Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove

A Roman Landscape on The Silt Fen

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REPORT No 109

Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove

A Roman Landscape On The Silt Fen

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with Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD
1994

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Report No 109 Throckenholt Farm: the site under excavation *Photograph by Simon Bray 93*

Archaeological Field Unit

SUMMARY

During November 1993 The Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an evaluation excavation of detailed cropmarks in the parish of Parson Drove. The work was completed as a continuation of a survey of the archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate. This project had previously identified sites and made recommendations for their future management (Malim, 1990). The new phase of fieldwork evaluation was funded by English Heritage and had two main research objectives : 1) determine the extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits and their depth below the ground surface; and 2) identify the function, period and morphology of the site.

The site is located on siltland, reclaimed during the first century AD by the Romans, and from cropmark and fieldwork evidence it seems to represent an extensive agricultural and settlement landscape. It appears from aerial photographs as groups of rectilinear enclosures approached by long north-west/south-east and east/west aligned droveways.

The excavation, limited through time, was concentrated on a small portion of the cropmarks in the area for which a new lease was being negotiated. The area available for investigation was further restricted due to some fields being waterlogged. A total of five trenches were opened by a wheeled JCB excavator across the main area defined by the cropmarks. The work has demonstrated evidence of activity dating from the late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. This in the form of rectangular, ditched enclosures facing long north-west/south-east aligned droveways leading out to associated field systems, possibly suggesting animal husbandry was being practised. Evidence of occupation was limited: The remains of high quality locally made pottery vessels, domestic tools and two rubbish pits were identified and although the precise site of the settlement was not located, it was recognised as being in the vicinity. By the late second to early third century the site appears to have fallen out of use, with abandonment possibly attributable to at least two phases of flooding. Limited later use of the site was identified in the form of two post-medieval ditches, which functioned as part of a later drainage network.

The work has also shown that the site has suffered considerably from some recent agricultural practises. Damage, in the areas examined, appears to have stabilized, however, if future ploughing is restricted to the topsoil then the surviving archaeological remains should not suffer further destruction. However, given that the precise location of the settlement has not been yet located, and considering the lack of work on Fenland settlement sites and their importance in our understanding of the Fenland rural economy, further work would seem appropriate, to determine the degree of preservation of any structures.

A regular, biennial, system of monitoring should be established evolving a combination of site visits with ad hoc *fieldwalking and possibly reinforced by limited trenching which also could be designed to evaluate unexplored areas of the site.*

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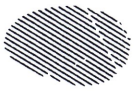
KEY TO DRAWING CONVENTIONS USED IN THE REPORT


Cropmarks


Projected line of cropmarks


Face of section, arrows pointing towards drawing


Peat deposit


Plough marks


Turf line


Mineralised wood

Fill marks

3 Cut marks


Probable occupation deposits

Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove
A Roman Landscape On The Silt Fen

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological excavation through detailed cropmarks at Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire (*Figure 1*; TF355/090) was carried out during November 1993. The work constituted part of the continuation of a survey of the archaeology on the County Farms Estate which was designed to identify archaeological sites and make recommendations for their future management (Malim, 1990). The area evaluated covers an area of approximately three hectares and was initially identified from aerial photographs appearing as a series of north-west/south-east trackways, that extend across the New South Eau drain, which has a known 17th century construction date (*Figure 2*). Facing these trackways are a number of large and small rectilinear and irregular enclosures (*Figure 2; Plate 1*), identifiable from cropmarks and initially interpreted as the remains of settlements and/or stock enclosures (Malim, 1990).

A limited programme of fieldwalking conducted during October 1992 recorded a scatter of late second to early third century Romano-British domestic pottery (*Figure 3;* Appendix A) across the field subsequently evaluated by trenching. The presence of fairly fresh artefactual material on the surface suggested that recent agricultural practices had caused some damage to the underlying archaeology. In addition, the location of these scatters in relation to the cropmarks, provided solid data concerning the position of sub-surface archaeological features, adding weight to the suggestion that the cropmarks here represent domestic enclosures and associated refuse disposal areas.

The excavation was carried out by Simon Bray of the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was timed to coincide with a change in tenant so as to be able to advise the land owner on any changes required for the beneficial management of the site. The project was funded by English Heritage.

The primary research objectives of the project were twofold :-

1) The extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits and their depth below the ground surface. The work was timed to coincide with a change in tenant so as to enable the owners, Cambridgeshire County Council, to carry out any specific protective management policies that were necessary.

2) The function, period and morphology of the site.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located in the extreme north of Cambridgeshire, sixteen miles to the north-east of Peterborough and 10 miles west of Wisbech. Located on a roddon and close to the Roman coastline the site is slightly higher than the surrounding silt fen. To the north the site is bordered by the seventeenth century New South Eau drain. The underlying geology of the area consists of marine silts of the Flandrian period (B.G.S sheet 158).

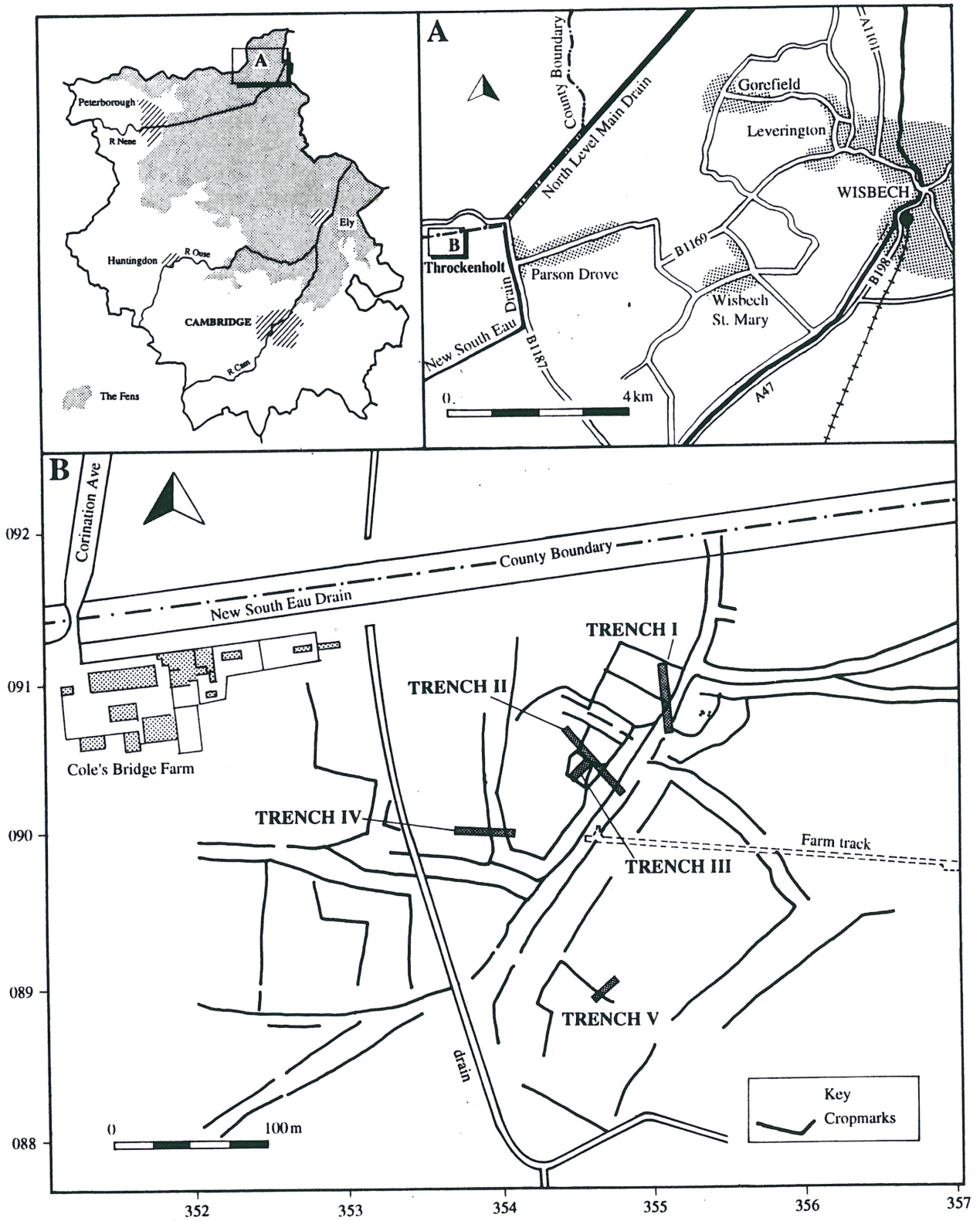


Figure 1 *Location of Site and Trenches in relation to cropmarks*

Plate 1 *Aerial photograph showing the group of cropmarks in the western part of the holding selected for evaluation (© Cambridge University Collection Aerial Photography ref. CPC58)*

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in the parish of Parson Drove and is well documented both historically and by representation on the County's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The latter shows numerous findspots and cropmark sites within the immediate vicinity of the survey area. Of particular prominence are finds of a Roman date, later periods are rarely represented and there is a distinct absence of any prehistoric activity.

The site name of Throckenholt is first mentioned in 1133-51 when the Bishop of Ely granted a square mile of marsh, called 'Everdewike' to Thorney Abbey (RCHM). Soon after the name changed to 'Trokenholt', which is twelfth century in origin meaning 'a piece of timber to which the ploughshare was fastened' (Reaney, 1943). A church and hermitage were established and maintained until *c.*1540 on the site of the present farmhouse. By the middle of the nineteenth century, however, Throckenholt was described as a "wide bleak fen, productive

indeed, but with no other recommendations to a civilised being" (RCHM, Vol IV).

Located on the southern siltland the re-claimed area today still presents a bleak and inhospitable landscape. During the Iron-Age increased flooding made the area virtually uninhabitable but the emergence of occupation is evident during the late first century following a slight change in the relative levels of land and sea (Frere, 1987). Wholesale reclamation of the siltland appears to have been undertaken during the second century. Imperial control of the scheme is indicated by the drainage apparently being undertaken in a single massive engineering operation, possibly as part of official policy under the emperor Hadrian (Salway, 1970). Once the colonisation of Britain had stabilised and an infrastructure had been established, central government was able to consider how best to maximise the return on their initial investment (Wait & McIntosh, 1992). An elaborate network of drains and canals were constructed across the region, linking it to the rest of the country, most notably the Car Dyke. The area of the siltlands with its network of higher, extinct waterways (roddons), presented an ideal location for the production of salt, a basic requirement of the Roman army for the preservation of food and the tanning of hides (Salway, 1970). Although part of an imperial estate there is no sign of central planning or land-divisions, rather that the land was leased to natives. A parallel for such an arrangement is with Agi Decumates in Southern Germany (Frere, 1987), here the land was administered by a *procurator saltus* from an administrative centre. In the Fenland several major new town developments in the region have been identified which may have provided such a function: Stonea Grange, Grandford, Flaggrass and Coldham (Frere, 1987; Potter, 1981). With the drainage scheme came the piecemeal development and colonisation of the reclaimed siltland. The settlement sites appear mainly as cropmark complexes, but occasionally survive as low earthworks, typically showing as a patchwork of small fields surrounded by drainage ditches and approached by long drove roads (*Figures 1& 2; Plate 1*). Excavated evidence suggests that these settlements survived initially at a subsistence level. Prosperity, demonstrable through finds indicating an increase in wealth e.g. silver and pewter, was not generally evident until the fourth century (Potter, 1981). These settlements on the whole do not appear to be elaborately constructed, the buildings mainly consisting of timber and daub structures. The inhabitants would have relied on fish and fowl from the fen, some cattle husbandry and salt production. Indeed it is suggested that siltland was viewed by the Romans as a prairie-like commodity, dependent upon animal husbandry, with small settlements linked to one another by long droveways with wide open spaces in between. Other droveways are evident leading out into vacant spaces, possibly for summer grazing (Potter, 1981).

