

Colonisation, Conquest and Continuity on the Cambridgeshire Clay Lands



Earlier Prehistoric evidence, Iron Age,
Romano British and Early Saxon
Agriculture and Settlement on Land at
Love's Farm, St Neots

Post-Excavation Assessment



November 2008

Client: Gallagher Estates

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Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

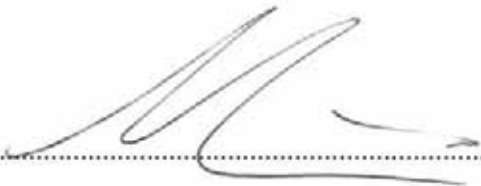
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Summary

The Love's Farm project represents a detailed archaeological examination of the later prehistoric and Roman agricultural landscape on a previously unprecedented scale within the region. The results of this work are transforming current understanding of the evolution of the local landscape and have radically altered past assumptions on the population and exploitation of Cambridgeshire's western clay lands. The development site, located on heavy clay soils and adjacent to St Neots station, measured 60ha, over half of which was stripped during the course of the excavations.

There was some evidence of tree clearance datable to the early Neolithic period, but it was not until the late Iron Age that the full potential of the area began to be exploited. During the later Iron Age people settled more permanently on the site, choosing sheltered east facing hollows to build roundhouses, digging large enclosures around them that controlled drainage and livestock. Nucleation of settlement into physically separate enclosure complexes occurred during the late Iron Age which appeared to respect earlier boundaries.

Excavation has shown that the site was laid out in the late Iron Age within a regular, possibly pre-existing, grid pattern, bounded to the south by a major east to west route way previously identified as a possible Roman Road (Margary, route 231). The results from the final stage of excavation in 2008 seem to suggest that this roadway led directly to one of the main settlement enclosures at Loves Farm where it stopped. An alternative interpretation is that the roadway was originally and access route from the River Ouse to the west up onto the clay lands to the east and that the focus for this routeway shifted from the river in prehistory to the Godmanchester – Sandy Road (Margary route 22) during the Roman Period. Another roadway exiting the site to the north preserved parts of the metalled surface and wheel ruts. Large gravel quarries on site were exploited in the late Iron Age to surface this road. The scale of the road and the quarries implies that this must have been a communal effort requiring planning and co-ordination.

For 500 years successive generations lived on this land, improving drainage, growing new crops (including vines?), managing livestock, adding enclosures, buildings, roads and monuments. The site started reverting to open pasture towards the end of the Roman period. Evidence of an early Saxon presence was detected along the western boundary of the site and included the careful placement of red deer antlers within ditch lines and as a capping deposit within a 5th century well. These antlers were found in association with hand made pottery (with a visibly high mica content) and Niedemendig lava.

Perhaps the most significant results of the fieldwork so far are the questions that the archaeological evidence raises for our understanding of social organisation and the evolution of the countryside. As a result of this excavation it is now possible to date many boundaries within the site back to the late Iron Age. A significant number of these ancient boundaries were still maintained within the development area as hedgerows and drainage ditches and can be seen to extend beyond the site, westwards towards the River Ouse and eastwards into the clay lands. It is now possible to identify a regular pattern of boundaries that seem to extend over several parishes and appear to constitute the key elements of a previously unknown and relatively intact prehistoric agricultural landscape.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

This major project was conducted by CAM ARC (now Oxford Archaeology East) on behalf of Gallagher Estates, at a site lying on heavy clay soils at St Neots, near the western boundary of Cambridgeshire (TL520100 260600, Fig.1). Fieldwork was carried out between 2003 and 2008 within an area measuring 60ha, over half of which was stripped during the course of the excavations.

Investigations revealed evidence for the exploitation of the landscape in early prehistory and the origins and development of an agricultural community from the colonisation of the claylands in the later Iron Age through to the end of the Roman period and beyond.

Before the project commenced, the surrounding landscape was thought to owe its current appearance to post-enclosure agricultural practice. As a result of excavation it is now possible to trace many boundaries within the site back at least to the time of Cunobelin. A regular pattern of similar extant boundaries has also been identified within the surrounding landscape and appears to extend over several parishes.

The forthcoming publication will seek to illustrate the unique character of the site and to compare and contrast specific details within the excavation area over time, allowing social, economic and morphological development to be defined. Evidence for monuments, gravel extraction, road building and boundary maintenance was unearthed, with the potential to enhance current understanding of social organisation and the evolution of the countryside. Such issues will be illustrated with reference to past work in Cambridgeshire and adjacent counties and will include a consideration of the wealth of new data from recent and current excavations within the environs of the western claylands (including that at Bob's Wood, Hinchingsbrooke). This analysis will shed significant new light on the past of this previously little known part of the Cambridgeshire landscape.

The draft publication will be submitted for refereeing in 2009.

The archaeological component of the Love's Farm Project has progressed through the following stages to date:

Documentary study	CPM 1998
Geophysical survey	WYAS 2002
Fieldwalking	CAM ARC 2003
Evaluation by trial trenching	CAM ARC 2003
Additional trial trenching	CAM ARC 2003
Excavation	CAM ARC 2005-8

A detailed archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out prior to fieldwork (CPM 1998).

1.2 Geology and Topography

The southern limit of the site was located on roughly level low lying ground at 20m OD rising gently through the central portion of the area to a level plateau at 40m OD to the

north. The natural topography provides a relatively sheltered, well drained, south-facing location.

The geology of the site consists of Oxford Clay and Kellaway Beds overlain by Chalky Till of the Hanslope Association. River terrace gravels are present within the north-western corner of the site. The underlying geology of the site and the results of glacial action have both clearly influenced the nature and range of human activity on the site.

The study area centred on Love's Farm is close to the eastern edge of the Great Ouse valley with its light gravel/sandy soils and the western edge of the heavier chalky till of west Cambridgeshire. As noted above, the natural topography of the site provides a relatively sheltered, well drained, south-facing location, the physical characteristics of which seem to have informed successive periods of land use both for settlement and agriculture from at least as early as the Iron Age to the present day. The dominant position of this ridge with respect to known concentrations of earlier prehistoric activity such as the ritual complex at Eynesbury, visible from the high ground of the development to the south west, is also likely to have had a significant influence on the nature and range of activities on the higher ground at this location.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Early Prehistoric

Evidence for very early prehistoric activity in the study area has thus far been limited to a small number of residual Mesolithic and Neolithic flints.

The role of the Ouse corridor in the development of trade and continental contact is noted by Malim (1998) with many examples of surviving evidence of Neolithic occupation, mainly in the form of a developing ritual landscape. There is also an increase in finds along the Ouse corridor dateable to this period suggesting the development of riverside activity. It has also been suggested that an early fording point just north-west of the study site at Little Paxton was in use at this time (Alexander 1992). This would have supported both communication and movement of goods along the valley corridor as well as east-west trade from the Midlands and East Anglia.

A number of ritual complexes were located on the light sandy soils of the Ouse valley including one of the largest and most important in the region at Eynesbury (Kemp 1993, 1996, 1997; Ellis 2002). This important site is seen as an integral part of the ritual landscape of the Neolithic and Bronze Age along the Ouse valley (Malim 2000). Other examples of this form of landscape are found at the Buckden/Diddington complex (Jones & Ferris 1994; Jones 1995, 1998; Evans 1997) and at Brampton, where the complex included ceremonial monuments such as mortuary enclosures, cursus, hengiform monuments and ring ditches spanning several hundred years (White 1969; Malim 1990; Macaulay 1993). Further activity has been noted at Huntingdon Race Course where boundary ditches and a Bronze Age co-axial fieldsystem were recorded (Macaulay 1994a) and more recently at Bob's Wood, Hinchinbrooke where occasional flints, a Neolithic pit and several Bronze age features were excavated (Hinman 2000).

Although early prehistoric finds are rare on the heavier clay soils, a number of Bronze Age finds in the surrounding area have revealed evidence for settlement occupation at Cambourne (Wessex 2003). Closer to the study area, excavation in and around Papworth has revealed evidence of Bronze Age into Iron Age settlement occupation (Casa Hatton 2002; Hatton & Kemp 2002; Kenney 2000; SMR 13049). This evidence had previously gone undetected through earlier air reconnaissance or chance

discoveries and offers an opportunity to throw new light on the presence of activity on the clays in West Cambridgeshire, traditionally interpreted as unsuitable for prehistoric occupation.

Iron Age

Many of the earlier prehistoric sites along the Ouse valley continued to be used in the Iron Age period and include a Late Iron Age settlement enclosure in Miller Way, Brampton (White 1969) and another adjacent settlement enclosure (Malim & Mitchell 1992). At Eynesbury (Kemp 1996; Wessex Archaeology 2002) and Brampton (Malim & Mitchell 1993) this continuity of activity developed from a ritual/ceremonial use of the landscape into what is currently interpreted as a more agricultural one.

At Papworth Everard (Kenny 2000; Hatton & Kemp 2002) there was evidence for Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity on the marginal heavy clay soils with an organized landscape of field boundaries incorporating possible mortuary enclosures and stockades.

North of Love's Farm, is the Middle to Late Iron Age settlement site at Bob's Wood, Hinchingsbrooke (Hinman 2000 and forthcoming) which was established on a hilltop on the heavier soils overlooking Alconbury Brook, a tributary of the Ouse.

This apparent trend to move onto the heavier soils is observed elsewhere in Britain, and may point to increased pressure on land from the later Neolithic period onwards. With the use of land for agriculture increasing it is not surprising that the heavy soils show increasing evidence for multiphase use with many Iron Age farmstead complexes continuing well into the Romano-British period, as found east of Love's Farm at Caldecote (Kenny 2001), Cambourne (Wessex Archaeology 2003), the A428 Improvements Scheme (Abrams et al 2007) and Papworth Bypass (Hounsell 2008). At Cambourne earlier settlement and field systems seem to have been part of an organized landscape of economically specialized settlements. These were located at regular intervals of c.400m, along possible track-ways, on the south-east facing slope of a plateau.

Romano-British

Although the use of the Ouse corridor during the Roman period continued with road and river communications, so too did the development and land re-organisation on the heavier soils where there is also a degree of consistency of settlement from the Late Iron Age into Roman period settlement.

Excavations in the area have confirmed the presence of many Iron Age sites continuing into the Roman period. Excavations along the Ouse valley have recorded occupation sites stretching from Huntingdon (Malim 1990; Hinman 1997, 2000) to Brampton (Malim & Mitchell 1993), to Paxton (Greenfield 1968; Alexander 1992) and Eynesbury (Alexander 1993; Kemp 1993, 1997; Macaulay 1994b).

The scale of Romano-British infrastructure and wealth found in the area is also indicated by the number of find spots recorded in the HER records and sites excavated.

Evidence from sites to the east of the Ouse such as the multi-period site at Bob's Wood, Hinchingsbrooke (Hinman 2000 and forthcoming) suggests that there was a mixed agricultural system operating within the area during the period. Stock

enclosures for cattle and possibly sheep, lying adjacent to Ermine Street would suggest animals were an important part of the agricultural system and that a service industry based on this had developed, perhaps to support the Roman town of Durovigutum (Godmanchester).

A similar situation applies to recent excavations on the Boulder Clay at Cambourne (Wessex Archaeology 2003) where it was only in the later part of the Roman period that re-organisation brought about a change in the landscape, with a round cellular arrangement of field systems and enclosures being replaced by a rectilinear one. Excavations at Caldecote (Abrams 2000; Kenney 2001) also produced evidence for a multiphase Iron Age farmstead complex, which continued in use into the Roman period. These remains again seem to have been part of an organised landscape of economically specialised settlements.

Closer to the study site and east of St Neots is the Roman road that runs between Sandy and Godmanchester (Margary 1967). The nearest east-west crossing point of the river is thought to be a few hundred metres north of the medieval bridge in the area of Islands Common.

