

Archaeological Field Unit

**Borough Hill Enclosure, Sawston
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

S Bray

1994

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No 95

Commissioned By Spicers Ltd.

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In December 1993, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council completed a watching brief on behalf of Spicers Ltd during the construction of a pipeline for computer ducting. Part of the route of the pipeline crossed the site of an Iron Age hillfort (TL 4717/4948).

The work demonstrated the survival of the bank and ditch of the hillfort with a preserved buried soil beneath the bank. It has shown the position of the bank to be on a slightly different alignment to the surviving earthwork as a result of soil creep outwards and downslope from the bank. Inside the hillfort a thick silt layer was recorded, protecting any internal features from modern agricultural practises.

Further activity was identified outside the fort in the form of a well-defined shallow ditch, and a square-cut pit or ditch.

In addition the work has allowed a comparison of various archaeological techniques: fieldwalking, geophysical survey, analysis of aerial photographs and excavation. The techniques produced widely contrasting results, with no artefacts recorded during the fieldwalking, the earthworks survey recorded a well defined bank which was later found to be artificial and a product of erosion of the original bank: The geophysical survey and aerial photographs clearly show the hillforts outer defences and some evidence of internal activity. The work has therefore shown that whilst all non-intrusive methods of archaeological investigations need to be considered the results generated are affected by natural and man made changes and must be treated with caution. Excavation remains, to date, the best method of obtaining accurately defined and detailed results.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council was commissioned by Spicers Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a pipeline for computer ducting. Part of the route of the pipeline crossed the north-western edge of a Iron Age hillfort in the parish of Sawston (*Figure 1*; TL 4717/4948).

The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between the 20th and 23rd of December 1993.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The area affected by the construction of the pipeline lies in Southern Cambridgeshire in the parish of Sawston. The under-lying geology of the area is Middle Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous period which forms the gently undulating hills of the region. Over the site extensive terrace and alluvial deposits mask the underlying bedrock on either side of the River Cam or Granta (BGS Sheet No. 205).

The site is located on the Spicer's Estate in the western half of Sawston parish, seven miles to the south of Cambridge. Located on a slight chalk promontory the site lies at 20m above OD extending into the floodplains of the River Cam. It is bordered to the south by the River Cam, to the east by the Cambridge-London railway and to the north by the paper factory (*Figure 1*). Standing no more than 2 to 3 m proud of the floodplain the site is in a locally commanding position and dominates the surrounding countryside, in particular the course of the river (Topping, forthcoming).

The current management regime of the site is varied; to the north it is currently an arable landscape. The southern side of the fort and some its interior has been largely overlaid and removed by the construction of buildings associated with an early mill, the present paperwork's, reservoir, and electricity sub-station.

3 BACKGROUND

The parish of Sawston has a rich and diverse archaeological record, with detailed documentary records for Sawston showing it to have been established by AD 970 (Reaney, 1943). The County's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows the area surrounding the Spicers Estate to be relatively rich in archaeology with a number of sites and casual finds being recorded, with all periods represented, from the Prehistoric through to the post-medieval period.

On the Spicer's Estate itself, apart from the well documented site of a medieval Mill which continued in use until c. 1753 when it became a paper mill, (surviving and thriving today), there is only one other known site of antiquity (VCH, 1978). This falls within the area affected by the present development, and was first recognised by C. Taylor from aerial photographs as an Iron Age hillfort, now recognised as being a site of national importance (National Monument No. 20451).

