Archaeological Field Unit

An Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Site of the Cambridge Rowing Trust Rowing Lake at Milton and Waterbeach,Cambridgeshire

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SUMMARY

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit during October and November 1995 on the proposed site of The Cambridge Rowing Trust's competition standard rowing lake. The development area comprises approximately 100 ha of low-lying land on the west bank of the River Cam between Milton and Waterbeach (TL 482 620 to TL 493 649).

The evaluation, commissioned by the Cambridge Rowing Trust, was preceded by the interpretation and re-plotting of aerial photographic evidence for the area. Several cropmark complexes were mapped, along with areas of deeper soil and geological features. Crop response varied from good to poor across the development area. Suitable available fields were fieldwalked in order to further target areas of potential, and to continue the sample cover provided by the Fenland Project Survey work in the northern portion of the development area. Trial trenches and test pits were placed so as to intercept plotted cropmark complexes, to test cropmark blank areas (such as areas of alluvium cover) and to further characterise previously located artefact scatters. Trial trench/test pit cover amounted to 1.21 % of the areas of destruction as identified by the development plans issued with the project specification.

At the southern end of the development area trenching revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits, comprising silts, silty clays and organic muds/peats, and variably developed buried soils. A scatter of (as yet largely undiagnostic) worked flint was noted in a association with one alluvial horizon. The basal organic deposit of a fen basin or mere yielded a radiocarbon date of 2380+_ 60 BP. The final desiccated organic deposit in the alluvial sequence fills and seals late Romano-British features on the lowest parts of the area. Settlement related late prehistoric features were revealed in clusters off the flood plain, though little lithic or ceramic material of prehistoric date was recovered by fieldwalking.

Two Romano-British inhumation cemeteries and a Horningsea Ware pottery production site were located. Abundant evidence for Romano-British cereal processing and animal husbandry exist in association with the cropmark remains of a fen edge/river terrace linear settlement. Romano-British activity (in the sampled areas) peaked during the second-third centuries AD, but continued into the fourth century AD in some areas.

Two early Anglo-Saxon artefact scatters were investigated by gridded Test Pits. Two earth-fast post-built ('hall' - like) structures were revealed in association with other early Saxon features within one of the scatters. Substantial Romano-British ditches had been re-cut during the Saxon period at the other site. One possible Sunken Feature Building was revealed. Despite the inability to confidently differentiate between Anglo-Saxon and Romano-British features in many cases at the latter site, the cumulative evidence produced by pierced Romano-British coins, abundant pottery (including some decorated sherds) and associated animal remains, suggests that both scatter sites represent areas of early Anglo-Saxon domestic activity.

Preservation characteristics vary across the development area from 'wet', well sealed deposits; to 'dry' well-sealed and partially truncated buried soils; to 'dry' plough truncated cut features. Pollen, organic materials (such as leather and wood) and charred plant remains survive on the lower-lying parts of the development area. Mollusc shells and faunal remains survive in good condition across the entire development area.

The development area comprises a tract of land of considerable archaeological interest. The associations between contemporary site foci and field systems (notably the Romano-British complexes), the development of the landscape over time (notably Romano-British to early Saxon), and the relationships between anthropogenic activity and the changing fen environment, provide a basis for the formulation of specific themes for the archaeological investigation of the area.

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An Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Site of the Cambridge Rowing Trust Rowing Lake at Milton and Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the first stage of field evaluation carried out on the proposed site of an international competition standard rowing lake. The field evaluation was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of the Cambridge Rowing Trust during October and November 1995. Archaeological work has been carried out to specifications set by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The project is being monitored by David Miles of the Oxford Archaeological Unit and Bob Sydes of Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Office (Development Control).

The evaluation followed a re-assessment and re-plotting of the available air photographic evidence for the area which produced a series of digitally rectified interpretative plots at 1:2500. In addition to the cropmarks and soilmarks of ancient anthropogenic activity, natural features such as frost cracks and soil pockets, together with areas of alluvium cover were plotted. Areas of disturbance and modern cropmark-generating features were also represented. A full discussion of this work may be found in 'Cambridge Rowing Lake, Cambridgeshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment' (Palmer 1994).

The air photograph assessment significantly enhanced the cropmark evidence previously recorded (by the SMR) and confirmed the presence of dense cropmark foci indicative of late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and associated field systems, within the development area.

A brief review of historical background of the development area, the results of some limited fieldwalking and trial trenching and a discussion of the archaeological potential of the development area was presented by Oxford Archaeological Unit (Miles 1993). This document also suggested themes for the investigation of the development area and forms a companion to the project specification for archaeological field evaluation (Miles 1995).

For convenience, the results of the evaluation are discussed with reference to the 'site' numbers (Sites 1-8), originally assigned to cropmark areas and referred to by the Oxford Archaeological Unit's specifications (Miles 1995). The number of sites has been increased and they have been renamed 'Areas' 1-10 (Figure 1).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The subject area lies on the west side of the river Cam between the A14 and Waterbeach, taking in land within Milton, Waterbeach and (to a much lesser extent) Landbeach parishes. The Cam's shallow valley in this area is formed by a gentle (Cretaceous) Chalk Marl rise to the east and by a low plateau of first and second terrace river gravels to the west. The lower-lying gravels are mostly sealed beneath alluvium. Gault clays which generally underlie the terrace gravels, outcrop at Waterbeach and Clayhithe to the east

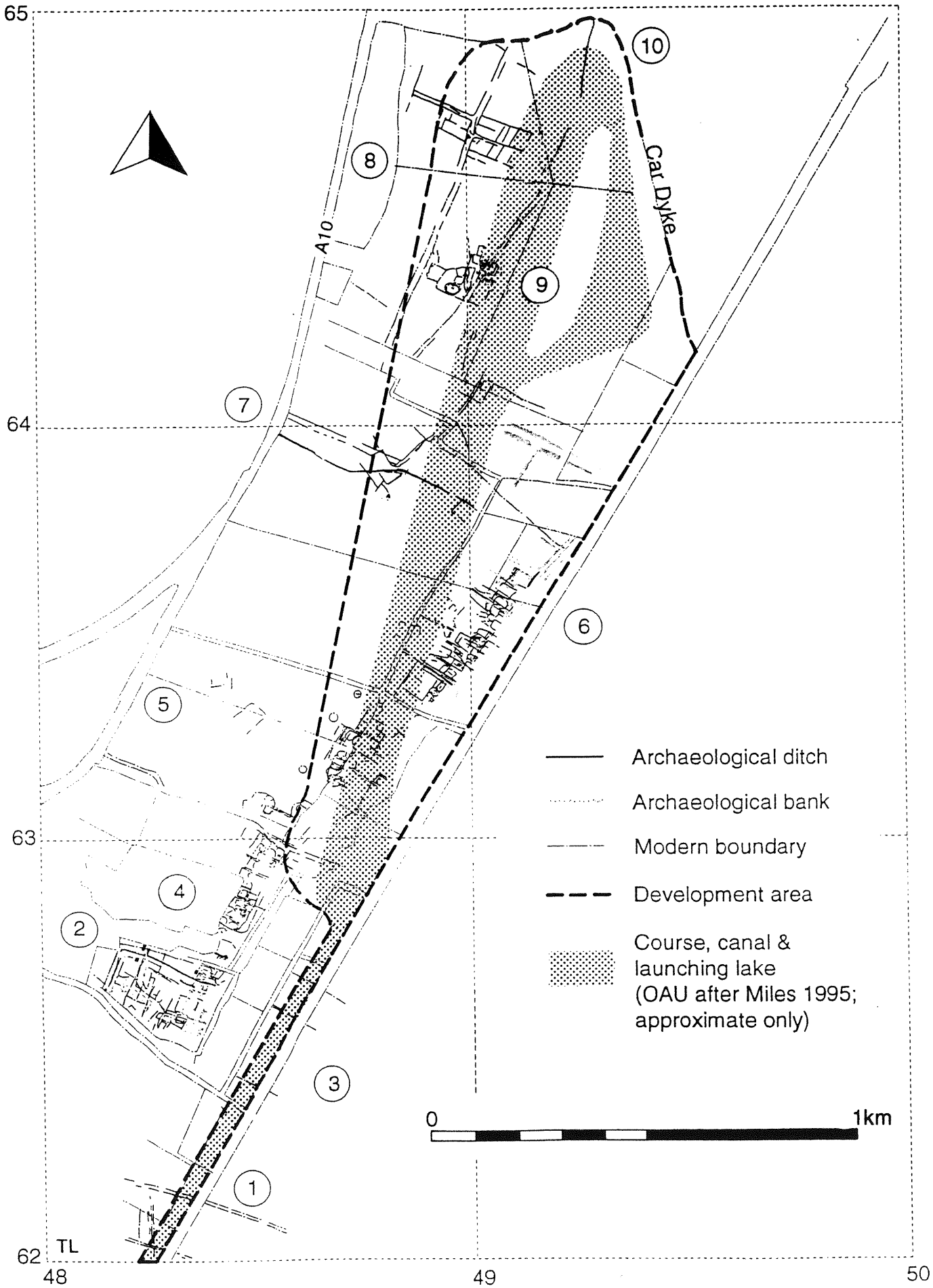

Figure 1 *Extent of development*

of the subject area. The outcrop of Gault Clay marked on the IGS Geological Survey (Sheet 188) at the north end of the subject area has been proved to be a product of erroneous mapping. All land within the evaluation area lies between c 3m and 7m OD, though the localised 'highs' are significant features in this fen edge environment.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A summary of the historic character of the subject area has been previously supplied by Miles (1993, 1-3), and will not be fully rehearsed here. The land mostly lay within the open fields of Milton ('Island' field) and Waterbeach ('Cambridge Way' or 'Croft field') and 'The Great Hollow' during the medieval period. The latter, along with names such as 'Rush Fen', 'Lugg Hollow', and 'Land Fen', along with mention of osier holts alongside the river, paint a vivid picture of the character of the lower lying parts of the site at this time. The fields were enclosed during the early nineteenth century.

Formal archaeological investigation of this area and its close environs began with the excavation of the Romano-British pottery production sites at Horningsea during the early years of this century (Hughes & McKenny 1904, 452-81). Little work has been carried out on these kilns subsequently. Further Romano-British pottery kilns were revealed at Milton during gravel extraction during the 1950s. In 1926 a Sunken Feature Building of early Anglo-Saxon date was excavated on the west bank of Car Dyke a few hundred metres to the north of the development area (Lethbridge 1927, 141-6).

The portion of the development area within Waterbeach parish was included in the Fenland Project field survey. Here the fields were fieldwalked using the standard 30m transect technique employed through the fens. The resultant location of artefact scatters was complemented by the plotting of air photograph evidence at a scale of 1:10560 (Hall forthcoming). Two small hand-dug trial holes were excavated within two early Anglo-Saxon pottery scatters as a follow-up to the survey work; features were encountered, though results proved largely inconclusive (Hall pers comm).

The known archaeology of Hall Farm, Waterbeach and Manor Farm, Milton (comprising a large part of the development area) was reviewed and recommendations for its management were made by Tim Malim during the County Farms survey (Malim 1990).

During December 1992 and February and March 1993 some fieldwalking was carried out and a small trial trench excavated through the dense cropmark complex at TL 491 635. Trenching revealed Romano-British features and pottery indicating occupation between the second and fourth centuries (Miles 1993, Appendix 2-3).