Anglo-Saxon

Overall, artefactual remains dateable to the Anglo-Saxon period in the vicinity of the site remain fairly elusive. There is evidence of Early Saxon occupation in the St Neots area and burials at Brampton (Herne 1984). There is increasing evidence for the development of St Neots during Middle and Late Saxon period. Certainly by the medieval period St Neots was well established within the parish of Eynesbury (Addyman 1973).

Although finds of Anglo-Saxon date are not extensive there is every reason to believe that the light soils of the Ouse valley were still exploited. A similar assertion for the use of the heavier clay soils during this period is more difficult to support, with little evidence from excavations at Papworth Everard (Alexander 1998; Kenny 2000; Casa Hatton 2002; Hatton & Kemp 2002), Caldecote (Abrams 2000; Kenny 2001) and Cambourne (Wessex Archaeology 2003). Indeed at Caldecote (Wessex Archaeology 2003) it would appear that the area was abandoned during this period and reverted to open fields systems during medieval times. Limited agricultural activity of the period is tentatively suggested due to the presence of stratigraphically late but currently undated features recorded during the recent excavations at Bob's Wood, Hinchingsbrooke (Hinman in prep). The relative paucity of Anglo-Saxon artefactual remains at that site again serves to highlight the difficulties in recovering conclusive proof of activity during the early part of the period.

Medieval

During the Middle Ages most of the land in the area was open fields subdivided into furlongs. Ridge and furrow still survives as discrete earthwork remains and cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.

The surrounding landscape including the study area preserved evidence of an extensive ridge and furrow system which dominated the medieval landscape. This was shown by traces of furrows plotted from aerial photographs, geophysical survey and evidence within the evaluation trenches. In common with many of the ridge and furrow systems of the East Midlands, the furrows run with the slope and helped to drain the

clay soils. It is clear from the evidence that the study area formed part of a medieval field system.

Post-Medieval and Modern

During the post-medieval and modern periods the area of investigation has continued to be used for agriculture. Interestingly the land use during this period reflects that of the earlier Iron Age and Romano-British populations.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The initial aims and objectives were outlined in the excavation specification. These are updated (see Section 4) on the basis of the post-excavation assessment results presented in this document.

2.1 Primary Objective

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

2.2 Research Aims

The Research Aims were collated with reference to National and Regional Research Agendas as published by English Heritage (1997) and the regional research agendas (Brown and Glazebrook 2000 and Glazebrook (ed.) 1997, and issues identified by the project team and the CAO Brief (Thomas 2004).

Investigations at Love's Farm have indicated that the site was occupied or used by people since the Neolithic period. The nature of the remains and the scale of the excavation has presented OA East with the opportunity to contribute to a range of local, regional and national research priorities. The preliminary results of excavation have raised a number of new site specific research objectives which are outlined in section 4 of this report.

3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The results of the Loves Farm excavation are outlined below in summary form for each discrete area excavated. The forthcoming publication will present these results period by period from a site wide perspective. Patterns of settlement or deposition and themes requiring further consideration are outlined in section 6.

Period Definition	Sub Period Definition	Date Range	Period Number	Sub Period Number
Neolithic		3500-2000BC	1	
Bronze Age		2000-750BC	2	
Iron Age		750BC-AD42	3	
	Earlier Iron Age	750-350BC		3.1
Later Iron Age	Middle Iron Age	330-100BC		3.2
	Late Iron Age	100BC-AD42		3.3
	Late Pre Roman Iron Age	50BC-AD42		3.4
	Transitional	AD1-75		3.5
Roman		AD43-410	4	
	C1-early C2			4.1
	C2			4.2
	C3			4.3
	C4			4.4
	C5			4.5
Saxon		410-1066	5	
	Early Saxon			5.1
Medieval			6	
Post Medieval			7	
Modern			8	

Table 1: Period definition

3.1 Area 1

With Taleyna Fletcher

Area 1 was located at the south-eastern end of the Loves Farm excavation, to the immediate east of the former St Neots Town Football Club ground and north of the B1428 Cambridge to St Neots Road. The area measured approximately 130m (N-S) by 125m (E-W) with some additional trenching to the east which was opened in order to fully ascertain the continuation and extent of a road.

A date for the foundation of this road is currently uncertain. What is clear is that this major route way was positioned with reference to pre existing fields and enclosures but was constructed no earlier than the late Iron Age. The portion of the road that crossed the Loves Farm site had gone out of use by the 2nd century AD. This road was part of a wider reorganisation of the agricultural landscape, elements of which appear to have survived in areas 7a,7b, 8 and 9. Other boundaries have been maintained and survive

in the surrounding landscape until the present day. The original alignment of this road joins the current course of the B1428 Cambridge to St Neots road at the southeastern corner of the development area.

A number of tree bowls were recorded and although undated, may provide evidence of Neolithic tree clearance.

The first settlement related activity is represented by an enclosure system located at the southern end of the site and continuing beyond the excavation area. A single east-west orientated ditch which may be the northern arm of an enclosure was present and contained prehistoric and middle Iron Age pottery.

The area developed in the late Iron Age; the first direct evidence of occupation was a roundhouse and associated waterhole, bound to the west by a well-maintained north-south ditch and by a north-south alignment of cooking hearths to the east. A field system is set out at this time on an approximately east-west north-south alignment.

The area was later dominated by two parallel east-west orientated road ditches. A date for the foundation of this road is currently uncertain. What is clear that this major route way was constructed no earlier than the late Iron Age and that the portion of the road that crossed the Loves Farm site had gone out of use by the 2nd century AD. This road provides the first evidence of transportation and movement within the area and may represent an early incarnation of the current Cambridge to St Neots road (B1428).

Post-medieval ridge and furrow was recorded on an east-west alignment across the entire excavation area.

3.2 Area 2

With Alexandra Pickstone

This area was located towards the centre of the site and measured approximately 67000m squared. The overall area was bounded by a modern farm track to the east and by the pipeline corridor to the west. Area 6b lay directly to the north.

Apart from Neolithic pottery found in two tree bowls there was no evidence of human activity in Area 2 prior to the late Iron Age. At this time an east to west trackway was built through Areas 2 and 6b. There were associated ditches, perpendicular to the track, dividing up the landscape and providing the means for controlling livestock. In the late pre-Roman Iron Age an enclosure was constructed in Areas 2 and 6b. This was an unusual shape which in the south of area 2 had more of the appearance of a trackway than an enclosure, mainly due to the presence of Foxes Brook which it incorporated in to its design. A smaller enclosure was also constructed, within the larger enclosure. In the Transitional period this was re-dug to a slightly different plan, while the larger linear enclosure was maintained along its original course. Intensive quarrying taking place in Area 6b to the north where there was an outcrop of glacial gravels stretched in to Area 2 with the excavation of a large quarry. A key boundary extending into Area 4a was also excavated in this phase. It respected an east to west boundary in Area 6b. In the early Roman period activity seemed to be focused to the extreme south of the area with the construction of a possible trackway followed by elements of an enclosure or field system.

3.3 Area 3

With Roddy Reagan

Area 3 was located at the north-west of the site situated north of Area 4a and west of Areas 2/6b. The area covered approximately 24400m squared with its northern side bounded by a modern field ditch and hedge, its western side was demarcated by an overhead electric cable corridor, with the east side by a gas main corridor. The area was on a very gradual south-east facing slope with a small outcrop of gravel at its southern end in otherwise heavy brownish yellow clay.

The duration of the areas use, between the late Iron Age and 2nd century AD, was comparable to that of Areas 1, 2 and 6b. It has been possible to correlate some of the longer landscape features between Areas 2, 3, 4a and 6b providing stratigraphic links across the northern part of the site.

The earliest activity in this area may have originated in the late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age period, represented by a single small pit of uncertain function. More substantial activity was evidenced in the Late Iron Age with the establishment of a large square enclosure. The latest version of the better-attested enclosure has evidence to suggest that it was used for stock herding. In the later period the area was subdivided by a possible hedged boundary which may have been in existence when a circular enclosure was established towards the north of the area. The function of this enclosure is uncertain but may have had ritual function, being some form of shrine. The presence of a high percentage of sheep or goat jaw and teeth fragments within the enclosure ditch perhaps attests to this. This version of the enclosure may have been very short lived. The larger outer enclosure ditch may have functioned later than the inner enclosure which appears to have been deliberately closed with ashy deposits placed over the eastern terminals. This outer ditch may have functioned until the later 1st century AD and may have been contemporary with the subdivision of the area into large hedged fields. This later field system appears to use the circular enclosure as a foci, suggesting if not still in use it was still prominent in the landscape, the ditch system possibly still in use until the early 2nd century AD. Later still, possibly in the 2nd century a series of ditches are cut towards the west, these perhaps relating to enclosure systems further south. In the medieval period a large ditch transects the site and used as an alignment for overlying ridge and furrow cultivation.

3.4 Area 4a

With Taleyna Fletcher

Area 4a was located against the western limits of the Loves Farm excavations, with the railway embankment to the west. It measured approximately 228m (north to south) by 164m (east to west) at its widest point. It was separated from Area 7a to the south by a long-standing hedgerow boundary. To the east, the gas main separated 4a from Area 4b and Area 2, and Area 3 was located to the immediate north.

The earliest recorded activity in the area dates to the late Iron Age. Parallel drainage ditches on a northwest to southeast alignment, an isolated length of ditch at the very northern end of the area and the suggestion of an enclosure represent the only activity from this period.

The first evidence of enclosure appears in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age with the layout of two horseshoe shaped enclosures. This period also saw the layout of a trackway and ditches on a northeast to southwest alignment, which may mark the beginning of boundary establishment within the area. A single human burial was also found.

Early Roman activity is represented by the establishment of a large drainage ditch on the same northwest to southeast alignment as seen previously in the Late Iron Age suggesting a persistent drainage issue throughout these periods. A number of short fragmentary ditches hint at the remnants of enclosures or boundaries, however, these do not form any coherent pattern, having possibly been lost through later truncation. An annular ring-ditch interpreted as a hayrick (see also hayrick in Area 7a) was also dated to this period. Groups of pit clusters and maintenance of part of the earlier enclosure also took place.

This first indication of occupation takes place in the 2nd century represented by what may be a four-post structure. Drainage appears to continue to be an issue in this period and more coherent enclosures begin to take shape at this time. Four pits forming a rectangle in plan were soon filled to be replaced by a ditch. This may represent ritual activity and may indicate the location of a possible structure.

The 3rd century sees no obvious activity within Area 4a, however, by the early 4th century, the area becomes busy again, this time with the layout of large, regular square and rectangular field systems and enclosures set out on a north-south, east-west layout. An aisled barn comprising eight postholes and the remains of what may be a roundhouse represent the occupation on the area.

A second phase of 4th century activity sees the maintenance and modification of some of the enclosures established in the earlier part of the century as well as the re-statement of the large boundary at the southern end of the area. This period sees the laying down of cobbled surfaces to make crossing points over earlier, now infilled ditches and the establishment of a large "Question Mark" shaped enclosure.

Activity continued into the late 4th/early 5th century, however the focus appears to have shifted on to the higher ground and better draining soils on the western side of the site. This area of settlement activity was enclosed on its eastern side. A stone-lined well within this area was over 7m deep and contained cow skulls, worked antler and bone, a comb dated to 375-425 AD and fragments of at least five late Roman leather sandals. The well and adjacent enclosure ditch were capped by placed deposits of red deer antlers which, in the case of the ditch were found in association with hand made early Saxon pottery and lava fragments of German origin.

The presence of the well, unique to the site and an inappropriate means of water supply on this clay geology combined with the antler, pottery and lava may represent evidence for a transient 'incomer' presence on site at the end of the Roman period.

At the end of the Roman period the ditched enclosures and drains of previous generations were no longer kept open although the northern and eastern boundaries of activity were maintained. A large area of flooding formed in the very south western corner of the site. The southern boundary of this settlement was preserved in the landscape and survived as a hedgerow until this was removed in the course of the archaeological excavations.

