details of form and fabric were recorded. The condition of the tile was variable, from large unabraded pieces to some small fragmentary chunks.

Feature	No.	Wt(g)
F.719	2	238
F.720	1	197
F.732	4	57
F.739	16	1328
F.759	3	164
F.776	17	168
F.797	2	213
F.804	1	7
Machining	1	770
TOTAL	47	3142

Table 5: All tile by feature

Only a small number of forms could be identified due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage. In total, four different floor tiles were recorded, along with three different *tegula* roof tiles. Dating of the tile was problematic although in most cases it was found in association with pottery, specifically alongside pottery dating to the 2nd-3rd century AD.

Overall the quantity and quality of material, although small, is still significant for a site of this size suggesting the potential for recovering more material following further excavation. The tile could be associated with some of the probable buildings identified on this site during excavation.

Worked Stone (*Simon Timberlake*)

This consisted of seven finds of rotary quern stone, most of which are composed of Millstone Grit, and a saddle quern made from a probably locally sourced sarsen boulder. All of these are from Roman contexts (1st – 4th century AD).

<091> F.748 [881] Two fragments of rotary quern composed of medium-grained Carboniferous Millstone grit (arkosic sandstone). One of the pieces (150mm x 80mm x 40mm thick) appears to be of the outer edge of an upper stone. This has a straight tapered rim, a fairly flat pitted (dressed) upper surface and a moderately worn and slightly concave grinding surface. The second piece (80mm x 80mm x 30mm thick) has a more used appearance. This has a very worn grinding surface; the dressed milling ridges have worn away and instead there is evidence of some rotary scoring. A slight lip formed from wear is evident right up against the rim and the grind surface has been worn to a slightly concave profile

<066> F.739 [836] A single piece from inside a thin (well worn) upper stone of a Millstone Grit rotary quern (140mm x 150mm x 20mm thick). The outer rim of this has broken away although part of the tapered axle/feed hole of the stone is preserved. The latter would have been about 50mm in diameter; the full diameter of the stone may have been about 500 mm. The grind surface is fairly well worn; concentric wear grooves are visible and the underside of the stone has a moderately concave profile. The stone is stained black, perhaps through burning, and there is evidence for some accreting iron pan.

<131> F.719 [1044] A small fragment from what was probably once a rotary quern stone (70mm x 50mm x 20mm thick). It seems likely this piece is from the edge of the

axle/feed hole of an upper stone, thus like <066> this seems to be from a thinned and well-worn broken stone. Composed of Millstone Grit; the fabric (grain) of this particular stone is very coarse.

<163> Surface Find 420/220 A fragment from the edge (rim) of an upper stone of rotary quern composed of a moderately coarse-grained and slightly pebbly Millstone Grit (arkosic sandstone). The piece is similar to one of the quern fragments in <091>. The fragment (80mm x 80mm x 40-45mm thick) has a straight slightly tapered face to the rim edge, the upper surface being rough and undressed and a grinding surface slightly concave and well worn.

<007> F.702 [705] A fragment from the rim edge of an upper stone of medium-grained Millstone Grit (100mm x 110mm x 25mm thick). This has a well-worn grinding surface with a wear-formed lip or ridge approx. 20mm wide around the outer edge; the grinding surface is smooth and very definitely concave. The face of the outer rim is dressed; this is moderately flat but is tapered outwards. The upper surface of the stone is rough and appears to have been cut by a prominent semi-circular groove approx. 10mm wide. The original diameter of this stone was probably around 500mm.

<168> Unstratified from machining: A small fragment (100mm x 70mm x 30mm thick) from the outer edge of an upper rotary quern stone, most probably of Millstone Grit. This has a well-worn concave grinding surface and slightly raised wear lip around the rim. The face of the latter shows a slight outwards taper.

<031> F.726 [785] A large fragment of the basal stone for a rotary quern (250mm x 150mm and from 20 – 60mm thick in centre). The stone has a very roughly dressed and uneven – flat underside and a fairly well worn (convex) upper grinding surface. The latter is pitted in places from grind wear, the outer edge being considerably smoother but with slight concentric wear grooves. Almost 300 mm of the rim is preserved. The original stone may have had a 200mm+ radius (perhaps 450mm diameter?). An arkosic pebbly grit/sandstone; probably composed of Millstone Grit or possibly of Old Red Sandstone.

<118> F.778 [992] A fragment of a saddle-quern made of a fine grained quartzitic sandstone sarsen boulder (135mm wide, approx 120mm long (broken at both ends) and up to 50mm thick). The sandstone is probably of Cretaceous (Lower Greensand) or Lower Tertiary origin. The occasional flecks of white mica, grain size and silica cement are distinctive. The quern has a flat top worn smooth through use but with an additional central depression about 70mm wide, 5mm deep and of uncertain length (probably about 140mm); the latter worn smooth through use, probably from a rolling/ grinding action carried out using a cylindrical or elongate rubbing stone. This patch of wear appears to post-date the fire-staining (reddening) of the upper surface. Slight crazing or cracking resulting from this heating can be seen on the underside of the quern. This surface also appears to have been worn smooth prior to burning; the added flatness of this would have helped stabilise or anchor the quern during use.

Discussion

The quern stone assemblage appears to be quite typical of 1st – 3rd century Roman sites in Cambridgeshire. The use of rotary querns appears to dominant even in these rural contexts with common usage of stones such as Millstone Grit imported along

road routes from the production sites in the Southern Pennines (Roman to Early Medieval quern stone quarries have been identified in North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire such as at Hathersage and Wharnecliffe Edge (see Peacock 1988)). Other British stone types used contemporaneously with Millstone Grit include some of the pebbly Old Red Sandstones quarried at as yet unspecified sites within the Forest of Dean, Welsh Borders and perhaps also in South Wales. However, the apparent absence of quern stone rocks of more local provenance such as the Culham Greensand (Abingdon), sarsens (Southern England) and Hertfordshire Puddingstone (Abbingdon Piggots) [see Hayward in Lucas & Whittaker 2001] may be significant. Certainly the production of beehive querns made of Hertfordshire Puddingstone conglomerate is more typically early; Iron Age – post-Conquest/ 1st century AD would be expected (Wilkes & Elrington 1978). There may also be a geographical limit to their distribution. Quite possibly we are at their northern limit here in the Fenland.

Perhaps of relevance also is the absence of imported querns such as lava stone from the Rhineland. These imports continue throughout the Roman Period, the probable distribution point being *Camulodunum*. These are not at all uncommon in the Cambridge and South Cambridge area with finds from Vicar's Farm (Lucas & Whittaker 2001), the Hutchison Site, Addenbrooke's (Evans et al 2004) and Babraham (Armour 2007), but once again, the distribution of these appears to tail off northwards. Saddle-querns are still in evidence within rural communities such as this; the example from Knobb's Farm does not appear to be large enough for the grinding of cereal grain but may have been used in a domestic/ culinary context, or perhaps even in some small workshop application.

Human Remains (*Natasha Dodwell*)

Two badly disturbed and heavily truncated inhumation burials and a cremation burial were identified during the Phase 5 area excavations at Knobb's Farm, Somersham in October 2007. Pottery from the cremation burial dates it to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD and the inhumation burials date from the 3rd to 4th century AD. The area lies approximately 40 metres to the north of burials identified in the Phase 5 evaluation trenches (Dodwell 2004a), and 45 metres to the west of the Phase 4 area excavation where a small cemetery and outlying burials were recorded (Dodwell 2004b).

Methodology

Given the poor preservation of material the methods that could be used to assess the age of the skeletons was limited to the stage of dental eruption and the degree of wear (Ubelaker 1989 and Brothwell 1991). None of the skeletal elements necessary to attribute a sex to the skeletons survived. The feature containing cremated bone was 100% sampled and the material wet sieved. The residue was passed through a series of sieves and extraneous material separated from the human bone.

Results

All that survived of skeleton [701], F.700 were the legs, the feet and the skull, which had been decapitated and placed between the lower legs/ankles. All surviving elements were extremely fragmentary. The skeleton was that of an adult aged between 35-45 years who had been buried in an extended, supine position with the feet in the

south end of the grave. Fragments of the upper two cervical vertebrae were identified (neither exhibited cut marks). A blade-like injury was recorded on the left temporal bone above the auditory meatus; it may be the result of post-mortem truncation but it deserves closer examination. Twenty eight loose teeth were identified, all heavily worn. Moderate deposits of calculus were recorded on the canines.

Skeleton [751], F.715 is an adult who had been buried in an extended, supine position with his head to the north. All that survived of the skeleton were the feet, lower legs, right femur and fragments of the left pelvis and hand. These elements were fragmented and heavily concreted with iron pan deposits.

The cremation burial, F.707 had been heavily truncated (0.06m) and damaged by ploughing. Sherds of late 1st to early 2nd century pottery were recovered from two vessels but it was unclear whether the cremated bone had been originally interred in one/both of them or not. A total of 262g of bone (>5mm) was recovered and the bone fragments were all buff white in colour and generally small (the largest fragment was 21mm long). The size of limb shafts and skull fragments, the sharpness of the skull sutures suggest that these are the cremated remains of a young/middle adult.

Discussion and recommendations for further work

The inhumation burials identified during this phase of excavation are on a similar alignment to the graves identified in the evaluation trenches to the south and the small cemetery excavated to the east (Dodwell 2004a & b). Four inhumations (only one of which was excavated) and an unurned cremation burial were identified in the trenches. The cemetery consisted of six graves (containing the bodies of nine individuals, one of whom had been decapitated) and three earlier urned cremation burials all of which were tucked into the corner of a field system. A further seven cremation burials were excavated outside the cemetery area. It is likely that these small clusters of burials represent family groups marking/defining their ownership/relationship with a particular part of the landscape. It is recommended that the osteological data from the Phase 4 (cemetery), the Phase 5 (evaluation trenches) is compared in detail with that from the Phase 5 area excavation in order that any possible selection criteria for burial location can be identified.