The limited growth and initial lack of success of these settlements can possibly be attributed to the turbulent period from the second to third centuries when the empire was in a state of almost continuous civil war. It has been suggested that invasions from outside, a shortage of money, the depreciation of coinage and the instability of governments are likely to have resulted in a lack of attention for ambitious drainage schemes in the outposts of the empire (Salway P, 1970). The breakdown in control could have resulted in a collapse of the drainage system combined with another change in the relative levels of land and sea; in addition basic errors of the Roman water engineers in the initial scheme left the siltland to the mercy of flooding. Excavation has produced evidence of disastrous fresh water flooding during the third century, as a result of which many sites were abandoned, never to be resettled, whilst other were re-inhabited but on a reduced scale; e.g. Stonea Grange and Coldham (Coles & Hall, 1994).

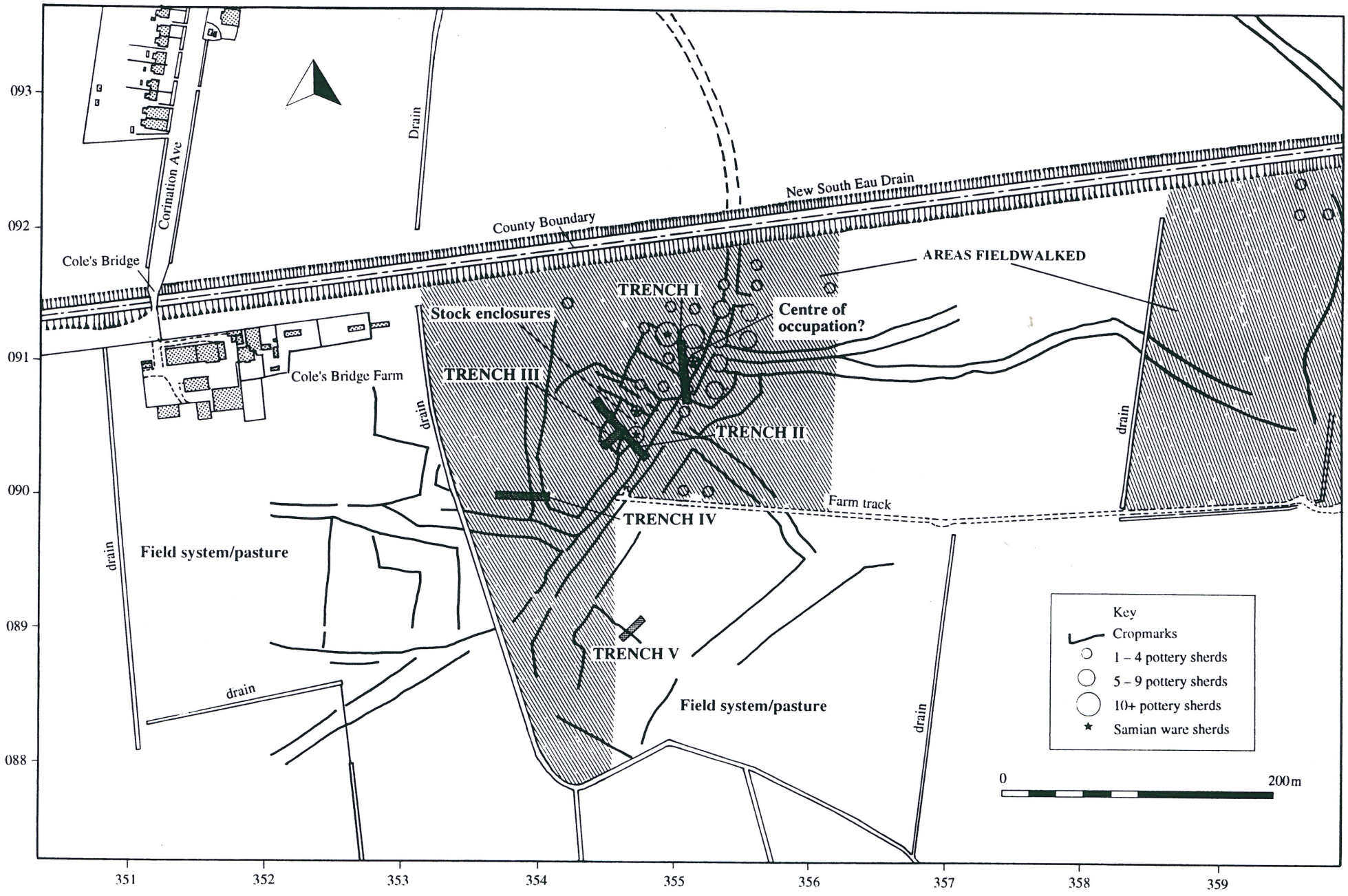


Figure 2 *Distribution plot of finds recovered during fieldwalking and relationship with Trenches and cropmarks*

Following the accession of Diocletian in 284 AD stability was restored in the Empire as a whole. This, combined with a shift in emphasis in the management of the imperial estate whereby inhabitants were given more control at a local level, appears to have resulted in a change in the fortunes for their settlements (Salway, 1970).

After the withdrawal of the legions, and with them Roman Imperial interest, it appears that the drainage works fell into disrepair, and the landscape quickly reverted to Fenland.

Limited settlement of the area did occur during the early to middle Saxon periods, although mainly on the islands. In particular at Crowland a seventh century hermit St. Gulac describes his environment "among the murky thickets of the more inaccessible solitude" in contrast to the more prosperous agricultural landscape of the fourth century (Collingwood & Myres, 1956).

3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

The site, on County farmland, was studied during a survey of the archaeology of the County Farms Estate (Malim, 1990). This identified the site as consisting of north-west to south-east orientated trackways, faced by rectangular enclosures (*Figures 1& 2; Plate 1).* The report recognised the importance of the site as it appeared to represent a "complex of Roman field and settlement features in an unusually clear form", with the potential to yield information beneficial to Romano-British studies, in particular concerning the management of natural resources (Malim, 1990, 104-106).

A structured fieldwalking survey was completed during October 1992, in attempt to identify specific areas of interest within the complex, to ascertain the extent of damage, and to investigate whether archaeology was suffering under the present arable management of the land. The results showed specific concentrations of mainly locally made pottery dating to the late second to early third centuries indicating that archaeological features had suffered plough damage (*Figure 2*). The fieldwalking pottery distribution shows one large area of high recovery of Roman material (*Figure 2*) located almost directly over a group of small enclosures seen from aerial photographic evidence and interpreted as house and/or garden plots. The other small concentration of Roman material appears to support this correlation of small enclosures with domestically derived ceramics. This is at the extreme east of the field walked area where a small group of Roman sherds were recovered from the area close to a single habitation type enclosure.

The trenching strategy concentrated on the main area of ceramic recovery and small enclosures with additional trenches positioned outside the areas of pottery concentrations. This latter was deemed necessary in order to test the negative: i.e. whether the enclosures not producing pottery did not contain occupation material or whether they did in fact contain occupation deposits, but which had not been recently damaged by cultivation and thus did not produce surface finds.

Excavations in 1992 of a thirteenth to fifteenth century site at neighbouring Parson Drove by Dr C French revealed evidence of two near-contemporary phases of medieval saltern activity but produced no evidence of Roman activity (French, 1992).

4 STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY OF EXCAVATION

The areas targeted for investigations were identified by the cropmark evidence, by the results of the fieldwalking survey, and also dictated by proposed changes in land tenancies. One of the main trackways within the main area of the cropmarks was selected together with one of the square enclosures facing the main trackway. Two additional trackways outside the main area of the cropmarks were also examined to find out if they were part of the same system and to sample the state of preservation on another area of the site (*Figure 1*).

The areas were opened using a wheeled JCB excavator with a one and-a-half metre wide, toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were cleaned by hand, planned and photographed; a sampling strategy was then adopted for any archaeological features. Features were recorded using the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Field Unit standard recording system with plans and sections being drawn at scales of 1:20 and 1:10, unless specific conditions required otherwise. Samples for environmental analysis were taken from deposits with a potential for yielding information, e.g. waterlogged deposits and hearths.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Overview of Results

The work has demonstrated the survival of extensive archaeological remains corroborating the cropmark evidence. The majority of the features appear to have a construction date in the mid to late second century AD with abandonment in the early third century (Appendix A). It has also shown that all the features have been damaged by modern intensive ploughing practices.

The areas examined during the evaluation were found to consist of rectilinear, ditched enclosures facing a trackway, which was flanked by substantial ditches. The majority of the ditches identified during the excavation had very distinct fills; with initial silt phases and a final fill of peat. This latter was, in all excavated cases, barren of any finds. The artefactual evidence suggests that the site was in use for a very short period of time, between sixty-five to seventy years, before final abandonment (Appendix A).

5.2 Romano-British Features (Late Second - Early Third Centuries)

Trench I (*Figure 3*)

This trench was located to examine the northern extent of the site visible from the aerial photographs (*Plate 1*). It was positioned to cross, obliquely, the main droveway that traverses the area from the north-east to south-west (*Figure 2; Plate 1*). In addition it was located through several of the large rectangular enclosures viewed from the aerial photographs. The area opened revealed a series of ditches aligned mainly east/west (*Figure 3*). Generally they mostly had similar fills, consisting of a final peat deposits overlying fine grey silt layers. A few features were filled entirely by a compact grey silt from which few finds were recovered other than animal bone. Excavation within this trench was limited through time constraints and a sampling strategy was adopted, examining two of the differently filled features, **132** and **140** (*Figure 3*). The droveway was sampled in Trench II where a section could be cut across at right-angles, and a true representation of the feature gained.