Medieval furrows on both north to south and east to west alignments were recorded. The latest activity within Area 4a was a significant post-medieval boundary ditch, which continued beyond the southern and northern extents of the site.

3.5 Area 4B

With Sarah Henley

Area 4b was located in the centre of the Love's Farm excavations, bounded by gas pipeline corridors to the east and west and by an extant hedge and farm land to the south. It measured approximately 5000m².

There was no evidence of human activity in 4b until the early first century AD, during which time the southern limit of an enclosure was dug. The focus of this enclosure was in area 2, area 4b was on the periphery of activity. Indeed activity was limited and concentrated in the south east corner throughout occupation. During early C1-C2 the southern ditch of the enclosure was reworked in both areas and incorporated into an E-W oriented track way. A series of short lived boundary ditches were also constructed that were parallel to or at right angles to the track way. Following the natural silting of these features an undated NE-SE oriented ditch was dug in the south east corner. This too was abandoned as occupation shifted to areas in the south and west of the Love's Farm excavations.

Three pits containing animal burials with no datable pottery were also recorded. These appeared to be modern and associated with activity in the farm to the south.

3.6 Area 5

No remains of archaeological significance were encountered.

3.7 Area 6

With Tom Phillips

Area 6A

This area was located at the north-eastern limit of the site and encompassed approximately 48770m square. It was bounded to the north and east by modern farm tracks, to the south it was divided from Area 6b by a hedge and ditch field boundary. This boundary was partially removed during excavation. Its western limits were determined by the results of evaluation. Features continued in all directions beyond the limits of the site. Artefactual evidence from all periods is extremely limited, permitting only broad indications of dating.

A number of tree bowls were recorded and although undated, may be the result of Neolithic tree clearance.

The earliest settlement evidence in Area 6a occurred during the mid to late Iron Age with the construction of two, stratigraphically early roundhouses. Their chronological sequence is unknown and they may not have been contemporary; the remains could perhaps be interpreted as evidence for the movement of a single building over time. One of the roundhouses was truncated by the corner of an enclosure, which was also stratigraphically early.

The late Iron Age saw continuing development of this domestic settlement with construction of a third roundhouse and the addition of a small enclosure or paddock, adjacent and to the south in to Area 6b. A cluster of pits and a double ditched boundary were excavated in Area 6a, both presumably associated with the settlement to the south. These had already been established before the metalled, hedge bound 'North' road was laid out. In fact the road appeared to deliberately avoid respect the pit cluster. Subdivision of the area to the north of the settlement followed with narrow boundary

ditches, probably associated with hedges, partitioning the land in to large fields. There were also minor modifications to the road.

The late pre-Roman Iron Age saw further modifications with the construction of two lazy bed fields and further modifications to the layout of the road and its access points. Pottery deposition in this area ceased after the end of the 1st or beginning of the 2nd century AD.

Area 6B

This area was located towards the northern end of the site on the eastern side and measured approximately 25000m squared. The overall area was bounded by a modern farm track to the east and by the pipeline corridor to the west. To the north it was separated from Area 6a by a modern field boundary ditch and hedge. This was partially removed at the eastern end to expose the northern side of a sub-oval enclosure.

The origins of activity in this area began in the Neolithic period as evidenced by a hollow or working area in the east of Area 6b. Significantly this was located in a sheltered level part of the hillside that was to be the focus of settlement in later periods. In the Bronze Age a well was dug close by, possibly associated with settlement directly to the east of the excavation area. A roundhouse close to these earlier features was post-built, a technique that may be an indicator of construction in either the Bronze Age or the earlier Iron Age. Pottery from the structure did not provide a clear date and there were no obvious associations. In the Middle Iron Age a large 'c' shaped enclosure was established which was contemporary with two roundhouses adjacent in Area 6a.

Domestic activity in this sheltered area carried on into the late Iron Age as evidenced by the construction of a second phase of the sub oval enclosure and the building of another roundhouse. At approximately the same time another focus of domestic activity was established 150m to the west. At this location a roundhouse was built, again sited to take advantage of a relatively sheltered spot afforded by a slight depression in the landscape. This roundhouse had no precursors and was associated with another 'c' shaped enclosure and was probably associated with similarly dated small gravel quarries nearby. During the Late Iron Age there was also rapid expansion with the construction of boundaries subdividing the landscape and the laying out of a major roadway, which ran through Areas 6a and 6b.

The late pre-Roman Iron Age saw development of a large rectilinear enclosure, within this subdivided landscape enclosing the earlier smaller quarries, structures and small sub-enclosures and a newly dug large quarry which indicates an expansion in the scale of quarrying at this time. In the Transitional period the landscape was subdivided again with modifications to the rectilinear enclosure and the construction of field boundaries offset from the sub circular monument enclosure in Area 3. The foci of domestic activity moved to the south-west marking a significant change in settlement pattern. The absence of later features from the top of the hill combined with environmental evidence from the silted up quarries indicate that the area reverted to open pasture grazed by livestock at this time.

Area 7

Area 7a

With Taleyna Fletcher

Area 7a was located against the western limits of the Loves Farm excavations, with the railway embankment to the west. It measured approximately 300m (north to south) by 150m (east to west). It was separated from Area 4a to the north by a long-standing hedgerow boundary. To the east, the gas main separated Area 7a from Area 7b.

A significant boundary to activity to the east was recorded within Area 7a, running parallel to the gas main, however, this has been discussed within the findings of Area 7b as it continues to the east of the gas main and relates more significantly to activity on that side.

The earliest recorded activity in the area dates to the Early Neolithic and was located in the north east corner of the site. A layer that had collected within a natural depression contained sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and an adjacent group of small pits also contained early pottery. An isolated pit at the southern end of the area was dated to this period.

Bronze Age pottery was also recorded within a layer overlying the Neolithic material in this area.

The first evidence of later prehistoric occupation and associated field systems appears in the Middle Iron Age and is located predominantly within the same location as the earlier prehistoric remains recalling a similar trend within a shallow depression in Area 6 to the north.

The same area of settlement continued to develop in the Late Iron Age with small enclosures: first rectilinear, then more rounded and 'horseshoe' shaped. This period also sees the establishment of a major east west boundary at the top of the area, which continues in existence within the surrounding landscape and can be traced to the west curving downhill towards the River Ouse. This boundary was present on the site as a hedgerow and was removed as a requirement of the Love's Farm development.

A large north-south enclosure boundary ditch was present in the northeast corner of the site returning to the east and continuing into Area 7b.

Large rectilinear field systems represent the majority of activity in the late pre-Roman Iron Age. The layout of these fields is quite regular and appears to have been part of a broader, planned scheme the alignment of which either recalls, anticipates or is contemporary with the east road, excavated in Areas 1 and 9.

The planned rectilinear fields of the preceding phase are crudely overwritten by a pair of converging ditches which appear to form a track way on a north west to south east orientation before turning due south. This 20m wide thoroughfare spanned much of the area and seemed to lead to an area of quarrying located at the western edge of the site. Extracted gravels and clay from this area may then have been transported southwards down the track towards the 'east' road (see Area 1). The relatively short lived usage of this access route may imply the opportunistic acquisition of local resources for the construction of the east road although there was no archaeological evidence to directly support this idea.

The remains of two roundhouses and a waterhole datable to the later Iron Age were located next to the south eastern boundary of the site. Following the abandonment of

these houses the waterhole silted up and overflowed. A layer of silt accumulated in this area and a significant assemblage of metalwork including rings, brooches and other small items of first to fourth century date, possibly indicative of votive deposition over a prolonged period.

Early Roman activity is represented by the establishment of a large rectilinear enclosure with a roundhouse and drainage ditches within. A small holding pen which contained building material within the disuse fill and an annular ring-ditch interpreted as a hayrick (see also hayrick in Area 4a) were also dated to this period.

During the mid 2nd century two parallel east-west orientated boundary ditches were established at the northern limit of the area on the same alignment as the track and ditches established in the same area in the Late Iron Age.

The area remained largely unchanged as open fields until the 4th century, when a horseshoe shaped enclosure ditch, associated pits and ditches was established on the periphery of what what by this time had become a major settlement focus in Area 7b.

Area 7b

With Roddy Reagan

This area was located centrally within the site towards its southern limits, and measured approximately 20190m square. It was bounded to the east by the farm access road, to the south by the modern course of Fox Brook, to the west by the gas main corridor and to the north by the extant hedge and ditch separating this area from Areas 4a and b to the north.

Area 7b was on a very gradual north-north-west to south-south-east facing slope, the gradient increased slightly from about half way up the area to the north. The underlying geology was heavy brownish yellow clay across the whole area; overlying this in the south-western corner was a series of colluvial and alluvial layers, some cut by, and some sealing the archaeological features.

The archaeology was sparse across the northern part of the area becoming increasingly dense towards the south with overlapping boundaries, enclosures and structures present. The activity in this area was closely associated with that in Area 7a immediately to the west of the gas main corridor.

The origins of the use of this area began in the prehistoric period, probably the Middle Iron Age with the subdivision of space by narrow hedged boundaries that were probably contemporary with similar late Iron Age activity in Areas 6a and b. This may have been associated with the construction of the first, unenclosed, roundhouse. The establishment of an extensive (and long lived) north south boundary suggested a planned division of the area with evidence of occupation offset from it at the north and south. At the south of the area enclosure development continued with the establishment of enclosure boundaries in the Late Iron Age, these boundaries persisting, with internal additions until the 2nd century AD. It was in the late pre-Roman Iron Age that activity in this area became more cohesive with the construction of a number of enclosures associated with at least two roundhouses. There was some evidence for these structures being at least partially enclosed. The activity at the north end of the area began in this period, it was somewhat separate from yet still related to the activity to the south. This pattern was retained and modified throughout the 1st century AD into the 2nd century AD, becoming increasingly formalized and cohesive. By the 2nd century AD the structures and associated activity at the northern end of the area were not maintained. In approximately the mid 2nd century AD there was a significant change to

the layout of this part of the settlement with the creation of a large enclosure encompassing all (increased) activity in the area. This change seems to coincide with the lack of evidence for a continued presence in Areas 1, 2, 3, 6a and 6b in this period. This change raises some interesting questions about the nature and organisation of those living here at this time. From this point until the end of the Roman period this enclosure was probably always maintained in some form and all activity continued to be confined within it. The internal (sub-enclosures) often had links to those that predated this enclosure and might represent some continuity of function (whatever that was) despite this change. In the 4th century AD one of the roundhouses was directly replaced by a rectilinear post built structure which was the only building known to be in existence at the very end of the Roman period in this area.

3.8 Area 8

With Taleyna Fletcher

Area 8 was located at the southern end of the Loves Farm excavations, to the south of Fox's Brook, immediately west of the former St Neots Town Football Club ground and to the north of the B1248 Cambridge to St Neots road.

The area was dominated by the remains of agricultural activity datable predominantly from the 2nd century AD although residual Late Iron Age pottery, recovered from later field systems suggests that there was some (undefined) activity of this date in the immediate area .

Two short undated curvilinear ditches represented the earliest activity, which may be the remnants of heavily truncated roundhouses although associated evidence for settlement is limited.

The first evidence of field systems within the area is represented by field systems, which comprised a series of parallel ditches on a west-north-west north to east-south-east alignment.

Referencing this layout an enclosure for crop processing was created, dug into the top of two ditches. Three sides of the enclosure were revealed in an unbroken circuit, extending into the eastern limit of excavation, suggesting it had an east-facing entrance.

A boundary ditch on an alignment not seen elsewhere in the Loves Farm excavations was recorded, dated to the late 2nd century. The manner in which this ditch cuts across all earlier features but is then replaced by a later boundary on a more conventional north south alignment is reminiscent of the pattern of development and change seen within Area 7a to the north of Fox's Brook in the late 1st to late 2nd centuries AD.