Faunal Remains (*Vida Rajkovača*)

Introduction

An assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the Knobbs Farm quarry site during excavations carried out in 2007. The quantity of animal bones recovered totalled 537 fragments. Faunal remains were hand collected: the material from bulk soil samples was not included. This report provides a brief outline of the results following zooarchaeological analysis of the material.

The majority of the assemblage (92.2 %) was recovered from the features dated to the Romano-British period (1st to 4th centuries AD). Feature 810 was possibly dated to the Iron Age and it was considered separately (7.8 %).

Method

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. Ageing of the assemblage employed both fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969) and mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Grahame Clark Zooarchaeology Lab., Dept. of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Where possible, measuring data was taken (von den Driesch 1976). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

Preservation

The majority of the material demonstrated preservation that ranged from 'moderate' to 'poor' indicating that weathering and other erosive damage had occurred to the bone. The bone assemblage showed very mixed overall preservation: of 44 contexts involved in the analyses, only three showed good preservation and three were identified as demonstrating 'quite good' preservation. This indicated bones with minimal or no weathering or bone damage. In contrast, 12 contexts demonstrated 'moderate', 13 'quite poor' and 12 contexts were poorly preserved. One context showed mixed preservation. This equates to a total number of 216 fragments showing quite good or good preservation, compared to 321 fragments with bone damage or signs of weathering. The very low percentage of bones identifiable to species is due to the high fragmentation of the material.

Results

Pottery dating evidence (see Anderson, above) indicates that the Romano-British material varied in date from the 1st to the 4th century AD with the exception of only one feature (F.810) which was possibly prehistoric (Iron Age) in date. Therefore the Romano-British assemblage totalled 495 fragments and the Iron Age assemblage only 42 fragments.

Romano-British assemblage

Species representation

For the purposes of increasing the sample size the Romano-British material has been considered collectively (Table 6). In total 495 fragments were analysed from the site with 341 (68.9 %) identifiable to element and 190 (38.4 %) further identified to species.

Fox is a dominant species (67.9 %), cattle is represented by 45 bones (23.7 %). Horse remains constitute 3.7 % of the assemblage with seven specimens. Only six ovicaprid bones were identified (3.2 %). Other species are poorly represented (Table 6). Fox are the most abundant species within the MNI count (five individual animals). Cattle are following with the MNI count for three animals. Other species are represented with only one individual animal (Table 7).

Species	NISP	% NISP
Fox	129	67.9
Cow	45	23.7
Horse	7	3.7
Sheep/Goat	6	3.2
Red Deer	1	0.5
Dog	1	0.5
Deer/species unidentified	1	0.5
UUM	1 (out of 100)	-
ULM	96 (out of 113)	-
UMM	6 (out of 16)	-
USM	15 (out of 66)	-
CYP	32	-
UUB	1	-

Table 6: Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of a total of 190 specimens. 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
Fox	5	38.5
Cow	3	23
Horse	1	7.7
Sheep/Goat	1	7.7
Red Deer	1	7.7
Dog	1	7.7
Deer/species unidentified	1	7.7

Table 7: Species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

The majority of fox bones were recovered in F.739 ([822]) and some in F.743 ([863]). Feature F.739 was dated to Romano-British period (1st to 4th centuries AD) and F.743 was undated. Fox was represented with a wide range of skeletal elements, which would seem to indicate that whole animals were brought to, or caught, on the site. Feature F.739 is a pit or a waterhole and it is very likely that fox were hunted for their fur and then brought to and skinned in the proximity of this feature. Although the skinning process would probably leave cut marks on the bones, it is possible that if foxes were skinned as a fresh kill, there could be no cut marks at all. The majority of the fox bones were of young animals and 16 of them were porous.

The cattle assemblage was equally represented by both carcass portions and mandibular elements present on the site. Excluding the fox portion of the assemblage, cattle elements accounted for more identifiable bones than all the other species combined. Cattle were evidently the main providers of meat. The age range, derived from teeth (Grant 1982) and fusion data (Silver 1969) (though only six mandibles were present and therefore the results are ambiguous) would indicate the presence of both young and old animals, with a slight predominance of young adult animals (3 yrs). There is only one juvenile (0-1 months) cow mandible present (Grant 1982).

Horse is mainly represented by meat bearing bones with a slight under-representation of skull elements. Ovicaprids are poorly represented with only three mandibles, two scapulas, one loose tooth, one metacarpal and one phalanx. There were only one dog and one red deer elements present on the site.

A certain number of fish and bird elements were recovered. Bird remains were not identifiable to species. Fish bones were from the carp family (*Cyprinidae*), of about 10-15 cm total length, and in a poor condition. There were few individuals. Only one of the bones could be identified to a species within the assemblage (Dr. Jennifer Harland, McDonald Institute, *pers.com.*). All the fish bones were found in the remains of a large jar (<154>, [1103], F.732) dated to mid to late 1st century AD.

Preservation details

The level of preservation has undoubtedly affected the likelihood of recognising taphonomic modifications. Of the 45 cattle elements recorded, 22 bones were fragmented, eroded or fragmented and eroded. In total, 17 bones were eroded and 26 fragmented. However, two butchery marks were noted, both on cow scapulas. One example had characteristic damage caused by a butchers hook on the scapula blade probably indicating a curing process (F.739; [822]). Carnivore gnaw damage was also noted on a cow scapula and humerus. One ovicaprid metacarpal was burnt and calcined.

Iron Age (F.810)

Species representation

The small size of this prehistoric sub-set (Table 8) precludes any comment about the potential indications of site status (42 bones) in the Iron Age.

As mentioned above, this was an impoverished assemblage in terms of the range of species present. Also, no small mammals were recovered in this feature. Seven pig bones were recovered on the site (36.9 %), all coming from the feature dated to the Iron Age. Other species present are cow, horse, ovicaprids, red deer and dog (Table 3). All species have the same MNI count for one individual animal (Table 4).

Species	NISP	% NISP
Pig	7	36.9
Cow	5	26.4
Horse	3	15.8
Sheep/Goat	2	10.5
Red Deer	1	5.2
Dog	1	5.2
ULM	13 (out of 113)	-
UMM	10 (out of 16)	-

Table 8: Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of the 19 examples identified. 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	16.65
Horse	1	16.65
Sheep/Goat	1	16.65
Pig	1	16.65
Red Deer	1	16.65
Dog	1	16.65

Table 9: Species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

In terms of preservation, this was also quite a poorly preserved assemblage. Of 42 bones recovered, 15 were eroded and demonstrated signs of weathering. Two bones had carnivore gnawing marks (one pig scapula and an unidentified large mammal tibia). Two bones were butchered using a fine implement (one pig scapula and one unidentified large mammal humerus). Traces of fine cut marks and their position indicate the removal of meat. The number of unidentified specimens are due in part to the relatively high numbers of fragmented limb bones which could only be assigned to a size category (Large or Medium Mammal).

Conclusion

Although relatively small, this has proved to be an interesting assemblage and it might hold certain promise for future research in the area. The most interesting observation is the large portion of fox within the assemblage (67.9 %). As mentioned above, the majority of fox bones were found in F.739, which was a large pit or a well dated to the Romano-British period. Since the water would be very important during the skinning process, this could be interpreted as a place where their fur was removed. It is probable that foxes were hunted or trapped elsewhere when needed. Although there were no any signs of butchering / skinning noted on the bones, this explanation would still stand as the most probable one. The process of skinning the fresh kill doesn't necessarily leave any cut marks at all. These facts show certain potential for future research. Larger assemblages obtained from across all excavation phases would potentially provide us with better answers.

Cattle are the dominant domestic species (23.7 %), being the main providers of meat. No senile animals were evident on the site and one juvenile mandible was recovered (0-1 months). This implies that young adult animals were kept on the site and were probably culled before they reach maturity.

The low percentage of small mammals, fish and bird bones might be recovery biased. It would be inappropriate to over-analyse an assemblage of this size, especially as there was insufficient data to plot mortality profiles or attain metrical estimates. However, future research should be more focused into recovering small mammals, in addition to a detailed study of the fox remains from the site. Fish bones found at the bottom of the large jar are also significant and might help us to better understand diet and subsistence in the Romano-British period.

Environmental Assessment (*Anne de Vareilles*)

Methodology

Seven bulk soil samples (including two from cremation F.707) were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The flots were collected in 300µm meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant macro remains and other ecofacts. Sorting and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). All environmental remains are listed in Table 12.

Preservation

Most plant remains preserved through carbonisation. The sample from well F.732 also contained some waterlogged seeds, but as these represent a partial assemblage as a result of not being recovered through appropriate measures they were not recorded during sorting. Intrusive rootlets present in all samples are indicative of bioturbation through which ecofacts may have been lost and/or displaced.

Results and Discussion

Sample number	15	18	20	29	28	10	11
Context	842	870	907	1104	1095	716	715
Feature	736	737	738	732	797	707	
Feature type	Hearth A	Hearth B	Hearth C	Well	Ditch	Cremation	
Phase / Date - century AD.	R.B.	R.B.	R.B.	1st-2nd	2nd-3rd	mid-late 1st	
Sample volume - Litres	10	10	6	7	10	13	5
Flot fraction examined -%	100	100	100	100	25	100	100

Table 11: Sample overview

Mid-Late 1st Century AD. Cremation, F.707

A few pieces of small charcoal (<2mm) were the only plant-macro remains recovered from this feature, suggesting that the cremated bone had been carefully removed from, and buried separately to all other burnt material.

1st to 2nd Century 'Well', F.732 [1104]

The little charcoal, grain and wild grass seed were not intentionally discarded into the well. In fact, this feature seems to have been kept clear of any charred waste. A few fish scales were recovered, presumably derived from the fish waste deposited into the feature in a Horningsea jar. Some dried waterlogged seeds were seen during sorting,

and these suggest that the basal fill was not only once waterlogged but that the ‘well’ was not covered from naturally deposited debris.

