

VICTORIA WAY, MELBOURN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Archive Report: Archaeological Excavation

Prepared by

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For

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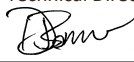

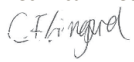
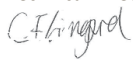


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Non-Technical Summary

Between April and May 2015 Network Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation in advance of development works (planning Ref. S/1225/14/E1) at Victoria Way, Melbourn, in the county of Cambridgeshire (NGR 538560 243980 centred).

Previous archaeological evaluation had identified a field boundary of probable Bronze Age date, possible drip-gullies belonging to a circular building and other undated features including ditches, postholes, a possible trackway, a possible pit and a layer of colluvium.

Two areas within the development area were targeted for open-area excavation, one in the southwest (Area 1), the other in the northeast (Area 2).

Within Area 1, was an apparently sub-rectangular arrangement of pits containing deliberately selected animal bone, including Aurochs, as well as worked flint suggesting ritual activity. The purpose of these pits, and in particular, whether they had ever held upright posts, was uncertain. These pits are likely to date from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. A rectilinear arrangement of undated postholes was also identified in this area.

In contrast, Area 2 contained only two undated, but possibly prehistoric, curvilinear ditches as well as two possible post-medieval field boundaries.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of archaeological excavation undertaken prior to development of land at Victoria Way, Melbourn in Cambridgeshire (centred at NGR 538560 243980).

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 Proposed development and planning history

The excavation was undertaken in support of a planning application (Ref. S/1225/14/E1) for construction of 65 houses and associated ancillary works.

The excavation was undertaken in response to the results of previous archaeological evaluation (Network Archaeology, 2015) and following a brief issued by Cambridgeshire's Historic Environment Team (CHET, 2014) in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2.2 Location, description and natural environment

The Development Area occupies approximately 2.3ha of scrubland to the south of New Road, adjacent to Victoria Way on the southern edge of Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, bounded by existing residential development to the north and east, farmland to the west, and a cemetery to the south (NGR 538560 243980 centred, Figure 1). The ground moderately slopes from 40m AOD at the south-west end, to 32m AOD at the north-east end.

The bedrock underlying the development area is chalk, overlain by thin layers of Quaternary drift deposits, particularly of periglacial head. The calcareous soils are well-drained fine to coarse loams, of the Upton 1 and Swaffham Prior associations in the Soil Survey classification (Soil Survey of England and Wales).

1.3 Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment, carried out prior to the evaluation (Howlett, 2013), identified no known heritage assets, historic buildings or archaeological remains within the development area.

Within the wider landscape significant archaeological remains are known, particularly prehistoric funerary monuments, an Anglo Saxon cemetery to the west of the development area, and a smaller number of other later prehistoric remains to the east.

Further details of the archaeological background can be found in Appendix A.

1.3.1 Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation

A geophysical survey (Stratascan, 2013) identified a number of anomalies thought to be either geological in origin or indicative of scattered ferrous objects (Figure 2).

A subsequent archaeological evaluation (Network Archaeology 2015i) identified a small number of features including evidence of a possible prehistoric field system as well as flints indicative of potential transient activity taking place within the vicinity of the development area from the Mesolithic period. The largest of the flint assemblages recovered during the evaluation came from a ditch within the western portion of the PDA (trench 1) which contained 40 fragments of Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic flints as well as a single fragment of early or late Bronze Age pottery. Within the northeast portion of the development area the evaluation (trenches 4 and 6) identified a buried soil horizon, likely indicative of short, turfed grassland, below a periglacial feature filled with colluvium. The colluvium at the south end of trench contained 5 worked flints with a further 3 worked flints being recovered from the buried soil horizon. All of these flints dated from late Mesolithic to early Neolithic period.

A soil sieving exercise undertaken alongside the evaluation recovered 13 flints (6 worked and 7 burnt), of these only two had a direct correlation with underlying features excavated as part of the evaluation and excavation. These related to 'ditch' (105) which was re-interpreted as a pit (128) in the excavation phase (see 3.1 below).

The majority of the flints retrieved from sieving therefore suggest that plough damage may have resulted in the loss of some of the more ephemeral features on the site.

It was hoped that the sieving exercise would demonstrate this more fully, in particular where the top- and subsoils were at their shallowest. In retrospect, it may have been useful to have intensified this survey in order to cover a larger proportion of the site.

The colluvial and buried soil areas were not excavated as the thickness of the overlying colluvium (up to 1.2m) meant that the buried soil layer was well below the reduced dig level of the proposed development and would be largely undisturbed. No archaeological features were visible encroaching into these areas during the stripping of the overburden for the excavation. The area around trench 2 was not investigated during the excavation phase as no archaeological features or deposits were identified in this area during the evaluation.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The **primary** aim of the excavation was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

Specific objectives included:

- To characterise the nature and determine the extent of the occupation evidence at the site
- To provide a firm date for the evidence that will assist with the date ranges of ceramic evidence from the site
- To model the landscape and the transformations brought about by the inhabitants of the settlement and by natural processes. A range of environmental techniques will be employed, with particular interest on the presence of blocky charcoal in soil fills that may suggest the use of charcoal in craft production, hammerscale and other metalworking by-products, waterlogged fills and utilised buried soils
- To implement a programme of post-excavation synthesis and study, leading to an assessment of the potential for further study
- To disseminate the findings, by production of appropriate archive reports, publication articles, and OASIS submission
- To ensure the long-term survival of the information through deposition of a project archive

The archaeological work considered existing and developing national and regional research frameworks in particular Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (EAA Occ. Paper No24, 2011, ALGAO 2011; English Heritage, 1991, 1997; Cooper, 2006; Knight, Vyner and Allen, 2012).

1.5 Methods

Open-area excavation was targeted on two areas, totalling 2,125m², where the evaluation had found positive results. Provision in the WSI to extend either area, based on the excavation results, was not exercised by CHET.

All overburden was removed using a back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket operating under the close and constant supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Discovered archaeology was investigated and recorded as per the methodology laid out in the WSI (Network Archaeology, 2015ii).

1.6 Resources

The excavation was carried out by two archaeologists over a 2 week period between April and May 2015. External monitoring was undertaken by Kasia Gdaniec, the senior archaeologist for Cambridgeshire County Council (Cambridgeshire Archaeology).

2 Factual Results & Interpretation

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the factual and primary interpretation of the results of the excavation.

Throughout this section cut features and deposits are referred to by unique context numbers. A convention has been adopted whereby cut features and structures are referenced in bold type, whilst deposits such as fills and layers are referenced in plain type.

The finds are summarised in section 2.4 and the results are discussed in section 3. A summary table of contexts can be found in Appendix B and the matrices can be found in Appendix C. Plates can be found in Appendix F and the figures are presented in Appendix H.

2.1.1 General stratigraphy

During the evaluation (Network Archaeology 2015i) it was identified that towards the summit of the hill, within the southwest corner of the PDA, there was little to no subsoil, the topsoil directly overlying the natural chalk. In contrast, further downslope to the east subsoil became more evident increasing in thickness from around 0.15m at its western visible extent (within trench 3) up to 0.27m within the northeast corner of the PDA (trench 6). Across the PDA the topsoil remained a fairly consistent thickness (between 0.28m and 0.3m).

In addition, within the eastern (trench 6) and southeastern (trench 4) portions of the PDA up to 1.4m of colluvium was identified below the subsoil (Plate 11). Within the southeast corner (trench 4) this colluvium appeared to be filling a large depression (Plate 12), possibly an ice wedge or pingo, and sealed a former land surface with both the lower portion of the colluvium and the buried surface yielding a number of Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic flints.

The general stratigraphy identified in both of the excavation areas was as follows:

- Ploughsoil: 0.25-0.30m, pale grey-brown loam, frequent chalk fragments; overlying
- Subsoil: 0.05-0.15m, brown-orange silt loam, frequent chalk fragments increasing in thickness from west to east, overlying
- Chalk: weathered bright white to grey-white chalk rubble with occasional patches of sandy silt (Plate 5).

Unless otherwise stated, the features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by the subsoil.

2.2 Area 1

2.2.1 Introduction

This area was located within the southwest half of the development area at the top of the slope and measured 1,155m² (Figure 2).

Excavation Area 1 was targeted on an area where previous evaluation had identified a possible field boundary of Bronze Age date and other undated features including a ditch, a posthole and a possible pit (Network Archaeology, 2015i). There was also evidence to suggest that the possible boundary ditch may have truncated a Mesolithic / early Neolithic layer or feature (*ibid*).

2.2.2 Archaeological findings

A total of fifteen features were identified within this area, comprising a sub-rectangular group of seven pits and a posthole (Group **135** formed by pits **112, 114, 122, 128, 130, 132** and **134**), a rectilinear structure (**136**) formed of three postholes (**120, 124,** and **126**) a further pit (**110**) and posthole (**116**) as well as a further 4 possible postholes or plant holes (**104, 106, 108** and **118**) (Figure 3).

All of the features, with the exception of pit **110** and plant holes **104, 106** were located within the northern half of the excavation area. The remaining features **104, 106** and **110**) were located close to the centre of the excavation area.

Pit group **135** appeared to be arranged in an arc with a linear length of 26m, oriented roughly east to west and north to south (Figure 3).

All of the pits, with the exception of **132** and **134**, were either ovoid or circular in plan with steep or near vertical sides and predominantly flat bases (0.6m to 1.04m diameter x 0.28m to 0.53m deep (Figures 5a, b, c and d, Plates 3 to 5). Pits **132** and **134** appeared sub-linear in plan with moderate to steep sides and undulating bases (1.4m long x 1.4m wide x 0.35m deep maximum dimensions). The posthole (**114**) was circular in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base (0.5m diameter x 0.12m deep).

All of the pits and the posthole contained single fills, varying from a soft mid brown silt with frequent chalk fragments to dark grey brown silt with frequent chalk fragments. Several of the pits (**112, 122, 128** and **130**) and the posthole (**114**) contained worked flint (82 fragments) dating from

the late Neolithic period, the largest assemblage (40 fragments) coming from pit **128** (fill 127). The small quantity of pottery recovered from the posthole (**114**), although not totally diagnostic, fitted into this period with a date range of middle Neolithic to early Bronze Age. A small assemblage of animal bone was also recovered from these pits. This assemblage contained predominantly cattle, including aurochs bones, with small amounts of pig and a single sheep or goat bone also recovered.

Although pits **132** and **134** appeared more linear, this may have been due to animal intrusion such as a badger sett and. it is likely that these pits correlated with the ditch (**105**) identified during the previous evaluation (Network Archaeology, 2015).

Structure **136** was rectilinear in plan, oriented north-northwest to south-southeast (1.3m long) turning northeast (3.7m) (Figure 3). The three postholes were all ovoid in plan with moderate to near vertical edges and a generally concave base (0.45m long x 0.19m wide average dimensions, between 0.08m and 0.18m deep), the fills varying from a mid to dark grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments and no finds.

The remaining pit (**110**) was ovoid in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base (1.4m long x 0.7m wide x 0.26m deep). The sole, dark orange-brown silt fill (109) contained no finds.

The remaining posthole (**116**) was also ovoid in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base (0.82m long x 0.56m wide x 0.13m deep). The sole, mid grey silt fill (115) contained no finds.

Of the remaining features, three (**104**, **106** and **108**) were ovoid in plan with irregular concave profiles whilst the other (**118**) was rectilinear in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base.

2.3 Area 2

2.3.1 Introduction

This area was located close to the centre of the development area, the ground rising approximately 3m from the east to the west (Figure 2).

Excavation Area 2 was targeted on an area where previous evaluation (trenches 3 and 4) had identified possible drip-gullies belonging to a circular building and other features including a ditch, a posthole, a possible trackway and an underlying layer of thick colluvium which was a potential buried land surface (Network Archaeology, 2015).

2.3.2 Archaeological findings

A total of four possible ditches or gullies were identified within this area. Two (**256** and **257**) of these were oriented north-northwest to south-southeast and the others (**254** and **255**) were curvilinear, both oriented broadly east to west turning north to south. A possible pit (**251**) and a possible ditch terminal (**240**) were also identified within this area. All of the features identified within this area correlated with those identified by previous evaluation (Figure 4).