In April 1993 an excavation to inform archaeological management strategies was carried out at Car Dyke (at TL 4948 6450) during April 1993. The excavation revealed that waterlogged Romano-British basal deposits survived within the dyke and that a buried soil remained sealed beneath its ploughed down west bank. A sequence of use and abandonment was proposed and recommendations for its future management were offered (Macaulay & Reynolds 1994). Figure 2 presents selected Sites and Monuments Record entries, Fenland Project sites, and excavations relating to the development area.

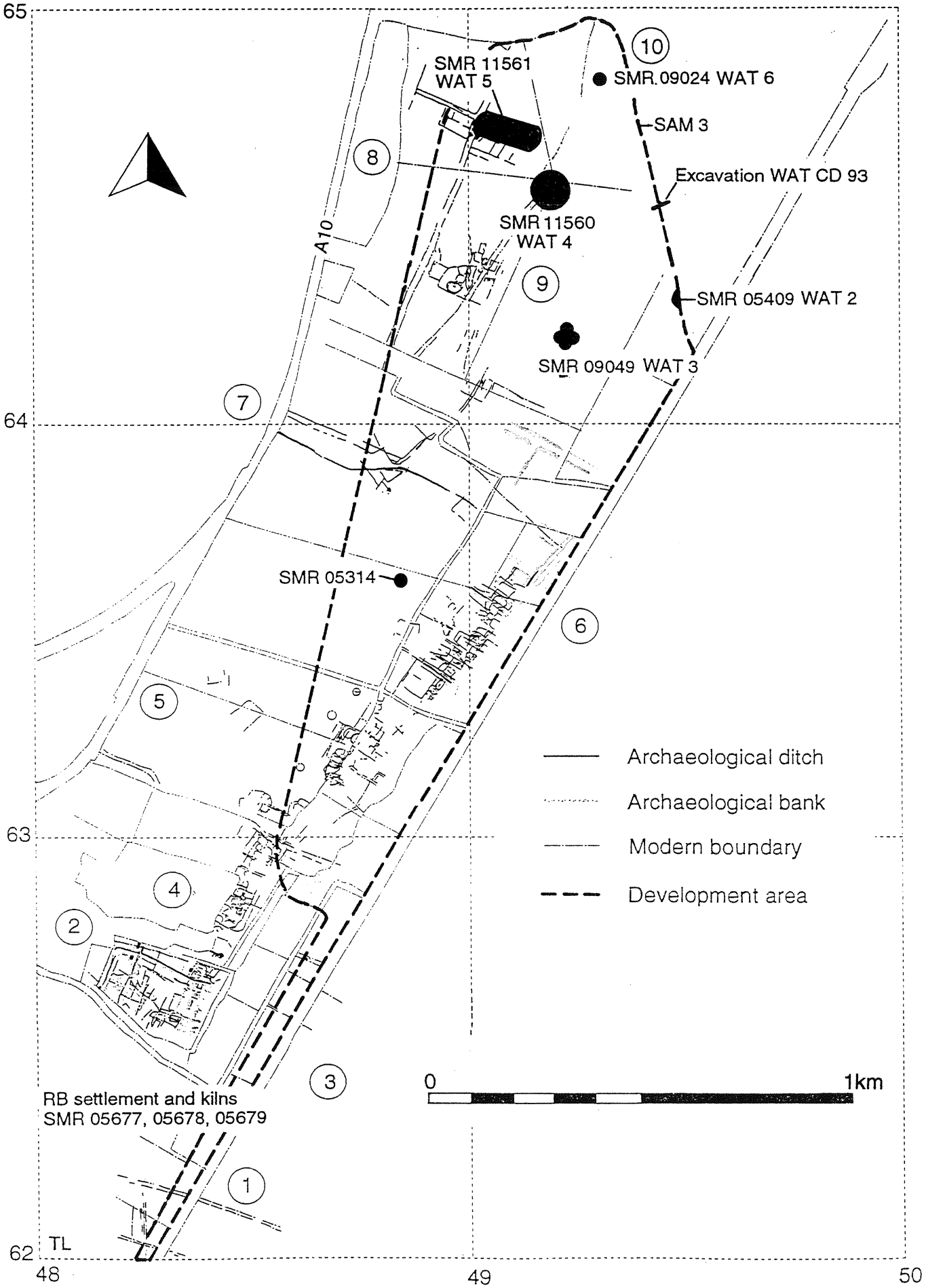

Figure 2 *Selected SMR & Fenland Project sites*

4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The first stage evaluation was designed to assess the characteristics of the sites known through cropmark evidence and to investigate the 'blank' areas between (Miles 1995, para. 4.1). Particular targets were suggested by the initial background study (Miles 1993, para 12.6). Investigation was to be concentrated on the areas of proposed disturbance or total destruction (as indicated by Miles 1995, Figure 5) and was confined to those areas for which access had been negotiated.

A magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out over the two Anglo-Saxon pottery scatters within Areas 9 and 10. Samples were taken on a 20m grid over two areas of 260 sq m and 280 sq m respectively. 136 samples were processed but due to the lack of variation of %FD between samples the survey was found to be of limited value in the location of settlement remains (T. Sutherland pers. comm). 5m x 5m test pits, laid out on a 20m offset grid, were employed to sample the previously located pottery scatters. 30 test pits covering approximately 3% of scatter A (Area 9) and 10 test pits covering approximately 4% of scatter B (Area 10) were excavated. Test pit excavation spoil from these areas was methodically scanned by metal detector and was visually scanned for other artefacts.

The specification was revised at the suggestion of the authors to employ extensive trial trenching rather than test pitting elsewhere on the site. It was felt that trial trenches would be better able to elucidate the sequence of alluvial and fen deposits on the lower lying parts of the evaluation area, and furthermore, that they were more likely to encounter specifically targeted cropmark elements across the subject area.

51 trial trenches (mostly 50m in length and all at least 2.1m in width) were excavated in addition to the test pits. The total area opened amounts to 5824 sq m, approximately 1.2% of the areas of intended destruction, and approximately 65% more than that anticipated by the Project Specifications. Nine supplementary trial trenches were opened around the test-pitted areas in order to define the extent of associated archaeological features (% figure includes these).

Trial trenching was supplemented by the inspection of cleaned ditch sections in the southern and mid portion of the subject area. The authors also took the opportunity presented by the recently ploughed and weathered fields within the subject area to include a programme of fieldwalking (Figure 3). This was intended to complement the results of trial trenching and air photographic assessment, and to provide a companion for the results of the Fenland Project work in Waterbeach parish. Transects spaced at 20m intervals employing 20m collection points were used. Fieldwalking transect collection points are identified by field parcel number and field specific alpha-numeric coordinates (for example, 9034/A20, 9034, A40, etc.).

The evaluation programme was further complemented by series of microlight reconnaissance/photographic flights undertaken by the authors which are intended to enhance the information provided by existing air photographs. Reconnaissance flights for soilmark evidence (particularly for palaeochannels) will continue throughout the winter as ploughing occurs across the subject area and its environs. Further flights will be undertaken during the spring and summer of 1996.

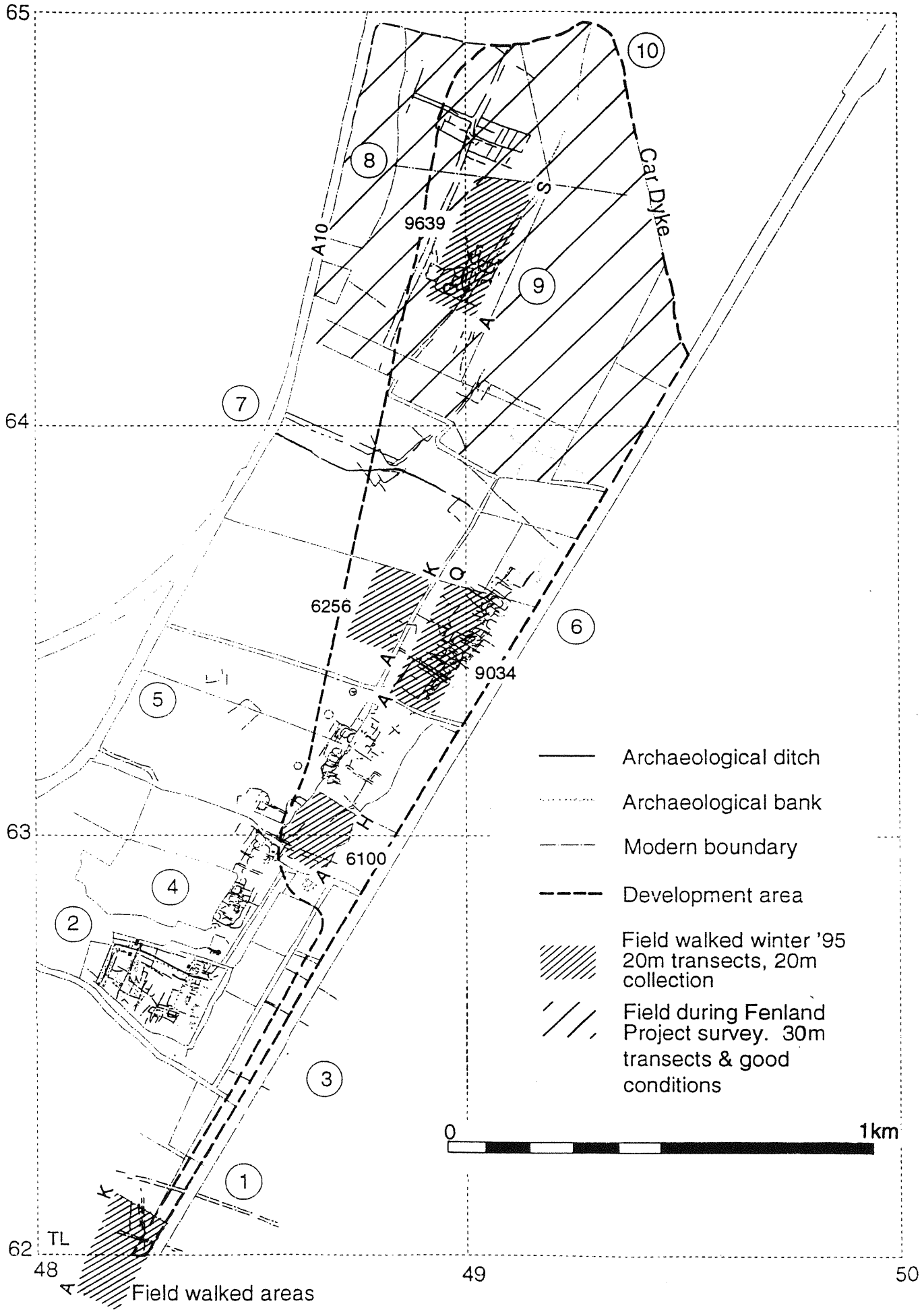

***Figure 3** Fieldwalked Areas*

A keyword-based recording system, based around the AFU's standard single context recording system, was developed in order to facilitate database manipulation of excavation and post-excavation records. Trench planning and base feature planning was carried out using a Zeiss Recelta 15 EDM/Theodolite with internal data logger. Plans were prepared using AIC Prosurveyor software, and rectified to the Ordnance Survey grid using the 'Point Transform' routines of that package. Computer context and finds records, and survey data, has been designed with GIS compatibility in mind. Survey drawings have already been successfully transferred to a 'Mapinfo' system.

The evaluation's written, drawn, digital, and artefactual archive resides at AFU archive stores at Fulbourn.

5 AREAS 1 AND 3 (Trenches 1-11, 48)

5.1 Background

Areas 1 and 3 cover the most southerly portion of the development area, extending from TL 482 619 to TL 488 631 (Figures 4 & 8). The land is generally low-lying (between 3m and 4m OD), though gently rises off site to the west, towards Milton. Area 1 is within 200m of the present day course of the Cam.