2nd to 3rd Century Ditch, F.797 [1095]

A rich, well preserved crop assemblage was found in this ditch. Most of the grains, seen mainly through the chaff, are spelt wheat, a very common Romano-British crop (*Triticum spelta*). The other cereals may have been a contaminant (intentional or not) of the main spelt crop. The wild plant seeds form a typical assemblage of crop weeds from the Cambridgeshire area, and show that the local inhabitants were not sourcing their cereals from afar. The seeds are very numerous, as is the cereal ear chaff. Although there is also quite a high number of grains, it seems more likely that the remains represent waste from later stages of crop-processing rather than a burnt deposit of stored spelt and/or emmer wheat ears. The fragments from the bottom of the cereal ears had rough breaks, suggesting that these were snapped from the straw during threshing and not collected separately in the field, at least not with a scythe or similarly sharp harvesting instrument. Threshing had certainly occurred and the straw removed for other uses. Most of the wild seeds recovered are considered large, either in themselves or together in a seed-head (e.g. *A. githago* and *A. cotula*). These types of seeds are usually the last to be removed during hand-sorting, which suggests the plant assemblage probably represents waste accumulated during the last few stages of cereal sieving and sorting before daily consumption. Cereal waste was then discarded rather than used as additional fuel, as is shown by the almost complete absence of charcoal.

Romano-British ‘linear burnt features’ – F.736, F.737 and F.738

Wild plant seeds were found in all three ‘hearths’, and mostly in F.737 which was the only one to contain any cereal. The nature of the assemblages (total counts, grain to seed ratio and type of wild seeds) suggest that the plant-macros recovered are residual waste from surrounding crop processing activities.

Conclusion

Spelt and possibly emmer, barley and a little free-threshing wheat were consumed on site. Crops were grown on local surrounding soils and were probably harvested at the base of the straw, leaving the ears to be separated during threshing. Ditch F.797 appears to have been used as a dump for waste from the later stages of crop processing, or perhaps only those final sorting and sieving sessions usually done on a daily basis before cooking. This may indicate the nearby location of a ‘kitchen’ area. No remains of other plant foods were recovered.

Cereal Grains and Chaff – Sample number		15	18	20	29	28	10	11
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i>	Barley grains					13		
<i>Triticum aestivum sl.</i>	Free-threshing grain					5		
<i>T. spelta/dicoccum</i>	Spelt or Emmer grain		5			329		
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	Indet. wheat grain					67		
<i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> (awn frgs.)	Barley/Wheat grain (awn)		6		1	93 (++)		
<i>Avena sp.</i> (awn fragments)	Oat - possibly wild					4 (+)		
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment			6			166		
<i>T. aestivum sl.</i> rachis node	Free-threshing chaff		1			3		
<i>T. spelta</i> glume base	Spelt wheat chaff					178		
<i>T. spelta/dicoccum</i> glume base	Spelt or Emmer chaff					40		
<i>Triticum sp.</i> glume base	Glume wheat glume base					438		
Indeterminate cereal ear base - no clear cut marks						21		
Charcoal	>4mm		+		+	-		
	2 - 4mm	-	++		++	+		
	<2mm	b	c	++	b	+	+	+
Parenchyma fragments - undifferentiated storage tissue				+		c		
Parenchyma fragment of possible root or tuber			1	2				
fish scales - not charred					+			
Wild Plant Seeds								
<i>Chenopodium sp.</i>	Goosefoots		1			2		
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>	Oraches					59		
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle seed					6		
<i>Silene sp.</i>	Campion					4		
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Black-bindweed					3		
<i>R. conglomeratus/obtusifolius/sanguineus</i> - Dock			1			57		
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock					10		
<i>Brassica cf. nigra</i>	Black mustard					1		
<i>Brassica / Sinapis</i>	Cabbages / Mustards	1				25		
<i>Anagallis sp.</i>	Pimpernels					2		
<i>Vicia / Lathyrus</i>	Vetches / Wild Pea					11		
<i>Medicago / Trifolium</i>	Medics or Clover		2			8		
<i>cf. Linum usitatissimum</i>	possible Flax seed					1		
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia		1			8		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers					1		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile	1	12	2		163		
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentsless Mayweed		7			72		
<i>A. cotula / T. inodorum</i>	S.Cham. or S.Mayw.	1	1	1		42		
Indeterminate Asteraceae	Daisy family seed					1		
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Great Fen Sedge	4				2		
trigonus <i>Carex sp.</i>	trilete Sedge seed		2					
lenticular <i>Carex sp.</i>	flat Sedge seed		2					
<i>Bromus / Lolium</i>	Bromes or Rye-grass					29		
large Poaceae (frags.)	large wild grass (frags.)		4			152 (140)		
medium Poaceae	medium wild grass					28		
small Poaceae	small wild grass		2		1	128		
Indet Poaceae (frags.)	Wild or cultivated grass					45 (c)		
Indeterminate wild plant seeds			5	1		34		

Key: '1' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-25, 'a' 25-50, 'b' 50-100, 'c' 100-500, 'd' >500 items

Table 12: Sample details.

DISCUSSION

The 2004 excavation at Knobbs Farm suggested that three discreet periods of activity were discernible and it was suggested that between these there was an element of discontinuity (Wills 2004). The 2007 excavation has broadened the scope and range of activity within the studied areas as well as suggesting a greater continuity between the early and later Romano-British phases. Importantly, this excavation area lay outside the main Iron Age settlement areas which the 2004 site appeared to have just included. Together, these investigations have helped define the limits of Iron Age activity and the spread of Romano-British settlement across this part of the Knobbs Farm landscape.

The excavation identified the continued use of late Iron Age enclosure ditches into the early Romano-British period and suggested that the significant change occurring in this early period was the introduction of Roman pottery into the area. Furthermore, the division of an existing enclosure into two by the cutting of a new ditch (*F.125*) in the early Roman period was thought to be a simple development of existing field boundaries by the local population. These observations appear to have been correct, as away from the areas of Iron Age activity no Romanising or conquest period Romano-British pottery has been found. This inference reinforces the suggestion that the boundary ditch (*F.122*) which ‘snaked’ across the 2004 excavation area did in fact represent the furthest south-western boundary of the Iron Age settlement.

It now appears that the significant change in site layout noted in 2004 can be positively assigned to the foundation of a small ‘farm’ some time between 60-80AD along with the corresponding establishment of an associated rectilinear system of enclosures. A complete dislocation from the earlier pattern of Iron Age enclosures did not occur as *F.122* continued to be used, at least for a while, as an eastern boundary for Enclosure A. The new system of enclosures was established either side of a trackway, perhaps already a route in the Iron Age but now formally ditched. The fact that the newly created field system respected existing enclosures probably indicates that native British ownership persisted beyond the Conquest period. The inference to be made from this is that the new development was made on land outside the Iron Age settlement core, therefore representing an addition to a native ‘village’ rather than a wholesale re-organisation. Such a theory is supported by the transitional phases seen across both sites. The later Iron Age presence was identified as a continuation from the Middle Iron Age through a period of Romanising influences (Wills 2004). Continued occupation was seen through the use of established boundaries and field systems whilst elements of newly introduced pottery styles were adopted. The mid to late 1st century evidence, therefore, appears to suggest that the two cultural traditions were operating side by side for a time well after 43AD. Thus we see the introduction of a Romanized farm system of different type being established alongside the ‘native’ system, possibly continuing until the latter part of the 1st century.

This type of early Romano-British settlement has been more readily identified in recent work across Cambridgeshire. The formalized rectilinear enclosures, ditched trackway, regular rectangular buildings and common economic base are seen as model prerequisites for this initial occupation. These are more frequently interpreted as additions to an already established Iron Age settlement. A good example of this process is the farmstead at Langdale Hale (Regan 1999), others being Orton Hall near

Peterborough (Mackreath 1996), Vicars Farm in west Cambridge (Lucas and Whittaker 2001) and the Hutchinson Site at Addenbrooke's, Cambridge (Evans, Mackay and Webley 2004). Further away, Great Holts Farm, Boreham, Essex (Germany 2003) shows similar characteristics in its earlier phases and suggests, perhaps, that this form of developmental sequence is a regional rather than a local model. The implications for the Knobbs Farm settlement are twofold. Firstly, with so much of the original settlement evidence missing (with the exception of crop-marks) the use of this model allows comparison with archaeological sites seen elsewhere and some basic conclusions to be extrapolated. Secondly, the site provides a fresh, if incomplete, body of evidence to be drawn into the regional framework of study encompassing the transition of landscape organisation from native British to Romano-British.

Examination of the Knobbs Farm site plan reveals a striking spatial relationship between the features, suggesting that with the possible exception of later ditch re-cuts, most of the structures and enclosures were in contemporary use. It seems likely, therefore, that the first 'units' to be established were Enclosure A to the east of the roadway and to the west a plot of the same width (approximately 46m) which was later split into Enclosures B, C and D. This apportionment appears to have been very specific. Enclosure B isolated Structure I to the north, Enclosure C included Structure II, and Enclosure D enclosed the wells, and was later fully partitioned with some form of upright wooden fencing. Enclosure E may have been added afterwards but to what purpose remains unknown. This evident 'zoning' appears to fit in well with the farm model. Both this and the further examination of finds and environmental evidence suggests that the Knobbs Farm site represents a Romano-British farmstead rather than another occupation type.

As mentioned above, care must be taken to stress the limitations of the evidence gathered by the 2004 and 2007 excavations, especially as a further stage of analysis will be required. In broad terms the finds assemblages are too small for significant analyses to be undertaken. Within such a small sample the relative proportions can easily be skewed by localised concentrations. This has been seen with both the animal bone and pottery assemblages. The discovery of a minimum number of five individual foxes in two features has severely affected the relative proportions of animal bone that otherwise fit very well with other sites of the same date and type. Again, the recovery of a half complete, but crushed, Horningsea jar skewed the pottery proportions and created an anomaly not seen in comparable site data. Furthermore, the early date of this find may have implications for our understanding of the chronology and distribution of Horningsea pottery. Any future investigations in the quarry will broaden the assemblages and allow more accurate assessments of the data.

