

Archaeological Field Unit

Romano-British Remains at Ginton

Archaeology on the A15 Ginton to Werrington Bypass

Ken Welsh

1995

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 111

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SUMMARY

Proposals for the upgrading of the A15 between Glington and Werrington (TF 159038-TF 154053) and re-alignment has led to the need for an archaeological evaluation.

The construction of the new road, with its associated slip roads, will involve the removal of large amounts of topsoil and subsoil, affecting any archaeology present.

Several stages of archaeological analysis were, therefore, carried out, which included documentary research, cartographic study, field walking and geophysical survey. Although limited archaeological evidence was found in the SMR, hardly any artefacts were found during field walking, nor were very many features detected during the geophysical survey.

Following the desktop survey, an archaeological evaluation was carried out in two stages in September and November 1994. The lack of archaeological evidence in most of the fields studied was striking. The only archaeological features found were in Field 1 and 2, and the few artefacts provided little dating evidence.

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1 INTRODUCTION

During September and November 1994, the Archaeology Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an archaeological evaluation in several fields along the proposed route of the A15 Lincoln Road, Werrington to Glinton upgrading see *Figure 1*. The work was carried out for Cambridgeshire County Council Transportation Department, and follows on from an initial desktop and geophysical survey (Reynolds 1994).

The proposed road will run between the existing roundabouts at Werrington (TF 159038) and Glinton (TF 154053) and slightly beyond the latter.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The route of the road runs largely on 2nd River Terrace deposits. The south-western part of the route, immediately north of the railway line, overlies Oxford Clay, as shown on Geological Sheet 158 of the British Geological Survey (1984). The area is bordered by Lincolnshire Limestone on its north-western side, which is known to be particularly deep in this region.

The land is generally level, and lies at approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum, and lies on the southern side of the lower Welland Valley.

The northern part of the route is presently arable, but due to the poorly drained ground around Werrington, the southern part is under pasture.