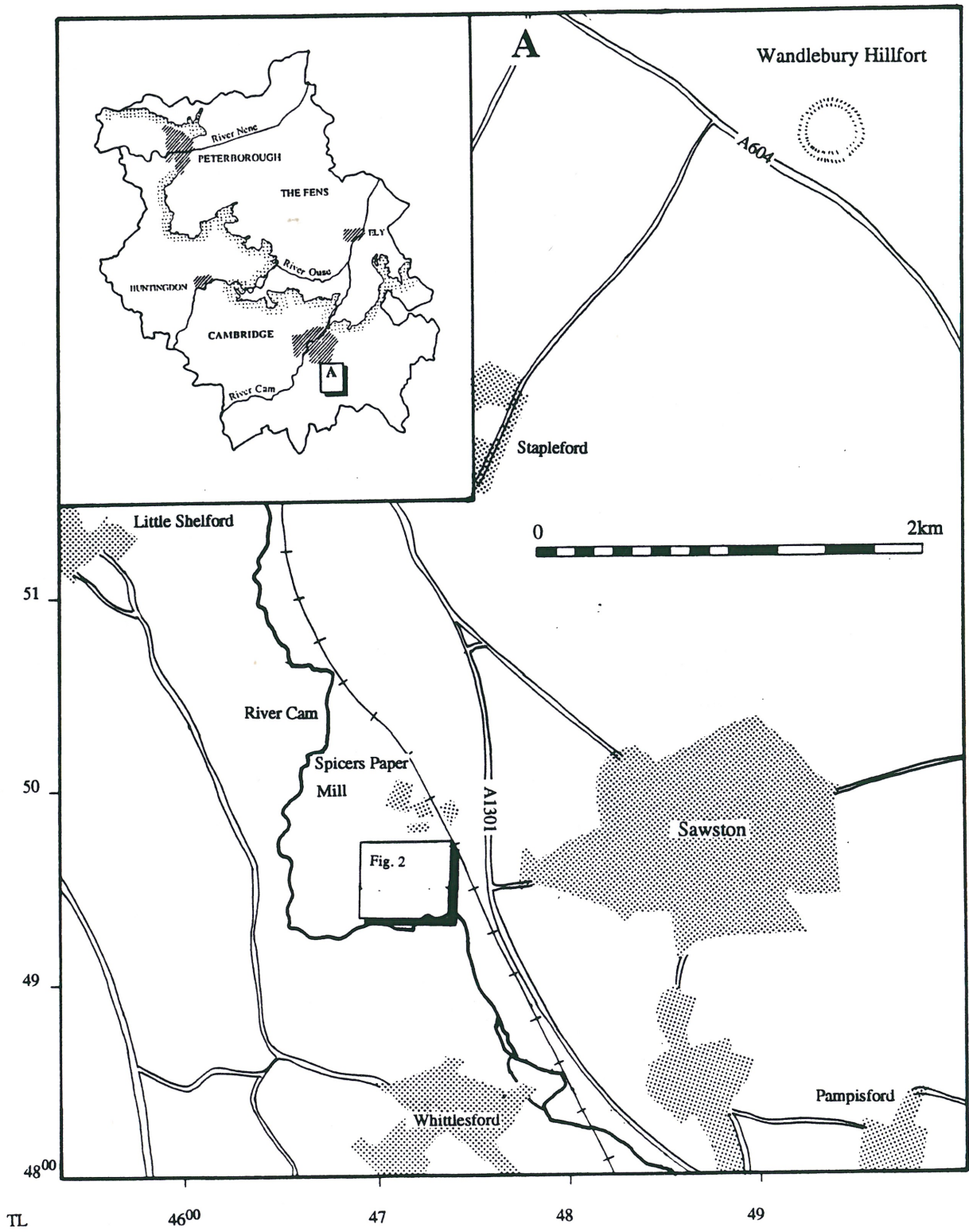


Figure 1 Location of Site

The site is situated on a low chalk hill known locally as Borough Hill, a name frequently associated with fort sites meaning a hill, mound or tumulus (Cameron 1961). The site follows the contours of the hill, roughly sub-oval in plan, measuring 430m east to west by 300m north to south, enclosing an internal area of approximately 8 hectares making it the second largest hillfort in Cambridgeshire (Malim 1992, 20, Table 1).

Although the southern part has been extensively altered by the construction of a post-medieval paper mill an estimated 80% of the area still survives. In total about two thirds of the circuit of the ramparts survive as slight earthworks or are visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks (*Figure 2*).

The hillfort has been interpreted from aerial photographs as being multivallate. The northern perimeter of the site has been heavily eroded by the plough, with the outer bank and ditch showing as a well defined cropmark and as a slight earthwork. The north-eastern arc of the hillfort is the best preserved with the bank surviving as a distinct ridge about one metre high. Here the earthworks comprise two ditches with a bank between them and a third external bank possibly surviving further to the north-east, representing a staggered entrance (Topping P, forthcoming). However, the surviving earthworks appear to have been severely distorted by the plough so that they are now slightly askew to those in the northern field, perhaps giving a mis-leading impression of what is nothing more than a simple entrance.

These features terminate on the north side where there is thought to be a simple entrance of up to 30m wide (Clarke R, 1992) (*Figure 2*). West of this entrance, the earthworks are less substantial but their course is observed as a distinct break of slope which continues into the yard of Mill Farm as far as the river (*Figure 2*). To the east of the farm a wide, low bifurcating scarp still survives in a pasture field.

Although the interior has been partially altered to varying degrees by agricultural activity, garden landscaping and localised building, it is now known that between 0.2m to 1m of ploughsoil and subsoil cover the northern part of the site, thus affording a degree of protection to prehistoric features of the site.

Iron Age hillforts are rare in East Anglia, the Sawston fort being one of only seven known hillforts in Cambridgeshire. Its sub-circular shape is typical for this area. Its location on low hill by a river, in contrast to the great hill-top fortifications of the south and west of Britain, is not unusual for Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk.

Hillforts are generally regarded as integral parts of the Iron Age society, defended in response to increasing warfare. Cambridgeshire contains the boundaries of three Iron Age tribal groups : the Iceni, the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni. The Sawston hillfort is one of a series of forts which follow the Lea-Stort-Cam rivers system and possibly reflects tribal conflict between the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni whose frontiers met in southern Cambridgeshire (Morris 1978). This group of forts, which includes Wandlebury Camp, Borough Hill, Sawston, War Ditches, Arbury Camp, and Belsars Hill forms a line from the Thames to the Fen Edge, dividing East Anglia from the rest of the country.

To the east of the county and in Norfolk and Suffolk (Icenian territory) some forts are found along river valleys inland from the fens with Stonea Camp an isolated complex set on an island further to the west. To date there has been little evidence of permanent occupation within these hillforts with exceptions at Stonea Camp where the possible remains of a hut circle were excavated in 1992 (Malim 1992) and at Borough Fen (Malim and McKenna, forthcoming). However, other excavated examples, at Arbury (Evans 1992) have produced yet to produce such evidence and it has been suggested that they were seasonally utilised as a defensively glorified corrals. The strategic nature of these monuments and their location within tribal territories raise the possibility of these

sites being hierarchical, representing elevated social status or "chiefdom" and perhaps the definite evidence for occupation at Borough Fen and Stonea Camp suggest that these earthworks should be seen as the product of a substantial defended homestead for a high-ranking family. However, given their size and location within tribal boundaries they might be multi-functional, providing a permanent home for a high-ranking family, a centre of trade and as a place of refuge during conflict for the local people much in the same role as castles in during the medieval period.

3.1 Previous Archaeological Work

A programme of archaeological assessment is being undertaken in advance of a planned expansion of the paper factory. The assessment has to date, taken the form of fieldwalking by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council, an earthwork survey by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments and a Survey by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (*Figure 2*).

The fieldwalking survey produced no artefacts from the site apart from a single sherd of medieval pottery (Bray & Leith 1993). The earthwork survey however, demonstrated the survival of a single bank expanding to a bivallated enclosure on the north-eastern side.

The geophysical survey assessed two 20 metre wide transects (A and B) on the northern side of the site crossing the north-eastern and north-western perimeters of the fort (*Figure 2*). The north-western transect (A) produced evidence of internal features suggestive of pits. At the western end of the transect a linear anomaly perhaps representing the truncated base of a perimeter ditch or bank. Another linear anomaly, aligned north-west to south-east at right-angles to the main line of the enclosure could represent part of an entranceway on the western side of the fort, opening out onto the lower-lying Alluvial floodplains (Topping P, forthcoming). The north-eastern transect (B) similarly demonstrated internal features. At the eastern end of the transect three linear anomalies following the natural scarp were identified which may represent the truncated remains of double or even triple defences. At this point the surviving earthworks indicate a staggered entranceway and the presence of increased defences support this idea.