The foundation date of the structures and early enclosure layout was problematic, a fact also noted for the early phases of the Langdale Hale site (Regan 1999). This problem in determining the foundation date is due to several possible reasons. These include the lack of evident middening on site, suggesting rubbish was disposed of elsewhere, and the incorporation of earlier and residual artefacts and assemblages through the construction of new structures, re-construction of existing buildings, and modification to enclosures and boundaries through cleaning, re-cutting and or subdivision of large enclosures. Analysis of the pottery shows disproportional representation for wares current in Phase 4 over those available in Phase 3. When taken as a whole, 66% of the assemblage belonged to the later phase whilst of the earlier 34% of pot sherds, well over half were accounted for by cremation F.707 and

by the two nearly complete pots recovered from well F.732. Furthermore, pottery could only be used to date 20% of excavated features and thus our interpretation of the site must remain at this stage provisional and generalised.

Apart from the occasional potsherds recovered from structural elements of Building I, a good deal of the earlier pottery evidence was gleaned from well F.732. If we assume a direct correlation between the need for a constant supply of good clean water and habitation then by examining the *terminus ante quem* of F.732, at the very latest 100AD, occupation of the buildings began four well-construction cycles prior to this date. The longevity of well usage can be problematic and many factors can effect interpretation; frequency of cleaning, resilience of lining and control over the water quality. The latest well in the sequence (F.732), was cut into an earlier well which had been established after a series of levelling deposits had been used to cover two earlier lined wells and a series of deep pits, also probable wells, most likely of Iron Age date.

It seems that F.732 was largely abandoned due to silting up. The environmental sample from the basal fill recorded waterlogged seeds and suggested these were blown into a shaft that was left open. Examination of the soil matrix also suggested it derived from erosion of the sides and an accumulation of wind blown silts. Once the well was silted to a point where water could no longer be drawn it was abandoned, a decision apparently sealed by the deposition of the Horningsea jar which contained fish remains, including bones and scales. The subsequent dumping of a substantial quantity of natural into the well will have put it out of commission for good. It appears that a direct replacement for the earlier wells was provided by the comparatively large rectangular tank (F.739). Of considerably different design and construction this could indicate that the previous wells were inadequate or hard to maintain in a sandy substrate, which might imply a relatively short lifespan for each. Bearing this in mind and the pottery dates from the end of a long sequence of cuts and sterile well deposits, a foundation date for the farm of between 60 and 80AD does seem probable.

Once established, the farm seems to have adopted standard local agricultural practises. Pottery and animal bone analysis both indicate assemblages typical of small rural settlements of the period. As mentioned above, the animal bone evidence was negatively adjusted by the disposal of fox carcasses into the 'water tank' (F.739) and terminal end of a nearby enclosure ditch. Taking this anomaly out of the numbers of identifiable specimens (NISP) across the total assemblage allows a better comparison of the relative frequency for livestock species seen at Knobbs Farm and Langdale Hale. The adjusted percentages show similar animal exploitation from both sites (Langdale Hale figures in brackets). Cattle were most numerous at 74% (64%) of the assemblage. Horse was slightly elevated at 11% (9%) over sheep/goat 10% (24%). The remaining 5% represented single instances of dog, deer and red deer bones. Pig was missing from the assemblage in the Romano-British phase although it also formed only a small part (3%) of the Langdale Hale assemblage. Overall, the figures suggest that cattle formed an important element of the Romano-British economy in this part of the Fenland and that the Knobbs Farm settlement was engaged in a common pastoral economy. The relative lack of sheep/goat bones may well be due to the small assemblage size and sample area rather than any other factors.

The discovery of fox bones is almost certainly linked to the exploitation of wild animals for trading in fur or pelts. At the Camp Ground and Langdale Hale sites otter, beaver and fox bones were identified as well as numerous different types of wild bird

and fish species. Trapping and fishing was clearly part of the diverse exploitation of a fenland environment that made occupation of the low lying gravel terraces appear attractive in almost all periods of the past.

Cereal crops also certainly played a part in the farming regime and large quantities of processing waste were dumped into a re-cut (F.797) of the western boundary ditch of Enclosure D. The environmental evidence indicates that spelt, possibly emmer, a minor amount of free-threshing wheat and barley were all being processed on site. Crops were probably harvested at the base of the straw, leaving the ears to be separated during threshing and this may well explain the large quantities of grass and wild plant seeds seen in the sample. Many of these seeds or seed-heads were large, perhaps indicating sorting for domestic consumption. The recovery of five mortaria sherds and nine fragments of quernstone certainly support this interpretation. This could point to crops being stored on the stalk and processed when necessary.

This more recent environmental evidence links closely to the 2004 environmental evidence which noted that the late Iron Age/early Roman practice of crop processing in the fields had declined (Ballantyne in Wills, 2004). Three linear burnt features were discovered very close to Building I in the 2007 excavations and these were superficially similar to features seen at the Langdale Hale excavation (Regan 2003). There, they were interpreted as the remains of flue structures related to the parching of cereals prior to threshing. Although the Knobbs Farm examples would seem to be much truncated in length, their widths and profiles are very similar, suggesting a good comparison could be made. Environmental samples taken from the features contained moderate amounts of small charcoal particles, charred seeds and occasional grain, a mix that tends to suggest crop processing. It should be noted that only a third of the samples from these features were processed and a further stage of analysis would aid our understanding of cereal processing at Knobbs Farm.

Within the pottery types, storage jars were most frequently represented followed by table wares. There was a notable lack of Samian imports, but specialist pottery from sources in Britain were being used in small numbers. Once the anomalous Horningsea pot sherds were accounted for, analysis of the remaining sherd numbers also demonstrated clear parallels with the pottery imported to the Langdale Hale site (figures in brackets). Local coarse sandy grey wares were the dominant pottery type at 35% (36%) of the total sherds with local shell-tempered wares next represented at 21% (24%). At Langdale Hale the next highest incidence was of Nene Valley colour coated wares (10%) but these were notably fewer, 5%, at Knobbs Farm and a greater number of Horningsea ware were present at 9% (2%). Again it should be stressed that the assemblage as a whole was very small, but these figures do tend to show that the Knobbs Farm settlement imported the majority of its pottery from the same local sources as the Langdale Hale site. Sources from further away were also used to supply fine or specialist wares, although it is suggested that the relative lack of Samian wares might indicate a lower status site.

The discovery of a cremation burial within the main settlement area is unusual when taken in the context of ten similar burials discovered in the 2004 excavations. The cremation urn was a local shell tempered jar with associated black-slipped pedestal beaker of a later 1st century date similar to those interred to the east. If we take the local focus of the settlement at this time to be the farmstead, then it would appear likely that they were burying the majority of their cremated dead outside the farm boundaries in the remains of the Iron Age settlement. Why one was interred within

the farm enclosure instead remains unexplained, although it is intriguing to suggest that the burials within the old settlement had a special cultural relevance not shared by those burying this particular individual. It certainly tends to reinforce the idea that the earlier settlement was no longer inhabited by the late 1st century.

Occupation and activity continued until the late 3rd century. Pottery evidence suggests two distinct clusters of activity; the farm occupation as represented by buildings I and II between the mid 1st to 2nd centuries and the ditch re-cutting episodes, rubbish disposal and inhumation burials between the mid 2nd to the late 3rd centuries AD. These two phases of activity appear to show a shift of focus away from the early origins of the farm and may represent a re-organisation of the farm enclosures and new building in another part of the associated farm property. Again, it is tempting to take the interment of two inhumation burials in the southwest corner of Enclosure A as evidence of a loss of status of that enclosure, for example from primary paddock to more distant field. In this interpretation the formal cemetery of the 2004 excavations could be seen very much more as a traditional burial plot with an established link to the early farm. Such burial grounds were also identified at the Vicars Farm (Lucas *et al.* 2001) and Hutchinson Site (Evans *et al.* 2004) excavations. The 2004 trial trenching suggested that other burials exist approximately 25m south of the site, suggesting a widespread shift in the status of the local enclosure systems.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature Descriptions

F.700 – Burial: Shallow and heavily truncated. Measured 1.75m long by 0.60m wide and was between 0.05m and 0.15m deep. The burial was located approximately 8.00m northeast of the western corner of ditch F.702. Cut [702] was sub-rectangular in plan and had very shallow straight sides leading to a flat base. Skeleton [701] was in very poor condition having been damaged by ploughing; the arms and torso having been completely removed. The legs, feet, part of the pelvis and fragmentary mandible and skull survived, which indicated that the burial was of a supine, decapitated adult. Fragments of pottery recovered from beside the feet suggested grave goods and dated the burial to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The grave fill [700] was of mixed re-deposited natural, sampled for environmental analysis (Sample <12>).

F.701 – Ditch: Measured 17.20m total length, aligned north northwest-south southeast with butt-ended terminal to the northwest. Truncated by ditch **F.702** and Burial **F.715**. Fills predominantly of light greyish brown silty sand with various proportions of small angular gravel. Three slots dug: **Slot 1**; cut [704] measured 0.46m in width by 0.15m deep and had an irregular stepped NE side and convex SW side leading to an irregular rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [703], no finds. **Slot 12**; cut [754] measured 0.39m wide by 0.05m deep with shallow concave sides leading to a broad flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [753] produced no finds. **Slot 13**; terminal end, cut [759] measured 0.53m wide by 0.18m deep and had poorly defined shallow straight sides leading to a deeply rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Two fills, [757] and [758], no finds.

F.702 – Ditch: As revealed on this phase of excavation the length was approximately 52.00m with a further 42m length on the 2004 excavation area when it was recorded as **F.103**. Overall the ditch forms three sides of a rectilinear enclosure on a NE-SW alignment. Truncated ditches **F.701** and **F.716**, re-cut by **F.718** and **F.804**. Fills predominantly of mid greyish brown silty sand with various proportions of small angular gravel. Five slots dug: **Slot 1**; Cut [774] measured 0.67m in width by 0.26m deep and had an irregular steep southern side and moderately steep straight northern side leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [773], one potsherd dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. **Slot 11**; cut [746]/[748] measured 1.90m wide by 0.55m deep and had steep straight sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [747]/[749] contained 29 potsherds predominantly of 2nd to 4th century date and 39 fragments of animal bone. **Slot 15**; Cut [766] measured 0.69m in width by 0.29m deep. Fills; [764] and [765], no finds. **Slot 20**; cut [845] measured 1.05m wide by 0.43m deep with concave sides leading to a broad flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [844] produced one worked flint. **Slot 54**; cut [1090] measured 1.06m wide by 0.27m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a broad flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1089], four potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD were recovered.

