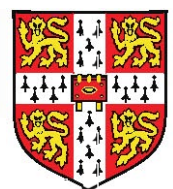


Excavations at High Cross, West Cambridge, University of Cambridge



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CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



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Between November 2009 and February 2010 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an open-area excavation across some two hectares of University land at the High Cross Site, West Cambridge. This revealed evidence for Early Iron Age occupation located upon a thin spread of gravels, sands and silts overlying Gault Clay. Traces of pre-Iron Age archaeology were minimal, limited to a single Mesolithic/Neolithic pit and both a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age rubbish pit and a pit-well situated on the valley floor. Half a dozen distinct groups of Early Iron Age pits and a number of Middle Iron Age pits were identified; two of the former forming clusters dug on either side of the valley floor, between which (and continuing south thereof) had been dug a substantial Early Iron Age ditch. Traces of an east-facing inturned entrance break in this boundary along the lowest point of the valley might suggest the presence of a former route; alternatively, these ditch segments may have been cut (in part) to drain the water-filled pits that may have been originally dug as quarries, waterholes, or perhaps for retting, then backfilled with rubbish. The southern pit cluster was used right up until the Middle Iron Age, then abandoned, at which point it became covered by a 'dark earth-type' deposit of silt. Environmental evidence suggests that the area became increasingly damp. Settlement evidence remains ambiguous given the paucity of pottery and posthole settings; however, the presence of saddlequern fragments associated with small assemblages of burnt stone within the pits suggests the presence of hearths and, possibly, dwellings nearby. Indeed, the site may be an example of a failed or abandoned Iron Age settlement-colonisation of this valley.

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

On the south side of the valley floor, a trackway was identified and which has been equated with the Medieval Coton or Sheepcote Way. Traces of adjoining field boundaries, plus abutting plough-furrow, were noted. The south-facing slopes were covered by Medieval/post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow, similar to that exposed at the Vicar's Farm Site some 500m to the east.

INTRODUCTION

Between 1st November 2009 and 8th February 2010 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an open area excavation on some 2.23 hectares on University land at the High Cross Site, West Cambridge. This excavation was undertaken prior to the development of these plots, which lay to the south of Charles Babbage Road, prior to the building of University car parking facilities and accompanying landscaping. The work was commissioned by the University of Cambridge Estate Management and Building Service (EMBS).

The site consisted of three adjacent areas; Area A (0.86 hectare) lay on the south side of a small valley separated from Area(s) B and C (1.36 hectares) on the north side by a small brook/field drain. The centre of the site was located at grid reference TL 4240 5900, whilst the pre-excitation ground level varied from 20m OD at the northwestern corner (Area C) to 16m OD at the eastern end(s) of Areas A and B.

The historical and archaeological background of the wider West Cambridge environs has been fully outlined in an earlier desktop study (Alexander 1996). Subsequent to the excavation of an important Romano-British settlement at Vicar's Farm, which lies a short distance to the northeast of here beneath the site of the current William Gates Building (Lucas 2001), between December 2000 and January 2001 the fields immediately to the south of Charles Babbage Road were subject to fieldwork evaluation (Whittaker 2001). A series of 26 trenches were dug which, at the current site, revealed evidence for both Middle Iron Age and Roman settlement-related features; the suggested locations of these proposed settlements determining the extent of the areas currently stripped and excavated.

Area A is located on the site of the wartime aircraft repair works of Shorts Sebros Ltd, the stores and hangers of which were demolished in 1972.

Geology

The solid geology underlying the whole of the West Cambridge appears to be Gault Clay (BGS 1981). However, the base of the Lower Chalk outcrops only half a kilometre to the west at Cotton Orchard, and a similar distance away to the northeast at the Observatory, suggesting that the underlying clay lies somewhere in the top of the Gault sequence. Sunk close to the latter, the Cambridge Borehole proved upwards of 127 feet of clay underlying 10 feet of Head Gravel (Worssam & Taylor 1969). This early pre-terrace gravel is effectively the same horizon as the Observatory Gravels which were recorded in some detail a short distance to the northwest in the Traveller's Rest Pit. From the latter quarry came an important assemblage of water-worn Acheulian, Chellean and possibly also Early Levalloisian implements (Penning & Jukes Brown 1881; Marr 1920).

A simple geological map of the High Cross Site was drawn up following the stripping of the topsoil and subsoil layers. This revealed the presence of up to a metre or two of silts sands and gravels overlying clay. The identity of this

drift horizon remains uncertain, though the presence here of erratics and clayey material similar to that found in the Boulder Clay, alongside the poor sorting and bedding, all seem point to the possibility of this being a thin spread such as might reflect the presence here of a wide and very shallow palaeo-channel deposit. This may in fact take the form of a series of braided channels which are now difficult to distinguish individually, but which are part of a system which fills more or less the whole basin of this shallow valley located on the clay. The origin of this transported material may well be the higher ground of the area around Observatory Hill and the Institute of Astronomy (the Observatory Gravels; Worssam & Taylor 1969). A rather similar deposit was observed within the shallow valley at the north end of the Vicar's Farm site (see Boreham 2000; Lucas 2001). The discovery during the course of this excavation of a number of possible water-worn flint implements, some from the gravel and some redeposited within archaeological features, may be significant, particularly if these could be positively dated as originating from the same (Gipping) glacial stage as the 'Head' (Observatory Gravels).

Be this as it may, describing the local geology, the top of the Gault Clay only appears at the surface at the far south end of Area A. Here this seems to be overlain by a thin spread of Boulder Clay, and above that by a 'natural' consisting of sandy gravel (this deposit seems to fill the lowest point in the valley floor, which corresponds to Area B, yet it is also found along its edges). The gravel is succeeded by sands and silty sands with clay bands and finally by silts and sandy silts. In fact, thick bands of these silts form an east-west swathe across the centre of Areas A and C. Across the northern swathe of Area C the sands and silty sands have become distorted by radial cryoturbation features; these include gravel-filled ice-wedge cracks which seem to emanate outwards from the highest point on the slope. It remains possible that the distribution of archaeology may bear some sort of relationship to this overall pattern of sands, silts, gravel and clay.

The water table lies close to surface here, or at the surface, throughout the winter months; this was in effect a water table which lay perched above the shallow, impermeable Gault Clay sub-crop. In most areas the resulting water level reached to between 16m and 16.5m AOD. As a consequence, most of Area B and up to 40% of Area A remained flooded throughout the course of this excavation, the latter situation only ameliorated by pumping.

Archaeological and Historical Background

In 1998 a programme of geological test pitting was undertaken across much of the University's West Cambridge site, with each test pit being archaeologically monitored (Dickens 1999a). No archaeology was noted in the 19 test pits dug, yet to the north of the School of Veterinary Medicine two out of the six pits dug did reveal features of uncertain date. Subsequently, an evaluation undertaken near here in 2000 on the site of the New Stable Block found just post-Medieval archaeology (Lucas 2000), as did an earlier watching brief carried out to the south of the dairy buildings, just to the east of the current site (Alexander 1996).

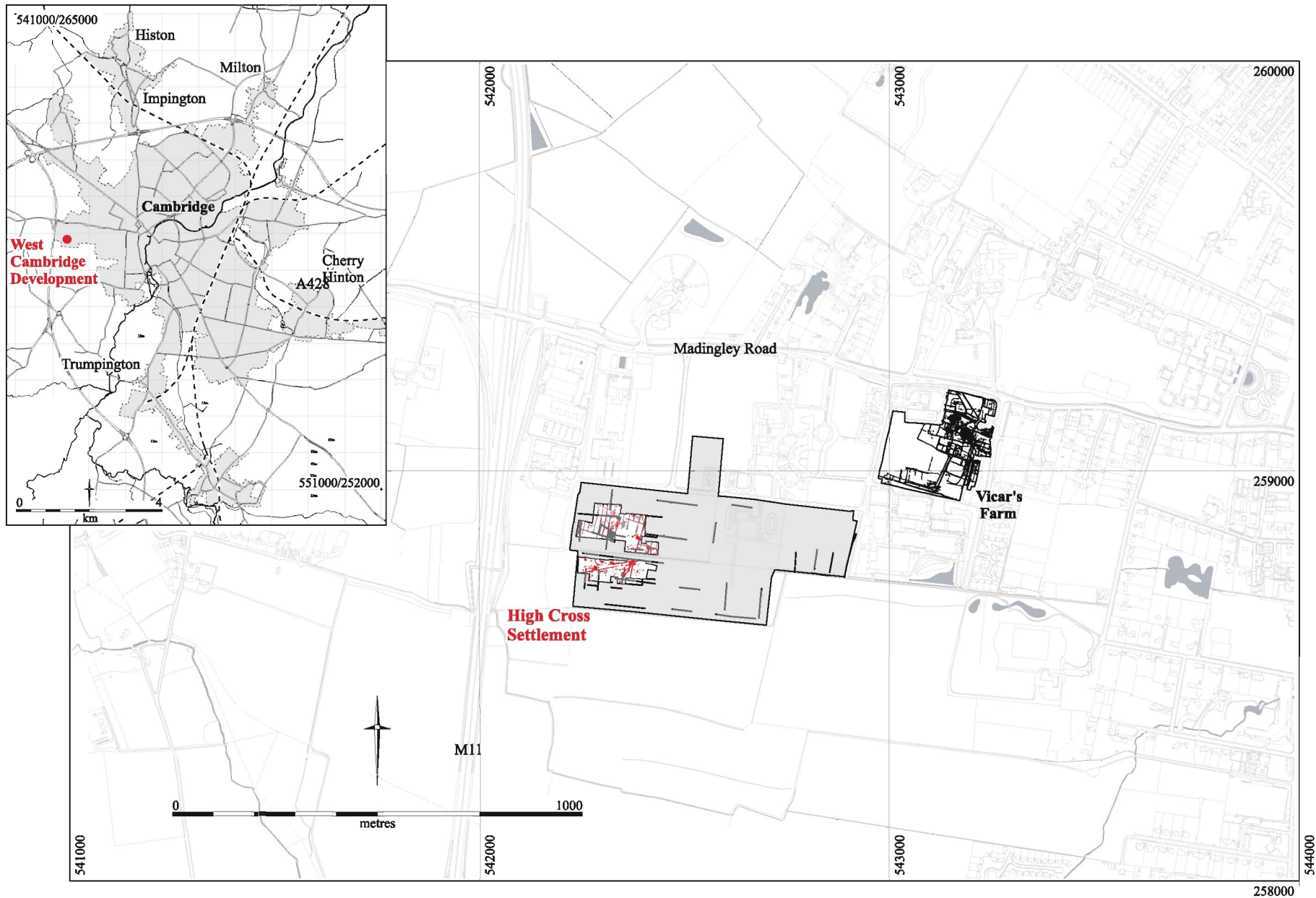


Figure 1. Location map

Archaeological remains found within the general environs of High Cross have been well assessed already in two previous desktop studies (Alexander 1996; Dickens 1999b); however, since 1999 archaeology has been found at a number of different locations within a half kilometre radius. For instance, Iron Age pottery was recovered from Medieval/post-Medieval quarry pits dug on the Hoyle Building site at the Institute of Astronomy (Masser 2000), whilst a short distance to the northeast during the winter and spring of 1999/2000 a major excavation was undertaken on land that previously surrounded Vicar's Farm. These investigations led to the discovery of an important Romano-British settlement that had over a thousand features, including an inhumation and cremation cemetery and an earlier enclosure containing a possible Romano-British shrine; the settlement spanning four centuries from the 1st through to the early 5th century AD (Whittaker & Evans 1999; Lucas 2001).

Between December 2000 and January 2001 an archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken on the current site (Whittaker 2001). This consisted of the digging of some 26 trenches of varying length which amounted to some 1500m with a further 500m of judgemental trench to help delineate potential sites. Broadly speaking, these trenches were spread out over three fields. Field 1 (Trenches 1-7 and 22-25) approximately equates in area to the current Areas B and C, but extended to the north of the buried 33kV cable right up to the southern edge of Charles Babbage Road and to the east of the line of the access road to the High Cross site. Field 2 (Trenches 14 - 21) was equivalent to Area A on the south side of the field drain, though this extended well to the east of the line of the Veterinary School. Field 3 (Trenches 8 - 12) lay to the east of Field 1, between the old dairy sheds of the University Farm and the area of the Cavendish Laboratories. Almost the whole east end of the site in all three of the fields appeared to be devoid of features; however, archaeology was revealed within Trenches 1-3, 22-23, 25, 14-15, 17 & 24, this being interpreted at the time as evidence for an early Romano-British site (AD 70 -130) at the west end of the northwest field (Field 1), and a Mid-Late Iron Age site (300 - 1 BC) at the west end of the south field (Field 2).

To the north of Madingley Road a large-scale evaluation (of around 140 hectares) was recently undertaken by the CAU in 2009-2010 on the North West Cambridge site of the University Farm, prior to the development of the site for housing (Evans & Newman 2010). The earliest activity identified on the Observatory Gravel ridge was Palaeolithic in date, consisting of residual material recovered from post-Medieval gravel quarries (see Geology above). Mesolithic and Early Neolithic artefacts were also recovered from residual contexts, along with a few *in situ* finds. Late Bronze Age features, a small Middle Iron Age settlement, and at least five later Iron Age settlements were also found within same general area. Five major Romano-British settlements were distinguished, of which two lay on the clays; this included an Early Roman farmstead, and a probable Late Roman villa beneath the site of the Madingley Road Park-and-Ride. Settlements of this period then extended almost continuously along the southern side of the ridge, the most impressive being Site IV which covered more than 9ha. Associated with the latter was a higher status building and a formal inhumation cemetery. This area of settlement also lay close to the high status Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries uncovered at Girton during the College building works in the

early decades of the last century. The discovery of semi-continuous Iron Age – Roman occupation of this site here on such a scale may well be relevant to our future understanding of the relative development or absence of early settlement in the West Cambridge area.

In 1996, the CAU commissioned an assessment of aerial photographs of the High Cross area (Palmer in Alexander 1996). The traces of ridge-and-furrow that were revealed showed that this area of High Cross had once been under strip cultivation sometime during the Medieval/post-Medieval period. The earliest cartographic evidence of the area dates back to Baker's plan of 1830, showing that the field boundaries (Fields 1 and 3) on the northern side of this evaluation area appeared to have remained the same for 170 years. At this point the Coton Footpath (previously known as the Coton Way) ran straight along the south side of the brook or drain which now separates the north from south parts of the assessment area (Area A and Areas B & C). This footpath appears to have Medieval origins. It is shown on the *Plan of the Lands in Cambridge West Fields* (Hall & Ravensdale 1976), a map based largely on the work of the *Corpus Terrier*, a document listing all the titheable lands in 1360. In this the Coton Way can be seen to run along roughly the same line as that surveyed on Baker's map. The name High Cross probably also has Medieval origins.

Other than being cultivated land, we have little indication of the use of this site up until the 1940s when Short Sebros Ltd built a factory for the assembly and repair of Stirling bombers flying from Bourn Airfield (www.rfcbourn.flyer.co.uk). This consisted of a number of large hangers, workshops and stores, the biggest area of which covered the southern part of the current assessment area (Area A). The other side of this L-shaped factory site was located immediately to the west of Area C (Field 1). At the southern end of the latter were air raid shelters, some of which still survive in a wooded thicket to the south of a large area of concrete standing, formerly the factory floor. The factory buildings remained on site until 1972 when they were demolished and levelled, with landscaping of the site having raised the level of the ground by over a metre in some areas.

In 1999 the 20ha area which lies to the south of Charles Babbage Road was being used as pasture by the University Farm. Derelict dairy buildings and a sludge lagoon then occupied the area immediately to the east of Field 1.

Methodology

The excavation area was stripped of its topsoil and subsoil layers systematically using two 360° tacked excavators with 2m-wide ditching buckets and two to three dumper lorries; the latter removing earth to large spoil mounds located to the south (Area A) and to the northeast of the excavation (Areas B and C). A drop (bulldozer) began to be used when conditions of mud and rutting became too severe under the weight of the lorries driving across site. This was essential in order to try and prevent damage to the underlying archaeology.

Area A was stripped first and immediately base-planned on account of the ingress of water and inundation of those areas of the site forming natural topographic lows. A number of minor and also major sumps were dug (with a system of interconnecting channels in between) in an attempt to facilitate drainage. Two generator-powered submersible pumps were used in order to pump water periodically into the main open land drain (or stream) which ran east-west along the bottom of this shallow valley. An extensive series of north-south land-drain pipes also lay on, or just beneath, the subsoil – natural boundary, particularly under the northernmost field (Area C). The unavoidable accidental breakage of these pipe sections, or else their removal during the excavation of archaeological features, contributed somewhat to the serious influx of water. Area B, being at the lowest part of the excavation area, flooded quite rapidly following the stripping of the subsoil and topsoil. Most of this area thus had to be abandoned at a point when only about half the features had been sampled due to the volume of water that was beyond the capability of the pumps to remove. Area C was for the most part a drier area with a shallower depth of overburden. This was less the case to the east where there was evidence for the presence of made-up ground up to 2m deep. Here the land was trenched east-west in order to assess the continuation of features. These and other 2m wide trench additions to the excavated open areas to the south of Area A were planned, dug and recorded quickly whilst being pumped.

In general, linear archaeological features were sampled every 10m by means of 0.5-1m wide slots depending upon the size of feature and its importance in terms of artefact (pottery sherd) presence (up to 10% sample). Pits and postholes were half-sectioned (50% sample), whilst any obvious tree-throws or modern features were not; those questionably so were simply pitted in the centre, or where relevant, examined along the edges. All those features properly examined by means of recorded section were given feature numbers, even if their origin was subsequently deemed doubtful. Where relevant all features were metal-detected prior to digging. Those metal-detected or visible surface finds associated with undug archaeological features, or with ridge-and-furrow were left bagged or else location pegged for plotting in during base planning. The CAU modified Museum of London recording system was employed throughout (Spence 1990); base plans being drawn at either 1:20 or 1:50, and sections at 1:10. The photographic record was in the form of colour digital images.

Environmental samples in the form of bulk 10-15 litre bags of soil were taken for the purposes of identifying macroplant fossils and seeds as well as for molluscs (snails) from suitably organic and/or waterlogged horizons. Pollen monolith tins were also used for the recovery of sediment columns from similarly organic/waterlogged layers analysed for pollen.

No features were excavated to a depth of >1.2m without boxing or stepping out the slotted sections. In all other respects safe working practices were followed as recommended in the SCAUM Health and Safety in Field Archaeology Manual. Protective gloves were worn as standard practice on site on account of a known heavy metal contamination problem quantified during an environmental survey carried out in 2008.

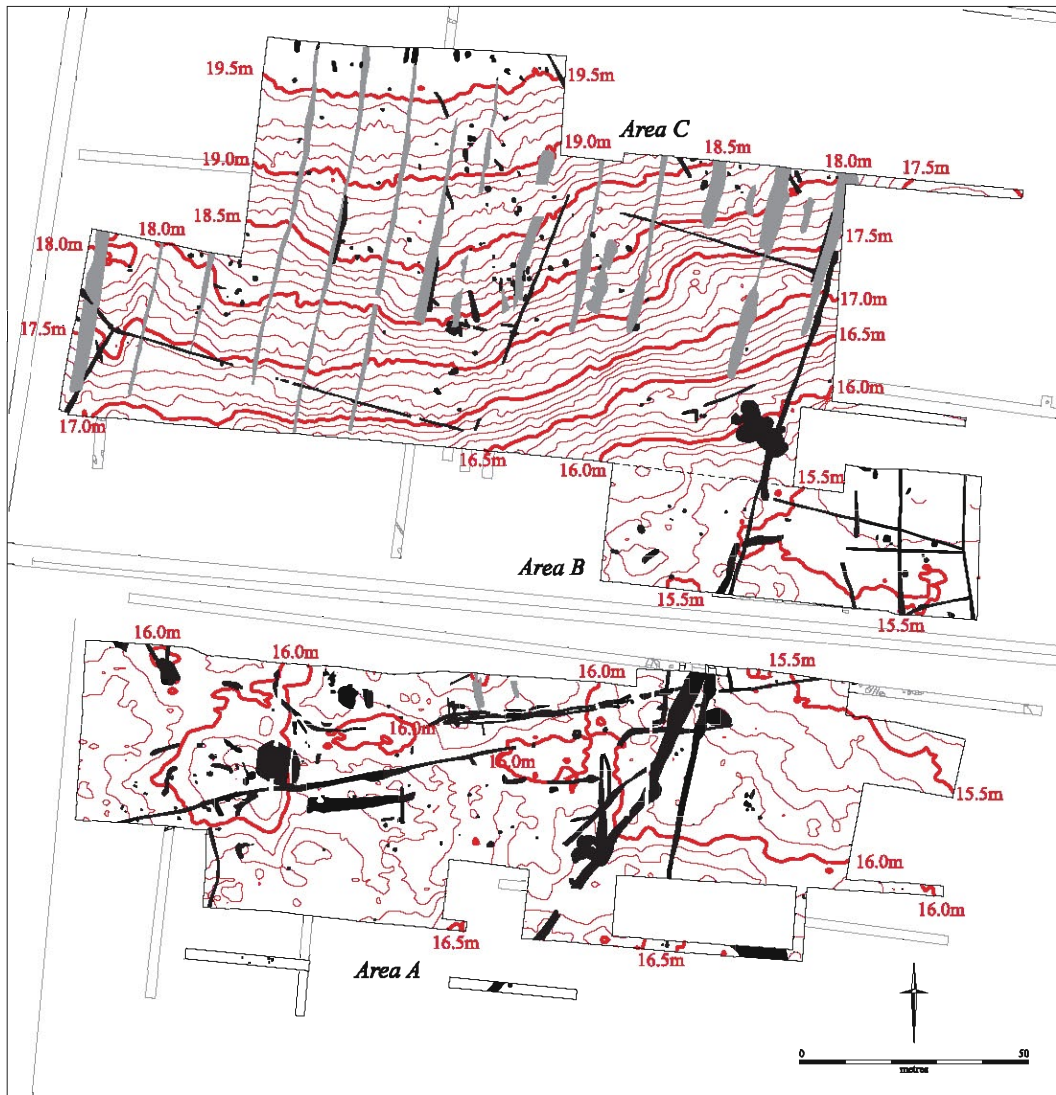


Figure 2. Contour plan and photograph of excavation (looking east)

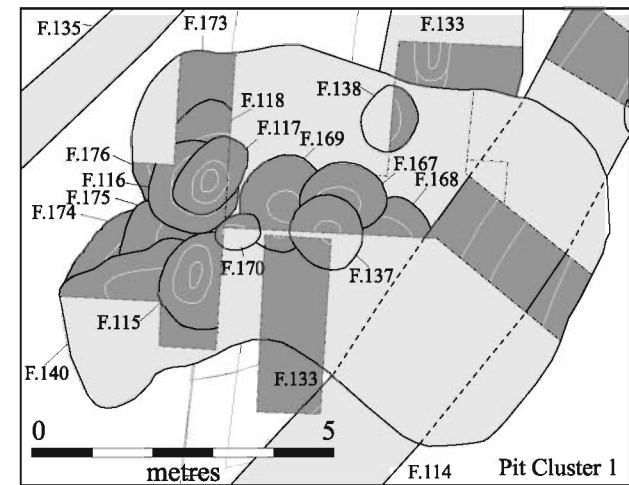
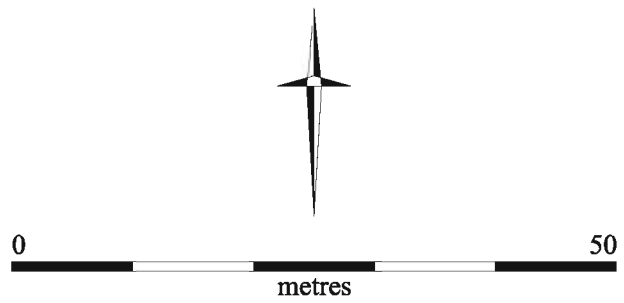
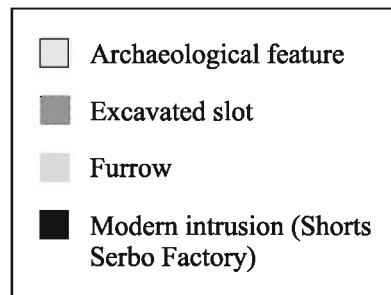
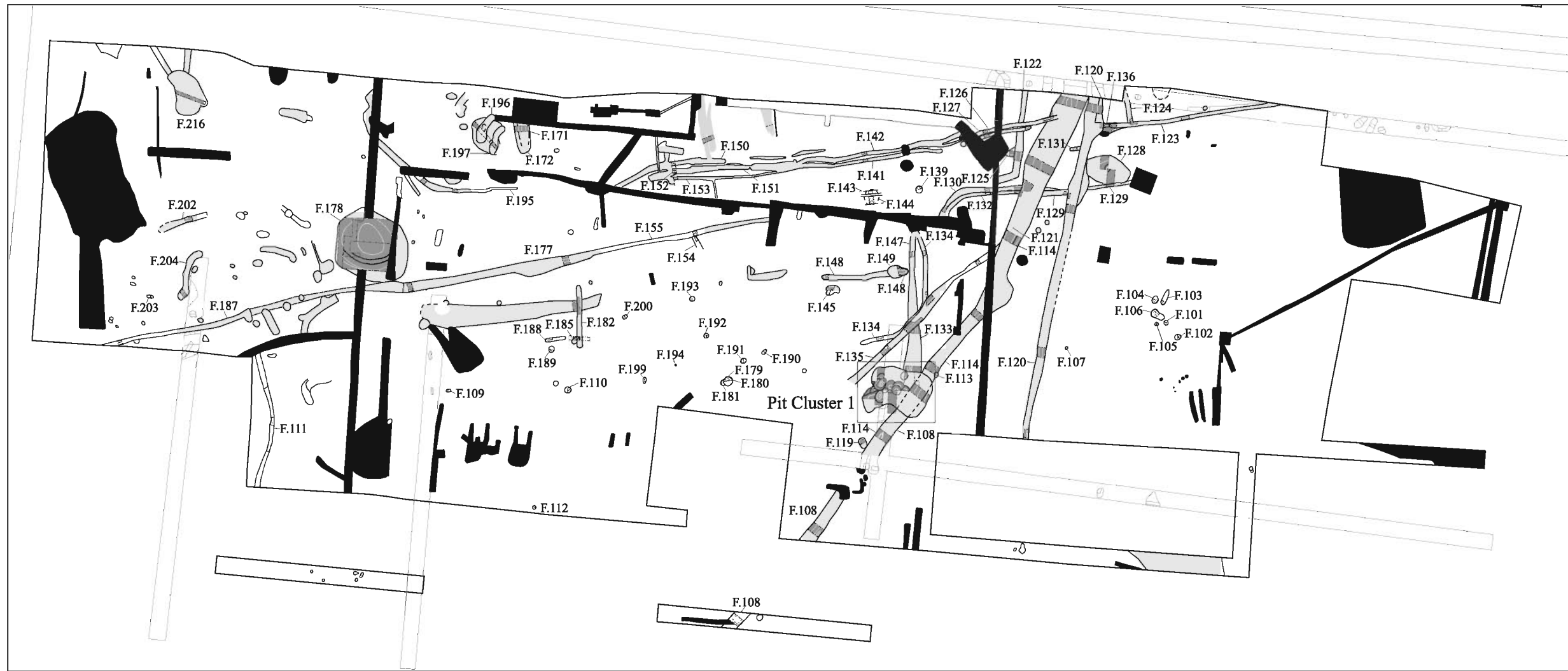


Figure 3. Plan of Area A, showing feature numbers and excavated slots



Figure 4. Plan of Areas B and C, showing feature numbers and excavated slots

RESULTS

Some 257 archaeological features and 803 archaeological contexts were recorded. Of these features, two were identified as being Mesolithic/Early Neolithic in date (one with good dating evidence), one as being Late Bronze /Early Iron Age (with pottery dates), 16 as 'possible prehistoric/uncertain', 52 as Early Iron Age (including 18 with pottery dates), 18 as Middle Iron Age (10 with pottery dates), four as Late Iron Age (two with pottery dates), five as Late Iron Age/Conquest Period (two with pottery dates), 12 as Roman (including five with pottery dates), 27 as Medieval (no pottery or artefact dates), and 21 post-Medieval, with at least 62 of the others remaining as 'undated' and unphased features.