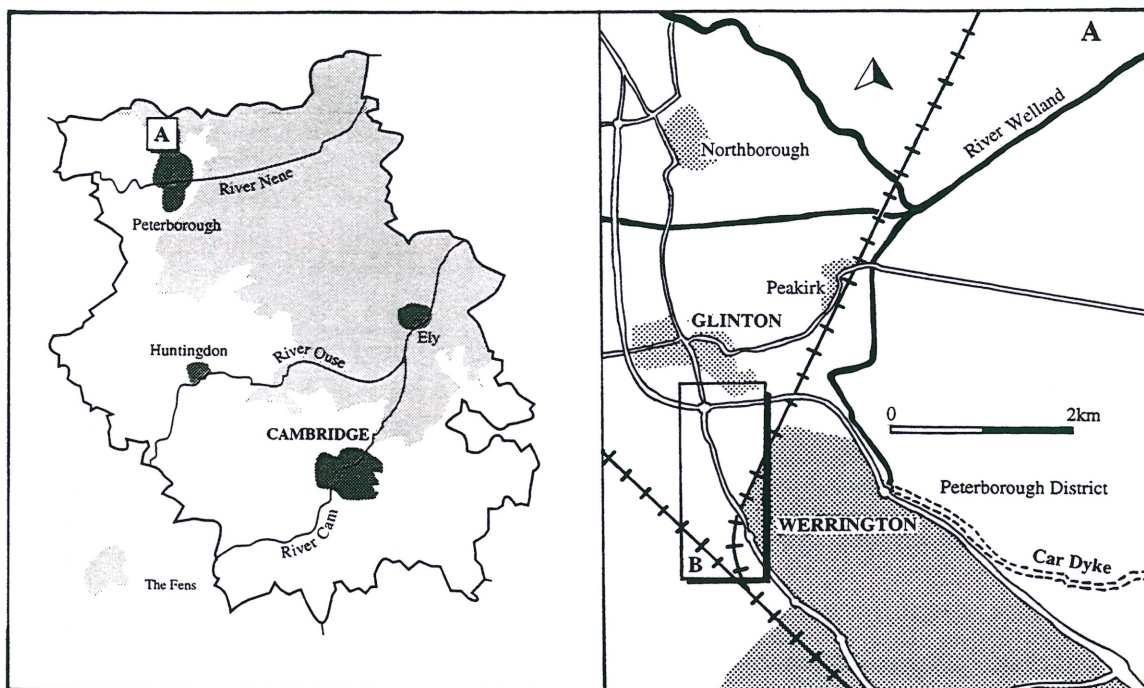


Figure 1 Cambridgeshire location plan

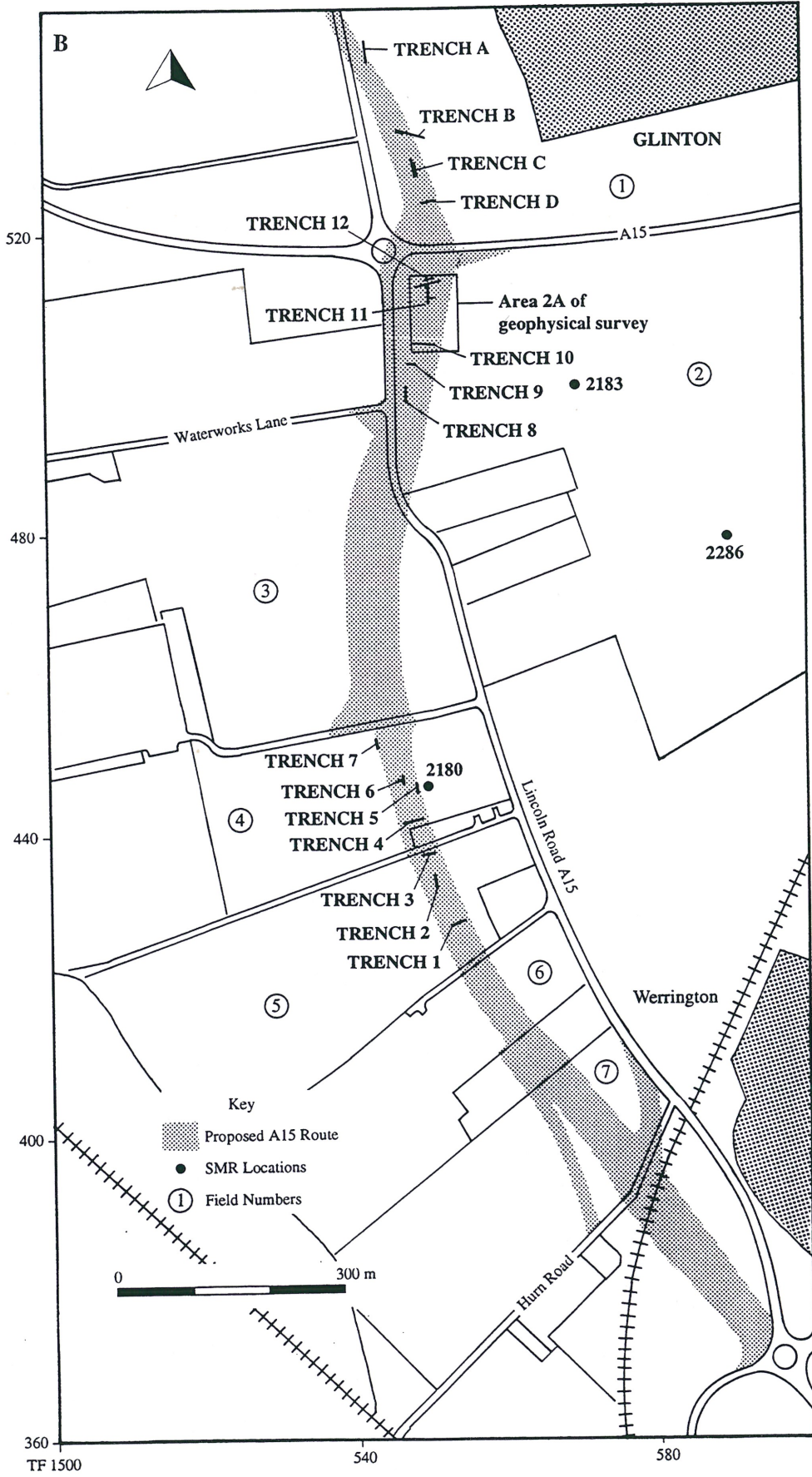


Figure 2 Trench location plan

3 BACKGROUND

The Welland Valley is a rich archaeological landscape, demonstrated by the work of the Welland Valley Project (1971-1978) and by the Fenland Project (1976-1993). A brief description of some of the sites close to the proposed route should help to illustrate the archaeological wealth.

The evidence for pre-Iron Age occupation of the area is not substantial, besides sporadic finds, such as a worked flint, found during the course of an excavation just north of Werrington, and a Bronze Age ditch, situated along David's Lane, also to the north of Werrington, Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) no 2192 and 2210.

Of particular importance are the excavations at Maxey, about 3km to the north-west of Glington (Pryor et al, 1985). Here, gravel extraction threatened an area containing a variety of crop marks, including a cursus and a large penannular ditch. Excavation demonstrated the presence of well-preserved features from the Neolithic (the cursus and henge monument), the Bronze Age (flint scatters), the Iron Age (settlement, field systems), and the Roman period (settlement).

The Iron Age material recovered in the area is of a larger quantity than that of any other prehistoric period, however, it is generally associated with Roman material, as can be seen at SMR no.s 497, 563, 2168 and 2195. There is evidence for large ditched enclosures being in use in the Welland Valley by the late Iron Age; in many cases these enclosures formed the basis for later Romano-British systems (Pryor, 1985). SMR 497, which consists of a ring ditch, enclosure and a settlement, was in use from the late Iron Age to the third century AD. Very close to this site, another Iron Age enclosure (SMR 563) was revealed by aerial photography. An excavation took place in 1979 in advance of landscaping for playing fields next to the Ken Simpson Community School, just to the south-west of the proposed route. It is thought that the site fell out of use soon after the Roman Conquest and was later overlaid by a Roman enclosure system. The rectilinear Iron Age enclosure appears to have had a causeway across the ditch in the south-east corner, which was later replaced by a wooden bridge (Mackreth, 1988). In the centre was a large ring ditch which contained no evidence of any domestic occupation, apart from some pottery, which was found in the ditch itself. To the north lay a house around which large amounts of thatch weights were found. There is no clear evidence for cereal production and it is thought that the region was used as pasture land. There is, however, some evidence for cloth-making and copper-alloy smelting. Other finds in the region, as well as aerial photographic evidence, indicate a fairly large area of settlement, much of which is now built-up.

At SMR 2168, about a kilometre east of the proposed route, traces of an Iron Age and Roman settlement were discovered, such as a ditch, postholes, a hearth and pottery. At SMR 2195, again one kilometre east of the proposed route, Iron Age and Roman pottery was found during earthwork moving for a new bus route.

A large quantity of Roman material has been found in the Glington and Werrington region, showing an increase in complexity of the construction of buildings, now made of stone. Five Roman settlements are noted in the SMR records (SMR nos 497, 523, 596 and 2168), the closest to the proposed route being SMR no 2183, which is located around 300m east of the A15, opposite Waterworks Lane. In this location, a dark area of soil was found to contain

Roman pottery sherds and occupation debris. Coins and other metalwork were found in Field 4 (Figure 2, SMR no 2180), during gravel extraction earlier this century.

The only excavated site of these, apart from the ones mentioned above, is SMR 596, which is located 200m north of the two Iron Age enclosures (see above), just to the north of Werrington. Several fourth century buildings, pieces of painted wall plaster, pits, ditches, box tiles, floor and roof tiles, Nene Valley ware, Samian ware, and coins, dating from the second to the fourth century AD were found during the excavations in the 1960's.

Other Roman finds are mainly sporadic, and consist generally of Roman pottery, ditches and pits, but also a quern, a bracelet, a seal, a column and a number of coins, suggesting Roman occupation of the general area.

Due to the quantity of finds recorded by the SMR for the Glington to Werrington area, one can assume that the region was subject to farming based on small hamlets, which probably served larger centres such as Durobrivae and the settlement at Werrington (Mackreth 1988). The seasonally wet floodplains were generally used for grazing during the drier months of the year, and their associated farmsteads were located on slightly drier areas, such as Werrington. The 'uplands' surrounding the valley exploited the freely-drained gravels of the second terrace (Pryor et al, 1985).

1?

was he mentioned here before?

WHAT RE-ORGANISATION?

The complexity of the economy and architecture, as well as the quantity of sites increased during the Roman period, however, the finds scatters are still quite discrete, and thus suggest the continuity of small hamlets in a broader rural environment. Reasons for the possible reorganisation of the landscape and economy at the beginning of the Roman period may be traced back to the drainage of the fens and the construction of Car Dyke (Phillips 1970).

The excavation also demonstrated that a low ridge, running from south-east to north-west through the fields to the north-west of the site (and roughly parallel to Lincoln Road), was not, as previously thought, a Roman road, but was a headland, a feature associated with medieval agriculture (Figure 1, No 2286).

There is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation along the proposed route, except for a scatter of Saxon pottery at Glington (SMR no 2182). It is, however, thought that Anglo-Saxon occupation was successful in the area and that Anglo-Saxon settlements should be sought at the edges or within existing settlements (Reynolds 1994).

SMR records of Medieval occupation along the A15 are quite rare, and are mainly concentrated around the villages of Glington and Werrington. These traces mainly consist of ridge and furrow, the headland identified by evaluation, two moats near Werrington and a medieval church in both villages, Werrington and Glington.

The local archaeology of Glington and Werrington suggests that the route of the proposed road falls within an area occupied from the Neolithic to the medieval period, which has been proved by large excavations, e.g.. at Flag Fen, Maxey and Werrington.

4 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

The evaluation of the proposed route has followed a staged programme of investigation. The initial stages, involving a search of the SMR, documentary and cartographic research, field walking, and finally geophysical survey, have been published as part of the Cambridgeshire County Council's 'A' report series (Reynolds 1994).