F.703 – Plough mark: Intrusive modern feature.

F.704 – Plough mark: Intrusive modern feature.

F.705 – Treethrow: Crescent shaped in plan and measuring 4.50m long by 1.00m wide and 0.18m deep. Cut [712] was shallow with moderately steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Single fill [711], one Romano British potsherd recovered.

F.706 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.40m in diameter and 0.08m deep. Cut [714] had steep sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [713] produced three pieces of animal bone.

F.707 – Cremation: Heavily truncated and disturbed by ploughing. Sub-circular in plan and measuring 0.29m long by 0.28m wide and 0.06m deep. Cut [717] mostly disturbed by plough scar, probably originally steep-sided with a flat base. Fill [715] contained remnants of shell tempered cremation urn, black-slipped beaker with pedestal base and calcined bone. Fill [716] was a redeposited natural backfill. The pottery dated to the mid 1st - 2nd century AD. Environmental samples taken; <10> ([716]) and <11> ([715]).

F.708 – Ditch: The feature measured 4.40m long before being obscured by the northern limit of excavation and was aligned northeast-southwest with terminal at the southwest. Truncated feature **F.709** and was truncated by **F.142**. Fills predominantly of mid to dark grey sand silt with small angular gravel. Two slots dug: **Slot 4**; cut [720] measured 0.90m wide by 0.37m deep with had moderately

steep straight sides leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills, [718] and [719], no finds. **Slot 21**; cut [852] measured 0.72m wide by 0.32m deep with moderately steep slightly convex sides leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [849], [850] and [851] no finds recovered.

F.709 – Ditch: A heavily truncated linear feature aligned NE-SW, mostly removed on eastern side by **F.708**. Observed in **Slot 4**: Depth 0.12m, width approximately 0.35m remaining. Cut [722] concave western side with gradual breaks of slope to a rounded base. Fill [721]; no finds.

F.710 – Posthole: Sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 0.68m long by 0.48m wide and 0.30m deep. Located at the eastern end of **F.711** in **Slot 5**. Cut [726] had steep near vertical straight sides leading to a rounded base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [723], [724] and [725] produced nine early Romano-British potsherds and two pieces of animal bone.

F.711 – Beam Slot: One of four related structural elements; posthole **F.710**, beam slots **F.712** and **F.713**. The fill, a pale grey sandy silt, was uniform throughout the feature. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 5**; cut [729] measured 0.25m in width by 0.15m deep with straight near vertical sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Single fill [728], no finds. **Slot 6**; cut [731] measured 0.25m wide by 0.10m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [730], no finds recovered. **Slot 7**; cut [733] measured 0.30m wide by 0.10m deep and had steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [732], had no finds.

F.712 – Beam Slot: One of four related structural elements; posthole **F.710**, beam slots **F.711** and **F.713**. The fill was a uniform pale grey slightly sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Two slots were excavated: **Slot 7**; cut [735] measured 0.50m in width by 0.20m deep and had straight near vertical sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [734], no finds. **Slot 8** – half section; cut [737] measured 0.21m wide by 0.15m deep and had moderately sloping eastern side leading to an unseen base. Fill [736], no finds recovered.

F.713 – Beam Slot: One of four related structural elements; posthole **F.710**, beam slots **F.711** and **F.712**. A single fill of pale grey sandy silt was uniform throughout the feature. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 8** – half section; cut [739] measured 0.20m in width by 0.14m deep with straight near concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. One fill [738], no finds. **Slot 9**; cut [741] measured 0.45m wide by 0.20m deep; near vertical straight northern side and moderately sloping southern side leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [740], no finds recovered. **Slot 10**; butt – ended terminal, cut [743] measured 0.45m wide by 0.20m deep and had a moderately steep southern side, near vertical straight northern side leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [742], no finds.

F.714 – Posthole: Oval in plan, measuring 0.39m long by 0.31m wide and 0.06m deep. Cut [745] had shallow concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [744] had no finds.

F.715 – Burial: Shallow and heavily truncated. Measured 1.53m long by 0.60m wide and was 0.12m deep. The burial was located approximately 6.00m northeast of the western corner of ditch **F.702**, 2.00m south of burial **F.700**. Cut [752] was sub-rectangular in plan and had very shallow straight sides leading to a flat base. Skeleton [751] had been damaged by ploughing; the arms, torso and skull having been completely removed. The legs, feet, part of the pelvis and some finger bones from the left hand survived. The burial was of a supine adult. The grave fill [750] was of mixed re-deposited natural with occasional small charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

F.716 – Ditch: Seen as a terminal end to the south of **F.702** which truncates it, not seen in section beyond **Slot 11**. Total length as seen was approximately 6.00m, aligned NE-SW. **Slot 11**; cut [761] measured 1.20m wide by 0.30m deep and had steep concave sides leading to a broad flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [760], no finds.

F.717 – Ditch?: Segment of linear feature aligned N-S and cut by **F.804** and **F.702**. Seen for approximately 2.00m and butt-ended to the north. Cut [756] measured 0.38m in width by 0.28m deep and was steep sided with a rounded base and gradual breaks of slope. Fill [755], no finds.

F.718 – Ditch: A re-cut of **F.702** which was, as seen, 22m in length, aligned northwest-southeast. Fills predominantly of light greyish brown silty sand with infrequent small angular gravel and charcoal. Observed in two slots: **Slot 1**; cut [706] measured 0.60m in width by 0.15m deep with concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [705], no finds. **Slot 15**; cut [763]

measured 0.42m wide by 0.15m deep with ill-defined concave sides leading to a shallow rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [762] produced one potsherd dated to the 2nd - 4th centuries AD.

F.719 – Ditch: A re-cut of **F.720**, aligned NE-SW, measuring 18.80m in length which terminated approximately 8.00m north of the southern limit of excavation. Continued southwards as **F.748** having left a gap in the enclosure boundary. Fills predominantly of dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal. Sampled in five slots: **Slot 16** – half section; Cut [767] measured 0.74+m in width by 0.23+m deep with a slightly concave shallow western side leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [768], five potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and two fragments of animal bone. **Slot 19**; cut [802] measured 1.09m wide by 0.32m deep and had shallow straight sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [801] contained one potsherd of 2nd to 4th century date and two worked flints. **Slot 22**; Cut [1161] measured 0.90m in width by 0.20m deep with shallow slightly concave sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [794] produced a copper alloy bracelet of twisted wire, 73 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, 15 pieces of animal bone, one chunk of tile and two worked flints. **Slot 45**; cut [1045] measured 0.85m wide by 0.31m deep with moderately steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1044] produced 63 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, 22 pieces of animal bone, six chunks of tile, one fragment of quern and one worked flint. **Slot 46**; cut [1051] measured 1.15m wide by 0.36m deep with moderately steep slightly concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1050], eight potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and six pieces of animal bone were recovered.

F.720 – Ditch: Aligned NE-SW, measuring 26.40m in length and forming the western boundary of a probable track-way with **F.702** delineating the eastern side. Re-cut by **F.719** and **F.748** and truncated an earlier ditch, **F.796**. Fills predominantly of dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal. Sampled in seven slots: **Slot 14**; cut [1009] measured 2.50m in width by 0.50m deep with shallow straight sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [795]. **Slot 16** – half section; Cut [769] measured 0.90+m in width by 0.30+m deep with a slightly concave shallow western side leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [770], no finds recovered. **Slot 18**; cut [882] measured 2.50m in width by 0.60m deep with shallow slightly concave sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [795], produced 20 sherds of pottery dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, three pieces of animal bone and 19 chunks of tile. **Slot 19**; cut [811] measured 1.30m wide by 0.38m deep with moderately steep concave sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [797] produced twelve potsherds of 2nd to 4th century date, six pieces of animal bone, two worked flint and three burn flints; [809] and [810] produced three worked flints. **Slot 22**; Cut [796] measured 0.90m in width by 0.20m deep with shallow slightly concave sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [795] 73 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, 15 pieces of animal bone, one chunk of tile and two worked flints. **Slot 45**; cut [1047] measured 0.70m wide by 0.37m deep, extensively truncated by **F.719**, had a moderately concave western side leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1046], no finds. **Slot 46**; cut [1053] measured 0.40m wide by 0.19m deep, extensively truncated by **F.719**, had a moderately steep concave western side leading to a broad rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1052], no finds.

F.721/723 – Ditch: Aligned northwest-southeast Measured 23.60m total length, terminating to the northwest at **F.720** which truncated it, also cut by **F.724**. Western end excavated during 2006 trial trench exercise as **F.642**. Two slots dug: **Slot 16**; cut [771] measured 0.51m in width by 0.19m deep with a steep straight side leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [772], no finds. **Slot 17**; cut [778] measured 1.20m wide by 0.33m deep with concave sides leading to a broad rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [777] produced no finds.

F.722 – Ditch?: A heavily truncated linear feature aligned SE-NW, mostly removed by natural disturbance and modern ploughing. Only the base survived. Overall length was 5.50m, width 0.39m and depth 0.07m,. Cut [775] truncated concave sides with gradual breaks of slope to a rounded base. Fill [775]; no finds.

F.724 – Gully/Slot: Measured 7.80m overall, was aligned NE-SW and had a spatial relationship with **F.754**. The northern terminal cuts **F.723**. Fills of light to mid greyish brown sandy silt were found throughout the feature, only the southern end appears to have had two separate fills. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 17** – half section; cut [780] measured 0.40m in width by 0.15m deep with concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. One fill [738], no finds. **Slot 42**; butt – ended terminal, cut [1012] measured 0.50m wide by 0.14m deep and had a moderately steep

concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fills [1010] and [1011], pottery dated 2nd to 4th centuries AD recovered from [1010]. **Slot 56**; cut [1069] measured 0.70m wide by 0.20m deep; moderately sloping concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill produced five sherds of pottery dated 2nd to 4th AD, including 2nd century mortaria with stamp 'VIIDIAC'.