Pit **251**, located close to the southwest corner of the excavation area, appeared ovoid in plan with an irregular concave profile and flat base (0.8m wide x 0.06m deep). Its sole pale grey friable silt fill (249) contained no finds. This pit was heavily truncated by ditches **254**.

The two curvilinear ditches (**254** and **255**) were both located within the western half of the excavation area. Ditch **254** had a total linear length of 26m (0.52m to 0.7m wide x 0.05m to 0.06m deep) and was investigated by four sections (**246**, **226**, **215** and **250**) which identified an irregular concave profile. Its sole pale to dark grey friable silt fill contained no finds (Figures 5e and f).

Ditch **255** ran almost parallel with gully **254** for a total linear length of 27.45m (0.5m to 0.76m wide x 0.08 to 0.18m wide) and was investigated by two sections (**248** and **242**). This ditch had an identical profile and fill to that of ditch 254 (Plate 10). The southern end of ditch **255** appeared to have been truncated by the terminal of another ditch (**240**).

Ditch terminal **240** was only visible in section. It truncated ditch **255** and was truncated by ditch **257**. This ditch (**240**) was oriented broadly northwest to southeast with a rounded terminal at its southeast extent, had an irregular concave profile (0.7m wide x 0.18m deep). It was filled with soft pale grey-brown silt (239) which contained no finds.

Ditch **257** had moderate concave sides and a flat base (33m long x 0.9m to 1.57m wide x 0.25m to 0.48m deep, Figure 5h and 5i, Plate 7). The ditch was investigated by 6 sections (**244**, **209**, **232**, **212**, **229** and **219**). Generally, these recorded that the ditch contained a primary and secondary fill, although up to four fills were identified in one section. In terms of finds and dating, fragments of post-medieval tile, a single sheep bone and a burnt stone were recovered from the upper fill along its length. A single fragment of clay pipe was also recovered from during cleaning the surface of this ditch but could not be definitely assigned to its upper fill. Ditch **257** truncated terminal **240**.

The remaining ditch (**256**) was located close to the eastern bulk. This ditch was investigated by 3 sections (**234**, **236** and **238**) which generally recorded a moderate concave profile with a slightly

concave base and a sole soft orange-brown silt fill which contained a single flint (235) (27.5m long x 0.8m to 2.3m wide x 0.13m to 0.5m deep, Figure 5g, Plate 9).

A further broad linear feature (206) was also investigated but this proved to be a succession of plough scars (Plate 6). A shallow scrape (203) proved to be a continuation of plough scars 206 (Figure 4).

2.4 Finds summary

The following sections provide a synthesis of the finds and environmental assessments. A summary finds catalogue can be found in Appendix D and full specialist reports can be found in Appendix E.

2.4.1 Animal bone (Richard Moore)

Around 140 bone fragments, weighing 2487g in total, were assessed. With a single exception, all of this assemblage was retrieved from fills of Neolithic pits in Area 1. Area 2 produced only a small fragment, possibly of a sheep radius, from the upper fill of ditch 229. A single common snail shell was also recovered, from pit 128.

The cattle bones include three pieces that are from significantly larger individuals than the others and, given the late Neolithic date when both wild and domestic bovines may have been locally present; it is likely these large bones are from aurochs.

There is little obvious pattern to the range of bone types in each pit and the range of bone types present is fairly typical of processing waste rather than waste originating from food residues. This might favour the symbolic burying of less useful parts of a butchered carcass. It is also possible that the bone may have had a more utilitarian function, such as the use of bone waste as post-packing, although this theory is very tenuous.

The possibility of differential preservation presents difficulties with any interpretation and it may be the case that components of the original assemblage buried less deeply have been lost. The composition of the assemblage also seems to be biased towards the more robust skeletal elements, also suggesting that there may have been loss of some bone.

The more robust skeletal elements have, however, survived quite well. Although much of the organic content may have been lost, there is a good chance that there is enough extractable material for radiocarbon dating and consideration should be given to radiocarbon dating of the aurochs bones.

Although small, the assemblage of bones from the late Neolithic pits is of significance and possible research value because of the presence of bones of both domestic wild cattle and wild aurochs populations. It is therefore recommended that this material should be retained in the site archive. The occurrence of these bones should be highlighted in any publication or other form of dissemination, such as the OASIS submission, arising from the project.

It was suggested in the animal bone report that aurochs bone should be radiocarbon dated and, in consultation with Cambridgeshire County Councils archaeological advisor, a piece of humerus was submitted for dating to Beta Analytic. Collagen extraction proved to be successful but the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ratio was found to be more depleted than would normally be expected, at 23.4‰. This was likely to be result of the presence of exogenous carbon compounds, such as humic acids, within the sample, and there was a likelihood that the result would be biased, to some unknown extent, in the more recent direction (Chris Patrick, Beta Analytic, pers comm.). It was therefore considered that dating would be unreliable and was not pursued further.

2.4.2 Ceramic building material (Sue Anderson)

A single fragment of probable post-medieval brick or tile was recovered from the fill (208) of ditch 257.

2.4.3 Clay pipe (Richard Moore)

A single fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from layer 253, assigned to the cleaning around ditch 257. It is not readily datable with clay pipes in common use from the early seventeenth to late nineteenth centuries.

2.4.4 Flint (Barry Bishop)

A total of 83 pieces of struck flint were recovered during the excavations. All but one of the pieces came from the pits forming structure 135 which is likely to be at least broadly contemporary with the struck material. The remaining flint came from ditch 256.

The assemblage is technologically homogeneous and characteristic of the late Neolithic period. Whilst the assemblages contain pieces from all stages in the reduction sequence, it is clear that only a small proportion of what would have been generated during even a limited number of knapping episodes is present. Additionally, the wear exhibited by the implements and the condition of the pieces, including one that had been burnt prior to deposition, demonstrate that the material was not directly knapped into the pits but had been selected from a larger accumulation, or 'pre-pit' context, prior to being placed into the pits.

2.4.5 Heat affected stone (Richard Moore)

Three pieces (874g) of heat-affected stone were recovered from features excavated at Victoria Way, Melbourn, South Cambridgeshire, two from Area 1 and one from Area 2.

It is likely that these stone occurred naturally within the thin till layers that overlie the chalk bedrock of the site, transported the short distance from the nearby outcropping by glacio-fluvial action. There is, however, a possibility of deliberate deposition of the stones within the features from which they were recovered, especially in the case of the pieces found in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pits of group 135.

2.4.6 Prehistoric pottery (Emily Edwards)

A total of seven plain body sherds (6g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill (113) of a posthole (114). These sherds are consistent with Neolithic and Bronze Age shelly fabrics. The largest sherd appears to consist of a tiny moulded shoulder, which may narrow the date of the group to the middle Neolithic or early Bronze Age. No more specific dating is possible.

2.4.7 Environmental remains (Val Fryer)

A total of seven environmental samples were taken during the excavation, four from pit group **135 (112, 122, 128 and 134)**, two from ditch group **257 (229 and 244)** and the remainder from ditch group **256 (238)**.

In summary, the recovered assemblages were small, with the few recorded plant remains probably being derived from scattered refuse or midden waste. Some limited prehistoric agricultural activity is probably indicated, although wild crops and animal products remained important components of the local diet. The ditch assemblages were more difficult to interpret as the density of recovered material is extremely low indicating that the features were entirely peripheral to any focus of domestic/agricultural activity, with the composition of the mollusc assemblage suggesting that the ditches may have been situated within open meadow or grassland.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial snails are common throughout with open country species, including those indicative of short-turfed grassland, are predominant, but it is suggested that at some stage, pits **112, 122 and 134** were either overgrown or filled with damp leaf litter.

3 Discussion

The discovered archaeological remains potentially represent three phases of activity, comprising prehistoric pits, undated curvilinear boundaries and post-medieval boundaries.

3.1 Prehistoric Pit Groups 135/136

Pit Group 135 has been assigned to a group of eight pit-like features apparently forming a sub-rectangular arrangement, approximately 7.5m wide. The purpose of the pits, in terms of whether they were structural or ritual or ever held upright posts, is uncertain.

The pit fills are not naturally accumulated and instead appear to be backfill incorporating worked flints and the bones of aurochs. The flints appear to be part of a structured deposit, in that selected items from a larger assemblage of used tools appear to have been deliberately selected and deposited within the pits. Structured deposits are understood to have been related to rituals and ceremonies marking specific events or important areas. As such, the flint assemblage and the pit group from which it derives, is likely to have had a ritualistic purpose. It has been suggested that the burial of aurochs bones may also have had a cultural significance. Harcourt (1971, 35), for instance, discusses the killing of wild species to prevent damage to crops or, in the case of aurochs, to stop interference or interbreeding with domestic stock. It is easy to imagine that this could be accompanied by ritual burial of the least favoured parts of an animal, following consumption of the best meat of a slaughtered aurochs. Such explanations, however, would also need to account for the pig and domestic cattle bones in the same contexts (Moore, Appendix E).

In terms of dating, pit group 135 appears to be Neolithic or Bronze Age, most likely late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Three of the pits (**128,132** and **134**) related to this group correlated with a possible ditch (**105**) identified during the evaluation (Figure 3). This postulated ditch contained 55 flints mostly of Bronze Age/Iron Age date alongside some probably earlier material and 11 burnt flints (Network Archaeology 2015i). A further two struck and two burnt flints were also recovered during the sieving of the topsoil close to the centre of the trench (*ibid*). It is therefore probable that, despite being initially interpreted as a ditch, the feature identified during the evaluation as well as pits **128,132** and **135** combined were the remnant of an elongated pit or succession of intercutting pits, the similarity in the fills making individual cuts impossible to identify.

An attempt was made to refine the dating of pit group **135** by obtaining a radiocarbon date for an aurochs bone. However, when the bones were sent for analysis, it was considered that the bones were possibly contaminated and any dating might give a spurious result.

It is possible that these pits were dug intentionally to receive the structured deposits, having a symbolic use rather than forming part of a physical structure. Similar examples have been identified at Didcot (WWWiii) and Heathrow (WWWii). Alternatively, the pit group may represent the “footprint” of a post-built structure and could potentially be part of a building. The profile of the pits indicates that they could be postholes with the animal bone acting as packing material (Moore, Appendix E).

A post-built Neolithic domestic structure, although circular and only 5m wide, was excavated at Rothely in Leicestershire (WWWv) where features associated with the building were also found to contain structured deposits. At Rothley, the deposits were interpreted as being part of a closing ritual, undertaken when the structure or settlement was abandoned.

Turning to the pits at the Victoria Way site, if these ever held posts then these had been removed prior to backfilling and therefore the flints and aurochs bone here too may be indicative of a closing ceremony associated with abandonment. This is perhaps supported by the environmental evidence which indicates that only limited agricultural activity and no appreciable settlement activity was taking place in the vicinity at the time the pits were backfilled. In fact, the environmental results indicate that the pits may have become overgrown or contained damp leaf litter for a prolonged period (Fryer, Appendix E), possibly indicating that any postulated structure may have already been derelict or abandoned prior to the closing ceremony taking place.

Although there are few Neolithic findspots in the landscape surrounding Melbourn, the nearest significant site being a possible mortuary enclosure (MON 1596489) located 2.5 km to the east, there are a number of later prehistoric monuments. These include late Neolithic/ Bronze Age barrows approximately 430m east (MON 368656, CHER MCB20334), 1.3km southeast (MON 15963912, 15963912, 15963914) and 500m west (MON 368593, CHET 03149).

Pit Group 136 appears to form a rectilinear arrangement and most likely represents the footprint of a small structure, either a building or a fence line. Although undated, Pit Group 136 may be broadly contemporary with Pit Group 135, based on spatial proximity alone.

3.2 Field Boundaries 254 and 257

The two curvilinear ditches (**254** and **257**) most likely represented the remnants of former field boundaries, on account of their form and absence of finds. These both followed a slightly diverging curvilinear orientation indicating that they might be broadly contemporary and, although no dating evidence was recovered, their curving shape in plan suggests that they could have been part of a prehistoric field system. The shallow, irregular profile of these features possibly suggests that these were shallow, ephemeral features such as hedges which had been heavily truncated by later ploughing.