More than 60 modern features were encountered excluding farmland land drains and the most recent (Whittaker 2001) Cambridge Archaeological Unit excavation trenches; however, none of the modern features (most of which consisted of the concrete and brick foundations, ceramic and iron piping, and rubbish pits associated with the wartime Shorts Serbo factory) were intentionally excavated, and thus they will not be described here.

From the outset, mention should be made that it has proven difficult to adequately phase a number of the site's features. This is due to its low finds densities, the overly wet circumstances of the excavations (given its lowlying heavy-clay geology/topography) and the presence of so many 'hard' modern features associated with the former aircraft works. The latter resulted in awkward/differential machining levels and the unavoidable 'fragmentation' of minor linear features. As will become clear (see *Unspecified Prehistoric/Uncertain Features*, below), the most pressing implication of this concerns the potential scale of the site's pre-Early Iron Age usage. Indeed, the existence of a highly fragmented later Bronze Age fieldsystem could even be postulated, but given the paucity of finds of that date and the undefined nature of the features' stratigraphy, such an assertion would seem - at least pending receipt of radiocarbon dates - unjustified.

Mesolithic/Early Neolithic

Close to the southwestern end of Area C a 1.06m by 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep round pit (F.240) could be fairly reliably dated on the basis of the find of a small but discreet assemblage of flint consisting of two fine blades, one of which had been utilised, and a burnt flake with a faceted platform. These pieces had been incorporated into a deliberate backfill deposit ([664] and [655]) which also contained charcoal (perhaps the remains of hearth waste) and three refitting fragments of unworked burnt flint. The faceted platform of the flint flake, if anything, seems to be more typical of Neolithic than Mesolithic flintworking (see Billington, below). A pollen monolith was sampled from the fill of this pit but was not examined on account of the generally poor preservation of palynomorphs from this site (see Boreham, below).

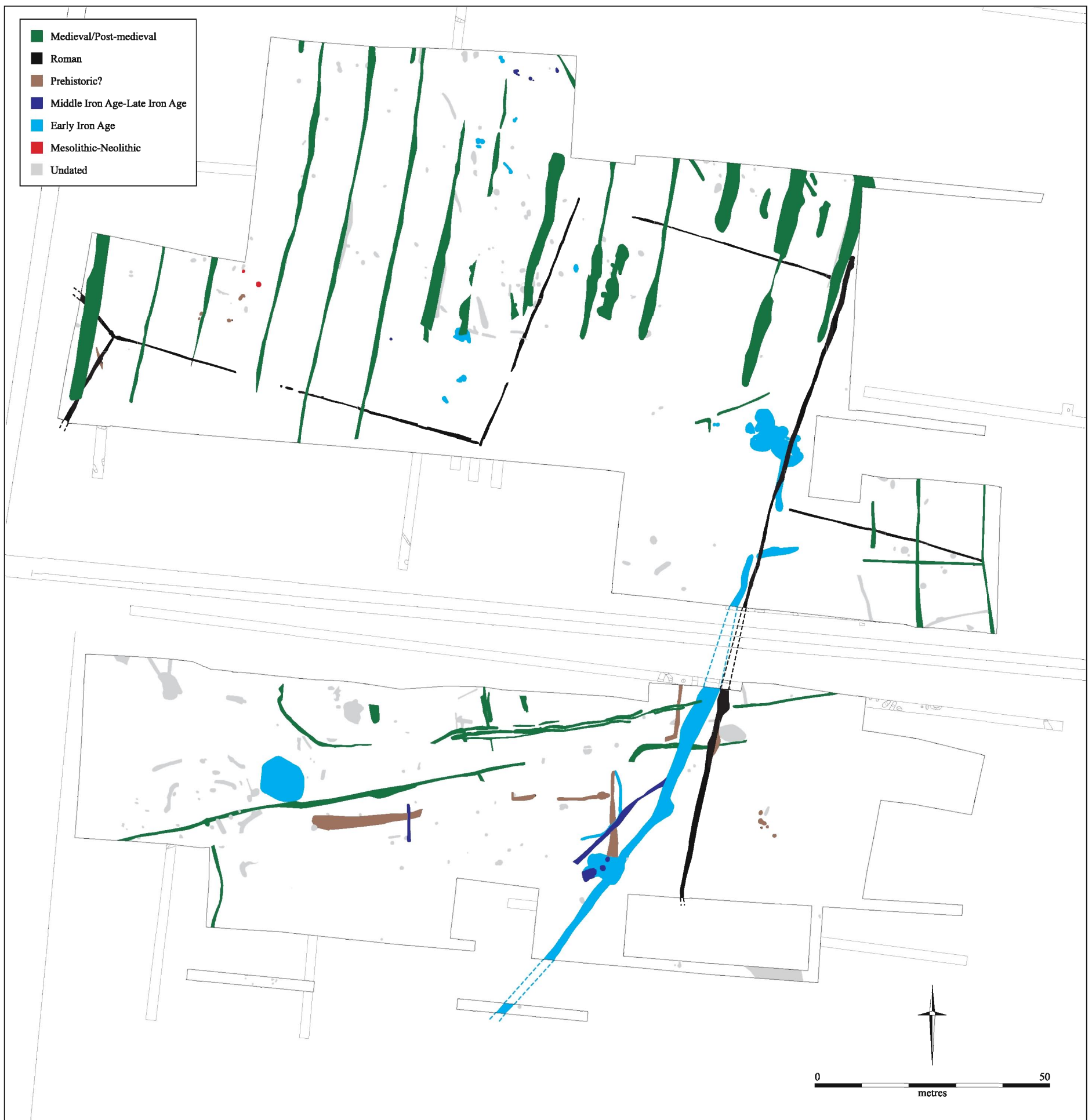


Figure 5. Phase plan

It remains possible that this pit or large posthole forms part of a group of circular features (F.250, F.226, F.227, F.228 & F.229) which describes a semi-circular arc about 14m in diameter, with central and offset features F.225 and F.333; however, only the most northerly of these pits (F.250) was referred to as being potentially Mesolithic/early Neolithic in date on the basis of its proximity to F.240 and the similar shape and fills of the pit. No dating evidence was recovered from the latter.

A small oval-shaped tree-throw (F.106) excavated originally as a feature associated with a group of small pits and tree-throws located at the far eastern end of Area A produced a single later Mesolithic flint microlith. Such material is often recovered from tree-throws, sometimes as backfilled material, though in this case it seems more likely that the material was inadvertently incorporated into the fill from surface deposits, though it remains possible that this still reflects the date of the tree.

The presence of a small amount of residual flint within features across the West Cambridge site attests to the very low level of occupation and utilisation of this landscape during this period, with most of the activity confined to the slightly higher and drier ground to the northwest.

Early Iron Age

Before proceeding to describe the main features associated with this phase, those of potentially earlier, Bronze Age status will be outlined. Only one excavated feature, an oval-shaped flat-bottomed pit (F.215), approximately 1.02m long and 0.35m deep, yielded only a Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery assemblage. Amounting to 90 sherds from two vessels, these occurred alongside butchered domestic animal bone (mostly cattle) and burnt stone. This appears to be the only confidently datable example of Bronze Age – earliest Iron Age occupation identified within this landscape. Given the type of fill it seems highly probable that this represents some sort of pit for the deposition of pottery and hearth waste, implying the presence of small-scale settlement nearby, or else attesting to ‘tasking’ activities.

This being said, some of these features within a small pit group along the northern end of the site (F.308, F.309, F.313, F.314, F.336 & F.337) have been interpreted as being either Early Iron Age or else transitional Late Bronze/Early Iron Age in date. This cluster is one of the very few groups of features on site referred to as such; small (<1m in diameter) intercutting pits associated with the earliest attempt at colonisation/management of this wet landscape – features which may well have been dug as rubbish pits, yet seem to contain very little in the way of midden material.

Of some significance perhaps is the suggested origin for the large Early-Middle Iron Age pit complex (Pit Cluster 1) on Site A. This large group of at least 15 intercutting pits (F.117 *etc.*) appears to nucleate around or close to the terminus of a shallow (0.25m deep), 1.2m wide, north-south ditch (F.133) which then extends another 11m or so to the north of these pits. At its

northernmost end (as F.147) this ditch becomes both narrower and shallower before disappearing completely at the point where it was cut by modern factory foundations. On stratigraphic grounds it seems probable that this was the earliest feature of the pitting complex; it seems to pre-date the cutting of ditch F.114, and also appears to act as a focus for the pitting at its southern end. As such an earliest Iron Age date seems likely. The ditch was dug sloping downwards towards its deeper southern termination. It remains a matter of speculation as to whether or not this was cut as a ramp or stepped feature into a waterhole, or perhaps even as a ditched entrance into a series of subsequent quarry pits; holes that were later backfilled with sand or gravel waste, or else used as middens. Though pottery dating for the construction of this appears to be absent, the relative dating of this compared to ditch F.114 supports the existence of this preceding phase. A considerable quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from the excavation of the fill of F.133, and originally thought to relate to this, was subsequently shown to be derived from the fill of a later pit F.138 which cuts this.

Located approximately within the western end of Area A was a large (approximately 5m diameter) sub-round to polygonal-shaped 2m+ deep silted hollow (F.178) which was, by necessity, part excavated by machine whilst still under water and subsequently sectioned, hand-excavated and recorded during the draining of the site immediately prior to being backfilled at the close of the site excavation. The machine excavation took the form of a 5m wide cutting through two major units of infill; 'Deposit A' ([491] = [978]), a dark grey-brown organic silt and clay with thin peaty intercalations and occasional wood, all sealing 'Deposit B' ([492] = [977]), a brown gravelly silt and sand with a rare-moderate mixed peaty content and clasts of chalk and stone, together with molluscs (fresh water snails) and other environmental evidence. This evidence included waterlogged seeds of crowfoot and water plantain (which may have been growing within this flooded feature), as well as buttercups, thistles, docks and bramble, forming a very partial representation of the original ground cover, yet indicative of a similarly damp, disturbed and overgrown land surface. A very small number of finds were recovered from this lower horizon. These appeared to be of material(s) washed-in, including some burnt flint and stone, butchered animal bone (mostly of cattle, but with some horse), split wood, and a single pottery sherd identified as LBA-EIA in date. Following pumping, the later hand-excavation of this feature allowed for a full-section to be drawn across the remaining deposits not already removed by machine. This was cut close to the western edge of the water-filled pit. It became apparent that Deposit B sat upon a 15–40° sloping surface of gravel suggesting that a 2m+ long ramp had been cut from the south or east side of feature to terminate in a central, wide 'well' shaft, indicating that this feature may have been dug as a fresh water supply, or perhaps as a watering-hole for animals. Gravel aquifers supplying 'spring' water to this well feature were noted, whilst over the central portion of the shaft a layer of rapidly accumulated clayey-silty gritty sediments gave way to a much more slowly accumulated subsidence infill ([976]) towards the top.

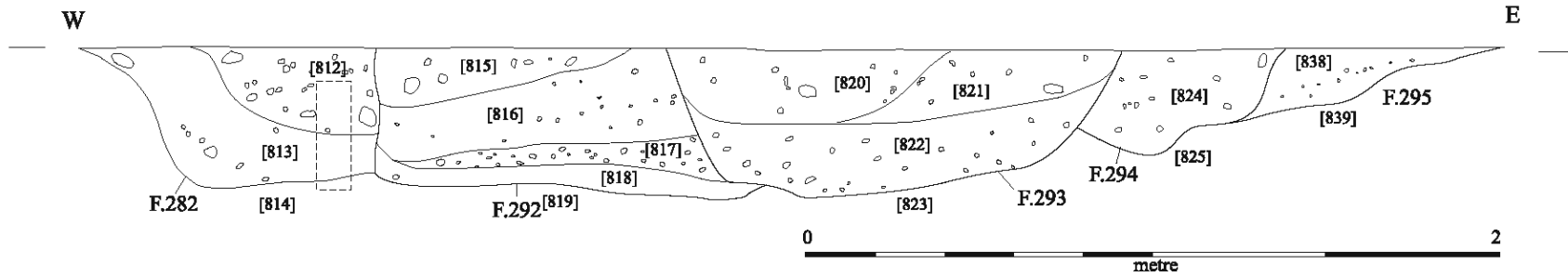
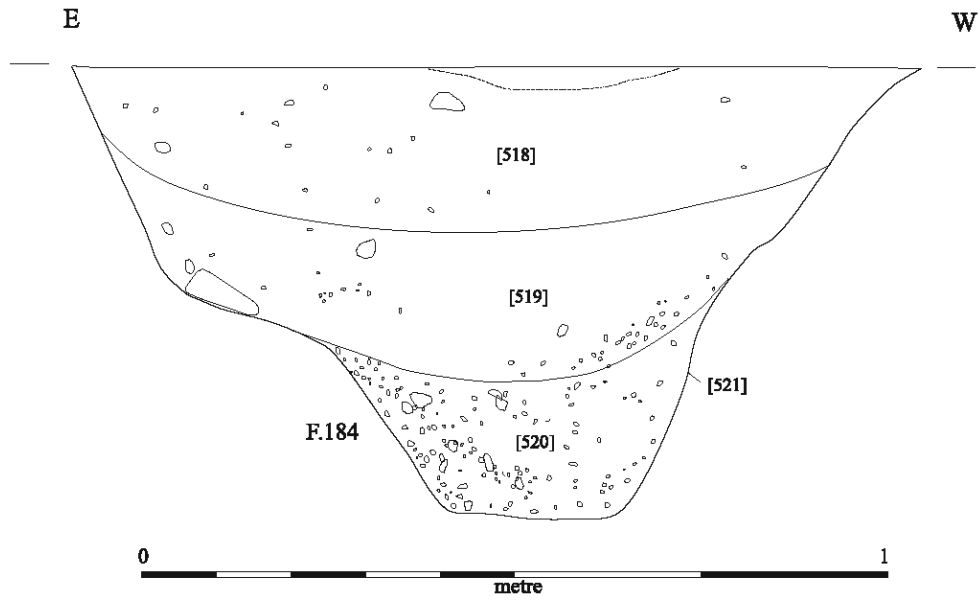


Figure 6. Sections of Early Iron Age ditch F.184 and pits F.282 and F.292-5, and photograph of Pit Cluster 1 (looking north-east)



F.108



F.157

Figure 7. Photographs of sections through Early Iron Age 'boundary' ditches F.108 and F.157

Dug in attempt to manage and, perhaps, enclose land within this area of shallow valley, the most outstanding feature of Early Iron Age date was undoubtedly a 0.5–1m deep and 1.7–3.9m wide, ‘V’ to ‘U-shaped’ ditch (F.114) which was followed in a SSW-NNE direction across the valley floor (between Areas A and B) for a distance of some 75m; both northern and southern ends of this major ditch being defined by subsequent intercutting pits clusters (Pit Clusters 1 and 2). The southern terminus of this ditch (here in fact dug as another semi-continuous ditch segment F.108, the end of which abuts the former some 2.5m to the north of Pit Cluster 1) was not observed within the excavation area. The northernmost terminus (as ditch segment F.184) was cut by Pit Cluster 2, though the actual ditch terminal itself could not be recognized on account of the degree of truncation of this by the various intercut pits. Evidence for a contemporary re-cut of F.114 was noted in the central and widest part of the ditch close to the northern edge of Area A, there being some relationship also between the cross-sectional profile and depth of the various cut ditch sections and the underlying geology; the base of this ditch being both narrower and deeper where it cut the underlying Gault Clay/Boulder Clay, and shallower and wider within the overlying gravel, silts and sands. To some extent this might represent differential erosion; however, the lower fills of these ditch(es) appear to have been slump-filled, and in some cases backfilled, fairly rapidly, with a slower accumulation of darker silt containing charcoal, animal bone, pot and burnt stone found towards the top. It is feasible therefore that this large feature might relate to local drainage. This interpretation might make more sense if there was evidence for a connection between the two areas of pitting, or if, for instance, there was some sort of indication for the clearing out (ditching) or else regular re-cutting of its course. What does seem to be significant though is the c. 4m gap or break in this ditch (the section referred to as F.156 and F.157 on the south side and F.184 on the north side) which corresponds to the lowest point in the valley. A slight easterly turn to this northern terminal (F.184), plus a swing eastwards in the form of an additional 5m long east-west segment (F.356) to the south, suggests that we could be looking at an in-turned entrance and therefore the faint suggestion of a route, perhaps for the passage of stock, from west to east along the valley floor. In some respects, this could be misleading as there is no evidence here for an actual enclosure. Moreover, the real reason for digging such a substantial ditch, which is both spatially and generically linked at either end to clusters of pits, is far from clear; particularly, as this feature seems to have been terminated at its north end by a mass of near contemporary pits all of which were dug close to the position of the ‘entrance’. In some respects, this ditch gives the appearance of being a failed landscape feature, possibly even an aborted enclosure, perhaps one associated with an abandoned Iron Age colonisation of this valley.

Though minor quantities of Bronze/Iron Age flintwork were recovered from several of the fills of F.108, F.114 and F.184, the majority of the less abraded sherds have been identified as being Early Iron Age in date. This pottery assemblage would seem to provide the most reliable indication of the approximate construction date of this feature, clearly differentiating it from the marginally later pits of Pit Cluster 1, and the near contemporary pits of Pit Cluster 2. Snail shells in F.114 ([272]) suggest that these ditch segments when open had seasonal standing water in them, whilst further north within segment F.184 ([508]) were found waterlogged *Chenopodium* sp. (fat hen), an

indicator of disturbed ground and arable farming. A slightly better environmental picture pertaining to the site at the time of the infill of this large ditch and still open pits is provided by the pollen assemblage recorded within the two monoliths taken from the upper fill of F.114 at the point where this crosses Pit Cluster 1 ([510]), and cuts one of the earliest pits F.168 (see Boreham, below). The base of the upper grey silty fill of this ditch contained grass pollen and pteropsid spores alongside pollen representing an herbaceous flora, including pinks and buttercups, plus a smaller component of trees such as birch and pine, plus the woodland indicator the common polyploidy fern. The latter suggests the presence of local secondary woodland which may have developed on wetter areas around marshes and springs; these wetter areas are also suggested by the minor appearance of *Selaginella* (clubmoss).

The northern segment of ditch F.184 was clearly cut by the largest and most southwesterly (F.241) of the pits belonging Pit Cluster 2, its terminal probably not extending much to the north of this point. All of the other 20 pits (i.e. F.230-236, F.244-249 and F.251-257) encountered during the cutting of a 6m long by 1m wide excavation slot through the middle of this cluster appear to be contemporary on the basis of the limited Early Iron Age pottery evidence recovered. These pits appear to have been dug in three to four overlapping groups, the earliest in relative terms being the smallest group which lay to the west (F.244-248). The digging of the latter group began with a tiny 0.5m+ 'exploratory' pit (F.247) that was soon to be followed by a further series of pits both to the west (the 2.5 x 1.9 x .37m deep pit, F.244) and to the east with the digging of the deeper (0.4m+) and larger 'quarry pits', F.248 and F.249. The backfill of pits F.244 and F.245 contained pottery, a good deal of charcoal flecks, flecks of burnt clay, and some rare flint flakes.

On the other hand, the slightly later Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age pottery dates associated with pits in Pit Cluster 1 suggests that even if dug at the same time, several of these seem to have remained open and in use for a longer period; however, just one pit (F.168) seems to have been dug and backfilled during the Early Iron Age before the cutting of ditch F.114. The pottery from this feature suggests that it might be contemporary with, or still earlier than those in Pit Cluster 2. A similar function for these features as quarry pits, subsequently slump-filled then partially backfilled with sand seems likely; F.168 also contained a fairly significant amount of burnt stone.

Just north of Pit Cluster 1, a 22m long narrow (0.52m x .11m deep) curvilinear ditch (F.134) appeared to define a course slightly off-alignment to that of ditch F.114, but to the west of it, perhaps suggesting the arc of a smaller enclosure or stock drove. Interestingly, the ditch turned to the west around the northern end of Pit Cluster 1, providing a very strong indication of a spatial and functional connection. Two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature, suggesting that it *may* have been contemporary with the main F.114 boundary.

To the south a small discreet pit (F.119) lies adjacent to the continuation of ditch F.108, southwards from Pit Cluster 1. This pit seems to be part of the same phase as the construction of the boundary ditch, as do a number of other pits and pit groups excavated well to the north and west of here on the

shallow sloping valley side in Area C. Amongst the latter were found a small group of intercutting oval-shaped pits (F.209-211 and F.214), each of which was between 0.4m – 0.5m diameter and 0.25-0.3m deep with single fills containing varying amounts of burnt domestic debris including bone, Early Iron Age pottery and burnt stone; amongst this stone were found several broken-up fragments of burnt/discarded saddle quern (F.209 and F.214). Some wild plant seeds, but no cereal grains were found within the accompanying charred samples. Some 6m to the north of this group lay another larger group consisting of seven intercutting pits (F.282, F.292-297), with other possible but as yet unexcavated examples. Partially disturbed by modern subsoiling, this sub-circular pit group appears to contain at least five Early Iron Age pits (F.282, F.294-F.297), infilled for the most part with a dark charcoal-rich (perhaps waterlain?) sediment and containing the remains of hearth debris and assorted domestic rubbish, including broken pottery (some of this being hand-decorated fabrics), a small chalk spindle-whorl (F.282), burnt stone, bone plus environmental evidence consisting of carbonised cereal grains (spelt and emmer), hazel nut shell, grass seeds and hundreds of small fragments of pottery.

Several other similar but discreet pits have been identified to the north of this group; these include F.287, F.338 and F.339 (both circular and partly conjoined features, 0.4-0.5m diameter and 0.12-.25m deep, containing large fragments of Early Iron Age pottery), and another similar pair, F.322 and F.323, located some 12m to the north and close to the limit of excavation. From the larger of the latter two pits (F.323) fragmented Early Iron Age pottery, bone, charcoal and burnt flint were recovered, with more bone and flint retrieved from the smaller pit.

Approximately 25m from the northern limit of Area C a circular flat-bottomed (0.82m x .25m diameter) clay-lined pit, F.343, was investigated. Against the northern side of the pit lay a deposit of burnt stone close to the point where this feature cut a probably related and/or functionally associated 3m long (0.42m wide; 0.08m deep) gully (F.346). Both these features contained Early Iron Age pottery, as well burnt stone, whilst the pit contained various fragmentary pieces of saddle quern, a rubbing stone, and the remains of a large anvil stone (perhaps one associated with metalworking?). Burnt clay, including an as yet unidentified clay object, was also recovered from the base of this gully. The relationship of these objects to the burnt stone suggests that they might have been associated with the working function of the pit. Given the lack of *in situ* burning this feature remains rather difficult to interpret, possibly it was used as some sort of oven or boiling pit structure; however, no environmental evidence, such as cereal grain or seeds, was forthcoming.