F.725 – Pit: Circular in plan, measuring 1.00m diameter and 0.42m deep. Cut [782] had steep sides leading to a rounded base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [781] contained no finds.

F.726 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.40m deep. Cut [786] had steep sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [783], [784] and [785]; [785] produced one Romano-British potsherd, seven pieces of animal bone and a probable post-pad of re-used quernstone.

F.727 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.65m diameter and 0.30m in depth. Cut [789] had steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [787] and [788]; [787] consisted of blue-grey clay, probable padding material, otherwise no finds.

F.728 – Pit/Posthole: Irregular in plan, measuring 0.45m long by 0.35m wide and 0.17m deep. Cut [791] had shallow straight sides leading to a narrow base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [790] had no finds.

F.729 – Pit/Posthole: Irregular in plan, measuring 0.80m long by 0.60m wide and 0.08m deep. Cut [793] had shallow amorphous sides leading to an irregular base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [792] contained nine potsherds of the later Romano-British period, one piece of animal bone and an unformed lump of Cu alloy.

F.730 – Narrow linear feature; located in the base of ditch **F.720** (Slot 19) and measuring 0.18m wide by 0.10m deep. Cut [799] had a steep western side and shallower eastern side leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [798], no finds.

F.731 – Ditch: A heavily truncated linear feature aligned NE-SW, mostly removed on western side by **F.719**. Probably related to **F.796** located in the southern slots. The earliest in a series of three boundary ditches. Observed in **Slot 19**: Depth 0.12m, width approximately 0.35m remaining. Cut [808] concave eastern side with gradual breaks of slope to a shallow rounded base. Five fills [803] – [807]; predominantly seem to be the result of episodic accumulations of fine sandy silt, no finds.

F.732 – Well: Circular in plan with central primary well shaft, latest in a series of five located at the western side of the site. Total overall dimensions were 2.85m diameter by 1.60m deep. The well profile, cut [1105] consisted of two main elements; the upper part was an inverted cone measuring 1.05m deep leading to a circular shaft. The shaft measured 0.85m in diameter by 0.55m deep with steep straight sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. The deposits within the well were also broadly divided into two groups; those found within the upper 'cone' represented episodes of deliberate backfilling, those within the shaft appearing to represent a more natural accumulation. The upper fills in sequence from top were; [877], dated by a post medieval potsherd, [878], which contained 16 potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, [879], with nine potsherds dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD and [880] which produced 26 sherds of the same date and 4 pieces of animal bone. The lower fills; [1101], [1102], [1103] and [1104] seemed to have formed in water and with the exception of [1103] produced no finds. The primary fill, [1104] seemed to represent a gradual accumulation of waterlain silts into the top of which was thrown fill [1103] which produced an almost complete Hovingsea grey ware jar containing the bones of at least 17 fish.

F.733 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.30m long, 0.21m wide and 0.15m deep. Cut [813] had straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [814], no finds.

F.734 – Stakehole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.12m diameter and 0.21m deep. Cut [815] had vertical sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [816], no finds.

F.735 – Pit: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.65m long by 1.60m wide and 0.29m deep. Cut [817] had shallow concave sides leading to an irregular rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [818] contained one worked flint and two fragments of animal bone.

F.736 – Hearth/Flue: Linear in plan, slightly curved with rounded terminal ends. Cut into the top of **F.723**. Measuring 2.06m overall length by 0.42m wide and 0.20m deep. Cut [869] had a moderately steep northern side, steep straight southern side and a flat base with gradual breaks of slope. Fills [865], [866], [867] and [868]. Fill [865] was a post-utilisation soil accumulation, fills [866] – [868] had a large proportion of charcoal derived from use. Late Iron Age to 1st century AD potsherds from [866]. Three environmental samples taken; <15>, <16> and <17>.

F.737 – Hearth/Flue: Linear in plan, slightly curved with semi-circular eastern terminal and rounded western end. Located approximately 0.60m to the north of **F.736** and cut into the top of **F.723**. Measuring 2.06m overall length by 0.35m wide and 0.09m deep. Cut [874] had truncated shallow sides leading to an irregular flat base with gradual breaks of slope. Fills [870], [871], [872] and [873] contained a large proportion of charcoal derived from use. No finds were recovered, two environmental samples were taken; <18> and <19>.

F.738 – Hearth/Flue: Linear in plan with rounded terminals. Located approximately 5.50m to the northeast of **F.737** and measured 1.40m overall length by 0.28m wide and 0.13m deep. Cut [910] had steep straight sides at its western end, becoming shallower towards the east, all leading to a rounded base with gradual breaks of slope. Fills [907], [908] and [909] contained a large proportion of charcoal derived from use. No finds were recovered, three environmental samples were taken; <20>, <21> and <22>.

F.739 – Well: Sub-rectangular in plan, located within **F.757**, **F.767**, **F.798** and **F.799** to the west of the site. Total overall dimensions were 5.00m long by 3.27m wide by 1.16m deep. Cut [838] had moderately steep slightly undulating sides leading to a predominantly flat, slightly sloping, base. All breaks of slope were gradual. The well fills consisted of two main stratigraphic elements, a series of construction deposits [823] – [837] and four episodes of backfilling, [819], [820], [821] and [822]. The interface was marked by a piece of wooden planking ([830]) which had survived through being waterlogged. Very little pottery was recovered from the feature as a whole, 29 sherds, but these placed the well construction within the 1st to 3rd centuries AD and its backfilling from the 2nd to the 4th centuries AD. A large amount of animal bone was retrieved from fills [821] and [822], a total of 264 pieces weighing 7958g.

F.740 – Pit: Oval in plan, measuring 0.65m long by 0.46m wide and 0.08m deep. Cut [840] had shallow concave sides to the SW, steep straight sides to the NE, both leading to an off-centre rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [841] produced no finds.

F.741 – Pit: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.70m long by 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep. Cut [842] had shallow sides leading to an oval flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [843] produced one worked flint.

F.742 – Beam Slot: Identified in **Slot 21**, full extent to the north unknown, not seen in **Slot 4**. Cut [859] measured 0.28m wide by 0.20m deep and had near vertical straight sides leading to a flat base. Fills [847] and [848], no finds retrieved.

F.743 – Pit / Fox Burial: Sub-circular in plan, this feature was located beneath the junction of features **F.709** and **F.802** and measured 0.53m wide by 0.25m deep. Cut [864] had moderately sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [862] and [863] were fine grey and blue/grey silts, no pottery but the remains of a juvenile fox recovered from [863].

F.744 – Beam Slot: One of two related features aligned SE-NW, with **F.745**. Overall the feature measured 5.80m long and had a uniform mid grey sandy silt fill. Two slots were excavated: **Slot 26**; cut [911] measured 0.72m in width by 0.32m deep and had straight near vertical sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [912] produced animal bone and 51 potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. **Slot 27**; cut [914] measured 0.60m wide by 0.28m deep and had moderately sloping sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [913], no finds recovered.

F.745 – Beam Slot: Related to **F.744** and on the same SE-NW alignment. Overall the feature measured 5.00m long and had a uniform mid grey silty sand fill. Two slots were excavated: **Slot 28**; cut [916] measured 0.46m in width by 0.25m deep and had straight vertical sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [915] had no finds but did contain a basal layer of blue grey clay. **Slot 29**; cut [918] measured 0.59m wide by 0.23m deep and had steep straight sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [917], no finds recovered.

F.746 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.44m in diameter and 0.22m deep. Cut [920] had steep concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [919] produced no finds.

F.747 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.17m long, 0.12m wide and 0.09m deep. Cut [876] had vertical straight sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [875], no finds.

F.748 – Ditch: A southern re-cut of **F.720** and pair to **F.719** to the north, total length as seen was 6.20m. The feature was aligned NE-SW and continued south beneath the southern limit of excavation. Fill recorded as [881] for both slots, 82 sherds of pottery recovered, dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, 60 pieces of animal bone, three chunks of tile and two fragments of quern. **Slot 14**; cut [1163] measured 1.47m in width and 0.39m deep with moderately sloping sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. **Slot 18**; cut [1162] terminated in a rounded butt-end in this slot and measured 1.34m wide by 0.48m deep with moderately steep sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope.

F.749 – Ditch: A shallow re-cut of **F.802**, truncated by a second re-cut, **F.750**. Aligned SE-NW this feature may also have cut across the top of **F.709** on a NE-SW alignment but evidence for this is inconclusive. The re-cut was seen to butt-end within **Slot 23** and ran eastwards into **Slot 21**, approximately 4.00m away. **Slot 21**; Cut [861] measured 0.44m in width by 0.12m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [855] had no finds. **Slot 23**; cut [884] measured 0.44m in width by 0.09m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a narrow rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [883], no finds.

F.750 – Ditch: A shallow re-cut of **F.802**, truncates a previous re-cut, **F.749**. Aligned SE-NW the feature was seen to run west from **Slot 23** for 14m. The re-cut was also seen within **Slot 52**. **Slot 23**; cut [889] measured 0.39m in width by 0.10m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [888] produced one potsherd dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. **Slot 52** – half section; cut [1086] measured 0.42m in width by 0.22m deep with concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [1085], no finds.

F.751 – Gully/Slot: Linear in plan, aligned SE-NW and was in excess of 7.00m in length, measuring 0.50m wide and 0.26m deep. Western extent truncated by former trial trench in which it was recorded (Slater 2006), eastern end had a diffuse rounded terminal. Cut [898] had moderately steep slightly concave sides and a rounded base with gradual breaks of slope. Fills [894], [895], [896] and [897]. Fill [894] had frequent charcoal inclusions. Potsherds from the mid 2nd to 4th century AD were recovered from [894] and [896].

F.752 – Posthole/Slot?: Cut near centrally into the southern edge of **F.739**. Rectangular in plan, 1.00m long by 0.30m wide and of 0.08m depth. Cut [900], poorly defined to the north, appeared to have shallow concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [899], no finds.