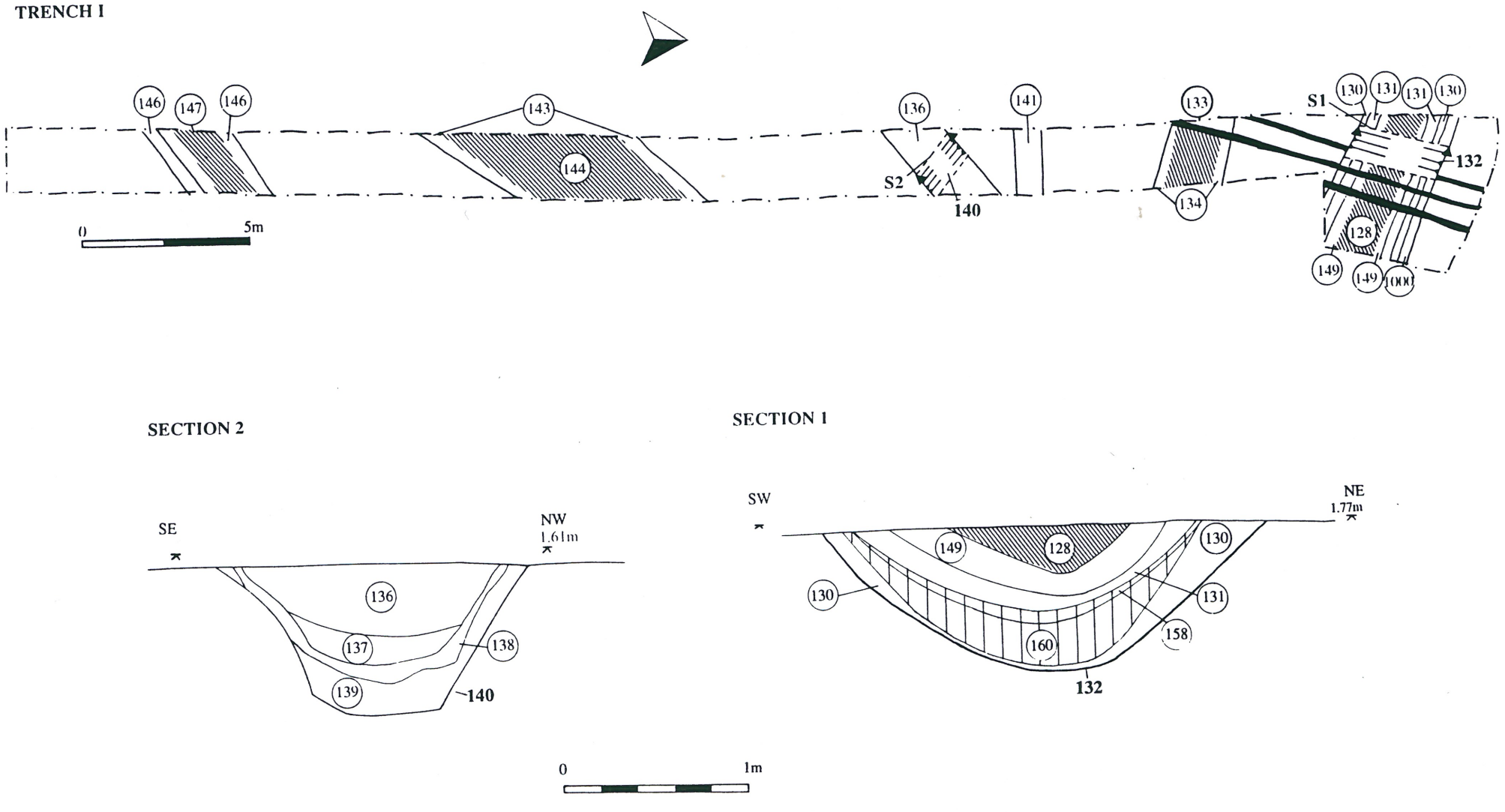


Figure 3 *Plan of Trench 1, with sections through ditches 132 (Section 1) and 140 (Section 2)*

132 (*Figure 3 Trench 1*) A linear feature aligned north-west/south-east at the northern end of the trench. The feature was found to be 2.4m wide, steep-sided, flat bottomed and contained six distinct layers; 128, 130, 131, 149, 158, 160 (*Figure 3, Section 1*). The final layer, 128, was found to be a thick, sterile peat deposit. Two of the layers, 158 and 160 consisted of a dark brown organic silt and represented the only layers from which artefacts were recovered; these included iron nails, fragments of a bone pin, pottery and animal bone. The nature of these two layers and their density of finds suggests that they reflect periods of occupation on the site. The remaining fills separating these layers from the peat and those at the base of the cut, were all very similar, consisting of compact water borne silts with no artefactual evidence.

Comparison with the aerial photographic plots suggests that the feature represents a ditch surrounding one of the rectangular enclosures. The sequence of two layers, representing occupation, interrupting sterile silts perhaps suggests that occupation-derived activity separates two episodes of flooding. There was presumably no desire or opportunity, between the two episodes to clear the ditches of flood deposits, and a second event post-dating the occupation phase resulted in the abandonment of the feature.

140 (*Figure 3, Trench 1*) A linear feature aligned south-west/north-east, 1.60m wide and 0.80m deep, straight-sided and flat bottomed. It was found to contain four similar fills, 136, 137, 138, 139, consisting of water borne fine grey silts (*Figure 3 Section 2*). No finds were recovered.

This feature does not appear as a cropmark. Bearing in mind the sterile fill it seems reasonable to suggest that it may reflect another phase of the site or alternatively a feature that was in use for only a short period of time before being flooded and abandoned.

Trenches II and III (*Figure 4*)

The trenches in the main area of investigation (II and III) were positioned to examine one of the main trackways crossing the site and two well-defined square enclosures facing it. The evidence from fieldwalking (*Figure 2*) suggested that these could form the centre of the 'settlement' with material recovered having been shifted northwards by the plough.

The trackway, aligned south-west/north-east, was found to be eight metres wide and flanked by two substantial ditches, **16** and **42**, each measuring over one metre deep and four and-a-half metres wide (*Figures 5 & 6; Plates 2 & 3*). These had similar profiles, i.e. steep sided and flat bottomed.

16 Contained six fills, 14, 15, 99, 100, 101 and 161 of which the final layer, 14, was a thick peat deposit and the remaining fills were compact fine sterile silts. A narrow gully, possibly contemporary with the creation of the main ditch and cut to facilitate drainage, was found cutting the base of the feature along one side of ditch **16** (*Figure 5; Plate 2*).

42 Contained six fills, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 102 of which the final deposit, 37, was found to be a thick peat layer and the remaining fills were compact sterile silts. It appears to have a similar profile to feature **16**, although two re-cuts, **35** and **36** have masked the south-eastern edge of the feature (*Figure 6; Plate 3*). The only dateable material to be recovered from this feature came from the re-cut, **36**, in the form of post-medieval pottery sherds.

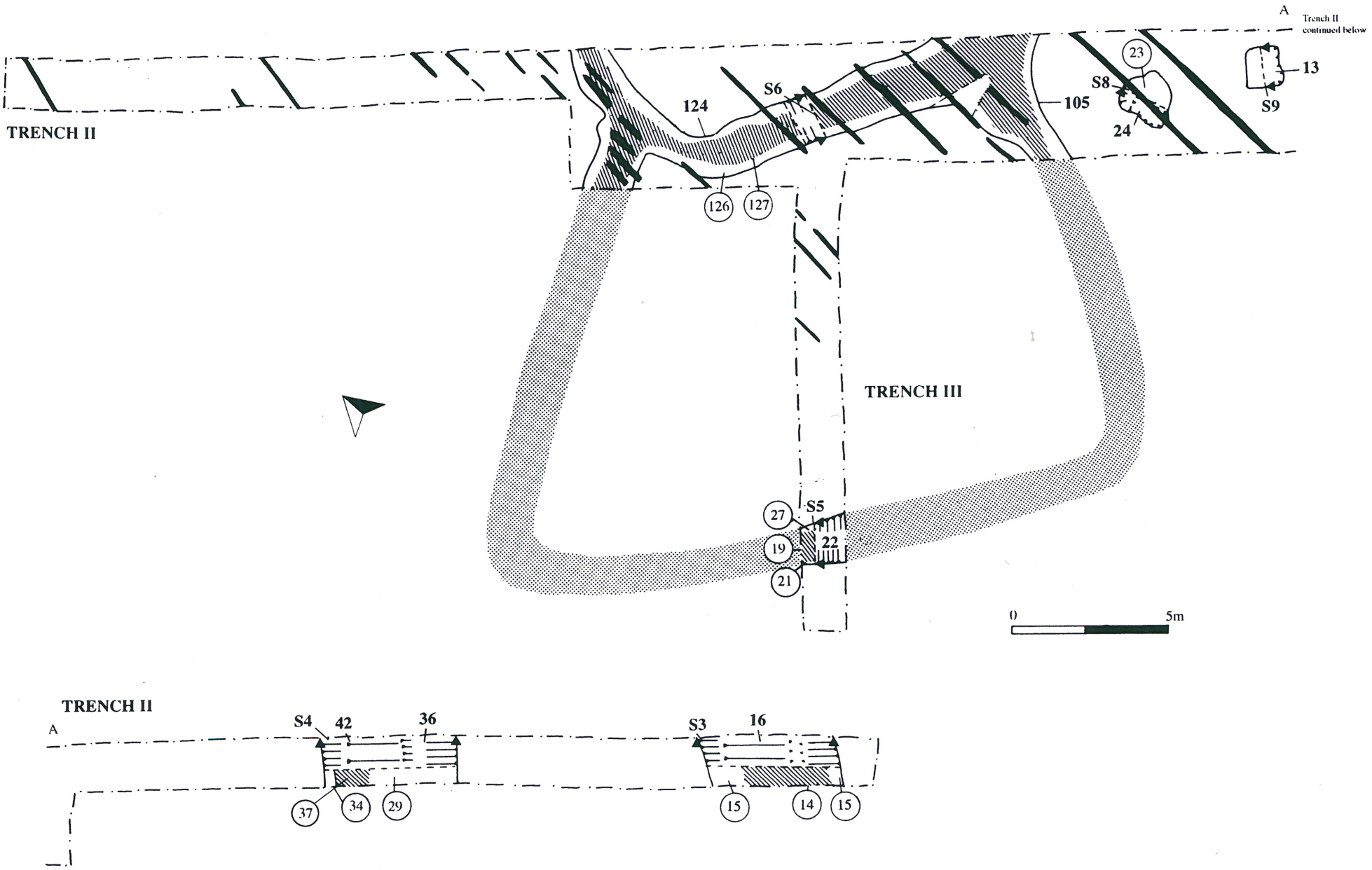


Figure 4 *Plan of Trenches II and III showing shape of enclosure, as recovered from aerial photograph data, and position of trenches over external enclosure ditch (section 5) and division between enclosures (section 6), also probable pits **13** and **24***

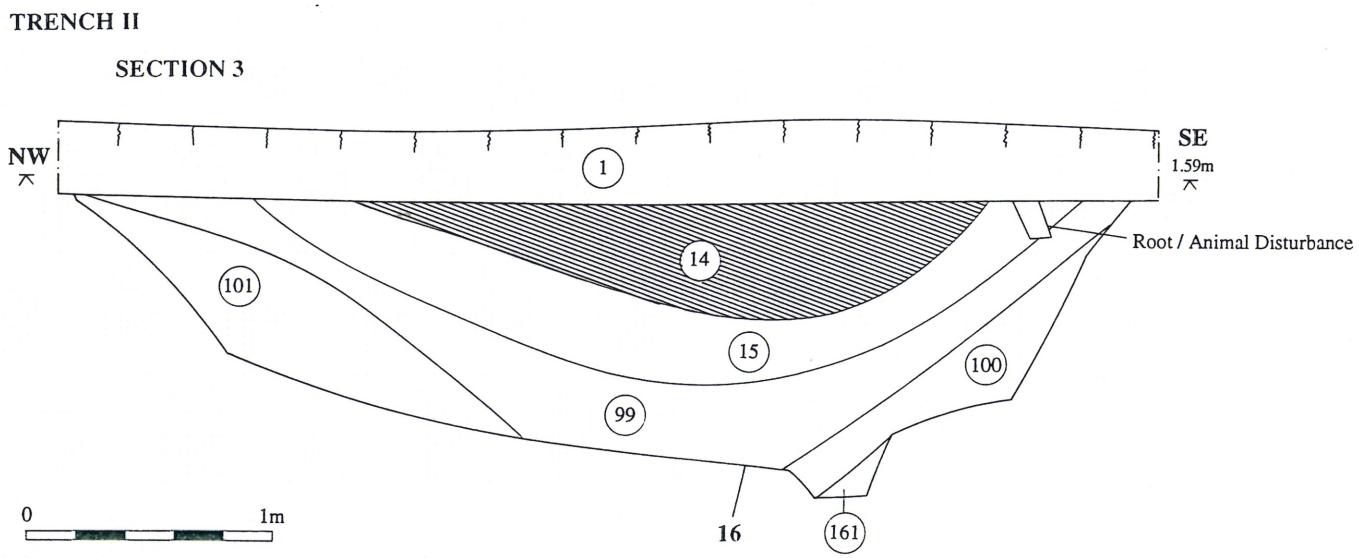


Figure 5 *Section through trackway ditch **16** showing drainage channel in base, silting up and final peat deposition*