METHODOLOGY

The pipetrench was constructed using a wheeled excavator with a narrow, toothed bucket excavating a trench, 0.60m wide, to a depth of 1.10m. An archaeologist was employed to monitor a section of pipeline, some 150 metres in length, where it crossed the monument (*Figure 2*). The narrow nature of the trench made it impossible and impracticable to identify and/or excavate features stratigraphically. Features therefore were only noted *in section*. Where areas of interest occurred the section was cleaned, photographed, drawn and recorded using the standard techniques of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. In the absence of any archaeological features sections of the pipetrench were cleaned, photographed and drawn every 25 metres. The trench cut across features at an angle and so any sections drawn are oblique and any dimensions are likely to be misleading. Soil samples were taken from the bank and the buried soil, 46 and 52 and the "palisade" trench, cut 51.

The pipeline gave an opportunity to question and resolve questions relating to the preservation of the site : to assess the preservation of any archaeological features in particular determining whether they reflected the earthworks on the surface in particular to test the two previous non-intrusive surveys that have been completed on the site (fieldwalking and geophysical) which had produced conflicting results; examine the extent that agriculture is affecting the site.

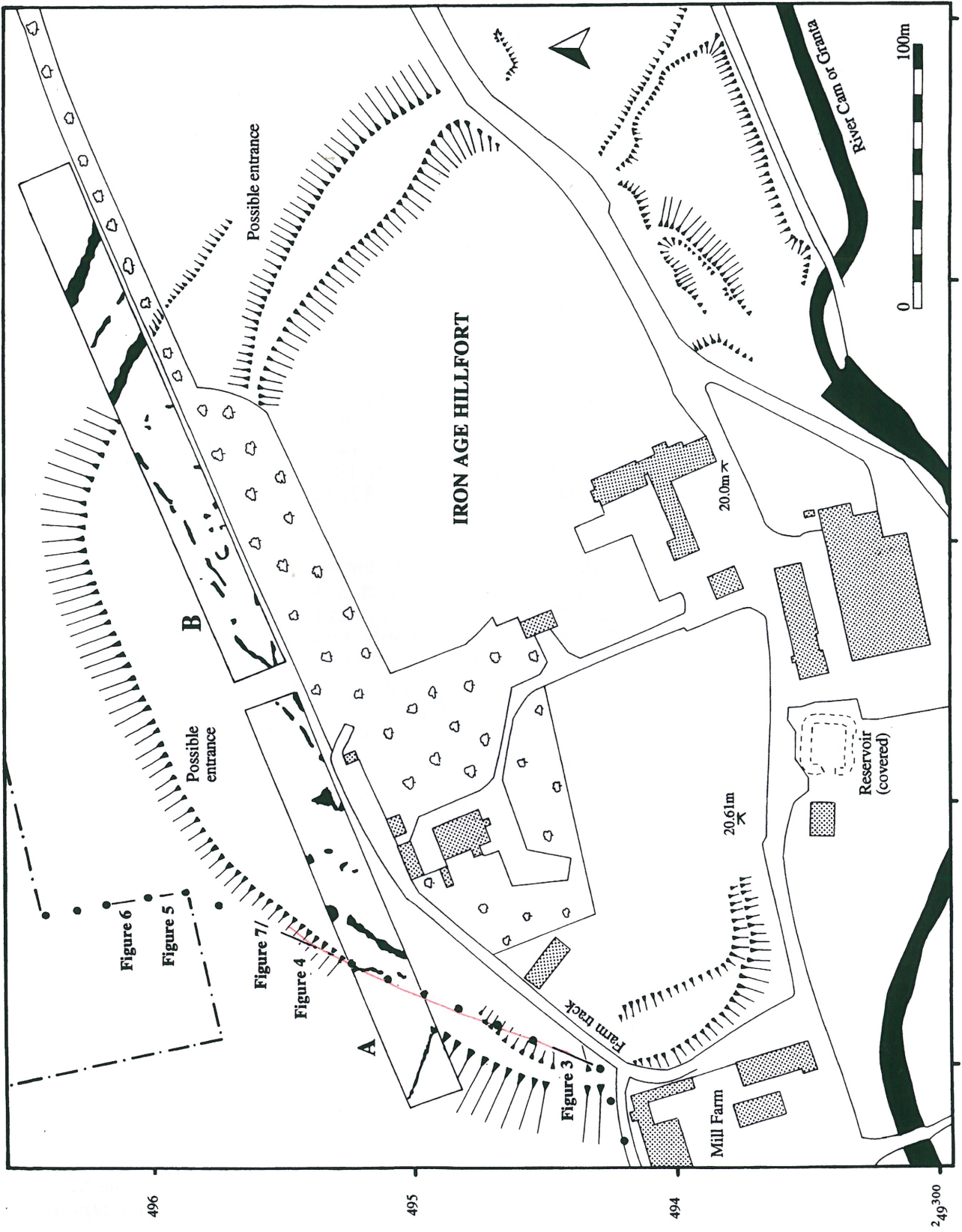


Figure 2 Location of Pipeline Through Hillfort in Relation to Geophysical Anomalies and Earthworks (earthworks survey reproduced by kind permission of RCHM(E) who retain Crown Copyright)

RESULTS

The pipeline through the hillfort has demonstrated the survival of significant archaeological features. At the south-western end of the pipetrench the upper deposits of the outer ditch, **20**, were detected (*Figure 3*). These consisted of two episodes of backfilling (**2** & **9**) which may be deliberate or two episodes of natural erosion. The north-western edge of the ditch was represented by layers **3** & **4** representing a pre-hillfort made-up surface possibly contemporary with an 'imported' layer **50** (*Figure 7*)? These two layers overlay a thick, brown, humic layer, **5**, from which a small abraded fragment of Iron Age pottery was recovered and may represent a preserved palaeosol. The north-eastern edge of the ditch was obscured by 2 later post-medieval cuts, **8** & **45** (*Figure 3*).

Both these features, **8** & **45**, appear to be on the same alignment as the main ditch and probably reflect the continuance of an older boundary into the post-medieval period. Feature **45** represents the original post-medieval cut which is later re-cut by **8**. A straight-sided, deep feature, cut **19**, was found cutting through the re-cut ditch, **8**, and represents a 20th century machine cut trench (*Figure 3*).

The core of the bank, **52** was also noted to survive (*Figure 3*), consisting of loosely packed chalk rubble. This was overlaid by a thin humic layer, **53**, which possibly represents a turf overlaying the marker bank. Overlying this was a thin layer of firmly packed chalk, **54**, representing the remnants of material used in the construction of a second phase bank. The bank was found to have been largely 'ploughed out' or naturally eroded and spread represented by layers **11**, **12**, **13**, **14**, **25**, **26**, **56** and **57** (*Figure 2*).