3.3 Post-medieval Enclosures and Boundaries

Ditches **256** and **257** shared a broadly parallel arrangement with their longest sides running roughly parallel to New Road. Historical mapping shows that New Road was installed following the Parliamentary Enclosure Act sometime between 1801 and 1831. Prior to this, the land occupied by the development area appears to have been open with a number of droveways extending southeast from the south side of the village. This template has continued into the present day and it is likely, therefore, that the ditches identified during the excavation are former boundaries associated with a post-medieval/ early modern field system. This interpretation is further supported by the low incidence of finds and the environmental results which suggest that the area at the time of the ditches filling in was open meadow or grassland away from any focus of agricultural or domestic activity (Fryer, Appendix E).

3.4 Plant holes

The plant holes (**104**, **106**, **108** and **118**) were likely remnants of the former orchard which is known to have existed within the development area from at least the early years of the 20th century (Howlett, 2013).

4 Conclusion

The excavation has successfully identified evidence of human activity within the development area, predominantly from both the late Neolithic and post-medieval periods.

There is a moderate to high level of confidence in the factual results of the excavation, and in the interpretations made due to the clarity of the archaeology, the stratigraphic relationships, and the prevailing site conditions at the time of the fieldwork.

The variation in subsoil across the site shows the dynamics of prehistoric and subsequent soil slip, presumably caused after land clearance and or through periodic natural agency once ploughing commenced on the site. More intensive soil sieving exercises at sites such as these may be useful in identifying how much of the site has been lost to the plough or thorough natural process. The results may also help determine any subsequent excavation strategy.

The excavation successfully identified that to the west, agricultural activities had little impact on sub-surface archaeology, whilst within the central areas ploughing had a detrimental affect on less robust features, such as the shallow curvilinear ditches. Towards the east there was an increase in the depth of subsoil, thus helping to protect the features here.

The excavation proved moderately successful in locating features identified by the previous evaluation. In Area 2 almost all of the features found during the evaluation were located during the excavation. In contrast, in Area 1 very few of the features found during the evaluation were identified during the excavation. There was also a discrepancy in the dating of the features, with those identified during the evaluation containing material dating from the Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic whilst those recorded during the excavation being predominantly dating from the late Neolithic and/or the early Bronze Age. The reason for this is unclear but it is possible that features considered to be linear or ditch-like during the evaluation were actually more pit-like and that excavation during the evaluation stage had removed a good portion of the features.

Based on the excavation results, the findings would appear to be of at least local and possibly regional importance.

The archaeological works have ensured the long-term survival of the data collected, through the compilation of a site archive, and this report.

5 Archive

The evaluation produced the following document archive, under the site code of VWM25. The event number assigned by Cambridgeshire County Councils Historic Environment Team is ECB 4417.

Table 5.1: Archive quantification

Archive component	Count
Number record	1
Context indices	4
Context records	91
Sample Indices	1
Sample records	7
Photographic registers	6
Black and White photographs	92
Digital images	101
Drawing indices	2
Drawings	64
Permatrace sheets	7

The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CHET) following the methodology laid out in the WSI (Network Archaeology, 2015ii).

The CHET event number relating to these works is ECB 4417 whilst the OASIS identification is networka2-224013. A copy of the OASIS data collection form can be found in Appendix G.

6 Acknowledgements

Network Archaeology would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance during the evaluation and the production of this report.

Table 6.1: Acknowledgements

Organisation	Name	Position	Contribution
n/a	Brian Tyler	Land Owner	n/a
Cambridgeshire Archaeology	Kasia Gdaniec	Senior Archaeologist	External monitoring
The Howlett Consultancy	Dr Christopher Howlett	Director	Consultant
n/a	Sue Anderson	External specialist	Specialist finds reports
n/a	Barry Bishop	External specialist	Specialist finds reports
n/a	Emily Edwards	External specialist	Specialist finds reports
n/a	Val Fryer	External specialist	Specialist finds reports
Network Archaeology	Claire Lingard	Technical Director	Project management
	David Bonner	Technical Director	Machine watching Excavation Report editing
	Rubén López	Project Officer	Machine watching Excavation
	Stephen Thorpe	Project Officer	Excavation; Report writing
	Toni Neary	Project Archaeologist	Excavation
	Richard Moore	Project Manager	Surveying Excavation GIS plans Finds reports
	Jacqueline Churchill	Illustrations manager	CAD drawings
	Caroline Kemp	Finds Supervisor	Finds processing

7 Bibliography

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ALGAO	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the east of England	EAA occasional paper 14
ALGAO	2011	Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England	EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011
Cambridgeshire Heritage Environment Team (CHET)	2015	Untitled	Unpublished brief
Cooper, NJ (ed),	2006	The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda, University of Leicester/ English Heritage	
Department for Communities and Local Government	2010	PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment	The Stationery Office
Department for Communities and Local Government	2008	PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies	Update 2/2008
EAA	2005	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England	Occasional Paper 14
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Howlett Consultancy, The	2013	A Heritage Desk-based Assessment Relating to: A proposed residential development at: Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. Doc. No. HC/108/A	Unpublished client report
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	2014b (Rev.)	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation	
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	2014c (Rev.)	Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials	
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	2014d (Rev.)	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	
Historic England	1991	Exploring Our Past	London

Historic England	1997	English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (Unpublished draft)	London
Historic England	2001	Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy	London
Historic England	2008	Investigative Conservation: Guidance on How the Detailed Examination of Artefacts from Archaeological Sites Can Shed Light on Their Manufacture and Use	London
Historic England	2009	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation	London
Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen	2012	East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust)	
MGC	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	Museums and Galleries Commission London
Network Archaeology	2015i	Victoria Way Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenches and Soil Testing	Unpublished client report
Network Archaeology	2015ii	Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Excavation	Unpublished client report
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
Stratascan	2013	Geophysical Survey Report: Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. Job Ref.: J3322	Unpublished client report
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Watkinson, D & Neil A. V	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford

7.1 Website Sources

Archaeology Data Service	WWWi	http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/?CFID=1143881&CFTOKEN=60471957	
Archaeology at Heathrow Terminal 5	WWWii	http://www.framearch.co.uk/t5/grooved-ware-pit/neolithic-pits/	
Great Western Park	WWWiii	http://www.gw-park.co.uk/archaeology/	
Heritage Gateway	WWWiv	http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/?refine=true	
University of Leicester	WWWv	https://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/projects/rothleytemplegrange.html	

APPENDIX A

Archaeological and historical background

The chalk landscape south of the village of Melbourn is known to contain evidence of Mesolithic to Neolithic land use within its flint rich buried soils, as well as the remains of Bronze Age barrows and enclosures and a Roman trackway.

Excavations in 2000-02 of a site adjacent to the PDA revealed remains of an Anglo Saxon cemetery and a smaller number of later prehistoric remains. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery extended to within 31m of the west edge of the PDA. Two phases of prehistoric activity were identified: pits dating to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age and post-built structures and pits dating to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age, and perhaps representing more permanent occupation.

In 2004, six evaluation trenches were opened in the Victoria Way development, immediately to the east of the PDA, revealing two small features and quantities of struck flint. A similar scale of activity was indicated during the evaluation of the site for the new cemetery, located immediately to the south of the PDA.

A desk-based assessment of the PDA (The Howlett Consultancy 2013) noted that while the PDA itself contained no current evidence of archaeological remains, it lies in a wider locality where there are significant archaeological remains, particularly prehistoric funerary monuments. It concluded that there was a likelihood of small-scale prehistoric activity within the PDA.

A geophysical survey of the PDA detected faint linear anomalies. An interpretation of these as geological in origin was thought most probable. There were also scattered patches of magnetic disturbance consistent with the presence of ferrous objects, concentrated in particular around the edges of the PDA (Stratascan 2013).

Archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in November 2014. Six 50m-long trenches were opened and excavated, and samples were taken from across the site were sieved to test for artefact presence within ploughsoil and subsoils.

The evaluation identified a number of small ditches, gullies, and shallow postholes. A parallel ditch and gully, identified at the south-west end of the PDA, were considered to be possible evidence of a prehistoric field system. The ditch contained Bronze Age to Iron Age worked flints, as well as butchered animal bone, possible Bronze Age pottery, and environmental evidence of former agricultural practices. The artefacts hint at domestic activity within or close to the PDA. The ditch also produced Mesolithic to early Neolithic flints, an indicator of earlier activity.

In the centre of the PDA, fired clay fragments found in association with two curvilinear gullies could possibly indicate the presence of former occupation structures, although the only dating from this part of the site was a single Roman pot sherd.

Within the north-eastern part of the PDA, a 1.2m-thick deposit of colluvium apparently filled a geological or periglacial feature. Below this, a 'buried soil' overlying the weathered chalk substrate could represent an early post-periglacial topsoil; environmental evidence from it indicated that it likely supported a short-turfed grassland. The lower portion of the colluvium, and the buried soil, both yielded small quantities of Mesolithic to early Neolithic worked flints. The soil sieving exercise recovered a small quantity of worked flint, with no significant concentrations identified.

The findings from the evaluation as a whole were considered to indicate that human activity was taking place within the PDA, possibly as early as the Mesolithic, and during the Bronze Age or Iron Age (Network Archaeology, 2015).

APPENDIX B

CONTEXT DATABASE

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Finds (Y/N)
1	100	Layer		Up to 0.26m thick	Soft dark grey clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments	Topsoil		N
1	101	Layer		Up to 0.2m thick	Soft mid grey-brown clayey silt with frequent chalk pebbles	Subsoil		N
1	102	Layer		n/a	Compact white chalk with common off-white / pale orange silt patches	Natural substrate		N
1	103	Fill	104	0.15m thick	Soft mixed light grey-brown silt with dark grey clay patches and common chalk fragments	Sole fill of plant hole		N
1	104	Cut		0.66m long x 0.58m wide x 0.15m deep	Roughly ovoid cut with irregular concave sides and base	Probable plant hole		N
1	105	Fill	106	0.1m thick	Friable light brown silty sand	Sole fill of plant hole		N
1	106	Cut		1.1m diameter x 0.1m deep	Shallow concave sides with an irregular base	Probable plant hole		N
1	107	Fill	108	0.09m thick	Friable mid brown silty sand	Sole fill of plant hole		N
1	108	Cut		0.33m wide x 0.09m deep	Sub-circular cut with steep concave sides and an undulating base	Probable plant hole		N
1	109	Fill	110	0.26m thick	Compact dark orange-brown clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Sole fill of pit		N
1	110	Cut		1.4m long x 0.7m wide x 0.26m deep	Roughly ovoid cut with steep concave sides and a concave base	Pit		N
1	111	Fill	112	0.65m thick	Mid brown friable silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		Y
1	112	Cut		0.9m long x 0.8m wide x 0.65m deep	Circular cut with near vertical sides and a flat base	Pit	135	Y
1	113	Fill	114	0.12m thick	Compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent small chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		Y
1	114	Cut		0.5m long x 0.45m wide x 0.12m deep	Circular cut with moderate concave sides and a concave base	Possible pit or posthole	135	Y

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Finds (Y/N)
1	115	Fill	116	0.13m thick	Mid grey friable silt with frequent small chalk fragments	Sole fill of shallow pit or posthole		N
1	116	Cut		0.82m long x 0.56m wide x 0.13m deep	Ovoid cut with moderate concave sides and a concave base	Possible pit or posthole		N
1	117	Fill	118	0.38m thick	Soft mid orange-brown silt with common chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Sole fill of probable plant hole		N
1	118	Cut		Length 2.2m NW-SE turning SW-NE for 1.2m. 0.6m wide x 0.38m deep	Rectilinear cut oriented NW-SE turning NE-SW. Steep concave sides with a concave base	Probable plant hole		N
1	119	Fill	118	0.08m thick	Mid grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of possible pit or posthole		N
1	120	Cut		0.58m long x 0.28m wide x 0.08m deep	Ovoid cut with moderate concave sides and a concave base	Possible pit or posthole	136	N
1	121	Fill	122	0.53m thick	Very soft, friable mixed mid grey-brown silt with frequent small chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		Y
1	122	Cut		0.86m long x 0.73m wide x 0.53m deep	Slightly ovoid cut with near vertical sides and a flat base	Pit	135	Y
1	123	Fill	124	0.18m max thick	Mid grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of possible posthole		N
1	124	Cut		0.46m long x 0.19m wide x 0.18m max depth	Ovoid cut with near vertical sides and an undulating base	Possible posthole	136	N
1	125	Fill	126	0.11m thick	Dark grey friable silt with no inclusions	Sole fill of possible posthole		N
1	126	Cut		0.43m long x 0.19m wide x 0.11m deep	Ovoid cut with steep concave sides and a moderately flat base	Possible posthole	136	N
1	127	Fill	128	0.29m max depth	Dark grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		Y
1	128	Cut		1.04m wide x 0.98m long x 0.29m max deep	Sub-circular cut with steep concave sides and a flat base	Pit	135	Y
1	129	Fill	130	0.28m max thick	Dark brown-grey friable silt with frequent	Sole fill of pit		Y