Middle-Later Iron Age

Originally identified as a distinct Early-Middle Iron Age sub-phase, the pits within Pit Cluster 1 may more appropriately be included within the Middle Iron Age by virtue of their intercutting relationship with other pottery-dated pit examples (e.g. the Early Iron Age pit F.169 and the Middle Iron Age pits F.137/F.140). Pits falling into this category include F.116–118, F.167, F.169-170, and F.173-176. Pit F.169 contained no pottery, but did contain the partial

skeleton of a cow. The presence of a sequence of re-worked/re-utilised pits dating from the Early Iron Age to the Middle Iron Age sealed by a Middle Iron Age-attributed organic silt or midden ([410]) attests to the relative longevity of this landscape feature.

A much better defined later phase of pitting was evident cutting the earlier pits in Pit Cluster 1 (**F.115**, **F.137–138** & **F.140**). These features were all dated through the exclusive presence of Middle Iron Age pottery; with some of these pits also containing moderate amounts of burnt stone (F.115), redeposited iron slag (F.115), several saddle quern fragments (F.115), and in one case a large triangular baked clay loomweight (F.140). These pits appeared to have no other attributes that clearly distinguished them from the earlier ones; however, all were grouped within the middle and southwestern corner of the pit cluster. The fact that at least half of these pits appeared to re-cut and completely backfilled earlier ones suggests that they were unlikely to have been dug intentionally as quarries; perhaps instead these were excavated as retting pits, or possibly for the digging in of rubbish.

The formation of a damp midden over the top of this now largely infilled and abandoned area of pits is indicated by the presence of a dark, 0.17m deep silt layer [410] which covered almost the entire area of Pit Cluster 1 (approximately 9m by 6.5m), thus concealing most of the underlying features. The deposition of this horizon may relate to worsening drainage conditions and a higher water table. The continuing discard of rubbish into this would seem to suggest the persistence of a low-level occupation of this valley at least until the end of the Middle Iron Age. If anything, there is evidence for increased middening at this level; the horizon covering the top of ditch F.114 being moderately rich in animal bone, burnt stone, some fragments of saddle quern, and iron slag.

The truncated ditch **F.133/138** yielded more than 200 sherds of Middle Iron Age attribution. Subsequent interpretation of the archaeology of this, however, has shown that this pottery derives from the fill ([373]) of a small pit **F.138** (1.22m x 0.32m deep) which in turn cuts the fill of the ditch, as well as the edge of a larger pit F.137 to the north. Some 161 sherds of pottery recovered from this feature appear to be derived from a single vessel.

A number of other small pits containing Middle Iron Age pottery have also been identified on Area C. This includes a 0.6m diameter circular shallow pit of unknown function (**F.220**) located some 10m to the west of pits F.292-297, and a group of three irregular to oval-shaped pits (**F.302**, **F.304** & **F.305**) and a posthole (**F.303**), which broadly define the arc of a semi-circle (of about 16m diameter) against the northernmost edge of the site. Pits F.304 and F.305 both contained Middle Iron Age pottery and bone; the fills of pit F.302 and the posthole F.303 being so similar to these that an identical date to the above seems very likely. No evidence as to the purpose or function of this arc of pits was forthcoming during excavation; however, the presence of other Early-Middle Iron Age features containing at least some evidence for the deposition of domestic rubbish suggests that we could perhaps be looking at the traces of a settlement structure. Some Middle/Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the fill of the Early Roman ditch F.120, in which association this pottery was clearly redeposited.

Otherwise, there is little evidence for occupation or use of this land by the end of the Iron Age. The most probable feature of this date was a 20m long and c. 0.8-0.9m wide southwest-northeast aligned ditch (F.135) just to the north of Pit Cluster 1. This cut ditches F.133 and F.134 as well as the larger Early Iron Age ditch F.114. From several different slots excavated through this ditch (and from four different contexts) very similar sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were recovered. A single sherd of the same (Late Iron Age/Early Roman) date was also recovered during the excavation from another short (4m long) north-south ditch section or segment some 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep further to the west on Area A (F.182). By inference, another short section of ditch (F.188) that lay at right angles to F.182 was probably also of this date. It must be assumed that most of these shallow ditches have been totally truncated away, yet formerly would have been part of some low-density fieldsystem in this area of the valley. It is possible, but unlikely, that these ditches relate to the SSW-NNE and WNW-ESE aligned Romano-British fieldsystem identified on the northern slopes of this valley.

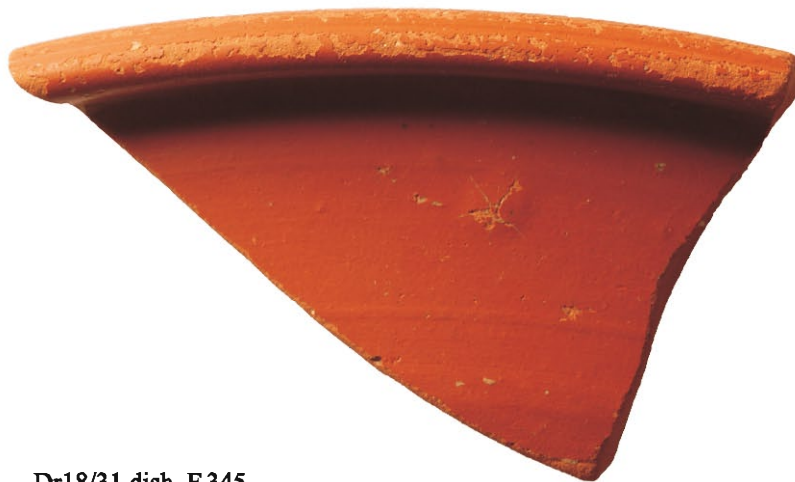
Unspecified/ uncertain Prehistoric features

Possible prehistoric features, for which no pottery or other dating evidence is available, have been identified to the south on Area A. Those examined include several sections of an east-west linear ditch (amongst these F.201 and F.148, which may once have been a single 64m+ long feature), various unexcavated short curvilinear features (some of which may be ancient tree-throws), a small group of probably associated pits (F.101-105), one of which (F.101) contained a secondary flint flake and charcoal, a possible tree-throw re-used as a hearth (F.145), plus a north-south linear (F.122) which is cut by the putative Medieval trackway ditches F.126 and F.127. The pressing issue here is whether some of these putative/possible ditch lengths, some of which run parallel to this suggested trackway, and some of which may cross it potentially constituted some manner of enclosure system or, indeed, were of even earlier date (later Bronze Age?); unfortunately, there is simply too little dating evidence to adjudicate upon this. Whilst F.130 and F.132 seemed at the time to have been cut by the Early Iron Age boundary (F.114), despite repeated slotting, the exact nature of these junctions was, in fact, extremely difficult to interpret.

To the north, within Area C, there were fewer, relatively smaller features ascribed to such ambiguous status. Amongst these is a short northwest-southeast aligned linear F.340 that is cut by the Early Roman enclosure (F.345 & F.352), and to the northwest of this, an unclear arc of several pits and postholes (F.226-229). At the far northern end of the site lies a connected posthole (F.340) and gully (F.341), both of uncertain function, and to the southeast of this another, potential pit (F.347) which lies close to, and just to the east of Early Iron Age pit F.341.



Dr37 bowl, F.223



Dr18/31 dish, F.345



Figure 8. South Gaulish Samian sherds, including decorated Dr37 bowl from Romano-British gully F.223

Early Roman

There appears to be little difference in pottery dates between features referred to as Early Roman (i.e. **F.120**, **F.136**, **F.159**, **F.183**, **F.184**, **F.345**, **F.350**, **F.352** & **F.354**) and those referred specifically as being part of the Romano-British fieldsystem (**F.267**, **F.223**, **F.205**, **F.210**, **F.217**, *etc.* ; see below). The major north-south boundary ditch **F.120**/**F.183** was followed for about 164m from the southern limit of Area A (as **F.120**), to almost the northern edge of Area C (eastern end), at which point this feature became much shallower and terminated (**F.183**), perhaps as a result of modern truncation (ploughing). For most of its length this lies roughly parallel to, but east of the Early Iron Age boundary ditch **F.108**/**F.114**, but diverges well to the east of this (up to 30m distant) at its southern end. The ditch was sectioned in 16 places, with its width and depth ranging from: 0.79m wide and 0.16m deep at its southern end, 1.7m wide and 0.33m deep close to the northern limit of Area A, 0.58m wide and 0.09m deep at the south end of Area B, 0.83–1.03m wide and 0.35m deep where this cuts Pit Cluster 2, and 1.00m wide and 0.10–0.15m deep at its northern terminus. The profile of the ditch throughout its length is typically concave and flat-bottomed, the shallowness of the feature perhaps being a function of truncation rather than true depth, with typically two (sometimes one) fills consisting of a basal slump and then washed-in/backfilled silty upper fill. Pottery was recovered from five different contexts; most of this was identified as being Early Roman, some of it Romano-British, alongside a handful of redeposited Middle-Late Iron Age sherds. Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery recovered from the adjacent east-west gully segment **F.136** (Area A) may well in fact be sherds redeposited from **F.120**. On account of the poor preservation of the samples, no useful environmental evidence was recovered from this ditch.

The two abutting northwest-southeast and southwest-northeast aligned linear ditches (**F.345** & **F.352**) lying close to the southwestern limit of excavation on Area C appear to be the same feature(s) as **F.35** (Trench 22), described in 2001 as a 'curvilinear gully', from which a group of pottery sherds consisting of combed and cordoned jars and segmented bowls of Flavian to Hadrianic date (70–120/130 AD) were recovered (Whittaker 2001: 11). In fact, the junction between **F.345**, **F.352** and the 'Romano-British' ditch **F.205** is a triple one, with each of these terminating at the same point, perhaps suggesting broadly contemporaneous construction. Only one sherd of pottery, part of the rim of a plain Samian dish (see Fig. 8), was recovered from the terminus of **F.345** ([987]); however, the previous pottery dating for this same feature suggests that it is likely that this was once the corner of an enclosure (or alternatively, a junction of differently orientated field ditches meeting the terminal of an earlier one). Additional evidence that this represents an open-cornered 'enclosure', rather than just a field junction, seems to be indicated by its slightly more complicated construction history; parts of these ditches would appear to have been dug in segments (i.e. **F.349** was 'tacked on' to the end of **F.345**), whilst the latest ditch, **F.352**, cut several earlier similarly aligned pits **F.353** and **F.354** close to its terminus. Moreover, the dimensions of these ditches (in terms of their average width (0.37–0.9m) and depth (0.3–0.4m)) seems greater than those of the straight, shallow and narrow Romano-British field ditches such as **F.205** and **F.223**. No other finds or pottery were recovered from any of these associated features. An environmental sample from **F.352**

produced no molluscs and little in the way of plant fossils, except some charcoal and waterlogged seeds (grass, *Chenopodium* sp. etc.), the latter not dissimilar to the remains seen within some of the Iron Age ditches. The combined evidence from the 2001 and 2010 sampling of this feature(s) suggests that this could be an enclosure located on the edge of an Early Roman farmstead/settlement likely to be found on the higher and slightly drier gravel lands just to the west of the site; there is, though, as yet no other evidence for the presence of this.

Evidence for at least three long, straight, and narrow WNW-ESE and NNE-SSW field ditches (F.267, F.223, F.205, F.210, F.217) meeting at 95° and 85°, plus an un-sampled WNW-ESE ditch crossing Area B, suggests the presence of large simply enclosed square-rectangular fields each measuring between 6000m² and 6500m² in area. The orientation of this fieldsystem matches that of the (presumed earlier) Early Roman boundary ditch (F.120/F.183), the latter evidently forming one side of the easternmost field. The fieldsystem could not be detected crossing over the lowest point of the valley to the south of this (presumably the area most subjected to water-logging), and onto the slightly flatter and heavier clay lands.

Sampled at 15m to 20m intervals, the ditch fills produced mostly Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age pottery, although the presence of Early Roman and Romano-British sherds would appear to confirm their likely date, as well as the generally high level of re-deposition which has taken place. A single sherd of decorated Samian ware was recovered from ditch F.223 [700]. The existence of single fills consisting of clayey silt rich in charcoal inclusions was fairly typical of these ditches, as were the narrow (0.4–.20m wide) and also shallow (0.15–.05m) round-bottomed cuts which became more heavily truncated eastwards.

Medieval

A considerable number of the features excavated or mapped have been provisionally dated as Medieval on the basis of their being associated with ridge-and-furrow or with the course of known Medieval ways such as the *Coton Way* (or *Sheepcote Way*) and the *Endlesse Way*. Both of these routes are shown on the reconstructed map of the fields of West Cambridge (Hall & Ravensdale 1976), and most certainly these lie within this specific area which is shown as south and east of *High Crosse*.

The two parallel linears (or in some cases groups of repeated linears) which cross the northern half of Area A in a WSW-ENE direction (F.123, F.125, F.127, F.129, F.141-144, F.150-154, F.156, F.177, F.187, F.195 & F.202) appear to closely match the mapped course of the *Coton Way* in this area, both in its orientation, relative position and suggested width. For this reason, this collection of features has provisionally been assigned to this phase, despite a continuing ambiguity over the apparent relationship of some (which have here been interpreted as trackside ditches) with the Early Iron Age boundary ditch F.114 and the Early Roman ditch F.120. Be this as it may, the juxtaposition between the terminals of Medieval ridge-and-furrow (F.146, F.171 & [408]) and the northern edge of this trackway (the two of them abutting at approximately

90° along the line of what might be a Medieval headland), plus the presence here of other features shown on the West Fields map (e.g. the density of tree-throws found at the northwestern end of Area A), might relate to the copse or wood shown as *Thorpiscroft*. The sinuous gully, **F.111**, which joins the south of the trackway and matches, or is at least parallel to, the boundaries shown as *Sparwes Croft* and *Le Daleweye* (*ibid.*) may also be part of this system.

Some 50-60m to the north of the trackway, was evidence of another, now almost completely truncated linear **F.242** and the curvilinear element **F.259**. The southwest-northeast orientation and location of this narrow (0.5m wide) and shallow (approx 0.2m deep) gully segment approximately matches the course of the *Endlesse Way*, which is also depicted on the map of the West Fields (the latter in fact seems to be shown as crossing this a little further to the north, thus any linking of this linear with the Medieval track is far more tentative). What little survives of this gully certainly resembles those thought to represent the remnants of *Coton Way*. The angle of this would bring the other end of the track to a point just to the north of the northwest corner of Area A. Perhaps being a less substantial landscape feature, most of the traces of this have since been removed by the plough.

Ten metres to the north of the western end of the double-linear trackway (*Coton Way*) were a number of narrow linears such as the north-south aligned **F.163** (a 0.5-0.75m wide and 0.25-0.46m deep steep-sided ditch with a shallow rounded base) and the east-west **F.166** which appears to cut this, but which is probably contemporaneous with it. Both of these features were sampled within the flooded area towards the eastern end of Site B. Given the similar orientations of **F.166** and the unsampled linear 15m to the east of this with that of **F.111**, **F.146** and **F.171**, it seems possible that all are in fact of Medieval date and relate to field strips or enclosures adjoining *Coton Way*.

On a slightly different NNE-SSW orientation parallel with the alignment of Medieval furlongs shown bordering Madingley Road (i.e. the *St. Neot's Way* shown on the plan of the Cambridge West Fields; see *ibid.*) are fifteen large plough features (or groups of features). All of these have been identified as examples of probable Medieval – post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow, amongst which were a number of sectioned and recorded features; **F.317**, **F.324**, **F.328**, **F.330**, **F.288-F.291**, **F.269**, **F.273**, **F.243** and [775]. Most of these cuts associated with the ridge and furrow were between 8m and 10m apart, and between 1m and 5m wide (depending upon whether these were single or multiple features); by far the most extensive and perhaps most recent of these being up to 100m long. Cutting some were the traces of modern ploughing, including some deeper cuts made by 'subsoilers'. From the excavation of a section through furrow **F.317** came a single sherd of 14-15th century Ely Ware, whilst from furrow cut **F.328** was recovered a 16/17th century sherd of Frecken Ware; the latter date probably being the most representative, given that a large number of small finds, mostly of post-Medieval ironwork, were recovered from the surface outcrop of these features. The locations of all such Medieval – post-Medieval finds are shown as findspots within Figure 4 (SF 17-26 and SF 31-66), the majority of these having been found through metal detecting. These include hand forged wrought iron nails, parts of a wedge, hook, pin, knife blade fragment, and a key. Non-metal finds consisted of post-Medieval pottery (some of this being 19th century), tobacco pipe, bottle glass, brick and

tile. However, a single Medieval sherd of 13th century Stamford or Kingston Ware was picked up elsewhere upon the surface of the site.

A smaller number of other features, mostly short east-west aligned linear ditch segments (e.g. **F.334**, **F.335**, **F.338** and **F.223**) and NW-SE ditch segments (**F.274**, **F.284** and **F.301**) have been provisionally assigned to the Medieval period solely on the basis of their association and also their intercutting relationships with Roman features and later Medieval–post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow.

Undated

Some 51 excavated features have been classed as undated, or undatable, on account of a complete absence of pottery or other finds, or the lack of any sort of stratigraphic/ chronological relationship, or sometimes even a spatial association between these and other known and dated features.

To the south on Site A were a couple of very shallow pans or pond/waterhole type features, both of these located along the northern edge of Site A towards the western (**F.216**) and eastern ends (**F.128**). A small fragment of ditch terminal (**F.131**) that might be linked to the putative double-ditched Medieval track also lies close to **F.128**, and either abuts or cuts ditch **F.114**. Meanwhile, groups of other small pits or postholes are found scattered across this site; some (such as **F.103**) being found within the general vicinity of potential prehistoric pits, others (such as **F.110**, **F.179-181**, **F.185**, **F.190-194** & **F.199-200**) forming the outline of possible, but as yet unknown wooden structure(s), the remainder being more isolated examples forming no obvious association (**F.107**, **F.109** & **F.112**). A group of irregular shaped pits and/or tree -hrows (**F.196-198**) were examined close to the southernmost extent of furrow **F.171**. Curvilinear gully segments of unknown date were examined at the west end of Site A. Gully **F.195**, which might have been interpreted as a continuation of the putative Medieval trackway, given the orientation of its eastern end, in some respects seems very different. In order to reflect this uncertainty, this has been grouped with these undated features. The semi-circular gully **F.204** to the south of this is most probably an earlier, yet undatable feature.

The east-west to WSW-ENE curvilinear ditch **F.164** and associated pit **F.165** were examined on Site B. The alignment of the former might suggest some sort of relationship with the Medieval track of *Coton Way*, yet the location of this appears to lie too far to the north of this to make much sense. However, to the north and west of this on Site C were a large number of small pits or postholes. These were all sectioned and recorded, yet none revealed much evidence of function or date (**F.225**, **F.237**, **F.262**, **F.266**, **F.275**, **F.277**, **F.279-280**, **F.299-300**, **F.306-307**, **F.320-321**, **F.325-326**, **F.329**, **F.321**, & **F.342**; a tree-throw/pit, **F.225**); pits **F.348** and **F.344** were located near to the Early/Middle Iron Age pit groups, and finally, postholes **F.350-351** lay at the extreme west end of the site close to the Early Roman enclosure.

Material Culture

The site did not prove particularly prolific and what can only be counted as a 'reasonable' quantity of finds was recovered. Of these, in relationship to its 'early' economy and what it tells of the colonisation of the region's heavy claylands generally, what should be highlighted is the number of quernstones that were recovered (see Timberlake, below).

The Flint – Lawrence Billington

A total of 39 worked flints weighing 367.5g together with 14 unworked burnt flints weighing 187.7g were recovered from the excavation (Table 1). An unworked tabular piece of flint with lime mortar (?) still adhering to it from F. 178 presumably represents building material. The condition of the assemblage is variable, light edge damage is fairly frequent and patination (cortication) occurs on 76% of the assemblage, ranging from a light blue clouding to a heavy white that masks the original colour of the flint. Where present, the cortex was weathered and occasionally stained. There was no evidence for primary, chalk, flint and the assemblage appears to be derived exclusively from secondary till and gravel sources.

Feature No.	Feature type	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	irregular core	flake core	core fragment	building flint	irregular waste	Microolith	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt	unworked burnt weight (g)
101	pit		1										1		
106	treethrow										1		1		
108	linear		3	1			1	1		1			7		
114	linear	1	7	1				1				1	11		
115	pit		2	1									3		
122	linear				1								1		
134	linear		1										1		
135	linear		1										1		
136	linear			1									1		
137	pit/linear terminus		1										1		
145	treethrow													1	14.4
178	pond/well								1				1		
216	pit													2	77.4
218	linear		1										1		
240	pit		1		2								3	3	16.7
244	pit						1						1		
245	pit									1			1		
305	pit		1										1		
333	pit													9	50.9
	surface find		1			1	1						3	1	28.3
	Totals	1	20	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	39	16	187.7

Table 1: The worked and burnt flint assemblage

Mesolithic and Earlier Neolithic

A small amount of material consistent with a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date was recovered from the excavations. A fine blade with opposed dorsal scars was recovered as a residual find in linear F.122. Pit F.240 contained what appears to be a discreet assemblage of flint, comprising two fine blades, one of which has been utilised, and a burnt flake with a faceted platform. These artefacts were incorporated into a deliberate backfill deposit that also contained charcoal and three refitting fragments of unworked burnt flint. The blades are strongly suggestive of a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date whilst the faceted platform of the flake is perhaps more typical of Neolithic technologies. Tree-throw F. 106 contained a later Mesolithic microlith of scalene triangle form (Jacobi's type 7b; 1978). Traditionally interpreted as composite parts of hunting tools microwear analysis has demonstrated a wide range of uses for such pieces including cutting, piercing and use as projectile points (e.g. van Gijn 2007). Mesolithic material is often recovered from tree-throws; occasionally within deposits that imply deliberate backfill with midden-like material (see Evans *et al.* 1999; Lambdin-Whymark 2009), but more often in low densities that suggest the material has been inadvertently incorporated into the fill from surface deposits.

Later Flintwork

The bulk of the assemblage is made up of extremely simple and expedient flake based material. No control over removals is evident in the morphology of the pieces; platforms are either plain or cortical and hard hammers were used throughout the reduction sequence. It is not possible to closely date this material, although the rudimentary nature of the reduction strategy of many pieces and evidence for frequent errors perhaps indicates a later prehistoric date for the bulk of the assemblage, from the Middle Bronze Age into the Iron Age (see Ford *et al.* 1984). Small concentrations of flintwork with these characteristics were recovered from linears F.108; which contained flakes, a core and irregular waste and F. 114 which produced flakes, a core fragment and a crudely retouched flake. The flints from both these features were recovered from a number of individual deposits and are probably residual.

The small assemblage from the site is dominated by a rudimentary flake based industry of probable later prehistoric date. Potentially more interesting was the small amount of earlier material which included a small Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic assemblage from pit F.240 and a microlith from tree-throw F.106. Accounts of the region have tended to stress that Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic activity is largely restricted to light, free draining soils, particularly gravel terrace or sand deposits in valley floor or valley side locations (see Hall 1996: 154-7; Dawson 2000; Harding & Healy 2007: 45-53). However, the consistent recovery of low numbers of blade based lithics (often including diagnostically Mesolithic types) as a residual component of later sites on the heavy clay uplands in the region (e.g. Newman 2010; Patten 2009) indicates that activity, perhaps short lived and task-based, was taking place in these areas.

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery – Katie Anderson (with contributions from Matt Brudenell and Mark Knight)

A large assemblage totalling 894 sherds, weighing 5276g and representing 2.28 EVEs was recovered from the excavation. All of the material was analysed and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear and date were recorded, along with any other information deemed significant. For the purposes of this report the prehistoric pottery is considered separately from the Roman material. The assemblage comprised predominately small- to medium-sized sherds, as is highlighted by the low mean weight of 6g. There were exceptions, however, with some large and unabraded sherds identified.

Ft	No.	Date
108	119	EIA
114	48	EIA
115	2	MIA
119	1	EIA
120	3	MIA / LIA
133 (138)	223	MIA
134	2	EIA
135	16	LIA / ER
136	29	LIA / ER
137	1	MIA
140	56	MIA
159	2	ER
168	2	EIA
178	1	LBA / EIA
182	4	LIA / ER
183	9	ER
184	7	MIA
186	31	PRE
209	18	EIA
215	90	LBA / EIA
220	1	MIA
223	8	MIA
223	1	ER
224	3	MIA
230	4	EIA
231	1	EIA
241	3	EIA
245	1	EIA
267	1	EIA
282	97	EIA
294	6	EIA
296	34	EIA
304	23	MIA
305	2	MIA
309	1	EIA / MIA
323	4	EIA
324	1	MIA
336	2	MIA
338	4	EIA
339	4	EIA
343	25	EIA
345	1	EIA
345	1	ER
346	4	MIA

Table 2: Spot-dates of all features

Prehistoric

Prehistoric pottery dominated the assemblage, representing 94% of the total assemblage. Material was predominately Early Iron Age in date (51%), with Middle Iron Age pottery comprising 41% of the total assemblage. Table 2 shows the dates of each feature along with the quantity of pottery recovered.

A range of prehistoric vessel fabrics were identified:

Sandy

Q1 – Fine to medium sandy clay matrix, slightly micaceous

Q2 – Fine to medium sandy clay matrix, with rare to occasional large quartz inclusions

Q3 – Medium sandy fabric with rare inclusions of sub-rounded chalk

Flint

F1 – Fine to medium sandy clay matrix with moderate to common burnt flint (poorly sorted)

F2 – Common burnt flint, moderately sorted, in a fine to medium sandy clay matrix

Grog tempered

G1 – Occasional to common grog, in a sandy fabric, with vegetable temper

Shell

S1 – Common to abundant fossil shell in a fine sandy clay matrix

Vegetable

V1 - Fine to medium sandy clay matrix with a rare larger quartz inclusions (up to 1/2mm), and vegetable inclusions

V2 – Common vegetable temper, with moderate to common shell, in a sandy clay matrix.