Previous finds in the vicinity relate to Romano-British activity just outside the development area (to the west and south) near Area 1. The majority of finds were generated by post-war quarrying at Milton gravel pits, and include the discovery of a pottery kiln (SMR 05678) in addition to features and remains indicative of settlement (for example, SMR 05508, 05536, 05676, 05679). A stray find of Iron Age pottery (not further qualified) closer to Milton village (SMR 05537a) hints at an antecedent of the apparently intensive Romano-British development of the area. The air photo assessment determined that a series of roughly parallel linear cropmarks run WNW to ESE from the higher ground of the gravel terrace towards the Cam across Areas 1 and 3.

Twelve trenches (totalling 559 m in length) were placed so as to intersect most of the cropmark features and provide a sample of the spaces between. A roughly perpendicular alignment to the course of the Cam was preferred for the trenches in order to locate and define palaeochannel edges and any related activity. Trenches were initially machined to various horizons as the incidence of features and finds dictated. Terrace gravels were eventually exposed in all trenches.

5.2 Fieldwalking

After some initial trenching it was apparent that ploughing was not penetrating those horizons with which buried archaeological remains and lithics were associated across much of this area. Fieldwalking was therefore confined to the upslope portion of Area 1 (field parcel 1900) where plough truncation was more severe; and where 'off-floodplain' archaeological activity might be anticipated.

Eleven transects, each 120m in length were walked over ploughed and weathered land (Figure 3). No worked or burnt flint was recovered, though four sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery were obtained in a cluster approximately 70m to the west of Trench 3/48. These may derive from the nearby off-site activity discussed above rather than signifying features in this location.

5.3 Alluvial and Fen deposits

The general stratigraphic character of Areas 1 and 3 is described in Appendix A and this should be read in conjunction with the discussion presented below (and Figure 5). Alluvial layers were identified and contexted separately in each trench, and then correlated and assigned parcel numbers. This system follows that advocated by Needham (1992, 259-260) in which alluvial parcel numbers are assigned to layers with distinct interfaces which are thought to be of roughly the same date, but are not necessarily uniform in sedimentary make

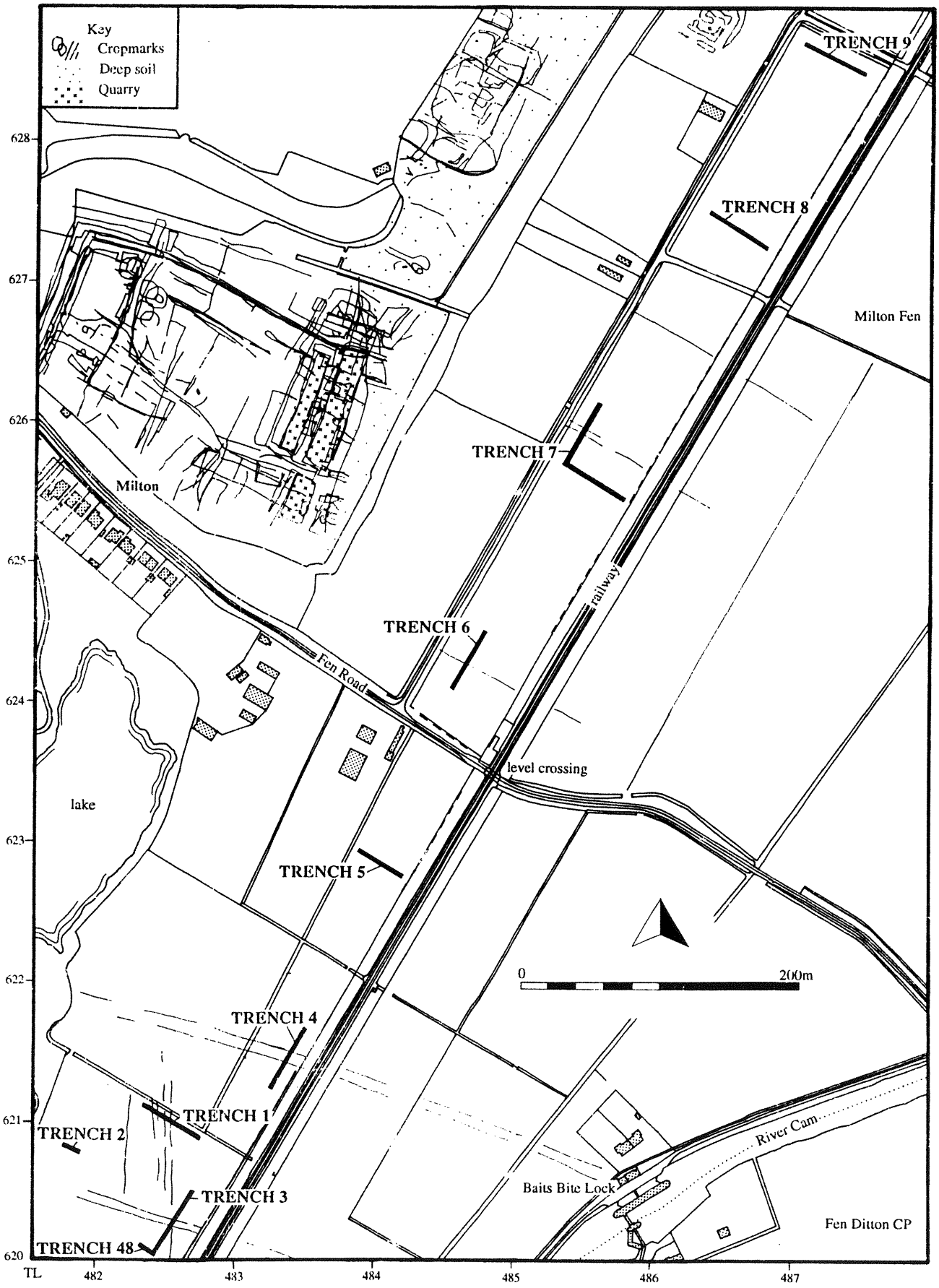

Figure 4 *Areas 1 and 3, Trench Locations*

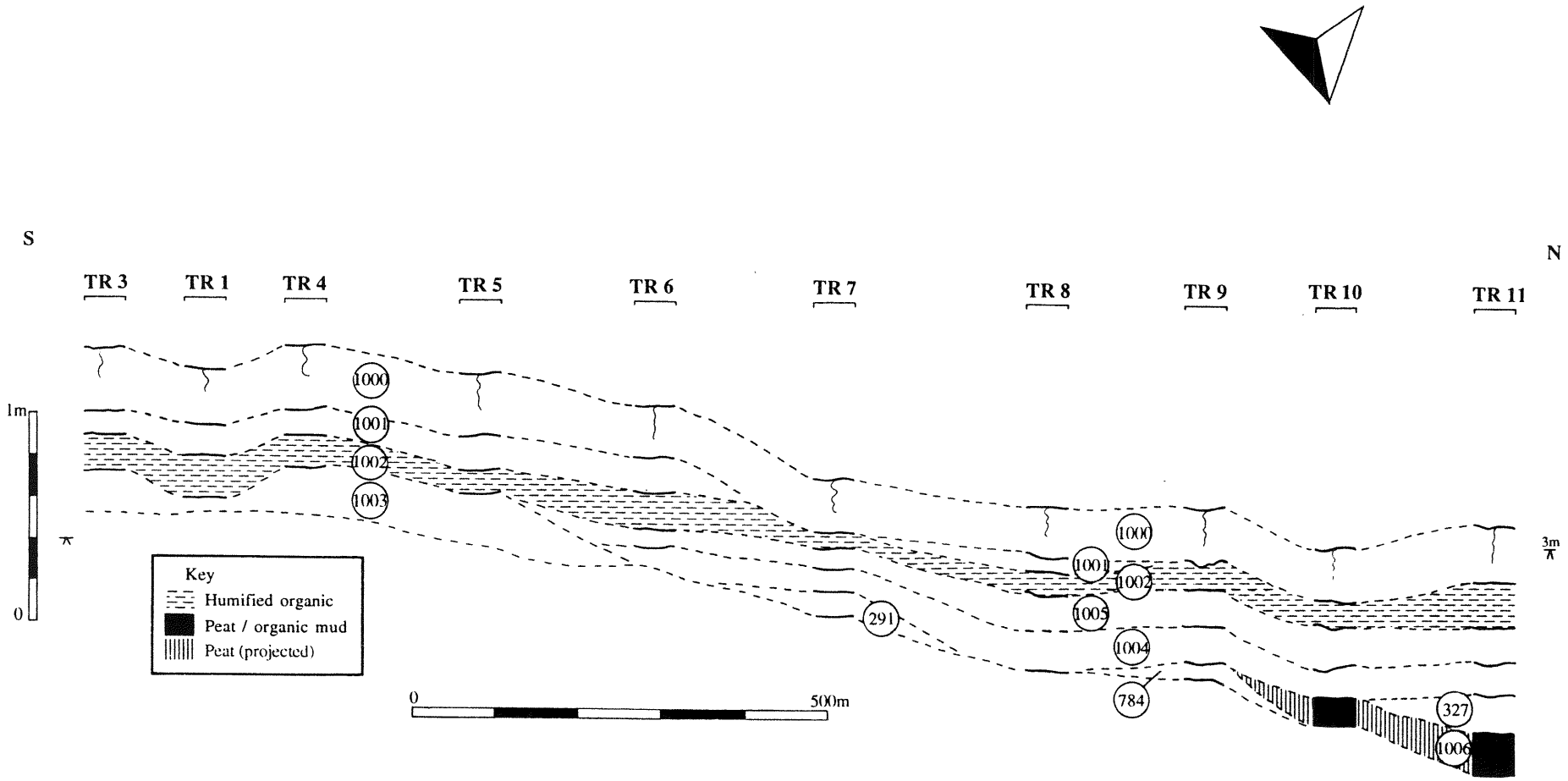

Figure 5 *Schematic Section through Areas 1 & 3*

up. Parcel number commence with (1000) and comprising contexts are written (121/1005) etc.

Initially it was thought that parcel (1003) correlated with (1005) and extended across Areas 1 and 3. The early to mid Iron Age carbon date (2380+_60 BP; Cal 770 to 380 BC) provided by wood chips within the basal peat/organic mud parcel (1006) in Trench 11 was therefore unexpected. The overlying coarse-grained deposit (327) initially suggested an earlier Holocene date for what was thought to be an extinct river channel. The single flint flake from a feature in Trench 8 , cut from a higher horizon, would support this initial interpretation (if not residual) and might raise questions about the validity of the radiocarbon sample. Unfortunately the date could not be independently confirmed by the dendrochronological dating of another sample from this deposit (J. Hillam pers. comm.). It is apparent, however, that the trenches north of Trench 5 show a slightly different stratigraphic character from those to the south and it is this which leads us to suggest a different date for (1003) and (1005). Deposits (1004, 1005 and 1006) were only recorded to the north of Trenches 5. These deposits are much finer in composition than (1003) and also contain abundant molluscs. They are clearly waterlain or alluvially influenced, and the lack of heavier materials suggest a lower energy depositional environment than that which deposited (1003).

The apparent truncation of (1003) north of Trench 5 suggests an erosive or scouring process late in prehistory, which was followed by the localised development of fen wood (reflected in (1006)) and subsequently by the accumulation of contexts (327) and overlying parcels.