Other features of note were the grave of a human adult buried with a copper alloy ring and an undated horse burial.

Post-medieval ridge and furrow was not present within this area.

3.9 Area 9

With Alexandra Pickstone and Sarah Henley

Area 9 was located at the southern end of the Loves Farm excavations on the ground of the former St Neots Town Football Club and a nursery school, south of Fox's Brook. It was investigated in 2 open area excavations, one approximately 7850m² on the site

of the football ground and a smaller trench approximately 860m² between the footings of the nursery school and the B1428 Cambridge to St Neots road.

Activity was influenced by the presence of a winterbourne channel which ran SW-NE through the site and was in use until the post-Roman period. Activity within Area 9 began in the Middle Iron Age with the construction of a N-S oriented boundary ditch which was contemporary with, if not the continuation of, a boundary visible in Area 7b. Larger boundary and enclosure ditches that reinforced this N-S were also constructed. They remained a feature in the landscape until the 1st century AD. The first evidence of domestic activity in the form of cooking pits and a roundhouse occurred at this time in the south of the site.

From the late Iron Age onwards activity on the northern and southern sides of the winterbourne appear to differ. In the Late Iron Age activity in the south east of the site underwent a change of alignment. Field systems were constructed on a NE- SW orientation and were aligned with a boundary ditch and field system in Area 1. These may have been associated with the roundhouse in the centre of Area 9. On the northern side on the winterbourne, an enclosure aligned similarly to those in Area 7b was constructed. The Late Pre Roman Iron Age saw a reduction in the level of activity in Area 9, however there was evidence for the construction of a precursor to the Roman 'east' road. Contemporary with the establishment of the road a small rectilinear enclosure with a structure in the NW corner was constructed.

On the northern side of the winterbourne two curvilinear ditches were constructed that were a precursor of the shift in activity to the northern bank in the 1st century A.D. The reduction in activity on the site south of the winterbourne during the 1st to early 2nd century AD seems to have been due to increased water levels in the area, evidenced by a series of channels dug to aid the flow of water through the winterbourne. The increased construction of boundary and drainage ditches on the northern side of the winterbourne seems to have been related to the more formalised settlement in Area 7b.

Enclosure and drainage ditches continued to be dug on the northern side of the winterbourne in the 2nd century AD by which time a small amount of activity had resumed on the southern side. A rectangular enclosure was constructed and maintained for a considerable period of time. A circular enclosure was constructed in the centre of the site and maintained throughout the 3rd century. It contained a number of dark fills but environmental samples were unable to confirm an industrial function. In the south west corner an open enclosure with a series of post holes was dug. Increased activity from the 3rd century onwards was primarily non domestic in nature. A crop dryer (similar to later Roman examples in Area 7a) was constructed in the north eastern corner of the site and two stock enclosures or paddocks were constructed. The first was square and incorporated the north eastern side of the circular enclosure in its construction. The second was a large rectangular enclosure to the east. It had a channelled entrance and was modified, continuing in use into the 4th century. At this time a larger square stock enclosure was constructed replacing the smaller square predecessor and a smithy was built in the south western corner of the site. Waste from the smithy was deposited in specially dug pits across the site and in two locations in the winterbourne. The building was purposefully dismantled and debris from metal working was backfilled into the beam slots. At the end of the 4th century an anvil and cow skull were placed in the northern terminal of a ditch which cut the north western corner of the building.

4 FACTUAL DATA AND ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The Excavation Record

Type	strlof03	strlof04/05/06	strlof08	Total
Context register sheets	31	398	30	459
Context sheets	1165	6352	1181	8698
Plan registers	2	33	3	38
Plans at 1:100	76	0	0	76
Plans at 1:50	0	189	87	276
Plans at 1:20	0	47	6	53
Plans at 1:10	0	8	5	13
Section register sheets	2	49	6	57
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	46	770	123	939
Photo register sheets	6	102	22	130
Black & White films	2	48	11	61
Colour print	2	6	0	8
Colour slide	2	48	11	61
Digital photos	41	4016	664	4721
Small finds register sheets	2	76	9	87
Small finds	77	1847	228	2152
Environmental register sheets	2	231	31	264
Environmental bulk samples	16	1203	153	1372

Table 2: Quantification of written and drawn record

The written and drawn record requires storage in 85 large archive quality boxes, 12 x A3 drawing folders and 10 photographic and 10 slide storage folders .

Finds and Environmental Quantification

Finds type	Quantity / No of items	Number of boxes	Number of boxes
		Long	Skull
Lithics		2	1
Querns	77.77kg / 13 pieces	10	
Worked Stone	/ 18 pieces	3	2

Fired Clay / CBM	83.84kg / 5648 pieces	17	1
Prehistoric pottery	84.15kg / 7168 sherds	35	
Roman pottery	343.62kg / 26659 sherds	100	
Roman Samian	3.47kg / 385 sherds	1	
Saxon Pottery	2.26kg / 205 sherds	1	
Roman Glass	/ 76 sherds	1	
Metalwork	277 items for publication 340 Roman coins 417 contexts with fe Nails 363 archived items not for publication	34	
Metalworking Slags	11.16kg	5	
Worked Leather	/ 31 pieces	1	
Worked Bone	/ 24 items		1
		210	5

Table 3: Finds Quantification

Remains type	Quantity / No of items	Number of boxes	
		Long	Skull
Faunal Remains		236	2
Human Remains -inhumed	12 individuals	11	
Human Remains -cremated	18 deposits		6
Environmental samples flots	1145 bulk samples processed	10	
Plant remains - carbonised	145 sample residues	-	
Plant remains - waterlogged		-	
Pollen samples		-	
Insects and Mollusca		-	

Shell – Marine and freshwater		2	
		259	8

Table 4: Environmental Quantification

Range, Variety and Condition

The cut features comprised primarily of ditches, pits, post holes and waterholes. Other feature and deposit types included tree root bowls, graves, a well, beam slots, drainage gullies, a winterbourne channel and isolated occurrences of buried soils. Preservation varied across the area and features and finds from sheltered hollows or low lying areas were in better condition than other parts of the site where soil cover was generally thinner and plough damage from the Medieval to Modern periods had had an adverse effect on survival.

4.2 Documentary Research

Primary and Published Sources

Excavations and related research at Loves Farm have the potential to identify significant surviving remains of a previously unknown prehistoric and Romano-British agricultural landscape within the St Neots area. Research into the historic development of the site’s environs is therefore required to:

- identify traces of such past landscape use;
- record and interpret such evidence, within its wider landscape setting.
- examine of apparent continuity with the pre-Saxon settlement morphology, including a landscape assessment;
- tentatively identify and characterise the prehistoric and Roman landscape, linking to similar patterns elsewhere and informing on local land-use.

Cartographic Evidence

The limits of the landscape study area will be defined using the western claylands as the backdrop. This text will also outline the range and date of sources consulted and collections visited (using appendices/tabulation as appropriate).

LEVEL 1: Region setting - Establishing the relationship with Cambridge, Godmanchester, Sandy and Bedford.

LEVEL 2: Ouse Valley - The Ouse Valley claylands, as far as Godmanchester, provide the most logical sub-region for the study site when describing the wider landscape context (brief or occasional references only).

LEVEL 3: St. Neots area - The immediate landscape context from a landscape history point of view in order to contextualise the Loves Farm site.

LEVEL 4: The Loves Farm site itself - This is the focus study area and the detailed landscape assessment will concentrate on this area.

A short written narrative will be supported by a series of maps illustrating the changing (or otherwise) layout of the local landscape. This will include the medieval open field system, post-enclosure change and more recent boundaries.

This background work will provide the context for the landscape study, including previous research by Fox, Oosthuisen and others.

The text will include a history of the existing settlement pattern within which Loves Farm originated, effectively examining historic settlement morphology for the St Neots area. Related issues are relatively complex and will cover themes such as distribution of habitation; parish formation; the establishment of local administrative units; and land management (including the development of field systems and the incidence of enclosure).

Sources will include archaeological evidence for the period, relevant historic documents and secondary sources and landscape observation. The work will focus on considering Loves Farm within its local context, rather than being a generalised analysis of the area. This work will be undertaken by a qualified landscape archaeologist (Brendan Chester-Kadwell) in collaboration with the project director / lead author.

4.3 **Artefact Summaries**

Lithics

A small assemblage of worked flints was recovered during the evaluation and excavations, commencing in the Mesolithic and continuing into the Bronze Age. In total there are 384 pieces of flint. Of these 73 are natural pebble and cobble fragments and 48 are otherwise unmodified burnt flint fragments, leaving 263 pieces of deliberately struck flint. The struck flint is predominantly composed of waste flakes and blades but the assemblage also contains some cores and retouched implements. The assemblage is chronologically mixed and, at the least, spans the Early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Chronologically diagnostic pieces include numerous blades of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, a Later Neolithic oblique transverse arrowhead and a polished greenstone axe, a very finely made plano-convex knife of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and two broken barbed and tanged arrowheads of Early Bronze Age date.

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from residual or unstratified contexts, however, there were a number of shallow pits and tree root bowls, which contained small sub-assemblages of struck flints dating to the Neolithic period and two localised areas where both Neolithic and Bronze Age sub-soils survived. were noted, indicating that lithic tool use was an important aspect of the prehistoric activities conducted at the site.

Statement of Potential

The assemblage is of significance in that it provides evidence for the exploitation of the site for the 3000 or so years prior to the earliest structural evidence identified. In addition, a description of the assemblage and its implications for the occupation of the site should be included in any published account of the fieldwork, preferably including illustrations of a selection of the more technologically diagnostic pieces. The publication should concentrate on a describing the technological and typological characteristics of the material, with an interpretation of its meaning and significance, from the different periods identified, with due regard to its regional context. The publication should also

include some consideration of local geology, raw material sources and previous finds and research in the local area.

The lithic evidence was significant in that it indicated the site was being visited by at least the 4th millennium BC, complementing the extensive monumental complexes of the Neolithic identified in the region and the use of the Ouse Valley as a focus for funerary and ceremonial activity during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age (eg Malim 2001; Hinman 2003). It confirms the continued significance to Neolithic and Bronze Age communities of the higher ground on which the site was located, adjacent to and overlooking the River Ouse.

Further Work

A full quantification and report has been commissioned for submission by Dec 2008.

Querns

Excavations at Loves Farm produced a small assemblage of quern stones and millstones weighing 77.765kg. The assemblage comprised three complete Iron Age saddle querns, two Iron Age beehive rotary querns, four possible Roman flat rotary querns and two Roman millstones as well as scraps of lava of possible early Saxon date. Several of the querns show signs of wear and many are burnt. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Statement of Potential

The assemblage is of significance in that it provides evidence for inter regional trade and direct evidence of agricultural activity at a local level.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed **To be updated with STRLOF 08 in December 08**

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Worked Stone and Miscellaneous Building Material

The excavations at Love's Farm produced a large number of structural stonework fragments. The majority of these came from surfaces, with smaller numbers from fills of ditches. The stone is a loosely cemented and porous, shelly oolitic limestone. The shell content is low although variable and there are some distinctive bands of oyster shells. The stone appears visually most like a type of Lincolnshire limestone known as Weldon stone (Hudson and Sutherland 1990, 23). Its original source is some 40km from St Neots. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of local significance and provides further evidence of the exploitation of Weldon stone by the Romans, although its identification has not been confirmed by microscopic analysis.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Fired Clay

A total of 4798 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), including daub and tile, weighing 73.389kg, were recovered. This material is extremely fragmentary and abraded with few original surfaces remaining and an average fragment weight of 50g for the tile and only 13g for the daub.

Statement of Potential

This assemblage of CBM is of local significance, adding to the interpretation of life on the site at Loves Farm over a period of several hundred years spanning the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

The large quantity of daub found in Romano-British features indicates that wattle and daub structures continued to be built even when kiln fired tile became available to the civilian population in the early-to-mid 2nd century AD.