This demonstrated a marked lack of archaeological evidence for the area, given the richness of other parts of the Welland Valley. However, records of a few previous finds were present in the SMR (*Figure 1*), largely of Roman date. One of these (No 2180), lies directly on the proposed route, in Field 4. The geophysical survey, by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, identified one area of higher potential (Field 2), with linear features and pit-like anomalies. A very strong anomaly, possibly representing a kiln, was recorded in Field 1. Other, isolated anomalies, possibly of archaeological origin, were recorded in Fields 1, 3, 4, and 6. In all cases, except Field 2, the lack of a wider archaeological context means that 'natural, modern or agricultural origins for these responses cannot be ruled out' (in Reynolds, 1994).

It was decided, therefore, to concentrate trenching on those areas with higher potential (Fields 1, 2, and 4, *Figure 2*), with additional trenching in those areas where geophysical survey failed to show any archaeological response, to test whether the absence was 'real'. In the event, problems with access meant that Fields 6 and 7 were not assessed. In addition, no trenching was carried out in Field 3, largely because of a large gas main which passes through the field to the gasworks to the west.

Trenching was carried out in two parts - Fields 2, 4, and 5, were assessed in September; Field 1 was assessed in November, after the crop of sugar beet had been harvested.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator with a 1.6m, toothless ditching bucket, under the close observation of an archaeologist. Where necessary, the trenches were widened to aid the understanding of archaeological features. After opening, the trenches were cleaned by hand, photographed, and planned. Any features revealed were then sample excavated, recorded, and photographed. Recording was carried out using the standard techniques and *pro formas* of the AFU. Planning and section drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale - 1:10, 1:20, or 1:50.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Field 5

5.1.1 Trench 1

The ploughsoil was 0.4m thick. A cut, orientated north to south, was excavated and proved to contain a ceramic field drain. It was cut into brown, gravelly clay.

5.1.2 Trench 2

The ploughsoil was 0.45m thick. It overlay brown, gravelly clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.1.3 Trench 3

The ploughsoil was 0.48m thick. It overlay strong brown, gravelly clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.2 Field 4

5.2.1 Trench 4

The ploughsoil was 0.45m thick. It overlay strong brown, gravelly clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.2.2 Trench 5

The ploughsoil was 0.39m thick. It overlay mixed brown, gravelly clay, clayey sand, and occasional lenses of grey clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.2.3 Trench 6

The ploughsoil was 0.40m thick. It overlay mixed dark grey, silty clay, grey clayey sand, and occasional lenses of clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.2.4 Trench 7

The ploughsoil was 0.45m thick. It overlay mixed dark grey, silty clay, grey clayey sand, and occasional lenses of clay. No archaeological features were present.

5.3 Field 2

5.3.1 Trench 8

The ploughsoil was 0.3m thick. Two straight, linear cuts, orientated east to west, contained ceramic field drains. They were cut into yellowish brown, clayey sand, with occasional gravel.

5.3.2 Trench 9

The ploughsoil was 0.3m thick. It overlay yellowish brown, clayey sand, with occasional gravel. No archaeological features were present.

5.3.3 Trench 10

The ploughsoil was 0.3m thick. Two straight, linear cuts, orientated north-east to south-west, contained ceramic field drains. They were cut into yellowish brown, sandy, gravelly clay.

5.3.4 Trench 11

The ploughsoil was 0.35m thick. A number of features can be defined beneath the ploughsoil:

Cut 36, a straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 2.4m wide, more than 1.8m long, contained light-brown, silty clay, fill 35, with fragments of modern brick and white-glazed pottery.

Cut 49, Fill 37. A straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 0.5m wide, more than 1.6m long, and 0.35m deep. Orientated north-west to south-east. Fill 37 was a yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional small stones, and bone.

Cut 54. Fill 43. A straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 0.56m wide, more than 1.6m long, and 0.18m deep. Orientated north to south. Fill 43 was a dark greyish brown, silty sandy clay with occasional small stones. Cut by 53.

Cut **53**, Fill 52. A sub-circular cut, 0.30m by 0.25m, 0.12m deep. Fill 52 was a very dark greyish brown, silty clay with moderately frequent charcoal flecks. Cut by **18**.

Cut **18**, Fill 17. A sub-circular cut, 0.40m by 0.23m, 0.27m deep. Fill 17 was a very dark grey, silty clay with moderately frequent charcoal flecks.

Feature **46**, not excavated, was a linear, 0.8m wide and more than 1.8m long, and contained a brown silty clay, parallel to **54**.

Feature **48** was not excavated. It was at least 2.5m long and 0.8m wide, and contained brown sandy silty clay.

Cut **57**, Fill 42. A parallel sided, curvilinear cut, 0.30m wide, and 0.20m deep. Fill 42 was a brown, sandy silty clay with occasional bone, and occasional small stones. Cut by **41**.

Cut **41**, Fill 40. A straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 0.65m wide, 0.30m deep, and more than 5.5m long. Fill 40 was a dark olive brown, silty clay with occasional bone fragments, charcoal flecks, and small stones. Cut by **58**.

Cut **58**. Fill 44. A parallel-sided, linear cut, 1.9m wide, 0.45m deep, more than 3.5m wide. Orientated east to west. Fill 44 was a very dark greyish brown, sandy silty clay with occasional pottery sherds dating to the second and third century AD, bone, and an iron nail. Cut by **20**.

Cut **22**, Fills 21 and 34. A parallel-sided, linear cut, 0.47m wide, and 0.15m deep. Orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. Fill 21 was a dark olive-brown, silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. Fill 34 was a compact, sandy silty clay with lenses of coarse sand and moderately frequent small stones. Cut by **20**.

Layer 32 was a compact gravel layer, 1.75m north to south, and 0.05m deep, with occasional pottery sherds, dating to the second and third century AD on the surface. It was situated below 24. Truncated to the north by **20**.

Cut **51**, Fill 50. A series of stakeholes, varying in diameter from 0.05-0.13m, and in depth from 0.03-0.20m. Fill 50, the fill of the stakeholes, was a very dark brown, silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small stones.

Layer 24, 6 meters wide, and 0.3m deep, was a dark grey, silty clay with occasional pottery sherds, dating from the second to fourth century AD, bone, a burnt flint flake, and occasional small stones. Cut by **20** and **63**.

Cut **20**, Fill 19. A linear feature, 2.5m wide, and 0.30m deep. Orientated approximately east to west. Fill 19 was an olive brown, silty clay with occasional small stones.

Cut **63**, Fill 62. A linear feature, 2m wide, and 0.35m deep. Orientated approximately east to west. Fill 62 was an olive brown, silty clay with one pottery sherd, which dates from the late eighteenth century AD, and occasional small stones. Cut by **67**.

Cut **67**, Fill 76. A straight, parallel-sided feature, 2.0m wide, orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. Fill 76 was a very dark greyish brown, silty clay with frequent root fragments.

