

Further Excavations at Striplands Farm

Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (II)



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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at Striplands Farm adjacent and near to several areas previously investigated by the CAU in 2005. Largely repeating the results of the 2005 Area A findings: primarily Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval to post-Medieval activity was identified, including a number of enclosure and possible property boundaries dating from the 12th to 15th centuries AD, numerous Medieval quarry pits and a large post-Medieval pond. Possibly relating to the early origins of west Longstanton, these Medieval features truncated Middle to Saxo-Norman features and a later Iron Age enclosure boundary ditch, with only a small quantity of residual Roman pottery found in later features.

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Figure 1. Location of the site

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by a small team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between 13th July and 28th July 2009. This project was commissioned by WSP Environmental on behalf of Gallaghers Ltd ahead of the proposed development of the land and in response to an evaluation in 2004 (Patten 2004), with the immediate area partially excavated in 2005 (Patten & Evans 2005). The excavation was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological specification set out by the CAU (Evans 2005) and agreed by Andy Thomas (Cambridgeshire County Council) and Alan Thomas (WSP Environmental) for Gallaghers Ltd.

The site continues the archaeological investigation of land at Striplands Farm approximately 9km north of Cambridge, within the village of Longstanton (NGR: 539330 267300; TL 394 673), where a series of fields were subjected to open area excavation during the summer of 2005. The underlying geology consisted of Ampthill clay, overlain in places by third terrace river gravels. Geological boreholes in the locale identified the course of the River Cam *c.* 125,000BP, which flowed through the site resulting in a matrix of mixed gravels, silts and clay deposits.

Archaeological Background

A thorough archaeological background for the parish of Longstanton has been outlined within the desktop assessment, (Evans & Dickens 2002) and later developed within previous investigations undertaken by the CAU, in particular for the Cambridge Guided Busway (CGB; Cessford & Mackay 2004), the Striplands Farm report (Patten & Evans 2005), and the report on fieldwork conducted in 2004 and 2005 throughout the village (Evans & Mackay 2004; Evans *et al.* 2005). The reader is referred to these reports for a more detailed understanding of the archaeological character of Longstanton. For the purposes of this report a brief summary of the archaeological evidence within approximately 500m of Striplands Farm will be made.

To the east of Striplands Farm an archaeological investigation was undertaken in January 1991 on a 79ha site of the golf course at Hatton's Farm (Evans 1991). This consisted of geophysical prospecting, test pit sampling and trial trenching, which identified three sites spanning the later Iron Age through to the Medieval. Site I was a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, evidenced by a number of curvilinear gullies representing several roundhouses and a probable track or route way. Site II formed a series of Late Iron Age and Romano-British field system ditches in association with drove ways and settlement. Site III produced evidence of a Late Iron Age settlement consisting of a number of curvilinear gullies, representing several roundhouses preserved beneath a Medieval windmill mound and a headland.

To the south at Home Farm, Longstanton (NGR: 539300 267000), an archaeological investigation was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) between 1996 and 1997 ahead of proposed development (Ellis & Rátkai 2001). After a fieldwalking and geophysical survey of the area, a series of trial trenches were cut, leading to the excavation of two open areas. Evidence for Iron Age activity was recorded in the form of a series of pits and a ring gully. Gullies and pits

of Saxo-Norman origin gave rise to a series of enclosures and pits, which continued through to the Medieval period. This activity occurred on a clay geology with no gravel deposits encountered.

From October 2003 through to January 2004, a series of archaeological evaluations were undertaken along the route of the proposed Cambridge Guided Busway (Cessford & Mackay 2004). Part of this route (Construction Route 4) crossed Striplands Farm and marked the northernmost limit of the excavation. Seven trenches were excavated within the development area, being limited by the width and course of the corridor. Only three of the trenches excavated produced any evidence of archaeological features. Trench 1, to the east of the corridor, contained a linear of probable Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date along with a series of inter-cutting (re-cut) linears of unknown date. Trench 2 contained a single posthole of unknown date. Trench 3 contained a linear of unknown date which had been heavily truncated by a series of Post-Medieval quarry pits. The remaining four trenches were devoid of archaeological features.

During March 2004, a fieldwalking and metal detecting program was undertaken in two fields within the parish of Longstanton, one designated F and the other H (Beadsmoore 2004). A 20m grid was set over the fields and the transects walked and metal detected. Within Field H (*c.* 0.75km north of the site), four separate zones were surveyed more intensively on the basis of known cropmarks or the results of the transect fieldwalking. Artefactual evidence was collected representing activity dating from the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic through to the present. Prehistoric activity was represented by the recovery of a single sherd of possible Beaker pottery and a number of pieces of flint dating from the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Romano-British activity was evidenced in the form of pottery, tile, 21 coins and the fragment of a trumpet broach. Anglo-Saxon activity was evidenced by pottery, a *sceatta* (8th century AD silver penny) and a fragment of a square headed broach. Saxo-Norman and Medieval activity was scarce, and only a few fragments of pottery were recovered from these periods. The majority of the artefacts were recovered from the eastern area of the field where the underlying geology was gravel, whilst the area overlying the clay geology produced a limited number of artefacts. The results suggest there was a significant Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon presence within this area, with the cropmark patterns representing a possible settlement.

Continuing on from the field walking survey a preliminary phase of trial trenching was undertaken (Cooper in Evans & Mackay 2004). Seven trenches were excavated focusing on a series of cropmarks identified by an aerial photographic survey (Palmer in Evans & Dickens 2002). The evaluation identified dense Romano-British activity interspersed with evidence of some Late Iron Age archaeology. The Romano-British features identified corresponded with two concentrations of cropmarks. These consisted of two discrete groups of enclosures and paddocks on a north-south east-west alignment with internal structures. Artefacts recovered from these features would suggest activity during the 2nd to 4th century AD and represented at least three phases of dense and sustained Romano-British settlement activity. The aerial photographic survey and fieldwalking results, along with the artefacts recovered during the excavation, suggested the potential for a Saxon settlement, consisting of a number of possible *grubenhäuser*, existing within the immediate environs.

Finally, in 2005 an archaeological excavation was undertaken on the land at Striplands Farm adjacent to the current area (Patten & Evans 2005) following an earlier evaluation (Patten 2004). Excavated archaeological features attested to human activity spanning the prehistoric through to Medieval period. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation was recorded in the form of gullies, postholes, and large pits containing a significant quantity of pottery and preserved organics, including several log ladders and axe hafts. Fronting onto the present course of the B1050 were a series of Saxo-Norman ditches, possibly representing evidence for the early layout of the village of Longstanton.

Methodology

The area was stripped with a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, which removed topsoil and overburden to expose archaeological levels, under the careful supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The Unit modified version of the MoLAS recording system was used; all archaeological and relevant geological features were planned at 1:50, with sections drawn at 1:10. All postholes and pits were quarter or half sectioned, and linear features were excavated at appropriate intervals and intersections. Archaeological features were assigned a unique number (e.g. **F.533**; in bold upon introduction within the text) and each stratigraphically distinct episode (e.g. a cut, a fill) was recorded with a unique context number (e.g. [1290]); numbers in this report commence at F.533 for features and [1290] for contexts, continuing the numbering sequence from the 2005 excavation programme.

All exposed features were metal detected using a Laser Rapier metal detector. The site was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey Grid and Ordnance Datum by means of a RTK GPS unit. All work was carried out within strict accordance to statutory health and safety legislation and recommendations of SCAUM.

A total of 79 features were identified during the excavation, with 248 separate contexts allotted. The artefacts and accompanying documentation have been compiled into a stable, cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of MAP 2 (English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently stored at the offices of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit under the project code SFW 09. As part of the Longstanton investigations, this was the final area to be completed and index numbers were continued in sequence from the previous phase. The previous area excavated during 2005 will be discussed throughout this report, although detailed feature descriptions will be restricted to the current investigation. For the feature descriptions from the previous area please refer to the previous report (Patten & Evans 2005).

Excavation Results

The current area lay immediately adjacent and formed part of *Area A* of the 2005 excavation; relevant features from the previous excavation will be referred to in the main text. The main feature types consisted of linears, pits and a pond; the pits mainly pertaining to quarry pits. 51 linears were excavated in addition to 27 pits and the pond feature. A number of the features either had no datable artefacts or had mixed material spanning from the Iron Age through to the 17th century. This