The small amount of tile recovered indicates that it was not used as a primary construction material within the immediate vicinity of the Loves Farm area and perhaps only a small amount of robbed material was brought to the site.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Pottery

Prehistoric Pottery

Seven thousand one hundred and sixty eight sherds weighing 84.145kg were recovered. The pottery is in an average state of preservation and has a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 11g. The large Iron Age pottery assemblage represents a mix of pottery styles the earliest of which date to the mid Iron Age, c500BC to 200BC continuing through the later Iron Age (c200-50BC) until the late pre-Roman Iron Age type (LPRIA) of which continues into the 1st century AD. Pottery of the earliest Roman period which may be termed 'transitional' is considered below.

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of regional significance and represents a future type site for characterising rural settlement with potential to address issues of trade and exchange networks as well as local production. The vessel forms found at Loves Farm are typical of the range expected within a domestic assemblage. The quantity of sherds present is unusual reflecting the large area covered by the excavation and the density and longevity of occupation found.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed on the forms and fabrics although further consideration of phased and spatial groupings is required. T

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Later Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman Pottery

A total of 26659 sherds, weighing 343.617kg, were recovered of Late Pre Roman Iron Age, Transitional, Early Roman and Romano-British pottery. This material has an average sherd weight of c. 13g.

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of regional / national significance and represents a future type site for characterising rural settlement. This assemblage is exceptionally large and the challenge is to present the data in an economical, meaningful and usable way.

The ceramic assemblage invites an overview of the Romano-British ceramic supply to this area during the 2nd to 4th centuries.

Further Work

A full quantification on the forms and fabrics and characterisation of the overall assemblage has been completed. Work is currently under way on a publication ready report. Further consideration of phased and spatial groupings will be undertaken following this second stage of reporting.

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Samian Wares

A total of 385 sherds of samian, weighing 3.468kg (Eves 6.36) were recovered from 158 contexts during both field walking and excavations between 2002 and 2005. The majority of the assemblage is made up of small, fragmentary, abraded sherds, with an average weight of approximately 9g. Many sherds are too small to identify or date closely, indicating a high level of post-depositional disturbance. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Statement of Potential

This small assemblage mainly recovered from either ditch or pit fills are consistent with the low frequency of samian recovered on many rural sites.(Willis 2003). The small size of the majority of the sherds, and their low average sherd weight, points to a high level of post depositional disturbance, which is consistent with much of the pottery being residual. In addition many of the sherds were too small to identify or closely date making it difficult to draw conclusions about the origin and form of almost 40% of the assemblage.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed on the forms and fabrics although further consideration of phased and spatial groupings is required. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Early Saxon Pottery

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprises 205 sherds with a total weight of 2263g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference is 1.62. It comprises a range of early/middle hand-built Anglo-Saxon wares which are fairly typical of sites in the region, and includes two sherds with stamp impressions.

Statement of Potential

The assemblage is generally in good condition and despite the relatively small size of the assemblage is potentially of regional significance as an indicator of an incomer population. The larger groups mainly comprise fragments of incomplete single vessels along with individual stray sherds from other pots. The possibility of the site showing continuity from the Roman to Anglo-Saxon periods is an intriguing one, but at this stage it cannot be supported by the ceramic assemblage. This will be investigated further at the report stage, and the assemblage compared with others in the region. A number of sherds are worthy of illustration, and these will be selected and catalogued at the report stage.

Further Work

A full publication ready report will be commissioned for completion by December 2008. Further consideration of selection and deposition as well as phased and spatial groupings is required. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Glass

Excavations produced a small assemblage of glass including seventy-six fragments of vessel glass, four glass beads and the partial remains of a single amber bead. Predominantly Roman in date the majority of the assemblage is made up of small fragmentary shards and was recovered from secondary contexts.

Statement of Potential

Although of limited potential this assemblage is significant in that it provides new information on the utilisation of glassware on rural sites during the Roman period and is of local interest.

Further Work

A full quantification has been completed. Work is currently under way on a publication ready report. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Metalwork

Over 600 items of metalwork were recovered from the site as well as 340 Roman Coins, and iron nails from over 400 contexts. Items recovered include grave deposits (28), dress accessories (61), toilet instruments(4), sewing equipment (1), household equipment (5), weighing (1), literacy (4), tools (16), fittings (31), animal husbandry (2), military equipment (9), religion (23), metalworking (7), misc. (38), iron (44), early Anglo-Saxon (3).

A full quantification of this large and highly significant assemblage has been completed and 277 items identified in the catalogue have been illustrated. Objects from the 2008 excavations which are currently undergoing cleaning and conservation are not included in the catalogue. **To be updated with STRLOF 08 January 08**

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of regional significance and represents a future type site for characterising rural settlement. This assemblage is large and varied with clear

potential to enhance the dating of individual features and illustrate a broad range of tasks, activities and events taking place on this site.

Further Work

Work is currently under way on a publication ready report.

Artefacts in illustration catalogue from 2008 still to be drawn

Metalworking Slags

A significant assemblage of metalworking waste and associated objects including a Roman anvil were recovered during the 2008 excavations. A suitable specialist (David Starley) will catalogue and report on these remains in December 2008.

Worked Leather

A small group of leather was recovered from a late Roman well. In Britain, Roman leather is dominated by large assemblages from military or urban contexts, rural groups are relatively rare and few dating to AD350+ have been found, making this small assemblage of interest.

Statement of Potential

The assemblage is generally in good condition and despite the relatively small size of the assemblage is potentially of regional / national significance due to the current lack of material from rural settlements.

Further Work

A full quantification and publication ready report has been completed although some revision will be required once work on the remainder of the well assemblage is complete.

Artefacts in illustration catalogue to be drawn

Worked Bone

A full quantification of this small but significant assemblage has been completed. A total of 24 items have been selected for publication including dress items (7), toilet items (4), household (1), tools (6), misc. (2), bone working (4). **To be updated with STRLOF 08 December 08**

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of local significance in that it illustrates local craft specialisation and utilisation of both wild and farmed species for the production of a range of household and craft activities.

Further Work

Work is currently under way on a publication ready report.

Artefacts in illustration catalogue still to be drawn

4.4 Environmental Summaries

Faunal Remains

Factual Data

A total of 4613 “countable” (see below) fragments have been identified and recorded derived from both hand-collection and sample residues.

Cattle are the most numerous taxon by number of identified fragments (NISP), accounting for 47.7% of major domestic species, sheep/goat is second in importance at 37.2%. Horse fragments are the next most numerous at 6.8% followed by pig at 5.5%. Domestic dog remains are relatively common (2.4% of domestic species) and include partial skeletons. Occasional cat bones, including two mandibles, were found in various contexts.

The most important evidence of wild species are numerous red deer antler fragments. These include both un-worked antler fragments and craft waste. While the majority of antler beam fragments recovered derive from naturally cast antlers two specimens are attached to cranial fragments. Further evidence for the hunting of red deer is represented by a small number of bones and a single mandible found in various contexts. Isolated specimens of cast roe deer antler and metapodial were also found. The fox bones include a metapodial with a cut mark. Other wild mammal species present at low frequency (and primarily recovered from the sample residues) include badger, stoat, weasel, hare, rabbit, house mouse, wood mouse, water vole, field vole, bank vole, mole, and shrew.

Domestic birds are represented by a few chicken bones (0.4% of domestic species) and, possibly, some goose bones. Some of the goose bones are small for domestic birds or greylag geese and may belong to wild forms such as white-fronted geese. The same applies to the mallard size duck bones. Wild ducks are represented by both sub-mallard sized dabbling ducks and diving species. Corvids present include raven and carrion crow. Passerines include possible skylark and thrush species as well as smaller sparrow or finch sized birds. Frog and toad are both present, most probably representing pitfall victims and predator victims. Fish recovered include pike, eel and small Cyprinids (chub family). While most of these are probably incidental, one of the pike fragments derives from a fish 1m in length.

A full quantification of this large and highly significant assemblage has been completed.

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of regional significance and represents a future type site for characterising rural settlement. This assemblage is large and varied with clear potential to enhance understanding of a broad range of animal husbandry tasks, kill off patterns, butchery and exploitation activities and dietary preferences taking place on this site.

Further Work

A publication ready report will be produced following analysis of this assemblage in Jan2009.

Human Skeletal Remains

Factual Data

Twelve inhumations and eighteen deposits of cremated bone were identified. All of the skeletons analysed were adult and both male and females were identified. The pathologies observed are those that are seen most commonly on archaeological sites; arthropathies, dental pathologies and a fracture.

Statement of Potential

This assemblage is of local significance in that it illustrates local burial customs and preferences.

Further Work

Other than C14 analysis no further work is required on the bone itself. However, once dates have been established for the graves then the burials can be reviewed with reference to contextual information, both from the site and regionally. Samples have been submitted to SUERC for absolute dating.

Environmental Remains

Plant Remains

A total of 1145 bulk samples were taken during excavation and approximately 10% of these were specialist samples. Samples were taken from a variety of features including pits, postholes, ditches, hearths, two quarries and a well. Preservation is predominantly by charring and is quite variable. The plant remains were dominated by the grains of crop plants, namely cereals along with legumes (peas and beans) and possibly flax. Cereal chaff (culm nodes, glume bases and rachis internode fragments) and numerous seeds of wild taxa are also present.

Statement of Potential

Despite the extensive sampling that took place during the excavation, the majority of the samples produced insufficient material for further study. The reason for this is probably due to the nature of the soil; heavy clay that alternately freezes and dries does not favour preservation of plant macrofossils.

Further Work

Only 10% of the samples are recommended for further work and only a small proportion of these samples are likely to contain sufficient material to enable accurate interpretation of the plant macrofossils recovered.

Pollen

Following assessment full pollen analyses from sixteen sub-samples of sediment taken from discrete samples and monolith samples from three separate features.

Statement of Potential

Of the sixteen sub-samples prepared for pollen from this site, twelve proved to be barren. The pollen concentrations of the four remaining sub-samples varied between 43,606 and 107,858 grains per ml. Three sub-samples exceeded the statistically

desirable total of 300 pollen grains main sum, and one (547) reached 294, which is close enough to be acceptable. It is always important not to over-interpret the pollen signal, but these pollen assemblages fit comfortably within the types of Iron Age and Roman landscapes known from the claylands west of Cambridge.

Further Work

A full report on the pollen analysis has been completed, the results of which will be integrated into the Excavation Monograph.

Insects and Mollusca

The insect remains were recovered from waterlogged contexts within a quarry pit and a well.

Statement of Potential

The sample from the quarry pit produced an exceptionally well-preserved and interpretable assemblage: The majority of taxa from the quarry indicate, dry open pasture with hedgerows or an area of wood pasture close by (Rackham 1976), and areas of disturbed ground colonised by weeds and ruderal species. It is the latter group, which dominates the quarry assemblage, there are two possible reasons for this disturbance, the first is animal agency, and the second is quarrying activity itself.

The insect assemblages recovered from the well deposits were more restricted than those from the quarry, despite the limited size, the information provided by these samples is extremely interesting.

The assemblages derived from the well are strikingly similar to those from the quarry and suggest dry, open grassland or disturbed ground with grazing animals nearby.

Further Work

A full report on the insects and mollusca has been completed, the results of which will be integrated into the monograph.

5 UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Aims and Objectives: An integrated statement of potential

5.1.1 Aim 1

To determine the potential of the excavation archive to recover information about the changing patterns of use of the site over time.

Investigations at Love's Farm have indicated that the site was occupied or used by people since the Neolithic period. The assessment has shown that a suitable level of information has been recovered regarding the evolution of the layout of the settlement with supporting evidence from associated artefactual assemblages over time to fulfil this aim.

5.1.2 Aim 2

To establish the nature and relative economic status of the site in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

The assessment has shown that a suitable level of information has been recovered to address issues associated with status, trade, production and consumption to fulfil this aim.