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Finds (Y/N)
					chalk fragments			
1	130	Cut		0.6m long x 0.56m wide x 0.28m max depth	Circular cut with steep concave sides and a concave base	Pit	135	Y
1	131	Fill	132	0.19m thick	Mid brown-grey friable silt with frequent chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		N
1	132	Cut		1.42m long x 0.91m wide x 0.19m deep	Irregular sub-linear cut with moderate concave sides and an undulating base	Pit	135	N
1	133	Fill	134	0.12m to 0.35m thick	Dark brown friable silt with frequent chalk fragments	Sole fill of pit		N
1	134	Cut		1.40m wide x 0.35m max depth	Irregular sub-linear cut with steep concave sides and an undulating base	Pit	135	N
1	135	Group		26m arc	112 114 128 132 134 122 130	Arc oriented west to east turning north to south formed of 6 pits and a single posthole		Y
1	136	Group		1.3m NNW-SSE x 3.7m NE-SW	120 126 124	Rectilinear post built structure		N
2	200	Layer		0.24m average thickness	Soft dark grey-brown silt	Topsoil		N
2	201	Layer		0.18m to 0.36m thick	Soft mid grey-brown clayey silt with frequent chalk pebbles	Subsoil		N
2		Layer		n/a	Compact white chalk with common off-white / pale orange silt patches	Natural substrate		N
2	203	Fill	204	0.12m thick	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk fragments	Sole infill of former hedge		N
2	204	Cut		0.6m wide x 0.12m deep	NW-SE oriented linear with irregular, near vertical sides and an undulating base	Linear. Probably a former hedge line		N
2	205	Fill	206	0.2m thick	Heavily compact mid brown silty sand with chalk fragments	Fill attributed to a series of plough scars seen against northern bulk		N
2	206	Group		3.8m wide x 0.2m deep. Visible for a length of 14m	Series of narrow linears oriented broadly north to south	Group number assigned to a series of plough-scars seen against the		N

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Finds (Y/N)
						northern bulk		
2	207	Fill	209	0.2m thick max	Compact pale grey-brown clayey silt with abundant chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Primary infilling of ditch		N
2	208	Fill	209	0.26m thick	Soft, friable pale grey-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments	Upper backfill of ditch		Y
2	209	Cut		1.57m wide x 0.42m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base	Ditch	257	N
2	210	Fill	212	0.15m thick	Compact pale grey-brown clayey silt with abundant chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Upper backfill of ditch		N
2	211	Fill	212	0.14m thick	Compact pale grey-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments	Primary infilling of ditch		N
2	212	Cut		0.95m wide x 0.28m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base	Ditch	257	N
2	213	Fill	214	0.06m thick	Compact dark grey-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of ditch		N
2	214	Cut		0.7m wide x 0.06m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with shallow concave sides and a broad flat base	Ditch	254	N
2	215				VOID			
2	216				VOID			
2	217	Fill	219	0.06m thick	Soft pale grey-brown silt	Basal fill of ditch		N
2	218	Fill	219	1.46m wide x 0.22m thick	Soft pale brown silt with sparse chalk fragments	Upper fill of ditch		N
2	219	Cut		0.9m wide x 0.48m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with steep concave sides and a slightly concave base	Ditch	257	N
2	220				VOID			
2	221				VOID			

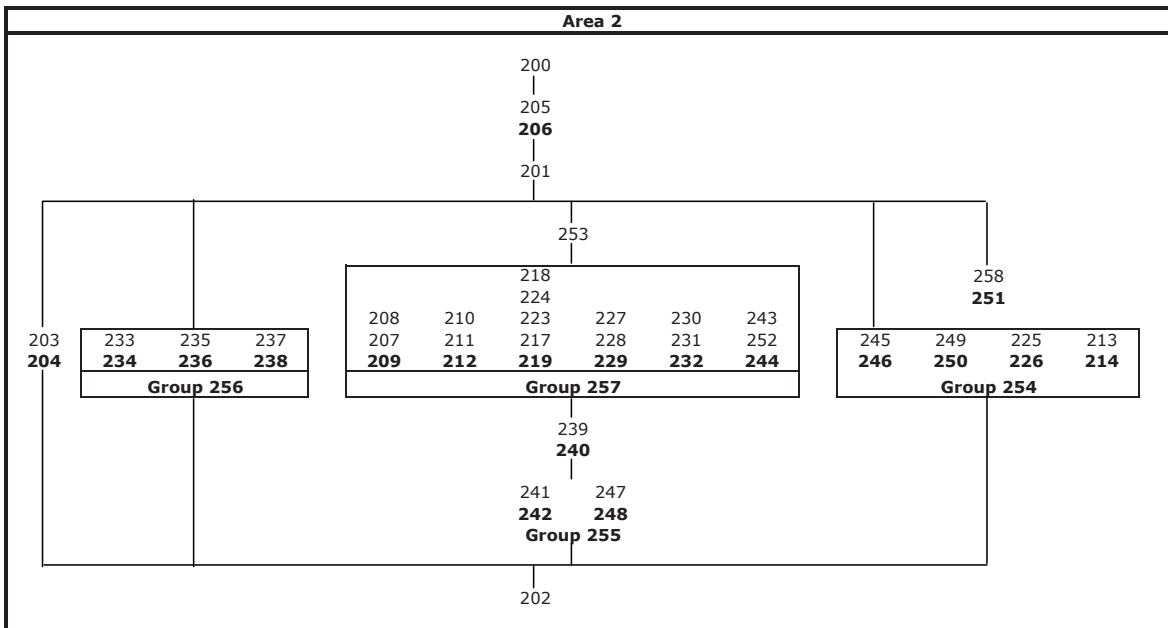
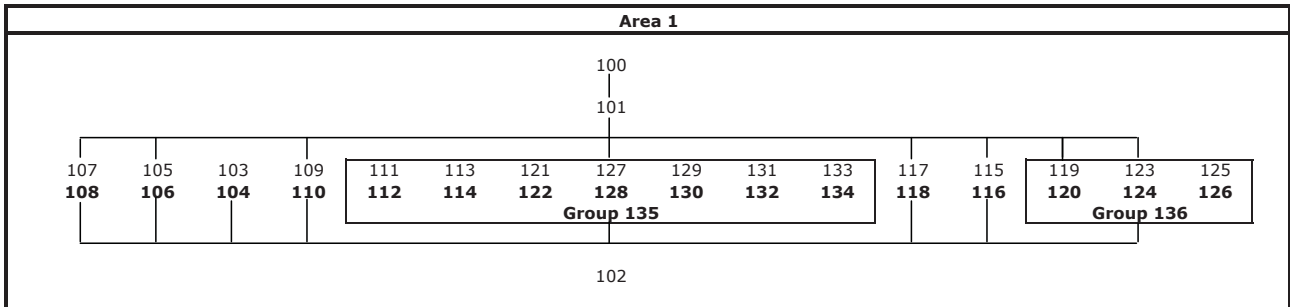
Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Findings (Y/N)
2	222				VOID			
2	223	Fill	219	0.18m thick	Soft pale grey-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments	Secondary fill of ditch		N
2	224	Fill	219	0.24m thick	Compact pale grey-brown silt with frequent chalk fragments	Tertiary fill of ditch		N
2	225	Fill	226	0.05m thick	Mid grey friable silt	Sole fill of ditch terminal		N
2	226	Cut		0.55m wide x 0.05m deep	Linear oriented broadly NNW-SSE with a rounded terminal at its Nw extent. Steep sided profile with a flat base	Ditch terminal	254	N
2	227	Fill	229	0.18m thick	Soft mid grey-brown silt with frequent chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Upper fill of ditch		Y
2	228	Fill	229	0.06m thick	Compact pale grey-brown silt with sparse chalk fragments	Basal fill of ditch		N
2	229	Cut		1.06m wide x 0.24m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a slightly concave base	Ditch	257	Y
2	230	Fill	232	0.05m thick	Pale grey friable silt with frequent small chalk fragments	Upper fill of ditch		N
2	231	Fill	232	0.05m thick	Mid grey friable silt with frequent small chalk fragments	Basal fill of ditch		Y
2	232	Cut		1.25m wide x 0.25m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base	Ditch	257	Y
2	233	Fill	234	0.13m thick	Pale orange-brown friable silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	Sole fill of ditch		N
2	234	Cut		0.88m wide x 0.13m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base	Ditch	256	
2	235	Fill	236	0.4m thick	Pale orange-brown friable silty sand with frequent chalk fragments	Sole fill of ditch		Y
2	236	Cut		1.65m wide x 0.4m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a concave base	Ditch	256	Y

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Findings (Y/N)
2	237	Fill	238	0.5m thick	Soft mid orange-brown silt with common chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Sole fill of ditch		N
2	238	Cut		2.3m wide x 0.5m deep	Linear oriented broadly NW-SE with moderate to steep concave sides and a slightly concave base	Ditch	256	N
2	239	Fill	240	0.18m thick	Soft pale grey-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of possible ditch terminal		N
2	240	Cut		0.7m wide x 0.18m deep surviving	Linear oriented NW-SE with an amorphous terminal at its southeast extent. Surviving profile is irregular concave	Probable ditch terminal. Pre-cursor of ditch 253		N
2	241	Fill	242	0.18m thick	Soft pale grey-brown silt with common chalk fragments	Sole fill of probable natural depression		N
2	242	Cut		0.5m wide x 0.18m deep	Sub-linear oriented broadly NW-SE. Steep concave side, flat base	Curvilinear ditch. The presence of a terminal may be the result of ploughing	255	N
2	243	Fill	244	0.36m thick	Soft pale grey-brown silt with common chalk fragments and sparse charcoal flecks	Upper fill of ditch		N
2	244	Cut		1.48m wide x 0.38m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base	Ditch	257	N
2	245	Fill	246	0.09m thick max	Pale grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of possible ditch or former hedge line		N
2	246	Cut		0.65m wide x 0.09m deep	Linear oriented broadly E-W with irregular concave sides and an undulating base	Possible ditch or former hedgeline	254	N
2	247	Fill	248	0.08m thick max	Pale grey friable silt with occasional chalk fragments	Sole fill of possible ditch or former hedge line		Y
2	248	Cut		0.76m wide x up to 0.08m deep	Linear oriented broadly E-W with irregular concave sides and an undulating base	Possible ditch or former hedgeline	255	Y
2	249	Fill	250	0.06m thick	Pale grey friable silt	Sole fill of ditch. Could not be distinguished from 258		N

Area	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Group	Findings (Y/N)
2	250	Cut		0.52m wide x 0.06m deep	Linear oriented NNW-SSE with vertical edges and a flat base	Shallow ditch	254	N
2	251	Cut		0.8m wide x 0.06m deep	Possibly ovoid cut with irregular concave sides and a flat base	Possible pit or plant hole. Not clear in plan		N
2	252	Fill		0.1m thick max	Compact pale grey-brown sandy silt with common small chalk fragments	Primary fill of ditch		N
2	253	Layer				Number assigned to cleaning around ditch 257		Y
2	254	Group		0.52m to 0.7m wide x 0.05 to 0.06m deep. 26m linear length	214 226 250 246	Slightly curvilinear ditch oriented east to west turning north to south		N
2	255	Group		27.45m linear length	242 248	Slightly curvilinear ditch oriented east to west turning north to south		N
2	256	Group		0.88m to 2.3m wide x 0.13m to 0.5m deep x 27.5m long	234 236 238	Linear ditch oriented broadly NNW-SSE with moderate concave sides and a flat base		N
2	257	Group		0.9m to 1.57m wide x 0.25m to 0.48m deep. 33m long	209 212 219 229 232 244	Linear ditch oriented broadly NNW-SSE with generally moderate concave sides and a flat base		Y
2	258	Fill	251	0.06m thick	Pale grey friable silt	Sole fill of pit. Could not be distinguished from 249		N

APPENDIX C

Matrices



APPENDIX D

Finds catalogue

Context	Feature number	Data	CBM	Clay pipe	Flint	Pottery	Stone	Grand Total
			Pmed	Pmed	LNeo/EBA	Mneo/EBA	Burnt	
111	112	Count			12		1	13
		Weight			187		228	415
113	114	Count			1	7		8
		Weight			1	6		7
121	122	Count			22			22
		Weight			172			172
127	128	Count			40			40
		Weight			224			224
129	130	Count			7		1	8
		Weight			53		431	484
208	209	Count	1					1
		Weight	1					1
231	232	Count					1	1
		Weight					215	215
235	236	Count			1			1
		Weight			2			2
253	n/a	Count		1				1
		Weight		2				2
Total Count			1	1	83	7	3	95
Total Weight			1	2	639	6	874	1522

SPECIALIST FINDS REPORTS

Animal Bone

Dr Richard Moore

Introduction

Around 140 bone fragments, weighing 2487g in total, were assessed. With a single exception, all of this assemblage was retrieved from fills of pits in Area 1. These pits are dated to the late Neolithic period on the basis of their flint and pottery assemblages (Bishop; Edwards, this report). Area 2 produced only a small fragment, possibly of a sheep radius, from context 227, the upper fill of ditch 229. A single snail shell was also recovered, from fill 127 of pit 128. It is of *Cepaea hortensis*, a very common and familiar species with a wide range of habitats.