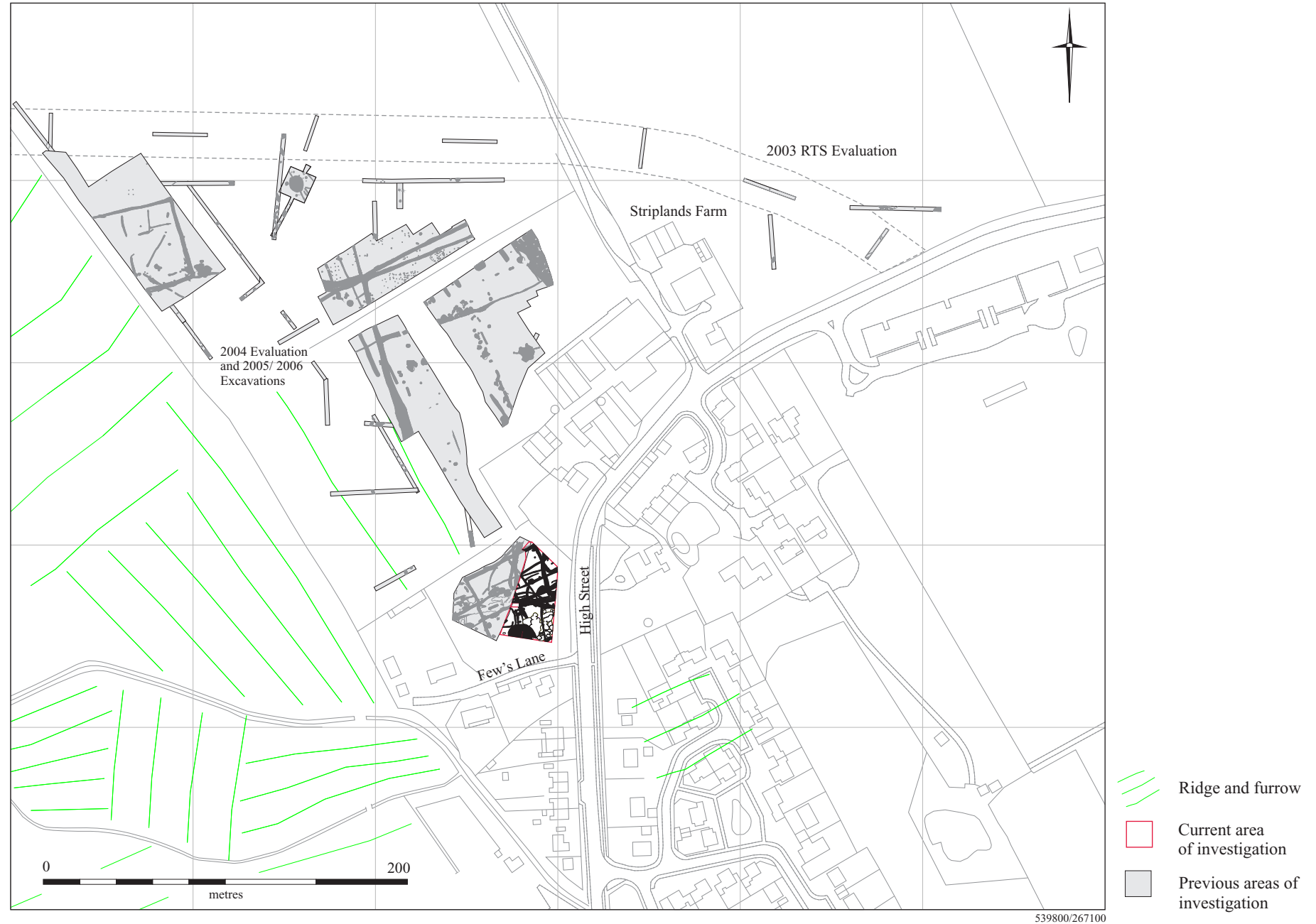


Figure 2. Current excavation area

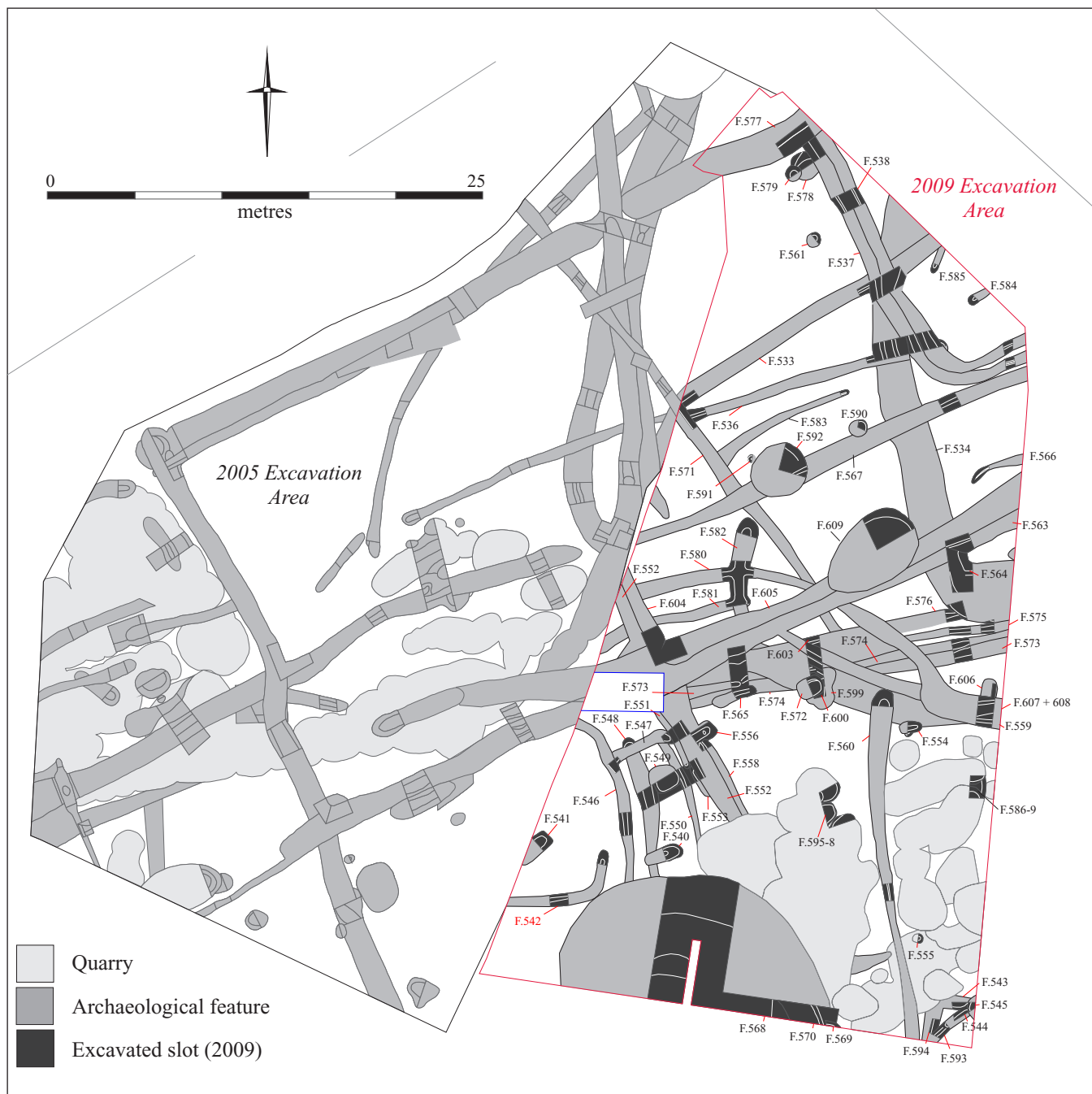


Figure 3. Plan of features

mixing of objects was perhaps due to taphonomic processes which must be taken into consideration regarding the dating and sequencing of some of the linears and associated inter-cutting features. To establish stratigraphic relationships between cut features the sampling strategy largely targeted the intersections of features; original truncation of features may have contributed to the commingling of artefacts in addition to further admixing due to the nature of this strategy.

Two distinct areas of low ground, forming hollows, were identified; the first area was located towards the southeast of the site, bordered to the west by linear F.560, and where there were numerous clusters of quarry pits dated to the 12th century AD or earlier. In the southern area there were additional quarry pits, mainly dated to the 15th century, the second hollow, identified as a large pond, F.568 (Figure 3). Features are discussed by phase where appropriate. Although the majority of linears were undatable, and deemed to be of Saxo-Norman origin or earlier, a large ditch attributable to the Iron Age was also identified.

Iron Age

The earliest evidence of occupation found during this phase of fieldwork was a large ditch, **F.534** (same as F.535), attributable to the Iron Age period. Possibly representing a boundary ditch, with evidence of a re-cut in the northernmost slot, it was predominantly oriented northwest-southeast, with an eastwards right-angle turn at its southern corner and a slight curve to the east at its northern end where it continues beyond the edge of excavation. Indicating that an 'enclosure' proper laid predominantly outside the excavation area to the northeast, the small undated gullies **F.584** and **F.585** could have possibly represented internal features within the enclosure, a conclusion based on their slightly different alignment to the later linears attributed to the 12th century, although no datable artefacts were recovered from them.

F.534 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 26.00m+ in length. Three slots were excavated:

The cut [1295] had near vertical concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and concave base (1.85m wide and 0.86m deep). It contained three fills; [1292] very firm dark yellow/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1293] firm light orange/blue clay with occasional iron pan inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1294] firm dark grey/black silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

The cut [1300] had steep concave and convex sides with sharp breaks of slope and a narrow flat base (2.04m wide and 1.11m deep). It contained three fills; [1301] soft mid grey/blue silty clay with occasional organic inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1302] soft mottled orange/light grey/blue sandy clay; [1303] firm dark yellow/grey sandy clay with occasional iron pan inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1304] firm mid brown/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. No finds.

The cut of the corner [1393] had moderately sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (1.20m+ wide and 0.86m deep). It contained four fills; [1389] Firm sticky mid yellow/brown, with occasional diffuse orange mottling, sandy silty clay with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1390] firm sticky mid grey/brown with moderate to frequent brown/orange mineral mottling silty clay with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1391] Soft

sticky mid to dark brown/grey clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal and organics; [1392] firm to soft pale grey and mid yellow/grey mottled silty clay with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery.

F.535 was possibly the same linear as F.534 or a re-cut. The cut [1299] had steeply sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (2.11m wide and 0.82m deep). It contained three fills; [1296] very firm dark yellow/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1297] very firm mid grey/yellow silty clay with occasional gravel and iron pan inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1298] firm light orange/blue clay with occasional iron pan inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and burnt stone.

F.584 was a gully/linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 1.45m+ in length. The cut [1456] of the terminal was round in plan with gradually sloping concave sides with a gradual break of slope and concave base (0.46m wide and 0.04m deep). It contained a single fill [1455]; soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery.

F.585 was a linear on a north-northeast – south-southwest orientation and was 1.60m+ in length. The cut [1458] of the terminal was round in plan, with gradually sloping concave sides, a gradual break of slope and concave base (0.29m wide and 0.07m deep). It contained a single fill; [1457] firm mid grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

There was no other evidence that enabled further features to be securely attributed the Iron Age, although residual fragments of Iron Age pottery was recovered from several other features, including one the 15th century quarry pits (F.597).

Pre-12th Century – Mid to Late Saxon

In the centre of the excavation area was a series of linears running on a roughly east-west orientation. Although the majority had no reliably datable artefacts, they were stratigraphically overlain by Saxo-Norman features. The linears could be attributed to two distinct episodes; **F.573**, **F.574**, **F.575** and **F.576** probably represent the first sequence of linears. In addition a small gully (**F.566**) contained Ipswich Ware dated to the Middle Saxon period indicates earlier Saxon activity.

F.566 was a gully/linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 10.25m+ in length. The cut [1399] of the terminal was round/tapered in plan with gently sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.31m wide and 0.08m deep). It contained a single fill [1398]; very firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone, and stone.

F.573 was a linear on an east-northeast-west-southwest orientation and was 18.40m+ in length. The cut [1516] had truncated, moderately steep convex sides with a sharp break of slope and flat base (c. 0.35m wide and c.0.51m deep). It contained a single fill; [1515] firm sticky light to mid brown/grey clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

F.574 was a linear on an east-northeast – west-southwest orientation and was 18.75m+ in length. Two slots were excavated.