The most commonly occurring fabrics were sandy sherds, which represented 51% of all the prehistoric pottery, which is expected of an assemblage of this period from this area of Cambridgeshire. Flint-tempered sherds and vegetable-tempered sherds were also well represented (21% and 22% of the prehistoric assemblage). There were a few key differences between Early Iron Age fabrics and Middle Iron Age fabrics, with the flint-tempered sherds occurring only in the earlier phase. Sandy fabric Q1 and vegetable-tempered fabric V1 occurred in both phases, which implies similar sources of clay and/or pottery production techniques, although further analysis would be necessary to prove this.

Fabric	No.	Wt (g)
F1	117	579
F2	59	460
G1	18	102
Q1	338	969
Q2	16	206
Q3	175	1050
S1	32	563
V1	178	862
V2	8	102
TOTAL	841	4893

Table 3: All prehistoric pottery by fabric

A range of vessel forms were identified, although due to the condition of the assemblage, many sherds comprised just rims or bases, thus the exact vessel forms could not be identified. The assemblage comprised a minimum of 30 different vessels (22 rims and 8 bases), of which 28 were prehistoric in date. Of these, jars were the most frequently occurring with a minimum of 13 vessels identified, which included several everted rim jars with rim top decoration and two slack-shouldered jars. Two plain rounded rim bowls were also identified as well as two flat topped bowls, all of which were Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age in date.

Form	MNV
Bowl	4
Bowl/Jar	11
Jar	13

Table 4: MNV of all prehistoric forms

Less than 2% of the prehistoric assemblage was decorated, with finger-tip decoration being the most common form of decoration, occurring on eight different vessels. Six vessels had finger-tip/nail decoration on the top of the rim, while the remaining two vessels were decorated on the shoulder. Just two vessels were burnished, both of which were EIA/MIA in date. Decoration occurred exclusively on the finer fabrics, with fabric Q1 being the most frequent, which is expected of assemblages of this period.

Usewear evidence was limited to two vessels, both of which had sooting/carbonised remains on the vessel interior, symptomatic of being used for cooking.

Late Iron Age and Roman

56 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 338g, were identified in the assemblage, including ten sherds which were dated Late Iron Age/early Roman. All of the Roman pottery that could be more specifically dated than 'Romano-British' was early Roman in date, which along with the LIA/ER pottery suggests activity limited to the 1st century AD. The assemblage consisted primarily of sandy coarseware sherds, most of which are likely to have been produced locally. The exception to this were two South Gaulish Samian sherds (Features 223 and 345), dating mid-late 1st century AD. This comprised one Dr18/31 dish and one decorated Dr37 bowl. All of the remaining sherds from this phase were non-diagnostic.

Feature Analysis

A small number of features have been selected for more detailed analysis:

Feature 133/138 contained the largest quantity of pottery from any feature on the site, totalling 223 sherds, weighing 1109g and dating to the Middle Iron Age. This included 161 sherds (940g) from a single vessel, a sandy pot, although the vessel form was unclear. Three different jars were identified, all of which had finger tip/nail decoration on the rim.

Ninety-seven sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, weighing 965g, were recovered from Feature 282. This included a number of diagnostic sherds, comprising three jars, two of which were large vessels with rim diameters of 24cm and 26cm respectively; there were also three bowl/jars, two of which had finger tip decoration on the shoulder.

Feature 215 contained 90 sherds (342g) of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, although this represented just two different vessels. This included a flint-tempered bowl/jar with a plain rim.

The pottery assemblage from this site suggests activity on this site peaked during the Early and Middle Iron Age, which shows evidence of occupation linked to domestic activity. The limited number of Late Iron Age sherds suggests that occupation was not continuous, but that the site was occupied in the Late Iron Age/early Roman period, although the pottery implies this had ceased by the end of the 1st century AD.

Fired Clay and Weaving-related Items - Grahame Appleby

Excavation resulted in the recovery of 65 fragments and lumps of fired clay with a total weight of 908g. The vast majority are undiagnostic and vary in size from less than 1mm to a substantially complete large triangular loomweight (F.140 <234>; 646g). Fabrics consist of relatively well fired to friable clay and range in colour from dark grey, reduced clays to highly oxidised and bright orange pieces. A spindle-whorl, fashioned from chalk, was also recovered from F.282.

Feature	106	107	114	140	223	282	296	318	333	343	345	346	[256]	Total
No.	2	2	4	19	2	10	3	2	1	3	4	12	1	65
Wt:	1	1	17	691	1	37	25	7	2	5	1	110	10	908

Table 5: Fired clay quantities and weight

<202> F.346 [956]. Several refitting fragments forming a 'bun' -shaped object weighing 110g and measuring c. 45 x 77mm. Consisted of a reduced fabric with a pale pink to orange outer surface; finger impression are present around the 'lateral' edge. The form and shape of this item is indicative of expedient manufacture and identifying a use for this object is problematic, although use as a weight of some variety seems the most probable use.

<234> F.140 [383] SF.67. Four refitting fragments, and smaller lumps, from a large triangular loomweight made from an incompletely fired clay with moderate to frequent small to large flint inclusions. Fired in a largely reducing atmosphere resulting in a dark grey to black finish, the surface has been partially oxidised. Approximately two thirds of the loomweight survives, providing an estimated size of 122mm wide, 152mm high and 55mm thick. There is one complete perforation through the presumed 'apex' of the weight measuring c. 16mm in diameter. This form of loomweight appeared at the beginning of the Iron Age and continued in use until the Romano-British period; five similar complete loomweights were found at Wardy Hill, Cambridgeshire (Gdaniec & Lucas in Evans 2003: 194 & fig. 93).

<256> F.282 [812] SF.70. Small chalk rounded spindle-whorl 32.44mm in diameter, 14.8mm thick, with a central perforation of 7.84mm diameter. A similar example was found from the Iron Age site at Wardy Hill (Lucas in Evans 2003: fig. 92).

Burnt Stone - Simon Timberlake

In total, 36.8kg of burnt stone was collected during the excavation of the site, more than 95% of this coming from Early-Middle Iron Age features. The majority of these features contained good contextual information, which suggested that the burnt stone was contemporary and in some way related to the function of the pit; either as rubbish or domestic middening, or perhaps linked to *in situ* burning, boiling or other as yet unknown activities.

Probably the most interesting finding to come out of the examination of this assemblage has been the recognition of discarded fragments of worked stone (made up of saddle quern, rubbing stones and anvil stones) amongst the other burnt and broken up cobbles. Most of this material comes from just a few features, yet these items which have either been deliberately or accidentally burnt (or perhaps recycled as 'cooking stones') make up some 26.5% of the total weight of this assemblage. Such material would not normally not have been identified amongst all this collective burnt stone in the absence of a detailed inspection. These are clearly settlement indicators, thus to try and tie this in with other evidence, such as any environmental indicators of grain processing, would be a useful exercise.

A few of the larger slabs of burnt sandstone found within pits, such as F.343, appear as if they may have been selected for some specific purpose, though none showed any indication of previous working. It is suggested that these might have been used as baking stones for food items such as bannocks.

The evolution of burnt stone cooking features during the prehistoric period in Cambridgeshire has been discussed in some detail by Timberlake (*forthcoming*). In particular, this refers to the exploitation of the burnt stone resource within the Addenbrooke's landscape of South Cambridge from the Early to Late Bronze Age (see Timberlake in Collins 2009 and Timberlake 2008). Parallels for the Early-Middle Iron Age use of burnt stone in cooking, however, was noted at Broom in Bedfordshire (Timberlake in Slater 2009). Here small numbers of selected cobbles seem to have been used to heat up water within small clay-lined pits located outside of the entrances to roundhouse dwellings. At the most, these pits may only have contained a gallon or so of water for the purposes of household (rather than communal) cooking. It is difficult to see any clear parallels to this here at West Cambridge. Nevertheless, the 0.25m deep clay-lined pit F.343 may be a possible example. The problem comes with identifying any nearby and related dwellings.

Cat. No.	feature	context	No.	weight (g)	stone type	interpretation /comments
161	240	664	7	1345	Bunter qtzite (1), quartzitic sst (2), sst (1), calcined flint (1), igneous dolerite(2)	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic pit – burnt stone + charcoal from hearth waste
240	346	956	3	416	ferruginous sst (1), calcareous sst (1), quartz porphyry (1)	EIA gully assoc with much BS + BC
199	343	946	54	17600	Carboniferous ganister sst(1), calcareous sst (5), dark micaceous flag sst (1), micaceous qtz sst (3), Bunter pebble (2), metaquartzite (3), Millstone Grit (1), red chert (2), large slab calcareous sst (1), andesitic tuff (1), dolerite/basalt (Carbonif) (33 [=1 boulder broken up]), large sst (1), limestone (2)	from an EIA clay-lined pit assoc with much burnt stone – incl some recycled worked/ used stone. Function? Some large selected flat stones (used for baking?). Adjoining fragments suggest this is <i>in situ</i> . Includes (a) a dense dolerite boulder orig. used as anvil, (b) parts of a qtz sst saddle quern and (c) part of a calcined sst saddle quern, and (d) a sandstone rubber
230	339		2	163	fine grained micaceous sst	one of a group of pits containing EIA pottery
024 + 029	115	256	9	1579	calcareous sst (2) [possibly part of a small saddle quern], ferruginous sst (LGS?) (2), soft fine grained sst (Tertiary) (1), Bunter pebble (1), orthoquartzitic sst (2)	MIA pit – part of large cluster of intercut pits for quarrying or rubbish (Area A)
085	137	400	5	1528	micaceous flaggy sst (4), broken frag of fine dolerite(1) [similar to <161>]	MIA pit or gully associated with pit cluster (Area A)
093	114	410	2	921	orthoquartzitic sandstone (possibly sarsen) (2) [part of a saddle quern]	a dark earth horizon of ?MIA date sealing pit cluster and major EIA ditch (F.114)

053	114	308	3	448	orthoquartzite (1), fine grained flaggy sst (2)	from upper horizon of EIA ditch
	113	545	2	501	sandstone pebble (burnt?)	
124	215	594	4	219	calcareous micac. sst	LBA pit w burnt stone
086	116	404	1	214	ditto	MIA pit associated with pit cluster (Area A)
076	140	383	6	978	micaceous flaggy sst (1), chert (2), sandstones (4)	MIA pit associated with pit cluster (Area A)
078	140	384	3	26	calcareous sst (3)	
098	169	481	1	326	micaceous flaggy sst (1) [small anvil stone]	pit with animal bone associated with pit cluster (Area A)
138	223	619	1	58	fine dolerite (1), calcareous sst (1)	assoc with MIA pot, this may be redeposited
128	218	601	1	100	andesitic lava or tuff (1)	IA? may be redeposited
193	333	921	1	16	chert	
118	209	580	20	5200	andesite/basalt (8 frags), fine dolerite (1), chert replaced Carbonif.Lmstn.(1), fine orthoquartz sandstones (Cret or Carb.) [saddle quern] (5), calcareous sst (2), flaggy qtz mic. ssts(3)	EIA pit (as part of group). Contains dark midden-type burnt domestic debris and pot. <i>In situ</i> . broken up burnt stone
120	210	582	2	128	dolerite (1), orthoqtz sst (1)	midden? poss EIA pit
109	168	501	8	2120	ferrug sst (2), calcareous sst (2), Carbonif/ Jurassic white sst (1), flaggy sst (2)	EIA pit in pit cluster (Area A) which is cut by EIA ditch
102	178	491+ 492	7	7600	at least 6 burnt – large stones not broken up: calcareous sst (1), orthoquartzitic sst (1), fine gr. white sarsen (1), fine sst (2), large block flint	large LBA-EIA water hole or well. As a whole, this contains very little burnt stone. Prob occ. washed/ thrown in

Table 6: Burnt stone, showing lithological make-up, date and context.

Worked Stone – Simon Timberlake

All the examples of worked stone apart from <117> and the surface find from Area A were found during the examination of the burnt stone assemblage. These items all relate to milling (grinding), crushing or hammering, probably therefore domestic or small-scale craft activity. The total weight of this assemblage was 15.74kg, of which 4.47kg was composed of saddle quern fragments or rubbing stones.

Saddle Querns

<199> (a) + (b) F.343 [946] - Several fragments of quern were found associated with the burnt stone assemblage recovered from this feature (an Early Iron Age clay-lined pit). These appear to be discarded items which may then have been used as cooking stones, or else deposited here following their destruction in a fire. This includes (a) cracked fragment of a burnt and part-calcined quern composed of calcareous sandstone with parts of two flat grinding surfaces preserved (weight 1096g; 110 x 90 x 100mm), and (b) a fragment from a thin flat slab of fire-reddened quartzitic sandstone with one smooth, flat grinding surface (area: 120 x 80mm) with the corner of two external edges surviving (weight 900g; 130 x 100 x 40mm thick).

<117> F.209 [580] - A single unburnt fragment of a small saddle quern composed of a finegrained white-light grey orthoquartzitic sandstone. The lithology of this rock appears almost identical to that of <199> (b) above – possibly a sarsen stone of Lower Cretaceous/ Lower Tertiary origin, perhaps collected from a glacial erratic source. No external edges are present, the grinding surface being well worn/ polished smooth and flat to ever so slightly convex in profile (weight 470g; 105 x 90 x 40-50mm thick). This piece also comes from an Early Iron Age pit, and was found associated with substantial amounts of broken pottery,

burnt stone and bone. The assemblage came from a dark fill, perhaps that of a small midden associated with burnt domestic debris.

<024> F.115 [256] - Two small fragments of calcined and cracked calcareous sst with one small possible area (50 x 50mm square) of working consisting of a smooth, slightly concave, ground surface suggestive of the exterior edge of a saddle quern. From an Early- Middle Iron Age pit associated with bone and pot. Weight 264g.

<093> F.114 [410] - Two fragments from part of a saddle quern made of sarsen (lower Tertiary – Cretaceous orthoquartzitic sandstone). A 60 x 70mm area of flat quern surface is preserved, completely flat and polished smooth. The worn and rounded flat base of the quern suggests that a flat stone was chosen, rather than the base prepared. The rim or edge of the outer quern surface has been broken off, forming a bevel. This could be the result of the original shaping of the stone, alternatively it could be the result of its long term use. Weight 922g; 130 x 70 x 60mm (deep). The broken or discarded stone has been burnt, intentionally or otherwise, perhaps as later re-use of this as 'cooking' material. From a Middle Iron Age horizon associated with the infill of a large Early Iron Age cluster of pits and a ditch.

Rubbing Stone

<199> (c) F.343 [946] - A burnt fragment of a lozenge-shaped rubbing stone with a slightly convex (but doubly faceted) surface suggestive of use in grinding on two areas of a quern (saddle quern). One of these faces appears smoother than the other (respective surface area(s) are 80 x 50mm and 40 x 65mm). The rock which is composed of a medium-coarse grained gritty and slightly ferruginous sandstone (Lower Greensand?) shows evidence of burning. Weight 818 g; 130 x 80 x 35-65mm thick.

Anvil Stones

<199> (d) F.343 [946] - Part of a large boulder of coarse dolerite, perhaps worked (pecked) around the edges, but with a prominent depression in the (upper?) surface at least 120 x 110mm in area and up to 5mm deep. Whilst this may originally have been used as a quern, the depth of hollow and uneven surface to this suggests that the last function was as a mortar or anvil. Much of the object has disintegrated as a result of it having been burnt, either intentionally or otherwise. The boulder was heavily cracked, many of the heat disintegrated fragments of this being found associated with it *in situ*. Whilst it is possible that this was originally associated with metalworking, it should be noted that no slag, metal or metalworking debris accompanied it. Weight 4878g; 170 x 220 x 120mm + (thick).

<098> F.169 [481] - Small square tablet-shaped anvil stone (weight 326g; originally c. 80 x 80 x 33mm thick) lightly worked on both sites, perhaps for some small scale craft function. Has been burnt (re-used) and broken. Composed of fine grained orthoquartzitic sst (sarsen). From an Early - Middle Iron Age pit associated with pit cluster (Area A).

Surface find, Area A - A large boulder of dolerite (weight >6 kg; 230 x 150 x 130mm) which appears to have been used (for a short while) as an anvil stone/ mortar. The rock has broken across the worked depression, which is a relatively small area (50mm diameter and >10mm deep), with three smaller, but faint worked depressions in its base. These hollows would appear to have been made using an iron tool. An undated item, this was found following the stripping of the topsoil and subsoil; its location does not relate to any particular feature.

The distribution of saddle quern debris appears to reflect concentrations of Early-Middle Iron Age middens, and the presence of rubbish pits, but also coincides with larger than average concentrations of pottery. In terms of its location, therefore, some of the quern was associated with the complex of intercutting pits on Area A, but most came from the middle to northern part of Area C, in particular pit to F.343. The latter concentrations, however, do not show any particular spatial relationship to the questionable dwelling structures suggested by posthole or pit rings such as F.301-305 and F.226-229.

The only environmental evidence for cereal grain (spelt and emmer wheat) recovered from (all of) the sites was from pit F.282; the latter associated with a small intercut group of pits located towards the southern middle part of Area C. Though rich in pottery, bone, burnt stone and charcoal, there was no associated saddle quern.

Anvil stones often go unrecognised on archaeological sites. As a consequence their prevalence is often disproportionately represented within finds reports undertaken on the worked stone assemblage.

At Early Iron Age settlements it seems possible that some of the larger stone boulders made of denser rock could have been used as anvils for iron or other metalworking activities. An example of this was the anvil found associated with a small smithy hut at the Bryn y Castell hillfort in Gwynedd, Wales (Crew 1986). Find <199>(d) is of approximately the right size for such a heavy duty function, though the lack of any significant slag association does not convincingly support this interpretation.

Metalwork – Grahame Appleby

A total of 60 pieces of metalwork, weighing 475g, were recovered from across the site, the majority during surface metal-detecting. The only non-ferrous metal recovered were two minute copper alloy fragments, less than 2mm in length and weighing less than 1g. Of the ferrous metalwork, this consisted primarily of nails and nail fragments (48 pieces, 305g; 83% of the iron by number and 64% of the assemblage by weight), a 'butcher's hook' (77g), knife fragment (10g) and a large tap key/handle (37g). None of the ironwork is distinctively earlier than post-Medieval.

Iron slag – Simon Timberlake

No more than 264g of slag was recovered from the entire excavation site. Of this the largest piece (and thus weight proportion of slag) came from just one Early Iron Age feature (F.214), the majority of the rest of the identified and confirmed iron slag coming from the Middle Iron Age dark earth found overlying the complex of intercutting pits on Area A. The material was examined in hand specimen under an illuminated magnifying lens, and was also checked for its magnetic properties.

<121> F.214 [592] (112g. 70 x 55 x 30mm) - A small and irregular shaped coarsely granular mass of iron slag, probably a proto-smithing hearth base. The detachment scar formed where this slag lump had been broken off from its tuyere, whilst molten or just recently formed, is approximately 40mm long. Meanwhile, slight indentations in this reflecting the position of the air blast reveal this as the upper surface of the hearth bottom, the underside being slightly flattened.

<092> F.114 [410] x6 fragments (102g) - Small lumps of iron slag dispersed within this dark earth layer overlying both pits and ditches. The largest of these is 40mm in diameter and is probably a small proto-smithing hearth; the point of detachment is visible beneath and contains a small amount of baked clay. Amongst the smaller fragments are those which are slightly magnetic.

<972> F.133 [373] (6g) - Two small fragments of highly fired and vitrified clay, cinder-like in consistency. A small amount of iron staining confirms the association of this with ironworking. Associated with MIA pottery, though the pit activity and metalworking may be Early Iron Age.

<028> F.115 [256] (18g) - Small lump of iron slag found within upper dark layer of a pit; part of the complex of intercut pits on the south side of Area A.

<069> F.135 [367] (10g) - A small thin piece of glassy and bubbly slag with some iron content. Some of this may be melted and vitrified clay formed from a reaction with the base of the hearth; maybe redeposited Iron Age material found within this shallow Romano-British ditch.

<100> F.157 [487] (2g) - Two small crushed fragments of glassy slag enclosing fragments of calcined flint. From the terminus of the Early Iron Age boundary ditch in Area B.

<239> F.346 [956] (6g) - One fragment of a glassy bubbly slag, slightly more dense, with a definite but lower iron content. This comes from the linear Early Iron Age gully closely associated with pit F.343. From the later pit came some of the highest proportions of burnt stone and the possible stone anvil.

<019> F.108 [242] (2g) - One small piece of reddened highly fired clay with a vitrified surface to it. Possibly a fragment of clay tuyere or else a piece of hearth lining. From the upper fill of the Early Iron Age ditch, which abuts and is almost certainly coeval with the long ditch F.114.

The small size and absence of cone shape to the hearth bottom <121> found in pit F.214 reflects the early and less well developed type of iron smithing hearth of the Early Iron Age, probably working much smaller lumps of iron. These are not necessarily distinctive, however, since it would be good practice in smithing to detach these slag accretions from the end of the tuyere in order to prevent blockages (of the air pipe). As such, proto-smithing hearth bases are found in many later contexts, those recorded from Early Saxon ironworking at Bloodmoor Hill, Carlton Colville, being a case in point (Cowgill in Lucy *et al.* 2009).

The pattern that does emerge is of very minor evidence for ironsmithing within the neighbourhood of the southern part of the site (Area A), close to the complex of intercutting pits. The evidence here for the dispersion of this small amount of slag across the uppermost and later (Middle Iron Age) fill, combined with the evidence for weathering, suggests a certain degree of redeposition. Another focus for ironworking is suggested by the iron slag from pit F.214 on the south side of Area C, although there may be some evidence from pit F.343 which lies some distance to the north of this, and with which the anvil stone is associated.

If this material was being moved around simply as rubbish, then one would not expect it to have moved far. The picture we don't have is of the actual land surface. The working floor of a small smithy may not have been associated with any substantial structure. Similarly, the hearth may have been located above ground, thus traces of these features may long since have disappeared.

In conclusion, the evidence for Early Iron Age ironworking in the form of secondary smithing, whilst minor, is present, though the exact location(s) of this activity still remains to be determined.

Human Bone - Natasha Dodwell

The refitting fragments of the frontal part of a juvenile skull were recovered from [236], a fill of ditch F.114. Eight loose maxillary teeth were also recovered; they are a mix of deciduous and permanent dentition, at different stages of development and suggest that the child died at *c.* 7years \pm 24months old (Brown 1985; Ubelaker 1989). Small pits and worm-like lesions and a plaque of new bone in the roof of both orbits are characteristic of *cribra orbitalia*, suggesting that the child may have suffered from anaemia resulting from parasitic infections, childhood illnesses or nutritional deficiencies.

Economic and Environmental Data

Given the site's documentation of early clayland colonisation, much attention was duly given to the retrieval of economic and environmental data (e.g. pollen); the results of which can, unfortunately, only be considered disappointing.

Faunal Remains - Vida Rajkovača

A faunal assemblage, totalling 239 assessable fragments and weighing 9779g, was recovered during the normal course of hand-excavation. A further 48 fragments came from the sieving of the bulk soil samples of which only four were possible to assign to species.

Animal bone material was found in features that ranged in date from the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age and through to the Early Roman period. Material from different phases varied in preservation, quantity and breadth of species present. Based on the chronology, five sub-sets were created in order to study the site (Table 7).

Phase	Contexts	NISP	%NISP
<i>Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age?</i>	6	13	5.4
<i>Early Iron Age</i>	18	115	48.1
<i>Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age</i>	13	55	23
<i>Conquest/Early Roman/Romano-British</i>	1	8	3.4
<i>Undated</i>	8	48	20.1
Total	46	239	100

Table 7: Quantity and provenance of faunal remains

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, Cambridge. Most, but not all, ovicaprine bones are difficult to identify to species; however, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep from the assemblage using the criteria of Boessneck

(1969) and Halstead (Halstead *et al.* 2002). Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

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) and withers height calculations followed the conversion factors of Matolsci for cow (see Von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974). Sexing was only undertaken for pig canines, based on their size, shape and root morphology (Schmid 1972: 80). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

The preservation of the faunal material varied between phases; however, overall the assemblage showed moderate state of preservation. Portions of the assemblage was weathered with longitudinal cracks and round edges due to abrasion. If we look at the actual numbers that correspond to these categories, only four contexts and 43 fragments showed minimal or no erosion. The remainder of the assemblage: 196 fragments recovered from 42 contexts were observed as having some signs of bone erosion and surface damage.

The assemblage showed relatively varied breadth of species, with both the livestock and wild species present. Of 239 assessable fragments, 213 (89%) could be assigned to element and a further 141 (59%) to species. Cattle were the prevalent species in all phases, followed by sheep/ goat and pig. Horse and dog are also represented, albeit in small numbers. Both red and roe deer were positively identified. Red deer is represented by metatarsus and first phalanx, as well as antler fragments; roe deer was identified based on the antler fragment. Unidentified mammal bone counts showed the predominance of cattle-sized mammals. Fish and bird species were absent from the assemblage.

Taxon	Phase					
	LBA/EIA?	EIA	MIA/LIA	LIA/Conquest	Undated	Total
Cattle	6	33	14	2	38	93
Ovicaprid	2	12	7			21
Sheep		2				2
Horse	1	5			1	7
Pig	1	6	2			9
Dog		3				3
Red deer		3	1	1		5
Roe deer		1				1
Cattle-sized	3	22	15		7	47
Sheep-sized		22	9	1	2	34
Rodent-sized		1				1
Mammal n.f.i.		5	7	4		16
Total	13	115	55	8	48	239

Table 8: Number of specimens identified to species (or NISP) by phase

Gnawing was observed on 16 specimens (*c.* 7%) indicating that the material was within the reach of the scavengers and the features, i.e. ditches could have remained 'open' for a certain period of time. Butchery was relatively rare, recorded on a total of 11 specimens (*c.* 5%).