Beneath the surviving remains of the bank, **52**, the remains of a well preserved palaeosol, **46** (*Figure 3*), was recorded from which a flint flake was recovered. A mound of redeposited alluvium, **58**, with chalk flecks was noted to the north-east of the bank core, **52** (*Figure 3*). This again seemed to overlie the buried soil, **46**, and possibly represents the migration or rebuilding of the bank. This in turn was overlaid by a thick homogenous silt layer, **42**, which continued along the remainder of the section until the pipetrench re-crossed the bank and ditch (*Figure 2,4*), this perhaps represents the weathering out or deliberate demolition and spread of the second phase bank material which would have originally capped **54** (*Figure 3*).

Further along, the pipetrench crossed the bank and ditch again (*Figure 2*). Here the bank was found to consist of an alluvial silt core, layers **29**, **30** and **31**, capped by a chalk rubble, **28**, reflecting the construction episodes of the bank (*Figure 4*). A light brown homogenous silt, **27**, similar to layer **42** (*Figure 3*) was identified over-lying the surviving upper layer of the bank, **28** (*Figure 4*). This has been identified as being the ploughed out bank material that has undergone deliberate demolition or natural erosion and been spread across the field.

The front? of the bank appears to have been truncated by later activity, cut **51**. The disturbance seems to extend to just beneath the ploughsoil angling south-west to north-east (*Figure 4*). This could represent the location of a palisade similar to an example found at Wandlebury hillfort (Hartley, 1957), which seems to have been deliberately removed disturbing the lower layers, possibly as part of a deliberate episode of slighting the defences which would also corroborate the demolition of the bank suggested in layers **27**, **42**, **43** (*Figure 3,4,7*).

The outer ditch of the hillfort, cut **37**, was recognised 6m to the north-east of the bank (*Figure 4*). Measuring 3m wide, the feature was filled by a light brown homogenous silt from which a single (machine) broken flint blade was recovered.

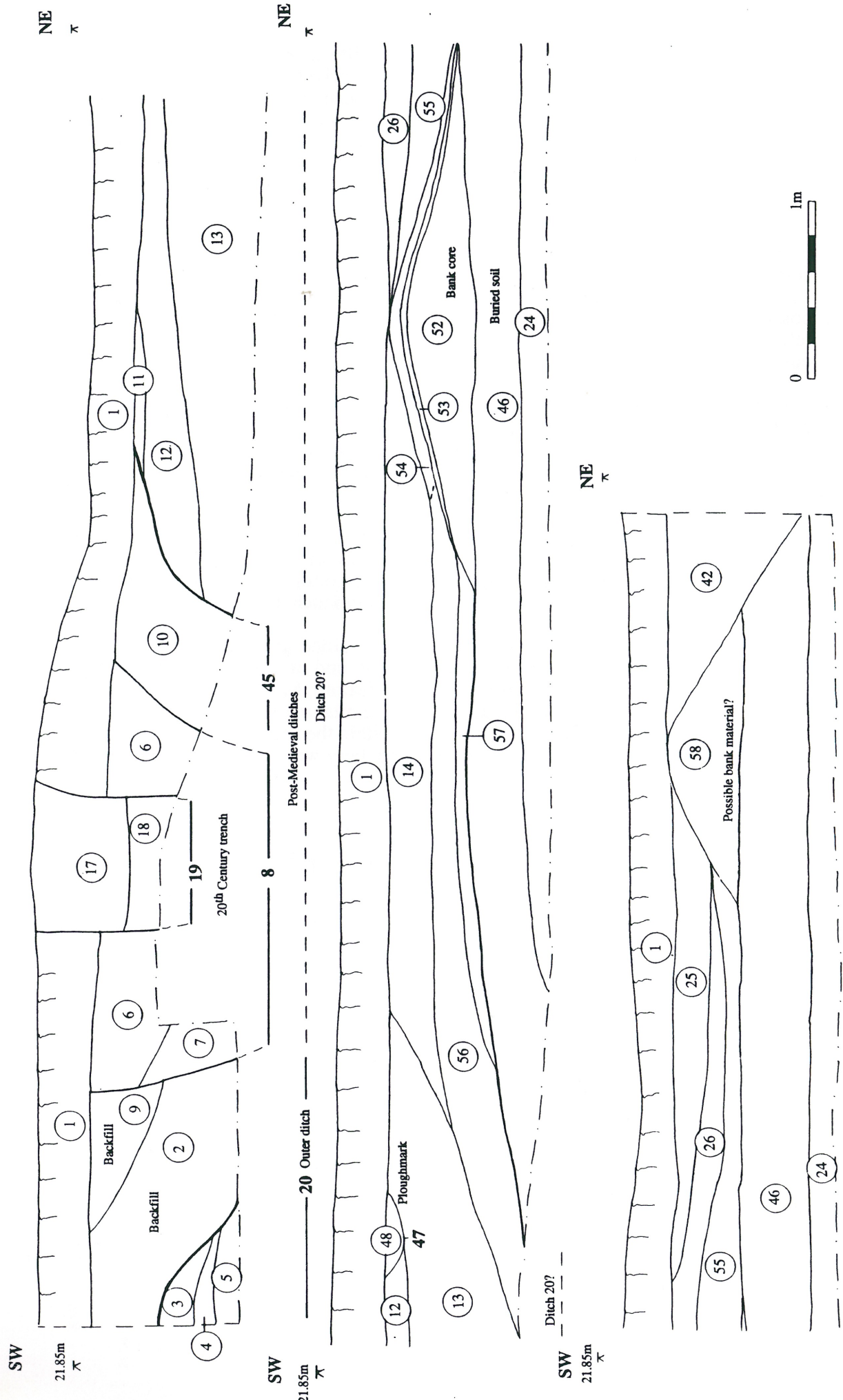


Figure 3 South-east Facing Section Through Bank and Ditch (south end of pipetrench)

The feature could represent the outer ditch of the hillfort, separated from the bank by a wide berm of which only the natural alluvium now survives. Sealing the feature a thick, dark brown humic layer, **34**, was recorded and has been tentatively interpreted as a soil which developed after the abandonment of the fort and the infilling of the ditch, **37**. This maybe composed of silty bank material that has been spread out either by natural erosion or as part of a deliberate policy of levelling the earthworks. This layer was sealed by a compact yellow, sandy clay layer, **33**, which possibly also represents eroded bank material (*Figure 7*)

Further along the pipetrench, to the north-west the layers **33** and **34** were found to continue but to slope steeply downwards, overlaid by a compact silt layer, **43** (*Figure 7*). This episode is difficult to explain given the limited extent of the pipetrench however, a possible explanation maybe that this occurs at the start of the slope of the hill and may reflect the bank material either deliberately or naturally being spread outwards, levelling out the slope.