5.3.5 Trench 12

The ploughsoil was 0.35m thick. A number of features defined themselves beneath the ploughsoil:

Cut **56**, Fill 29. A straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 0.65m wide, 0.14m deep, and more than 1.6m long. Orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Fill 29 was a very dark grey, silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, moderately frequent pottery fragments, dating to the Roman period (second to third century AD) and medieval periods, a fragment of bone, and moderately frequent small stones.

Cut **59**, Fill 30. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 1.3m wide, 0.3m deep, and more than 1.6m long. Orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Fill 30 was a dark grey, silty clay with occasional pottery sherds, dating from the second to third century AD, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small stones.

Cut **60**, Fill 55. A curvilinear cut, 0.50m wide, and 0.20m deep. Fill 55 was a mid brown, sandy silty clay with occasional pottery sherds, occasional bone, and a large fragment of low-fired clay 'lining'.

5.4 Field 1

5.4.1 Trench A

The ploughsoil was 0.3m thick.

Layer 128 was a brown, sandy silty clay with occasional small stones. Its depth varied between 0.2 and 0.48m. Cut by **148**.

Cut **148**, Fill 147. A straight, linear cut, 0.89m deep, at least 1.45m wide, and at least 1.6m long. Fill 147 was a yellowish brown, sandy silty clay with occasional small stones and a sherd of white-glazed pottery. Cut by **130**.

Cut **130**, Fill 118. A straight, linear cut, 0.60m deep, at least 0.79m wide, and at least 1.6m long. Fill 118 was a pale yellow, clayey silty sand with moderately frequent, small stones. Cut by **116**.

Cut **149**, Fill 119. A straight, linear cut, 0.40m deep, at least 0.45m wide, and at least 1.6m long. Fill 119 was a olive brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones. Cut by **116**.

Cut **116**, Fill 117. A straight, linear cut, 0.88m deep, 1.03m wide, and at least 1.6m long. Fill 117 was a light olive brown, sandy silty clay with very occasional small stones.

5.4.2 Trench B

The ploughsoil was 0.38m deep. It overlay very variable, natural, clayey sands and gravels.

Cut **100**, Fill 101. An irregular cut, 0.70m by at least 1.3m, and 0.20m deep. Fill 101 was a light yellowish brown, silty sandy clay with very occasional small stones.

Cut **125**, Fill 124. A straight, parallel-sided, linear cut, 3.6m wide, 0.20m deep, and at least 1.9m long. Orientated north to south. Fill 124 was a yellowish brown, silty sandy clay with occasional small stones.

Cut 145, Fill 144. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 0.60m wide, 0.28m deep, and at least 3.25m long. Orientated north to south. Fill 144 was a yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional small stones.

Cut 136, Fill 135. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 2.0m wide, 0.10m deep, and at least 3.35m long. Orientated north to south. Fill 135 was a yellowish brown silty sandy clay.

5.4.3 Trench C

The ploughsoil was 0.35m thick. It overlay very variable, natural, clayey sands and gravels

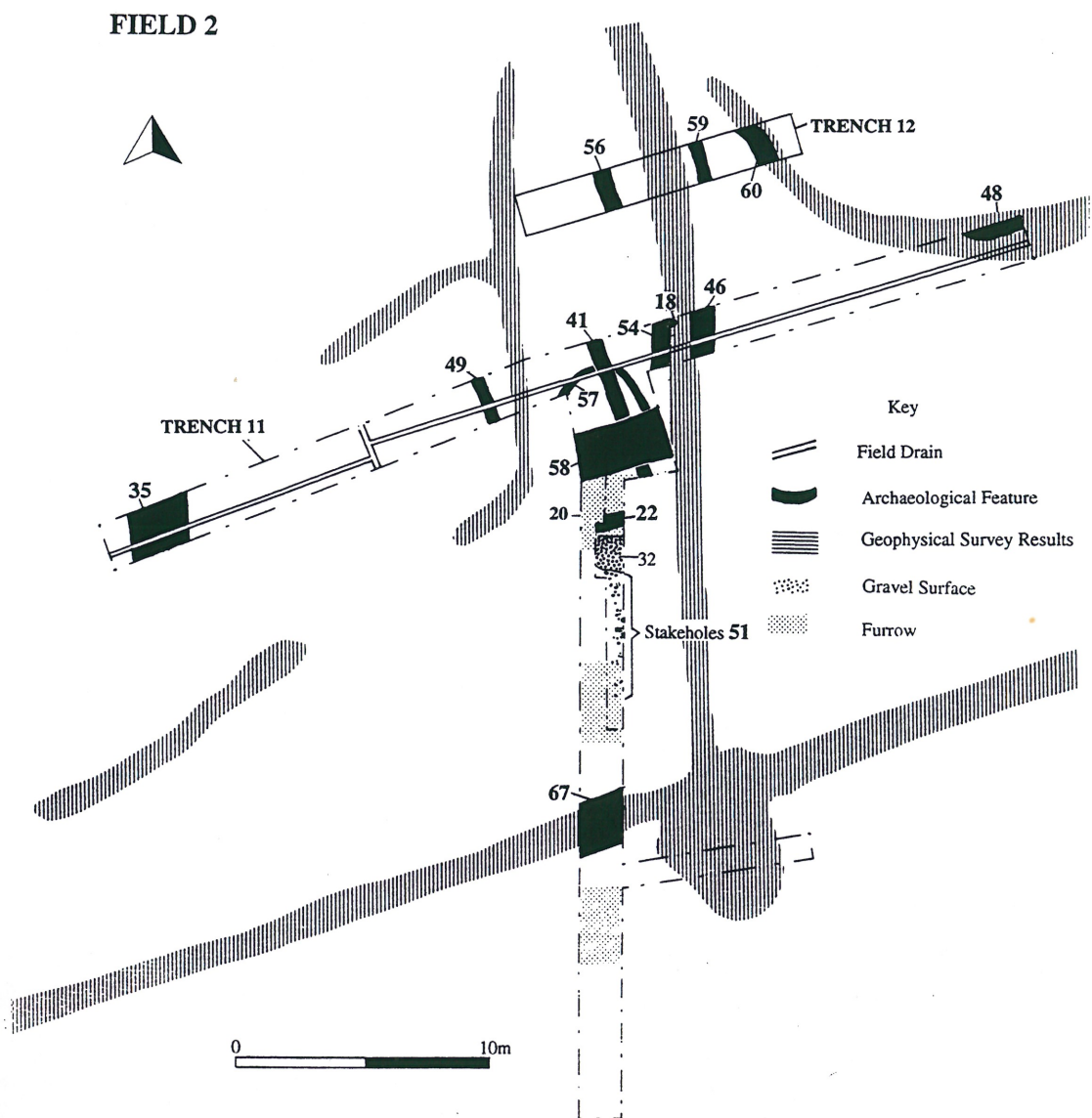


Figure 3 Plan of Trench 11 and 12

Cut **103**, Fill 102. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 0.95m wide, 0.30m deep, and at least 3m long. Orientated east to west. Fill 102 was a yellowish brown, silty clay with very occasional small stones.