Late Bronze/Early Iron Age

This sub-set produced 13 assessable fragments, the majority of which were identified as cattle. Beyond stating the representation of species, it is not possible to draw any conclusions about the animal usage on site. Measuring and ageing information was not available from this assemblage.

Early Iron Age features accounted for 115 fragments of bone or 48% of the assemblage. Cattle were the dominant species, followed by ovicaprids and pig. When MNI is taken into account, both cattle and ovicapra have the minimum of two individual animals on site. Skeletal element count demonstrated that all parts of beef carcass are present in the assemblage, which is indicative of local slaughter and consumption.

Six instances of butchery were recorded, mainly implying disarticulation and marrow removal. Roe deer antler also showed butchery marks around the burr. Ageing data was available for two cattle mandibles: one gave the age at death of c. 12-18 months of age and the other was aged as senile. Based on its shape and morphology, a pig canine was identified as female. The presence of red deer metatarsus and first phalanx could indicate that red deer meat was also utilised. Portions of antler of both red and roe deer could have been imported as raw material.

The range of species recovered from this sub-set is somewhat in keeping with the period. The percentage of sheep relative to both pigs and cattle rises further during the Iron Age (Serjeantson 2007: 91) all across the south of Britain, Thames valley and eastern Britain. This gradual increase appears to have happened during the first millennium, so it is not surprising that the Early Iron Age faunal record has higher numbers of cattle relative to sheep/ goat. In addition, it could be suggested that the environmental conditions were more suitable for cattle husbandry.

Middle Iron Age/ Late Iron Age

This sub-set produced 55 assessable fragments, the majority of which were identified as three main 'food species': cattle, ovicapra and pigs. A sheep/goat mandible was aged to 4-6 years of age. The small size of the assemblage precludes conclusions about the site's husbandry in the Middle and Late Iron Age.

Late Iron Age/ Conquest Period

This phase of occupation produced eight assessable fragments of bone, all of which came from ditch F.135 and three of which were assigned to species: cow humerus, mandible and fragments of a red deer antler.

Undated

This sub-set has accounted for 48 bone specimens, with the majority of it being identified as cattle. Of 38 specimens assigned to cattle, 32 were recovered from pit F.169. This bone deposit appears to represent the remains of the same animal, the observation made by the excavator and also based on skeletal element count, size and age. A complete tibia was recorded measuring 317mm and producing the withers height estimate of 109 cm, which is at the lower end of the height range for cattle. The animal did not show any signs of butchery and was aged to 18-36 months of age. This feature did not yield pottery dating evidence; however, it is part of the Iron Age pit cluster and therefore most likely to be of the same date. The only other species identified was horse.

Material from the sieved bulk Samples

Additional material was retrieved from bulk soil samples; these were wet-sieved using a 4mm mesh. Sieved remains were recovered from eight different samples, five of which were dated to the Early Iron Age. Out of the total of 43 fragments, only four were possible to assign to species. Three sheep/ goat and one cattle specimens were identified, followed by the remains of unidentified mammal bone fragments. Fish, birds and small mammals were absent from this sub-set.

Cattle were the prevalent species in all phases of occupation and the range of species present in the assemblage is the same as the majority of domestic faunal assemblages commonly found across the country. The relative importance of species on this site appears to show a certain consistency in the economic practices employed from the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age through on into the Late Iron Age/Conquest Period.

The near absence of bone 'dumps' or pits with great quantities of animal bone characteristic of the Iron Age, as well as other domestic contexts within which bone waste usually gets deposited, coupled with the low butchery record could all indicate that the West Cambridge faunal record is not a typical domestic faunal assemblage. Although bone material does represent food waste from past activities, it appears that there is not much more that could be inferred from the assemblage of this size and structure.

Comparable sites in the immediate proximity produced a similar range of species (Whittaker 2001; Lucas 2001). These assemblages have been reported on briefly in grey literature without detailed lists of species by phase; however, the overall prevalence of cattle in the Iron Age seems to be a recurring theme in this locale. The assemblage should be studied as part of the landscape of West Cambridge and the results should be amalgamated to paint a greater picture about social and economic practices of the later prehistoric period within the area. It would be important to see which social, cultural or environmental conditions favoured cattle husbandry at time when sheep were being reared in large numbers.

Bulk Environmental Samples - Anne de Vareilles

Thirteen samples were chosen from 11 Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age to Romano-British, to possible Medieval features for analysis, and processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in 300 μ m aperture meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. Both the flots and heavy residues were dried indoors prior to analysis, with the >4mm fractions of the heavy residues were sorted by eye by F. Cox for finds. Sorting of the flots and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification). Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, university of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals, Stace (1997) for all other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All environmental remains are listed in Tables 9 and 10.

Despite the extremely wet conditions and high watertable experienced during excavations, none of the samples were truly waterlogged. Seven of the 13 samples, however, did contain some waterlogged seeds which appear to have survived fluctuating water and oxygen levels, and show that conditions remained wet throughout most of the year. Molluscs were found in almost all samples, but never in high concentrations. Whereas charcoal seems to be spread across the site, charred seeds are rare, only occurring in two samples. Preservation is poor and the disturbance of contexts by later and modern intrusions such as rootlets is high.

L.B.A./E.I.A. Pond/well, F.178 [491] and [492] - The top layer [491] contained no remains other than a few specks of fine charcoal and some fresh water snails indicative of wet mud. Some waterlogged wild plant seeds and wood fragments were recovered from the basal layer [492] that appears to have once been waterlogged. The seeds are of ground surface species that fell into the pond/well, and are only a partial representation of the original assemblage. The crowfoot (*Ranunculus* Subgen. *BATRACHIUM*) and water-plantain (*Alisma* sp.) may have been growing within the feature. The other plants describe a damp, disturbed and overgrown land surface with buttercups (*Ranunculus* sp.), brambles (*Rubus* sp.), thistles (*Carduus/ Cirsium* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.).

E.I.A. Pits, F.282 [812], F.343 [946], F.209 [580] - The three pits all had some waterlogged seeds that show a similarly damp, disturbed and overgrown land surface seen from F.178. F.282 generated the sample richest in charcoal and was the only feature to contain any cereal remains. It had two grains and four elements of chaff from spelt as well as perhaps emmer wheat (*Triticum spelta* and *T. spelta/dicccum*). Also in the sample were two fragments of hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and five grass seeds. The remains point to the final cleaning of grain before consumption. F.209 had no cereal remains but a few charred wild plant seeds that may have been arable weeds.

Early Roman Ditch, F.223 [700] - A little charcoal and a few waterlogged seeds of disturbed, overgrown land were found.

Undated Pit, F.181 [494] - Charcoal was the only archaeobotanical remain. Small fragments of other finds such as bone and pottery, common in most of the other samples, were also missing from this feature.

E.I.A. Ditches F.114 [272] & [251] and F.184 [508] - The features had a light scatter of charcoal but no other plant remains, apart from two waterlogged fat-hen seeds (*Chenopodium album*) in F.184. Snail shells in F.114 [272] and F.123 suggest the features had seasonal standing water.

Possible Medieval gully F.123 [315]. - Snail shells suggest seasonal standing water.

Romano-British Ditches, F.345 [968] and F.120 [312] - F.345 had a little charcoal and some waterlogged seeds not unlike those seen in the Iron Age features, whilst F.120 had very little charcoal and no other plant remains. Neither sample had any snail shells.

Very few plant remains were recovered from the 13 samples. A low density of waterlogged seeds have survived, and though they probably represent but a fraction of the overall ecology they all fit within a damp, open and overgrown landscape frequently disturbed by humans and/or animals. The damp/wet soil conditions would have been an almost permanent and uncomfortable characteristic of the area.

Scarce evidence for the processing and consumption of grain was found in EIA pit F.282, but the absence of any such evidence from other features is unusual; the nature of the site's usage does not appear to have been focused upon the production of edible crops.

Sample number	56	57	70	73	65	67	58
Context	491	492	812	946	580	700	494
Feature	178	178	282	343	209	223	181
Feature type	top pond / well	basal	pit in cluster	pit	pit in cluster	ditch	pit in cluster
Phase/Date	L.B.A/E.I.A.	E.I.A.	E.I.A.	E.I.A.	E.I.A.	ER	undated
Sample volume - litres	17	18	17	11	16	17	8
Charcoal volume - millilitres, estimates	<1	<1	6	1	4	<1	1
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)			++	+	+	-	+
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		-	+++	-	++		+
small charcoal (<2mm)	+	+	+++	++	+++	++	++
vitrified charcoal		-	++	+	++	-	-
waterlogged wood fragments		++ wl					
parenchyma frags - undifferentiated plant storage tissue			+ c		+ c	- c	
Cereal grains and chaff							
<i>Triticum</i> sp.			indet. wheat grain	1 c			
indet. cereal grain fragments				1 c			
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base - spelt wheat chaff				1 c			
<i>T. spelta/dicocum</i> glume base - spelt / emmer chaff				3 c			
Non Cereal seeds							
<i>R. acris/repens/bulbosus</i> L.			Buttercup	13 wl			
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i> Crantz			Hairy buttercup	1 wl			
<i>R. Subgen. BATRACHIUM</i>			Crowfoot	76 wl	9 wl	1 wl	
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.			Common Nettle		5 wl	2 wl	4 wl
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.			Hazel-nut shell frag.		2 c		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.			Fat-hen		1 wl		
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>			Oraches			1 wl	
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill			Common Chickweed			1 wl	3 wl
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> Gray			Redshank	1 wl			
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.			Knotgrass				1 wl
<i>R. conglomeratus/obtusifolius/sanguineus</i> - Dock						2 c	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			Dock	1 wl			
<i>Anagallis / Lysimachia</i> sp.			Pimpernels/Loosestrifes		1 wl		
<i>Rubus</i> sp.			Bramble	9 wl			
<i>Epilobium</i> sp.			Willowherbs		1 wl		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.			Black nightshade	1 wl			
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.			Elder			1 wl	
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.			Thistles	6 wl	4 wl	4 wl	1 wl
<i>Carduus/Cirsium/Centaurea</i> sp.			Thistles / Knapweeds		1 wl		
Indeterminate Asteraceae			Daisy family seed			1 c	
<i>Alisma</i> sp.			Water-plantains	1 wl			
Large Poaceae fragments			large wild grass seed		2 c	4 c	
Indet. Poaceae fragment - wild or cultivated seed					3 c	1 c	
Indet. cotyledon						1 c	
Indet. seed				2 wl		1 c	

Table 9: Plant Macro-Remains and Mollusca from the Bulk Soil Samples

Sample number	56	57	70	73	65	67	58
Feature	178	178	282	343	209	223	181
Fresh water mollusca							
<i>Anisus leucostama</i> Millet	++	-					
<i>Hippeutis complanatus</i> L.		-					
<i>Carychium minimum</i> Müller - inhabits marshes	-						
Damp / Shade loving species							
<i>Vallonia excentrica / pulchella</i>		+	+	+			
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> Risso		-				-	
<i>Oxychilus / Aegopinella</i> sp.	-	+					
Catholic species / Unkown habitats							
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.			-	-			
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	-			-			
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> –Blind burrowing snail			-		-		
Other features							
bone fragments		-	++	++	+++	++	
burnt bone fragments			+	-	++	-	
Pottery sherds			+++	+	+	+	
chalk loom weight/spindle whorl			1				
baked clay			+			-	
coal?			-				
Modern rootlets	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Table 9: Continued. Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++>50 items. P = present. wl = waterlogged, c = charred. The snail shells are untransformed

Sample number	50	51	60	53	74	54
Context	272	251	508	315	968	312
Feature	114	114	184	123	345	120
Feature type	ditch		ditch	gully	ditch	ditch
Phase/Date	E.I.A.	E.I.A.	E.I.A.	Med?	E.R.	R.B.
Sample volume - litres	18	10	12	18	15	15
Charcoal volume - millilitres, estimates	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)	+	+		-	+	
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		-	-	-	-	-
small charcoal (<2mm)	+	++	+	+	++	
vitified charcoal		-	+	-	+	-
parenchyma frags - undifferentiated plant storage tissue	- c	- c		- c	+ c	- c
Non Cereal seeds						
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. Common Nettle					4 w1	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L. Fat-hen			2 w1		6 w1	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp. Goosefoots					3 w1	
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i> Oraches					4 w1	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L. Knotgrass					7 w1	
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp. Thistles					1 w1	
Indet. seed						
Fresh water mollusca						
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> Müller				++		
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i> Müller	++					
<i>Anisus leucostama</i> Millet	++			+++		
<i>Carychium minimum</i> Müller - inhabits marshes						-
Damp / Shade loving species						
<i>Vallonia excentrica / pulchella</i>		-		+		
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> Müller	-	-		-		
Open, dryer landscapes						
<i>Vallonia costata</i> Müller	-					
Catholic species / Unkown habitats						
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	-			++		
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	+			++		
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> –Blind burrowing snail		-				-
Other						
bone fragments	++				-	+
burnt bone fragments		-		-		
coal?					++	
Modern rootlets	P	P	P	P	P	P

Table 10: Plant Macro-Remains and Mollusca from the Bulk Soil Samples. Key: ‘-’ 1 or 2, ‘+’ <10, ‘++’ 10-50, ‘+++’ >50 items. P = present. w1 = waterlogged, c = charred. The snail shells are untransformed

Pollen Analysis - Steve Boreham

This report presents the results of assessment pollen analyses from 10 samples of sediment taken from various features. Feature 114 was sampled for pollen analysis in the field with one 50cm monolith tin <61> and one 30cm monolith tin <62>, which together covered a 77cm part of a ditch-fill sequence comprising [510]. This context was a clayey sand-silt, thought to be an Iron Age ditch cutting across earlier pits. Pollen samples were taken from 18cm, 50cm and 70cm from the base of the sequence.

Feature 183 was sampled for pollen analysis in the field with a single 30cm monolith tin <69>, which spanned [503]. This silty clay context is thought to represent the in-filling of a Roman ditch. Pollen samples were taken from 8cm and 26cm from the base of the sequence.

Feature 168 was sampled for pollen analysis in the field with one 50cm monolith tin <63> and one 30cm monolith tin <64>, which together covered an 80cm part of a sequence comprising three contexts ([501], [500] & [499]). These clayey sandy and silty contexts was sampled for pollen at 12cm ([501]), 41cm ([500]) and 70cm ([499]) from the base of the sequence. These deposits are thought to represent the in-fillings of Early-Middle Iron Age pits

Feature 282 was sampled for pollen analysis in the field with a single 30cm monolith tin <71>, which spanned two contexts ([813] & [812]). These silty clay contexts are thought to represent the in-filling of Early Iron Age pits. Pollen samples were taken from 10cm and 22cm from the base of the sequence.

The 10 samples of sediment from the monoliths were prepared using the standard hydrofluoric acid technique, and counted for pollen using a high-power stereo microscope. The percentage pollen data from these samples is presented in Table 11.

Pollen concentrations varied widely between <1068 and 20,450 grains per ml. Eight of the ten samples assessed were barren, with pollen and spores corroded and degraded beyond recognition. In the two remaining samples, pollen preservation was still poor, but at least some recognisable palynomorphs could be counted. Counting was made more difficult by the presence of finely divided organic debris. With assessment count totals of 84 and 105 from two slides each, neither sample approached the statistically desirable total of 300 pollen grains. As a consequence, a fair amount of caution should be exercised in the interpretation of these pollen assessment results.

It is worth mentioning at this point, in the face of such a low 'success rate', that the samples were carefully selected for pollen analyses, based on a sampling scheme suggested by the CAU. However, experience shows that samples that are clearly oxidised or have a high clastic (sand and gravel) content are almost always barren or nearly so. It could also be that the geology of the West Cambridge site (sandy silt overlying bedrock Gault Clay) is responsible for the poor preservation of pollen in these samples, since it tends to produce a fluctuating water table leading to the periodic ingress of atmospheric oxygen to considerable depths.

The basal pollen sample from Monolith 61 at 18cm was dominated by grass (Poaceae) pollen (51.2%) and pteropsid spores (together 34.5%). A restricted range of herbs included the pink family (Caryophyllaceae; 8.3%), members of the lettuce family (Asteraceae [Lactuceae]; 1.2%), and buttercup (*Ranunculus*; 1.2%). Arboreal taxa included birch (*Betula*) and pine (*Pinus*; both 1.2%). The polypody fern (*Polypodium*; 1.2%) was also present. No obligate aquatics were detected in this sample. The large proportion of pteropsid spores in this sample suggests that this assemblage may have been post-depositionally modified by oxidative soil processes, leading to an increase in resistant types. The paucity of pollen grains other than the heavily-built Asteraceae and Caryophyllaceae, tend to support this view.

The pollen sample from Monolith 62 at 50cm was dominated by grass (Poaceae) pollen (46.7%) and pteropsid spores (together 28.6%). Again, a restricted range of herbs included members of the lettuce family (Asteraceae [Lactuceae]; 14.3%), pink family (Caryophyllaceae; 1.0%), and the cabbage family (Brassicaceae; 1.9%). Arboreal taxa included birch (*Betula*; 2.9%) and pine (*Pinus*; 1.9%). The presence of clubmoss (*Selaginella*; 1%) is interesting, since today it is a rare plant that inhabits bogs and marshes. Polypody fern (*Polypodium*; 1.9%) was also present. Obligate aquatics were not found in this sample. The large proportion of pteropsid spores and elevated proportion of Asteraceae pollen in this sample suggests that it has been post-depositionally modified by oxidative soil processes.

It seems likely that the pollen spectra from these two samples represent pollen that was either very numerous in the original unmodified assemblage, and those types that are resistant to microbial decomposition. Both samples are dominated by grass pollen, which suggests that these samples are post-clearance, although since no cereal pollen or disturbance indicators were found, little can be said about the agricultural landscape, except that contained meadow with tall-herb communities. The absence of aquatic taxa makes it difficult to comment on local depositional environments, except that this may be consistent with widely varying water levels. Little can be inferred from the presence of pine pollen, since it is an ubiquitous component of the pollen rain, and quite resistant to oxidation. The presence of birch pollen may be more significant, because together with the polypody fern, which often grows in older trees, it may represent local patches of birch scrub or woodland. It is tempting to suggest that this secondary woodland might have developed on wetter areas, such as marshes, perhaps around springs, where the clubmoss would also have grown. The apparent absence of a distant mixed-oak woodland or parkland signal, or indeed a fullsome assemblage of herbs, strongly hints that the story presented by these two samples has been heavily modified and should be regarded with some suspicion.

This assessment of pollen has not been hugely successful. Eight of the ten samples prepared for pollen were barren and the two remaining samples had pollen assemblages heavily altered by post-depositional oxidation. It seems that this is a site-wide problem, and indeed archaeology sites at Milton Park-and-Ride and Milton Landfill Site (Oxford Archaeology East) with comparable geology were beset by similar problems, almost certainly arising from large annual variations in the water table. The two pollen analyses suggest a post-clearance pastoral landscape, which is at least consistent with an Iron Age landscape. Although amplified out of proportion to its original importance in the landscape, the indication of birch scrub and marshy environments nearby, is at least an unexpected positive detail from this work.

DISCUSSION

A recurrent theme in the discussion of the results of this excavation undertaken on the edge of the West Cambridge claylands will inevitably be the level of ambiguity still present in the interpretation of the archaeology, in particular with respect to the questions this work set out to answer. For example, are we looking at an Early-Middle Iron Age settlement, or just the periphery of one? Might such features simply represent a failed and abandoned colonisation of what was probably a marginal and damp part of the clayland landscape? Was the Early Iron Age 'boundary' ditch dug with the original intention of creating a major enclosure? Does the limited scale of the Roman presence and paucity of its finds imply the existence of a settlement to the west of here, and if so, at what distance? Can the double-ditched 'trackway' which crosses the southern part of the site be confidently equated with the Medieval *Coton Way*?

Wherever possible, during the course of the excavation these questions were addressed by further limited extensions to the excavation area: increasing the percentage of sampling and, finally, by re-checking some of the more obvious ambiguities encountered during the recording of features. Unfortunately, the great majority of these features proved to be aceramic, in addition to having only poorly preserved, or else no environmental evidence at all. Despite this and the difficulties of the working conditions, it continues to be our opinion that most of the evidence that could be gained from digging this site, probably was achieved.

The Early-Middle Iron Age

The excavation has provided us with some important information on the nature of Early Iron Age occupation within the Cambridge area; High Cross Fields being an example of the rare survival of a moderately large landscape fragment of this period. To put this into perspective, at Vicar's Farm (3.6 ha) evidence of the Early Iron Age was limited to just a single pit (Lucas 2001), at the Hoyle building (Madingley Rise) to redeposited pottery sherds (Masser 2000), whilst within the North-West Cambridge evaluation area (140 hectares) such evidence was absent altogether (Evans & Newman 2010). In fact, the nearest sites for comparison are those in South Cambridge; the Trumpington Park-and-Ride with its finds-rich Early Iron Age pits, some of which contained human remains (Hinman 2004), and the Early Iron Age farmstead, well, and pit inhumations excavated at Glebe Farm within the Addenbrooke's environs (Armour 2007). In some respects the latter sites are quite different from the setting at High Cross, West Cambridge; both these sites being located on the edge of the chalk and on higher ground. At Glebe Farm the sourcing and management of a water supply for animals through the provision of a moderately deep (>2m) pit-well appears to have dominated the layout of this Early Iron Age settlement. Whilst some sort of pit-well also appears to be present at High Cross, the main feature of this site was this north-south boundary ditch which cut across the low damp ground of this clay valley (perhaps controlling movement from west to east), alongside evidence for the intensive digging of pits. Many of the latter features would

probably have ended up being water-filled and, thus, were certainly not for the storage of grain. Rather, most of the settlement evidence is to be found in the form of limited amounts of 'rubbish' (pottery, bone, burnt stone, and a small amount of iron slag), with such deposition continuing on into the Middle Iron Age where it becomes associated with the formation of a 'dark earth'. The latter seems to represent the silting up and possible flooding of these pits and ditch accompanying a general rise in water levels, this leading eventually to the abandonment of the whole southern portion of the site.

The complete absence of any sort of clear evidence for dwelling structures, such as the drip-gullies or circular settings of postholes which might be associated with roundhouses compounds the problem of determining whether or not this level of occupation implies the presence of permanent or temporary settlement. The degree of truncation associated with Medieval and post-Medieval farming practices could have removed former slight structural evidence. Yet, apart from a single 15m diameter semi-circular setting of Middle Iron Age postholes truncated by the northern limit of excavation, the distribution of the remaining postholes across this 2.23 hectare site appear to be sparse, ambiguous and also undatable. For example, the circular posthole settings reported by Whittaker in 2001 as being evidence of dwelling structures were not subsequently confirmed by excavation. Nevertheless, on the margins of a typical settlement one might still expect to find evidence for the presence of ancillary domestic structures such as the four-poster posthole settings of granaries (as at Glebe Farm), the occurrence of food or grain storage pits, pits with interments, or even the presence of hearths. Instead, all that we are left with at High Cross is the evidence for the pits into which small amounts of rubbish was deposited, alongside some of the artefacts or debris these contained.

At least one category of find (e.g. quernstone) from these pits was completely unexpected, given the lack of evidence for any dwelling structures, and the more typical domestic association of this material. It is probably quite significant that virtually all of this quern was found broken and burnt. This burning would seem to suggest a secondary use for these worn and discarded utensils as potboilers or as cooking stones. Such an association of burnt stone and saddlequern was also found during the excavation of the Early Iron Age settlement at Broom in Bedfordshire (Slater 2008), though at this site it seemed as if none of the quern itself had been burnt. Instead, the Broom cooking stones, many of which were found associated with small, round, clay-lined and once water-filled pits outside the entrances of each roundhouse, seem all to have been carefully selected from amongst the numerous glacial erratic cobbles removed from the surrounding gravels. At High Cross only one such clay-lined pit has been identified (F.343), yet it was from this feature that most of the broken-up and burnt quern, and also a possible anvil stone came. The presence of this seemingly *in situ* assemblage might suggest dwellings somewhere within this area, or else to the north of it (the Middle Iron Age circular posthole setting lies only 20m distant). Other quern found together with burnt stone in a pit some 50m to the south of this, as well as in some of the pits of Pit Cluster 1, might be the remains of redeposited/ redistributed rubbish; however, the baked clay loomweight at the latter site is unlikely to have been so far-travelled. Some undated postholes which form part of a posthole setting some 20m to the east of here may represent part of such a

dwelling structure. It seems perfectly possible though that all we are looking at here are just temporary dwellings – in effect, some sort of seasonal encampment.

The limited amount of ironworking slag, which is suggestive of local smithing, is interesting on account of the generally limited amount of evidence for this activity recovered from other Early Iron Age sites. Similar sorts of slag have been recovered from Broom as well as from Bradley Fen (Knight & Brudenell *forthcoming*), that from the latter site associated with a suite of ironworking debris including hearth remains and hammer scale. At High Cross all of this slag appears to be redeposited, yet the find of a possible anvil stone supports the argument for there being some sort of limited ironworking activity on site. There is no particular reason to suggest that this should in itself be an indication of permanent settlement.