The cut [1430] had moderately steep straight sides with a sharp break of slope and flat base (0.60m wide and 0.32m deep). It contained two fills; [1428] firm dense mid grey/brown, with diffuse yellow mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions; [1429] firm dense mid grey/brown with diffuse yellow/orange/brown mottling clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

The cut [1479] had moderately steep straight sides with moderate breaks of slope and flat base (0.60m+ wide and 0.40m deep). It contained a single fill; [1478] firm mid grey/brown, with

moderate diffuse orange mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.575 was a linear on an east-northeast – west-southwest orientation and was 16.00m+ in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1432] had moderately steep straight sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base. It contained a single fill; [1431] firm dense mid grey/brown, with diffuse yellow mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

The cut [1434] had moderately steep straight sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base. It contained a single fill; [1433] firm dense mid grey/brown, with diffuse yellow mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

F.576 was a linear on an east-west orientation and was 18.00m+ in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1488] was truncated on the northern side; the southern side had a moderately steep concave side with a moderate break of slope and shallow concave base (2.00m+ wide and 0.53m deep). It contained three fills; [1485] firm dense mid grey/brown, with diffuse yellow mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions; [1486] firm to friable brown/yellow/orange sandy silts with occasional gravel inclusions and frequent chalk inclusions; [1487] firm mid grey and brown/orange mottling silt with rare gravel inclusions and occasional chalk inclusions. Finds included bone and flint.

The cut [1490] was truncated to the south, moderately sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.75m+ wide and 0.22m deep). It contained a single fill; [1489] firm mid grey/brown, with diffuse orange mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

The second sequence of ditches, **F.601**, **F.602** and **F.603**, also lacked dating evidence and were on a slightly different alignment to those described above, although the fills appeared to be uniform and silted at the same time. These linears appear to all terminate at the point of the eastern end of the evaluation trench that was previously excavated in 2004.

F.601 was a linear on an east-west orientation. The cut [1512] had truncated, moderately steep convex sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base (0.55m wide and 0.60m deep). It contained a single fill; [1511] firm light to mid brown/grey, with orange mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.602 was a linear on an east-west orientation. The cut [1514] had truncated, moderately steep straight sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base (0.33m+ wide and 0.23m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1513] no description. No finds.

F.603 was a linear on a west-northwest – east-southeast orientation and was 5.00m+ in length. The cut [1495] had moderately steep straight/convex sides with sharp breaks of slope and sharp concave base (c. 2.35m wide and 0.78m deep). It contained four fills; [1491] Firm to friable light to mid orange/brown, with orange/yellow mottling, sandy silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions; [1492] firm mid grey/brown, with diffuse orange mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1493] firm mid brown/grey, with olive/brown mottling, clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1494] firm sticky light to mid grey, with olive/brown mottling, sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions and occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

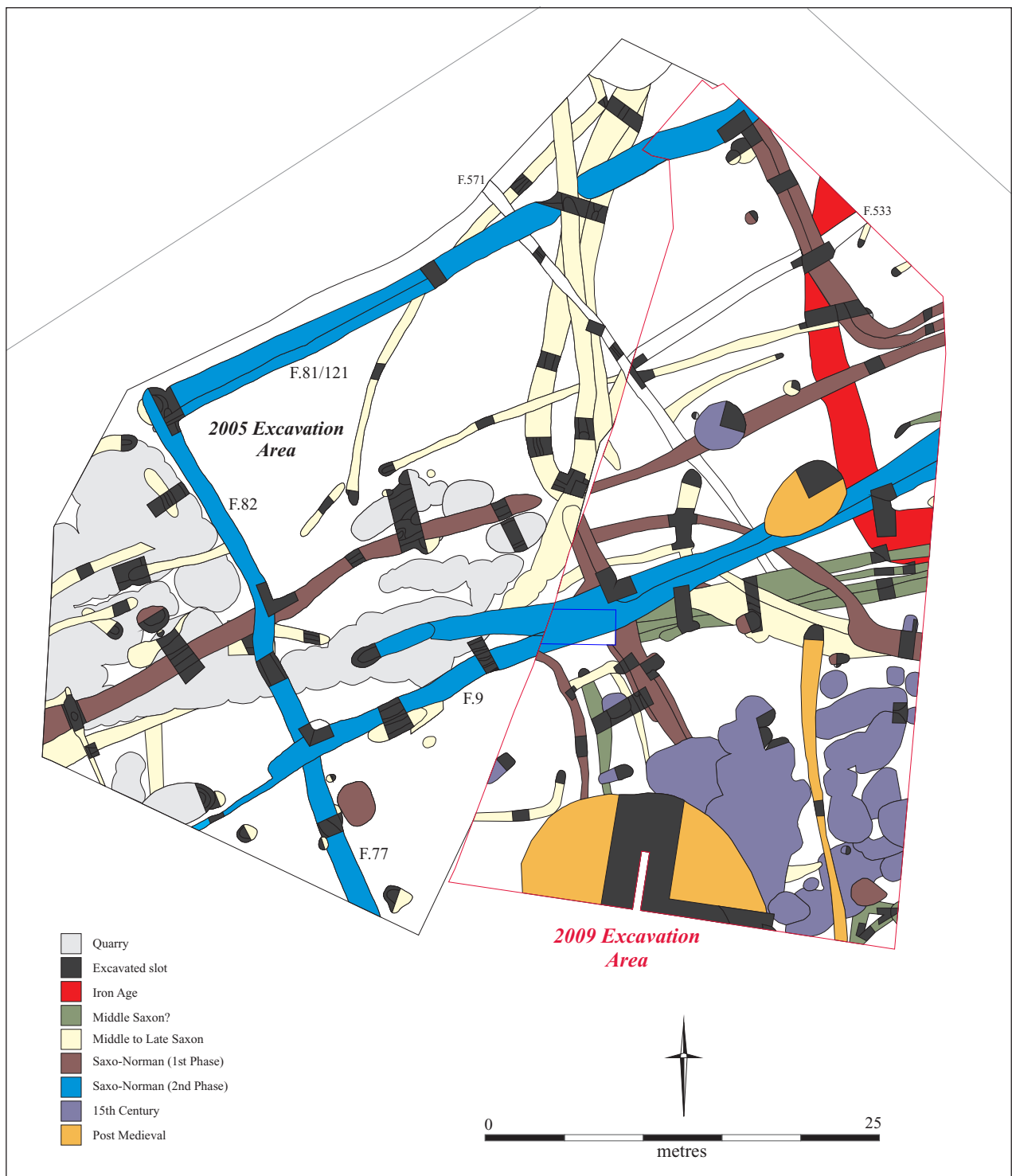


Figure 4. Phase plan



Photograph of F.537 and F.538



Photograph of F.578 and F.579

Figure 5. Saxo-Norman features

Although lacking definitive dating evidence, several additional features with common attributes of fills and profile similarities can possibly be stratigraphically placed within the pre-12th century phase, possibly of Late Saxon date; these are listed below, with **F.542** possibly contemporary or partially extant when the later **F.546** to the east was cut.

F.536 was a linear on an east-northeast-west-southwest orientation and was 11.25m in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1305] had sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and concave base (0.60m wide and 0.23m deep). It contained a single fill [1306]; firm mid brown/grey sandy clay. No finds.

The cut [1422] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.46m wide and 0.09m deep). It contained a single fill; [1421] firm mid orange/brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.542 was a curved linear on a north-south and east-west orientation and was 7.60m+ in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1322] had a near vertical side to north and a steeply sloping concave side to the south with sharp breaks of slope and a sharp concave base (0.61m wide and 0.47m deep). It contained three fills; [1319] firm dark brown/grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1320] firm mid grey/brown clayey sand with rare gravel inclusions; [1321] soft mid grey/brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

The cut [1353] of the terminal was round in plan, with gradually sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and concave base (0.34m wide and 0.06m deep). It contained a single fill [1352]; firm mid grey/brown clayey sand with rare gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.548 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 7.00m+ in length. The cut [1336] had moderately steep concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base, truncated on south side (0.99m+ wide and 0.39m deep). It contained a single fill; [1335] compact mottled mid orange/brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

F.578 was a pit. The cut [1372] was circular in plan with gradually sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and a flat base (1.60m+ x 1.15m+ wide and 0.46m deep). It contained two fills; [1373] very firm mid brown/orange silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1374] firm mid orange/brown clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery.

F.579 was a pit. The cut [1377] was circular in plan, steeply sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.85m x 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep). It contained a single fill [1378]; firm dark orange/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included bone and glass.

F.583 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation. The cut [1454] had gently sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.33m wide and 0.06m deep). It contained a single fill; [1453] firm light grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

In the south-eastern corner of the excavation there appeared to be two linears that possibly formed a corner, **F.543** and **F.594**; **F.593** may also be attributable to this phase on the basis of stratigraphic relationships with the other two features. There

were no datable artefacts recovered and it is feasible that they could have formed the basis of a structure, especially F.594 which appeared to have had a flat base.

F.543 was a linear on an east-west orientation and was c.1.85m in length. The cut [1323] had moderately steep concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.80m wide and 0.32m deep). It contained a single fill [1324]; loose mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.593 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 1.25m+ in length. The cut [1497] had gradually sloping concave with gradual break of slope and flat base (0.68m wide and 0.12m deep). It contained a single fill [1496]; firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone. Firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal.

F.594 was a linear on a north-south orientation and was 2.40m+ in length. The cut [1500] had steep convex sides with moderate break of slope and flat base (0.21m wide and 0.34m deep). It contained two fills; [1498] firm light grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1499] very firm mid grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

An additional linear was recorded in the west-central part of the site, **F.582**. Residual Iron Age pottery was recovered from the terminal, and which truncated linear **F.581** indicating a similar or earlier date for this feature. As the pottery sherds are residual fragments, it is feasible that these provide evidence of prehistoric occupation that was subsequently disturbed by later activity.

F.581 was a linear on an east-northeast – west-northwest orientation and was 8.00m+ in length. The cut [1440] of the terminal was round in plan, with moderately sloping concave sides and a moderate break of slope to a flat base (0.61m wide and 0.11m deep). It contained a single fill; [1439] firm mottled mid orange/grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.582 was a linear on a north-south orientation and was 5.50m+ in length. The cut [1442] had moderately sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and concave base (0.58m wide and 0.18m deep). It contained a single fill; [1441] firm mottled mid grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

12th Century Saxo-Norman Phases

Two phases of linear features attributable to the 12th century were identified during excavation, forming enclosures with distinctly different configurations or layouts. The first phase consisted of fairly narrow and curvilinear features in plan and probably formed part of a field system for both pastoral activity and the growing of produce. The second phase of features were more substantial, straight and formed rectangular ‘enclosures’, forming a much more rigid layout and may represent the back-plots of individual properties.