The accumulation of 0.5m of sediment in Trench 11, which apparently occurred between the mid Iron Age and late Roman periods, might have been accelerated by colluvial processes (which would be entirely consistent with the archaeological remains of intensive local development), though this is perhaps not borne out by the preliminary examination of the mollusc assemblage. The alluvium parcels in Trench 11 contain resident 'freshwater slum' mollusc species along with obligate freshwater species, which suggests an environment characterised by standing water but influenced by periodic flooding. This type of environment was also suggested by Dr. French, who noted that the very pale, calcareous sediment (1004) is characteristic of the fenland meres. It is also characteristic of such meres that the sediment accumulates fairly rapidly. The coarse sediment may therefore be simply the result of the seasonal, overbank flooding of the Cam into a basin of standing water. The fen vegetation (reflected in parcel (1006)) may have helped to filter out coarse sediments in this location (C. French pers. comm.)

Romano-British features were cut from the upper horizon of (1005), which was confirmed by molluscs as a buried soil (ie a stable surface for long periods). The encroachment of marsh onto these features in the late or post-Roman period (which is perhaps related to the backing up of Cam waters) is reflected in parcel (1002). Later (? medieval or post-medieval) alluviation of the area is reflected by (1001).

5.4 Prehistoric

A thin scatter of worked flint, the overwhelming majority of which was not very diagnostic (see Assessment of Lithics below), was recovered by 'fieldwalking' the upper horizon of the lowest alluvial parcel (1003) at Area 1. The average density within the investigated trenches was 5.04 pieces per 10m sq with a maximum of 9.26 pieces per 10m sq in Trench 5 (7 pieces).

This density bears scrutiny with figures obtained from recent investigations of the south Cambridgeshire river terraces: Duxford 2.65 per 10m sq, Hinxton Quarry 16 per 10m sq (range 0-41), Bourn Bridge 3.2 per 10m sq (all figures from Evans 1993, 8). Though these figures were obtained by fieldwalking plough-turned horizons, and this assemblage was recovered from an intact horizon, a certain amount of control for their comparison has been provided by our in-trench test pits which demonstrated that worked flint was only associated with the upper surface of (1003).

The average density 5.04 pieces per 10 m sq is a moderately high background level and suggests that significant activity took place on the floodplain. However, the lack of related cut features (despite the preservation of associated soil horizons), pottery and even more significantly burnt flint, adds support to the suggestion that 'permanent' settlement sites are probably only to be found on more stable ground off floodplain.

It should be noted however, that temporary settlement , or ad hoc knapping, during resource gathering activites may also produce very small, dense lithics scatters, which may be extremely informative. The location of such scatters is problematic. Test pitting on a 20m staggered grid (for example) across the entire area may close the net but would be extremely time consuming and not necessarily conclusive. The fieldwalking of plough-turned and weathered alluvium would quickly highlight foci of lithics, but would of course destroy the structure of the horizons in question. Further scrutiny of air-photographs may help to locate features such as 'islands' of higher gravel, or palaeochannel edges, with which activity is most likely to be associated, though it is apparent that such features have not previously shown in this area.

5.6 Romano-British

The parallel linear cropmarks were confirmed (with one exception) as representing buried ditches. The spacing between double ditches varies between 3.1m and 4.7m , and most are separated by a raised bank of up-cast alluvium and gravel. Ephemeral traces of river pebble 'metalling' at the surface of the up-cast could be observed in Trench 3 (Figure 6) though the apparent lack of wear and signs of maintenance argues against its heavy use as a track or lane. The space between ditches of the narrowest examples seems to discount their use as droveways for livestock, and for these an alternative interpretation as double ditched and banked boundaries is preferable. With the exception of small ditches running approximately perpendicular to the tracks/boundaries in Trenches 3 and 8 (Figure 7), there was no further cropmark or excavated evidence for field divisions between.

Only ditch **230** in Trench 11 produced dateable material; pottery from its primary fill suggests a third or fourth century AD date, and provides a *terminus post quem* for the encroachment of the organic mud or peat represented by the alluvium parcel (1002). All of the cut features within Areas 1 and 3 are sealed by (1002). In many cases this deposit slumped well into the features indicating that they remained as considerable earthworks prior to engulfment; others were almost completely silted prior to the development of (1002). All of these ditches (indeed all observed cut features in this area) are cut from above the upper surface of (1003) and (1005).

Whilst it is apparent that there are at least two distinct (and chronologically well- spaced) phases of ditching at Area 1, most of the broadly parallel ditches at Areas 1 and 3 are undated. Little should be made of their state of

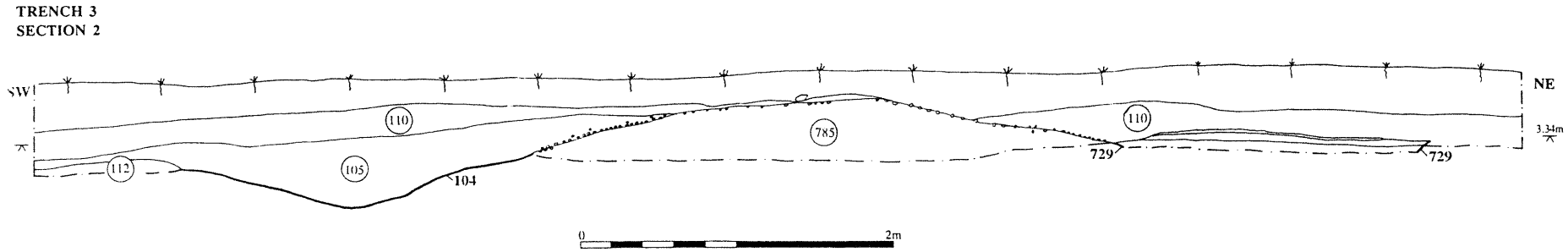

Figure 6 *Track Boundary Ditches*

maintenance at the onset of (1002) or their slightly differing alignments here. Not all these features need necessarily belong to the major phase of Romano-British landscape reorganisation represented at nearby Areas 5 and 6.

Boundaries and lanes running perpendicular to the fen edge, which define transects of dry-to-wet marginal land, are a feature of the fen edge of the region. They span the Early Bronze Age (Fengate) to the medieval period (they are reflected on a larger scale by the nearby parish boundaries of Lode, the Swaffhams and Burwell, for example) and reflect the desire to parcel and exploit the range of resources that the fen edge environment offers.

5.7 Cropmark Correlation

The area had been defined by Palmer (1995, Figure 2) as providing a good crop response. Despite the presence of sealing alluvium there is a good correlation between the revealed features and the plotted cropmarks within Areas 1 and 3. Trenches 1, 3, 6, and 7 all intersected linear ditches as anticipated though a few (much slighter) features were found without associated cropmarks.

5.8 Preservation Characteristics

The blanketing alluvium has served to protect features and horizons from ploughing across Areas 1 and 3. Differentially developed buried soils and upstanding up-cast banks (which rarely survive on archaeological sites in the region) survive beneath the ploughzone. Parcels below (1001) display semi-waterlogged to waterlogged conditions. Wood is poorly preserved except in (1006) at the base of Trench 11, and therefore may only be anticipated in a good condition within deep cut features across most of the site. Pollen, however, survives in good condition within (1002), though is less well preserved within (1006).

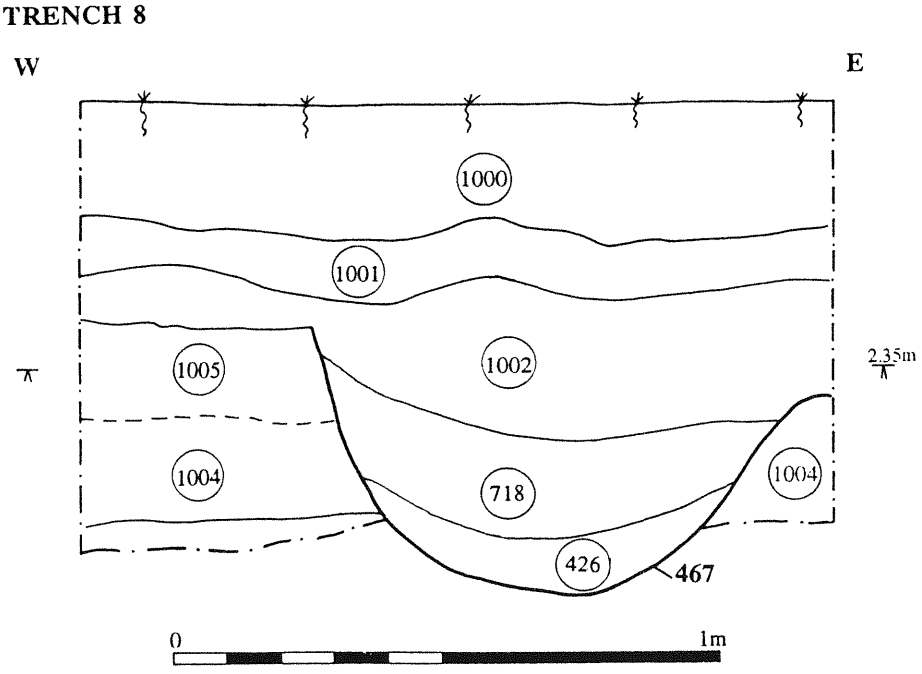

Figure 7 Trench 8, Ditch 467

6 AREA 5 (Trenches 12-18)

6.1 Background

For the purposes of this discussion Area 5 is defined as extending from TL 487 631 to TL 488 633 (Figure 8). The land slopes from 5m OD in the west to 3m OD to the east of the line of the meandering drain. This land division neatly defines the base of the gravel plateau on which much of the archaeology is concentrated.

No stray finds have been previously recorded by the SMR in the area of Area 5. Three ring ditches and a system of enclosures lie outside of the line of the proposed rowing course at Area 5. Within the area of the course, cropmarks suggestive of fields and trackways run towards the Cam, and hint at further features below sealing alluvium (Palmer 1994, 6).

Seven trenches (totalling 303 m in length) were placed in this area in order to intercept plotted cropmarks (Trenches 12, 13, 15), to test areas of sparse cropmarking (Trenches 14,17,16) and to further characterise the alluvial stratigraphy (Trench 18).

6.2 Fieldwalking and Dyke Survey

The ploughsoil is dark across the lower parts of the area, reflecting its incorporation of underlying alluvial parcel (1002). Field parcel 6100 (Figure 3) was the only field suitable for fieldwalking in this area at the time of survey: it had been ploughed and had weathered.. The field to the south (adjacent to the railway tracks), though ploughed had been contaminated by the extensive dumping of soil from a nearby garden centre (N. Asplin pers. comm.) and much foreign debris had been introduced. It was therefore deemed unworthy of investigation . Once again, the fieldwalked area seemed promising for off-floodplain activity and does not have a great depth of masking alluvium. Eight transects, each 120m length, were therefore examined.

No worked or burnt flint was collected. Four sherds of abraded Romano-British pot, all recovered form the northern half of the fieldwalked area, reflect the proximity to the plotted cropmark enclosures and suggest that the south-west boundary of the associated settlement activity may be found in this field.

Two ditches conforming in alignment to the plotted cropmarks were located during the dyke survey at the along the west ditched boundary of this field, though neither produced dating evidence. Dense vegetation and smeared topsoil obscured the upper portion of the dyke section, and undoubtedly masked many more small features.