So what can we deduce from this evidence for Early Iron Age occupation of this valley? Apart from a single Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pit located up on the northern slopes, and a pit-well or waterhole dug on the valley floor (presumably as a water supply for animals), the earliest Iron Age features appear to be the pits of Pit Cluster 1, some of which may have been dug as quarries, some as retting pits or waterholes, yet most of them backfilled and then re-dug; some of them dating from just before the Middle Iron Age abandonment. The presence of these pits then appears to have determined the line of a major ditch across the valley floor, the latter perhaps associated with an upcast bank along its eastern side, the ditch functioning both as a major boundary, but perhaps also as drain for these, as well as for another group of pits (Pit Cluster 2) located some 70m away at the terminus of the northernmost ditch. The polarity of these two pit groups facing each other on the opposite sides of the lowest point of this shallow valley may also have some significance, given the impression of a gap and inturned entrance facing the valley floor to the east. This 6-7m gap might represent the passage of an east-west trackway, or perhaps a drove, which follows the base of the valley. Other than its issue as a drain, there would seem to be little other reason for a break in the ditch except to allow for the passage of animals or people. No archaeological parallel for this particular arrangement of 'boundary' ditch, intercut pits, and entrance is known. There seems to be no obvious reason why the ditch shouldn't have continued northwards beyond these Cluster 2 pits, given that this 'entrance' lies only 10m to the south of this. One explanation might be that these ditch(es) were dug primarily to carry water away from these pittings (the valley floor here slopes eastwards), the other explanation being that we are looking at an abandoned boundary or perhaps enclosure; in effect, a failed colonisation of the valley. The profile of the ditch where this was dug into the harder clay underneath suggests that depth was important, thus the level of water that this contained, even though the environmental (mollusc) evidence does not exclusively support the explanation of this being a drain, given that most of the deeper features of all periods (both pits and ditches) show similar evidence for seasonally standing water; however, the pollen data for the Early Iron Age does show some evidence of a rise in bog-loving species (clubmoss) and also the appearance of secondary birch woodland colonising former open grassland. The conclusion must be that the bottom of this valley gradually became wetter over time, though at the beginning of the Iron Age it was probably still dry enough to be

used as moderately good grazing pasture, and perhaps also for the small-scale cultivation of cereal crops (spelt and emmer wheat). It remains to be seen whether we are seeing permanent or temporary settlement at this site.

The move onto the claylands at the beginning of the Iron Age is discussed by Evans in his 'Downlands and Claylands – three case studies' (*Borderlands*, Evans *et al.* 2008, 171-181). At Edix Hill, Barrington it was noted that this took the form of a colonisation of the Boulder Clay lands adjacent to the chalk scarp; the settlements forming paired 'organic type' enclosures straddling routes or 'hollow-ways' perhaps to control access. Enclosure complexes of this form appeared to be common across the region's claylands to the west and north of Cambridge, a similar colonisation of the heavier Kimmeridge and Ampthill Clays took place at Longstanton located on the clay plain just north of Cambridge. One might speculate on the reasons for this, but population expansion combined with an ability to cultivate the heavier but more fertile soils of the clays, as well as increasing demands for ample water sources to supply the needs of large livestock such as cattle are some. The water requirements for larger herds of cattle are unlikely to have been met by the digging of pit-wells on the chalk, or even necessarily by those on the gravel ridges. The development of such deep pit-wells on clay was observed at the Late Bronze Age site of Striplands Farm (Patten & Evans 2005)

An Early Iron Age colonisation of the Gault Clay has not previously been found within the immediate vicinity of Cambridge. By the Middle Iron Age this situation had changed, with occupation of the lower Gault Clay lands in Area II of North-West Cambridge (Evans & Newman 2010). This would seem to reflect 'a distinct arrival' of permanent settlement on the claylands during the Middle Iron Age. Interestingly, this seems to correspond with the abandonment of the High Cross Site, most probably due to local adverse conditions and the increasing dampness of the valley-bottom site, the latest Middle Iron Age 'settlement' activity having moved up-slope to the north (on Area C).

One final, but nonetheless interesting, point to note is the overall similarity between the presumed angle of the inturned 'entrance' of the Early Iron Age boundary ditch (thus, the direction of a contemporary route or trackway along the valley floor), and that of the alignment of the double-ditched trackway which has been interpreted as the course of the Medieval *Coton Way*. This may support the notion that some of the re-cut ditches we see associated with the course of the latter may have much earlier origins. Interestingly the orientation of this route(s) also aligns also with the 'strike' direction of the sub-surface geology (the outcrop of gravel, sand and silt), suggesting that this shallow valley depression is in fact the original hollow of a wide palaeo-channel.

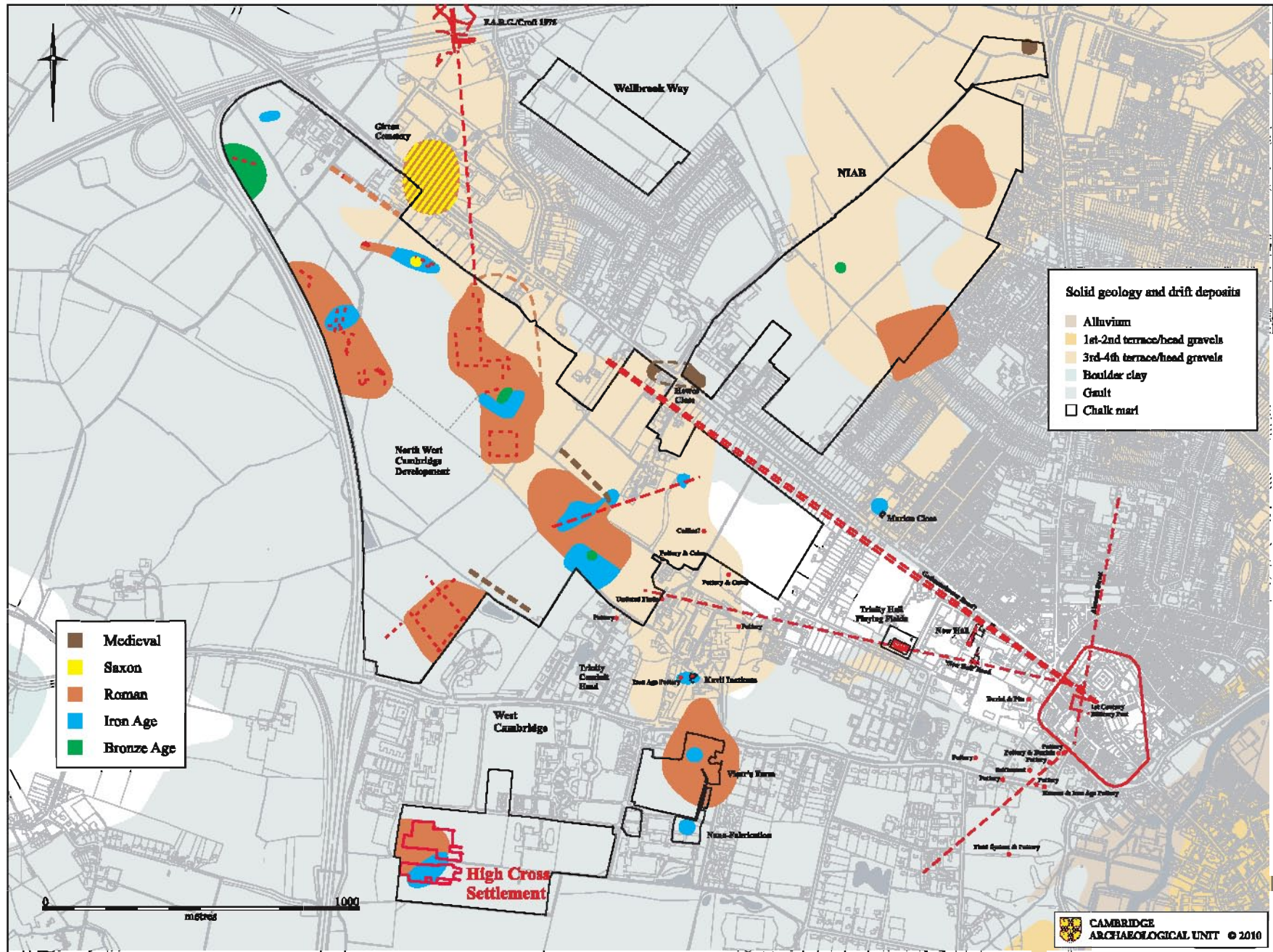


Figure 9. Plan of known archaeology over the geology



Figure 10. Excavation overlaid on Hall and Ravensdale's plan of the West Fields of Cambridge

Early Roman Fieldsystem

The establishment of an Early Roman rectilinear fieldsystem upon the drier south-facing slopes of this valley sometime during the 1st-early 2nd century AD seems likely to have had its impetus in the Phase 1a and Phase 1b development of the Vicar's Farm settlement some 500m to the east of High Cross (Lucas 2001). The presence here of Late Iron Age – Roman pottery might suggest a earlier Conquest Period-origin, yet the problems of residuality and the inclusion of earlier pot (including Early - Middle Iron Age sherds) within these field ditches appears to relate to the extensive level of truncation and disturbance of shallow features as a result of Medieval – post-Medieval ploughing. Much more recent and more serious disturbance may be linked to deep ploughing as well as to sub-soiling practised when these fields were part of the University Farm. Other than the evidence for at least three 0.6 ha fields or paddocks defined by shallow ditches and/or hedge-lines (from the fills of which only a handful of Roman pottery sherds were recovered), there appears to be little other material evidence for Roman activity.

The sub-square ditched enclosure first investigated in 2000, and then re-excavated in 2010 against the southwestern corner of Area C, failed to produce anything comparable to the significant assemblage of pottery which included combed and cordoned jars and segmented bowls of Flavian to Hadrianic date (70-120/130 AD) previously recorded (Whittaker 2001). Moreover, the excavation of this provided no further clues as to the presence or otherwise of a Conquest – Early Roman settlement to the west of this point. The purpose of this enclosure, which in the end turned out not to be a discreet feature, but rather a triple-point ditch junction with a contemporary field boundary, remains ambiguous. Seeds recovered from environmental samples only served to confirm the presence of common weeds typical of arable fields. It is not inconceivable, therefore, that this represents just another field enclosure, given that a sherd of relatively high status fineware (South Gaulish samian) was also recovered from a field ditch (F.223) located some distance to the east (Figure 8). In all likelihood, however, this eastern ditched enclosure probably marks the 'first' or outermost paddocks of a settlement located west of the current area.

The more substantial Roman ditch (F.201) which crosses this valley from north-south 'fits' into the same rectilinear field pattern, though from this only sandy coarseware pottery sherds (of Late Iron Age – Early Roman date) and a small amount of butchered animal bone were recovered. The most interesting feature to note is that this ditch appears to mark the same, or else quite similar territorial division to that already demarcated by the Early Iron Age ditch. Whilst this might be considered a coincidence, the general correlation of Roman with earlier Iron Age features, particularly in the areas of West and North-West Cambridge (Figure 9) is perhaps convincing enough to suggest that some alignments may have persisted. A similar level of correlation was also noted between Late Iron Age and Conquest Period enclosures on the Hutchison Site at Addenbrooke's (Evans *et al.* 2008), though the reason for the persistence of boundaries over a much longer time period is much less clear. What is credible is that a surface depression marking the course of this ditch was still visible in post-Conquest times.

The Medieval West Fields

The rationale behind the provisional Medieval dating of the double-ditched trackway and associated field elements has been outlined above. Suffice it to say, the relative location of the excavation area itself is shown superimposed upon a map of Hall and Ravensdale's map of the fields of West Cambridge (Figure 10). In this the *Endelesse Weye* is shown crossing the High Cross site just north of the excavated area (Area C), the ridge-and-furrow representing unnamed fields or cultivation strips in between this and the *Coton Way*; the alignment of the furrows evidently parallel to some of the Medieval field boundaries indicated to the north. To the south of this, the termination of some three of these furrows close to the northern edge of the trackway in Area A also supports a Medieval date for this feature. Most likely in this case, the northern edge of this track was once defined by a headland.

A comparison of the High Cross plough-features with a plan of the Medieval ridge-and-furrow recorded at Vicar's Farm shows an almost identical orientation of the strips, thickness of furrow and their interval (12-14m), the sides of the latter being almost exactly parallel with the field margins of the enclosing Medieval field (*Brunneforth dole*). At High Cross we can see how closely the much narrower post-Medieval shallow plough-cultivation matches the position of the earlier ridge-and-furrow. Associated with the former we find most of the ferrous artefact densities, finds of Medieval pot or other material from the soil of the earlier strips being exceedingly rare. The position of the original High Cross is shown as being some 500m to the north-west of the excavated site on Madingley Road (the Medieval *St. Neots Way*).

By way of final summary and conclusion, the pre-Iron Age occupation of this site is minor, restricted to a single Mesolithic-Neolithic pit, a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age rubbish pit, and a possible Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pit-well in the base of the valley.

Early Iron Age settlement within or close to the area of excavation is suggested by at least six groups of intercutting pits and some single pits containing small amounts of domestic debris, including occasional fragments of burnt saddlequern and ironworking slag. Most significant amongst the pits are two clusters located either side of the valley bottom which appear to relate to the line of a major north-south boundary ditch at the eastern end of the site. This ditch terminated at the northern pit group, and just to the south of this may have an easterly inturned entrance or passage reflecting a former way along the valley at its lowest point. An alternative explanation is that the ditch acted as a drain for the pits and the land to the south of this. By the Middle Iron Age occupation of this area seems largely to have ceased, the latest pits being cut at the southern pit group, these subsequently being covered by a 'dark earth' silt deposit. Limited environmental evidence suggests an increase in damp conditions. The function of these pits remains unclear; they may have begun as quarries or waterholes, but similarly could have been used as retting pits and, finally, for the deposition of rubbish. Posthole evidence for dwelling structures remains ambiguous; likely examples being limited to a

single Middle Iron Age circular post setting at the far northern end of the site. It seems likely that this site represents a failed example of Early Iron Age colonisation of the Gault Clay at this valley-bottom site.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery suggests some minor activity on site either pre or post-Conquest, though by the mid-1st century AD a rectilinear fieldsystem defined by narrow and shallow straight field ditches enclosing c. 0.6 ha fields had been established on the south-facing slopes of this minor valley. Despite finds of some imported fineware pottery, there appears to be little direct evidence of any particular focus of settlement at this time. Yet, while the corner of a small enclosure along the southwestern edge of the site may have just been part of this same fieldsystem, it could equally mark the eastern side of its settlement; the latter, though, is likely to have been short-lived and of only a low density. Aligned with the field boundaries was a slightly larger ditch which crossed the valley floor just to the east of the main Early Iron Age boundary, apparently marking this same landscape division.

Whilst there is little datable evidence from the archaeology for the Medieval colonisation of these West Fields, clear evidence for ridge-and-furrow and the subsequent post-Medieval continuation of these field strips dominates the northern part of the excavated area. Along the valley bottom, and to the south of this, a recut double-ditched trackway has been equated with the Medieval *Coton* or *Sheepcote Way*, with a good match between the archaeological footprint for this and the cartographic evidence; possible Medieval field boundaries and wooded areas (groups of tree-throws) were also identified.

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APPENDIX - Feature Descriptions

Feature number	Feature type	Context	Context type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
101	Pit	201	f	mod compacted pale grey clayey silty sand with orange mottling and occasional	0.48	0.47	0.13
		202	c	circular in plan with regular even cut			
102	Pit	203	f	mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate manganese fleck and rare charcoal	0.65	0.52	0.16
		204	c	sub circular			
103	Tree-throw	205	f	light grey clay	1.85	0.64	0.17
		206	c	sausage shaped			
104	Pit	207	f	mid light orangey grey silty clay sterile fill	0.85	0.8	0.22
		208	c	circular with even cut			
105	Pit	209	f	mid light orangey grey silty clay sterile fill	0.43	0.45	0.13
		210	c	sub-circular in plan uneven cut			
106	Tree-throw	211	f	pale grey and mottled orange clay		0.58	0.22
		212	c	irregular but broadly oval			
107	Posthole	213	f	light orangey grey silty clay	0.32	0.29	0.07
		214	c	sub-circular			
108	IA ditch NE-SW	215	f	modern disturbance red black stone and concrete fill with iron panning hard and compact	1.00 ex	1.42	0.61
		216	f	mid brown grey silty clay with occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks			
		217	f	mixed deposit with occasional moderate gravel to east and more orange to west grey silty clay occasional charcoal flecks			
		218	f	brownish grey clayey silt			
		219	f	redeposited natural gravel from top of cut orangey brown gravel slump			
		220	c	linear parallel sided cut with tapered base			
		230	f	mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional snail shells freq gravel moderate chalk or flint deposits and occasional charcoal flecks with a diffuse basal boundary	1.00 ex	1.68	1.03
		231	f	pale to mid orangey grey sandy silt with frequent flint gravel occasional charcoal flecks			
		232	f	pale to mid grey silty sand the sand is coarse grained with occasional charcoal flecks			
		233	f	pale orange grey clay sandy silt with occasional small gravels and larger stones occasional charcoal flecks			
		234	f	pale to mid grey clay with patches of yellow orange sand towards base with occasional gravel and larger stones and rare charcoal flecks			
		235	c	linear parallel sided cut with step on SE edge	0.86 ex	1.88	1.18
		242	f	mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt with mod stone occasional charcoal fleck and freq chalk fleck			
		243	f	mid brown grey sandy silty clay with occasional stones rare charcoal and freq chalk flecks mixed with redeposited natural grey boulder clay			
		244	f	light mid brown grey silty clay with mod chalk flecks rare stone this is a redeposited natural slump with lenses of (245) and (246)			
		245	f	mottled grey orange silty sand with rare tone inclusions			
		246	f	grey silty sand redeposited natural lens			
247	f	pale grey clay with rare tones redeposited natural					
248	f	dark grey clay with very rare stone inclusions					
249	c	linear parallel sided cut terminal of segment with rounded end					

109	Pit	221	f	pale grey silty clay with occasional flint gravel	0.6	0.43	0.23
		222	f	orange brown silty sand with clay patches and flint gravel toward base			
		223	c	circular in plan with			
110	Pit	224	f	pale brown grey silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and pea grit gravel	0.74	0.77	0.25
		225	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.189, F.194, F. 199, and F.200			
111	Gully	226	f	mid brown grey silty clay with rare pea grit gravel around cut from surrounding matrix	1.00 ex	0.28	0.08
		227	c	linear parallel sided cut with concave base			
112	Posthole	228	f	mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional gravel and red silty veins throughout	0.45	0.42	0.06
		229	c	circular in plan			
113	Pit	240	f	mid orangey grey silty clay with mod stones	0.66	0.41	0.47
		241	c	circular in plan			
		410	f	dark grey sandy silt			
114	Ditch NE-SW	236	f	mid orangey grey silty clay with orange sandy patches throughout with mod gravel and freq charcoal flecks	1.00 ex	1.69	0.92
		237	f	mid greyish orange silty clay with dark orange sandy patches with mod gravel			
		238	f	dark purplish grey silty clay with freq gravel and charcoal			
		239	c	linear parallel sided cut			
		250	f	same as (242)	1.00 ex	1.84	0.92
		251	f	same as (243)			
		252	f	same as (244)			
		253	f	redeposited natural orange silty sand lens within (251)			
		254	f	same as (247)			
		255	c	linear parallel sided cut	1.00 ex	1.71	1.02
		271	f	pale to mid brown grey sandy silt with freq stone inclusions			
		272	f	very dark grey silty clay with rare charcoal and occasional stones			
		273	f	orange course grained sandy silt with fairly freq gravel and larger stone inclusions			
		274	f	mid bluish grey sandy clay mottled with orange patches with occasional gravel and rare charcoal	1.00 ex	2.46	0.76
		275	c	linear regular sided steep v-shaped cut			
		285	f	mid orangey brown grey silty clay with freq chalk and other stone and mod charcoal			
		286	f	mid bluish grey silty clay with freq orange sandy patches and mod stones and charcoal flecks			
		287	f	mid to dark orangey brown sandy gravel with freq large stones	1.00 ex	3.9	0.75
		288	c	linear parallel sided cut with slight step on both side			
		291	f	mid orangey brown grey silty clay with rare small chalk fragments and mod patches of sandy clay orange brown mottle			
292	f	mid blue grey silty clay with mod patches of orangey brown sandy clay and mod to freq sandy gravel					
293	f	mid orangey grey sandy clay mix slump					
294	f	mid orangey grey sandy clay mix slump	1.00 ex	3.9	0.75		
295	c	wide linear parallel sided cut with step in east side					

114	Ditch NE-SW	308	f	mid grey sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones with rare charcoal flecks	1.00 ex	3.8	0.49
		309	f	friable mid orangey brown silty clay sand with freq stones			
		310	f	dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones			
		311	c	linear with parallel sided cut			
		330	f	mid pale grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and small stones	0.77		
		331	f	mid grey brown silty clay with freq gravel this is not a constant deposit it may be a slumped bank?			
		332	f	mid grey orange brown sandy clayey silt slumped redeposited natural			
		333	c	only partial excavation to find relationship with f.130			
		338	f	soft dark grey silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal flecks			
		339	c	only partial excavation to find relationship with f.127			
		398	f	light blue-grey soft silty clay			
		399	c	linear ditch, only partially visible	2.4	1.15	
		510	f	light grey soft and sticky clayey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small sub-angular stones			
		511	f	mottled mid orange and light greyish brown soft sandy clayey silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones			
512	c	slot through ditch oriented NE-SW, cutting pit cluster					
115	Pit	256	f	mid grey course grained sandy silt with occasional charcoal and freq small snail shells	1.7	0.46	
		257	f	very dark grey silty clay with rare charcoal and occasional stones			
		258	f	dark silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks			
		466	c	sub-circular pit within cluster			
		403	f	mottled orangey brown and dark grey friable sandy silt	0.93	0.24	
		404	f	dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal			
116	Pit	262	f	grey silty clay with occasional small flint stones and occasional manganese fleck and iron staining	1.1	0.46	
		263	c	cut by F.117			
117	Pit	264	f	grey sandy clay with very occasional flint and few charcoal flecks with reddish orange iron staining	1.4	0.73	
		265	f	grey sandy clay slightly darker than (264) fewer stone and some burnt material			
		266	c	oval in plan appears to cut f.116			
118	Pit	268	f	orangey brown silty sand few inclusions	2.8	0.78	
		269	f	grey light brown fine grained wet compacted sand with few inclusions			
		270	c	large sub oval pit			
		473	f	mid orangey brown soft sandy silt			
119	Oval pit	276	f	mid brown grey silty clay with mod large stone inclusions mod charcoal flecks	1.27	0.88	0.39
		277	f	slump of redeposited natural light mid grey clay with occasional stones and charcoal flecks			
		278	c	oval in plan orientated SSE/NNW			

120	Ditch N-S	279	f	mid dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and mod stones	1.00 ex	0.79	0.16		
		280	f	redeposited natural bluish grey brown clay with orange sandy grit patches and rare charcoal flecks					
		281	f	redeposited natural slump bluish brown clay					
		282	c	linear parallel sided cut	1.00 ex	1.14	0.25		
		283	f	mid dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and mod stones					
		284	c	linear parallel sided cut					
		120	Ditch N-S	296	f	mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with mod small gravel and occasional large rocks with rare charcoal fleck inclusions	1.00 ex		
				297	c	linear parallel sided cut			
		120	Ditch N-S	312	f	mid grey silty clay mottled with orangey brown silty sand	1.00 ex	1.7	0.33
				313	f	light grey silty clay mixed with gritty sand of dark orange			
				314	c	linear parallel sided cut			
				326	f	mid grey brown sandy silty clay with mod charcoal flecks			
120	Ditch N-S	327	c	unknown cut as small slot excavated in order to find relationship	0.4 ex	0.2 ex	0.20 ex		
		289	f	mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with mod stone and charcoal fleck					
121	Re-cut of ditch	289	f	mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with mod stone and charcoal fleck	1.00 ex	2	0.33		
		290	c	linear parallel sided re-cut of ditch F.114					
122	Ditch N-S	298	f	mid pale brownish grey silty clay with occasional orange brown mottling	1.00 ex	0.8	0.2		
		299	c	shallow linear regular sided cut					
123	Gully	302	f	mid to pale grey silty clay with freq mid orange brown mottling with very rare charcoal flecks and small stones	1.00 ex	0.5	0.15		
		303	c	shallow gully cut linear parallel sided					
		306	f	pale brown grey sandy silt with occasional orange brown mottles of iron oxide staining with occasional gravel inclusions					
		307	c	narrow linear cut					
		315	f	mottled grey brown with orange clayey silt with occasional flint that has been burnt to reddish colour but not calcined also very rare charcoal and manganese flecks. gravel increases with depth					
123	Gully	316	c	linear parallel sided cut getting wider than previous slots	1.00 ex	0.7	0.27		
		304	f	mid to pale brownish grey silty clay with occasional orange brown mottling					
124	Gully	305	c	linear parallel sided hallow gully cut		0.5	0.15		
125	Tree-throw	300/301	c/f	tree-throw			0.2		
126	Gully NE-SW	322	f	mid pale grey brown silty clay occasional patches of sandier material	1.00 ex	0.4	0.1		
		323	c	linear gully parallel sided cut					
		342	f	mid grey silty clay	c. 1.00 ex	0.4	0.09		
		343	c	terminal of linear narrow gully rounded in plan					
127	Gully NE-SW	324	f	mid pale brown grey silty clay	1.00 ex	0.5	0.15		
		325	c	shallow linear parallel sided cut					
		340	f	mottled silty clay light grey with mid orange staining	1.00 ex	0.4	0.11		
		341	c	linear parallel sided cut					