1st Phase

Located in the northeast part of the excavation area linears **F.537** and **F.538**, next to the baulk, formed a possible enclosure. The interior of this was outside the excavation area therefore no structural elements were evident.

F.537 was a curved linear on a northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast orientation and was 20.75m+ in length. Four slots were excavated:

The cut [1307] had truncated sides with a concave base (0.90m wide and 0.32m deep). It contained a single fill; [1308] firm brown/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions. No finds.

The cut [1375] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (0.80m wide and 0.16m deep). It contained a single fill [1376]; soft light orange/grey chalky silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

The cut [1444] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.71m wide and 0.28m deep). It contained a single fill [1443]; very firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

The cut [1473] had gradually sloping convex sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.64m wide and 0.22m deep). It contained a single fill [1472]; very firm mid yellow/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included bone.

F.538 was a curved linear that was orientated northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast and was 21.00m+ in length. Three slots were excavated:

The cut [1309] had moderately steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and flat base (1.38m wide and 0.37m deep). It contained a single fill; [1310] firm brown/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions. No finds.

The cut [1475] had moderately steep concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and flat base (0.63m wide and 0.19m deep). It contained a single fill; [1474] soft dark brown/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

The cut [1447] had steeply sloping convex sides with gradual breaks of slope and concave base (0.73m wide and 0.36m deep). It contained two fills; [1445] firm dark brown/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1446] very firm mid grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery.

Other curved linears formed parts of this system, probably representing the outer field system with numerous entranceways and funnels. There were also numerous undated ditches that also most probably relate to this field system, which suggest a system that witnessed constant changes, re-alignments and re-cuttings; **F.552**, **F.558** and **F.567** provide examples of this.

F.552 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 15.00m+ in length. The cut [1345] had moderately steep concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (1.00m wide and 0.37m deep). It contained two fills; [1343] compact dark grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1344] Compact mid orange/brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. Artefacts included pottery, bone and worked stone.

F.558 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 4.90m+ in length. The cut [1365] had steeply sloping convex sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base (0.31m wide and 0.41m deep). It contained a single fill [1364]; soft dark brown/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and frequent flacks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and stone.

F.567 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 24.75m+ in length. The cut [1401] had gradually sloping straight sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.85m wide and

0.27m deep). It contained a single fill; [1400] very firm mid orange/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

Forming part of this system was a curvilinear **F.559/580**, cut by **F.604** to the west and continuing to the east beyond the area of excavation. The terminal of linear **F.560** was adjacent to the point where there was a slight 'kink' in the orientation of **F.559/580** with a shallow pit linear, **F.607**, located between the two. Whether these are contemporary is unknown; however, the close proximity of the linears could form an entranceway into a paddock/enclosure.

F.559 was a linear on an east-west orientation and was 23.00m+ in length. The cut [1369] had gently sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (1.76m wide and 0.31m deep). It contained a single fill [1368]; soft cark grey/black clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone

F.560 was a linear on a north-south orientation and was 20.35m+ in length. The cut [1451] of the terminal was round in plan, moderately sloping concave sides (more steep on northern side) with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.99m wide and 0.36m deep). It contained a single fill; [1450] firm mid to dark brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

F.580 was a linear on a north-south orientation and was 0.23m+ in length. The cut [1438] had moderately sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.64m wide and 0.17m deep). It contained a single fill; [1437] firm mottled orange/brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.607 was a linear on an east-west orientation. The cut [1532] had moderately sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.78m wide and 0.24m deep). It contained a single fill [1531] compact mid brown/green silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal and moderate chalk inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

A series of quarry pits (**F.586**, **F.587**, **F.588** and **F.589**) were located within this enclosure, although it seems unlikely that the purpose of this enclosure was to separate the area of quarrying from the rest of the field system; these pits may have been dug after the paddock went out of use. A further pit, **F.572**, was situated to the west of the terminal of **F.560**. Cut into earlier features this pit was probably originally dug for water.

F.572 pit. The cut [1424] was oval in plan, very steep convex sides with sharp breaks of slope and flat base (1.55m x 1.21m wide and 0.74m deep). It contained a single fill [1423]; firm dark grey clayey silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and burnt clay.

F.586 quarry pit. The cut [1461] had gradually sloping concave sides and a concave base (0.65m wide and 0.12m deep). It contained a single fill; [1460] firm mottled mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.587 quarry pit. The cut [1463] had moderately sloping concave sides, base unknown (min 0.14m deep). It contained a single fill [1462]; firm mixed orange and dark grey silty clay with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.588 quarry pit. The cut [1465] had moderately sloping straight sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (0.32m deep). It contained a single fill; [1464] firm dark grey silty clay with patches yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel and chalk inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.589 quarry pit. The cut [1467] was sub-oval in plan with moderately sloping straight/convex sides and a base disturbed by animal burrowing (0.30m deep). It contained a single fill; [1466]; firm dark grey silty clay with patches yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel and chalk inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

To the southwest of the excavation area a small curved gully, **F.546**, continued into the previous excavation area and was probably truncated by F.9. Although undated, several other gullies, (**F.547**, **F.550**, **F.551** and **F.553**, could be attributed to this phase as they are on the same orientation.

F.546 was a small slightly curved ditch/gully running NW-SE and was 10.25m+ in length. Two slots were excavated (the first was at the intersection with F.547):

The cut [1332] had moderately steep concave sides with moderate breaks of slope and a concave base (0.53m wide and 0.36m deep). It contained two fills; [1330] firm dark brown/grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1331] very firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery.

The cut [1366] had steep straight sides with sharp breaks of slope and a flat base (0.48m wide and 0.28m deep). It contained a single fill; [1367] friable dark orange/brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included bone.

F.547 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 3.50m+ in length. The cut [1334] had sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (0.21m wide and 0.07m deep). It contained a single fill; [1333] soft mottled mid grey/orange/yellow sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.550 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 6.10m+ in length. The cut [1340] had moderately sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.53m+ wide and 0.23m deep). It contained a single fill; [1339] compact mottled mid orange/brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

F.551 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 3.75m+ in length. The cut [1358] had gradually sloping straight sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (0.33m wide and 0.11m deep). It contained a single fill; [1357] soft mottled mid grey/brown/orange sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.553 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 1.95m in length. The cut [1347] of the terminal was round in plan, with sloping concave sides, gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.35m+ wide and 0.09m deep). It contained a single fill [1346]; compact mottled mid grey/orange/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

2nd Phase

The second phase of 12th century ditches formed more regular and rectangular shaped enclosures that probably represented the back-plots of individual properties. **F.563** and re-cut **F.605** continued into the previous excavation area as F.9. The opposite side of the enclosure would have been formed by linear **F.577**, continuing as F 81-F.121 from the previous area. These two would have been joined by linears F.77 and F.82. Full descriptions for these can be found in the previous report. There appeared to be no internal structures associated with these enclosures; these were possibly sited to the east, outside of the current investigation area. The majority of the pottery recovered

was dated to the 12th century, although later 13th century domestic waste was also recorded.

F.563 was a linear on an east-west orientation and was 24.00m+ in length. Two slots were excavated.

The cut [1388] had moderately steep straight/convex sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (1.20m wide and 0.58m deep). It contained two fills; [1386] firm mid orange/grey/brown clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1387] firm sticky mid brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel and chalk inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone. The cut [1481] had gradually sloping straight/convex sides; the base was unexcavated (0.71m+ wide and 0.31m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1480] firm mid orange/grey/brown clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.577 was a linear oriented northeast-southwest and was 9.00m+ in length. The cut [1370] had steeply sloping concave sides with a sharp concave base (0.90m wide and 0.42m deep). It contained a single fill; [1371] very firm mid orange brown silty clay with rare gravel and charcoal inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.592 was a pit. The cut [1477] was circular in plan, with gradually sloping concave sides; base unknown (3.20m x 3.05m wide and 0.25m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1476] firm dark grey/black clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.605 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 18.00m+ in length. The cut [1526] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base (0.68m wide and 0.25m deep). It contained a single fill [1525]; very firm mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and metalwork.

15th Century

Quarry pits dominated the feature types that had 15th century artefacts associated with them, including **F.606** which cut 12th century linear **F.607**. These were centred to the southeast area of the site. The most northern feature, pit **F.592**, cut an undated linear that probably dates to the 12th century. A large area to the southeast of the excavation consisted of inter-cutting quarry pits, primarily dated to the 15th century, although domestic debris was represented by varied dates, illustrating the disturbed and confused nature of this area. **F.540**, **F.541** and **F.549** were isolated pits located more towards the western part of the area, whereas **F.595-598** and **F.586-589** were intercut and clustered together.

F.540 was an oval pit. The cut [1316] of the terminal had vertical concave sides with sharp breaks of slope and a flat base (2.22m x 0.73m wide and 0.52m deep). It contained three fills; [1313] firm dark brown/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1314] soft mottled light yellow/white/grey sand with clay patches and no inclusions; [1315] firm dark grey clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.541 was an oval pit segmented. The cut [1318] had heavily undercut sides especially on the northwest side with sharp breaks of slope and flat base (0.96m wide and 0.73m deep). It contained a single fill; [1317] firm dark grey/black silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.549 was a pit. The cut [1338] was sub-square in plan, very steep straight/concave sides with sharp breaks of slope and a flat base (1.10m x 1.58m wide and 0.43m deep). It contained a single

fill; [1337] compact mixed dark brown/grey clayey silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.595 was a pit. The cut [1504] was sub-oval in plan, steep/vertical convex sides with moderate to sharp breaks of slope and a shallow concave base (c. 2.15m x 2.45m wide and 0.95m deep). It contained a single fill [1503]; firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.596 was a pit. The cut [1506] was sub-oval in plan with steep convex sides with an under-cutting moderate break of slope and flat base (0.93m deep). It contained a single fill; [1505] firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. No finds.