Cut **105**, Fill 104. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 0.95m wide, 0.32m deep, and at least 3m long. Orientated east to west. Fill 104 was a dark yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional small stones. It contained a ceramic field drain.

Cut **107**, Fill 106. A straight, parallel-sided linear cut, 0.70m wide, 0.30m deep, and at least 3.0m long. Orientated east to west. Fill 106 was an olive yellow, sandy silty clay with frequent small stones.

5.4.3 Trench D

The ploughsoil was 0.30m thick. It overlay very variable, natural, clayey sands and gravels.

Feature **132**, Fill 131. An irregular, sub-circular feature, 1.6m by 1.0m, and 0.23m deep. Fill 131 was a yellowish brown, silty sandy clay with occasional small stones.

Cut **133**, Fill 134. A sub-circular feature, 0.56m by 0.45m, and 0.28m deep. Fill 132 was a yellowish brown, silty clay with fragments of a wooden stake.

6 INTERPRETATION

6.1 Field 5

No anomalies of archaeological significance were found in the geophysical survey, nor during field walking. No features of archaeological significance were found during the assessment, either.

6.2 Field 4

Three possible anomalies, indicating pits were detected in the geophysical survey. However, the presence of a large number of strong, ferrous-type responses made an archaeological interpretation tentative. This area was quarried earlier this century and the very mixed sub-soil in Trenches 5, 6, and 7 may be material used to back-fill the workings. No features of archaeological significance were found during the assessment.

6.3 Field 2

Several anomalies of archaeological interest were recorded during the geophysical survey. They consisted of responses indicating pits and ditches, mostly towards the northern edge of the field.

This was confirmed during the assessment, and a combination of ditches, possible post-holes, and other features were excavated. Two of these, Cut **35** and Cut **67**, were modern field boundaries and can be seen on the 1983 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. They were presumably filled in when the Ginton bypass was constructed.

A series of small, linear features, 54, 46, 56, and 59, may have been drainage ditches, although this interpretation is uncertain. None of them were deeper than 0.30m, and it seems likely that they have been significantly truncated by more recent ploughing. Cut 56 and Cut 59 contained pottery sherds, of which the ones in Cut 59 were all dated to the Roman period, to the second and third century AD. These consisted of 4 sherds, all of which appear to have been jars. The main bulk of the pottery sherds in Cut 56 was also Roman, however, one sherd of pottery in this ditch dated to the medieval period, and thus the *terminus post quem* for this feature was the medieval period. It is probable, that this context would have been disturbed by medieval ploughing, causing medieval contamination of an originally Roman feature.

- 2-3c AD.

The function of the small, curvilinear cut, 57, is uncertain, but it could possibly represent an eaves-drip gully for a small building. There is no other evidence to confirm this, however, and its interpretation must remain unsure.

? DATE?

TZPO?

A series of features in Trench 11 may be associated with each other, although disturbance by later activity - possibly late eighteenth, early nineteenth century (Cuts 20 and 63) - has removed any confirmation of this. A series of stakeholes, (51) was cut into the natural to the south of a strip of gravel, (32). This gravel had clearly been used as a surface and it may have formed a path. The pottery found in this deposit dates to the second to third century AD, however, the pottery was very abraded and thus may be residual. It had, however, been truncated to the north by Cut 20 and may originally have been more extensive. Both 32 and 51 appeared to be overlain by a thick layer of charcoal rich, silty clay, 24, containing charred grain (Appendix A), pottery sherds, and some animal bone. The pottery in this deposit dates from the second to fourth century AD and consists of typical Roman wares. However, it was not clear, whether the stakeholes were cut through the layer or were sealed by it, because they were filled with a similar deposit. Immediately to the north of 32 was a steep-sided cut, 22. It appeared to be a post foundation trench, perhaps forming a fence. It is convenient to see these features, (20) 22, and 51 as a single phase, perhaps representing a working area, bounded by a path and fence. In plan, 22 is perpendicular to Cuts 41 and 49, but in profile and level they are dissimilar, and it is unlikely that they are directly associated. Cut 58 runs parallel to 22 and may be contemporary with it. However, 22 did not contain any pottery sherds at all, whereas 58 contained 22, all dating to the Roman period, to the second to third century AD.

Gravel

- Midden (?)
2-4c AD.

This is described as IAC above!

SNC says probably "burrows" or "roots" - as later conc. had roots under/through middles

Midden

Midden -
overlies gravel path.

51 under midden (24)

contemporary stakeholes unclear relation

20 cuts 22.

The curvilinear features 48 and 60 appear to form part of the same ditch, as shown in the geophysical survey.

Two large linear features, 20 and 63, truncated, and obscured, many of the other features in Trench 11. Their size, and the nature of their fills, suggests that they are the remnant of (post-)medieval ridge and furrow. A sherd from a stoneware jug was recovered from 63 - it could have been made in Frechen, Germany in the seventeenth century, although it is possible, that it is English and slightly later, (as the German jugs were copied by the English and are difficult to distinguish). It gives a *terminus post quem* for the destruction of the ridge and furrow as an earthwork in the late seventeenth or eighteenth centuries.

ridge + furrow : dating to pre/ 17c.

The detailed interpretation of all these features is very uncertain, in part because of the limited areas exposed, but also because the pottery retrieved from them was very abraded and therefore cannot be used to date them. However, the density and type of features indicate the presence of a settlement, presumably of Roman date. This is supported by the analysis of the soil samples taken from Layer 24 and Cut 59. The sample from Layer 24

contained barley, rye, emmer and wheat of other varieties, as well as chaff and weed seeds, and that from 59 contained spelt (wheat) grains and chaff. It is suggested (Appendix B) that this represents the waste from crop processing and cleaning and, further, that the absence of straw fragments may imply secondary cleaning in a domestic situation, rather than initial cleaning in the farmyard. Layer 24, especially, may be the *in situ* residue of the process, with the implication that the series of stakeholes were also associated with it. Both the samples mentioned above, as well as samples from ditch (41) and ditch (60) contained wood charcoal fragments and charred cereal remains, indicating accidental or intentional burning of crop processing waste products for disposal.

deposit 2-4 CA.D

drainage ditch 2-3c A-D

was mixed? not some period 22?

curvilinear feature "assoc." (?)

The responses recorded in the geophysical survey do not tally well with features revealed by excavation. Indeed, the only good correlation is between Cut 67 and the large south-west to north-east ditch-like response. This can also be identified with a recent field boundary, which has only been filled in within the last few years. It is likely that this is due, to some extent, to the masking effect of the furrows, 20 and 63, although these were not picked up by the survey.