Plate 2 *Section through trackway ditch **16** showing drainage channel in base, silting and final peat deposition (S Bray)*

TRENCH II

SECTION 4

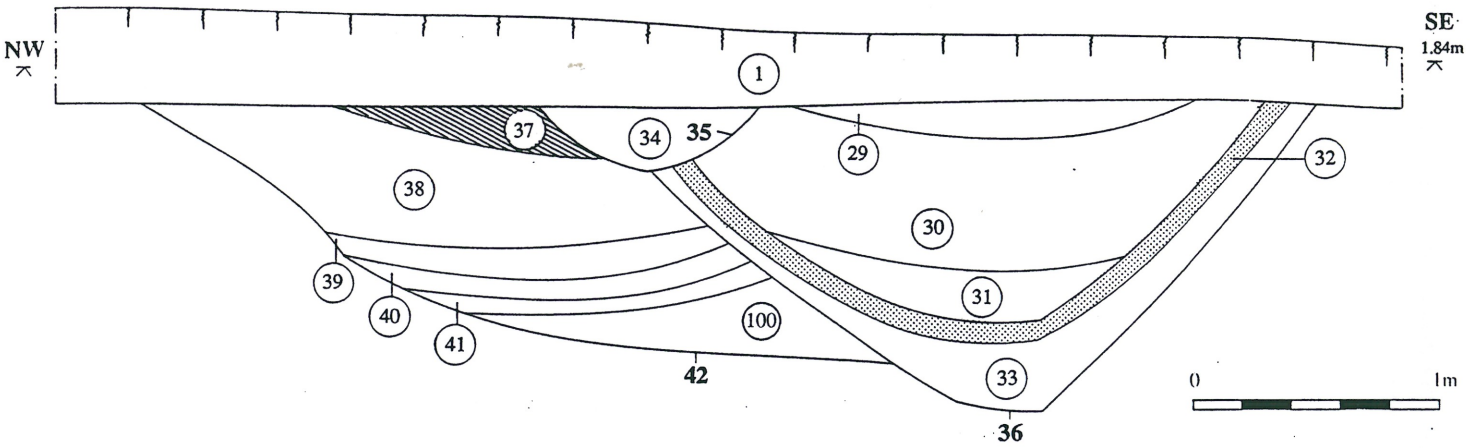


Figure 6 *Section through trackway ditch **42** showing recut **36**, silting up and final peat deposition*

Plate 3 *Section through trackway ditch **42** showing re-cut **36**, silting up and final peat deposition (S. Bray)*

The marked absence of artefacts from the main fills of both ditches, **16** and **42**, is noteworthy and may suggest that they were regularly cleaned out and maintained. Alternatively, constant moving water and associated scouring may have prevented artefact and deposit build up whilst the whole drainage system and associated settlement, was in use. The deposited silts would then date to post-use phases as the system ceased to function. The re-cut, **36**, is on the alignment of the drainage channel viewed in ditch **16** lending weight to the suggestion that the original feature, **42**, also had a drainage channel.

Excavation through the enclosures found them to be represented by shallow, straight sided, flat-bottomed ditches, **22** and **124**, draining into a main ditch **105**, which runs parallel to the trackway (*Figure 4*). All had similar fills with the basal fills consisting of compact, grey homogenous silts, with the upper fills being peat (*Figure 4*). The outer ditch, **22**, was found to be 0.72m, deeper than the internal division which was 0.50m deep. At the interface between the two layers in features **22** and **105**, an irregular dark red, compact deposit was identified (*Figure 7*). This varied in depth and extent and was found, upon examination, to be mineralised brushwood (*Figure 7*). It can perhaps be explained either as means of improving drainage or as an accumulation of debris in the base of the ditch following the abandonment of the site and subsequent failure to keep the ditches clear. Pottery from the basal fills of the enclosure ditches indicates a late second to early third century date (Appendix A) for this horizon. It is interesting to note that the deposit did not occur in ditch **124**, between the two enclosures, suggesting perhaps that this feature had a primary function as a formal division between properties rather than for drainage (*Figure 9*).

Between the trackway and the enclosures two sub-rectangular, irregular pits, **13** and **24**, were identified (*Figure 4*).

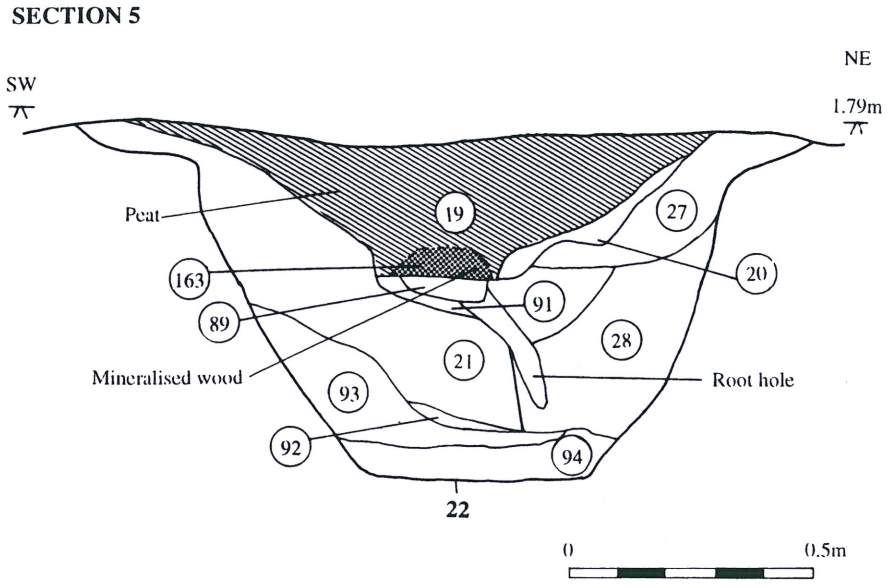


Figure 7 *Section through enclosure ditch 22 showing silt deposition, mineralised wood and final peat accumulation*

13 A square, straight-sided, flat bottomed pit, 1.3m x 1.1m, containing a peaty deposit,12 with abraded Romano-British pottery, and two dark brown, organic, charcoal-rich fills, 113 and 114, which contained large pieces of animal bone and large, unabraded Romano-British and occasional Samian pottery sherds. From the artefactual evidence the feature can be assigned to the late second to early third centuries (Appendix A). The active life of the feature seems to have been relatively short, indicated by the presence of pieces of the same vessel from fills 113 and 114. The feature has been interpreted as a rubbish pit (*Figure 8, Section 9*) although, as it is only partially filled with artefact-rich deposits, it must have been, either used only briefly, or periodically cleaned out.

24 A sub-square, steep sided, flat bottomed pit, 1.6m x 1.4m, containing fills 23, 115, 116, 117, 118, 123 (*Figure 8 Section 8*). Of these deposits 23 was peat and 117 was found to consist of dark brown organic silts. Artefacts were mostly recovered only from fill 117, the assemblage consisting of a few pieces of animal bone and small sherds of Romano-British pottery (Appendix A),1 but two Romano-British sherds were also recovered from 123. The remaining fills were found to be artefact free, fine grey silts. The general absence of finds might suggest that this pit was intended for functions other than general refuse disposal, or that it was barely used by the time of site abandonment and/or flooding finished its active life.

A plough mark, **121** (*Figures 4 & 8 Section 8; Plate 4*) cutting the upper fills of the feature graphically demonstrates the damage that has been inflicted on the site by the past agricultural regime.

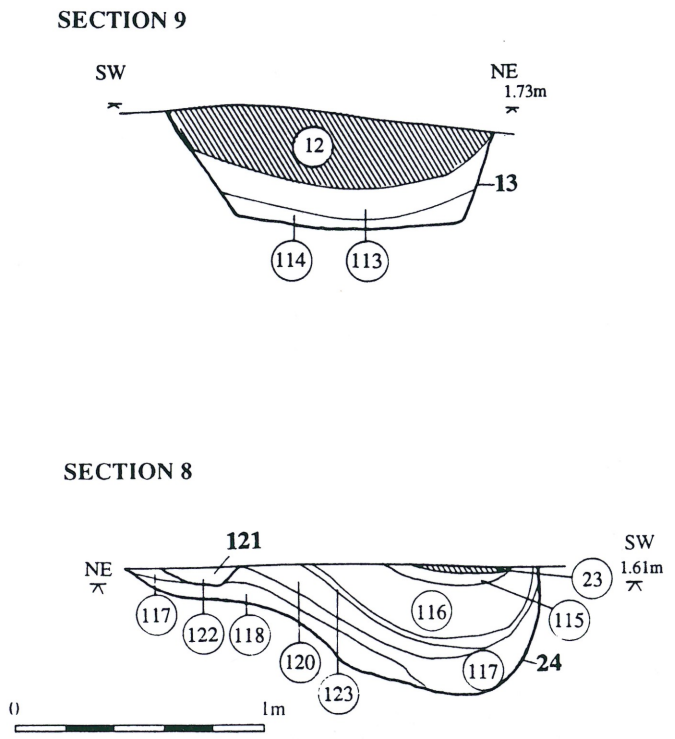


Figure 8 *Sections through pits **13** and **24***

5.3 Post-Medieval Activity

Trench II (*Figure 4*)

The site produced little evidence of any activity other than that dating to the late second/early third century. However, in Trench II, two re-cuts were found cutting one of the ditches flanking the trackway, **42** (*Figure 6; Plate 3*). Following the silting of the ditch, its abandonment and accumulation of the upper layer of peat, the ditch appears to have been re-cut slightly off course to the east, **36**, in a comparable position to that of the drainage channel in the opposite trackway ditch **16** (*Figures 4 & 6*). This ditch then partially silted up before a turfline was established (*Figure 6*). A period of use then occurred with the ditch gradually silting up with a light brown, homogenous compact silt. A final shallow re-cut, **35**, (*Figure 6*) was then cut through the upper fills of both the earlier ditches.

These later features probably represent remembrance and maintenance of an earlier boundary, rather than continuity of the trackway. The shallow feature, **35**, possibly represents a hedge line. These later features perhaps suggest a change in function of the site to one of a purely agricultural regime with the ditch and later gully serving as drainage for fields and as a hedged field boundary, respectively.