F.597 was a pit. The cut [1508] was sub-oval in plan with steep straight sides with a moderate break of slope and flat base (c.1.51m wide and 0.63m deep). It contained a single fill; [1507] firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.598 was a pit. The cut [1510] was sub-oval in plan with steep convex sides with an under-cutting and moderate break of slope and flat base (c.2.25m x c.1.50m wide and 0.84m deep). It contained a single fill; [1509] firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.586 was a pit. The cut [1461] had gradually sloping concave sides with a concave base (0.65m wide and 0.12m deep). It contained a single fill; [1460] firm mottled mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.587 was a pit. The cut [1463] had moderately sloping concave sides; base unknown (min 0.14m deep). It contained a single fill [1462]; firm mixed orange and dark grey silty clay with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.588 was a pit. The cut [1465] had moderately sloping straight sides with gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (0.32m deep). It contained a single fill [1464] firm dark grey silty clay with patches yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel and chalk inclusions. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.589 was a pit. The cut [1467] was sub-oval in plan with moderately sloping straight/convex sides; base disturbed by animal burrow (0.30m deep). It contained a single fill [1466]; firm dark grey silty clay with patches yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel and chalk inclusions. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.592 was a pit. The cut [1477] was circular in plan with gradually sloping concave sides; base unknown (3.20m x 3.05m wide and 0.25m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1476] firm dark grey/black clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.606 was a pit. The cut [1530] was sub-oval in plan with steep straight sides and sharp breaks of slope and a flat base (1.95m x 0.85m wide and 0.34m deep). It contained a single fill; [1529]; firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. Artefacts included pottery.

Post-Medieval

Dominating the southern end of the site was a partially exposed large pond, **F.568**, a feature with material culture probably dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. Exceeding 16m in diameter and up to 0.82m deep, layers of accumulation included organic lenses containing worked wood and leather, [1411], with episodes of silting, [1408-1410 and 1412], although the majority of the finds came from the upper layer [1407]. At the edge of excavation there appeared to be some made up ground, probably filling in a 'hollow' in the field. The cut [1413] had a gradual slope on northern side, possibly indicating access from this direction, leading to moderately concave sides with gradual break of slope and a flat base. It contained five overlying 'layers' ([1402-1407] & [1452]) and five fills ([1408-1412]; the pond probably provided water for the nearby cottages.

- [1402] dark grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions
- [1403] mixed orange gravel sand and mid grey clay
- [1404] dark brown/grey clayey silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal
- [1407] firm to friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with moderate gravel inclusions
- [1408] mid brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions
- [1409] mid grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and organic remains
- [1410] compact mottled grey/orange clayey gravel
- [1411] lens of black organic sandy silt
- [1412] mixed grey/blue/brown clay and silts with occasional large pebbles of flint and stone
- [1452] firm mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions

The remaining features that were excavated either lacked artefactual evidence or contained numerous fragments of pottery from multiple phases, thus making it difficult to conclusively date them. Descriptions of these features are provided in the Appendix.

Discussion

The archaeological features that were recorded and excavated during the current excavations compliment and enhances the data from the previous areas at Striplands Farm investigated in 2005, notably the Medieval activity in the adjacent *Area A*, and contributes to the archaeological works undertaken within the wider environs and landscape. A high percentage of the excavated slots produced pottery of various dates preventing the secure phasing of numerous features. This result was due to the excavation strategy of targeting feature intersections to establish stratigraphic relationships between them, and although successful, the mixed nature of the pottery assemblage served only to highlight various episodes of activity that resulted in the disturbance and truncation of earlier features.

A large number of features were undated, but the majority of them probably relate to the 12th and 13th century, with activity from earlier and later periods also evident. Earlier activity in the form of features was sparse, with residual pottery providing evidence of activity within the area. Despite this paucity of pre-Medieval evidence, the presence of the Middle/late Iron Age ditch is a significant discovery, with no hint of similar or earlier activity apparent when *Area A* was excavated (Patten & Evans

2005); intensive Saxo-Norman quarrying was thought to have obliterated any earlier archaeological features in this area.

The dating of the pottery from the enclosure ditch was Middle to Late Iron Age. Previous prehistoric settlement activity dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age located c. 100m to the north of the immediate site consisted of a number of field boundaries and wells and form part of the same continuous landscape. Although there appears to be an area of unoccupied space between the features to the north and the large enclosure ditch in the current site-area, this enclosure could represent a southwards ‘movement’ of occupation during the Middle to later Iron Age. This apparent shift in settlement focus towards the present site, however, cannot be confirmed, but the evidence from the site would indicate a concentration of activity from this period may be located nearby and reflects the increasing settlement density seen in the later Iron Age within the wider landscape.

The residual pieces of Roman pottery indicate that the landscape was in use at this time, although not in the immediate vicinity of the site, and probably relates to occupation or manuring activity found to the north of the area in 2005/6. Some evidence for Romano-British activity was recorded as residual artefacts from some of the quarry pits suggesting disturbance of Romano-British features, but the low quantity of pottery, at this stage, does not indicate a nearby presence of any dense Roman-British activity. This is more likely located c. 0.5km northwards of the current site or, alternatively, the site adjacent to the golf course; dense activity has also been identified at Sites IX, X, XVIII and XIX investigated as part of the Longstanton Village Hinterland project (Evans *et al.* 2006; Evans & Mackay 2004; see also Evans 2008, Chapter 3, for discussion of settlement densities within the Cambridge and Longstanton environs).

The few sherds of Ipswich ware recovered from features are probable residual finds from features within the site that were dated to the later periods and thus no features can be positively dated to the Saxon Period. *Area A* from the previous excavation area also produced a small amount of Saxon pottery, but again not from definitive features. These sherds indicate a presence during the Mid to Late Saxon periods, prior to the developments of the 12th century, and suggest that a number of features within this and the adjacent *Area A* can be tentatively assigned to the 8th to 11th centuries. As such, these features may possibly hint at the origin and development of the two distinct earlier parishes that now constitute Longstanton.

The first phase of 12th century Saxo-Norman field system highlights a series of enclosures and funnels that were reworked and modified, seemingly at relatively short intervals. Additional linears suggest the constantly changing layout and re-establishing of the boundaries that were probably on the edge of a settlement. In contrast, the second phase represents the establishment of a more regular and semi-permanent field system and possibly the back plots of individual property boundaries, with any structure(s) situated outside of the excavation area. The high amount of material, both pottery and animal bone, recovered from these features suggest, however, that they were associated with settlement activity. This evidence for the layout and myriad of re-cut, small ‘paddock-type’ enclosures reflecting the settlement proper, and with field boundaries and quarries located behind properties is a pattern of early village development comparable, for example, to those portions of Cottenham or

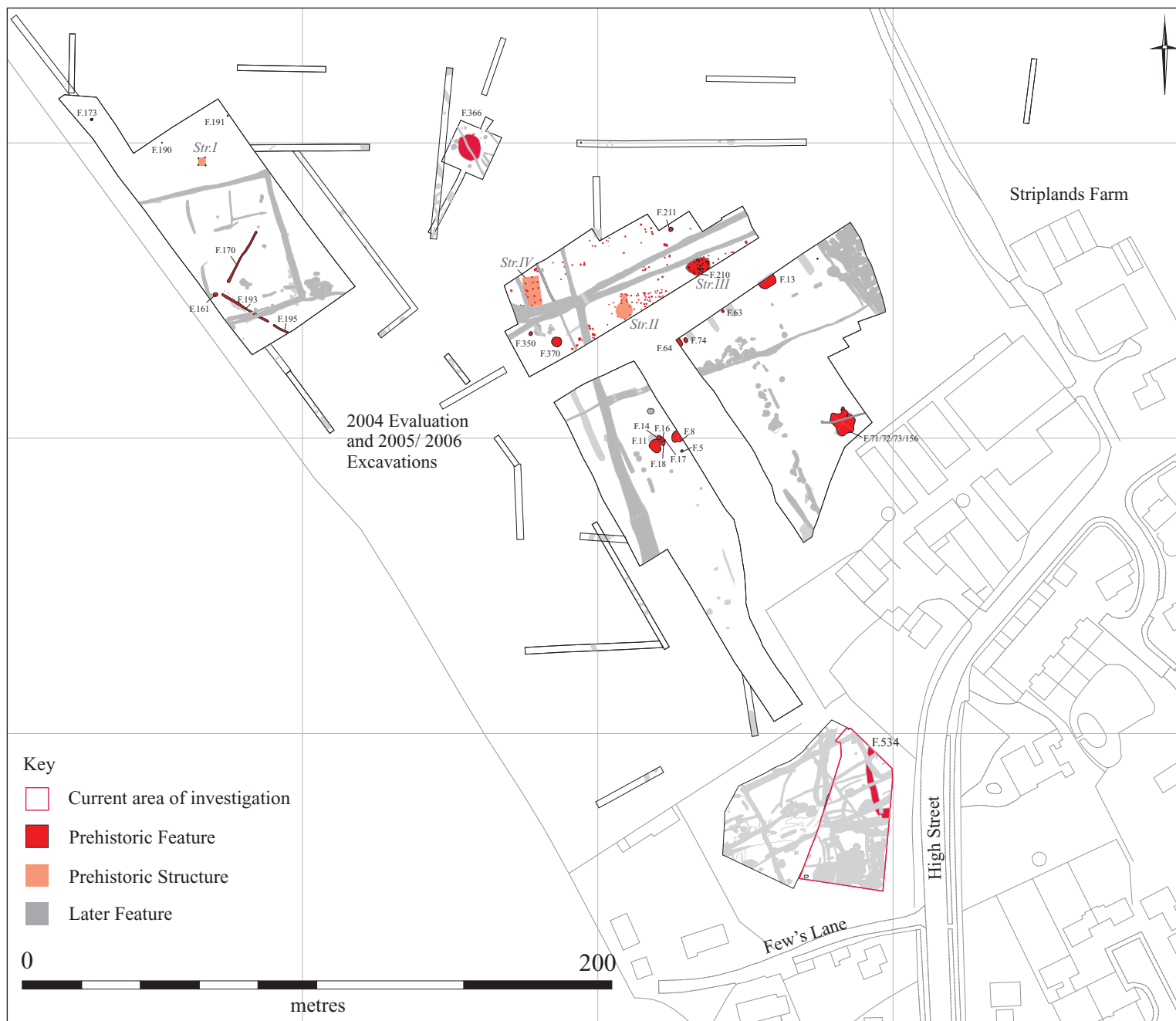


Figure 6. Striplands Farm, Prehistory

Cherry Hinton that have recently been excavated (respectively Mortimer 2000; Cessford & Dickens 2005).