6.3 Prehistoric

A prehistoric component of this area was anticipated due to the 'cellular' nature of some of the curvilinear cropmarks enclosures west of the SW-NE running hedged boundary. The differing alignments of these features contrasts with the regular rectangular alignments of the Romano-British fields and lanes apparent across Areas 5 and 6. In addition, activity associated with cropmark ring ditches (possible ploughed out round

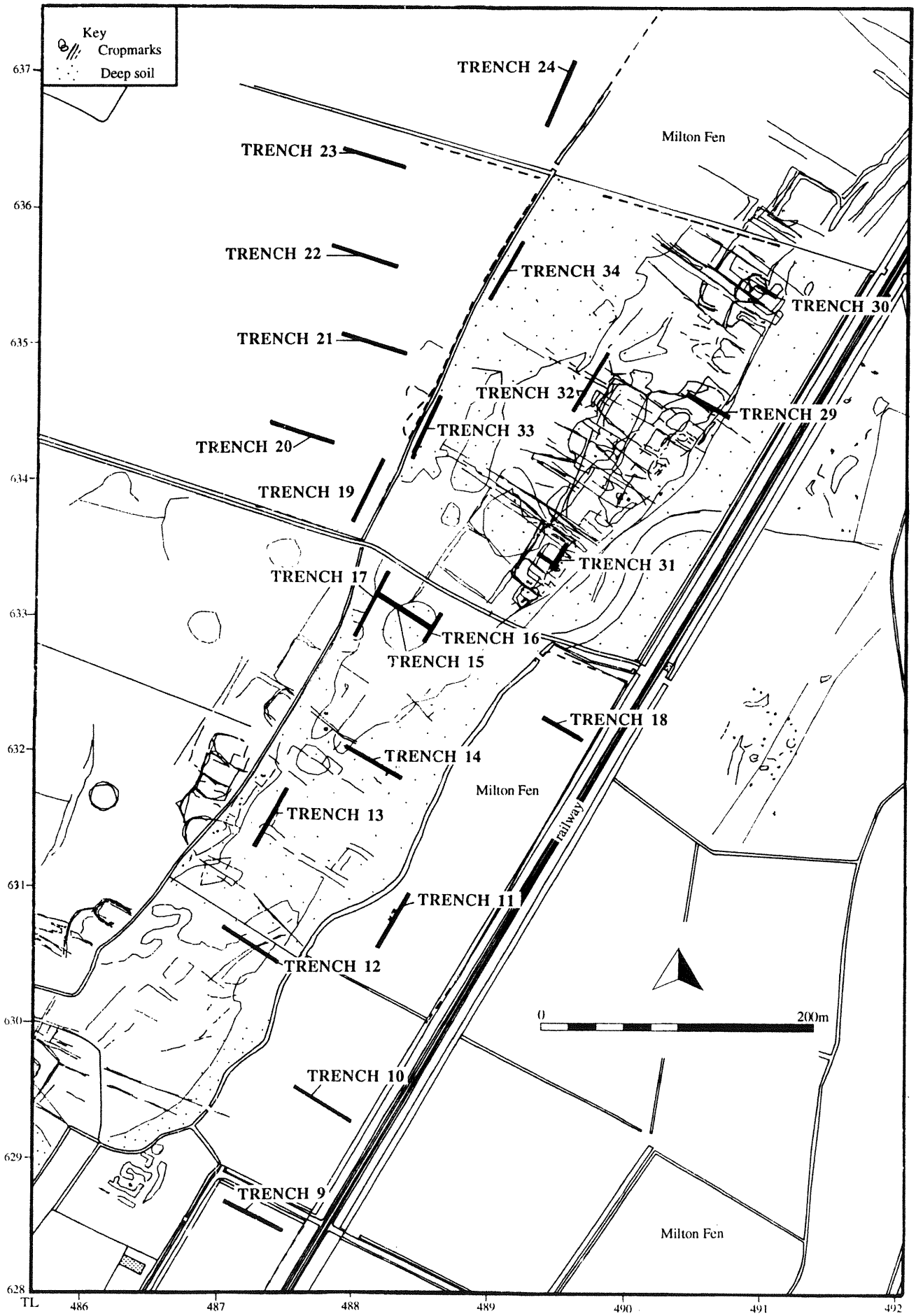

Figure 8 *Areas 5 & 6, Trench Locations*

barrows), might have been expected. Such features often act as a magnet for less cropmark-visible activity, such as secondary burials (even into the Saxon period), and in at least one local example, flint tool production (Evans 1993, 37).

The ring ditches lay beyond the evaluation area, however, and could not be explored. None of the examined features have been dated to the prehistoric periods. The one single sherd of possible prehistoric pottery (? Iron Age) was residual, and was recovered from a remnant of buried soil which also produced Roman pottery. The absence of any worked flint in the fieldwalked area, and as residual material in excavated features suggests that there is no major prehistoric settlement presence at Area 5.

6.4 Romano-British

The recovered pottery indicates that the major phase of activity at Area 5 began in the second century AD. Only a single context, (130) the primary fill of ditch **106** in Trench 14, produced pottery which might suggest a date in the preceding century for this feature: though a second century date was thought equally as likely (Appendix D). Feature intensity, intercutting and re-cutting, is high enough in the area of Trenches 13 and 14 (Figures 9 & 10), to suggest considerable longevity of activity, though the recovered pottery seems to indicate that the second century level of activity was not maintained into the fourth century AD.

Trenches 15 and 16, revealed two sides (**238** and **737**) of a paddock-sized ditched enclosure which can be seen in cropmark plots as an integral component of the rectilinear enclosure system of Area 6. No dateable finds were retrieved from these features, though they confirm a change in the basic organisation of this landscape from the system of less regular cropmark enclosures to the west of the examined area.

No definite buildings were defined in this area. Post hole alignment (154), (155) and (156) in Trench 14 may simply define a fence line, and no building debris was recovered from excavated features, or feature surfaces. The abundance of pottery and animal bone in Trenches 13 and 14, however, suggests close proximity to domestic activity; which is perhaps as Palmer suggests (1994, 6) centred on the small enclosure group to the west. Features in Trench 14 such as **171** and **172** produced a large amount of charred plant material indicative of cereal processing (see Assessment of Charred and Waterlogged Plant Material, below). A feature in Trench 13 (222), though not excavated, resembles the flue of a corn drier or oven in plan, and confirms the opinion that this area, perhaps lying just outside the domestic core of the settlement, was given over to agricultural processing.

Feature intensity dies off towards Trench 12, where only two ditches were located, and Trench 15. Few features were noted in the cleaned dyke section north of Trench 11 and in this trench the parallel ditches also picked up further up slope in Trench 13 were the only features noted. No features were revealed in Trench 18. The implication off this fenward tail-off, which is further confirmed by the stratigraphic relationship between Romano-British features and the alluvial sequence recorded in the area, is that the land to the east of the meandering field ditch remained too unstable and prone to seasonal inundation for Romano-British settlement or industrial development.