Whether the two later features are actually re-cuts of the original ditch, **42**, or whether they merely reflect a chance truncation is unclear from the excavated sections alone. The evidence from the aerial photographs would suggest, however, that they are on the same alignment.

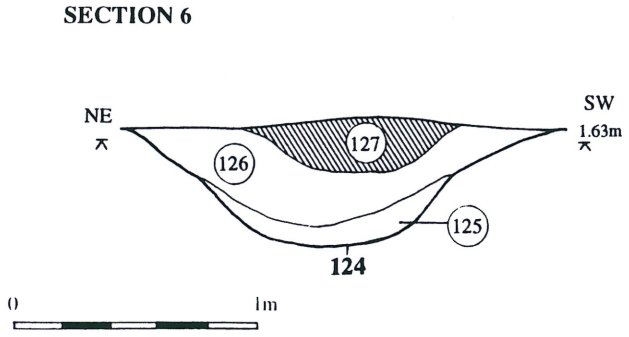


Figure 9 *Section through enclosure ditch **124***

5.4 Undated Features

Trench IV (*Figure 10 and 11*)

This trench was located across a parallel linear alignment close to the western edge of the area defined by the cropmarks. The alignment was interpreted, before the excavation, as a secondary droveway and associated enclosures leading out to field systems (*Figure 2*). Upon excavation three shallow parallel

ditches, **2**, **4** and **26** were identified, all aligned north-south (*Figures 10 & 11*). Features **2** and **4** were adjacent to one another with feature **26** 13m to the west.

2 A linear feature aligned north-south, 1.70m wide and 0.60m deep. The profile was straight-sided, flat bottomed, containing six fills; 3, 87, 95, 96, 97 and 98. The upper fill, 3, was very shallow, 0.05m thick, and consisted of a peat deposit. The remaining five layers were found to be water-borne fine grey, compact silts (*Figure 10 Section 7*). No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the layers.

4 A linear feature running parallel to feature **2** was identified as a shallow ditch. The feature was flat bottomed with gently sloping sides, 1.70m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained two fills: 5, the final deposit was a dark brown/black peat fill, 0.12m deep; 88, the primary fill, being a fine grey silt, 0.12m deep. A large, circular posthole/pit, **53**, was cut into the base of the ditch with two stakeholes on the eastern and western edges, filled by 54, a similar deposit to the primary ditch fill 88 (*Figure 10*). The function of this feature is unclear, certainly it seems to be contemporary with the ditch and it may be an indication of a fence-line flanking the parallel ditch, **2**, discussed above. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of these features.

A further six 'stakeholes', **49** to **51** on the eastern side, and **80** to **82** along the western side were identified along the top edges of the feature (*Figure 10*), suggesting the presence of a lightweight wicker fence.

Trench V

A final trench was placed across a north-west/south-east linear feature located at the southern end of the cropmarks, just off the roddon and thus at a lower level. Prior to excavation this was also interpreted as a field boundary (*Figure 2*). The rest of this system was not studied as it lay under crop during the excavation. Upon excavation the ditch, **150**, was found to be totally waterlogged, limiting work to quick examination and sketch plan. It was a shallow linear feature, 0.48m deep and three metres wide cut into the natural marine silts of the area. Steep-sided and flat bottomed, the ditch contained three episodes of silting, 152, 153 and 154. The upper layer, 152 was represented by a deposit of peat, 0.25m thick; the middle layer, 153, was a compact fine, clayey, silt, 0.13m thick; and the primary deposit, 154, was a compact red deposit, 0.10m thick, representing mineralised brushwood.

Beneath the cut of the feature a thin waterlogged peat layer, **151**, 0.15m thick and within the marine silts, was uncovered.

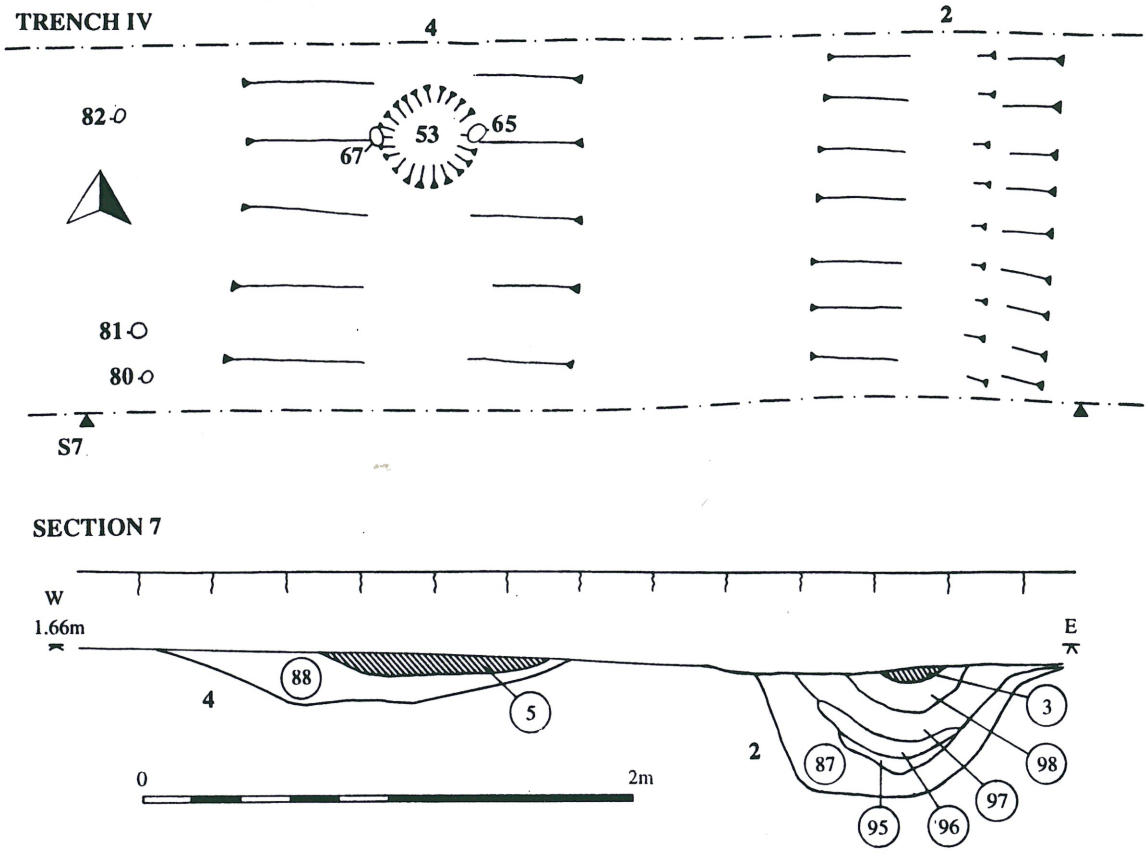


Figure 10 *Enlarged plan and section of features **2** and **4** with silt deposition in the latter*

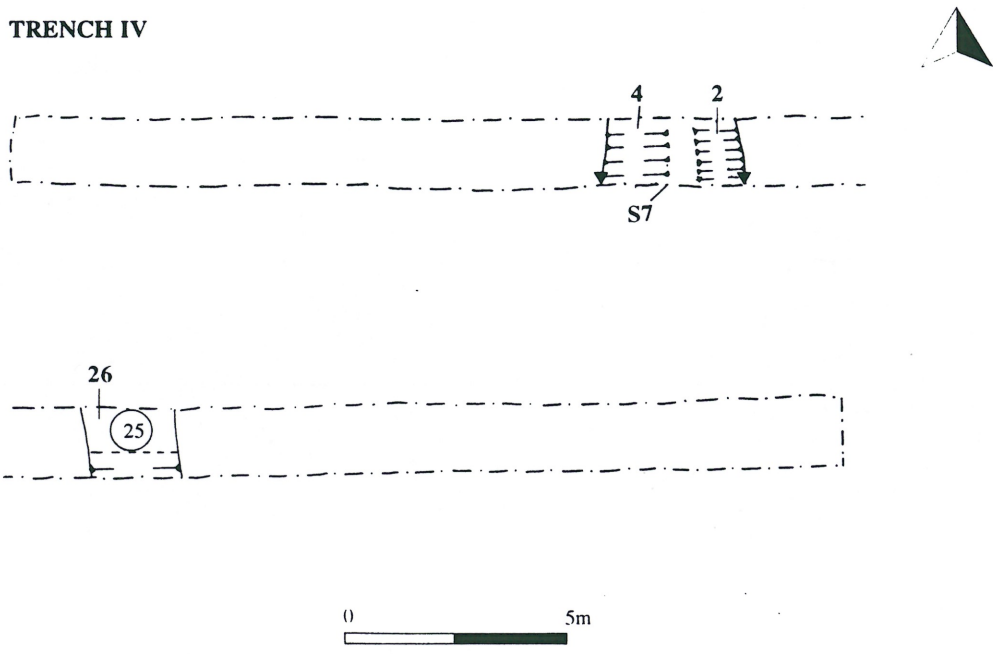


Figure 11 *Plan of Trench IV*

6 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

At the outset of the evaluation two main research objectives had been identified: 1) the state of preservation of the archaeology, and 2) the function, period and morphology of the site. Bearing in mind the limited nature of this evaluation work only general answers to 2) were expected.

In achieving the initial aim the work was very successful, showing that there are surviving archaeological remains and that they have been significantly affected by recent intensive agricultural practices (*Plate 4*). In addition, the evaluation has allowed a comparison between non-intrusive/destructive investigation techniques (cropmarks and fieldwalking) against excavation. There was clear correlation between the cropmark data and surviving sub-surface remains; equally the results from the fieldwalking did in fact show a correlation between high Roman pottery recovery and some of the small settlement type enclosures. The areas of occupation appear to be located to the north of the site (Trench I) and are represented by two rectilinear enclosures facing the trackway. Excavation of one the enclosing ditches, **132**, produced substantially more domestic material than was recovered from other enclosures, suggesting a location for the centre of occupation even though no structural evidence was identified.

Plate 4 *Trench II showing in the foreground two square cut pits with upper peat fills and the diagonal scoring of deep ploughing. In the background can be seen part of the ditch system separating two enclosures*

The enclosures examined in Trench II and III were found to have no internal structural evidence and fewer artefacts were recovered from them. The central division, **124**, between the enclosures was shallower than the outer ditches, perhaps representing merely a formal division between two plots rather than a drainage feature or barrier. The presence of mineralised brushwood in only the outer enclosure ditches and in a field boundary in Trench V is perhaps another indication of the function, suggesting that these were fields surrounded by scrub which, following the abandonment of the site, fell into the ditches. Around the suggested site of occupation no such evidence was recorded. This might be expected in the immediate vicinity of settlement where the land would be kept clear of scrub. In addition two pits were located between the enclosures and the main trackway and from the artefacts recovered at least one of these has been interpreted as a rubbish pit.

A short period of occupation/activity on the site was identified, ranging from the late second to mid third centuries, a period of approximately sixty-five years. Occupation of the site was suggested by the artefact types recovered; high quality pottery, bone needles and nails. The precise function/plan of the site however, still remains rather unclear although it seems likely to be a family farmstead.