Closer to the existing Spicers factory and carpark the sub-soil makeup beneath the ploughsoil was found to change abruptly to a yellow, silt sand, **50**. Given the markedly different nature of this layer and its relationship with two features, **16** and **22**, it may represent material imported in antiquity to level the surrounding topography. Through this two distinct linear features were found to be cut, **16** and **22** (*Figures 5 & 6*).

Feature **16** was found to be a wide ditch with gently sloping sides, filled by a dark brown homogenous compact silt from which no finds were recovered (*Figure 5*). The pipetrench did not extend deep enough to reveal the bottom of the feature but from the section it seems likely that the base would not be very much deeper (*Figure 5*).

The second feature, **22**, was found to be straight-sided and terminating within the pipetrench (*Figure 6*). It either represents the butt end of a ditch or a square-cut pit. Two fills, **21** and **23**, were identified within the feature, both were homogenous dark brown compact silts. The lower fill, **23**, was very similar to the upper fill, **21**, apart from containing more stones reflecting worm action within the feature. A small fragment of bone and the base of a small piece of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the lower layer, **23**.

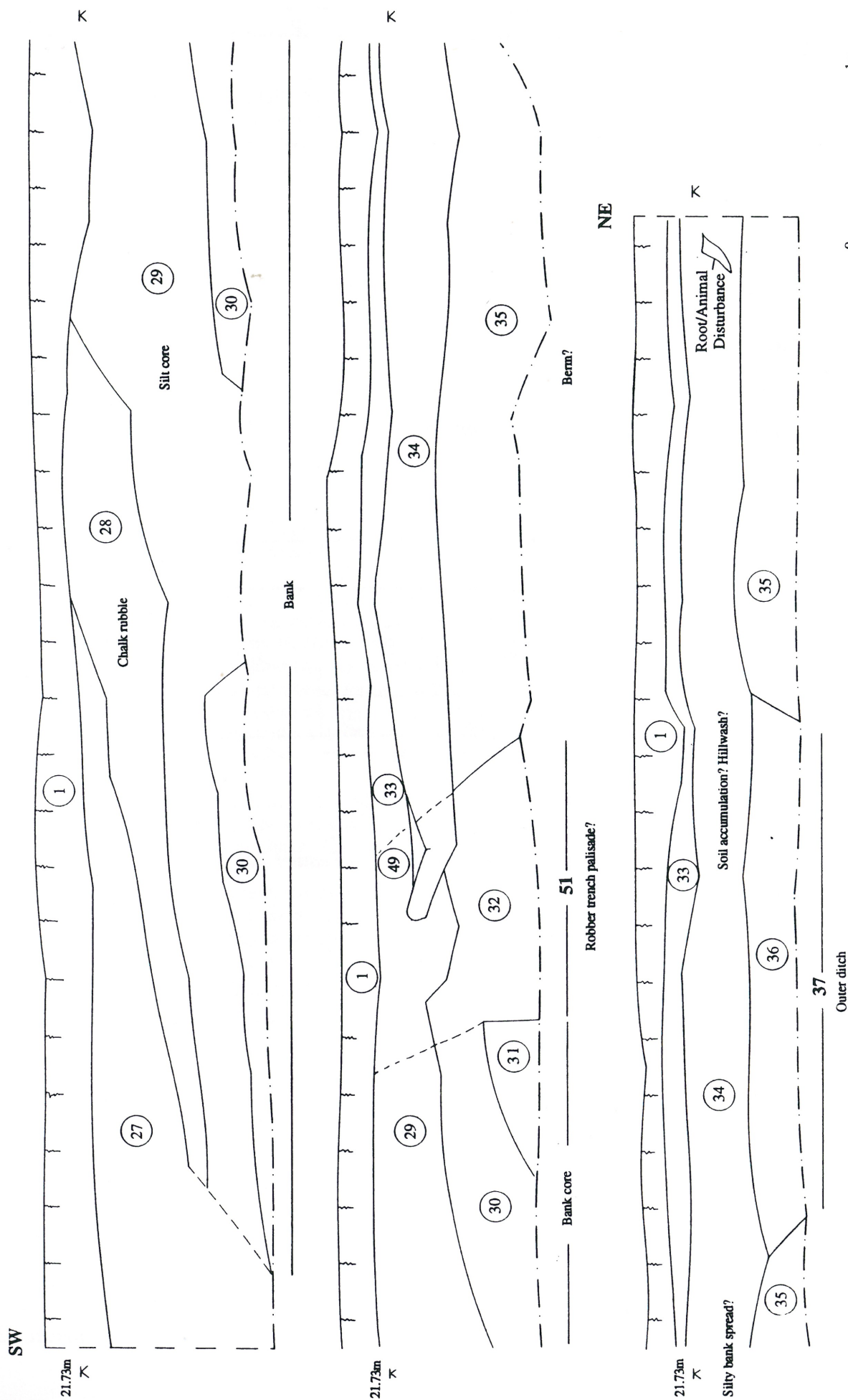


Figure 4 South-east Facing Section Through Bank and Ditch (north end of pipertrench)