The majority of the quarry pits were dated to the 12th and 15th centuries, especially centring on the south-eastern part of the excavation area. This indicates a possible shift to the centre of the more modern village of today; consequently the later pond feature, also to the south, possibly relates to the cottages. The 15th, 16th century and later pits and quarries appear to be focused towards the southeast area of the site, probably relating the cottages of a similar date that lay a further 20m to the south, and must mark the establish of the present road-line.

The features exposed at Striplands Farm demonstrate a multi-phased site where occupation and activity altered through time and was constantly altered and re-shaped as the land-use and requirements changed.

Acknowledgements

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Appendices

I) *The Later Prehistoric Pottery* (K. Anderson)

A small assemblage of pottery totalling 39 sherds, weighing 396g, was recovered from the site. All of the material was examined and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear and date were recorded, along with any other information deemed important.

The pottery was predominately Middle Iron Age in date; with a small number of Late Iron Age sherds, and one Early Roman sherd. Three fabric groups were identified (see Table 1), which are all indicative of local production, and are typical of Middle/Late Iron Age assemblages.

	No.	Wt. (g)
Sandy	14	184
Grog and sand	15	106
Sand and chalk	10	106

Table 1: All pottery by fabric.

Four vessel forms were identified, all of which were jars. This included one bead rim jar and one necked, beaded rim jar, both of which were Late Iron Age in date. Two sherds were burnished and one had combed/rilled decoration.

Feature 534 contained the largest quantity of material, totalling 22 sherds, weighing 224g, from five contexts. The material included Middle and Late Iron Age sherds. Feature 563 contained four sherds, including the early Roman sherd; however, this was found alongside later dating material and is therefore likely to be residual. Two Late Iron Age wheel-turned vessels were recovered from the surface of Feature 546. Feature 535 contained ten sherds, which were Middle Iron Age in date.

Overall, the assemblage is too small to be able to make any definite conclusions; however, it appears to be a fairly small, domestic, rural assemblage, which in terms of fabrics and forms is typical of Middle/Late Iron Age assemblages in Cambridgeshire. The presence of a single early Roman sherd, as well as two Late Iron Age wheel-turned vessels, gives a date range of 3rd century BC to 1st century AD and reflects the small quantity of similarly dated pottery found in the 2005 excavations to the north of the site (Patten & Evans 2005).

II) *Medieval Pottery* (D. Hall)

In total, 237 sherds of medieval pottery ware was recovered from 33 features and one layer overlying the quarry pits to the southeast of the area. The assemblage was dominated by St Neots Ware and Thetford Ware dating to the 12th century AD, with small numbers of earlier and later sherd fragments also recovered. The contexts that the sherds were recovered from were predominantly pits, although some were recovered from linears. Additionally, sherds dated to other periods were also recovered from the same contexts, although these were probably residual as they were in small numbers. The wide range of dates highlights the continuing use of the landscape throughout the periods and provided evidence of the early formation of medieval villages of Longstanton.

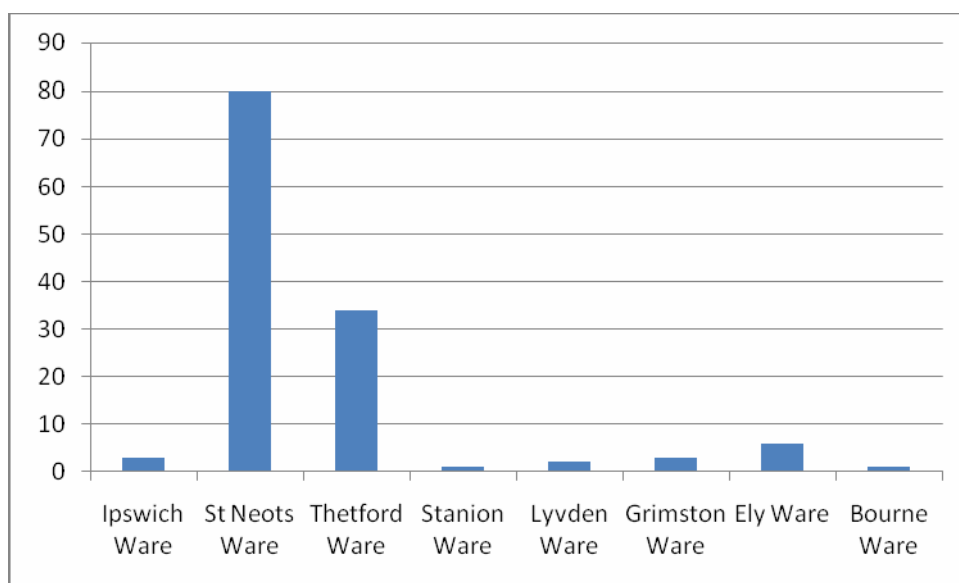


Chart 1: Medieval pottery.

III) *Environmental Remains* (A. De Vareilles)

Two Iron Age, one of uncertain date and three Medieval bulk samples were chosen for analysis. They were processed by Frances Cox using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, using 300µm aperture meshes for collecting the flots and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residues. Both flots and residues were dried prior to analysis. For this assessment, only heavy residue components greater than 4mm were sorted by eye. The smaller fractions have been stored for future reference. Sorting of the flots was carried out under a low power binocular microscope (x6-40) in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory.

All plant macro remains, other than a little duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) in features F.534 and F.608, were preserved through carbonisation. The mineral-rich outer-coat of the duckweed seed has enabled them to survive untransformed from a once waterlogged medium. All the cereal grains and pulses have been badly damaged which has made identification difficult. Mollusc shells were found in all samples, though not always in important quantities. Although the extent of their disturbance can not be quantified, modern rootlets clearly interfered in all contexts sampled.

Iron Age Ditches F.534 [1392] and F.582 [1448]

A few cereal grains and even fewer wild plant seeds were recovered from the samples. The remains are not *in situ*; it is likely they randomly accumulated from scattered domestic waste. Though the assemblage from F.582 could be Iron Age, it is more similar to the 12th century remains (see below) than to the other Iron Age samples from both this and the 2005 field seasons. It is therefore possible that F.582 contains re-worked 12th century material. The mollusc shells suggest the ditches were seasonally wet with stagnant, shallow water.

12th Century AD Ditches F.559 [1368], F.560 [1380] and F.608 [1533]

Samples from F.559 and F.560 were similar in composition, though F.559 had larger quantities of grains and wild seeds. Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl.) grains were the most common cereal with

76 from F.559 and 14 in F.560. Wheat (*Triticum* spp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.) then occur in similar quantities. Oat chaff was absent and so the caryopses could not be distinguished into wild or cultivated types. Nevertheless, it is likely they were intentionally grown as oats were a common crop in the high Medieval period (Greig 1991). The wheat is mainly of a free-threshing variety (*T. aestivum* sl.), though a little spelt (*T. spelta*) and a fourth cereal, rye (*Secale cereale*), were also found in F.559. A diverse range of arable weed seeds were found, as well as some pulses (*Vicia*/ *Lathyrus*/ *Pisum*) which may have been cultivated separately. Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) are indicators of cultivation upon damp, clay-rich soils. F.559 contained two sedge seeds (*Carex* spp.) and one spike rush seed (*Eleocharis* sp.); these plants had a variety of uses such as thatching, flooring, fuel, and so forth, but would not have grown on arable fields, which demonstrates that the assemblage has a mixture of origins. Very little charcoal and only a few other stray plant macro-remains were recovered from F.608. The molluscan assemblages are unclear but do show that these features were dryer than the Iron Age ditches.

Undated Feature F.573 [1426]

The occasional plant remains are probably not *in situ* and do not provide conclusive dating evidence. The molluscan assemblage is also small and mostly composed of hydrophilic snails.

The Iron Age features contained low quantities of plant remains that represent stray domestic waste. Bone fragments and pottery sherds from ditch F.534 support the interpretation that domestic refuse was discarded in or around the ditch. Later Medieval finds may have been re-worked into ditch F.582. As was observed in the prehistoric samples from the 2005 field season (see de Vareilles in Patten 2005), the data is scarce and evidence for large-scale crop processing or a prolonged occupation of the site is still missing.

The two noteworthy Medieval samples came from ditches F.559 and F.560. The range of crops are consistent with high Medieval finds from across Britain (Greig 1991) and the fact that they were found together along with some possible economic crops suggests the ditches received waste from a variety of activities. It is also possible that this waste was collected for animal feed.

IV) *Faunal Remains* (V. Rajkovača)

An assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the Striplands Farm site during excavations carried out in 2009. The quantity of animal bones recovered totalled 238 fragments coming from 53 different contexts.

This report represents an overview of the results following zooarchaeological analyses of the material. Several phases of activity were identified on the site: Iron Age, 12th century and Post-Medieval (Table 2). A number of features lacked dating evidence and they were considered and quantified separately. The assemblage represented a continuation of archaeological investigation in the area (Patten 2004; Bishop 2005; Patten & Evans 2005; Mackay & Knight 2007) and builds on zooarchaeological research carried out by Swaysland presented in the respective reports cited above. The report will focus on the prehistoric component of the site and comparison will be made with the results from the previous investigations in the area.

Groups	Number of contexts (out of 53)	Number of fragments (out of 238)	%
Iron Age	9	52	22
12 th century AD - 1 st phase	23	89	37
12 th century AD - 2 nd phase	2	7	3
Post-Medieval	9	55	23
Undated	12	35	15

Table 2: Sub-division based on the chronology of the material.

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Grahame Clark Zooarchaeology Laboratory at the Department of Archaeology in Cambridge. Although most of the ovicaprid bones are difficult to identify to species, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep or goat from the assemblage, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Halstead (Halstead *et al.* 2002). Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982; Payne 1973) and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). Where possible, the measurements have been taken (Von den Driesch 1976). Withers height calculations for the main domesticates follow the conversion factors of Teichert for sheep and Kiesewalter for horse (see Von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

Iron Age

Nine contexts were dated to the Iron Age producing the total of 52 bones, 51 of which were identified to element (98%) and further 30 (58%) to species. This is mainly due to the moderate state of preservation of the bone surface and low fragmentation. The sub set is comprised of livestock species with the three main 'food species' dominating the assemblage (Table 3). Sheep was positively identified based on a complete astragalus (Boessneck 1969, 351).