In consideration of the site morphology, it appears that the complex visible on aerial photographs was constructed in one episode during the second century. It appears also to conform with other excavated sites found within the siltland, e.g. the Golden Lion site at Stonea (Potter, 1977), representing a small native family settlement dependent upon cattle and sheep. The settlement seems to be at the heart of the complex with other enclosures, perhaps for stock, immediately outside. Further away, but linked to the settlement by long trackways, are clearly defined field systems (*Figure 2*). The settlement, like other excavated examples is likely to have survived on a subsistence level with few imported luxuries and little evidence of wealth, the only exception being a small amount of Samian ware (*Figure 2*).

Following construction an additional three intermediary phases can be identified before the site falls out of use. Initial construction is followed by a period of use which seems to culminate in an episode of flooding which largely fills up the ditches and reduces the size and nature of the site. A further, short period of occupation (*Figure 3, Section 1*) continues before further flooding causes the abandonment of the site. Following this, peat accumulated in the tops of features (*Figures 3, 5 & 6*). The phases of activity on the site were typified by dark brown/black, humic silt layers which were rich in artefacts, mainly high status locally made wares, along with some other domestic finds such as fragments of bone pins, and nails.

Evidence of re-use of the site during the post-medieval period is seen only in Trench II, as pottery from the basal fill of one of the flanking ditches, **36**, of the trackway. Here the feature is found to be twice re-cut, **42**, (*Figure 6*) in a comparable position to that of a drainage channel, seen in ditch **16** (*Figure 5*). This suggests that there is some remembrance of the extinct ditch perhaps as a shallow ditch or boundary line.

In conclusion the evaluation at Throckenholt has achieved its initial aims, it has demonstrated one or two short periods of occupation in the late second to third centuries, but it has also demonstrated the survival, and re-use, of elements in the Romano-British landscape through to the post-medieval period. The site appears as a small group of rectangular enclosures at the hub of extensive field systems, accessed by long, wide trackways. The omnipresence of droveways and enclosures emphasises the importance of stock on the site and in the

economy of the Fenland in general. This is reinforced by the recovery of sizeable quantities of animal bone, mainly of cattle and sheep from ditch fills. In keeping with other Romano-British Fenland settlement the site at Throckenholt does not appear to have ever been very prosperous, with the settlement probably represented by basic structures leaving only ephemeral evidence which would be quickly obliterated by intense agricultural practices. The site's abandonment may coincide with a general trend observed in settlements in the area during the early third century (e.g. as discussed by Potter, 1977).

7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SITE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Whilst the excavation demonstrated that considerable damage has been inflicted on the archaeological remains by the past agricultural regime, in particular deep ploughing, it appears now to have stabilised in the area examined. The excavated remains appear to consist of ditched enclosures and droveways with no evidence of structural remains. The morphology of the enclosures, the recovery of domestic artefactual material in both the topsoil and in excavated contexts, and the presence of rubbish pits all, however, point to this being an occupation site even if the buildings have not been located. If future ploughing is restricted to the existing ploughsoil then the archaeology is likely to be protected. This should be monitored, perhaps on a bi-yearly basis with a combination of *ad hoc* fieldwalking over the site to note any fresh material being brought to the surface, and perhaps limited trenching where damage appears to be continuing.

7.2 During the fieldwalking survey and the excavation, slight earthworks were noted. Given the scarcity of such sites in the Fenland region it is considered that it would be useful to complete a survey of the site.

7.3 The programme of excavation was limited through time, money and adverse weather conditions. As a result of these factors some areas were unavailable for examination and it is felt that their study, perhaps combined with the monitoring stage (7.1). would prove useful (*Figure 12*), In particular, the degree of survival of any settlement remains in enclosures in the south and east parts of the holding would provide valuable information to add to that from trenches in the western area.

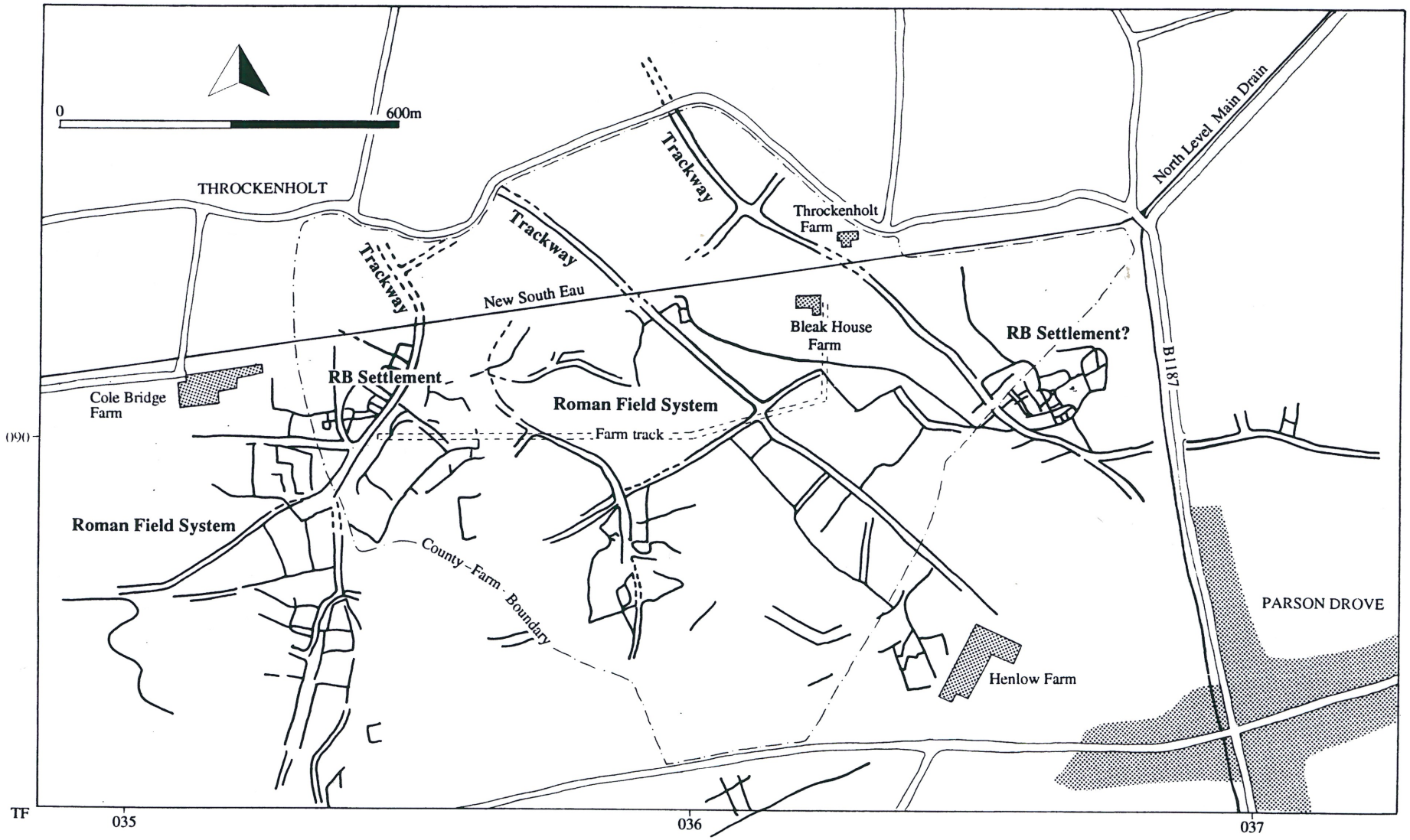


Figure 12 *The full extent of cropmark information on County Farm land around the evaluated area*

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Appendix A

Roman Pottery from the Excavations at Parson Drove, Throckenholt Farm, Wisbech

By

Gavin Lucas

Introduction

A small assemblage of excavated and fieldwalked pottery was examined from a site in the Fens just west of Wisbech at Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove. The collection was analysed by context on a fabric and sherd count basis, using a x10 magnification hand lens to aid identification. The short fabric type series is given below followed by a general description of the pottery in each context (numbered in brackets) with fabric types prefixed with a capital F. A brief discussion of the assemblage as a whole is given at the end of the report.

Fabric Types

1 Hard, fine textured fabric, variously tempered with fine quartzite, occasional grog and variously coloured from white to orange and grey. Nene Valley wares (NV), including grey, red and brown colour-coats.

2 Hard, buff micaceous fine fabric with frequent fine-medium sized quartzite and occasional grog, chalk and large quartzite.

3 Soft, grey to buff fabric with frequent ill-sorted crushed flaky shell temper, often with blue-grey slip.

4 Hard, buff fine fabric, sparse mica, moderate sub angular fine quartzite and moderate ill-sorted crushed shell temper.

5 Hard, grey fabric with moderate ill-sorted angular chalk and occasional quartz.

6 Very fine sandy grey fabric, with extremely fine quartzite and moderate mica.

7 Hard, fine orange-red with similar gloss slip: Gaulish Samian (see contexts for different sources).

8 Hard, grey fabric with moderate fine-medium sized sub angular quartzite and occasional fine grog/chalk.

9 Medium hard buff-grey fabric with frequent coarse-medium sized sub angular quartzite with occasional coarser quartz, chalk and flint; grey-slipped, probably from Horningsea.

EXCAVATED ASSEMBLAGE

Trench I

(128) *Medium-small sized, slightly abraded sherds*

Nene Valley grey colour-coated ware incl. plain-rimmed bowl
Buff-brown c-c jar with burnished wavy-line on neck & red c-c footring (F1).

Fine greyware jar, 'castor box', chamfered base, footring, & folded beaker most with 'metallic' lustrous slip (F6)
Rilled square-rimmed shell-tempered jar (F3)
Micaceous daub fragments.

(158) *Large-medium sized, little abraded sherds*

Nene valley grey c-c ware including triangular-rimmed and hooked-rimmed bowl with burnished wavy-line on neck; red-buff c-c chamfered base (F1).
Base and rim of shell-tempered jar(s), body sherds with spaced grooves (F3)
Combed storage jar (F4)
Base of jar (F5)
Micaceous daub fragment, plus more very rounded sandy fragments - concretions? or daub.

Trench II

(12) *Variously sized and abraded sherds*

Samian base from Lezoux (F7)
Nene Valley red c-c ware, including part of plain-rimmed chamfered dish (joins with similar piece from ctx 114), reeded mortarium with inturned bead (F1)
Base of jar (F8)
Daub

(14) *Very abraded fragments*

Imitation Drag,31 bowl, possibly from Nene valley (F1)
Daub

(29) Base of post-mediaeval glazed earthenware vessel

(30) *Very small abraded sherds*

Coarsewares (F9 & F4)

(33) Small post-mediaeval sherds with salt glaze

(37/38) Tiny, indistinct crumbs of pot

(39) Daub? fragment

(106) *Small, abraded sherds*

Red c-c ware with unusual base/rim ? (F1?)