5.1.3 Aim 3

To identify specific activities on the site by period through analysis of the material and paper archive.

The assessment has shown that a suitable level of information has been recovered to identify specific activities including animal husbandry, crop processing, bone tool manufacture, iron working and smithing and pottery production to fulfil this aim.

5.1.4 Aim 4

To examine aspects of ceremonial or ritual activity on the site over time through interpretation of the material and paper archive.

The assessment has shown that a suitable level of information has been recovered including structured deposition, placement of votive objects and changing burial practices to fulfil this aim.

Aim 5

To seek a greater understanding of the changing role of the site within its landscape setting over time through comparison with evidence from excavations, documentary and other sources.

The assessment has shown that a suitable level of information has been recovered to enable such comparisons and has a high potential to become a type site for the region.

5.2 National Research Objectives

The project has the potential to contribute towards examination and understanding of the following national research themes:

- the meaning of change
- communal monuments into settlement and field landscapes (2000–300 BC)

- Briton into Roman (300BC – AD 200)
- settlement hierarchies and interaction
- rural settlement
- patterns of craftsmanship and industry (including agriculture)
- understanding landscapes
- cognitive landscapes
- improving regional chronologies

5.3 Regional Research Objectives

The relevant regional research objectives are:

- to contribute towards a better Iron Age chronology
- to contribute towards an understanding of the development of the agrarian economy in the Iron Age
- to contribute towards and understanding of artefact production and distribution in the Iron Age
- to investigate the impact of the development of towns on the surrounding countryside

5.4 Local Research Objectives

The site provides an ideal opportunity to study a multi-period settlement site encompassing agricultural, domestic and ritual activities within the context of the Ouse Valley. In addition to the many themes outlined above (and a general analysis of the development of the site in its local context), other areas for study are:

- interpretation of the type and status of the settlement in context, contrasting it with Neolithic and Roman-British remains (Ellis 2002), and possible fort close by at Eynesbury (Lethbridge and Tebbutt, 1936); settlement at Cambourne (Wessex Archaeology 2003) and recent findings along the routes of the A428 (BCAS 1995 and forthcoming) and Papworth bypass (CAM ARC report 971, 2007 and Hounsell in prep).
- investigation of the potential for continuity of occupation or land use from the Late Roman to Early Saxon transitional period.
- Excavations have demonstrated for the first time that the local landscape owes much of its current layout to activities dating back at least as early as the Iron Age and therefore has a high potential to enhance the understanding of continuity and persistence of landscape boundaries from the prehistoric period to the present day.

5.5 Site Specific Research Objectives

The site provided an ideal opportunity to study a multi-period settlement site encompassing agricultural, domestic and potentially ritual activities within the context of the Ouse Valley.

The main aim of excavation was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the

site. The following objectives are specifically site related, and would form the basis of the site's contribution to the regional and national research aims cited above:

Prehistoric

- to investigate the nature of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity on the site.

Iron Age

- to investigate the nature, morphology and development of Iron Age settlement on the site and its relationship to the Iron Age activity seen at Paxton (Jones, forthcoming) and elsewhere in this part of the Great Ouse valley;
- to contribute to an understanding of the domestic economy of the Iron Age settlement;
- to investigate the processes of deposition of domestic debris within differing contexts within the core and periphery of the settlement with a view to understanding the nature of depositional practices in the domestic context.

Roman

- to investigate the nature and morphology of Roman settlement on the site;
- to interpret the type and status of the excavated settlement foci in context and contrast with the putative Roman-British estate centre or 'village' settlement and possible fort close by at Eynesbury.

Saxon

- to investigate the for continuity of occupation or land use from the Late Roman to Early Saxon transitional period.

Medieval - Modern

- to investigate the for continuity of occupation or land use from the Medieval to modern period.

6 METHODS STATEMENTS

The main potential of the site lies both in the unprecedented scale of the open area excavations and in the considerable ceramic, human and animal bone, metalwork and plant macrofossil assemblages from stratified contexts. Relatively small assemblages such as lithics, metalworking debris, worked leather, worked bone and objects of fired clay are also likely to prove significant when considered in context, and through association with the remainder of the artefactual categories mentioned above.

The following methods statement can be divided into three parts:

- the selection and categorisation of data from the ‘paper’ archive;
- analysis of the materials archive by artefactual type;
- the integration of individual analyses and interpretation of the results. Integration will include consideration of combined assemblages, typologies, site characteristics, affinities and implications for our understanding of the site in context and interpretation within the broader landscape setting.

Considerable detailed work has already been undertaken on the wide variety of materials recovered from the site during excavation and much progress has also been made in the interrogation of the written and drawn record. This approach was required in order to meet the tight deadlines required by the planning process and was justified by the clear potential of the key elements of the project archive to address the original aims of the project. The restatement of the assessment and updated research objectives has helped to clarify the key areas for further analysis and details the path towards wider dissemination through publication.

This further work will aim to present a synthesis of the project results, concentrating on the later prehistoric and Romano British elements of the site, in particular the middle to late Iron Age and Romano British settlement patterns, land use and field systems. Further analysis of the finds assemblages will focus on aspects of the later Iron Age and Roman pottery, metalwork, charred grain and the large animal bone assemblages. Particular attention will be given to the examination and characterisation of these assemblages both within and between focal points of past activity on the site.

The following section summarises which elements have been identified for full, partial or no further analysis in order to meet the potential of the excavated data and the Updated Research Aims of the project. Detailed task lists are presented in Section 9. The Project team members (and initials) are outlined in table 5.

6.1 Stratigraphic Analysis

Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The contextual record is the main component of the excavation data and is sufficient to form the foundation of the site narrative. The 2003-2008 record is sufficient to fulfil the aims and objectives related to the internal layout, morphological development and activity zones of the site, and for providing essential data to supplement artefact and environmental studies. Of particular note are the following:

- understanding the sources of deposits and fills as an indication of site function;

- understanding the temporal and spatial analysis of site function by feature type;
- understanding and interpretation of the ditches and their roles as boundaries or markers which will be significant to understanding the changing views of the landscape and its manipulation from the prehistoric, Roman and later periods.

6.2 Illustration

Illustration tasks fall into three categories:

Illustrations to assist with spatial analysis

Illustrations of site plans and location details

Illustrations of artefactual assemblages

Detail of individual tasks is provided in the task list table 6.

6.3 Documentary Research

Research into documentary and cartographic evidence, in addition to other sources such as aerial photographic surveys, is currently being undertaken to place the site within its wider context and to better understand the later development of the local landscape.

6.4 Artefactual Analysis

Progress on individual elements of the artefactual assemblages is varied. Some work is complete and work on some key assemblages is still ongoing, most notably spatial analysis of the faunal, ceramic and metalwork. Detail on each category is provided in section 4.3.

6.5 Ecofactual Analysis

Progress on individual elements of the assemblages is varied. Some work is complete and work on some key assemblages is still ongoing, most notably plant macro fossils. Detail on each category is provided in section 4.4.

6.6 Spatial Analysis

The digital archive has been prepared to enable the graphic representation of complex period and artefactual distribution queries through the site plan. Queries will be generated by the post excavation team using the sites Microsoft Access relational database. These queries will then be translated into distribution plans using Auto Cad and gvSIG software packages under the guidance of Crane Begg the senior illustrator. The results of this interrogation of the artefactual and stratigraphic data will form the basis for the review and completion of key specialist and lead author contributions to the final monograph publication.

7 REPORT WRITING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

7.1 Report Writing

Tasks associated with report writing are identified in Table 6 (Tasks).

7.2 Archiving

Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Cambridgeshire County Council in appropriate county stores under the Site Code STRLOF 03-08 and the county HER code ECB 2482, ECB 2483. A digital archive will be deposited with ADS. CCC requires transfer of ownership prior to deposition. During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

7.3 Publication

It is proposed that the results of the project should be published in the East Anglian Archaeology Monograph Series, under the provisional title *Iron Age to Early Saxon Settlement at Love's Farm, St Neots, Cambridgeshire* , by Mark Hinman with contributions by Ian Baxter, Barry John Bishop, Paul Blinkhorn, Steve Boreham, Steve Critchley, Nina Crummy, Natasha Dodwell, Taleyna Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry, Val Fryer, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer, Sarah Henley, Alex Pickstone, Alice Lyons, Quita Mould, Sarah Percival, Tom Phillips, Roddy Reagan, Ian Riddler, Ruth Schaffrey, David Starley, Emma Tetlow, Stephen Wadeson and Heather Wallis.

Report Structure

Front matter (listings, acknowledgements, list of contributors *etc.*)
(c. 9 text pages)

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

(c. 10 text pages, c.5 tables, c.21 figures, c. 3 plates)

- I. Geology, Topography and Setting
- II. Project Background
- III. Methodologies

Chapter 2: Origins

(c.4 text pages, c.2 figures, c.2 plates)

- I. Neolithic
- II. Bronze Age

Chapter 3: The Iron Age

(c.50 text pages, c.5 tables, c.25 figures, c.10 plates)

- I. Introduction
- II. Archaeological Sequence
- III. Discussion

Chapter 4: Romano-British

(c.50 text pages, c.5 tables, c.15 figures, c.5 plates)

- I. Introduction
- II. Archaeological Sequence
- III. Discussion

Chapter 5: Post-Roman

(c.10 text pages, c.2 tables, c.10 figures, c.5 plates)

- I. Introduction
- II. Archaeological Sequence
- III. Discussion

Chapter 6: The Finds

(c.40 text pages, c.20 tables, c.30 figures, c.5 plates)

- I. Lithics, by Barry John Bishop
- II. Querns, by Sarah Percival
- III. Worked Stone and Miscellaneous Building Material by Ruth Schaffrey
- IV. Fired Clay, by Stephen Wadeson
- V. Pottery
 - Prehistoric Pottery by Sarah Percival
 - Later Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman Pottery, by Alice Lyons
- VI. Glass, by Stephen Wadeson
- VII. Metalwork, by Nina Crummy
- VIII. Metalworking Slags, by David Starley
- IX. Worked Leather, by Quita Mould
- X. Worked Bone, by Ian Riddler

Chapter 7: Zooarchaeological and Botanical Evidence

(c.20 text pages, c.15 tables, c.10 figures, c.5 plates)

- I. Animal Bone, by Ian Baxter
- II. Human Skeletal Remains, by Natasha Dodwell
- III. Plant Remains, by Rachel Fosberry and Val Fryer
- IV. Insects and mollusca, by Emma Tetlow

Chapter 8: General Discussion

(c. 15 text pages, c.10 figures)

- I. Neolithic to Bronze Age
- II. Iron Age
- III. Roman
- IV. Post-Roman and Modern

Chapter 9: Conclusions

(c. 10 text pages)

Back matter (bibliography, index etc)

(c.10 text pages)

Volume Summary

	Sub- total	No. pages
Total front matter		9
Total text pages		228
Total figures	153	60
Total plates	35	18
Total tables	52	13
Back material		10
Volume Total		338

9 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

In order to realise the site's full potential, to meet the project's research aims, the following resources and programming are required to complete the analysis and report writing phases.