Description / results

The bone is all in a similar condition. Although much of it is fragmented, it is fairly dense and solid, the mineral content having maintained its coherence despite loss of much of the organic component. It is uniformly of creamy buff colour. Surfaces are eroded and reticulated with fine channelling, possibly from the action of mollusc radulae or gnawing by small mammal.

The identifiable bones are described below. There is a single sheep or goat lower molar tooth from fill 127 of pit 128, but otherwise only cattle and pig bones are represented.

Cattle

The cattle bones include three pieces that are from significantly larger individuals than the others: a fused radius and ulna and a piece of humerus shaft from fill 111 of pit 112, and an astragalus from fill 121 of pit 122. These larger bones may indicate a very sexually dimorphic population, with bulls or castrated draught animals much larger than cows, but otherwise, they would indicate the exploitation of more than one population. At a late Neolithic date, both wild and domestic bovines may have been locally present; and these large bones are likely to be of aurochs.

The aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) is generally considered to be the wild ancestor of domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*) and the occurrence of these two species together can therefore contribute to an understanding of the origins and spread of cattle domestication (Wright 2013). There is a degree of

overlap in size between the two species, and they can only be distinguished unequivocally by their differing skull morphology or from largely complete skeletons where the overall body proportions of the two species differ.

However, the measurements of the astragalus from pit 122 put it firmly in the range of typical astragali of aurochs. Chipping (2014), in a study of aurochs remains from cave sites in North Yorkshire quotes sizes of: radius Bp 99.48mm, ulna BPC 58.32mm and astragalus GLI 87.2mm. These compare closely to the values (radius Bp 103.0mm, ulna BPC 55.9mm and astragalus GLI 87.1mm) measured from the Victoria Way bones. (The ulna BPC may not be accurate as the medial end of the articular surface is damaged and its extent has been estimated from the corresponding facet on the radius.) A direct comparison of the radius from pit 112 with a left radius identified as aurochs from a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age context at Pode Hole Quarry, Peterborough (Rackham in Daniel 2009, 136) showed that although slightly smaller and less robust, but was broadly comparable in size.

Along with the probable date of the pits indicated by the flint and pottery assemblages, it is unlikely that these bones could be of any other species than aurochs. Aurochs are commonly found in Neolithic sites: notable British sites include Hambledon Hill, and Eton Rowing Lake in the earlier Neolithic, and Durrington Walls in the later Neolithic. In sites in Britain and elsewhere in Western Europe aurochs generally make up no more than twenty per cent of all cattle bones (Serjeantson 2011).

Other species

By contrast to the cattle bones, there is no positive indication among the pig bone assemblage that wild animals were being exploited, the bones all falling within the normal size range of presumed domestic swine from archaeological sites.

The lack of ovicaprid bones, apart from a single molar tooth, is striking. It is possible that differential preservation or merely random factors within a small overall assemblage may have been factors, but it seems more likely that this reflects a relative lack of utilisation of sheep or goats at this location in the later Neolithic.

Discussion

There is little obvious pattern to the range of bone types in each pit. The bones from each pit do not seem to belong to a single individual animal and there are instances where a pair of right and

left bones appear to be non-matching. The range of bone types present is fairly typical of processing waste rather than waste originating from food residues, which would be expected to have a greater proportion of remains from prime meat-bearing joints. This might favour either a utilitarian function, such as the use of bone waste as post-packing, or burial, perhaps for symbolic reasons, of less useful parts of a butchered carcass.

However, it has been suggested elsewhere that the burial of aurochs bones may have had a cultural significance. Harcourt (1971, 35), for instance, discusses the killing of wild species to prevent damage to crops or, in the case of aurochs, to stop interference or interbreeding with domestic stock. It is easy to imagine that this could be accompanied by ritual burial of part of the least favoured parts of the animal, following consumption of the abundant meat of a slaughtered aurochs. Such explanations, however, would also need to account for the pig and domestic cattle bones in the same contexts.

The possibility of differential preservation presents difficulties with any interpretation. There is a strong correlation with the depth of the pits and the quantities of bone retrieved, and it may be the case that components of the original assemblage buried less deeply have been lost. The composition of the assemblage also seems to be biased towards the more robust skeletal elements, also suggesting that there may have been loss of some bone. The comparative scarcity of ribs, for instance, could be a consequence either of their being used for food, or their vulnerability to the perhaps aggressive preservation environment of the strongly calcareous local soils.

The more robust skeletal elements have, however, survived quite well. Although much of the organic content may have been lost, there is a good chance that there is enough extractable material for radiocarbon dating, should this be required.

Although small, the assemblage of bones from the late Neolithic pits is of significance and possible research value because of the presence of bones of both domestic wild cattle and wild aurochs populations. It is therefore recommended that this material should be retained in the site archive. The occurrence of these bones should be highlighted in any publication or other form of dissemination, such as the OASIS submission, arising from the project, and consideration should be given to radiocarbon dating of the aurochs bones.

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Catalogue

121 Fill of pit 122

Cattle

Astragalus: right, complete. Large: greatest length lateral (GLl) = 87.1mm; greatest length medial (GLm) = 81.6mm; breadth of distal end (Bd) = 55.2mm (Von den Driesch 1976, 88-9).
Radius: articular region and part of shaft; fused with Ulna: right small part of shaft
Ulna: shaft fragment, fused region, not with above
Tooth: upper molar
Calcaneum: left, central articular region
Horn core: right, lower part, together with part of cranium
Skull: fragments, probably with above but not re-fitting
Tibia: right, distal half, possibly deliberately cracked

Pig

Ulna: right, articular region, top and bottom missing
Radius: right, shaft, probably with above
Calcaneum: right, central region
Tibia: right, distal half

?Pig

Femur: shaft
Humerus: left, shaft, small

127 Fill of pit 128

Cattle

Metacarpal: right, proximal half

?Cattle

Tooth, molar fragment

Pig

Tooth: left, upper 4th premolar, complete

Sheep or goat

Tooth: right, lower molar

unidentified

Shaft fragments

111 Fill of pit 112

Cattle

Radius/ulna: left, fused articular region and proximal part of radius shaft, proximal end of ulna missing. Very large: breadth proximal end radius (Bp) = 103.0mm; breadth humeral articular surface (BFp) = 94.2mm; depth across processus anconaeus (BPA) = 91.9mm; greatest breadth of proximal articular surface (BPC estimated) 55.9mm (Von den Driesch 1976, 79-81)
Humerus: ?right, part of distal end of shaft,; very large and robust, ?matching above
Tibia: left, distal half
Tibia: right distal half, not matching above
Scapula: left, cranial end of articulation missing, most of blade missing

Scapula: right, most of blade missing. ?not quite matching above
Scapula: blade fragments, may belong to either of above
Innominate: right, iliac and ischial parts of articulation
Innominate: right, pubis, probably not with above

?Cattle

Cervical vertebra: fragment
Rib: blade fragment
Innominate: fragment

Pig

Humerus: right, shaft
Tooth: left, lower canine, female

?Pig

Lumbar vertebra
Rib: fragment

129 Fill of pit 130

Unidentified

Fragments, possibly scapula

227 Upper fill of ditch 229

Unidentified

Shaft fragment of ?sheep radius

Ceramic Building Material

Sue Anderson

Summary

One small fragment of CBM (1g) was recovered from context (208). The piece is too small to determine the fabric in any detail, but it contains fine sand and coarser fragments of white quartz with sparse small ferrous inclusions. The fragment is not full thickness, but seems to be the sanded base of a roof tile or possibly a brick of probable post-medieval date.

Recommendations

This material has been fully recorded and no further work is required. The assemblage contains post-medieval CBM of common type; therefore it is not recommended that the material is retained.

Table 1: Catalogue of ceramic building material

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	Peg	Mortar	Notes	Date
208	fscq	RTP?	1	1				small flake of base, could be brick	pmed

Notes: RTP – post-med plain roof tile. Fabrics – fscq – fine sandy with coarse quartz

Clay tobacco pipe

Dr Richard Moore

A single fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from context 253, assigned to the cleaning layer above ditch 257. The ditch has been interpreted as a possible field boundary but contained no dating evidence.

It has a maximum length of 41.5mm and is rather narrow, tapering from 6.3mm to 5.5mm diameter. The central hole is 1.8mm diameter. Fragments of pipe stem such as this are not readily datable and clay pipes were in common use from the early seventeenth to late nineteenth centuries.

Environmental remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Melbourn, undertaken by Network Archaeology during a second phase of work at the site, recorded a small number of pits of possible prehistoric date and field boundary ditches of probable post-medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and seven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) for the mollusc shells. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present at a low to moderate density within all seven assemblages, but other plant macrofossils are generally scarce. Cereal grains, including specimens of oat (*Avena* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), are recorded, but all occur as single specimens within an assemblage and all are very poorly preserved. A single possible dock (*Rumex* sp.) fruit is present within sample 2 (pit [128]) and fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, many of which are abraded, are also recorded.

The fragments of black porous and tarry material all have the appearance of modern 'industrial' residues and it is thought most likely that they may be bi-products of the combustion of coal, small pieces of which are also present throughout. Such materials, probably derived from either the spreading of night soil or the use of steam implements on the land, are frequently recorded within contexts of prehistoric date where they have been introduced via the bioturbation of the soil column. Other remains occur infrequently within the current assemblages, but do include small

pieces of abraded bone and a single ferrous globule. All seven assemblages contain moderate to high densities of buff/grey mineral concretions, with similar material also being recorded within the samples from the first evaluation (Fryer 2014).

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial snails are common throughout. Many are pitted and abraded, possibly suggesting that they are contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, but others retain good coloration and delicate surface structuring, almost certainly indicating that they are intrusive within the feature fills. Open country species, including those indicative of short-turfed grassland, are predominant, but it is suggested that at some stage, pits [112], [122] and [134] were either overgrown or filled with damp leaf litter.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, as with the initial evaluation (Fryer *ibid.*), the recovered assemblages are small, with the few recorded plant remains probably being derived from scattered refuse or midden waste. Again, some limited prehistoric agricultural activity is probably indicated, although wild crops (i.e. the hazel nuts) and animal products (i.e. the bone fragments) remained important components of the local diet. Perhaps ironically, the post-medieval ditch assemblages are more difficult to interpret as the density of recovered material is extremely low. However, this paucity of material almost certainly indicates that the features were entirely peripheral to any focus of domestic/agricultural activity, with the composition of the mollusc assemblage suggesting that the ditches may have been situated within open meadow or grassland.

Although the current assemblages are limited in composition, they do illustrate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Melbourn. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 40 – 60 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated features recorded during excavation.