(107) *Variously sized and abraded sherds*

Large part of a wide-mouthed jar with brown c-c, plain-rimmed chamfered dish in red c-c, folded beaker with median grooves and rouletting in golden-brown c-c, imitation Drag.31 bowl in red c-c, cordoned jar/flagon, piece of jar/flagon with rouletting and geometric white paint/barbotine over red c-c (F1)
Jar (F9)

(109) Jar with white paint/barbotine over red c-c (as in ctx 107) (F1)

(111) *Medium-sized, little abraded sherds*

Rilled square-rimmed shell-tempered jars (F3)
Storage jar (F4)

(113) *Large, unabraded sherds*

Combed storage jar (F3)
Narrow necked jar in red c-c (F1)
Daub crumbs

(114) Large part of red c-c plain-rimmed chamfered dish with burnt residue on exterior (joins with similar piece from ctx 12) (F1)

(115) spall off Nene valley red c-c vessel (F1)

(115/116) spall of Lezoux Samian (F7)

(117) *Medium-small, quite abraded sherds*

Rim of small jar in buff-brown c-c, chamfered base in red c-c, grey & brown c-c vessels (F1)
Plain-rimmed dish (F9)
Footring, chamfered base (F6)
Jar with grooved neck and shoulder (F4)
Square-rimmed jar (F3)
Lezoux? Samian (F7)
Daub fragments

(123) *Medium sized, slightly abraded sherds*

Double-grooved rim of large storage jar (Diam : 32 cm) (F4)
Chamfered base of dish in red c-c (F1)

(125) *Large, unabraded sherds*

Bowl with flattened rim with metallic lustre slip (F6)
Grey c-c vessel (F1)

(127) *Medium sized slightly abraded sherd*

Short-necked jar with narrow mouth (F9)

(156) *Medium sized unabraded sherds*

Jar and imitation Drag.37 bowl in red c-c (F1)

Surface finds near Trench II

Base of beaker in dark brown c-c (F1)
Body sherd of jar with spaced grooves and alternate wavy-line and oblique strokes (F9)
Reeded bowl (F6)
Base of platter (Ritterling 1?), and rim of similar platter from S.Gaul (F7)

Trench III

unstrat. Sherd in bright red fabric, dissolved shell-temper? and coarse pieces of grog

(94) Medium sized quite abraded sherds
Jar in grey c-c (F1)

Fieldwalking

Field A

(8,3)	Red c-c sherd (F1)

Field C

(1,2)	1 brown c-c sherd (NV)
(1.3)	1 grey c-c plain rim (NV)
(3,5)	2 grey c-c, 2 brown c-c-incl. lid?, 1 shell-temp, 1 coarseware, 1 Samian footring (Lezoux)
(4,3)	1 red c-c bowl (NV)
(4,5)	2 dark grey c-c-base & lid of Castor box, 1 brown c-c jar, 1 red c-c bowl (NV), 1 Samian Drag.31 bowl (Lezoux)
(5,1)	tile
(5,2)	2 grey c-c, 1 red c-c (NV), 2 shell-temp. sherds
(5,3)	1 coarse greyware
(5,4)	1 fine greyware
(5,5)	1 grey c-c (NV)
(6,2)	4 grey c-c, 2 brown c-c, 1 red c-c (NV), 1 coarseware
(6,3)	1 grey c-c (NV), 2 coarseware, 1 Samian (Lezoux)
(6,4)	1 grey c-c, 1 red c-c (NV), 2 shell-temp. sherds
(7,1)	4 grey c-c-incl. plain-rimmed dish (NV), 1 fine greyware, 2 shell-temp.-incl.base of jar, fine greyware jar
(7,2)	3 fine greyware-incl. dish, 2 shell-temp. sherds
(7,3)	3 grey c-c, 2 off reeded mortarium (NV), 4 shell temp.-incl. jar rims, 1 fine greyware
(7,4)	3 shell-temp., 3 off Samian Drag.33 cup with median groove, 4 grey c-c-incl. jar rim (NV), fine greyware, 2 daub fragments
(7,5)	1 shell-temp.
(8,1)	5 grey c-c-incl.base, 1 brown c-c of jar (NV)
(8,2)	5 grey c-c, 1 brown c-c bowl (NV), 1 coarseware
(8,3)	1 grey c-c base (NV)
(8,4)	1 grey c-c-rouletted (NV)
(9,1)	3 grey c-c, 1 brown c-c (NV)
(9,2)	1 fine greyware, shell-temp. wide square-rimmed jar
(10,1)	1 NV red-brown c-c

Field D

(9,1) 1 grey c-c base (NV)

Field E

(11,0) greyware rim
(11,1) 1 red c-c rim of bowl, imitation Drag.36, 2 grey c-c (NV), 1 fine greyware
(12,1) 1 red c-c jar rim (NV)

Discussion

The immediately curious thing about this assemblage of pottery is the fairly high proportion of fine wares, most of which come from the Nene Valley (55% of the total, based on sherd count); the only other fabric in substantial numbers is a shell-tempered ware (27%), possibly also from the Nene valley but could be more local. A small amount of grey coarseware may come from the Horningsea kilns just outside Cambridge, as may the finer greyware. The Nene Valley wares comprise chiefly of grey wares (36%) and the early coloured wares, particularly red colour-coated vessels (49%), including a number of imitation Samian forms. However, the actual vessel forms are mainly jars, bowls and dishes - beakers being extremely rare which suggests that although 'fine' pottery is well represented, it could still be everyday ware and not particularly special. Furthermore, given the site's proximity to the pottery kilns (about 10 miles south-east), the high percentage of such vessels is not surprising.

Mostly on the basis of the Nene valley pottery, the assemblage has been dated; a broad safe range would extend from the end of the 2nd to the mid-3rd century AD (i.e.. c.190-250 AD), but one could possibly restrict this to the first half or even second quarter of the 3rd century, depending on how contemporary all the pottery is, and also on when one sees the start of imitation Samian redware in the Nene valley. Certainly no ceramic phasing is possible, the whole collection falling within the given range, and this would include the fieldwalked material. The only obvious anomalies are the early Samian platters found on the surface near Trench II which date to the mid-1st century AD; however, given its potentially high value, curation of Samian vessels cannot be ruled out and thus these do not necessarily point to earlier activity on the site. Certainly nothing else of a similar date was identified. Most of the Samian appears to come from Lezoux in Central Gaul (on the basis of fabric), being later 2nd century and after.

Most of the pottery clearly derives from a few contexts - (128), (158) in trench I, and (12), (107) and (117) in trench II, from which also came quantities of abraded micaceous daub. The pottery from the fieldwalking clearly concentrates in field C, and in particular transects 5, 6 and 7. Apart from the Roman pottery, some post-mediaeval sherds turned up in contexts (29) and (33) in trench II.

Cxt. No.	Fabrics												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	x	Mod	daub	Total
128	13	0	5	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	11	*27*
158	22	1	15	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	*42*
12	26	0	15	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	12	*46*
14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	*1*
30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	*2*
33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	*4*
37/38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	*5*
39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
106	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
107	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	*16*
109	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
111	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	*14*
113	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*6*
114	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
115	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1*
115/116	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	*1*
117	16	0	7	1	0	2	1	0	5	0	0	0	*32*
123	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*10*
125	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*2*
127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	*1*
156	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*4*
94	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*2*
Total	*115*	*1*	*57*	*8*	*3*	*13*	*4*	*2*	*7*	*5*	*5*	*74*	*292*

Table 1. - Sherd count by fabric and context

Illustrated vessels

1. NV greyware bowl (F1)/(ctx.158)
2. NV greyware bowl (F1)/(ctx.158)
3. NV brown c-c wide mouthed jar (F1)/(ctx.107)
4. NV red c-c dish (F1)/(ctx.12)
5. NV mortarium (F1)/(ctx.12)
6. NV red c-c bowl, imitation Drag.37 (F1)/(ctx.156)
7. Fine greyware jar (F6)/(ctx.125)

Appendix B

Faunal Report and potential for future Analysis

Compiled by Simon Bray

The washed fauna was briefly examined by Dr R Luff of the University of Cambridge/ English Heritage. The sample from the evaluation trenching was not large enough to be representative and informative for integrating with a full discussion of a site or fenland economy. However, concentrations within dateable ditch fills suggest that any further work in the area should employ a specific sampling strategy to sample the animal bone from the site to aid current understanding of the Roman fenland economy.

In general there were no meat bearing bones present in the assemblage recovered. Amongst those bones retrieved a notable proportion had butchery marks indicative of animals being processed on site and cuts of meat being sent elsewhere.

Bones were generally well preserved. The following species were identified: Cow, horse, pig and sheep.

12	39 small pieces of bone; 1 piece burnt bone
27	1 metacarpal
33	1 small animal bone
37/38	8 bone fragments
107	19 assorted bone fragments
111	1 rib fragment
113	7 pieces of bone; 1 metacarpal; 3 pieces of burnt bone; 1 tooth; 1 part of upper cow jaw
114	1 metacarpal
115	2 small fragments
117	21 piece of bone; 1 burnt bone; 2 teeth
125	1 pig tooth
128	24 pieces of animal bone; 1 tooth
138	7 metatarsi; 1 metacarpal; 5 fragments
156	1 epiphysis bone; 4 pieces of vertebrae; 2 bits of pelvis; 1 leg bone (piece); 5 epiphysis
158	20 pieces of horse vertebrae; 2 fragments of bone; 1 rodent bone; 2 sheep teeth?; 2 burnt bone
159	1 part of lower cow jaw

Appendix C

List of Contexts

[#] Cut
Deposit

Abbreviations used in List of Contexts

Br: Brown; **Bl:** Black; **Gr:** Grey; **Or:** Orange; **Ye:** Yellow; **R.B:** Romano-British;