128	Pit/ watering hole	317	f	pale light mottled brownish grey with orange sandy silt fine grained rare charcoal flecks and stones	5.5	3.69	0.44
		318	f	mid orangey brown sandy silt with rare stones			
		319	c	sub oval E-W in plan ill defined on surface with what appears to be a halo around it possible trample			
129	Ditch E-W	328	f	mid paleish brown grey silty clay	1.00 ex	0.6	0.18
		329	c	shallow linear parallel sided cut			
		320	f	fill of [321]			
		321	c	cut of ditch			
130	Gully E-W	334	f	mid pale brown grey silty clay		0.5	0.2
		335	c	narrow shallow linear gully			
		379	f	mid pale brown grey silty clay with rare charcoal			
		380	c	narrow shallow linear gully cut by F.132			
131	Gully?	344	f	pale bluish grey fine grained sandy silt with occasional orange iron oxide mottling and rare gravel	1.00 ex	0.46	0.11
		345	c	terminal of linear parallel sided cut with a rounded end			
132	Gully E-W	336	f	mid pale brown grey silty clay		0.03	0.04
		337	c	very shallow truncated linear parallel sided cut			
		377	f	mid pale brown grey silty clay			
		378	c	very shallow truncated linear parallel sided cut			
133	Ditch N-S	352	f	mid grey silty clay with rare stones	1.00 ex	1.2	0.25
		353	f	mid orangey brown sandy clay silt			
		354	c	linear parallel sided cut			
		370	f	pale to mid grey brown clayey sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks			
		371	f	pale yellow grey sandy silt very freq small stone chips			
		372	c	Linear with regular even sides			
134	Ditch E-W	358	f	mixed light grey clayey silt with mid orange sandy silt with rare stones		0.5	0.11
		359	c	linear parallel sided cut			
		363	f	light grey silty clay			
		364	c	n/s turn off of linear gully parallel sides			
		365	f	mid grey clayey silt with mottles of mid orange silty sand and rare stones			
		366	c	linear e/w terminating to the west with rounded end parallel sided cut			
		421	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal			
		422	c	linear N-S ditch			
135	Ditch NE-SW	355	f	mid grey clayey silt with rare stone and occasional charcoal flecks and snail shells		0.9	0.42
		356	f	mottled dark orangey brown silty sand with mid grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
		357	c	mid grey clayey silt with rare stone and occasional charcoal flecks and snail shells			
		360	f	mottled dark orangey brown silty sand with mid grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
		361	f	linear parallel sided cut			
		362	c	linear parallel sided cut			

135	Ditch NE-SW	367	f	mid grey clayey silt with rare stone and occasional charcoal flecks and snail shells		0.86	0.22
		368	f	mottled dark orangey brown silty sand with mid grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
		369	c	linear parallel sided cut			
		390	f	mid brownish grey moderate firm silty clay with rare charcoal			
		391	c	linear parallel sided cut			
136	Ditch E-W	348	c	gully cutting ditch F.120	0.7	0.25	0.1
		349	f	greyish black moderately firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks with small angular and rounded stones			
		350	l	layer of gravel metalling running alongside drove-way overlying F.123, but cut by gully F.136. Possibly associated with RB ditch F.120			
		351	l	layer of coarse gravel metalling with occasional flattish cobbles of sub-angular flint mixed with greyish black moderately firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks			
137	Pit	400	f	mid grey soft silty clay mottled with orange oxidation and small angular stones	2.95	1.05	0.7
		401	f	mid greyish brown friable sandy silt and rare charcoal			
		402	c	either pit or terminus of F.133, cutting pits F.167 & F.169			
138	Pit	346	l	layer where broken pot was found			
		347	l	layer within fill (373) mottled grey brown fine sandy silt with occasional flint and rare chalk and charcoal inclusions			
		373	f	pale grey clayey sandy silt with occasional charcoal and small angular stones			
		374	c	circular pit within cluster			
139	Pit	381	f	mid grey silty clay with rare charcoal		0.6	0.3
		382	c	circular pit within drove-way			
140	Pit	259	f	dark orangey brown silty sand with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks	?	2.5	0.7
		260	f	pale greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones			
		261	c	sub-circular pit within a cluster			
		383	f	dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with occasional charcoal			
		384	f	mid orangey brown firm silty sand with rare charcoal and small burnt stones			
		385	c	medium pit within cluster of pits			
141	Ditch E-W	386	f	orangey brown firm sandy clay silt with rare charcoal		0.3	0.17
		387	c	slot in E-W ditch			
142	Ditch E-W	388	f	orangey brown firm sandy clay silt with rare charcoal		0.5	0.11
		389	c	slot in E-W ditch			
143	Ditch E-W	392	f	mid to dark brownish grey firm silty clay with rare charcoal		0.4	0.16
		393	c	possible gully or ditch south of drove-way			
144	Ditch E-W	394	f	mid brown firm silty clay with orange mottling and rare charcoal		1.08	0.17
		395	c	ditch or gully forming southern edge of drove-way			

145	Tree-throw?	396	f	dark grey soft clayey silt with red burnt patches and frequent charcoal	2	1.5	0.15
		397	c	tree-throw with in-situ burning (possible hearth)			
146	Furrow N-S	405	f	dark brownish grey firm clay		1.53	0.1
		406	c	furrow			
		407	f	mid pale brown firm clayey sandy silt			
		408	c	furrow			
147	Ditch N-S	419	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal		0.75	0.1
		420	c	ditch oriented N-S, probably same as F.133			
148	Ditch E-W	429	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay		0.63	0.3
		430	c	terminus of ditch oriented NE-SW			
		423	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silt clay with rare charcoal			
		424	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silt clay with rare charcoal			
		425	c	east terminus of E-W linear ditch			
149	Pit	426	f	mid greyish orange moderately firm silty clay with frequent rounded stones	1.9	1.7	0.3
		427	f	mid greyish orange moderately firm silty clay with frequent angular stones			
		428	c	circular pit or hollow truncated by ditch F.148			
150	Ditch E-W	411	f	mid orange brown firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones		0.48	0.1
		412	c	linear drove-way ditch segment			
151	Ditch E-W	413	f	mid orange brown firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones		0.7	0.08
		414	c	linear drove-way ditch segment			
152	ditch E-W	415	f	mid orange brown firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones		0.33	0.06
		416	c	linear drove-way ditch segment			
153	Ditch E-W	417	f	mid orange brown firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones		0.32	0.12
		418	c	linear drove-way ditch segment			
154	Ditch N-S	431	f	dark grey moderately firm silt clay			0.26
		432	c	north terminus of N-S linear ditch cutting F.155			
155	Ditch E-W	433	f	mid brown firm silty clay		0.66	0.11
		434	c	slot in E-W ditch			
156	Ditch N-S	435	f	mid orangey brown firm clayey silt with occasional small angular stones		1.35	0.72
		436	f	mixed mid-pale bluish orange silty clay and brownish orange clayey silty sand with frequent small angular stones			
		437	f	mottled firm brownish orange and grey clays with occasional patches of sandy clay with moderate stones and grits			
		438	c	later cut of ditch oriented N-S			

157	Ditch (N-S) or pit	439	f	light brownish orange firm and relatively friable silty sand with patches of pale grey clay	0.75	0.45	0.61
		440	c	remnant of a ditch or pit, mostly truncated by N-S ditch F.156			
158	Pit or tree-throw	441	f	light yellowish brown to grey silt with frequent small angular stones	0.85	0.7	1.9
		442	c	possible indeterminate pit or tree-throw			
159	Ditch N-S	443	f	mid greyish brown firm clayey silt with orangey brown mottling.	1.1	0.58	0.09
		444	c	same as F183. N-S oriented linear ditch			
160	Possible ditch NE-SW	445	f	mid-light grey soft clayey silt with occasional small angular stones	4	1	0.25
		446	c	possible small ditch segment oriented NE-SW			
161	Possible pit	447	f	mottled mid brown bluish grey and mid brown clay with occasional small angular stones		0.71	0.15
		448	c	possible small pit within area of similar anomalies			
162	Possible pit	449	f	mid to dark firm silty clay mottled with mid-brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks	1.1	0.76	0.28
		450	f	mid brown moderately firm silty clay with occasional small angular stones			
		451	c	possible pit within area of similar anomalies			
163	Ditch N-S	458	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones		0.73	0.46
		459	c	ditch oriented N-S truncated by ditch F.166			
		462	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare angular stones			
		463	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare angular stones			
		464	f	mid orangey brownish loose silty sand with frequent sub-angular stones			
		465	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S			
164	Gulley E-W	452	f	mid brown grey moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		0.38	0.04
		453	c	E-W gulley cutting pit F.165			
		460	f	mid brown grey moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		461	c	slot through E-W gulley			
165	Pit	454	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones		0.4	0.03
		455	c	small pit truncated by gulley F.164			
166	Ditch E-W	456	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones			0.31
		457	c	ditch oriented E-W truncating ditch F.163			
167	Pit	497	f	mid brown soft sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and small angular stones		1.4	0.7
		498	c	pit within cluster of pits, cutting F.137, cut by F.168 & F.169			
168	Pit	499	f	light greenish grey soft clayey silt		1.5	0.98
		500	f	dark orangey brown soft clayey sandy silt with occasional small charcoal flecks			
		501	f	light grey soft clayey silt mottled with mid-orange/yellowish-brown sandy silt			
		502	c	pit within cluster of pits cut by ditch F.114, F.137 & F.167			
169	Pit	481	f	mid greyish-brown soft clayey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Animal bones within mid-fill, BS towards base		1.55	0.75
		482	c	pit containing articulated animal bone within cluster of pits			

170	Pit	467	f	dark grey soft clayey silt		>0.65	0.41
		468	c	small circular pit within cluster of pits			
171	Ditch N-S	469	f	mid grey firm clay with brown mottling	4.25	1.48	0.34
		470	c	ditch terminus oriented N-S			
172	Ditch N-S	471	f	mid grey firm clay with brown mottling		2	0.26
		472	c	ditch terminus oriented N-S cut by ditch F.171			
173	Pit	267	f	orangey brown silty sand with occasional stones and occasional streaks of light grey silty sand			>0.45
		474	c	truncated pit within cluster of pits			
174	Pit	475	f	mid orangey brown soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks			>0.27
		476	c	small truncated pit within pit cluster			
175	Pit	477	f	dark brownish grey soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks			0.42
		478	c	small truncated pit within pit cluster			
176	Pit	479	f	mid greyish brown friable sandy silt			0.37
		480	c	small truncated pit within cluster. Possibly part of pit F.173 [474]			
177	Ditch E-W	483	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones		1.07	0.27
		484	c	slot in southern drove-way ditch oriented E-W			
178	Pond/water hole/ well	491	f	see [976-8]	7	3	2.4
		492	f	see [979]			
		493	c	see [908]			
		976	f	mid paleish very grey brown form clayey silt with orangey brown mottling and occasional small angular stones			
		977	f	mid brownish grey firm clay sand-silt with moderate broad diffuse brownish orange mottling and occasional small angular stones			
		978	f	pale brownish orange firm sandy clayey silt with moderate pale grey mottling and small angular stones			
		979	f	mid brownish orange firm very silty clay with brownish grey mottling			
179	Pit	485	f	mid grey firm clayey silt mottled with diffuse brownish yellow	0.88	0.65	0.17
		486	c	pit amongst inter-cutting pits			
180	Pit	487	f	dark grey firm clayey silt mottled with diffuse brownish yellow	0.68	0.6	0.21
		488	c	pit amongst inter-cutting pits			
181	Pit	489	f	mid greyish brown soft silt with rare charcoal flecks	0.53	0.3	0.11
		494	f	mid grey plastic smooth clayey silt with frequent charcoal and rare angular stones			
		490	c	pit amongst inter-cutting pits			

182	Pitch N-S	495	f	mid to dark greyish brown firm silty clay		1	0.28		
		496	c	slot in ditch oriented N-S. Possibly same as F.155					
		513	f	mid brown soft silty sand with rare burnt pebbles					
		514	f	mid brownish orange soft silty sand with rare burnt clay and rare small stones				0.9	0.4
		515	c	slot in ditch oriented N-S, cut by pit F.185					
		561	f	mid to dark greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional mid orange brown silt mottling and rare small angular stones				1.3	0.1
562	c	slot in ditch oriented N-S, cutting ditch F.201							
183	Ditch N-S	503	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		1.33	0.48		
		504	c	slot in ditch oriented N-S, cutting ditch F.184					
		652	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.9	0.35		
		653	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S, cutting IA pit cluster					
		675	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.85	0.2		
		676	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S cutting IA pit cluster					
		721	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.8	0.15		
		722	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		738	f	mid-light greyish brown soft sandy silt mottled with dark orange sandy silt and with rare charcoal flecks		0.8	0.2		
		739	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		740	f	mid-light greyish brown soft sandy silt mottled with dark orange sandy silt and with rare charcoal flecks		0.76	0.25		
		741	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		763	f	mid-light greyish brown soft sandy silt mottled with dark orange sandy silt and with rare charcoal flecks		0.8	0.2		
		764	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		765	f	mid-light greyish brown soft sandy silt mottled with dark orange sandy silt and with rare charcoal flecks		0.95	0.27		
		767	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		768	f	mid-light greyish brown soft sandy silt mottled with dark orange sandy silt and with rare charcoal flecks		0.72	0.2		
		769	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S					
		776	f	mid orangey brown firm sandy clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks		0.6	1	0.15	
		777	c	ditch oriented N-S, shallows off, and cut by furrow [775]					
794	f	dark grey soft sandy clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	0.42	0.08					
795	c	highly truncated slot in ditch oriented N-S (located on 'island' within area of flooding)							
184	Ditch NW-SE	505	f	mid brown moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		1.32	1.03		
		506	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks					
		507	f	mid brownish orange loose clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular stones					
		508	f	mid orangey brown moderately loose clayey sand with very frequent small sub angular stones					
		509	c	slot in ditch oriented NW-SE, cut by ditch F.183					

184	Ditch NW-SE	518	f	mid greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt	1.2	0.61	
		519	f	mottled mid greyish brown and orangey brown clayey silt and sandy clay			
		520	f	mottled pale brown with pale bluish grey and orangey brown clayey silt, silty clay and sandy silt			
		521	c	ditch oriented NW-SE cut by ditch F.182			
		524	f	mid greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt	2.15	1.55	0.5
		525	f	mid greyish brown firm and greasy clayey silt			
		526	f	mid orangey brown firm sandy silt			
		527	c	terminus of ditch oriented NW-SE			
		671	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with orange staining and rare small sub-angular stones	n/a	0.45	
		672	f	mid greenish grey soft silty clay with rare small sub-angular and angular stones			
		673	f	mid orangey grey-brown soft sandy clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and iron staining			
674	c	ditch oriented NW-SE cut by pit F.241. Possibly a terminus.					
185	Pit	516	f	mid brown soft silty sand	0.8	0.17	
		517	c	small oval pit cutting ditch F.182			
186	Same as F.184			same as F.184			
187	Ditch E-W	522	f	mid to dark brown firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and small angular stones	0.69	0.23	
		523	c	slot in ditch oriented E-W, possibly same as F.177			
188	Gulley E-W	528	f	mid greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt with rare small angular stones	0.47	0.05	
		529	c	short shallow gulley oriented E-W			
189	Pit/posthole	530	f	mid greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt with rare small angular stones	0.8	0.7	0.25
		531	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.110, F.194, F.199, and F.200			
190	Pit/posthole	532	f	light orangey grey firm silty clay	0.65	0.32	0.23
		533	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.181, F.191, F.192, F.193			
191	Pit/posthole	534	f	light orangey grey firm silty clay with rare charcoal	0.65	0.54	0.37
		535	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.181, F.190, F.192, F.193			
192	Pit/posthole	536	f	light orangey grey firm silty clay and rare small angular stones	0.55	0.46	0.15
		537	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.181, F.190, F.191, F.193			
193	Pit/posthole	538	f	light orangey grey firm silty clay and rare small angular stones	0.6	0.56	0.17
		539	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.181, F.190, F.191, F.192			
194	Pit/posthole	540	f	light orangey grey firm silty clay and rare small angular stones	0.3	0.26	0.09
		541	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.110, F.189, F.199, and F.200			
195	Ditch E-W	542	f	mid brown firm clayey sandy silt with orangey brown mottling and occasional grit	0.65	0.5-0.7	0.14-0.19
		543	c	slot in ditch oriented E-W, possibly part of drove-way			
		559	f	mid brown firm clayey sandy silt with orangey brown mottling and occasional grit			
		560	c	slot in ditch oriented E-W, curving to NW-SE, possibly part of drove-way			

196	Tree-throw/ ditch?	544	f	orange and mottled grey soft silty sand	4	1.5	0.5
		545	f	light grey and mottled greyish brown soft silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
		546	f	orange coarse gravelly sand			
		547	f	mottled orangey grey silt with occasional small angular stones and rare charcoal flecks			
		548	f	orange mottled grey soft silt			
		549	c	tree-throw same as F.197 and F.198			
197	Tree-throw/ ditch?	548	f	orange mottled grey soft silt	3	0.9	0.45
		550	f	mid to light grey soft silt with brownish peaty organic mottling			
		551	c	tree-throw same as F.196 and F.198			
198	Tree-throw	552	f	orange soft sandy silt mottled with light to mid grey patches with occasional small angular stones		1	
		553	f	mid to light grey soft sandy silt with dark lenses and occasional bunt flint			
		554	c	tree-throw same as F.196 and F.197			
199	Pit/posthole	555	f	mid-light whitish grey firm silt clay		0.81	0.34
		556	c	small oval pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.110, F.194, F. 189, and F.200			
200	Pit/posthole	557	f	mid brown firm clayey silt with diffuse orange sandy mottling	0.65	0.45	0.12
		558	c	small circular pit or posthole possibly forming the corner of a structure with F.110, F.194, F. 189, and F.199			
201	Ditch E-W	563	f	mid greyish brown friable silty clay with small angular stones		0.9	0.22
		564	c	shallow linear feature, possibly a furrow, oriented E-W, cut by ditch F.182			
202	Ditch E-W	565	f	mid brown firm clayey silt with occasional dark mineral flecking and orangey staining		0.66	0.13
		566	f	mid to pale orangey brown clayey silt with occasional mottling of brownish orange sandy clay			
		567	c	a small ditch segment oriented E-W, possibly part of the drove-way			
203	Pit/posthole	568	f	dark brown semi-friable clayey silt with small angular stones	0.32		0.18
		569	c	possible oval pit or posthole within drove-way			
204	Ditch (NE-SW)	570	f	mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional orangey brown mottling		1.25	0.43
		571	c	possible ditch segment; likely natural			
205	Ditch E-W	572	f	dark greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones		0.43	0.1
		573	c	slot through E-W ditch			
		590	f	dark greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones	0.35	0.3	0.11
		591	c	small segment of ditch oriented E-W			
		609	f	mid orangey brown firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones	0.8	1	0.52
		610	f	mottled mid-pale brown and brownish grey firm clayey silt			
		611	c	slot through E-W Roman ditch			
		614	f	same as [609]	0.6	0.25	0.17
		949	f	mid orangey brown firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones			
		950	f	mid greyish brown firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones			
951	c	slot through ditch oriented E-W					

206	Ditch N-S	574	f	dark greyish brown firm sandy clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones		0.4	0.08
		575	c	slot through ditch oriented N-S, possibly a butt-end, but tapers out without clear distinction			
207	Modern posthole	576	f	dark brown firm peaty silt	0.68	0.52	0.15
		577	c	modern post-hole cutting ditch F.213			
208	Pit	578	f	mid-dark greyish brown firm silty clay		0.92	0.18
		579	c	small circular pit			
209	Pit	580	f	dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and frequent charcoal flecks and small burnt stones		0.46	0.3
		581	c	medium pit within cluster, cut by pit F.210			
210	Pit	582	f	dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and frequent charcoal flecks		0.43	0.25
		583	c	small oval pit within cluster of pits, cutting pits F.209 and F.211			
211	Pit	584	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones		0.25	0.09
		585	c	small oval pit within cluster of pits, cutting pits F.210 and F.214			
212	Modern posthole	586	f	dark brown firm peaty silt	0.5	0.27	0.07
		587	c	modern post-hole cutting ditch F.213			
213	Modern posthole	588	f	dark brown firm peaty silt	0.07	0.5	0.09
		589	c	modern post-hole cutting ditch F.213			
214	Pit	592	f	dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and frequent charcoal flecks		0.47	0.28
		592	c	small oval pit within cluster of pits, cutting pit F.211			
215	Pit	594	f	mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones		1.02	0.35
		595	c	oval pit near cluster of pits			
216	Tree-throw / watering hole?	596	f	mid grey soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small sub-rounded stones with rare calcined flint and burnt stone	5	4	0.8
		597	f	mid brownish orange moderately firm silty clay with mid-grey mottling and very rare charcoal flecks with small sub-angular stones			
		598	c	a small watering hole or tree-throw			
217	Ditch E-W	599	f	mid brownish grey soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks	0.32		0.05
		600	c	probable segment of truncated Roman ditch F.205			
218	Ditch E-W	601	f	mid brownish grey soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks	1	0.35	0.12
		602	c	probable segment of truncated Roman ditch F.205			
219	Ditch E-W	603	f	mid brownish grey soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks	1.05	0.25	0.15
		604	c	probable segment of truncated Roman ditch F.205			
220	Pit	605	f	mid brownish grey friable silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.62	0.15
		606	c	small circular pit with no apparent association			
221	Ditch E-W, or pit	607	f	mid brown firm clayey silty with orangey brown mottling	0.65	0.55	0.2
		608	c	possible ditch segment of F.205, or separate oval pit feature			

222	Ditch N-S	612	f	dark grey moderately firm silty clay	>2	1.2	0.2
		613	c	modern ditch			
223	Ditch NE-SW	617	f	light brownish grey soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		0.42	0.15
		618	c	slot in Roman ditch oriented NE-SW			
		619	f	mid greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks			
		620	c	slot in Roman ditch oriented NE-SW, cut by ditch F.224			
		654	f	mid greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, and one sherd of Samian Ware			
		655	c	slot in ditch oriented NE-SW, cut by ditch F.238			
		660	f	mid greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks			
		661	c	slot in ditch oriented NE-SW, cut by field drain F.239			
		698	f	dark greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks			
		699	c	slot in ditch oriented NE-SW			
		700	f	dark greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks			
701	c	terminus of ditch oriented NE-SW	0.39	0.15			
224	Ditch E-W	621	f	dark greyish orangey brown moderately firm silty gravel with frequent charcoal flecks		0.58	0.12
		622	c	segment of linear ditch oriented E-W, cutting ditch F.223			
225	Gulley / 'pit'/ tree-throw	623	f	dark mottled brownish grey firm silt with small bs and occasional charcoal flecks	2.65	0.4	0.22
		624	f	mid-dark greyish brown firm silty clay			
		625	f	mid-pale very orangey brown moderately firm sandy clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and rare charcoal flecks			
		626	c	irregular gulley or pit within group of similar 'pits'			
226	Pit	627	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay	0.75	0.6	0.08
		628	c	small shallow oval pit within grouping of similar pits			
227	Posthole/ small pit	629	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay	0.3		0.08
		630	c	small pit or posthole within grouping of similar features			
228	Posthole/ small pit	631	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay	0.52		0.16
		632	c	small pit or posthole within grouping of similar features			
229	Pit	633	f	dark greyish brown moderately firm silty clay	0.75	0.4	0.14
		634	c	small pit or posthole within grouping of similar features			
230	Pit	637	f	dark orangey brown soft clayey sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks			0.5
		638	c	large pit within cluster of pits, cutting F.231, F.235 & F.236			
231	Pit	639	f	dark orange soft (coarse) sandy silt with horizontal grey silty lenses		0.6	0.35
		640	c	pit within cluster of pits, cut by F.230 & F.232			
232	Pit	641	f	mid grey soft clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	0.72		0.29
		642	c	small pit within pit cluster, cutting pits F.231 & F.233			
233	Pit	643	f	dark orange soft sandy silt with occasional horizontal lenses of grey sandy silt	2		0.33
		644	c	large shallow pit within cluster of pits, similar to pit F.230. Cut by pit F.232 and ditch F.183			
234	Pit	645	f	mottled dark greyish orange soft silty sand		1.1	0.47
		646	c	pit within cluster of pits, cut by ditch F.183			
235	Pit	647	f	mixed re-deposited soft chalky clay with laminated lenses of mid greyish brown silty clay	0.9		0.48
		648	c	pit within cluster of pits, cutting pit F.236, cut by pit F.230			