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Table 2 Environmental results

Sample No.	1	2	6	7	3	4	5
Context No.	121	127	133	111	228	237	243
Feature No.	122	128	134	112	229	238	244
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Cereals							
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)							x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x			x			x
Cereal indet. (grains)				x	x		
Herbs							
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		xcf					
Tree/shrub macrofossils							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xx	x		x	x		
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	x	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx	xx	x			x
Charcoal >5mm		x	x	x			
Charcoal >10mm			x	x			
Charred root/stem			x		x		
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xx	xx		xx	x	x
Black tarry material	x	x	x		x	x	
Bone	x	x		x	x		x
Burnt stone							x
Ferrous globule		x					
Small coal frags.	x	xx	x	x	xx	xx	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bone					x		
Mollusc shells							
Woodland/shade loving species							
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>			x	x			
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.			x		x		
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.			x				
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	x	x	x	xx			
<i>Ena</i> sp.			x	x			
<i>Macrogastra rolphii</i>	x			x			
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.			x	x			
<i>Pomatius elegans</i>	x			x			
Open country species							
<i>Helicella itala</i>	x	xx	xx		xx	x	xxx
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	xxx
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	x	x	x		x	x	x
<i>V. costata</i>	x	x	x	x	x		x
Catholic species							
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.			x	x			
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>				x			
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens cf = compare

Heat-affected stone

Dr Richard Moore

Three pieces of heat-affected stone were recovered from features excavated at Victoria Way, Melbourn, South Cambridgeshire, two from Area 1 and one from Area 2.

All three pieces are in a greyish, finely granular rock, fracturing into flat slabs. This is probably Totternhoe Stone, described by BGS (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>) as 'A distinctly harder unit in the Grey Chalk Subgroup. Typically brownish-grey, fine-grained calcarenite ... Thin to thickly bedded. Phosphatic in part with dark brown pellets a few mm across, up to nodules several cm across. Fossiliferous. Locally used as a building stone'. It outcrops in a narrow band between the centre of Melbourn and the A10 Cambridge road, 1km to the north-west of the site.

Catalogue

Context 111 (Fill of pit 112) Rhomboidal cobble, weighing 228g, with maximum dimensions of 79.3mm by 55.2mm and 32.7mm thick, flattish top and bottom, rounded edges throughout, though one side shows a fresher surface than the other three. Deep reddening, presumably by heating, on all surfaces.

Context 129 (Fill of pit 130) Angular slab, roughly a right-angled triangle with one corner jaggedly broken off, weighing 431g, 134.2mm by 98.4mm and 37.1mm thick. Upper surface with dendritic pattern of fine cracks, possibly original to the rock rather than from subsequent heating. Fairly fresh breaks on three sides, the fourth side with a rounded 'top' edge. Slight heat reddening around the 'bottom' edge of the same side.

Context 231 (Fill of pit 232) Broken fragment of a roundish cobble, weighing 215g, with maximum dimensions of 64.2mm by 55.3mm by 41.7mm. Two sides with fairly fresh breaks, other surfaces rounded. Fairly uniform heat-reddening on all surfaces.

Discussion

It is likely that these stone occurred naturally within the thin till layers that overlie the chalk bedrock of the site, transported the short distance from the nearby outcropping by glacio-fluvial

action. There is, however, a possibility of deliberate deposition of the stones within the features from which they were recovered, especially in the case of the pieces found in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pits of group 135.

Lithic assessment

Barry Bishop

Introduction

The archaeological investigations at Victoria Way resulted in the recovery of a medium sized assemblage of struck flint. All of the pieces have been catalogued and described separately (Table 3). This report provides a summary description of the assemblage and assesses its archaeological significance and potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of activity at the site. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980). A preceding archaeological evaluation at the site produced a further 86 struck flints and these have been reported on separately (Bishop 2014).

Table 3: Quantification and distribution

Feature	Fill	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched
Pit 112	111	1		5	2			2	1	1
Pit 114	113			1						
Pit 122	121	2	1	11	2				2	4
Pit 128	127	2	2	24	4	1	1			6
Pit 130	129	1		4	1					1
Ditch 236	235						1			
No.		6	3	45	9	1	2	2	3	12
%		7.2	3.6	54.2	10.8	1.2	2.4	2.4	3.6	14.5

Description

Raw Materials

The raw materials all comprise good knapping-quality flint but recortication precludes identifying the colour of most pieces. However, occasional recent breaks have revealed the flint to be invariably fine-grained and translucent dark grey or black. Cortex is present on just under half of the pieces and this is thin and rough but often weathered with occasional thermal surfaces also present. This suggests that the most likely source of the flint is the outcropping glacially weathered flint seams that can be found in the Holywell Chalk to the south of the site, and which were widely

exploited during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods further to the east at Heathfield (Dickens and Dodwell 1997; Dodwell 1997; McFadyen 1999a; 1999b).

Condition

Nearly all of the pieces are in a good or only very slightly chipped condition; it is possible that the assemblage had experienced light 'trampling' and some of the tools had clearly been used, but most pieces probably entered the pits not long after manufacture. A single struck piece, from pit [128], has been burnt. All pieces are recorticated and this has caused the edges of some to become friable and crumbly, masking potential light retouch or use-wear traces.

Technology, Typology and Dating

The assemblage is technologically homogeneous and the result of a competent but adaptable flake-based reduction strategy. There is a wide range of flake shapes and sizes present, these varying from thin and narrow blades to broad thick flakes. Dorsal scar patterns and remnant striking platforms preserved on flakes indicate that the cores were mostly multi-platformed but designed to produce a wide variety of flakes types. The cores recovered comprise a multi-platform type and a small single platformed example. Blades, taken here to simply denote flakes that are twice as long as wide, comprise over 18% of the assemblage, but few of these have parallel dorsal scars, indicative of the repeated production of blades, and only two prismatic blades are present, one of which had been serrated. A high proportion of the flakes are relatively thick and sometimes badly detached, most of these being generated as a consequence of the initial shaping and subsequent modification of the cores. There are also many thin flakes that were struck from prepared cores that nearly always had trimmed core-face edges and some flakes have faceted striking platforms, suggesting the use of Levallois-like cores. The absence of systematic reduction indicates the assemblage post-dates the Early Neolithic, whilst the care taken in core preparation and maintenance suggests that it is unlikely to have been made any later than the Early Bronze Age. This can be further refined by the presence of a transverse arrowhead and the possible use of the Levallois method, both of which are characteristic of Later Neolithic industries.

The Features

Pit [112] (fill [111]) contained twelve struck pieces, which including the only two cores recovered from the excavations. These comprised a globular multi-platformed type that had produced both broad and narrow flakes and which had been reused as a hammerstone, and a small thermally fractured cobble from which a few small narrow flakes had been removed. The only retouched

piece comprises a composite end scraper / backed knife, although two blades are present, at least one of which may have been utilized, probably for cutting tasks. The remainder comprise unusable and mostly small pieces of knapping waste.

Pit [114] (fill [113]) provided only one piece, a flake which although not diagnostic could easily be at least broadly contemporary with the other pit assemblages.

Pit [122] (fill [121]) contained 22 pieces, including a diagnostically Later Neolithic petit-tranchet type transverse arrowhead (Clark 1935 class A; Green 1980). Notably, this pit also contained the proximal end of a serrated blade that had broken in antiquity, as evidenced by the break having recorticated, and which refits to the remainder of the serrate which was recovered from pit [130]. Two other retouched pieces, a minimally worked side-scraper and a broken edge-trimmed flake are also present. The assemblage also contains a few narrow and potentially useable flakes and blades but it is dominated by waste pieces from the decortication and shaping of cores.

Pit [128] (fill [127]) produced the largest assemblage from any of the pits, amounting to 40 pieces. These include six retouched pieces; a finely made end-scraper, a flake with minimal retouch on its distal end, a serrated blade, a bifacially worked knife or sickle, a small flake with very worn edges which was probably also as a knife and a retouched flake that may represent another petit-tranchet type arrowhead that broke during manufacture. As with the other assemblages from the pits, a number of potentially useable flakes and blades are also present but much of what is present comprises unusable knapping waste.

Pit [130] (fill [129]) contained seven pieces, the most notable being the main part of the serrated blade that refits to the section found in pit [122]. It also contained a well struck blade that may have been utilized for cutting, but the remainder can all be considered as waste.

Ditch [236] (fill [235]) produced a single undiagnostic flake fragment.

Discussion

All but one struck piece from the excavations came from a small number of pits. The assemblages are technologically homogeneous and can be dated to the Later Neolithic. The assemblages also share a similar 'reduction signature' in that they include a high proportion of tools, most of which have evidently been used, and potentially useable flakes and blades, but are principally composed of irregular knapping waste. The presence of two refitting pieces that had broken in antiquity and

recovered from different pits reinforces the connexions between the assemblages, as well as the activities that led to their manufacture, use and eventual deposition.

Whilst the assemblages contain pieces from all stages in the reduction sequence, it is clear that only a small proportion of what would have been generated during even a limited number of knapping episodes is present. Additionally, the wear exhibited by the implements and the condition of the pieces, including one that had been burnt prior to deposition, demonstrate that the material was not directly knapped into the pits but must have been selected from a larger accumulation, or 'pre-pit' context, prior to being placed into the pits. In this respect the assemblages are comparable to other examples of deliberate or structure deposition seen at Later Neolithic pit sites in East Anglia and beyond (e.g. Garrow 2006; Thomas 1999), and this includes a very similar instance recently recorded close-by at Hinxtton (Bishop and Donnelly forthcoming). It has been argued that these features may have been dug and filled with the intention of marking the landscape, or to commemorate the settlement and the events that occurred there.

Significance and Recommendations

The material from the excavations adds further depth to the prehistoric occupation at Victoria Way as revealed during the evaluation stage, which uncovered evidence mostly relating to Early Neolithic and later Bronze Age activity. The assemblages from the pits are comparable to those from other Neolithic pit sites in East Anglia, although very few of these have so far been recorded on the Cambridgeshire chalklands. Those revealed here therefore represent a welcome addition to the corpus from the wider region and can contribute to further understandings of specific flintworking traditions and depositional practices. The identification of Later Neolithic settlement evidence also underlines the importance of this part of the landscape throughout the prehistoric period and complements the findings from other investigations in the vicinity (see references in evaluation report).

Although the assemblage is clearly of at least local significance, it is by itself too small to warrant further technological, functional or metrical analyses and no further analytical work is recommended. However, a description and an account of the significance of the lithics from the both evaluation and excavation phases, which can be largely based upon on the assessment reports already compiled, should be produced and, alongside relevant illustrations, included in any published account of the investigations.

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Table 4: Flint catalogue

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
111	P112									1	Translucent black	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Composite end scraper / knife made on a thick narrow flake with steep irregular (resharpened?) convex retouch around distal end and fine alternating normal/inverse retouch along left margin with natural steep 'backing' forming right margin. 56x34x13mm
111	P112								1		Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Disintegrated core fragment
111	P112							1			Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Extensively reduced multiplatformed globular core with both broad and narrow flakes removed from numerous directions using edge trimmed platforms. Extensive battering on one end indicates reuse as a hammerstone or pounder. 72g
111	P112			1							Translucent black	None	Good	Blue-white	Narrow and thin, some parallel dorsal scars, not systematic
111	P112			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Narrow, distal end missing
111	P112	1									Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Primary flake, badly detached
111	P112				1						Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small core trimming 27x13x4mm
111	P112			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Small, perhaps struck from a hammerstone or pounder?
111	P112			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Small, thick, fragmented post-deposition
111	P112							1			Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Thermally fractured cobble fragment cf. 'potlid' spall with numerous small narrow flakes removed

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
															from perimeter using the thermal surface. 27g
111	P112			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thick trimming flake
111	P112				1						Translucent black	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Thick, possibly lightly utilized
113	P114			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Broad hard hammer struck but rather non-descript
121	P122	1									Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	C.60% of dorsal cortical, faceted platform
121	P122			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Core modification flake removing hinge fracture scars
121	P122			1							Translucent black	None	Good	Blue-white	Core modification flake with remnants of a platform at distal end
121	P122				1						Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Core modification removing severe hinge fractures
121	P122								1		Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Disintegrated core fragment
121	P122	1									Translucent black	Thin, rough, worn	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Flake with c.80 cortex on dorsal, stepped distal termination
121	P122		1								Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Mostly cortical but with remnants of a platform on distal end
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Narrow almost systematic
121	P122								1		Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Part of a shattered core
121	P122									1	Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Petit tranchet type transverse arrowhead. Flake obliquely truncated at proximal end by steep bifacial retouch and transversely truncated at distal end steep 'normal' retouch. Cutting edge is unretouched and remaining part of the flake's