9.1 Staffing

9.1.1 Project Team

Name	Initials	Project Role	Employer
Ian Baxter	IB	Animal Bone	Freelance
Crane Begg	CB	Report illustration	OA East
Barry Bishop	BB	Flint	Freelance
Steve Boreham	SB	Pollen	Cambridge University
Paul Blinkhorn	PB	Saxon Pottery	Freelance
Jon Cane	JC	Finds Illustration	Freelance
Brendan Chester-Kadwell	BCK	Landscape Historian	Freelance
Aileen Connor	AC	Database development	OA East
Nina Crummy	NC	Small finds	Freelance
Natasha Dodwell	ND	Human Bone	Freelance
Val Fryer	VF	Charred Grain	Freelance
Gillian Greer	GG	Finds Illustration	OA East
Mark Hinman	MH	Project Manager	OA East
Emma Hogarth	EH	Conservator	Colchester Borough Museums
Alice Lyons	AL	Roman pottery/ Fired clay	OA East
Sarah Percival	SP	Prehistoric pottery	NPS
Alex Pickstone	AP	Project Officer	OA East
Elizabeth Popescu	EP	Editor/publications management	OA East
Sarah Henley	SH	Supervisor	OA East
Ruth Shaffrey	RS	Worked stone	OA South
Steve Wadson	CT	Samian	OA East
Emma Tetlow	ET	Insects	Freelance
Alan Vince	AV	Thin section	Freelance
Steve Wadson	SW	Glass	OA East
Illustrator	ILL		OA East

Table 5: Project team

9.2 Task Identification

Task No.	Task	Staff	No. Days
Project Management			
1	Project management	MH	20
2	Team meetings	MH	5
3	Liaison with relevant staff and specialists, distribution of relevant information and materials	MH	5
Total			30
Stratigraphic analysis			
4	Submit samples for C14 dating	MH/ND	1
5	Integrate ceramic/artefact dating with site database	MH/AC	2
6	Update database and digital plans/sections to reflect any changes	AH/SH	5
7	Define remit for spatial analysis of artefactual materials and archaeological periods	MH/CB/S H etc	6
8	Finalise site phasing	MH/SH	2
9	Training and trials in analysis software	MH/CB/S H	6
10	Adjust final phasing in database	SH	5
11	Amend Entity and Group numbering in database	SH	5
12	Adjust group and phase text	SH	5
13	Compile overall stratigraphic text and site narrative to form the basis of the archive report	MH/SH	10
14	Review, collate and standardise results of all final specialist reports and integrate with stratigraphic text and project results	MH/SH	10
Total			57
Finds Analysis			
Coins			
15	Discuss final grouping and phasing with post-excavation team	MH/SW/ NC	0.25
16	Weighing, identification, cataloguing and report	NC	3
Total			3.25
Metalwork			
17	Meeting with post-ex-team	NC	1
18	Discuss final grouping and phasing with post-excavation team	NC	0.25
19	Catalogue (08) and report on objects	NC	14
20	Check illustrations	NC	0.75
Total			16
Conservation STRLOF 08			
20	Cleaning and stabilisation	EH	10
21	X-radiography	EH	1
Total			
Lithics			
22	Discuss issues raised through assessment with post-excavation team	BB	0.25
23	Review drawings and compile report	BB	5
Total			5.25

Worked stones			
24	Discuss issues raised through assessment with post-excavation team	RS	0.5
25	Full publication standard catalogue of illustrated items	RS	0.5
26	Catalogue of other items	RS	0.5
27	Lithological analysis including 7 thin sections	SP	1
28	Report and review illustrations	RS	1
Total			3.5
Prehistoric pottery			
29	Submit samples for thin sectioning	SP	0.5
30	Analysis and reporting on the pottery	SP	1.5
31	Produce illustration catalogue		1
32	Illustrated sherd catalogue and checking drawings	SP	0.25
Total			2.25
Late Pre Roman Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery			
33	Meeting with post-ex-team		1
34	Full publication standard catalogue of illustrated items	AL	2
35	Review illustrations	AL	1
36	Report	AL	15
Total			19
Samian			
37	Meeting with post-ex-team	SW	1
38	Identification of the stamp dies	SW	1.5
39	Further analysis of pottery mends	SW	1
40	Comparisons of other local and regional material	SW	2
41	Review illustrations	SW	0.5
Total			6
Saxon Pottery			
42	Complete report and illustration catalogue	PB	1.5
Total			1.5
CBM and fired clay			
43	Discuss issues raised through assessment with post-excavation team	AL	0.25
44	Report and review illustrations/photographs	AL	1.5
Total			1.75
Glass			
45	Discuss issues raised through assessment with post-excavation team	SW	0.25
46	Edit	SW	0.25
47	Update report	SW	1.5
Total			2
Worked Leather			
48	Review illustrations		0.5
Total			0.5
Worked Bone			
49	Final text for publication	NC	1
50	Review illustrations	NC	0.5
Total			1.5
Animal bone			
51	Meeting with post-ex-team	IB	1
52	Data processing and analysis	MH/IB	6

53	Report	IB	5
Total			12
Human Skeletal Remains			
54	Update report following C14 results	ND	1
Total			1
Charred grain			
55	Discuss issues raised through assessment with post-excavation team	VF/RF	1
56	Further analysis	VF	3
57	Report	VF	5
Total			8
Insects			
58	Report Edit	ET	0.5
Total			0.5
Pollen			
59	Report edit	SB	1
Total			1
4 Radiocarbon dates –task 60			
Human burial - crouched IA? Context 5816			
Human burial - kneeling E Saxon? Context 8098			
Well- tbc			
Water hole -tbc			
Antler deposit - tbc			
Thin sections			
61	Select Quern Stones	SP	0.25
62	Select Prehistoric pottery	SP	0.25
Total			
Illustration tasks			
63	Compile list of illustrations/liaison with illustrators	MH//SH	0.5
		CB	0.5
		EP	0.5
64	Create closed objects in site plan	AH	5
65	Create interpretive objects in site plan	AH	5
66	Produce plans/sections/location drawings	ILL	15
67	Select site photographs for publication	MH	1
		CB	1
		EP	1
68	Publication figure preparation	ILL	15
		Finds illustration	ILL
69	Coins – photography		1
70	Metalwork	GG	10
71	Lithics photography		1
72	Lithics illustration		4
73	Worked Stone photography		1
74	Worked Stone illustration		2
75	Prehistoric pottery	GG	10
76	Roman pottery	JC	10
77	Samian Wares	JC	1
78	Saxon Pottery	GG	1
79	CBM/Fired Clay		2

80	Worked Leather	JC	2
81	Worked Bone	JC	2
82	Animal bone photography		2
83	Charred grain photography		1
84	Select and check finds illustrations	CB	3
		EP	3
85	Finds tracking	SW	3
86	Project management	MH	5
Total			108.5
Monograph Production			
87	Collate and review results of previous work from the local/regional area	MH	5
88	Write historical and archaeological background text	MH	10
89	Write landscape history	BCK	15
90	Integrate documentary research	MH/BCK	5
91	Write integrated period by period phased narrative	MH	30
92	Write discussion and conclusions	MH	10
93	Collate front matter for publication (lists, captions etc.)	SH / MH	2
94	Collate back matter for publication (bibliography, appendices etc.)	SH /MH	2
95	Internal edit	EP	4
96	Incorporate internal edits	MH	2
97	Final edit	EP	5
98	Produce monograph summary	MH	1
99	Submit for refereeing	EP	2
100	Post-refereeing revisions	MH/EP	5
101	Copy Edits queries	EP	2
102	Page Layouts	EP	5
103	Final Dispatch	EP	3
Total			98
Archiving			
104	Compile paper archive	SH	2
105	Archive/delete digital photographs	SH	5
	Compile/check material archive	SH	2
Total			9
Publication			
106	Submit Oasis report	HF	1
107	Distribute monograph	MH	1
Total			2
Total			

Table 6: Full publication tasks

9.3 Project Timetable

The aim is for the specialists reports to be completed by the end of 2008 and a first publication draft by April 2009.

OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-52068			
Project Name	Loves FArm, St Neots			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	01-06-2003	Finish	25-07-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STR LOF 06	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB2482 / ECB2483	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
--------	--------------------

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Settlement	Iron Age -800 to 43	pot, bone, metal	Iron Age -800 to 43
Settlement	Roman 43 to 410	pot, bone, metal	Roman 43 to 410
Settlement	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	pot, bone	Early Medieval 410 to 1066

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdonshire	Loves Farm Cambridge Road St Neots PE19 6SN	
Parish	Saint Neots Rural		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	60ha	National Grid Reference	TL 520100 260600

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	ANDY THOMAS, CCC
Project Design Originator	MARK HINMAN
Project Manager	MARK HINMAN
Supervisor	T Fletcher, E Muldowney, T Phillips, A Pickstone

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Landbeach Store	CCC Landbeach Store	CCC Landbeach Store
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

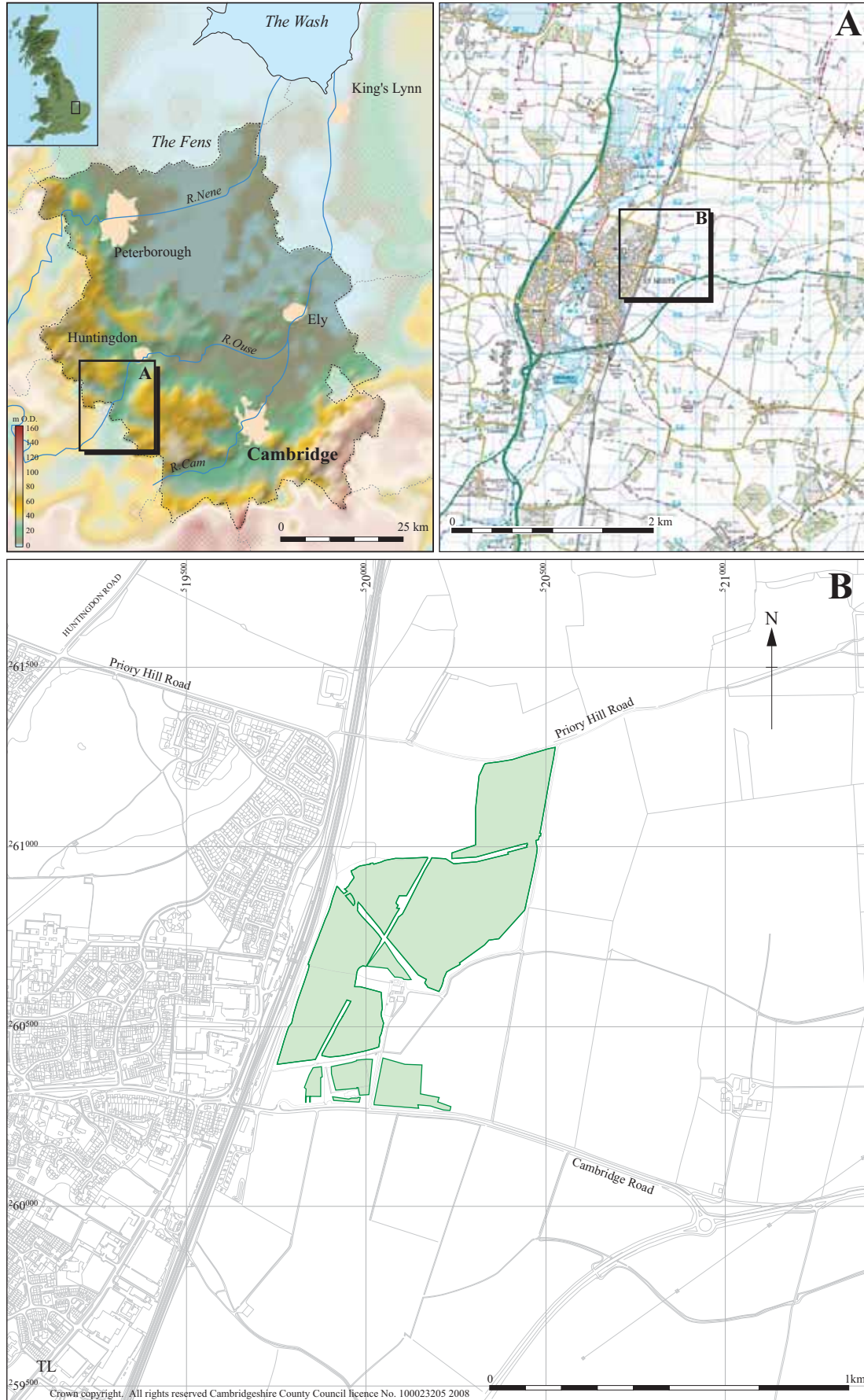


Figure 1 Excavation area.