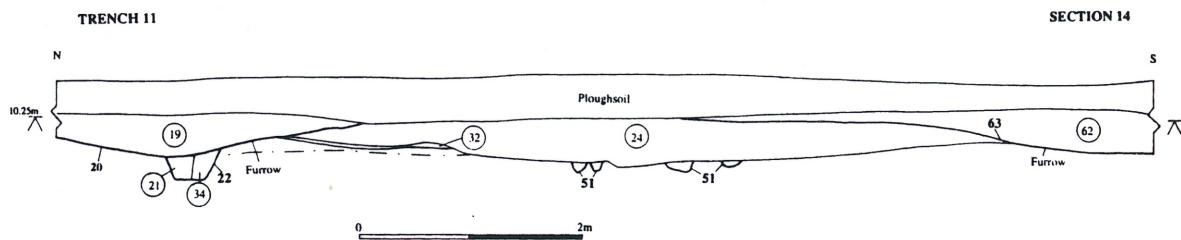


Figure 4 West facing section of Trench 11

6.4 Field 1

The geophysical survey of Field 1 indicated the possible presence of a kiln. However, the lack of associated features or debris, such as wasters on the surface of the field, made the interpretation uncertain. Trench B was located especially in order to investigate the anomaly, but no trace of a kiln, or of any other feature which could have produced such a response, was found.

A substantial ditch, re-cut twice, was recorded in Trench A. A white-glazed pottery sherd, near the base of the original cut, dates it to the nineteenth or twentieth centuries. It is presumably a field boundary. It was cut into a layer of brown, sandy silty clay, interpreted as the remains of ridge and furrow.

A series of shallow, linear cuts, 103, 107, 125, 136, and 145, in Trenches B and C, may be the truncated remains of drainage ditches. Cuts 103 and 107, in Trench C, are parallel to a field drain, Cut 105, and may have a recent, agricultural origin. However, no dating evidence was recovered from any of the features, so an earlier origin cannot be ruled out.

Two irregular cuts, 100 in Trench B and 132 in Trench D, are probably tree-holes although this is not certain.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Although interpretation of features has been necessarily tentative, the assessment has identified two areas where further work is desirable:

In the northern part of Field 2, a possible crop-processing area, gravel surface or path, and other features indicative of settlement, have survived in spite of disturbance by later activities and it is felt that further excavation, and preservation by record, would be appropriate in this area.

The features recorded in Field 1 were less tangible, but the possibility of a prehistoric origin cannot be ruled out. For this reason, it is proposed to carry out a recording brief during the initial stages of road construction. This would entail archaeological observation of topsoil stripping, followed by rapid planning of features revealed. Where appropriate, samples would be taken for environmental analysis and artefact retrieval.

In addition, in those areas where field evaluation has not been possible, ie Fields 3, 6, and 7, a recording brief, as detailed in 7.1.2, is recommended.

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APPENDIX A

List of Contexts

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Above</u>
1	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
2	Natural	Natural, gravelly clay	-	-
3	Natural	Natural, light brown sandy clay	-	-
4	Natural	Natural, light brown silty clay	-	-
5	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
6	Natural	Natural, light brown gravelly clay	-	-
7	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
8	Natural	Natural, strong brown gravelly clay	-	-
9	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
10	Natural	Natural, strong brown gravelly clay	-	-
11	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
12	Fill	Backfill from pre-war quarrying, strong brown gravelly clay	Subsoil	-
13	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
14	Deposit	Possible backfill, strong brown silty gravelly clay	Subsoil	-
15	Topsoil	Topsoil, silty clay	-	-
16	Deposit	Backfill, strong brown silty gravelly clay	-	-
17	Fill of [18]	10YR 3/1 very dark grey silty clay with charcoal fragments	Subsoil	18
18	Cut	Post-hole/stake-hole	17	52
19	Fill of [20]	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown silty clay	Subsoil	20
20	Cut	Furrow of ridge & furrow field system (med.- post-med)	17	24
21	Fill of [22]	2.5Y 3/3 dark olive brown silty clay	24	34
22	Cut	Post-slot? Romano-British?	34	Natural
23	-	-	-	-
24	Layer	Midden layer, very dark grey slightly silty clay	20, 63	21, 32, 50
25	Natural	Natural, 10YR 6/8 brownish yellow silty clay	-	-
26	Field drain	Field drain, 10YR 6/8 brownish yellow sandy clayey silt	Topsoil	Natural

27	Field drain	Field drain, 10YR 6/8 brownish yellow silty clay	Topsoil	Natural
28	-	-	-	-
29	Fill of [56]	10YR 3/1 very dark grey silty clay	Topsoil	56
30	Fill of [59]	Dark grey silty clay	Topsoil	59
31	Layer	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy clayey silt	Subsoil	?
32	Layer	Pebble surface, road?	24	Natural
33	-	-	-	-
34	Fill of [22]	Post Packing, 2.5Y 4/3 slightly sandy silty clay	21	22
35	Fill of [36]	Light brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	36
36	Cut	Field drain	35	Natural
37	Fill of [49]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	49
38	Fill of ?	Dark brown silty sandy clay	?	?
39	Field drain	Field Drain, silty clay	Topsoil	Natural
40	Fill of [41]	2.5Y 3/3 dark olive brown silty clay	Subsoil	41
41	Cut	Ditch, N-S orientated	40	42
42	Fill of [57]	7.5YR 4/4 brown sandy silty clay	41	57
43	Fill of [54]	7.5YR 5/3 brown silty clay	53	54
44	Fill of [58]	10YR 3/2 dark greyish brown sandy silty clay	Subsoil	58
45	Fill of ?	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown sandy clayey silt	?	?
46	Fill	7.5YR 5/3 brown silty clay not excavated	Subsoil	-
47	Field drain	Field drain, dark grey silty clay not excavated	Subsoil	-
48	Fill	Light brown sandy silty clay not excavated	Subsoil	-
49	Cut	Field drain,	37	Natural
50	Fill of [51]	10YR 2/2 very dark brown silty clay	24	51
51	Cut	Stakeholes, Roman?	50	Natural
52	Fill of [53]	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown silty clay	18	53
53	Cut	Post-hole	52	43
54	Cut	Ditch, Roman?	43	Natural
55	Fill of [60]	7.5YR 3/4 mid-brown sandy sandy silty clay	Subsoil	60

56	Cut	Ditch	29	Natural
57	Cut	Ditch	42	Natural
58	Cut	Ditch	44	42
59	Cut	Ditch	30	Natural
60	Cut	Ditch	55	Natural
61	Topsoil	Topsoil		
62	Fill	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown silty clay	61	63
63	Cut	Furrow, of ridge and furrow field system	62	24
64	Natural	Mid-orange gravel and coarse sand and silt	51, 32, 22	-
65	Natural	Light orange compact clay	51, 32, 22	-
66	Natural	Mid-orange sandy silty clay	51, 32, 22	-
67	Cut	Ditch, modern	?	-
76	Fill	Very dark greyish brown silty clay	?	67
100	Cut	Irregular Feature, possibly natural	108	Natural
101	Fill of [100]	2.5Y 6/4 light yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	108
102	Fill of [103]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	103
103	Cut	Ditch	102	Natural
104	Fill of [105]	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	105
105	Cut	Field drain	Subsoil	Natural
106	Fill of [107]	2.5Y 6/6 olive yellow sandy silty clay	Subsoil	107
107	Cut	Possible ditch or field drain	106	126
108	Fill of [100]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown very slightly silty sandy clay	101	100
109	Field drain	Field drain gully	Subsoil	Natural
110	Fill of [11]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown fine silty clay	Subsoil	111
111	Cut	Tree bowl	110	Natural
112	Cut	Tree bowl	?	Natural
113	Fill of [114]	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown fine silty clay	Subsoil	114
114	Cut	Modern plough damage/furrow	113	Natural
115	-	-	-	-
116	Cut	Ditch, post-med	117	119, 118