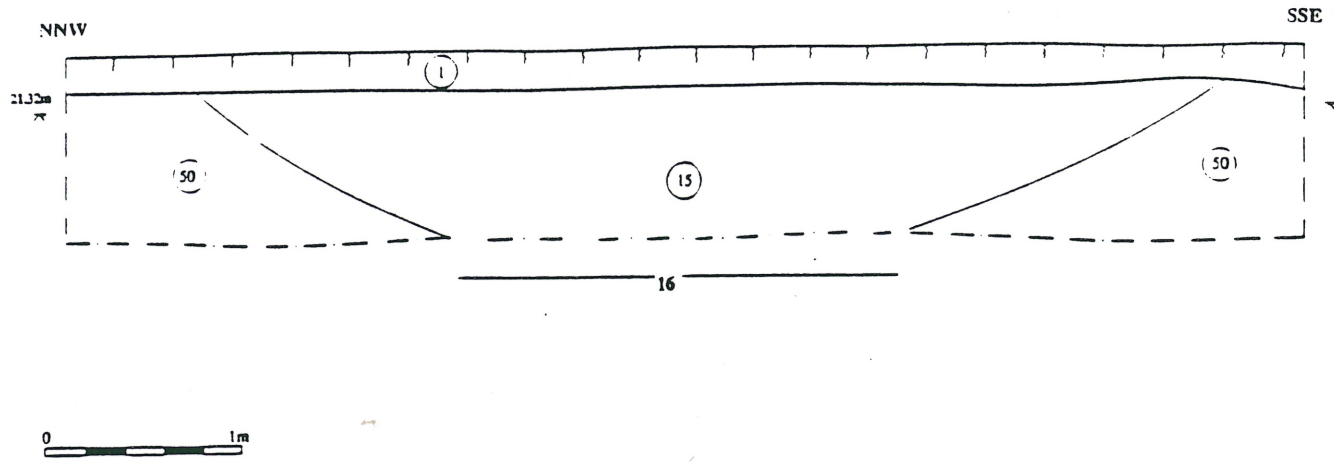


Figure 5 West Facing Section Through Feature 16

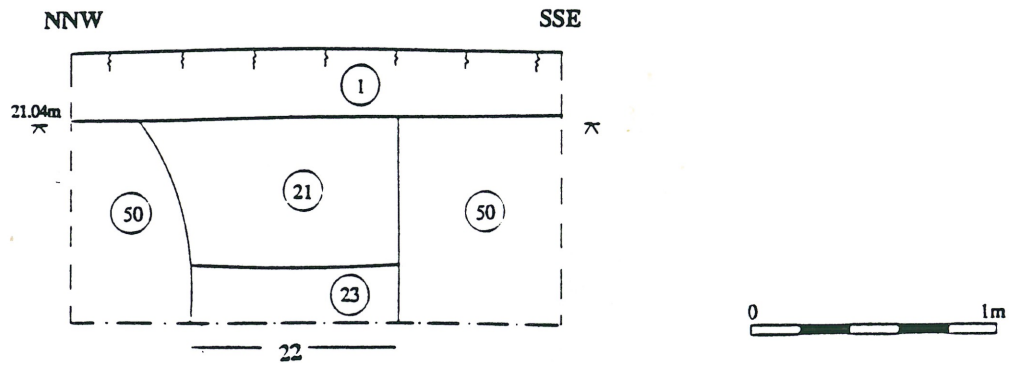


Figure 6 West Facing Section Through Feature 22

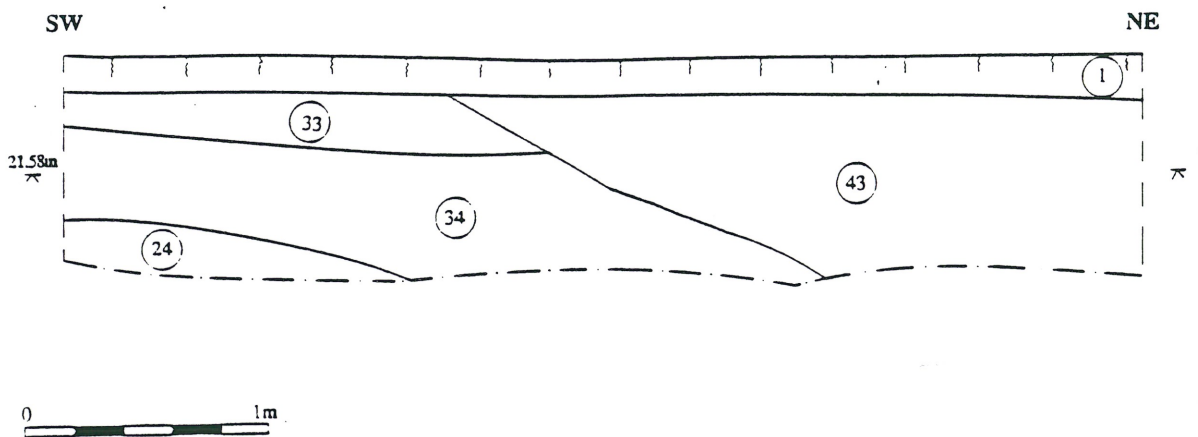


Figure 7 South-east Facing Section Showing Ploughed-out Bank Material, 43, Sealing Buried Soil?, 34

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The enclosure on Borough Hill, Sawston, would appear to be a substantial Iron Age fort on the basis of material recovered during the watching-brief and in deliberation of its form and ground plan. Its location near to a river has strong similarities to other East Anglian forts.

Previous fieldwork and assessment of aerial photographs suggests that the defences were at least bivallate to the north and east. The current results suggest that the north and south-western side of the fort is univallate but with at least two phases of bank construction. The pipetrench was very narrow, limiting the area open for examination and making any interpretation difficult, further work on a larger scale may reveal the remains of a second, less well preserved bank. The linear feature inside the bank observed on aerial photographs in the past seems to reflect ploughed out bank material.

The current work on site did not extend deep enough into the ditches to be able to examine the lower ditch fills. The site does, however, have preserved buried soils under the bank and because of its low-lying location it is possible that the lower fills of the ditches could yield environmental material such as seeds and pollen which would enable the reconstruction of the Prehistoric environment. A rapid environmental assessment of samples taken from the buried soil and 'palisade' trench has recorded wheat and oat grains and chaff fragments, suggesting on site crop processing (D Schlee, pers comm), suggesting perhaps, at least seasonal on site occupation.

The north-eastern arc of the hillfort appears to be at least bivallate, the increased scale of the defences here perhaps reflecting the fact that this was the easiest line of approach, compared to the south and western side where the natural topography of the chalk promontory would have enhanced the artificial defences. An additional motive for the enhanced defences is that the contemporary hillfort at Wandlebury is visible 4.25 km to the north-east and that the defences were increased in scale as a direct symbolic display of wealth and status suggesting a degree of competition with Wandlebury (cf. Bowden and McOmish 1987 and 1989).