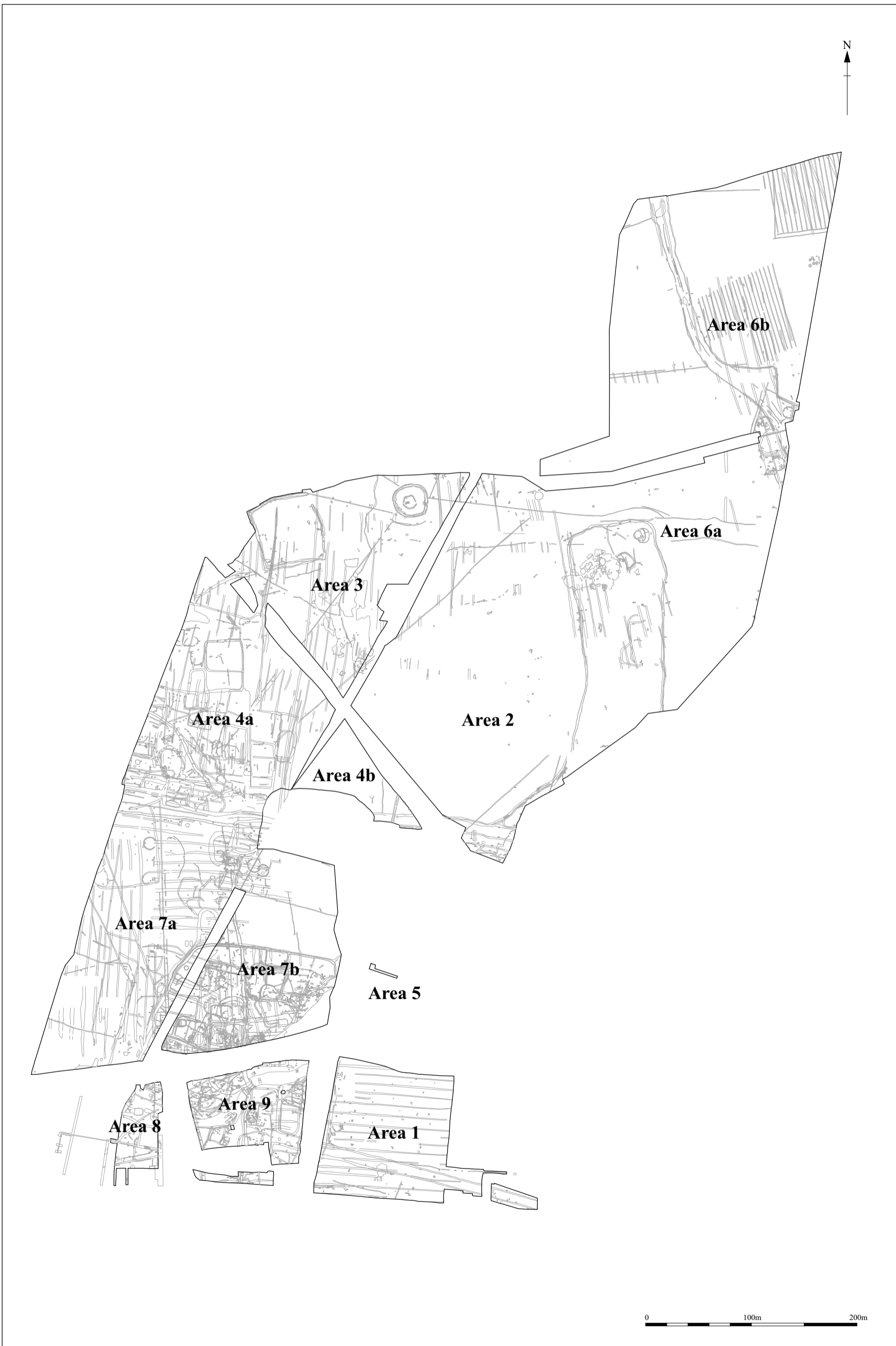


Figure 2 Excavation area



Figure 3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

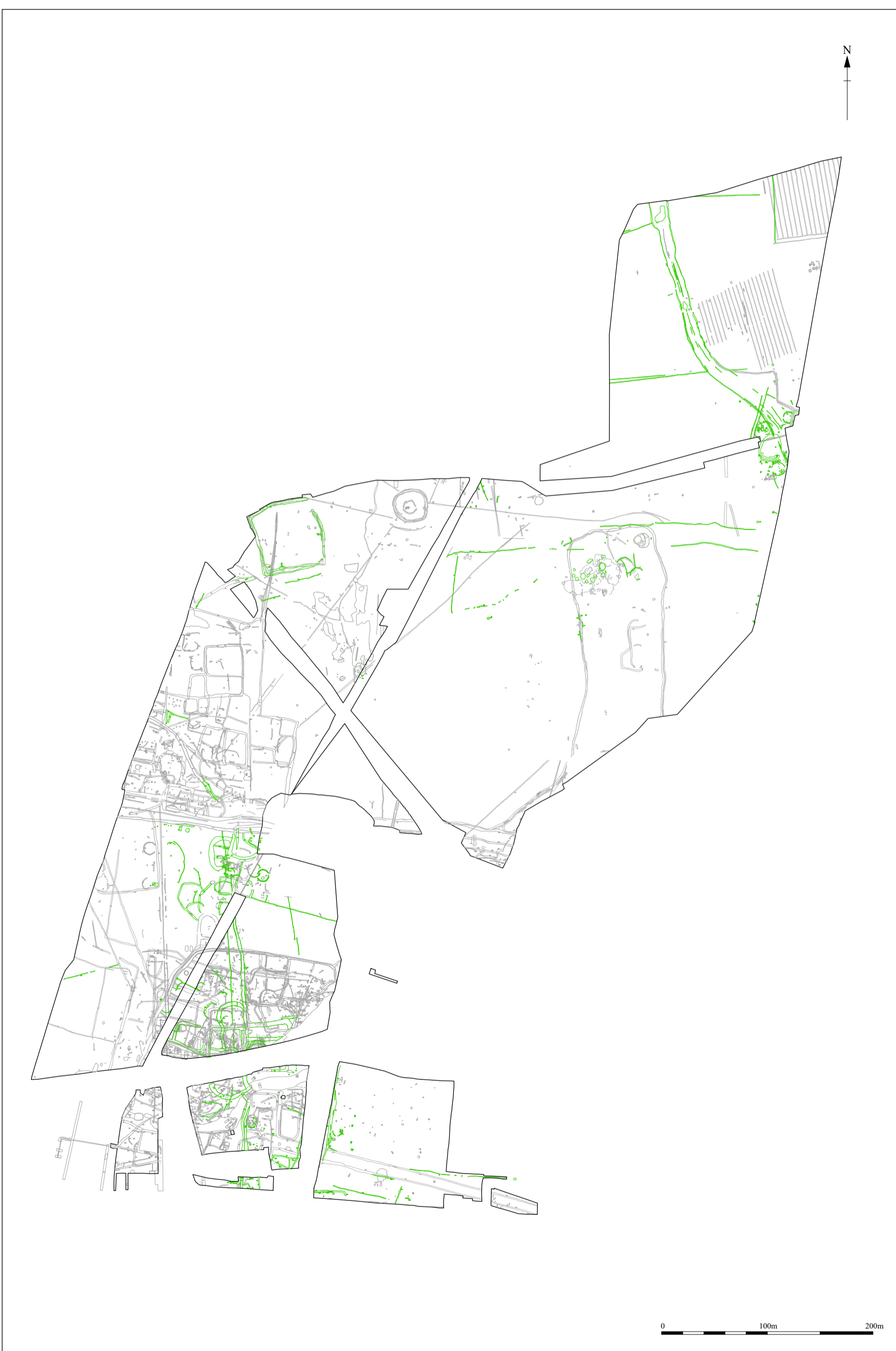


Figure 4 The Middle to late Iron Age



Figure 5 Late Pre Roman Iron Age to 2nd century AD

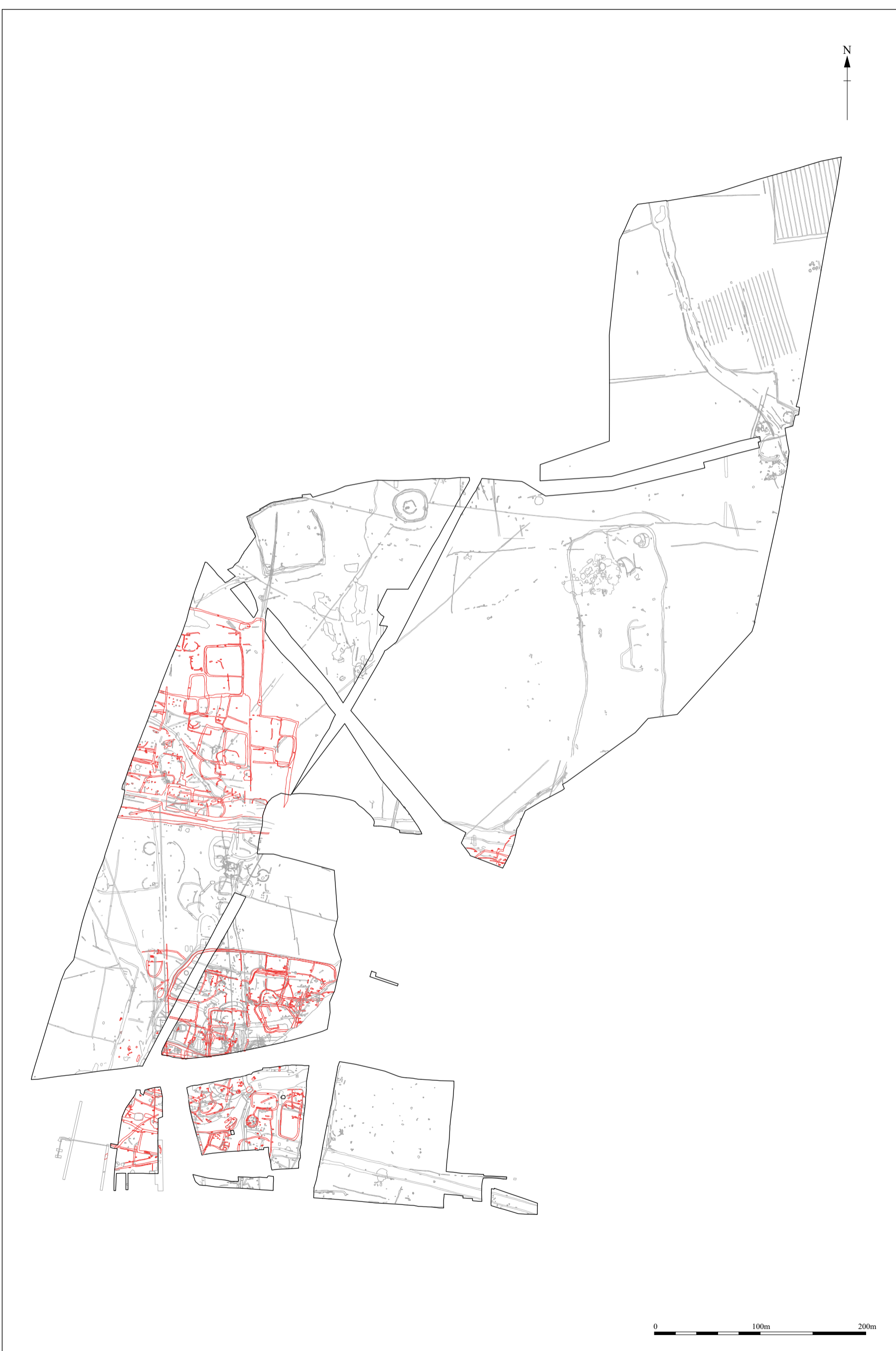


Figure 6 2nd to 4th century AD



Figure 7 Ridge and furrow



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