117	Fill of [116]	2YR 5/4 light olive brown slightly sandy silty clay	Subsoil	116
118	Fill of [130]	2.5Y 7/4 olive yellow clayey silty sand	116	130
119	Fill of [149]	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown silty sand	116	149
120	Fill of [121]	10YR 5/3 brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	121
121	Cut	Possible drain	120	124
122	Fill of [123]	10YR 5/3 brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	123
123	Cut	Narrow linear, drain?	122	124
124	Fill of [125]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty sandy clay	121, 123	125
125	Cut	Ditch or drain?	124	Natural
126	Fill of [127]	2.5Y 7/8 yellow sandy clay	107	127
127	Cut	Possibly natural feature?	126	Natural
128	Fill of [116]	10YR 5/3 brown sandy silt	Subsoil	117
129	Subsoil	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown sandy clay	Topsoil	-
130	Cut	Ditch, modern	118	147
131	Fill of [132]	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	132
132	Cut	Tree bowl	131	Natural
133	Cut	Posthole	134	Natural
134	Fill of [133]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	133
135	Fill of [136]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown	138, 140	136
136	Cut	Ditch, drain?	135	Natural
137	Fill of [138]	10YR 5/3 brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	138
138	Cut	Drain?	137	135
139	Fill of [140]	10YR 5/3 brown silty sandy clay	Subsoil	140
140	Cut	Drain?	139	135
141	Fill of [142]	2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown sandy	Subsoil	146
142	Cut	Tree bowl	146	Natural
143	Deposit	10YR 5/8 yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	Natural
144	Fill of [145]	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil	145
145	Cut	Shallow ditch, post-med.?	144	Natural
146	Fill of [142]	10YR 8/2 very pale brown sandy silty clay	141	142
147	Fill of [148]	?	130	148
148	Cut	Ditch, modern	147	Natural
149	Cut	Ditch, modern	119	Natural

APPENDIX B

Analysis of the environmental data

by Duncan Schlee, BA, Mcs

Four samples were taken from Field 2, Trenches 11B and 12 in an area of linear features and horizontal deposits. These were floated for the recovery and analysis of charred plant remains to try to elucidate the nature of the site.

Sample 1 (50L) from midden deposit **24**

Sample 2 (10L) fill **40** from ditch **41**.

Sample 3 (20L) fill **55** from ditch **60**.

Sample 4 (20L) fill **30** from ditch **59**.

- Sample 1 contained
- small fragments of wood charcoal
 - 12 charred barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.).
 - 70+ charred rye grains (*Secale* sp.).
 - 200+ charred indet. wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.).
 - 50+ Charred Spelt wheat grains (*T. spelta*).
 - 7 Charred Emmer wheat grains (*T. dicoccum*).
 - 14 Charred rootlets from germinated cereal grains.
 - 150+ charred cereal glume bases.
 - 30+ Charred weed seeds including *Polygonum*, *Galium*, *Loleum*, *Bromus* and other indeterminate wild grasses.
- Sample 2 contained
- 3 indet. charred cereal grains
 - 1 charred chenopodium sp.
 - wood charcoal fragments
- Sample 3 contained
- wood charcoal fragments
- Sample 4 contained
- wood charcoal fragments
 - 100+ indet. charred wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.)
 - 70+ charred Spelt wheat glume bases (*T. spelta*)
 - 6 charred rootlets from germinated cereals.
 - 1 charred straw fragment.
 - 15 charred weed seeds including *Galium*, *Chenopodium*, *Polygonum*, and indet wild grasses.

Interpretation

The charred seeds from samples 1 and 4 both seem to contain crop processing and cleaning waste. The absence of whole spikelets, rachis fragments and straw fragments (characteristic waste products when the ears of grain are broken up and separated from the straw) suggests that the resulting waste products are not from the initial stages of threshing and winnowing after harvest. Instead, since the glume bases and weed seeds are smaller than cereal grains, this suggests that chaff and weed seeds have been separated from stored cereal crops by sieving, or possibly hand sorting, prior to domestic use. The resulting waste has then become charred through either intentional or accidental disposal in a hearth or oven. The presence of rootlets from sprouted grain can sometimes suggest the production of malt for brewing, however since the vast majority of the grains are not sprouted, it is more likely that they are spillage from grain being dried prior to storage (a few of which have germinated), or germinated seeds picked out from poorly stored grain before being used.

These considerations suggest that the midden deposit 24 and by implication the features it overlies, (gravel surface 32 and stake holes 51) are domestic rather than industrial or agricultural in nature and represent a dump of rubbish in an external area.

APPENDIX C

Report on the pottery

by Phil Copleston, BA, DipIndArch, AIFA

1 Introduction

This site pottery assemblage has been examined with the primary aim of providing the excavators' with dates and a basic interpretation for the site features. The main body of the report comprises a catalogue, context by feature, of the 103 pottery sherds. This is followed by a brief discussion of aspects of the pottery assemblage as a whole. It was felt unnecessary to illustrate any of the vessels at this stage, due to the limited nature of the assemblage.

Roman fabrics and forms are described using normally accepted descriptions. Post-Roman fabrics are not described here.

1.1 Roman Fabrics

- Greyware (GW): light or dark grey coloured coarseware, probably local.
- Reduced Ware (RW): black, dark grey or dark brown coloured coarseware, probably local.
- Oxidised Ware (OxW): orange, light brown or buff coloured coarseware, probably local.
- General Coarseware (CsW): various colours in single vessel, clamp-fired, probably local.
- Nene Valley Grey Ware (NVGW): grey self-coloured fabric.
- Nene Valley Colour-Coated Grey Ware (NVCCGW): grey fabric with dark grey slip.
- Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware (NVCC): fineware, creamy fabric with dark grey or brown/orange slip, sometimes with clay or painted decoration.
- Harold Ware (HaroldW): soapy, shelly fabric, fired orange/brown to black, from kilns in Bedfordshire
- Samian: Bright red-orange colour-coated slipped wares from various centres in Gaul; decorated or undecorated.
- Oxford Ware, Imitation Samian (OWIS): hard orange-brown fabric with darker colour-coat, and painted decoration.