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
															right margin. Dorsal face has multi-direction scars, indicating possibility of it being a Levallois-like flake. The corner of the arrowhead's left margin and cutting edge is broken. 33x22x3mm
121	P122									1	Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Proximal end of a large flake with a faceted striking platform and with fine moderately shallow retouch and wear along extant part of right margin. >33x38x9mm
121	P122				1						Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Rather thick, proximal end missing
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Retains part of the platform along right margin - almost a core rejuvenation flake
121	P122									1	Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Serrate: Proximal end of a prismatic blade with a faceted platform and very fine serrations along right margin. REFITS to serrate from [129]. >30x21x3mm
121	P122									1	Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Side scraper made on a thick partially cortical flake with fairly minimal and irregular steep scalar convex retouch along right margin. 49x40x13mm
121	P122			1							Unknown	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Small but thick flake with remnants of a platform at distal end
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small core trimming flake
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small core trimming flake
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Small flake, proximal and distal ends missing
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thin, well struck, almost blade-like
121	P122			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-	Well struck

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
														white	
121	P122			1							Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Well struck
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Almost blade-like
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Almost blade-like. Distal missing
127	P128						1				Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Burnt fragment, probably narrow but thick flake
127	P128									1	Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Distal end of a flake with steep retouch along break that has partially broken off. Possible transverse arrowhead broken during manufacture? 28x31x3mm
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Distal missing, almost blade-like
127	P128									1	Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Edge retouched broad flake with fine retouch / heavy use-wear around distal - possibly minimally worked scraper? 44x48x11mm
127	P128									1	Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	End scraper made on a narrow but thick flake with a marked curved profile. Has carefully executed steep semi-parallel slightly convex retouch around distal end. 61x37x12mm
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	faceted platform, almost blade-like
127	P128			1							Translucent black	Thin, rough, worn	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Faceted platform, severe distal termination
127	P128			1							Translucent black	Thin, rough, worn	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Large relatively narrow
127	P128									1	Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Narrow curved flake with steep to semi-invasive retouch along left margin and inverse semi-

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
															invasive retouch along concave right margin. Possible sickle / knife? Perhaps an unfinished implement. 52x35x8mm
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Poorly detached, acute platform
127	P128				1						Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Probably laterally split resulting in it being narrow
127	P128									1	Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Serrate made using a non-prismatic blade with fine serrations cut along left margin and probable worn serrations along right margin. Proximal end missing. >42x17x5mm
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Small and very thin
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Small core modification flake
127	P128									1	Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Small flake with pronounced hinge scar on dorsal and fine abrupt but worn retouch along right margin.
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small trimming flake
127	P128			1							Unknown	None		Blue-white	Small trimming flake
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Small, almost blade-like
127	P128			1							Translucent black	None	Good	Blue-white	Small, cf 'Janus' flake
127	P128		1								Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Small, possibly utilized?
127	P128				1						Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small, some parallel dorsal scars

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Small, thin
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Small, well struck
127	P128		1								Unknown	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Thick
127	P128				1						Unknown	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Thick
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Burnt	Blue-white	Thick but well struck
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Thick core modification, removed severe hinge scars
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thick, c.40% cortex
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Thick, poorly detached, possibly from disintegrated core
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Thin, almost blade-like
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thin, faceted platform
127	P128					1					Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Thin, mostly parallel dorsal scars, also a wide faceted platform. Possibly utilized
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thin, pronounced hinge termination
127	P128			1							Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Thin, proximal and distal ends missing
127	P128	1									Translucent black	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Trimmed platform, severe hinge termination
127	P128				1						Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Very thin, possibly lightly utilized

Context	Feature	Decortication flake	Decortication blade	Flake	Non-prismatic blade	Prismatic blade	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Comments
127	P128	1									Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Very wide platform
127	P128			1							Unknown	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Well struck with faceted platform
129	P130			1							Unknown	Thermal scar	Good	Blue-white	Core modification flake
129	P130			1							Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Core modification flake, poorly detached led to core partially disintegrating
129	P130	1									Unknown	Thin, rough, worn	Good	Blue-white	Narrow but thick with pronounced hinge termination
129	P130			1							Unknown	None	Good	Blue-white	Poorly detached, severe hinge termination
129	P130									1	Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Serrate: Prismatic blade with proximal end broken off (REFIT found in [121]) with fine serrations along right margin. >54x22x5mm
129	P130				1						Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Well struck, almost prismatic, has sporadic edge damage that could be from use but might be post-depositional
129	P130			1							Unknown	Thin, rough unweathered	Good	Blue-white	Well struck, proximal end missing
235	D236						1				Translucent black	None	Good	Blue-white	Fairly thin, appears well struck but fragmentary

Prehistoric pottery

Emily Edwards

Introduction

A total of seven plain body sherds (6g) of prehistoric pottery were manufactured from a heavily shell tempered fabric. These sherds were recovered from the fill (113) of a posthole (114). These sherds are consistent with Neolithic and Bronze Age shelly fabrics. The largest sherd appears to consist of a tiny moulded shoulder, which may narrow the date of the group to the middle Neolithic or early Bronze Age. No more specific dating is possible.

Method

The sherds were examined using a x20 hand lens, according to a standard system developed for the recording of prehistoric pottery and in accordance with the guidelines of the PCRG (1992). They were quantified by sherd count and weight. Generally speaking, in excess of 20 sherds or several diagnostic sherds are required from a single prehistoric context (Shennan 1981; De Roche 1977; Lambrick 1984) to allow some precision of dating taking into account residuality. This must be taken into account with the spot dating, especially where there are less than five sherds.

Conservation

At this stage all the material should be retained. The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation, although some vessels might benefit from more careful packaging. Consideration might be given to reconstructing some vessels.

Further Work

No further work is required but these sherds may benefit from comparison with any larger assemblage, should one be identified during the course of the project.

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APPENDIX F

PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the development area during stripping. Camera facing northwest



Plate 2: General view of area 2 during stripping. Camera facing northeast



Plate 3: Area 1 pit 128, part of group 135. Camera facing north-northwest



Plate 4: Area 1 posthole 114, part of Group 135. Camera facing west-southwest



Plate 5: Area 1 pit 128, part of Group 135. Camera facing east-southeast



Plate 6: Area 1 pit 130, part of Group 135. Camera facing west



Plate 7: Area 2 group of plough scars. Camera facing west-northwest



Plate 8: Area 2 ditch 238, part of group 256. Camera facing east-southeast



Plate 9: Area 2 ditch 244, part of Group 257. Camera facing northwest



Plate 10: Area 2 ditch 248, part of Group 255. Camera facing east-southeast



Plate 11: Colluvium identified in trench 6 during the evaluation



Plate 12: Possible pingo or ice wedge filled with colluvium identified during the evaluation

APPENDIX G

Oasis data collection form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire; excavation - Network Archaeology Ltd

OASIS ID - networka2-224013

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Richard Moore	richardm@netarch.co.uk	18 September 2015
View 2	2	Richard Moore	richardm@netarch.co.uk	15 October 2015

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s	
Boundary file submitted?	Yes	Boundary filename	networka2-224013.zip [2.82kb]
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	

Email Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record about this OASIS record

OASIS:

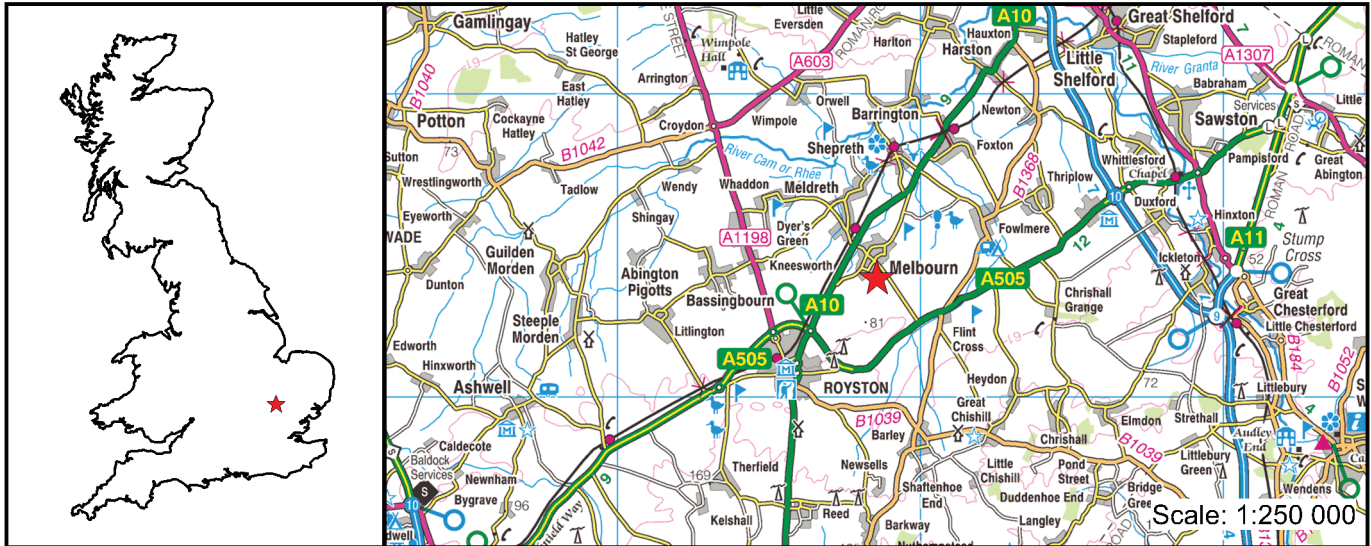
Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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APPENDIX H

FIGURES



Development area							Victoria Way, Melbourn Cambridgeshire Figure 1 Location of development area Scale: 1:10 000
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	1.00	24/09/15	First issue	JLC	ST	DB	
	Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App	

[Contains Ordnance Survey data
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- Development area
- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Evaluation feature
- Magnetic disturbance (field boundary)
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Magnetic variation (probably natural)
- ▲ Magnetic spike (probable ferrous object)

[Based on a figure by Stratascan Ltd 2013]

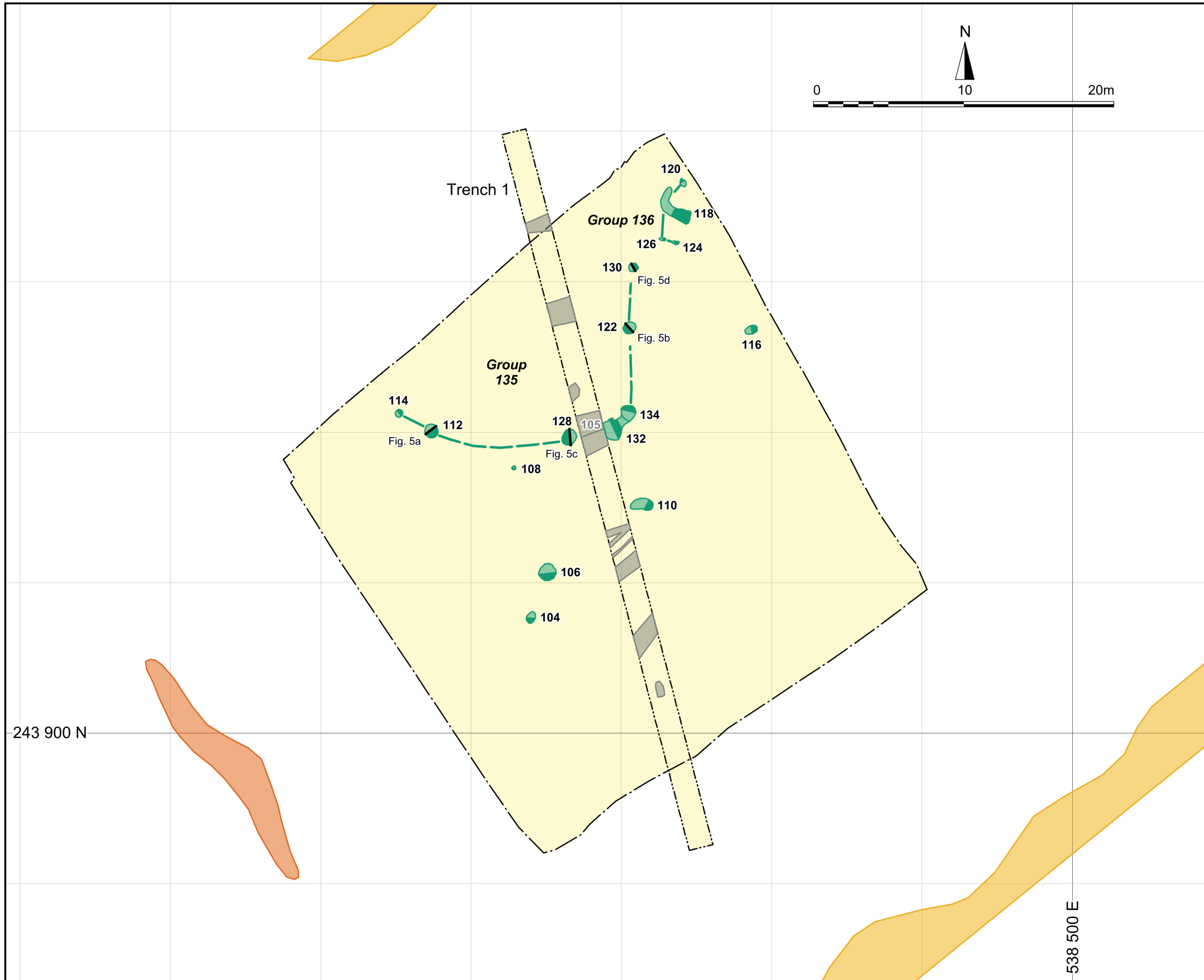
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1.00	24/09/15	First issue	JLC	ST	DB



Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Figure 2
Identified archaeology and geophysics interpretation

Scale: 1:1000



- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated intervention
- Illustrated section
- Possible outline of structure
- Evaluation feature
- Magnetic disturbance (field boundary)
- Magnetic variation (probably natural)

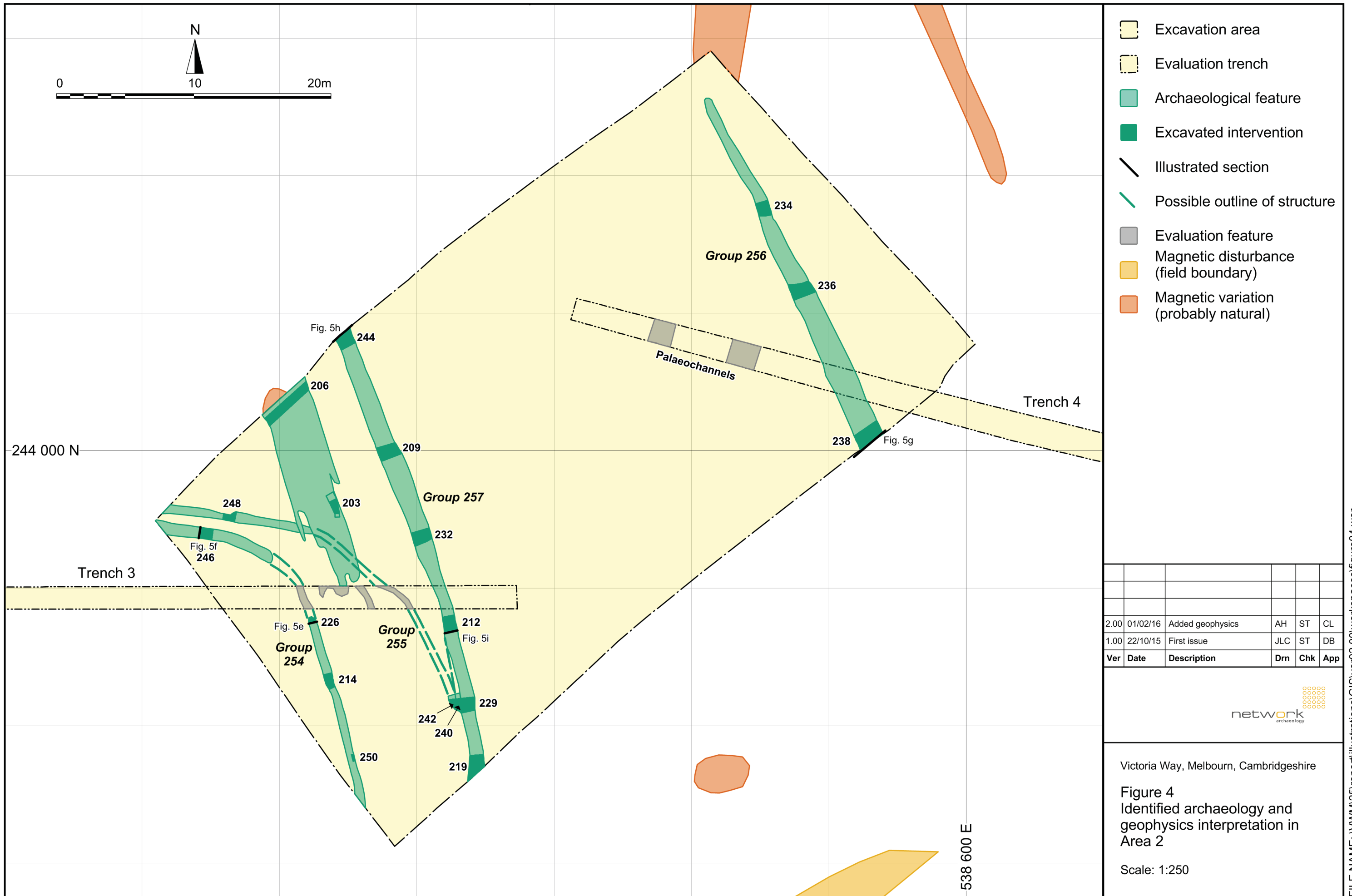
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1.00	22/10/15	First issue	JLC	ST	DB



Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Figure 3
Identified archaeology and geophysics interpretation in Area 1

Scale: 1:250



- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated intervention
- Illustrated section
- Possible outline of structure
- Evaluation feature
- Magnetic disturbance (field boundary)
- Magnetic variation (probably natural)




Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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1.00	22/10/15	First issue	JLC	ST	DB

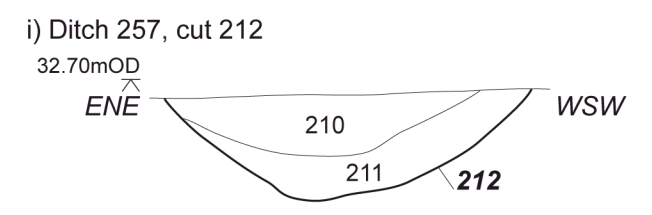
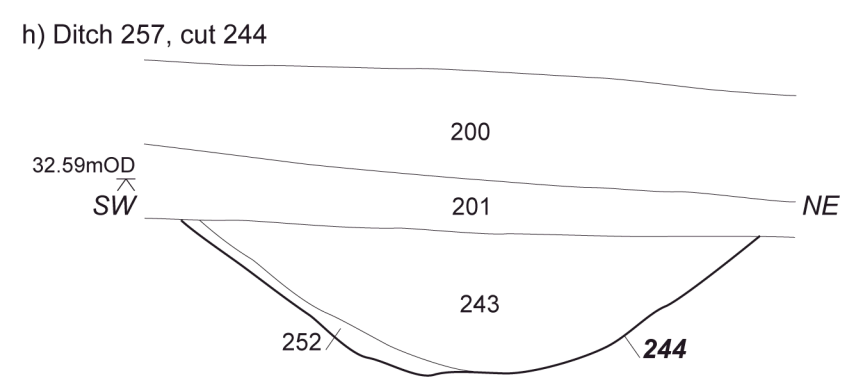
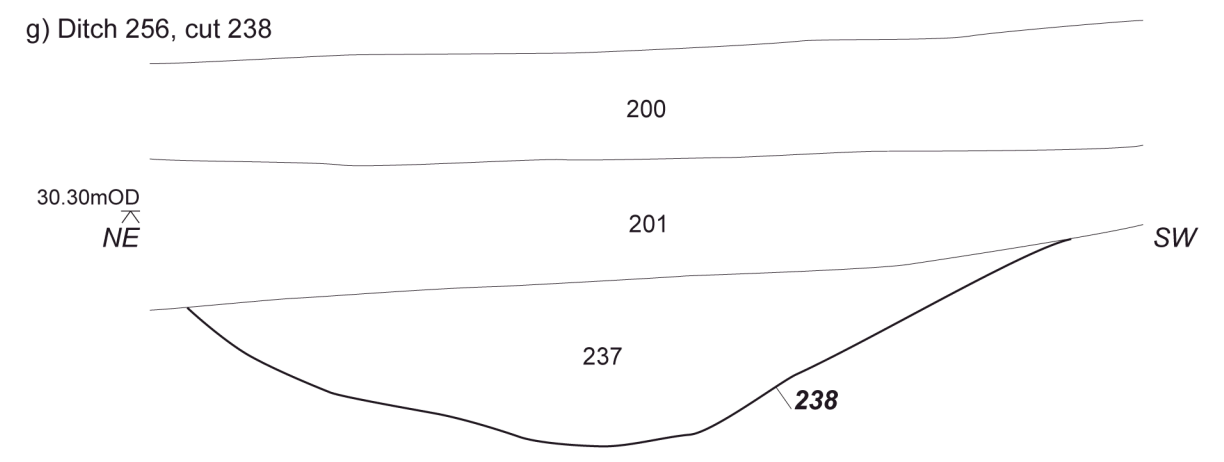
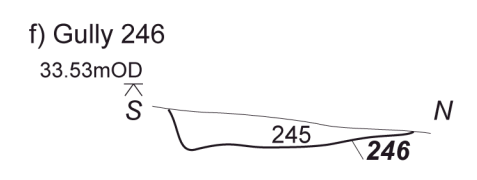
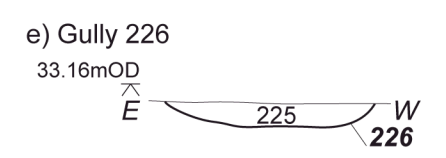
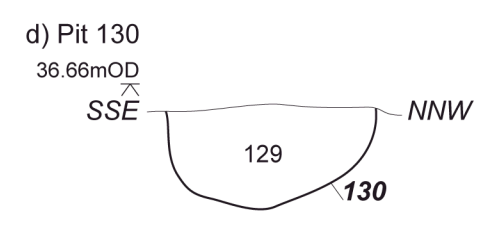
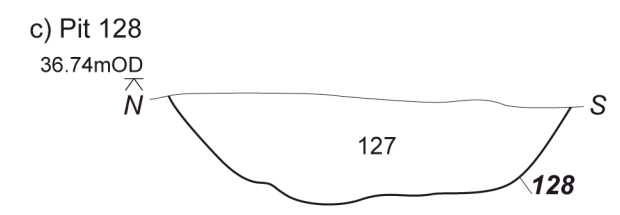
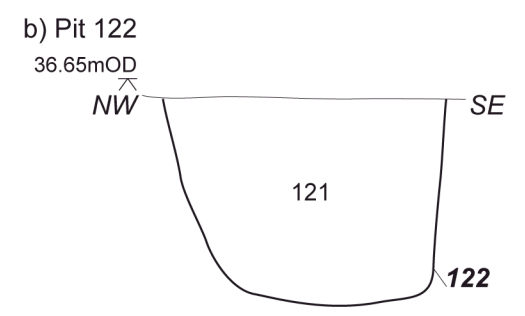
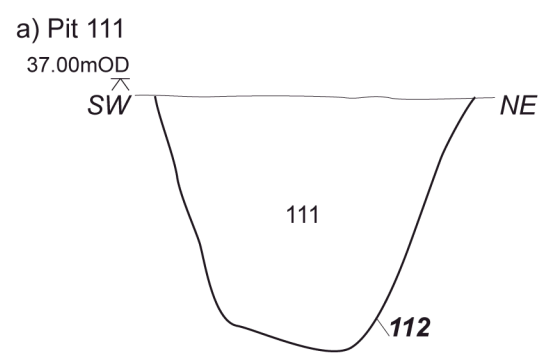


Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Figure 4
Identified archaeology and geophysics interpretation in Area 2

Scale: 1:250

 Limit of excavation
 Cut line
 Layer line
1234 Cut number
 1233 Layer/fill number



Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
2.00	01/02/16	No change	AH	ST	CL
1.00	24/09/15	First issue	JLC	ST	DB



Victoria Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Figure 5
Selected sections

Scale 1:20