The work at the western end of the pipetrench supports the view that the south and western sides of the fort are univallate. It has shown the survival of the bank and a possible later construction phase (*Figure 3*).

In addition the work has demonstrated the survival of features outside the hillfort itself. Although largely undated these seem likely to represent later use of the site, further work would be required to ascertain whether these are associated with field systems or with occupation. The limited geophysical survey appears to have been very constructive, with a plethora of internal features clearly showing, and it may be worthwhile completing the survey over the entire area of the monument.

In considering the results achieved during the earthworks survey against those recovered during the watching brief it appears that the 'bank' surviving today is on the alignment of the Iron Age ditch and reflects the gradual migration of material initially through weathering and later through ploughing practises.

It is of particular interest that the site has undergone considerable landscaping involving the levelling of the southern earthworks and the importing of material over the northern side of the fort. This can be seen in particular, at the northern end of the pipeline, where the soil immediately below the ploughsoil changes dramatically to a clayey sand, 50. This occurs on the slope of the chalk knoll and probably reflects an attempt to level the land. Iron Age material recovered from feature 22, suggests that it represents landscaping in antiquity.

Furthermore the ploughsoil over the site is 0.30m deep which is deeper than could be expected considering its location on a hill and the expected subsequent movement of soil downslope, and suggests that additional material has been recently imported and spread over the field to facilitate the agriculture. Although this maybe in part attributed to bank material that has been spread over the site, 27,42 & 43 either deliberately or as a result of gradual weathering and ploughing. All these processes will have had the effect of affording greater protection to the surviving archaeological features associated with the hillfort.

The pipeline through the hillfort has demonstrated the survival of significant archaeological remains. The infrequency of this kind of site within Cambridgeshire, and their importance within the structure of the Iron Age community makes it important that such sites be considered carefully. In spite of the dramatic effects that agriculture and construction has had on the site, because of the depth of protective cover the site has the potential for having well preserved remains to greater degree to other similar monuments in the county, e.g. Stonea Camp, which has undergone devastating agricultural damage (Malim 1992); Wandlebury, which has been dramatically affected by construction and by emparkment during the 18th century; or the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton, which has been totally destroyed by quarrying during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The watching brief has also given the opportunity to compare the various techniques available for archaeological investigations. Prior to the work a programme of evaluation had been completed which included a fieldwalking, and an earthworks and geophysical survey. The first piece of work, the fieldwalking programme produced no artefacts, giving the initial impression that little survived of the site. In the light of the watching brief the results can now be re-interpreted as showing that any surviving archaeological features are being protected by a spread of eroded bank material and 'imported' soil. The earthworks survey clearly picked out the outer bank, however, upon the limited excavation through these features the precise location had been found to have shifted slightly to the north-west, probably as a result of soil creep and hill wash off the bank. The geophysical survey indicated a plethora of internal features as well as locating the precise position of the bank. The pipetrench did not extend far enough to be able to determine the validity of the internal anomalies but given the success with which it located the bank these other results seem highly probable. However, it should be noted that other attempts at geophysical survey have had little success, at Stonea Camp for example (Malim, 1992).

To sum up, whilst there is a range of techniques available to the archaeologist which do not involve excavation, there are numerous factors to consider that may adversely affect the results as seen during with the work to date at Borough Hill. Therefore caution must be employed in the use of results from non-intrusive techniques, with excavation necessary as final confirmation of them.

Despite the surviving earthworks of the hillfort and the work to date, the precise nature of the defences, details of occupation and chronology remain unclear, with only fuller excavation having the potential to yield further information.

A full report will be produced following the processing of soil samples taken during the work and analysis of the flints recovered from the site, within six months of this report's publication date.

The site archive is stored with the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. Copies of the report have been deposited with the client and the County Archaeological Office.

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Appendix A - List of Contexts

Ctx. No.	Description	Findings	Above	Below
1	Ploughsoil - Mid grey loose, chalky silt	Modern, Post-Med. tile, glass, clay pipe		
2	Redeposited loose chalk natural deliberately laid layer - pre-dating construction of hillfort)	none	3	9
3	Compact orange silty/clay deliberately laid layer - pre-dating construction of hillfort)	none	4	2
4	Redeposited loose chalk natural (deliberately laid layer - pre-dating construction of hillfort)	none	5	3
5	Dark brown compact humic silt (buried soil?)	Small abraded fragment of Iron-Age? pottery	44	4
6	Light brown loose sandy silt (upper fill of ditch 8)	none	7	[19]
7	Mid red/brown, loose sandy gravel (fill of ditch 8)	Frequent large post-medieval tile, brick, glass	????	6
[8]	Re-cut of post-med. ditch [45]	N/A		
9	Mid white/brown mix compact chalky/silt(upper fill of ditch 20)	none	2	8
10	Mid orange sandy silt (fill of ditch 45)	none	11	6
11	Loose chalk rubble (ploughed out/weathered bank material)	none	12	1
12	Compact dark silt (ploughed out/weathered bank material)		13	11
13	Loose mixed chalk/silt rubble (ploughed out/weathered bank material)	none	14	12
14	Redeposited loose large chalk rubble (ploughed out/weathered bank material)	none	54	13
15	Mid brown firm sandy silt (fill of 16)	none	????	1
[16]	Cut of wide east/west? ditch?/pit?	N/A		
17	Light reddy/brown loose silt (fill of [19])		18	
18	Dark brown, loose silt (fill of [19])			17
[19]	Square cut trench (20th century) contains 17 and 18	N/A		
[20]	Cut of ditch of hillfort	N/A		
21	Dark brown silt (upper fill of ditch/pit [22])	none		
[22]	Square-cut? feature, possibly ditch or pit? (contains 21 & 23)	N/A		
23	Light brown compact silt, frequent small stones, lower fill of [22]	1 small sherd of Late iron Age??/Saxon Pottery; 1 small piece of animal bone		21
24	Mid orange homogenous compact silt (natural)	none		
25	Light orange compact silt	none	26	1
26	Loose chalk rubble (redeposited natural)	none	55	25
27	Light brown compact silt (ploughed out/weathered bank material?) - same as 42 & 43	none	28	1
28	Mid white/brown mix silty chalk (bank material)	none	29	27
29	Mid orange/brown compact silt (bank material)	none	30	28
30	Light brown compact silt (bank material)	none	31	29
31	Light orange loose sandy silt (bank material)	none	????	30
32	Mid brown semi-compact silt (fill of [51])	flint flake	????	49
33	Mid yellow firm silty/sandy/clay	none	34	1
34	Dark brown compact silt (post Iron age buried soil?)	none	35	33