F.753 – Gully/Slot: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.765**, **F.766**, **F.767**, **F.798** and **F.799**). The total length was 13.70m on a SW-NE alignment. The fill, a grey silty sand, was uniform throughout the feature. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 24**; cut [902] measured 0.55m in width by 0.17m deep with steep slightly concave sides leading to a shallow rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Single fill [901], one animal bone fragment recovered. **Slot 38**; cut [973] measured 0.40m wide by 0.05m deep and had moderately steep concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [972], no finds recovered. **Slot 48** – half section; cut [1060] measured 0.31m wide by 0.19m deep and had moderately steep concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1059], no finds.

F.754 – Gully/Slot: One of two related, possibly structural, elements (with **F.724**). The total length was 7.80m on a NW-SE alignment. The fill, a grey silty sand, was uniform throughout the feature. Two slots were excavated at the terminals: **Slot 25**; cut [904] measured 0.39m in width by 0.13m deep with steep slightly concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Single fill [903], small fragments of burnt clay were recovered. **Slot 44**; cut [1031] measured 0.66m wide by 0.22m deep with straight nearly vertical sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1030], finds recovered.

F.755 – Hearth? An irregular oval shape in plan, much truncated and disturbed by ploughing. Located approximately 0.60m to the south of **F.754**. Measured 1.40m overall length by 0.30m wide and 0.06m deep. Cut [906] had truncated shallow sides leading to an irregular flat base with gradual breaks of

slope. Fill [905] contained a large proportion of charcoal derived from use. No finds were recovered, an environmental sample was taken; <23>.

F.756 – Pit/Erosion hollow? A regular feature with semi circular southern end and straight sides, northern end obscured beneath limit of excavation. Measured 4.20m long, 1.35m wide and a maximum of 0.08m deep. Cut [922] had very shallow sides leading to a flat base, breaks of slope imperceptible. Fill [921] produced one piece of Romano-British pottery. Truncated at SE by **F.756**.

F.757 – Postpit: Circular in plan, measuring 1.21m diameter and 0.65m in depth. Cut [924] had steep concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [923] and [931]; [923] produced three sherds of later Romano-British pottery.

F.758 – Posthole: Truncated by **F.759**, otherwise circular in plan, measuring 0.45m in diameter and 0.22m deep. Cut [926] had steep concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [925] produced eight sherds of later Romano-British pottery.

F.759 – Slot: Ephemeral curving slot between **F.745** and **F.758**. The length was 1.84m and it was between 0.47m and 0.60m wide by 0.25m deep. The fill, a mid greyish brown silty sand, was uniform throughout the feature. Two slots were excavated at the terminals: **Slot 30**; cut [928] had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [927] produced five sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and one worked flint. **Slot 31**; cut [933] had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [932] had 20 potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and 3 chunks of tile.

F.760 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.74m in diameter and 0.52m deep. Cut [930] had steep straight sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [929], no finds.

F.761 – Ditch: Located at the furthest western limit of the site with **F.762** which it truncated. Revealed for 4.00m and aligned NE-SW it measured 0.36m wide by 0.23m deep. Cut [935] had near vertical sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [934], no finds recovered.

F.762 – Gully: Located at the furthest western limit of the site with **F.761** which truncated it. Heavily truncated, it was revealed for 3.20m, aligned NW-SE and measured 0.26m wide by 0.02m deep. Cut [937] had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [936], no finds recovered but frequent flecks of charcoal in matrix.

F.764 – Ditch: Located to the west of the site this feature measured a total length of 17.20m on a SW-NE alignment and was truncated by a short length of re-cut **F.781**. The fills were similar throughout the feature with an upper fill of mid to light greyish brown fine sandy silt and lower fill of mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 32**; cut [941] measured 0.96m in width by 0.43m deep with moderately steep straight sides leading to a narrow rounded V-shaped base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fills [940], [998] and [999]. Fill [940] produced six potsherds from the mid 2nd to 4th century AD. **Slot 33**; cut [943], truncated by **F.781**, measured 1.20m wide by 0.52m deep and had steep sides leading to a narrow rounded V-shaped base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fills [942] and [1000], no finds recovered.

F.765 – Gully/Slot: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.753**, **F.766**, **F.767**, **F.798** and **F.799**). Truncated by **F.797** remaining length was 1.70m on a NW-SE alignment. Excavated in **Slot 34**; cut [945] measured 0.44m in width by 0.22m deep with steep slightly concave sides leading to a shallow rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Single fill [944], no finds recovered.

F.766 – Gully/Slot: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.753**, **F.765**, **F.767**, **F.798** and **F.799**). The total length was 13.70m on a SE-NW alignment. The fill, a fine dark grey brown sandy silt, was uniform throughout the feature. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 35**; cut [947] measured 0.32m in width by 0.12m deep with steep slightly concave sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Single fill [946], no finds recovered. **Slot 39**; cut [975] measured 0.37m wide by 0.08m deep with moderately steep concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [974], no finds. **Slot 40**; cut [977] measured 0.39m wide by 0.29m deep and had moderately steep convex sides becoming deep, narrow and leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [976], no finds.

F.767 – Gully: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.753**, **F.765**, **F.766**, **F.798** and **F.799**). The total length was 32.00m on a rectilinear NE-SW alignment turning at a 90° angle. The

fill, a fine dark grey brown sandy silt, was predominant throughout the feature. Four slots were excavated: **Slot 36**; cut [949] measured 0.35m in width by 0.08m deep with steep straight eastern side and concave western side leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Single fill [948], no finds recovered. **Slot 37**; cut [964] measured 0.40m in width by 0.33m deep with moderately steep convex sides becoming steeper and leading to a narrow flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [959] - [963], no finds. **Slot 41**; cut [979] measured 0.35m wide by 0.10m deep with steep slightly concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [978], no finds. **Slot 43**; cut [1025] measured 0.39m wide by 0.29m deep and had moderately steep convex sides becoming deep, narrow and leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [1023] (21 fragments of animal bone recovered) and [1024].

F.768 – Posthole: Oval in plan, measuring 0.65m long by 0.35m wide and 0.17m deep. Cut [951] had steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [950] had no finds.

F.769 – Pit? Sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.20m long by 2.05m wide and 0.15m deep. Cut [953] had very shallow sides leading to a flat base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [952], no finds – may be natural.

F.770 – Pit: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.00m long by 1.55m wide and 0.29m in depth. Cut [956] had steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [955], one fragment of animal bone. **F.770** was beneath layer [954], truncated **F.771**.

F.771 – Pit: Truncated to west by **F.770** otherwise circular in plan, measuring approximately 1.30m in diameter and 0.52m deep. Cut [958] had steep concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [957] produced one piece of worked flint.

F.772 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.26m long by 0.24m wide and 0.27m deep. Cut [971] had steep near vertical straight sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [965], [966] [967], [968], [969] and [970]. No finds recovered.

F.773 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.36m long by 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep. Cut [981] had moderately steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [980], no finds.

F.774 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.32m diameter and 0.23m deep. Cut [983] had vertical sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [982] produced no finds but did include stones (120x100x60mm) used as post packing material.

F.775 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.30m long, 0.27m wide and 0.22m deep. Cut [985] had vertical straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [984], no finds.

F.776 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.20m long, 0.12m wide and 0.09m deep. Cut [987] had vertical straight sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [986] contained 19 pieces of R-B tile, probably used as post packing.

F.777 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.47m long by 0.45m wide and 0.30m deep. Cut [991] had near vertical sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [988] (post packing), [989] (post pipe) and [990]. No finds were recovered.

F.778 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.33m long by 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep. Cut [993] had moderately steep irregular sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [992] contained blue clay and packing stones, one of which was part of a former saddle quern. One R-B potsherd recovered.

F.779 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.29m long by 0.28m wide and 0.21m deep. Cut [995] had moderately steep irregular sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [994], no finds.

F.780 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.33m long by 0.30m wide and 0.18m deep. Cut [997] had moderately steep irregular sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [996] contained no finds.

F.781 – Ditch re-cut: Located to the west of the site this short length of ditch measured a total length of 4.40m on a SW-NE alignment and truncated **F.764**. See in **Slot 33** only; cut [1002] measured 0.55m in width by 0.26m deep with moderately steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fills [1001], no finds.

F.782 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.48m long by 0.48m wide and 0.19m deep. Cut [1003] had near vertical sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1004], no finds.

F.783 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.36m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Cut [1005] had moderately steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1006] no finds recovered.

F.784 – Posthole: Irregular in plan, measuring 0.46m long by 0.35m wide and 0.13m deep. Cut [1008] had steep straight sides leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fill [1007], no finds.

F.785 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.50m in diameter and 0.33m deep. Cut [1015] had near vertical straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1013] and [1014], no finds recovered.

F.786 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.30m in diameter and 0.38m deep. Cut [1017] had moderately steep concave sides leading to a deeply rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [1016], no finds.

F.787 – Posthole: Oval in plan, measuring 0.60m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Cut [1020] had gently sloping sides leading to an uneven base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1018] and [1019], no finds recovered. Interpretation not certain, may have been a pit.

F.788 – Posthole: Oval in plan, measuring 0.26m in diameter and 0.09m deep. Cut [1021] had steep sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1022] did not produce any finds.

F.789 – Posthole: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.50m long by 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep. Cut [1027] had moderately steep sides leading to a conical base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1026] contained one sherd of later Romano-British pottery.

F.790 – Posthole: Roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.50m long by 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep. Cut [1027] had moderately steep sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1026], no finds.

F.791 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.53m in diameter and 0.40m deep. Cut [1035] had near vertical sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1032] (post packing in post pipe), [1033] and [1034]. No finds were recovered.

F.792 – Posthole: Roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.50m long by 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep. Cut [1037] had moderately steep sides leading to a flat base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fill [1036], no finds.

F.793 – Beam slot?: Linear in plan, measuring 0.80m long by 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep. Cut [1039] had shallow sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1038] produced one sherd of later Romano-British pottery. Interpretation uncertain.