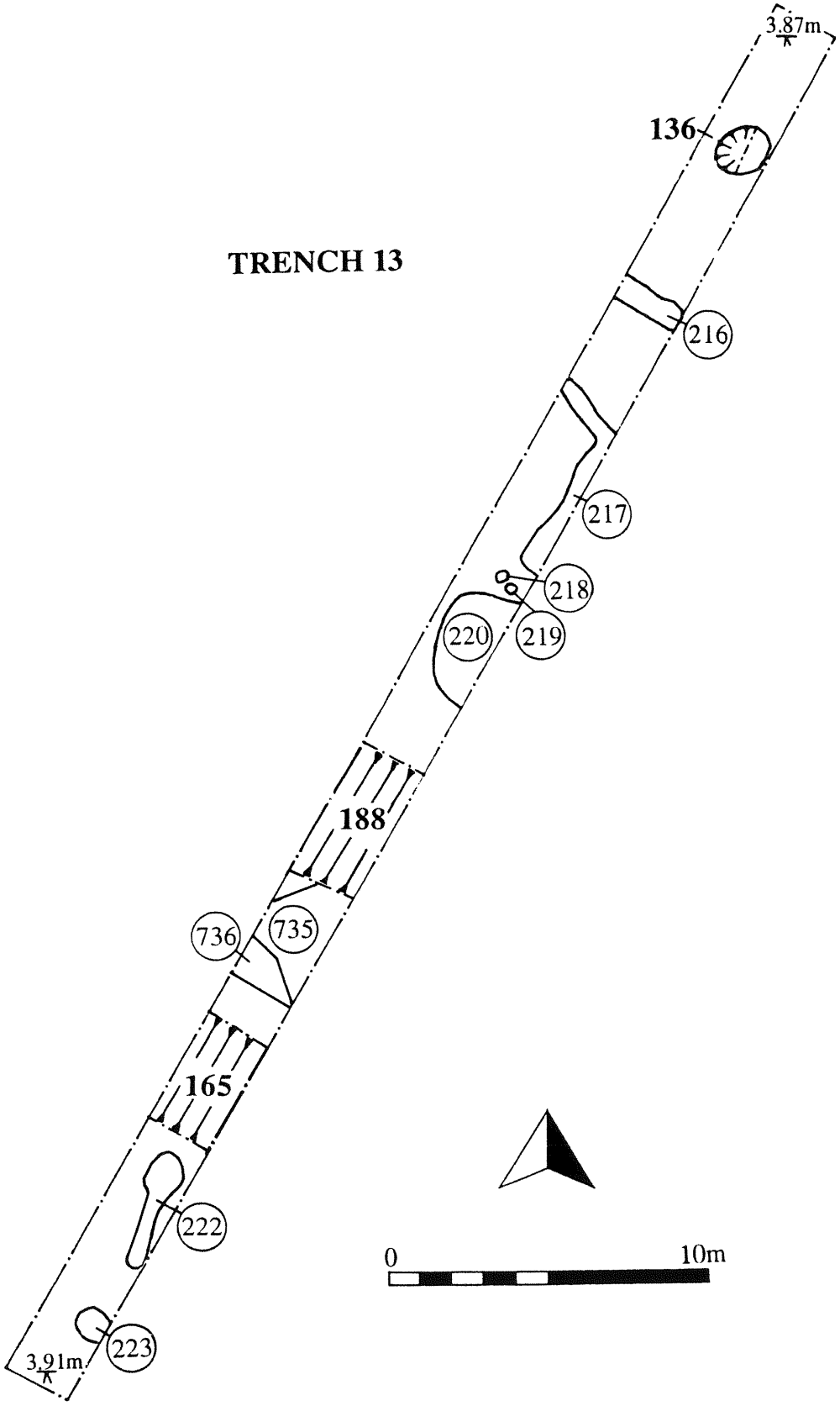

Figure 9 Trench 13

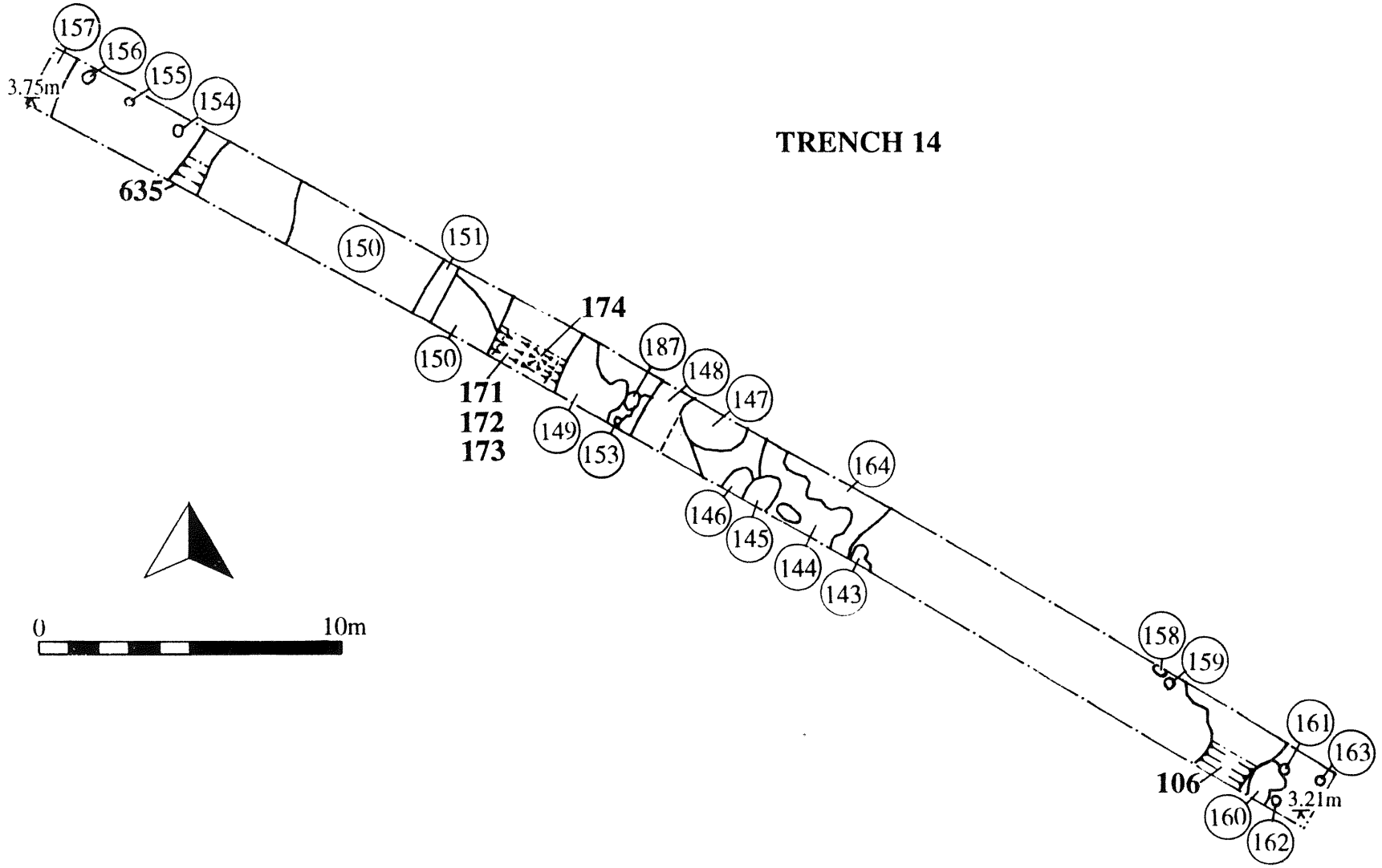

Figure 10 Trench 14

6.5 Cropmark Correlation

The area had been identified by Palmer (1994, Figure 2) as providing a poor crop response. The paucity of noted cropmarks in the area of Trenches 12 and 15,16, and 17, was borne out as a good reflection of feature intensity here. However, feature intensity is much greater in the vicinity of Trenches 13 and 14 than was anticipated: the apparent blank between Area 5 and the extensive cropmark complex at Area 6 is but a reflection of variable cropmark generation, and the two 'sites' are now known to form a continuous belt of Romano-British settlement features on the marked gravel plateau.

6.6 Preservation Characteristics

The micro-topography of Area 5 (the natural undulations in the terrace gravels) has led to variable localised preservational characteristics. The former more extensive presence of sealing alluvial parcel (1002) is attested by the dark ploughsoil and its appearance in feature tops in Trench 12. While evidence for raised banks against parallel ditches was apparent as gravel slump in ditch fills in Trench 14, no in situ traces of bank had survived plough truncation. A slight natural hollow in which Trench 14 was placed has acted as a silt trap and preserves the lower portions of a buried soil; but even here no upstanding features were observed.

Trench 18 revealed a continuation of the stratigraphy of Trench 11, and waterlogged and semi-waterlogged conditions. Any archaeological features in this area are likely to be well preserved. The area of best preservation lies to the east of the meandering dyke, although the basal deposits of deep cut features such as **165** and **168** in Trench 13 on the higher ground to the west also retain semi-waterlogged characteristics. Good pollen preservation was noted in these deposits.

7 AREA 6 (Trenches 19-23, 29-34)

7.1 Background

For the purposes of this discussion Area 6 is taken as the extensive cropmark complex centred at TL 490 634, and the field parcel 6256, (centre TL 488 635), to its west. The land lies between 5.2 m and 3.5 m OD, and continues the line of the gentle south-west to north-east running scarp, whose foot is defined on the map by a meandering field ditch and its in-filled cropmark continuation (Figure 8).

A stray find of Romano-British pottery was made as long ago as the 1950s in the vicinity of Area 6. Mr Wagstaff, who farms the area, has reported finding Roman pottery, and has noted areas of darker soil and rubble in the cropmarked area.

Eastings/northings reversed

During winter 1992/3 Professor Frend undertook some fieldwalking across Area 6 and excavated a small trial trench at TL 6355 4909. Building material and finewares established the presence of Romano-British domestic activity and feature survival was confirmed (Miles 1993, Appendix 3). The recovered pottery indicated a second to fourth century AD presence in this area (the northern end of the cropmark complex), with some evidence for a peak of activity in the fourth century (ibid).

Despite the paucity of relevant air photographs of the area (which has since been partly addressed by my own air surveys) an extensive and complex cropmark site has been plotted (Palmer 1994, 6-7). Three major phases of activity are implied by the air photographic evidence, one of which was tentatively interpreted as recent. The two other suggested phases conform to the impression given at Area 5 of a series of curvilinear enclosures superimposed (or superimposing) a system of rectilinear enclosures. An area of alluvial cover adjacent to the railway tracks, and the in-filled continuation of the meandering field ditch, were also noted (ibid, and associated 1:2500 plots).

Trenches were placed within the cropmark rich areas in order to characterise the settlement here and assess the likely impact of the excavation of a proposed drainage ditch (Trenches 29, 30, 31). Trenches 29 and 30 were also intended to investigate the relationships between the alluvial stratigraphy and settlement features. The apparent tail off of cropmark features and a cropmark blank area was investigated by Trenches 32, 33, 34 19-23. The orientations of Trenches 19-23 were led by the farmer's request to avoid bisecting crop rows and sprayer tramlines. It is considered that even with this restriction they provided a good opportunity to intersect features such as field boundaries and trackways associated with the cropmark complex. A total of 510 m of trenching was undertaken at Area 6.

7.2 Fieldwalking and Dyke Survey

Two trial areas were fieldwalked at Area 6 (Figure 3). At field parcel 6256, a cropmark blank area, eleven transects each of 140m in length were examined. The land had been drilled, though a crop had yet to show, and conditions were generally good or fair.

One patinated, plough struck, waste flake and two sherds of prehistoric or Saxon pot were recovered. Eight sherds of well abraded Romano-British pot

were found across the field though no discernible clustering is apparent. A fragment of whetstone and the ubiquitous post-medieval redware and field drain sherds were also recovered. The abraded nature and sparse distribution of Roman pottery contrasts with the abundant, relatively large and freshly broken sherds recovered from field parcel 9034, immediately to the east. The lack of material collected from the transect baseline and nearby collection points close to the field's boundary, reflects the sealing effect of dyke cleaning up-cast in this vicinity (see below).

At field parcel 9034 transects covered the area of intense cropmark activity on the edge of the gravel plateau, and the apparently less intense area to the west. Seventeen transects, each 100m in length, were examined. No worked flint was obtained during fieldwalking, although one broken re-touched bladelet and a core were obtained from near Trench 31, during excavation.

Three pieces of burnt flint (with another collected informally) were also recovered. In the absence of other collaborative data it is reasonable to suggest that this material is as likely to have derived from the fires of the Romano-British settlement as from prehistoric activity. Only two sherds of late Iron Age pottery, one sherd from a possible Iron Age vessel and four other sherds which may be ascribed either to prehistoric periods or Saxon period, were recovered.

Experience suggests that the presence of a large amount of (highly visible) Romano-British material can act as a distraction to the recovery of (less visible) worked flint and degraded pot during fieldwalking (other surface collection policies and sieving can reduce this bias). Even given this consideration , however, it is apparent that densities of prehistoric material here are low and do not suggest the presence of major prehistoric site foci.

The pottery distribution confirmed that the areas of major Romano-British domestic activity are concentrated at the edge of the plateau, where cropmark enclosures are small and at their most dense. A scatter of tile and daub associated with localised high densities of pottery suggest the presence of a more than usually substantial building (in relative, site-specific terms) approximately 40m to the south of Trench 32. The large sherd size also noted in previously collected assemblages (Miles 1993, Appendix 3) suggests recent plough truncation. Sherds of prehistoric or Saxon fabric (up to 7) were distributed close to the site of the building.

Five fragments of quern (one massive) and large non-indigenous stones were also collected. As anticipated, finds densities tail off towards field parcel 6256 to the west. Here the presence of domestic rubbish, may be attributed to the manuring of fields bordering the settlement core: this interpretation is further supported by the smaller and more abraded sherds in this location.

The dyke survey concentrated on the section of the dyke alongside the railway track in order to test continuity of alluvially masked features. 13 features, all apparently ditches running NW-SE (ie down-slope towards the fen) were revealed. These are all peat filled and some were also sealed by the upper alluvium (parcel 1001). No finds were recovered from their cleaned sections. None of the features were apparent on the air photographs, though they appear to conform with the cropmark alignments of the Romano-British settlement.

7.3 Prehistoric

As already mentioned, sample fieldwalking did not suggest a significant prehistoric settlement presence within Area 6. In Trenches 19 and 21 (Figure 11) however, excavated in an apparently cropmark blank area, small pits and ditches (such as **556,** and 726) yielded small quantities of worked flint, possible pot boilers and pottery broadly dated to the prehistoric periods. The features in the above trenches generally contain fairly sterile fills comprising sandy silts of low organic content. Whilst this may simply reflect differing soil and moisture characteristics in this vicinity (when compared to the wetter area closer to the railway tracks) it is also likely that the increased eluviation of their fills results from their greater antiquity. It is therefore tentavively suggested that the fill characteristics described above may be used to broadly date features, such as some of those in Trenches 20, 22 and 34 which produced no finds, to the prehistoric period. Feature intensity is greatest in the vicinity of Trench 21 and dies off towards Trench 22.

A further small focus of activity is suggested by two late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pot sherds (one at least is residual) in Trenches 29 (contexts (326) and (429)). One feature located in this trench ran obliquely to a series of Romano-British ditches and was cut by a feature of second or third century AD date. No dating material was obtained from this feature however, and alignment alone cannot be considered a basis for assigning prehistoric date.

7.4 Romano-British

Excavation confirmed the Romano-British date of the system of cropmark enclosures and suggested that, as at Area 5, the major period of activity at Area 6 occurred during the second and third centuries AD. It is significant, however, that one of the very few sherds which could be assigned a fourth century date was recovered from Trench 29, not far from the site of the trial trench excavated in 1993, where a focus of late third or fourth century activity was noted (Miles 1993, Appendix 3).

The density of cropmark features renders it difficult to untangle the two suggested major phases of the enclosure system. Elements of the rectilinear and ? curvilinear cropmark system were picked up in Trench 29. These provided dates of the mid third century AD or later, and the second or third century AD or later, respectively. It may well be that a period of re-alignment of settlement boundaries during the third century is thus implied; although the danger of basing such an interpretation on such a small amount of excavated evidence is obvious.