Ctx. No.	Description	Finds	Above	Below
35	Mid orange compact silt (natural?)	none	????	34
36	Light brown compact clayey silt (fill of ditch 37)	Machine broken flint blade	????	34
[37]	Cut of ditch of hillfort?	N/A		
38	Dark brown, loose silt (fill of [39])	none	????	1
[39]	Square-cut pipetrench for water or electricity (contains 38)	N/A		
40	Mid-Dark brown loose silt (fill of [41])	none	????	1
[41]	Cut of pipetrench for sewage pipe	N/A		
42	Light brown firm silt (ploughed out/weathered bank material) same as 27 & 43?	none	????	1
43	Light brown compact silt ('ploughed-out/weathered bank material) same as 27 & 42?	N/A		
44	Mid yellow/orange silt layer (natural)	none	????	5
[45]	Cut of post-med. ditch? re-cut by [8]	N/A		
46	Dark brown crumbly orange silt, occ. chalk flecks - buried soil)	flint flake	24	52
[47]	Cut of ploughmark	none	52	14
48	Fill of ploughmark [47], consisting of chalk rubble (ploughed out bank material)	none	12	1
49	Mid orange/brown (dirty) compact silt - disturbed 29	none	32	1
50	Light-mid yellow firm silty sand (natural?)	none	????	1
[51]	Cut of palisade trench? or tree bowl/animal disturbance?	N/A		
52	Loose white chalk rubble, core of bank		46	13
53	Dark brown humic silt (marker bank)	none	52	53
54	Loose chalk rubble - part of bank construction	none	53	14, 55
55	Mid brown/white silt chalk rubble	none	54	26
56	Mid white chalk and brown silt mix -'ploughed out' bank material	none	57	14
57	Compact chalk rubble - weathered bank material	none	46	56
58	Compact light-mid orange/brown, homogenous silt (secondary bank?)	none	46?	25, 42

Appendix B

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Anglo-Saxon The period dating between the withdrawal of the Roman legions in 410 and the Norman invasion of 1066. Within this period several ethnic groups from northern Europe vied for control of the British Isles, including the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, and Norwegians. The latter two groups are collectively known as the Vikings and became involved in British politics from the eighth century, later than the others. The Vikings were successful in occupying a large part of the north and Midlands of England, before providing a King (Cnut) for the whole of England. For most of this time England was divided up into several kingdoms until Saxon resistance to Viking incursions led to the unification of England under Aethelstan and Alfred.

Artefact Any object made by people. Generally, this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artefact itself.

Bronze Age Prehistoric period c. 2000 - 700 BC when bronze was used for many types of tools and weapons.

Cropmarks Archaeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensitive crops through moisture retention or loss. For example, the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches or pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of the crop. These discrepancies in crop growth can be easily detected from the air, and by taking photographs the cropmark patterns can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

Enclosures An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlements, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

Fieldwalking Technique of archaeological survey. Walking over ploughed and weathered soil, an experienced observer can collect many ancient artefacts, and by plotting the distribution of such find spots on maps an idea of the use of the landscape can be built up for each period of the past.

Geophysical Survey Investigation of changes occurring in the magnetic and electrical characteristics of the soil, which can often be induced by human activity.

Iron Age Prehistoric period c. 700 BC - AD 43 when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of AD 43 but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

Medieval Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. post-medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

Modern The period since modern industrialisation, roughly corresponding to 1800 onwards.

Natural The local subsoil that is unaltered, in nature and location, by human action.

Palaeosol A preserved soil which does not owe its origin to the existing land surface.

Pit alignment A line of pits, usually dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. They are thought to be a native means of boundary marking. The pits do not often have rubbish in them and so are not thought to be rubbish pits.

Posthole A hole dug to receive a post. They can also result from driving posts into the ground. The latter, however, do not have distinct fills such as packing and a post pipe. A post pipe is the fill of a posthole which formed in the place of a removed post.

Post-Medieval This period is generally considered to date from 1500, and is not used for dates after about 1800.

Ring-ditch A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house.

Roman Historic period AD 43 - 410 when much of Britain was part of the Roman empire. The term Romano-British is now widely used to describe the people of this period, as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the empire developing in a unique way. AD 410 was the date the legions were withdrawn, but the Romano-British culture continued for some time into the 5th century in tandem with Anglo-Saxon migration.

Round barrow A Bronze Age burial mound formed by heaping up earth over a central burial. They have several forms, including numbers of encircling ditches and can have many burials in them. The first burial is known as the primary burial, subsequent ones are referred to as secondary burials. It has been suggested that these burial mounds are a way of marking tribal territories, and they are often placed in prominent locations. They can occur in clusters known as 'barrow cemeteries'.

SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) This is a computer and mapped database of all known archaeological site and find spots, currently over 12,000, within the County. This information is available to archaeologists and members of the public involved in research. The database also provides planning guidance to developers and the local government planning offices.

SAM (Scheduled Ancient Monument) An archaeological site deemed of sufficient national importance to have legal protection. Any work on these sites require Scheduled Ancient Monument consent from the Secretary of State.

Stratigraphy Order and relative position of strata. Deposits in archaeological sites will be layered one on top of another, with the highest layer being the latest being the latest deposits, thus giving a chronological relationship to the layers and the artefacts within them. Features (such as ditches, pits, or walls) cut through these layers will obviously date to later events, and will in turn contain their own discrete sequence of deposits. On the other hand features that have been covered by layers are obviously earlier than the deposition of those layers that seal them.

Terminus ante quem, terminus post quem Archaeological dating is rarely exact, but will frequently show that something cannot be later than, or earlier than, something else. Datable material accumulated in use on a floor by the law of Stratigraphy gives a *terminus ante quem* for that floor, which cannot have been inserted beneath the material after it was deposited. Material sealed beneath a floor gives a *terminus post quem* for that floor, since it cannot have got there after the floor was laid.