F.794 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.30m deep. Cut [1041] had steep irregular sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1040] produced one sherd of later Romano-British pottery

F.795 – Posthole: Roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.25m long by 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep. Cut [1043] had moderately steep sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1042], no finds.

F.796 – Ditch: Recorded in **Slot 45** but almost certainly present though unrecognised in **Slots 22, 18** and **14**, where it probably terminated. Truncated by **F.719** and **720**, it measured 0.50m wide by 0.32m thick, originally approximately 0.60m deep and 1.50 wide. Cut [1049] was steep, slightly convex on

western side, leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1048], no finds recovered.

F.797 – Ditch: Overall length measured 0.23m and was aligned NE-SW and related to **F.802**, aligned SE-NW. There was a further spatial relationship to **F.767**, which ran parallel at a distance of between 3.50m and 4.00m. Truncated over the full length by **F.800**, a later re-cut. Four slots were excavated: **Slot 47**; cut [1058] measured 1.20m wide by 0.45m deep; moderately sloping straight western side and convex eastern side leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1057], four pieces of bone recovered. **Slot 51**; cut [1082] measured 1.20m wide by 0.45m deep; moderately sloping convex sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1079], [1080] and [1081], no finds. **Slot 55**; cut [1100] measured 0.95m in width by 0.52m deep with concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1097] and [1099], animal bone from [1099].

F.798 – Gully/Slot: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.753**, **F.765**, **F.766**, **F.767** and **F.799**). The total length was 1.20m on a NE-SW alignment. The fill, a fine mid grey sandy silt, was uniform across the feature. Two slots were excavated: **Slot 56** – half section; cut [1062] measured 0.24m in width by 0.07m deep with steep near vertical sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill [1061], no finds recovered. **Slot 49** – half section; cut [1064] measured 0.24m in width by 0.10m deep with steep concave sides leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1063], no finds.

F.799 – Gully/Slot: One of seven related, possibly structural, elements (**F.751**, **F.753**, **F.765**, **F.766**, **F.767** and **F.798**). The total length was approximately 8.00m on a rectilinear NE-SW alignment. The fill, a fine mid grey silty sand, was predominant throughout the feature. Three slots were excavated: **Slot 21**; cut [854] measured 0.35m in width by 0.14m deep with steep convex sides leading to a narrow rounded base through sharp breaks of slope. Single fill [853], one piece of burnt flint recovered. **Slot 49** – half section; cut [1066] measured 0.45m in width by 0.17m deep with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1065], no finds. **Slot 50**; cut [1068] measured 0.48m wide by 0.20m deep with steep straight eastern side and moderately sloped concave western side leading to a slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1067], no finds.

F.800 – Ditch: Overall length measured 23m and was aligned NE-SW. There was a further spatial relationship to **F.767**, which ran parallel at a distance of between 3.50m and 4.00m. Truncated the full length of **F.797**. Approximately ten metres of the northern end of the re-cut was filled by post-roman clays, the southern half was filled with charcoal rich deposits. Four slots were excavated: **Slot 47**; cut [1056] measured 0.55m wide by 0.29m deep; moderately sloping concave sides leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1054] and [1055]; two pieces of tile, one fragment of animal bone and one potsherd dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD recovered from [1055]. **Slot 51**; cut [1076] measured 0.90m wide by 0.33m deep; moderately sloping concave western side and straight eastern side leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1074] and [1075] from which one animal bone fragment was recovered. **Slot 55**; cut [1096] measured 0.60m in width by 0.42m deep with steep straight sides leading to a narrow rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1095] produced four pieces of animal bone, one piece of tile, three lumps of burnt clay and four potsherds dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD.

F.801 – Ditch: A remnant highly truncated by **F.797**. Seen in **Slot 51**; cut [1078] represented a terminal end with a rounded base, most of the sides were truncated. Extent of feature measured 0.38m wide by 0.10m deep. Fill [1077], no finds.

F.802 – Ditch: Re-cut in two phases by **F.749** and **F.750**. Aligned SE-NW this feature may be part of an enclosure system including **F.709** and **F.797**. Sampled in three slots. **Slot 21**; Cut [858] measured 0.67m in width by 0.16m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [856] and [857], no finds. **Slot 23**; cut [893] measured 0.44m in width by 0.09m deep and had shallow concave sides leading to a narrow rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Fills [890] – [893], no finds.

F.804 – Ditch: A ditch segment sampled in **Slot 54**. Aligned NE-SW, it measured a total length of 5.00m and was 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep. Cut [1092] had steep straight sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1091] produced four pieces of animal bone, one fragment of tile and eleven potsherds dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

F.805 – Posthole: Circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.07m deep. Cut [1094] was horizontally truncated by **F.804** and had shallow sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1093], no finds.

F.806 – Well: Unknown shape in plan, seen only in section, truncated by **F.807** and one in a series of five wells or pits located at the western side of the site. Total overall dimensions of remaining feature was 2.00m wide by 1.30m deep. The western side of the well cut [1130] had been entirely removed by **F.807**, the remaining side to the east was moderately steep and convex leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. The deposits within the well were sterile of finds and could be split into two main groups. Fills [1121], [1122] and [1123], were defined by their fine mid to light grey silty matrix and fine sand striations. Beneath these were fills [1123] and [1124], an extensive backfill deposit of redeposited natural and a series of fine interleaved water lain deposits, fills [1125] – [1129].

F.807 – Well shaft: Circular in plan with central primary well shaft, truncated by **F.732** and second latest in a series of five located at the western side of the site. Total overall dimensions of remaining feature was 1.90m diameter by 1.85m deep. The western side of the well cut [1117] had been almost entirely removed by **F.732** but the remaining sides to the east were steep and straight with two steps leading to a circular shaft. The shaft measured 0.85m in diameter by 0.60m deep with vertical straight sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. The deposits within the well may have represented episodes of deliberate backfilling but they were sterile of finds and were not redeposited natural sands and gravel. The fills in sequence from top were; [1106], [1107], [1108], [1109] [1110], [1111], [1114] and [1115]. Fills from [1108] down seemed to have formed in water and there was clear evidence of some kind of well lining in the lower shaft. To the east of the section a stake hole, **F.813**, could be seen, located at the base of a very straight interface between **F.807** and **F.806** to the east. To the west in the opposite corresponding position the remains of a circular wooden possible stake [1116] could be seen bent towards the centre of feature, pressed inwards by natural slumping, deposits [1112] and [1113].

F.808 – Well: Shape in plan unknown, seen only in section, truncated by **F.732** and one in a series of five wells or pits located at the western side of the site. Total overall dimensions of remaining feature were 1.90m wide by 0.64m deep. The eastern side of the well cut [1137] had been entirely removed by **F.732**, the remaining side to the west had a moderately steep, slightly convex profile leading to a series of steps and a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [1134] and [1135] were backfilled redeposited natural over [1136], a grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. Shape of the western side strongly suggests some form of plank revetment for the well.

F.809 – Re-cut shaft: Unknown shape in plan, seen only in section, truncated by **F.808** and truncating **F.810**. Total overall dimensions of remaining feature; was 1.30m wide by 0.30m deep. The remaining side to the west, cut [1141], was stepped but straight leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. The deposits within the well were sterile of finds: Fills [1138], [1139] and [1140]. Interpretation of this feature is by no means certain, very little of it could be seen in section.

F.810 – Pit/Well: Unknown shape in plan, seen only in section, truncated by **F.809** to the east and the first in a series of five wells or pits located at the western side of the site. Remaining dimensions of feature were 1.20m wide by 0.60m deep. The eastern side of cut [1144] had been entirely removed by **F.809**, the remaining side to the west was steep and slightly concave leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fills [1142] and [1143]; [1142] was largely of redeposited natural overlying [1143], a deposit of fine grey silts with charcoal flecks from which 60 pieces of animal bone, one worked flint and three potsherds dated to the middle Iron Age were recovered.

F.811 – Pit: Shape in plan unseen, truncated to east by **F.810**, the remaining feature measuring approximately 1.00m wide and 0.45m deep. Cut [1148] had a steep convex western side which became vertical leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Fills [1145], [1146] and [1147], no finds recovered.

F.812 – Pit: Sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.20 wide and 0.25m in depth. Cut [1151] had shallow concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Fill [1150], no finds.

F.813 – Stakehole: Seen in the base of **F.807** in section and measured 0.15m diameter by 0.21m deep. Cut [1119] had steep straight eastern side, convex western side and a narrow pointed base. Fill [1118] produced no finds.

Layer [1131] – A deposit of very fine silts in thin laminations coloured grey, yellowish brown and pale yellow. Mottled with orange brown iron staining. Very friable. Seen in section only, 0.36m thick, full extent unknown, truncated by **F.806**. No finds.

Layer [1132] – Very fine plastic clayey silts, light blue/grey with orange mottles. Seen in section only, 0.25m thick, full extent unknown, truncated by **F.806**. No finds.

Layer [1133] – Very fine plastic silts, mid greyish brown. Seen in section only, 0.32m thick, full extent unknown, truncated by **F.806**. No finds.

Layer [1152] – A friable pale grey silt with occasional dark orange brown mottles and lenses of sandy redeposited natural. Covered an area of at least 8.00m by 10.00m to a depth of up to 0.38m. Located in the western part of the site. No finds.

Layer [1153] - A mid grey silty sand with considerable orange brown mottling and occasional grey silty lenses. Measured 0.36m deep, full extent not determined, same as layer [1154] to the west. No finds.

Layer [1154] – A mid grey silty sand with considerable orange brown mottling and occasional grey silty lenses. Covered a considerable area, full extent not determined, at a depth of 0.36m. Beneath layer [1152] and over layer [1155]. Same as [1153] to the east. No finds.

Layer [1155] – Consisted of redeposited natural sand and gravel of 0.11m thickness and at least 1.80m width. Seen in section, full extent unknown. Over [1156] and beneath [1154]. No finds.

Layer [1156] – A mid grey sandy silt with orange brown mottling and occasional small rounded stones. Covered fill [1134] and was covered by [1155]. No finds.