It has been suggested that the settlement was sited to take advantage of the proximity to the Cam's junction with the Car Dyke. Certainly it would only have taken a small lode running in the direction of the railway track to have provided the required final link in the network to allow for the shipment of produce from this site to the north and west of the county and beyond. Trenches 29 and 30 were therefore sited in the hope of picking up features associated with hythes on the fenward side of the settlement in this location. None were found here, though this does not rule out the possibility of the existence of such remains further to the north just outside the investigated area. Instead Trench 29 located a late Roman inhumation cemetery on the edge of the plateau. At least four (probably six) graves were revealed in the west portion of the trench along with a series of ditches. These, like the surviving field ditch to the south, ran parallel with the slope and probably

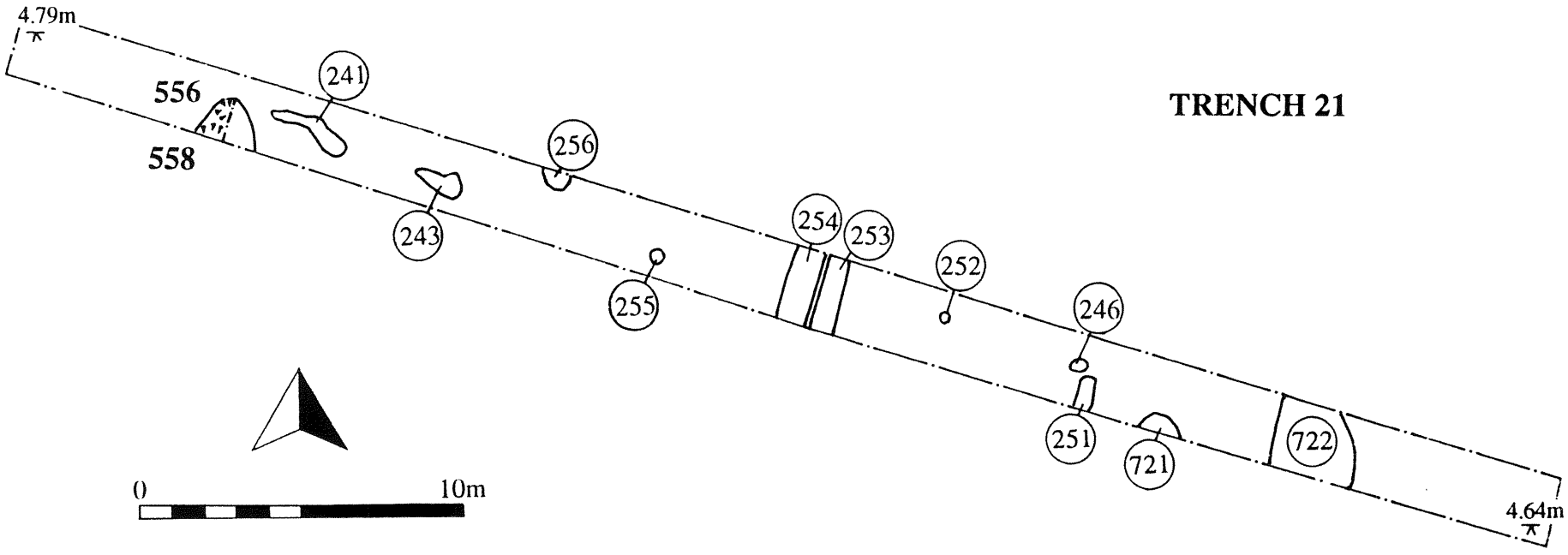

Figure 11 Trench 21

acted as catchwaters for the run-off from the terrace. Casual observation of mollusc species in the field suggested that one of the ditches at least had held running water (P. Murphy pers. comm.).

Ditches **314** was dated to the second or third century AD. A parallel ditch, **317**, may have originated earlier (dating evidence was limited to one prehistoric sherd) but its final re-cut **248** was open in the mid third century AD or later. This re-cut was associated with a parallel up-cast gravel bank. The apparent longevity and continued maintenance of these ditches was probably carried out as a response to increasingly wet conditions on the Cam's floodplain and the adjoining fen. Finally the encroachment of an organic peaty deposit (alluvial parcel (1002)) overwhelmed even the raised bank. The presence of (1002) in hollows on the terrace (as suggested by the colour of the ploughsoil) and in feature tops (for example, **265** in Trench 31) suggests the blanketing with peaty organic mud of much of the Romano-British settlement at Area 6 during the late or post-Roman periods.

From the excavated evidence, fieldwalking and cropmarks it is clear that dwellings were sited on the edge of the scarp and that adjacent land to the west was divided into paddock-sized ditched (and in one case at least, fenced) enclosures between which ditched lanes ran (Trenches 32 and 33. Fragments of tile and box flue indicate the presence of at least one middling status building on the site, though the recovery of daub fragments (one with a wattle impression) probably provides a more representative picture of the main type of buildings present across the site. The examination of the field ditch section adjacent to the railway track demonstrated that settlement did not extend into this lower lying area, though ditches running with the slope onto the floodplain/fen indicate the presence of a system of boundaries similar to those seen at Areas 1,3 and 5.

7.5 Anglo-Saxon

Roman period rural buildings sometimes attract Saxon activity, and the association of possible Saxon sherds and building materials at the southern end of field parcel 9034 might lend more weight to the tentative dating of the pottery recovered here (see Assessment of Prehistoric Pottery, below). A probable Saxon sherd was also obtained from a feature in Trench 21 (243), though those 'possibles' obtained from features in Trench 29 ((355) and (261)/**315**) are, on the basis of stratigraphic relationships, certainly prehistoric. In summary, only extremely tentative evidence for Saxon activity was observed in this area, and whilst this cannot be dismissed altogether, it at least suggests a much lower level of activity than that revealed within Areas 9 and 10 (see below).

7.6 Cropmark Correlation

Most of the area, with the exception of parcel 6256, has been identified as providing a good crop response (Palmer 1994, Figure 2). The density of the cropmark complex at Area 6 and the intensity of features on the ground has already been cited as presenting difficulties for the precise correlation of features. Excepting the plotted areas of alluvial blanketing adjacent to the railway tracks, the plotted cropmarks provided a good impression of feature intensity in the east portion of Area 6. Beyond the ditched boundary to the west however, none of the features revealed by Trenches 19-23 had generated cropmarks. This is probably a function of their size (all were slight ditches, gullies, small pits and post-holes) though the eluviated nature of their fills might also contribute to their 'invisibility'. It remains unlikely that there are substantial ditched features waiting to be discovered in this area, though magnetometry may help to better define the extent of features here.

7.7 Preservation Characteristics

Trench 29 demonstrated the excellent feature survival characteristics which were anticipated within the alluviated areas adjacent to the railway track. Features such as a raised bank of gravel up-cast has been protected from plough attrition by alluvial deposits and grave cuts lie well beneath the ploughzone. Buried soils are also preserved. Waterlogged ditches from the mid point of the trench eastwards (for example, ditch **247**) retain plant remains, pollen (albeit sparsely distributed), waterlogged wood and leather (see Assessment of Charred and Waterlogged Plant Material,, below). A very deep cut ditch **606** in Trench 32 retains a semi-waterlogged basal fill, though all features to the west of the line of this trench are completely dry.

Again, the slightly undulating surface of the gravel terrace promises localised pockets of good preservation on the higher portions of the Area. At Trench 31 however, plough truncation had been severe, and the amount of building debris (large stones etc) and large potsherds apparent on the surface suggests ploughing is taking its toll across much of the cropmarked area. No upstanding features or surfaces were noted in Trenches 32, 33 and 34.

Trench 19 revealed that localised deeper subsoil, probably resulting from ditch cleaning up-cast, had the effect of sealing a possible buried soil (C. French pers. comm), which in turn seals archaeological features. Though features were separated from the ploughzone by up to 50cm of subsoil here, and by approximately 10cm in the vicinity of the remaining trenches, no upstanding features or surfaces were located. This suggests plough truncation in antiquity.

8 AREA 7 (Trenches 24-28, 35-37, 46)

8.1 Background

Area 7 extends from TL 4890 6365 to TL 4905 6415 across level ground at approximately 5 m OD (Figure 12). No previous stray finds or artefact scatters are recorded by the SMR within Area 7. The air photo assessment revealed an area of quarrying hemmed in between the Landbeach parish boundary and roughly parallel cropmarks, and cropmark ditches of slightly differing alignment to the Romano-British enclosures recorded at Area 6. One of these appears to define two sides of a rectangular enclosure. A second pair of parallel ditches runs roughly perpendicular (SW-NE) to the first before disappearing in disturbed soil and natural features at the north end of Area 7. Most of Area 7, with the exception of field parcel 0005 (in which Trenches 35,36 and 37, were excavated) had provided a good crop response (Palmer 1994, 7).

Fields at Area 7 were either under sugarbeet or stubble at the time of the evaluation and could not be fieldwalked. Rows of sugarbeet were lifted prematurely in order to accommodate trial trenches in this area, and these were excavated with the rows in order to minimise further disturbance to beet harvesting. Trenches 24, 25, 27, and 35 were placed to examine cropmark blank areas. Trenches 26, 28, 36 and 37 were placed to intercept specific cropmark targets, and Trench 46 was placed to investigate the apparently disturbed area described above. A total of 445m of trenching was undertaken at Area 7 (Figure 12).

8.2 Prehistoric

A focus of prehistoric activity was revealed in the vicinity of Trenches 25 and 26 (Figures 13 & 14) The north end of the former trench uncovered a post hole (723) containing a flint flake. A small quantity of burnt flint, worked flint and a pot boiler was recovered from small pits (301) and (304), and from ditch **239** in Trench 26. Possible prehistoric pottery was also recovered from the fill of this ditch.