1.2 Roman Forms

- Bowl: shallow, wide-mouthed vessel for serving or mixing.
- Mortarium: shallow, wide-mouthed vessel with internal grits for pounding, grinding or mixing; typical of Roman period 1st-4th centuries AD.
- Jar (narrow-necked): tall, narrow-necked vessel, mostly for storage.
- Jar (wide-necked): tall, wide-necked vessel, mostly for storage or cooking.
- Jar (large storage type): tall, wide-necked vessel for storage.
- Flagon; tall, narrow-necked vessel for serving of wine etc.

2 Pottery Catalogue

All vessels and fabrics are of Roman date AD, unless indicated. All are in good condition, except where noted for abrasion. Due to the limited quantity of finds and the nature of their recovery, the pottery is presented here in context numerical order by feature.

The total quantity of recovered Pottery consisted of 103 sherds, having a total weight of 1467 grammes, and present in twenty four contexts in two trenches. This is summarised in the two tables below:

TRENCH 11					
Context No.	Weight (grams)	Sherd Count	Description (Sherds, Fabric, Form, Comments, Condition)	Period Range	TPQ
23	106	4	HaroldW base and bdy shd, v. abraded	2-3 C	4 C
24	283	15	1 NVGW Bowl and Jar, v. abraded; 1 NVCC bdy; 2 GW fumed Jar, bse, rim and bdy, abraded; 2 CsW grey fabric Storage Jar; 1 CsW oxidised fabric Storage Jar; 1 Mortarium cream fabric with ironstone grits (4 C)	2-4 C	4 C
32	61	3	1 shelly Ware (not HaroldW) with horiz. groove dec.; 2 CCGW narrow-necked Jar (match-break), abraded.	2-3 C	-
44	302	22	4 HaroldW large Storage Jar, abraded; 1 CsGW narrow-necked Jar, with coarse quartzite incl., abraded; 14 GW self coloured, but some with CC or fuming on ext., Jar bdy, rims and bases, some appliqué dec., most abraded; 3 NVCC Jar or Bowl, rim and bdy, v. abraded; 1 Flagon neck, v. abraded (no CC remaining); 1 Mortarium rim, buff-cream fabric, reeded hammer-head rim, no grits, abraded.	2-3 C	3 C
62	66	1	Stoneware jar base, sharp break, unabraded.	late 18 C	-
Surface	16	4	1 OxCsW wide-rim Storage Jar rim; 2 scraps, abraded.	-	3 C

TRENCH 12					
Context No.	Weight (grams)	Sherd Count	Description (Sherds, Fabric, Form, Comments, Condition)	Period Range	TPQ
29	499	44	15 CCGW Jars and poss. Bowls; 7 NVCCGW (?) wide-mouthed Jar and narrow-mouthed Jar, v. abraded; 2 NVCC small Jar with stabbed decoration, abraded; 8 RCsW Jars; 7 OxCW, some abrasion; 2 shelly CsW large Storage Jar; 1 HaroldW, abraded; 1OxW Med Jar (?).	Roman 2-3 C	Med
30	48	4	3 NVGW Jar, v. abraded; 1 fine GW Jar bdy	2-3 C	-
Surface	86	6	2 fumed GW Bowl, abraded; 2 shelly CsW wide-mouthed Jar; 1 NVCC Jar, v. abraded; 1 Oxford Imitation Sam. Jar base, painted decoration, some abrasion (mid 3 C).	3 C and later	4 C

2.1 Notes: GW = Grey Ware; RW = Reduced Ware; OxW = Oxidised Ware; CsW = General Coarse Ware (variously fired); NVCC = Nene Valley Colour-Coat Wares (cream core with orange/brown/dark grey colour-coat, ; NVGW = Nene Valley Grey Wares (cream fabric with dark grey colour-coat); HaroldW = Harold Ware (shelly), Bedfordshire; OWIS = Oxford Ware, Imitation Samian; Sam. = Samian (not specific); Med = Medieval; CC = Colour Coat; shd = sherd (general); bse = base sherd; rim = rim sherd; bdy = body sherd; int. = internal; ext. = external; C = Century (AD); TPQ = Terminus Post Quem (i.e. the earliest date after which it could be deposited)

3 Conclusions

All recovered Pottery has been washed, clean bagged and placed in a labelled storage box at Fulbourn. The following points were noted:

3.1 Range of Material:

All of the excavated pottery assemblage from Trenches 11 and 12 is domestic in nature, dominated by greyware and coarseware food storage, preparation and cooking vessels. The vast majority of the pottery is of Roman date, but a few sherds are Medieval (possibly) and Post-medieval.

The Roman fabrics range from self-coloured and colour-coated greywares, reduced and general coarsewares (variously fired) and are probably local or regional, shell tempered wares (mostly from kilns at Harold, Bedfordshire), Nene Valley Colour-Coated Wares (from kilns around Water Newton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire) to Imitation Samian Ware from the Oxford kiln industries.

The range of Roman forms includes large storage jars, smaller wide-mouthed and narrow-mouthed cooking and storage jars, mortarium mixing bowls, flagons for storage and serving of wine, and table wares. The majority are jars and bowls for storage and food preparation. The post-Roman vessels comprise a Medieval (?) jar base (?) and a Stoneware jar base.

Decoration was largely absent from the assemblage (other than surface treatments), except for one sherd with horizontal grooving (Tr.11 ctxt. 32), another with appliqué decoration to the external surface (Tr.11 ctxt. 44) and a bowl with a reeded-rim (Tr.11 ctxt. 44).

3.2 Period of Material:

The general date of most of the stratified Roman material is from the 2nd-4th centuries AD, with the emphasis towards the later centuries. No sherds were of a particularly early date, but a distinctive reeded-rim mortarium (Tr.44 ctxt 24, a midden layer) was clearly later, probably 4th century. The non-Roman sherds came from contexts 62 (Tr.11, ridge and furrow) and 29 (Tr.12, a ditch fill) and have little bearing in the interpretation of the Roman period features.

3.3 Quantities, Survival and Residuality:

For the purposes of analysis, in quantity, the total pottery assemblage represents one quarter of a "box" full. No EVEs ("Estimated Vessel Equivalents") have been attempted, due to the fragmented nature of the assemblage, and its low quantities. Taken as a whole, this assemblage is typical of domestic refuse for this period, despite its poor survival and selective recovery.

Over the whole site, only nine contexts contain pottery. Of these, two are surface layers, one ridge and furrow, one a possible midden layer, one a gravel surface, two are single fills from ditches (and therefore possibly unreliable for dating), and one unknown/unlocated (Tr.11 ctxt. 23). Only one (Tr.11 ctxt. 44) is a primary ditch fill and sealed by upper deposits (without pottery), and therefore is more reliable for dating/phasing. No conclusions can therefore be arrived at regarding residuality of this assemblage, other than to note that all contexts (except Tr.11 ctxt. 62) contained abraded or very abraded sherds.

3.4 Significance:

As no significant contexts were identified by the excavator, no contextual significance can be commented on. Its significance as a pottery assemblage, is also limited by the small quantity and poor survival quality.

4 Potential for Further Analysis

Due to the limited quantities and general poor survival of this assemblage no further analysis work is considered necessary at this stage, unless further fieldwork can place this material within a wider assemblage.



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