The cattle cohort showed a relatively high frequency of cranial fragments and bones from the lower limb and a complete absence of bones considered to have represented valuable joints of meat and this could be taken further to suggest the export of joints of meat; however, this is based on a small number of elements and needs to be taken with caution.

Five specimens (c.10%) were recorded as butchered, four of which were cattle. Actions performed include skinning noted on two astragali (sheep and cattle), as well as disarticulation and splitting for marrow extraction. Ageing data available from this sub set was recovered from five specimens (c.10%), four of which were ovicaprids. Sheep/ goat specimens gave the age at death in their second year and a pig mandible was aged to 14-21 months. This is somewhat surprising, as ovicaprids are usually kept for their secondary products until they reach maturity.

SPECIES	Iron Age		
	NISP	% NISP	MNI
Cow	12	40	1
Ovicaprids	9	30	1
Sheep	1	3	1
Pig	5	17	1
Horse	3	10	1
ULM	12	11 ($\Sigma=51$)	-
UMM	10	10 ($\Sigma=51$)	-

Table 3: NISP and MNI counts for Iron Age contexts. Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 30. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

It was possible to obtain some biometrical data from two specimens: a complete sheep/goat calcaneum and a complete horse third metacarpal. Withers height estimate for sheep/goat came at 47cm, which is at the bottom of the size range (Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974, 329). Shoulder height calculations derived from the horse metacarpal produced the height of 130cm or 13 hands, which is a pony by modern standards.

12th Century AD - 1st Phase

89 bone fragments were recovered from the features dated to 12th century, 87 of which were identified to element and further 42 (47%) to species. Preservation ranged from moderate to quite good. There is even representation of all body parts, suggesting local slaughter and consumption. The species identified in this sub set include three main 'food' livestock species, followed by dog (Table 4). It was possible to identify sheep based on a humerus (Boessneck 1969, 339). Presence of wild boar is the only evidence for the use or consumption of wild animals on site.

SPECIES	12 th century AD - 1 st Phase		
	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	25	60	2
Ovicaprids	10	24	2
Sheep	1	2	1
Pig	3	7	1
Wild boar	1	2	1
Dog	2	5	1
ULM	16	16 ($\Sigma=87$)	-
UMM	30	28 ($\Sigma=87$)	-
USM	1	1 ($\Sigma=87$)	-

Table 4: NISP and MNI counts for 12th century AD-1st phase contexts. Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 42. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

Butchery data was observed on five specimens only, two of which seem to imply that the bone must have been prepared to be worked. Other cut marks were fine and shallow created by the use of fine blades, probably for meat removal or filleting. In addition to butchery, an ovicaprid metapodial mid shaft fragment was identified as worked (F. 561; [1382]). Both distal and proximal articulations were missing and one end of the shaft has a slight polish to it with several facets probably to sharpen it. It is difficult to be certain about this as it is just a fragment, but it is possible that it could have been used as a pottery decorating or leather working tool.

Four bones were possible to age, two cattle and two sheep/ goat specimens. Cow mandible tooth wear stages implied it was an old adult and a cattle tibia gave the age at death in its first year. Ovicaprid specimens were probably slaughtered in their second year.

A complete cow radius was recovered from this sub set measuring 258mm. Shoulder height calculations were derived from this estimating the height of 111cm which is in the middle of the size range (Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974, 329). One non-metrical trait was recorded on a cattle mandible, commonly found on Romano-British sites, and that is the absence of the 2nd premolar. Its interpretation is still unclear, but it has been suggested that their incidence may be explained by the restricted gene of pools of local populations of cattle (Dobney *et al.* 1996, 34). This absence is also thought to be congenital and many cases of partial anodontia have been observed in conjunction with hereditary ectodermal dysplasia, but that has not been proved so far (Ohtaishi 1972).

12th Century AD – 2nd Phase

Two features dated to the 2nd phase of the 12th century AD produced seven bone fragments, all of which were identified as livestock species (Table 5). Sheep was identified based on a femur (Boessneck 1969, 349). One ovicaprid mandible gave the age at death in its 4th year. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted in this sub set.

SPECIES	12 th century AD - 2 nd Phase		
	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	3	44	1
Ovicaprids	2	28	1
Sheep	1	14	1
Pig	1	14	1

Table 5: NISP and MNI counts for 12th century AD-2nd phase contexts. Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 7. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

Post-Medieval

This sub set demonstrated quite good states of preservation with low levels of fragmentation. The majority of bones were possible to assign to element and 28 (51%) were identified to species. The assemblage is comprised entirely of domestic species and both sheep (Boessneck 1969, 355) and goat (Schmid 1972, 91) were positively identified.

SPECIES	Post-Medieval		
	NISP	% NISP	MNI
Cow	10	36	1
Ovicaprids	7	25	1
Sheep	1	3	1
Goat	1	3	1
Horse	6	21	1
Pig	3	12	1
ULM	8	7 ($\Sigma=53$)	-
UMM	16	16 ($\Sigma=53$)	-
UUM	3	2 ($\Sigma=55$)	-

Table 6: NISP and MNI counts for Post-Medieval contexts. Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 28. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

Five specimens showed signs of butchery and they were all noted on unidentified bone fragments and the actions performed were not clear. Both cow ageable specimens gave the age at death around their second year and an ovicaprid mandible was aged to 8-10 years.

Biometrical data was obtained from a cow metacarpal measuring 226mm. This relates to an animal with a shoulder height of 137-143cm. This is at the higher end of the size range for cattle, but it has to be kept in mind that this has been recovered from the post-Medieval context when these values for cattle withers heights are significantly higher (Dobney *et al.* 1996, 33). This might suggest either the improvement of the local or introduction of genetically different stock. A complete sheep metacarpal

measured 12cm producing the shoulder height of 57cm, which is in the middle of the size range (Von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974, 329).

Undated Features

Of 12 undated contexts, 10 were recorded in which the preservation ranged from moderate to poor, with only two contexts showing good preservation. Out of the total 35 fragments, 32 (91%) were possible to assign to element and a further 25 (71%) to species. Cattle are the predominant species (Table 7).

SPECIES	Undated		
	NISP	% NISP	MNI
Cow	13	52	1
Ovicaprids	4	16	1
Pig	4	16	1
Horse	2	8	1
Dog	2	8	1
ULM	4	3 ($\Sigma=32$)	-
UMM	6	4 ($\Sigma=32$)	-

Table 7: NISP and MNI counts for undated contexts. Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 25. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

With the overview of the results being presented, focus should be shifted towards the prehistoric phase of the site, since considerable prehistoric activity in the area has been observed in previous years' investigations (Patten 2004; Bishop 2005; Patten & Evans 2005; Mackay & Knight 2007). It would be valuable to put the results from all areas together and make comparisons, carry out studies of patterns of deposition and look into changes in husbandry regimes and animal use.

Species	<i>SFW05</i>	<i>SFW06</i>	<i>SFW09</i>
	<i>LBA/EIA</i>	<i>LBA/EIA</i>	<i>IA</i>
Cattle	52.5	55.3	40
Sheep/goat	21	25	33
Pig	17.5	15.4	17
Horse	4	2.2	10

Table 8: Major species relative proportions for prehistoric contexts

This assemblage is quantitatively inadequate to sustain propositions about animal use, but it does provide some basic information for comparison on a superficial level. Excavations undertaken in 2004 produced small amounts of bone material. Only five bone specimens were retrieved from prehistoric contexts during that season, all of which were identified as cattle. Faunal assemblages collected during 2005 and 2006 demonstrate somewhat similar species proportions for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age contexts to the ones recovered in 2009. A sub-set of 52 bones recovered from the Iron Age contexts in 2009 has only a slightly dominant cattle component, followed by sheep/goat, pig and horse. Earlier comparative assemblages from 2005 and 2006 see cattle accounting for more than all other species put together. It is recognised that arable farming on the scale of the Iron Age economy could not have been maintained without considerable flocks and herds to provide manure for the fields. The Iron age sees cattle and sheep being reared in larger numbers; however, there appears to have

been a gradual increase in the numbers of sheep relative to cattle in the first millennium (Cunliffe 2005: 416). Results from 2009 seem to reflect that change (Table 7). Therefore, future research should seek to compare with the contemporary sites both in the close proximity (Patten 2004; Bishop 2005; Patten & Evans 2005; Mackay & Knight 2007) and in the area (Brudenell & Evans 2007). The results from the zooarchaeological studies from the area have proved that the region is an important one from the perspective of its faunal finds.

V) *Miscellaneous Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds* (V. Herring, Simon Timberlake & J. Hutton)

The artefacts recovered were predominantly medieval in date and consisted mainly of domestic refuse such as pottery, tile, worked stone and glass. They were found in all features; linears, pits and quarrying activity. This suggests that structures were within the immediate vicinity of the site, although there was no definitive evidence of structurally related features.

Glass

The glass that was recovered was primarily late in date and found in the sub-soil layers overlying the quarry pits:

<060> F.579 [1378]. Body sherd, blue in colour with occasional small oval bubbles and abraded surface. Mid 19th Century.

<071> F.562 [1384]. Body sherd, dark olive green in colour with occasional oval bubbles and lined abrasions on the exterior surface and patina on the interior. Mid 19th Century.

<092> F.568 [1407]. Base of cylindrical vessel 89mm in diameter, free formed with large indented boss, dark olive green in colour with oval bubbles and pitted outer surface. c. 1820-1850

<109> Layer of sub-soil over quarry pits [1459]. Body sherd with evidence of a base, dark olive green in colour with heavy patina on both surfaces. c. 1820-1850.

Brick

Evidence of 16th century building material was recovered from the large pond F.568 and probably relates to the 16th century cottages that were located to the south of these features.

<091> F.568 [1407]. Very rough hand made brick, red/pink in colour with small flint inclusions. 177mm wide and 81mm thick and had 4 surfaces including a 90 degree edge. Appeared to have been burnt on one side, with possible evidence of a white mortar-type substance on three surfaces.

<093> F.568 [1408]. Two hand made brick fragments, red/pink in colour with small flint inclusions and void indicating organic matter. One fragment possibly had rounded edge/corner and two surfaces.

Tiles

Two fragments of tiles were recovered, both dated to the Roman period indicating the presence of structures within the landscape. Although these artefacts were also found with later dated material.

<074> F.563 [1386]. 71mm x 74mm wide and 14mm thick. Light buff in colour with occasional small and medium flint inclusions, rough on one surface, smooth on the other with straight parallel abrasion lines. Also a slight curvature to the tile.