236	Pit	649	f	laminated grey and mid orangey-brown soft silty sand		2.3	0.61
		650	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clayey sand with occasional orange mottling and small angular stones			
		651	c	large pit within cluster of pits, cut by pits F.230, 235, and ditch F.183			
237	Pit	635	f	dark brown firm clayey silt with reddish mineral mottling and occasional small rounded stones with rare medium stones on western edge. Rare charcoal flecks.	0.75	0.63	0.11
		636	c	small oval pit or post-hole with possible post-packing, but otherwise fairly isolated			
238	Ditch E-W	656	f	light greyish brown soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		0.72	0.11
		657	c	ditch segment oriented E-W cutting ditch F.223			
		658	f	light greyish brown soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		659	c	terminus of ditch segment oriented E-W			
239	Field drain	662	f	mid greyish orange re-deposited natural		0.33	
		663	c	modern field drain cutting ditch F.223			
240	Pit	664	f	mixed mid-greyish brown and mid orangey brown silty clay with dark grey mottled silty clay	1.06	0.6	0.28
		665	f	same as [665] with medium angular stones and occasional bunt flints			
		666	c	pit or post-hole within grouping of similar features			
241	Pit	667	f	mid greyish brown mottled soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks		2	0.56
		668	f	light grey soft clayey silt with rare dark orange mottling			
		669	f	mid brownish soft grey clayey sandy silt with rare dark orange mottling and rare charcoal flecks with small sub-angular stones			
		670	c	large pit within cluster of pits, cutting ditch F.184			
		677	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt			
242	Gulley NE-SW	678	c	SW terminus of linear gulley oriented NE-SW		0.32	0.23
		679	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt			
		680	c	NE terminus of linear gulley oriented NE-SW			
		796	f	mottled mid orangey grey soft sandy silt, clay patches with very rare small angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks			
		797	c	slot in gulley oriented NE-SW			
		681	f	mid yellowish brown soft sandy silt			
243	Furrow N-S	682	c	post-Medieval furrow		0.56	0.08
		683	f	mid brownish orange soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
244	Pit	684	f	mottled light greyish brown and orange soft clayey silt with rare small angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks	2.5	1.9	0.37
		685	c	pit within cluster of pits, cutting pits F.245 and F.246			
		686	f	greyish brown soft gravelly silt			
245	Pit	687	f	greyish brown soft silt with rare small angular stones	0.8	0.5	0.3
		688	f	greyish brown soft silt with rare charcoal flecks			
		689	c	pit within cluster of pits, cut by F.244, cutting F.246			
		690	f	mottled brownish orange soft sandy silt			
246	Pit	691	c	small pit within cluster of pits, cut by F.244 and F.245	0.6	0.4	0.15
		692	f	light grey soft sandy silt			
247	Pit	693	c	small pit within cluster of pits	0.5	0.5	0.15
		694	f	light grey soft sandy silt			

		695	c	small pit within cluster of pits			
249	Pit	696	f	light grey soft sandy silt	1.5	0.5	0.4
		697	c	small pit within cluster of pits			
250	Pit	702	f	dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay	0.6		0.14
		703	c	pit or posthole within grouping of similar features			
251	Pit	704	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	0.9	0.65	0.4
		705	c	pit within pit cluster			
252	Pit	706	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	1.45	1.42	0.042
		707	c	pit within pit cluster			
253	Pit	708	f	mid greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	1.45	0.95	0.33
		709	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones			
		710	c	oval pit within pit cluster			
254	Pit	711	f	mid orangey grey moderately firm sandy silty clay with rare small angular stones	0.35	0.32	0.27
		712	c	circular pit within pit cluster			
255	Pit	713	f	mid greyish orange moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones	1.32	0.95	0.71
		714	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones			
		715	f	mid orangey brown moderately loose sandy silty clay with rare small angular stones			
		716	c	circular pit within pit cluster			
256	Pit	717	f	mid brownish orange moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	0.68	0.55	0.45
		718	c	circular pit within pit cluster			
257	Pit	719	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones	0.82	0.8	0.36
		720	c	circular pit within pit cluster, cutting pits F.256 and F.311			
258	Same as F.183			same as F.183			
259	Gulley	723	f	mid grey soft clay sandy silt with occasional orange mottling and rare small rounded stones			0.4
		724	c	L-shaped gulley on similar NE-SW alignment to gulley F.242			
260	Pit	725	f	mid brown soft sandy silt with grey and orange mottling			0.5
		726	c	small circular pit with similar feature F.261 alongside gullies F.242 & F.259			
261	Pit	727	f	mid brown soft sandy silt with grey and orange mottling			0.7
		728	c	small circular pit with similar feature F.260 alongside gullies F.242 & F.259			
262	Pit / gulley	729	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			0.6
		730	c	possible oval pit or gulley with little association			
263	Pit / gulley	731	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			0.7
		732	c	possible oval pit or segment of a gulley/ditch - perhaps associated with F.334 & F.238?			
264	Posthole	733	f	dark blackish grey soft clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks	0.34		0.11
		734	f	mid orangey grey soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		735	c	small circular posthole, possibly post-Medieval.			
265	Pit/posthole	736	f	dark greyish brown soft humic sandy silt			0.34
		737	c	small pit or posthole, similar to F.270. Possibly post-Medieval.			
266	Pit?	742	f	mid dark greyish brown moderately firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.85	0.65	0.1
		743	c	Possible pit, but in area of similar 'features' deemed to be natural.			

267	Ditch NW-SE	744	f	mid greyish orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks		0.42	0.16
		745	c	west terminus of ditch oriented NW-SE			
		746	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		747	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE			
		748	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		749	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE			
		750	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		751	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE			
		752	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		753	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE, cut by furrow F.268			
		754	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		755	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE			
		756	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		757	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE			
758	f	mid orangey brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks					
759	c	slot through ditch oriented NW-SE, cut by furrow F.269					
268	Furrow			furrow (same as F.269?)			
269	Furrow	760		mid brownish grey firm clay with rare charcoal flecks		0.72	0.2
		761		mid blackish grey soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks			
		762		post-Medieval furrow oriented N-S			
270	Pit or posthole	770	f	dark greyish brown soft humic sandy silt	0.62	0.45	0.18
		771	c	small pit or posthole, possibly of recent date owing to humic fill and proximity to furrow			
271	Ditch N-S	772	f	dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with occasional charcoal		0.22	0.09
		773	c	V-profiled post-Medieval ditch oriented N-S			
272	Furrow	778	f	mid to dark brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones		0.74	0.12
		779	c	furrow oriented N-S			
273	Ditch N-S	780	f	mid brown firm silty clay with occasional grey mottling and small sub-angular stones		0.57	0.18
		781	c	possible post-Medieval ditch oriented N-S, cutting furrow F.272 [779], and cut by a field drain			
274	Ditch NW-SE	782	f	mid to pale orangey brown moderately firm sandy silty clay with rare small angular stones and charcoal flecks		0.39	0.1
		783	c	terminus of a possible post-Medieval ditch or agricultural feature			
275	Pit	784	f	mid to dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with occasional small angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.9	0.7	0.21
		785	c	small oval pit within small grouping of pits of unknown date			
276	Furrow	786	f	light greyish brown moderately firm silty clay with rare charcoal and coal inclusions		0.8	0.12
		787	c	Post-Medieval furrow oriented N-S			
277	Pit	788	f	mid to dark brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with occasional small angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.72	0.58	0.28
		789	c	small oval pit within small grouping of pits of unknown date			
278	Pit	790	f	dark blackish brown loose clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks	0.2		0.18
		791	f	mid brownish grey loose silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		792	c	small circular pit or posthole, possibly associated with F.264			

279	Pit/posthole	798	f	mid brown moderately firm silty clay with occasional small angular stones	0.55		
		799	c	small circular pit or posthole within small grouping of similar features			
280	Pit/posthole	800	f	mid to dark brown moderately firm silty clay with occasional small angular stones	1.7	0.7	
		801	c	small oval pit or posthole within small grouping of similar features			
281	Ditch NE-SW	802	f	mid to dark greyish brown friable silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small gravel inclusions		0.63	0.25
		803	c	post-Medieval ditch truncated by field drain			
282	Pit	812	f	very dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones, occasionally burnt/scorched with fragments of larger burnt stones. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks with rare fragments of burnt clay and pale yellow clay 'lumps'.	0.5	0.8	0.4
		813	f	mottled orangey brown and brownish orange (with darker greyish mottling towards base) firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.			
		814	c	Oval pit, westernmost of cluster of inter-cutting pits, truncated by modern sub-soiling. Cut by pit F.292, cutting pit F.297.			
283	Ditch N-S / pits	804	f	mid greyish orange friable silty clay with rare charcoal and coal inclusions		0.56	0.23
		805	c	small modern linear ditch(?) oriented N-S			
284	Ditch NW-SE	806	f	mid orangey brown soft sandy clayey silt with occasional small angular stones		0.72	0.21
		807	c	terminus of possible ditch oriented NW-SE			
285	Pit/ / hollow	808	f	light to mid yellowish grey stiff silty clay		1.45	0.2
		809	c	possible pit or natural hollow cut by a field drain			
286	Field drain	810	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional small angular stones		0.41	0.27
		811	c	field drain cutting feature F.285			
287	Pit(?)	826	f	mid orangey brown soft silty sandy clay with occasional small angular stones		0.82	0.32
		827	c	possible pit with no clear association. Pot sherd found on upper surface.			
288	Pit	828	f	yellowish brown firm clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small angular stones		0.42	0.16
		829	c	sub-oval pit within cluster of pits. Cut by pit F.289. [probably not an individual pit feature, but combines with F.289, F.290 & F.291 to be the fill of furrow F.310]			
289	Ditch N-S	830	f	yellowish orangey brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.38	0.2
		831	f	yellowish brown firm clay [natural?]			
		832	f	yellowish orangey brown clay [natural?]			
		833	c	ditch or gully oriented N-S cutting pit F.288. [probably not an individual gully feature, but combines with F.288, F.290 & F.291 to be the fill of furrow F.310]			
290	Ditch N-S	834	f	mid yellowish brown firm clay with occasional blueish-grey patches and rare charcoal flecks		0.63	0.18
		835	c	ditch or gully oriented N-S [probably not an individual gully feature, but combines with F.288, F.289 & F.290 to be the fill of furrow F.310]			
291	Ditch N-S	836	f	mid to light yellowish brown firm clay		0.67	0.23
		837	c	ditch or gully oriented N-S [probably not an individual gully feature, but combines with F.288, F.289 & F.290 to be the fill of furrow F.310]			
292	Pit	815	f	mid to pale greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	1.11	0.35	0.44
		816	f	mid to pale brownish orange firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small sub-angular stones			

292	Pit	817	f	mid to pale greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional medium sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	1.11	0.35	0.44
		818	f	pale greyish yellow firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones			
		819	c	Rectangular pit, within cluster of inter-cutting pits, truncated by modern sub-soiling. Cut by pit F.293, cutting pit F.282.			
293	Pit	820	f	mid to pale greyish brown firm silty clay mixed with modern material by sub-soiler intrusion	0.65		0.21
		821	f	dark greyish brown firm silty clay			
		822	f	mid brownish grey firm silty clay with rusty orange staining and rare charcoal flecks			
		823	c	Pit, within cluster of inter-cutting pits, truncated by modern sub-soiling.			
294	Pit	824	f	mid to pale greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks	0.58	0.25	0.32
		825	c	Pit, at southern edge of cluster of inter-cutting pits, truncated by modern sub-soiling. Cut by pit F.293 and cutting pit F.295.			
295	Pit	838	f	mid to pale brown firm silty clay with areas small angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.85	0.35	0.2
		839	c	oval pit on eastern side of cluster of pits. Cut by pit F.294.			
296	Pit	840	f	very dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones, occasionally burnt/scorched with fragments of larger burnt stones. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks with rare fragments of burnt clay and pale yellow clay 'lumps'.	1.1	0.9	0.67
		841	f	mottled orangey brown and brownish orange (with darker greyish mottling towards base) firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.			
		842	c	oval pit on eastern side of cluster of pits.			
297	Pit	843	f	very dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones, occasionally burnt/scorched with fragments of larger burnt stones. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks with rare fragments of burnt clay and pale yellow clay 'lumps'.	1.3	0.75	0.45
		844	f	mottled orangey brown and brownish orange (with darker greyish mottling towards base) firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.			
		845	c	oval pit on eastern side of cluster of pits.			
299	Pit	846	f	dark orangey brown loose clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks	0.5		0.11
		847	c	Small shallow circular pit with no obvious association			
300	Pit	848	f	dark grey soft brown clayey silt		0.18	0.06
		849	c	Small shallow circular pit with no obvious association			
301	Ditch NE-SW	850	f	mid orangey brown friable silty clay with rare charcoal flecks		0.6	0.11
		851	c	ditch running between baulks, oriented NE-SW			
302	Pit	852	f	mid brownish black loose clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks	1.03	0.52	0.1
		853	c	pit within possible grouping of pits			
303	Pit/posthole	859	f	dark blackish brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	0.15		0.03
		860	c	pit or posthole within grouping of similar features			
304	Pit	854	f	dark blackish brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	0.56		0.12
		855	f	mid brownish grey soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		856	c	pit within possible grouping of pits			
305	Pit	857	f	dark blackish brown soft silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	1.2	1.25	0.07
		858	c	pit within possible grouping of pits			

306	Posthole	861	f	very dark greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.17	0.17	0.06
		862	c	posthole with stone packing associated with oval pit F.307			
307	Pit	863	f	very dark grey soft silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.45	1.11	0.06
		864	c	oval pit associated with posthole F.306			
308	Pit	872	f	dark greyish brown moderately firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.7	0.5	0.25
		873	c	small oval pit within cluster of pits. Cutting pit F.313			
309	Pit	874	f	dark greyish brown moderately firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.9	0.85	0.25
		875	c	small circular pit within cluster of pits. Cut by pit F.313, cutting pit F.314			
310	Furrow	865	f	mid yellowish brown soft sandy clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones		1.15	0.18
		866	c	post-Medieval furrow oriented NE-SW			
311	Pit	867	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	1	0.9	0.45
		868	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones			
		869	c	pit within cluster of pits			
312	Pit	870	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones	0.16	0.25	0.44
		871	c	pit within cluster of pits			
313	Pit	876	f	dark greyish brown moderately firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	1.1	1	0.29
		877	c	small circular pit within cluster of pits. Cut by pit F.308, cutting pit F.309			
314	Pit	878	f	dark greyish brown moderately firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.85	0.8	0.33
		879	c	small circular pit within cluster of pits. Cut by pit F.308			
315	Pit	881	f	mid brownish orange firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks	0.63	0.6	0.14
		882	c	small circular pit			
316	Ditch N-S	883	f	mid orangey brown firm silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and rare large sub-angular stones	0.9	0.81	0.24
		884	f	mid brownish grey firm clay with frequent small angular stones and rare large sub-angular stones			
		885	c	Terminus of ditch oriented N-S			
317	Furrow	886	f	light greyish brown firm silty clay		1.5	0.2
		887	c	slot in post-Medieval furrow oriented N-S			
318	Pit	888	f	light greyish brown firm silty clay	0.5	0.5	0.1
		889	c	small oval pit cut by furrow			
319	Pit	890	f	mottled pale grey and orange moderately compact sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	0.75	0.72	0.14
		891	c	small isolated sub-circular pit			
320	Pit	892	f	pale greyish brown moderately compact clayey sandy silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones	0.79	0.76	0.11
		893	c	small shallow circular pit cut by pit F.321			
321	Pit	894	f	pale greyish brown moderately compact clayey sandy silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.92	1.07	0.21
		895	c	small shallow circular pit cutting pit F.320			

322	Pit	896	f	mid blackish brown soft clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small angular stones	0.79	0.91	0.18
		897	c	circular pit cut by pit F.323			
		902	f	mid orangey brown loose gravelly clay with rare charcoal flecks			
323	Pit	898	f	dark blackish brown soft clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small angular stones	0.82	0.78	0.23
		899	f	mid greyish brown soft silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		900	f	light brownish orange friable gravelly clay with rare charcoal flecks			
		901	c	circular pit within grouping of similar features. Cutting pit 322			
324	Ditch N-S	903	f	dark orangey brown soft silty coarse sand with occasional patches of similar gravelly sand and rare charcoal flecks		0.96	0.27
		904	c	sub-rectangular terminus to linear ditch oriented N-S			
325	Pit	905	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt		0.89	0.23
		906	c	medium shallow circular pit with no apparent association			
326	Pit	907	f	dark orangey brown soft silty clay with occasional small angular stones		0.4	0.08
		908	c	small pit, possibly associated with pit F.327			
327	Pit	909	f	light orangey brown soft clayey silt with very rare small sub-angular stones		1.2	0.22
		910	c	shallow medium-sized circular pit cut by furrow and sub-soiler F.328. Possibly associated with pit F.326			
328	Furrow	911	f	dark greyish brown soft clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and re-deposited chalky clay			0.3
		912	c	furrow and sub-soiler cutting pit F.327			
329	Pit	913	f	mid orangey grey-brown soft silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions	2.25	0.95	0.24
		914	c	possible shallow pit cut by sub-soiler, within proximity of pits F.330 and F.331			
330	Pit	915	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions	2.4	1.3	0.14
		916	c	shallow rectangular pit cutting pit F.331. Cut by two field drains.			
331	Pit	917	f	mid to dark greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional gravel and rare charcoal flecks	1.1	1.14	0.12
		918	c	shallow circular pit cut by pit F.330			
332	Pit	919	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with rare large stones and very rare charcoal flecks		0.5	0.15
		920	c	small isolated circular pit			
333	Pit / tree-throw	921	f	mixed yellowish brown and greyish green compact clayey silt with occasional charcoal and small angular stones	1.3	0.66	0.15
		922	f	clay			
		923	c	possible clay-lined pit (or tree-throw) within circular grouping of pits and post-holes			
334	Ditch E-W	924	f	mid paleish brown soft silty clay with occasional diffuse yellowish brown mottling, occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.5	0.58	0.08
		925	c	Rounded western butt-end of E-W aligned linear			
		926	f	mid paleish brown soft silty clay with occasional diffuse yellowish brown mottling, occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks			
		927	c	southern side of E-W aligned linear			

334	Ditch E-W	928	f	mid paleish brown soft silty clay with occasional diffuse yellowish brown mottling, occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	1.11	0.35	0.44
		929	c	ditch oriented E-W, with termination at west. Possibly related to F.238?			
335	Ditch N-S	930	f	mid paleish brown soft silty clay with occasional diffuse yellowish brown mottling, occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.4	0.4	0.09
		931	c	curving northward spur or butt-end of linear remnant of F.334. Possible in-turned entrance?			
336	Pit	932	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones and charcoal flecks	1.05	0.55	0.13
		933	c	pit within small cluster of pits, F.308, F.309, F.313, F.337			
337	Pit	934	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.44	0.3	0.06
		935	c	pit within small cluster of pits, F.308, F.309, F.313, F.336			
338	Pit	962	f	very dark grey soft clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks		0.52	0.12
		963	c	IA pit cutting pit F.339			
		964	f	very dark grey soft clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks			
339	Pit	965	c	IA pit cut by F.338		0.43	0.25
340	Pit/posthole	936	f	mixed mid yellowish grey and dark brown grey moderately compact sandy silt with rare small angular stones	0.36	0.36	0.1
		937	c	pit or post-hole possibly cutting (highly truncated) gully F.341			
341	Gully NW-SE	938	f	mid brown friable sandy silt	5	0.52	0.15
		939	f	mid grey firm clayey silt with rare small angular stones			
		940	c	probably (highly truncated) gully oriented NW-SE, cut by posthole F.340			
342	Pit	941	f	mid brownish grey soft silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.8	0.45	0.2
		942	f	light brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks			
		943	c	Fairly isolated oval pit			
343	Pit	946	f	very dark grey very soft clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and medium burnt stones (at base of fill) pressed into [947]		0.82	0.25
		947	f	light grey moderately stiff silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and very rare small sub-angular stones			
		948	c	Small circular clay-lined pit with primary fill of burnt stones covered by material culture. Cut by gully F.346			
344	Pit/posthole	944	f	dark greyish brown firm silty clay with orange brown silty mottling and occasional small sub-angular stones with rare charcoal flecks	0.4	0.31	0.06
		945	c	small oval pit or posthole within circular grouping of circular features			
345	Ditch	952	f	mid orangey brown firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones		1.12	0.21
		953	c	small slot in eastern corner of enclosure ditch			
		954	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional red burnt clay flecks			
		955	c	slot in E-W orientation of enclosure ditch			
		966	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal and small angular stones			
		967	c	slot in E-W orientation of enclosure ditch			
		968	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal and small angular stones			
		969	c	slot in E-W orientation of enclosure ditch		0.64	0.15
						0.5	0.2

345	Ditch	987	f	mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal and small angular stones. Find of Samian Ware.		0.5	0.17
		988	c	terminus of E-W ditch.			
346	Gulley NW-SE	956	f	very dark grey soft clayey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks		0.42	0.08
		957	c	shallow linear gulley segment oriented NW-SE, cutting pit F.343 (relationship partly disturbed by field drain, so remains tentative)			
347	Gully or natural hollow (?)	958	f	dark greyish brown soft clayey silt		0.3	0.13
		959	c	possible natural root hole or hollow, but proximity to gulley F.346 might provide an association.			
348	Pit or natural hollow (?)	960	f	dark greyish brown soft clayey silt		0.5	0.14
		961	c	possible natural root hole or hollow, but proximity to Iron Age features might provide an association.			
349	Ditch NW-SE	970	f	mid orangey brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks		0.36	0.11
		971	c	shallow linear gulley oriented NW-SE, cut by ditch F.345			
		972	f	mid orangey brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks			
		973	c	shallow linear gulley oriented NW-SE, cut by ditch F.345			
		974	f	mid orangey brown soft clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks			
350	Posthole	975	c	shallow linear gulley oriented NW-SE, cut by ditch F.345		0.95	0.3
		981	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones			
		982	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stones			
351	Posthole	983	c	posthole with post pipe. Associated with posthole F.351	0.65	0.46	0.4
		984	f	mid brownish grey moderately firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones			
		985	f	mid orangey brown moderately firm silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stones			
352	Ditch NE-SW	986	c	posthole with post pipe. Associated with posthole F.350	0.85	0.43	0.2
		989	f	mid greyish brown soft sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones			
		990	c	ditch oriented NE-SW, cutting pits F.353 and F.354. Probably a (broken) continuation of enclosure ditch F.345 & F.205			
		995	f	mid greyish brown soft sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones			
353	Pit	996	c	ditch oriented NE-SW, cutting pits F.353 and F.354. Probably a (broken) continuation of enclosure ditch F.345 & F.205	1.19	0.82	0.5
		991	f	mid brownish grey soft sandy silt mottled with pale bluish grey clay, with frequent small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks (mainly towards the base)			
354	Pit	992	c	Deep oval pit cut by enclosure ditch F.352			0.11
		993	f	pale brownish grey friable coarse grained sandy silt with occasional gravels			
355	Pit	994	c	sub-circular 'dish'-shaped pit cut by ditch F.352	0.65	0.55	0.11
		997	f	pale brownish grey soft sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions			
356	Ditch E-W	998	c	sub-circular 'dish'-shaped pit cut by ditch F.205. Part of a cluster of pits F.354,F.355, F.353	5	1.8	0.38
		999	f	mid brown soft organic sandy silty clay with occasional small angular stones and root-holes			
357	Ditch E-W	1000	c	possible ditch segment terminal aligned E-W. Possible association with IA ditches F.156/F.157 and F.184		0.75	0.2
		1001	f	mid orange sandy silt with occasional gravel and rare charcoal flecks			
		1002	f	mid brownish orange fine sandy clayey silt with occasional clay-rich patches; rare charcoal flecks			
		1003	c	probable ditch terminus running beneath baulk.			

n/a	Midden layer	410	l	dark grey silt clay with frequent charcoal overlying pit cluster and ditch F.114	2.95	1.05	0.18
n/a	Furrow	615	l	mid orangey brown firm (sticky) sandy clay with occasional medium stones			
n/a	Subsoil	616	l	mid brownish orange firm sandy clayey silt			
n/a	Furrow	774	f	mid pale orangey brown firm sandy clayey silt	0.6	2.7	0.2
		775	c	base of a truncated furrow			
n/a	Finds	880	sf	[880] is a number assigned for finds to pits F.308, F.309, F.313, F.314			

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-76125

Project details

Project name	High Cross, West Cambridge
Short description of the project	Between 1st November 2009 and 8th February 2010 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an open area excavation on some 2.23 hectares on University land at the High Cross Site, West Cambridge. This excavation was undertaken prior to the development of these plots, which lay to the south of Charles Babbage Road; the latter to include the building of a University Sports Centre, accommodation and car parking facilities. The work was commissioned by the University of Cambridge Estate Management and Building Service (EMBS). The site consisted of three adjacent areas; Area A (0.86 hectare) lay on the south side of a small valley separated from Area(s) B and C (1.36 hectares) on the north side by a small brook/field drain. The centre of the site was located at grid reference TL 4240 5900, whilst the pre-excavation ground level varied from 20 m OD at the northwestern corner (Area C) to 16 m OD at the eastern end(s) of Areas A and B. Features (pits, pit clusters) and ditches were identified spanning the Late Mesolithic to Medieval period and included evidence of Iron Age metalworking and a large number of Iron Age quern stones.
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2008 End: 08-02-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3234 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Mesolithic
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	FIELDSYSTEM Roman
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	TRACKWAY Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Modern
Monument type	GLASS Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	QUERN Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	QUERN Roman
Significant Finds	BONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BONE Roman
Significant Finds	SLAG Iron Age
Significant Finds	LOOMWEIGHT Iron Age
Significant Finds	TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	WOOD Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT STONE Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Aerial Photography - interpretation','Annotated Sketch','Documentary Search','Environmental Sampling','Measured Survey','Metal Detectors','Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE High Cross, West Cambridge
 Postcode CB3 0
 Study area 2.23 Kilometres
 Site coordinates TL 42 58 52.2014885055 0.07810276813720 52 12 05 N 000 04 41 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 16.00m Max: 20.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit
 Project brief originator Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
 Project design originator Christopher Evans
 Project director/manager Christopher Evans
 Project supervisor Simon Timberlake
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body University of Cambridge

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit
 Physical Contents 'Glass','Human Bones','Industrial','Metal','Wood','Worked stone/lithics','Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental'
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit
 Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human Bones','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Wood','Worked stone/lithics'
 Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
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 Paper Media available 'Aerial Photograph','Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'

Project bibliography 1

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