Cxt. No.	Tr. No.	Description	Nature	Finds	Above	Below
1	All	Ploughsoil	Mid gr/br homogeneous clayey silt	r.b;med, p.med. pot	——	——
[2]	IV	Cut of sq.cut ditch	N/S aligned, parallel to [4]	N/A	——	87
3	IV	Fill of ditch [2]	Dark gr/br peaty silt	None	98	1
[4]	IV	Cut of ditch	N/S aligned , parallel to [3]	N/A	——	88
5	IV	Fill of ditch [4]	Dark gr/br peaty silt	None	88	1
[6]	IV	Cut of root disturbance	Root disturbance	N/A	——	7
7	IV	Fill [6]	Natural or/br sandy/silt	None	[6]	1
[8]	IV	Cut of root disturbance	Root/Natural	N/A	——	9
9	IV	Fill of [8]	Natural or/br sandy/silt	None	[8]	1
10	—	*Not Used*	————————	————————	——	——
11	—	*Not Used*	————————	————————	——	——
12	II	Fill of pit [13]	Dark br/bl homogeneous peat, freq. charcoal flecks	Large unabraded r.b pot; animal bone	113	1
[13]	II	Sq. cut ?rubbish pit	straight-sided, flat base,	N/A	1000	114
14	II	Upper fill of ditch [16]	Dark br/bl homogeneous peat	1 x med. pot	15	1
15	II	Fill of ditch [16]	Mid gr compact homogeneous silt	None	99	14
[16]	II	Cut of ditch	NE/SW aligned, steep sided, flat bottomed with drainage gully along southern side.	N/A	1000	100, 101
17	—	*Not Used*	————————	————————	——	——
18	—	*Not Used*	————————	————————	——	——
19	III	Upper fill of ditch [22]	Dark br/bl homogeneous peat	None	20,89	1
20	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Mid-Dark gr compact, homogeneous silt	None	27	19
21	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Pale gr/br silt	None	28	91
[22]	III	Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned; Straight-sided, flat base	N/A	1000	94
23	II	Fill of [24]	Dark br/bl peat	None	115	[121]
[24]	II	Sq. cut ?rubbish pit	Steep-sided, irregular sides &base	N/A	1000	118
25	IV	Fill of ditch [26]	Or/br clayey silt	None	44	1
[26]	IV	Cut of ditch	N/S aligned, shallow, sides lined by stakeholes & large circular p/h in base	N/A	1000	[43]
27	III	Primary fill of ditch [22]	Pale br/gr firm silt	Animal bone	91	20
28	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Pale gr/br firm silt	None	92	21
29	II	Final backfilling of [36]	Mid br loose silt	19c. brown glazed pot rim	30	1
30	II	Fill of ditch [36]	Light br loose silt	R.B pot	31	29
31	II	Fill of ditch [36]	Dark br loose silt	None	32	30
32	II	Turfline over primary silts of ditch [36]	Mid br compact silt	None	33	31
33	II	Primary silts of [36]	Light br compact clayey silt	Animal bone; small frags of P.med pot	[36]	32
34	II	Fill of gully [35]	Dark br semi-compact silt	None	[35]	1
[35]	II	Cut of gully within [36]	Aligned SE/NW; shallow gently sloping sides, rounded base	N/A	[36]	34
[36]	II	Re-cut of ditch [42]	SW/NE aligned; Steep-sided; flat bottomed	N/A	[42]	33
37	II	Final peat deposition in ditch [42]	Dark br/bl peat	None	38	[36]
38	II	Fill of [42]	Light/mid gr semi-compact homogeneous silt	None	39	37
39	II	Fill of [42]	Light gr compact homogeneous silt	Brick, tile	40	38
38/39	II	Interface between layers	See above	Animal bone	——	——
40	II	Fill of [42]	Light br/gr homogeneous silt	None	41	39
41	II	Fill of [42]	Mid gr compact homogeneous clayey silt	Small piece of animal bone	102	40
[42]	II	Original cut of ditch of droveway, cutting [36]	SW/NE aligned; gently sloping, steeps, flat bottomed	N/A	1000	[102]
[43]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	[26]	44
44	IV	Fill of [43]	Dark br silt	None	[43]	25
[45]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	87	48
[46]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	87	48
[47]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	87	48
48	IV	Fill of [45],[46].[47]	Dark brown loose silt	None	[45-47]	95
[49]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	1000	52
[50]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	1000	52
[51]	IV	Cut of stakehole between [2] and [3]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	1000	52
52	IV	Fill of [49], [50], [51]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base		[49-51]	1
Cxt. No.	**Tr. No.**	**Description**	**Nature**	**Finds**	**Above**	**Below**
[53]	IV	Cut pit/posthole? in base of [4]	Circular cut in base of ditch	N/A	[4]	54

54	IV	Fill of [53]	Dark gr silt	None	53	[65,67]
[55]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[56]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[57]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[58]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[59]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[60]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[61]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[62]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[63]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[64]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	88	66
[65]	IV	Stakehole cut in west side of [53] in [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	66
66	IV	Fill of [55] to [65]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	None	[55-65]	5
[67]	IV	Stakehole cut into east side of [53] in [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	[4]	72
[68]	IV	Stakehole cut in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	[4]	72
[69]	IV	Root/animal hole	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	72
[70]	IV	Stakehole cut in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	72
[71]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	72
72	IV	Fill of stakehole [67-71]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	[67-71]	3
[73]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
[74]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
[75]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
[76]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
[77]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
[78]	IV	Cut of stakehole in side of ditch [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	88	79
79	IV	Fill of [73] to [78]	Dark br homogenous silt	None	[75-78]	5
[80]	IV	Animal burrow	Shallow, circular hole on edge of [4]	N/A	1000	83
[81]	IV	Stakehole cut east of [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	1000	83
[82]	IV	Stakehole cut east of [4]	Circular, vertical, tapering at base	N/A	1000	83
83	IV	Fill of [80], [81], [82]	Dark br homogenous silt	None	[80-82]	1
[84]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	1000	86
[85]	IV	Root/animal hole		N/A	1000	86
86	IV	Fill of [84] and [85]	Dark br homogenous silt	N/A	[84-85]	1
87	IV	Primary fill of ditch [2]	Light gr with ye mottling	None	[2]	95
88	IV	Primary fill of ditch [4]	Mid gr/br fine sandy silt	None	65, 67	5
89	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Mixed or/gr/br firm silt	None	90	19
90	III	Animal disturbance in [22]	Br/gr silty clay	None	91	89
91	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Br/gr firm silt	None	21	27,90
92	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Pale brownish grey clayey silt	None	93	28
93	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Pale gr/br silt	None	94	92
94	III	Fill of ditch [22]	Mixed br/or/gr/br silt	R.B pottery	[22]	93
95	IV	Fill of ditch [2]	Dark gr/br clayey silt	None	87	96
96	IV	Fill of ditch [2]	Mid gr, with ye mottling, clayey silt	None	95	97
97	IV	Fill of ditch [2]	Mid gr, ye/or mottling clayey silt	None	96	98
98	IV	Fill of ditch [2]	Pale gr, ye mottling, clayey silt	None	97	3
99	II	Secondary fill of [16]	Mid gr compact clayey silt	None	100,101	15
100	II	Primary fill of [16]	Light gr/br semi-compact silt	None	161	99
101	II	Primary fill of [16]	Light gr/br compact silt	None	[16]	99
102	II	Primary fill of [42]	Light gr/br compact silt	None	[42]	41
103	II	Fill of [104]	Light gr firm homogeneous silt	None	[104]	1
[104]	II	Cut of shallow scoop	Shallow, irregular linear depression, pitted base - possible natural filled by weathering or occupation horizon	N/A	1000	103
[105]	II	Cut of NE/SW ditch	Half excavated but appears to steep-sided and flat bottomed	R.b pot; animal bone	1000	
106	II	Upper fill of [105]	Dark br/bl peat	None	107	1
107	II	Fill of [105]	Compact, red mineralised brushwood	None	[111], 108	106
108	II	Fill of [105]	Light gr, mottled or loose silt	None	163	[111]
109	II	Fill of [105] (same as 108?)	Dark gr loose silt, frequent fine roots	R.b pot	163/164	[111]
110	II	Fill of [111]	Dark grey, loose silt, freq. fine roots	None	[111]	107
[111]	II	Re-cut of [105]	Shallow final re-cut of [105]	N/A	108	110
[112]	II	Cut of ditch	Same as [124]	N/A	1000	(6)
113	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [13]	Dark br/bl silt, freq. charcoal	Animal bone; R.b pot	114	12
114	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [13]	Dark br/bl silt, freq. charcoal	Animal bone; R.b pot	[13]	113
115	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [24]	Dark gr compact silt	Animal bone; R.b pot	116	123
116	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [24]	Pale ye compact silt	None	123	115
115/ 116	II	Interface between layers	See above	R.B pot	———	———
Cxt. No.	**Tr. No.**	**Description**	**Nature**	**Finds**	**Above**	**Below**
117	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [24]	Dark br/bl compact silt	Animal bone; R.B pot	118	120
118	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [24]	Light-Mid gr compact fine silt	None	[24]	117
119	II	*Not Used*	———	———	———	———
120	II	Fill of ?rubbish pit [24]	Mixed dark gr/bl compact silt	None	117	123
[121]	II	Cut of ploughmark	Narrow linear, straight-sided, aligned approx. N/S	N/A	23	1
122	II	Fill of [121]	Pale ye/or silt (redeposited natural)	None	121	1
123	II	Fill of [24]	Very dark gr/br semi-compact silt	R.b pot	120	116

[124]	II	Cut NW/SE ditch	Steep sided and flat bottomed	N/A	1000	125
125	II	Primary fill of [124]	Light gr fine, compact silt	Pig bone; large R.b sherds	[124]	126
126	II	2nd fill of [124]	Light gr, with ye mottling, fine, firm silt, occasional animal burrows	None	125	127
127	II	Final fill of [124]	Dark br/bl peat	R.b pot x 1	126	1
128	I	Final fill of [132]	Dark br semi-compact silt	R.b pot; Animal bone; Bone pin	149	1
129	I	Over-dug [132]	Compact, fine marine silts (Natural)	None	1000	[132]
130	I	Primary fill of [132]	Mid gr, semi-compact silt	None	132	160
131	I	Fill of [132]	Mid gr firm, fine silt	None	158	149
[132]	I	Cut of ditch	E/W aligned, steep-sided, flat bottomed	N/A	1000	130
133	I	Fill of [135]	Dark br/bl peat	None	134	1
134	I	Fill of [135]	Mid gr compact fine silt	None	???	133
[135]	I	Cut of ditch	Unexcavated	N/A	1000	????
136	I	Fill of [140]	Mid ye/or compact fine silt	None	137	1
137	I	Fill of [140]	Light gr/ye compact silt	None	138	136
138	I	Fill of [140]	Mid gr compact silty clay	Animal bone	139	137
139	I	Fill of [140]	Mid gr compact silt	None	[140]	138
[140]	I	Cut of ditch	S.E/N.W aligned; nr. vertical sides; flat irregular base	N/A	1000	139
141	I	Fill of [142]	Mid gr compact, fine silts, occasional orange mottling	None	????	1
[142]	I	Cut of ditch	Unexcavated	N/A	1000	????
143	I	Fill of [145]	Light gr compact, fine silt	None	????	144
144	I	Final fill of [145]	Dark br/bl peat	None	143	1
[145]	I	Cut of ditch	Unexcavated	N/A	1000	????
146	I	Fill of [148]	Light gr compact silts	None	159	147
147	I	Final fill of [148]	Dark br/bl peat	None	146	1
[148]	I	Cut of ditch	Unexcavated	N/A	1000	????
149	I	Fill of [132]	Light gr firm, fine silt	None	131	128
[150]	V	Cut of ditch	N/S aligned, shallow, gentle sides	N/A	1000	154
151	V	Final fill of [150]	Dark br/bl waterlogged peat	None	162	155
152	V	Fill of [150]	Dark br/bl semi-compact peat	None	153	1
153	V	Fill of [150]	Mid Br compact fine silt	None	154	152
154	V	Fill of [150]	Mid red/or compact mineralised brushwood	None	[150]	153
155	V	Natural marine silts	Mid gr compact clayey silt with br mottling	None	151	156
156	II	Fill of [157]	Light gr, mottled or, compact silt	Animal bone; R.b pot	[157]	[105]
[157]	II	Cut of pit, cut by [105]	Circular?, rounded base	N/A	1000	156
158	I	Fill of [132]	Dark br/bl humic silt	horse bone; piece of bone pin; r.b pot&tile; Fe nails	160	131
159	I	Primary silt of [148]	Light gr compact fine silt	Animal bone	????	146
160	I	Primary silt of [132]	Mid gr compact fine silts	None	130	158
161	II	Fill of [16]	Mid gr compact clayey silt	None	[16]	100
162	V	Natural marine silts	Mid gr compact clayey silts	None	????	151
163	—	*Fill of [105]*	Mid grey semi-compact silt, occ. orabge staining	None	164	108
164	II	Fill of [105]	Light grey compact silt, freq. orange mottling	None	165	163
165	II	Redeposited natural	Mottled white/orange compact silt	None	1000	164
1000	All	Natural marine silts	Orange/ye mix compact silts	None	———	———

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