<172> 66mm x 69mm wide and 16mm thick. Orange/brown in colour on the surfaces and grey fabric, frequent shell inclusions and evidence of an edge. Probably a roof tile.

Quernstones

Three fragments of Basalt lava worked stone were recovered from the excavation and formed fragments of quern/mill stones, known as Niedermendig lava querns and were imported from Mayen Quarries in the Eifel District, Germany. Rotary querns were common during the middle to later Saxon period and went into decline during the 12th century. They can appear in medieval levels used for packing postholes or built into walls; there was no evidence of that here as they were recovered from linear features with domestic debris context.

<037> F.552 [1343]. Fragment with an outside edge, c.35-45cm in diameter and 21mm in thickness. Smooth on one surface with evidence of two perforation 11mm in diameter, vertical sides towards the edge of quernstone, tapered towards the centre, the hole is smaller on the smoother side of the stone. These would have been where the handle was holding iron pins; the quernstone had been worn down completely that the handle would have ground on the bottom stone.

<049> F.588 [1364]. Two fragments with no evidence of perforations or edges, 27mm in thickness.

<125> F.603 [1493]. Fragment with an outside edge, rotary hand mill c.60cm in diameter and 21mm in thickness. Smooth on one surface and could possibly be part of the same quernstone as <037>.

<136> F.597 [1507]. Fragment with evidence of central perforation, unknown diameter and 21mm in thickness.

Burnt Clay

This material was recovered from across the site from all types of features. Some of the fragments may represent daub or other building material, but none of them can be securely dated to any one period.

<020> F.538 [1310]. Hard smooth light orange/buff clay with occasional small flint inclusions.

<054> F.577 [1371]. Hard mid to dark grey fine sandy clay with occasional small flint and organic inclusions. Round and abraded edges.

<063> F.560 [1379]. Two fragments of very hard grey/dark orange sandy clay with occasional flint and quartz inclusions.

<98> F.572 [1423]. Hard smooth mid grey/buff clay with occasional flint inclusions.

<105> F.560 [1450]. Large pieces of hard light to mid grey/buff sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions. Two have flat surfaces with light orange/buff sandy substance on them, possibly whitewash. One had a straight indent as if it was moulded around a thin object. Probably daub.

<147> F.552 [1527]. Hard cream fine sandy clay with rare inclusions. Rounded and abraded edges.

<173> F.534 [1303]. Very hard orange/grey/buff clay with occasional flint inclusions. Evidence of a smooth perforation, possibly forming part of a loom weight. Also part of a flat surface representing the base. No evidence of an outside surface.

<176> F.576 [1435]. Hard orange/red/brown sandy clay with one smooth surface with slight indent and white substance on the other side.

Feature Descriptions (unphased only)

Linears

F.533 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 17.50m+ in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1420] had steeply sloping concave sides with sharp break of slope and concave base (0.98m wide and 0.14m deep). It contained a single fill; [1419] very firm dark grey/brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

The cut [1291] had steeply sloping concave sides with sharp break of slope and sharp concave base (0.30m wide and 0.32m deep). It contained a single fill [1290]; very firm mid grey/yellow silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.544 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was c.1.75m in length. Two slots were excavated:

The cut [1325] had moderately steep convex sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (0.50m wide and 0.38m deep). It contained two fills; [1326] friable dark orange/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1327] loose light brown/orange chalky silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Finds included bone.

The cut [1502] of the terminal was round in plan, moderately steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and concave base (0.40m wide and 0.20m deep). It contained a single fill; [1501] firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.552 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 15.00m + in length. The cut [1356] had gradually sloping straight side to NE, steep concave side to SW with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.71m wide and 0.37m deep). It contained two fills; [1354] soft dark brown/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1355] soft mottled mid grey/yellow/orange clayey silt with occasional gravel and sand inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included bone.

F.557 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation. The cut [1363] had steeply sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.54m wide and 0.30m deep). It contained a single fill; [1362] very firm light brown/blue/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.560 was a linear on a north-south orientation and was 20.35m+ in length. The cut [1381] had steeply sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.59m wide and 0.23m deep). It contained two fills; [1379] soft dark green/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1380] soft mid green/grey sandy clay with rare gravel and sand inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and worked clay.

F.562 was a linear on a northeast-southwest orientation and was 23.00m+ in length. The cut [1385] had moderately steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and flat base (0.32m wide and 0.18m deep). It contained a single fill [1384]; firm mid to dark grey/brown sandy clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, glass and worked clay.

F.564 was a linear on an east-west orientation. The cut [1395] had moderately steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and shallow concave base (0.78m wide and 0.36m deep). It contained a single fill; [1394] firm mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional to moderate gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

F.565 was a segmented linear on an east-northeast-south-southwest orientation. The cut [1397] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (2.60m x 0.49m wide

and 0.16m deep). It contained a single fill; [1396] soft dark brown/grey clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.571 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 15.00m+ in length. The cut [1418] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.79m wide and 0.24m deep). It contained two fills; [1416] very firm mid brown/grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1417] very firm light brown/yellow silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.576 was a linear on an east-northeast- west-southwest orientation and was 10.00m+ in length. The cut [1436] had moderately steep straight sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (0.72m wide and 0.31m deep). It contained a single fill [1435]; firm mid to dark grey/brown with diffuse orange mottling sandy clayey silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery.

F.604 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation and was 4.50m+ in length. The cut [1524] of the terminal was round in plan with gradually sloping concave sides, base unknown (0.59m wide and 0.15m+ deep). It contained a single fill [1523]; very firm mid grey/brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and shell.

Pits

F.539 was a pit. The cut [1311] was sub-circular in plan (0.32m wide and 0.10m deep). It contained a single fill; [1310] firm light grey/brown sandy clay with sandy mottles and occasional calcite inclusions. No finds.

F.545 was a pit. The cut [1328] was circular in plan, moderately steep concave sides, base not excavated (1.40m wide and 0.45m+ in depth). It contained a single fill [1329]; dark grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and moderate pieces of chalk. Artefacts included pottery.

F.554 was a pit. The cut [1348] was sub-oval in plan, sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (1.25m x 0.60m wide and 0.08m deep). It contained a single fill [1349]; loose dark brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Artefacts included pottery and bone.

F.555 was a pit. The cut [1350] was circular in plan, sloping concave sides with moderate break of slope and concave base (0.60m x 0.50m wide and 0.09m deep). It contained a single fill [1351]; loose dark brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Artefacts included pottery.

F.556 was a pit. The cut [1361] had near vertical concave sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (1.24m wide and 0.51m deep). It contained two fills; [1359] soft dark brown/grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal; [1360] very firm mid green/grey silty clay with occasional gravel and sand inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery, bone and stone.

F.561 was a pit. The cut [1383] was circular in plan, steeply sloping concave sides with sharp break of slope and concave (0.74 x 0.67m wide and 0.33m deep). It contained a single fill [1382]; firm dark grey/black clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and frequent flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and mussel shells.

F.569 was a pit. The cut [1406] had moderately steep convex sides, base unknown (1.25m+ wide and 0.41m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1405] firm mottled orange/brown/grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.570 was a pit. The cut [1415] had steep straight/concave sides with moderate break of slope and flat base (1.18m wide and 0.48m deep). It contained a single fill; [1414] dark grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.572 was a pit. The cut [1424] was oval in plan, very steep convex sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (0.00m x 1.21m wide and 0.74m deep). It contained a single fill [1423]; firm dark grey clayey

silt with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone and burnt clay.

F.591 was a pit. The cut [1471] was circular in plan, gradual sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base (0.52m x 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep). It contained a single fill; [1470] very firm dark brown/grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.592 was a pit. The cut [1477] was circular in plan, gradually sloping concave sides, base unknown (3.20m x 3.05m wide and 0.25m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [1476] firm dark grey/black clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Finds included pottery and bone.

F.599 was a pit. The cut [1519] was sub-oval in plan, steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and concave base (c.1.00m x 0.80m wide and 0.38m deep). It contained two fills; [1517] firm to friable mid grey/brown with diffuse orange/yellow mottling sandy silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1518] firm to friable mid to dark grey/brown and orange mottled silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds.

F.600 was a pit. The cut [1522] had moderately steep concave sides with moderate break of slope and shallow concave base (c.1.60m x c.1.10m wide and 0.33m deep). It contained two fills; [1520] firm to friable mid grey/brown with diffuse orange/yellow mottling sandy silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal; [1521] firm mixed brown/grey and light orange/brown sandy silts with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. No finds.

F.606 was a pit. The cut [1530] was sub-oval in plan, steep straight sides with sharp break of slope and flat base (1.95m x 0.85m wide and 0.34m deep). It contained a single fill [1529]; firm dark grey silty clay with patches of yellow/orange sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk. Artefacts included pottery.

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-66498

Project details

Project name Further Excavations at Striplands Farm, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (II)

Short description of the project An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at Striplands Farm adjacent and near to several areas previously investigated by the CAU in 2005. Largely repeating the results of the 2005 Area A findings: primarily Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval to post-Medieval activity was identified, including a number of enclosure and possible property boundaries dating from the 12th to 15th centuries AD, numerous Medieval quarry pits and a large post-Medieval pond. Possibly relating to the early origins of west Longstanton, these Medieval features truncated Middle to Saxo-Norman features and a later Iron Age enclosure boundary ditch, with only a small quantity of residual Roman pottery found in later features.

Project dates Start: 13-07-2009 End: 28-07-2009

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes ECB3285 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes ECB2575 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Monument type DITCH Iron Age

Monument type DITCH Early Medieval

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type PIT Medieval

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type POND Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Iron Age

Significant Finds BONE Medieval

Significant Finds BONE Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds METALWORK Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Aerial Photography - interpretation','Annotated Sketch','Environmental Sampling','Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches'

Development type Housing estate

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LONGSTANTON Striplands Farm

Postcode CB4 5DS

Study area 800.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 3940 6730 52.2857202103 0.04391698574450 52 17 08 N 000 02 38 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 9.00m Max: 9.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator Contractor (design and execute)

Project design originator Christopher Evans

Project director/manager Christopher Evans

Project supervisor Jacqui Hutton

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body WSP Environmental

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Physical Archive ID	SWF09
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	SWF09
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	SWF09
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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