The lack of organic material in feature fills (as at the western portion of Area 6) may be a function of deposition but is also likely to indicate antiquity in features which have not been otherwise dated. Features such as the apparently isolated small pits or gullies (306) and (307) in Trench 27, and ? ditch (776) in Trench 25 fall into this category and may be tentatively grouped with the prehistoric features. In Trench 36 (Figure 15) two abutting curvilinear ditch terminals (**350, 346**) were investigated but yielded no finds. Again, the pallor and sterility of the silty sand fills, contrasting with other features in the trench, suggests a much earlier date for this feature. Similar features dating to the Neolithic period have recently been revealed at Godmanchester. The absence of finds from what appears to be the entrance of a penannular enclosure of approximately 7.0m diameter perhaps argues against its interpretation as an eavesdrip, or foundation gully for a round house

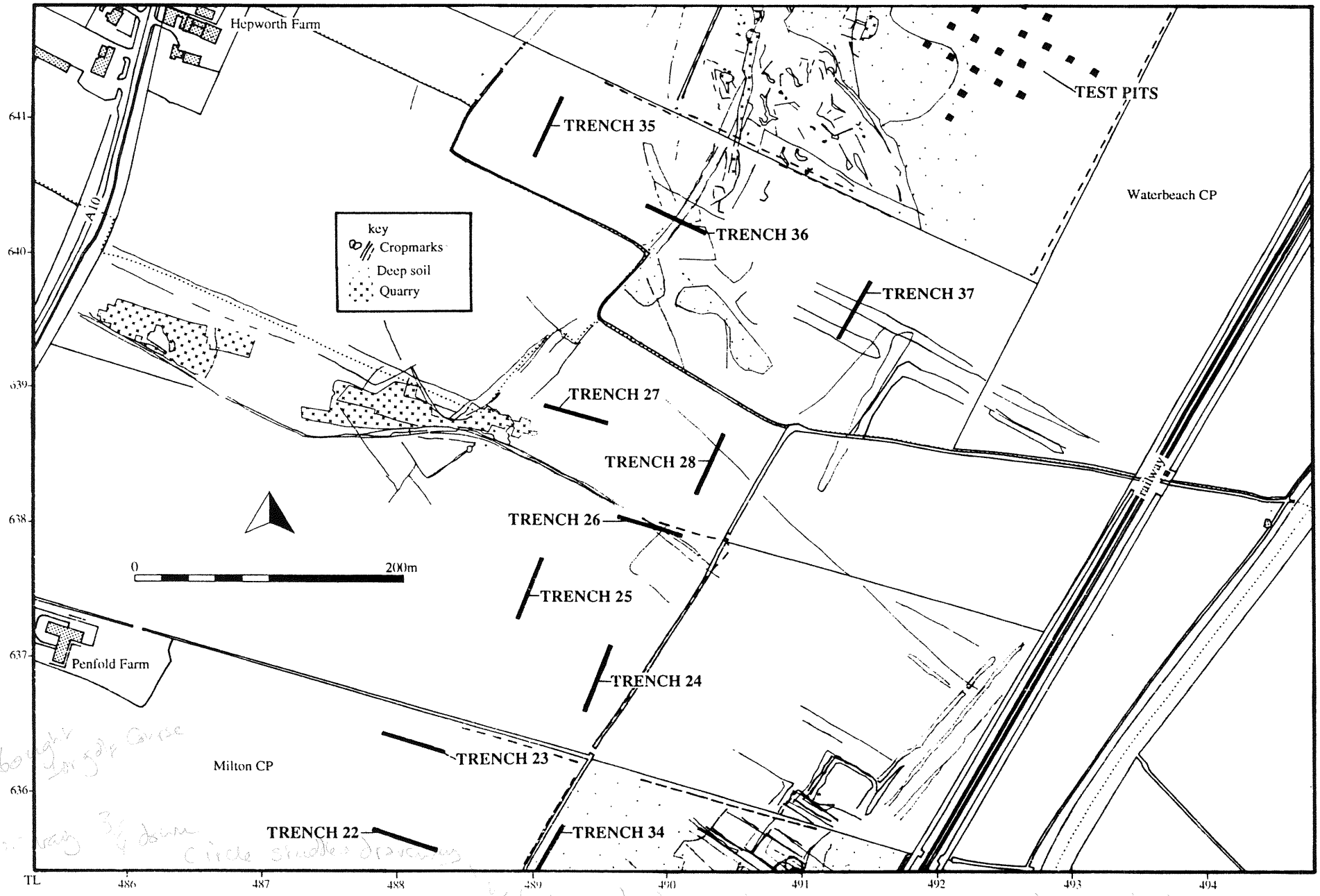

***Figure 12** Trench Area 7, Trench Locations*

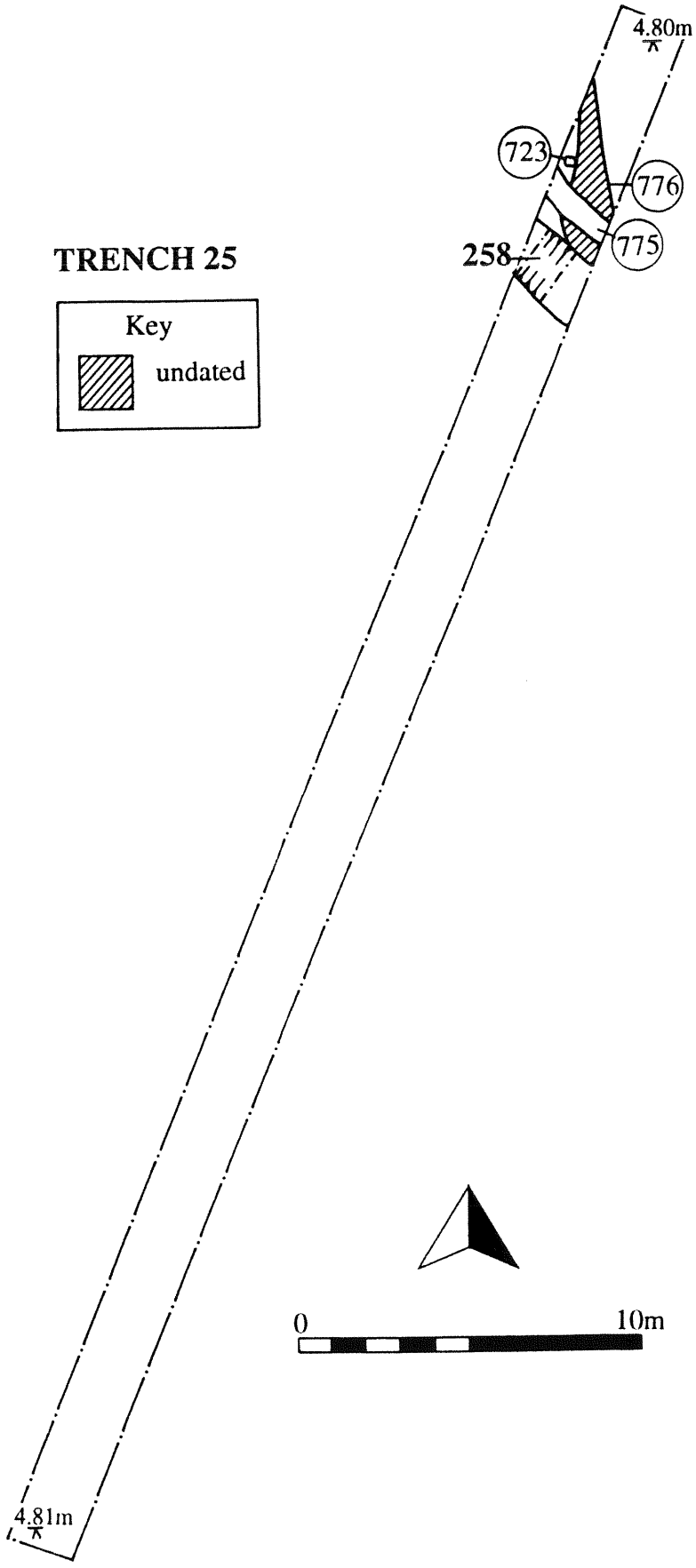

Figure 13 Trench 25

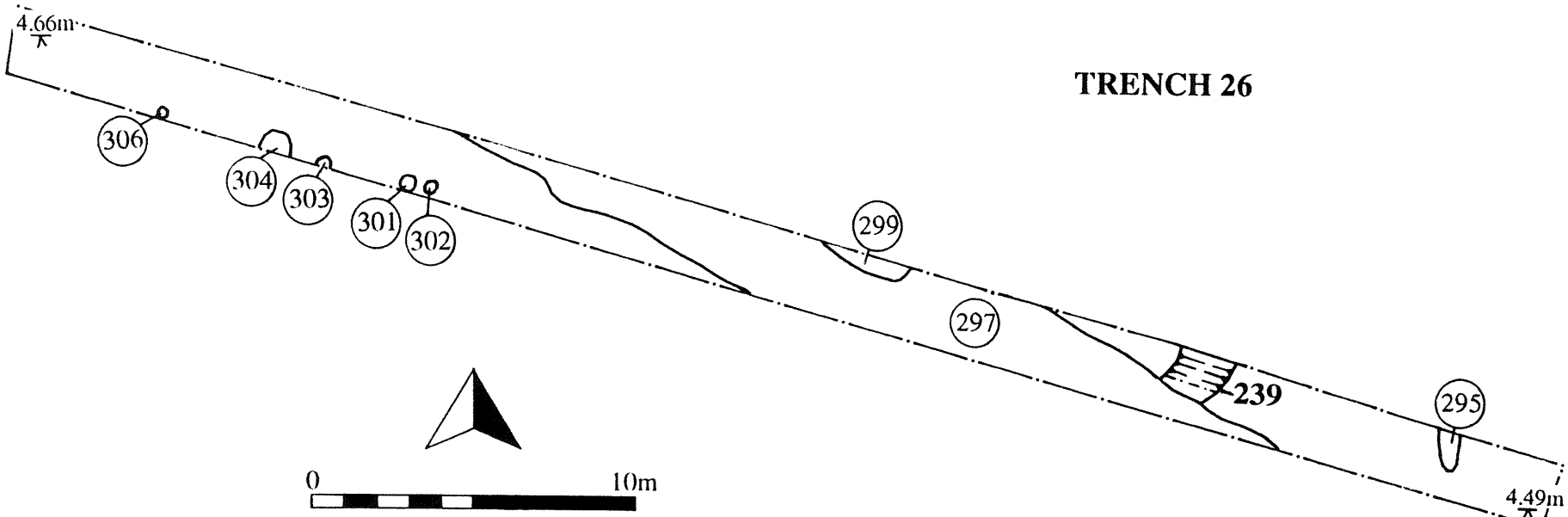

Figure 14 Trench 26

8.3 Anglo-Saxon

Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from ditch **258** at the north end of Trench 25 and (possibly) from large ditch **239** in Trench 26. This feature correlates with the (?rectangular) cropmark enclosure and was cut by the cropmark ditch which limits the quarrying to the south-west of Trench 27. This later ditch, given its curving line might be a medieval forerunner of the present parish boundary.

It is also worth noting that undated gullies in Trenches 28, and 37, conform in alignment to the above features (gully **408** in Trench 37 is exactly perpendicular to them), and are clearly not aligned with either the Roman, medieval or post-medieval field systems.

8.4 Medieval, Post-medieval and Undated Features

Parallel ditches which may define an alternative line of the medieval Cambridge Way (a field way which ran across Waterbeach's open fields) were revealed in Trench 36 (Figure 15). Ditches (336), (337) , **340**, **352**, and **354** yielded no dateable artefacts but clearly represent the slightly shifting boundaries of the track over a considerable period of time. A post-hole (338) alongside ditch (337) retained a partially charred wooden post base which probably formed a more recent boundary following the line of the track. A cluster of pits in the east end of this trench yielded no artefacts and may relate to quarrying (for track make-up ?). No trace of metalling had survived between parallel ditches.

Parallel ditches conforming to the plotted cropmarks were revealed in Trench 37. No traces of the anticipated banks were observed. A ceramic field drain had been laid in the top of ditch **406** suggesting that it survived as a slight earthwork into modern times. These features are aligned with the ridge and furrow to the north, and a tentative interpretation that they relate to a post-medieval drainage system (perhaps serving a 'Wessex' type water meadow) is offered. Similarly aligned shallow features (furrow bases ?) were revealed in Trench 46. None produced dating evidence.

8.5 Cropmark Correlation

Cropmark correlation was fair across Area 7. Slight features in all trenches had not generated cropmarks, but the larger ditches were represented. The anticipated banks in the area of Trench 37 no longer exist., perhaps having succumbed to ploughing.

8.6 Preservation Characteristics

Features were not visible in Trenches 24-28 immediately after machining but began to be recognised after a week or so of weathering. The ploughzone directly overlies feature tops in Trenches 24 and 25, but despite the presence of a sealing subsoil of up to 30 cm, between the ploughzone and features in the remaining trenches, no upstanding features (such as banks or an 'agger' between the track ditches) were revealed. This must suggest truncation caused by medieval or post-medieval agriculture. No features retain waterlogged or semi-waterlogged deposits in this area.

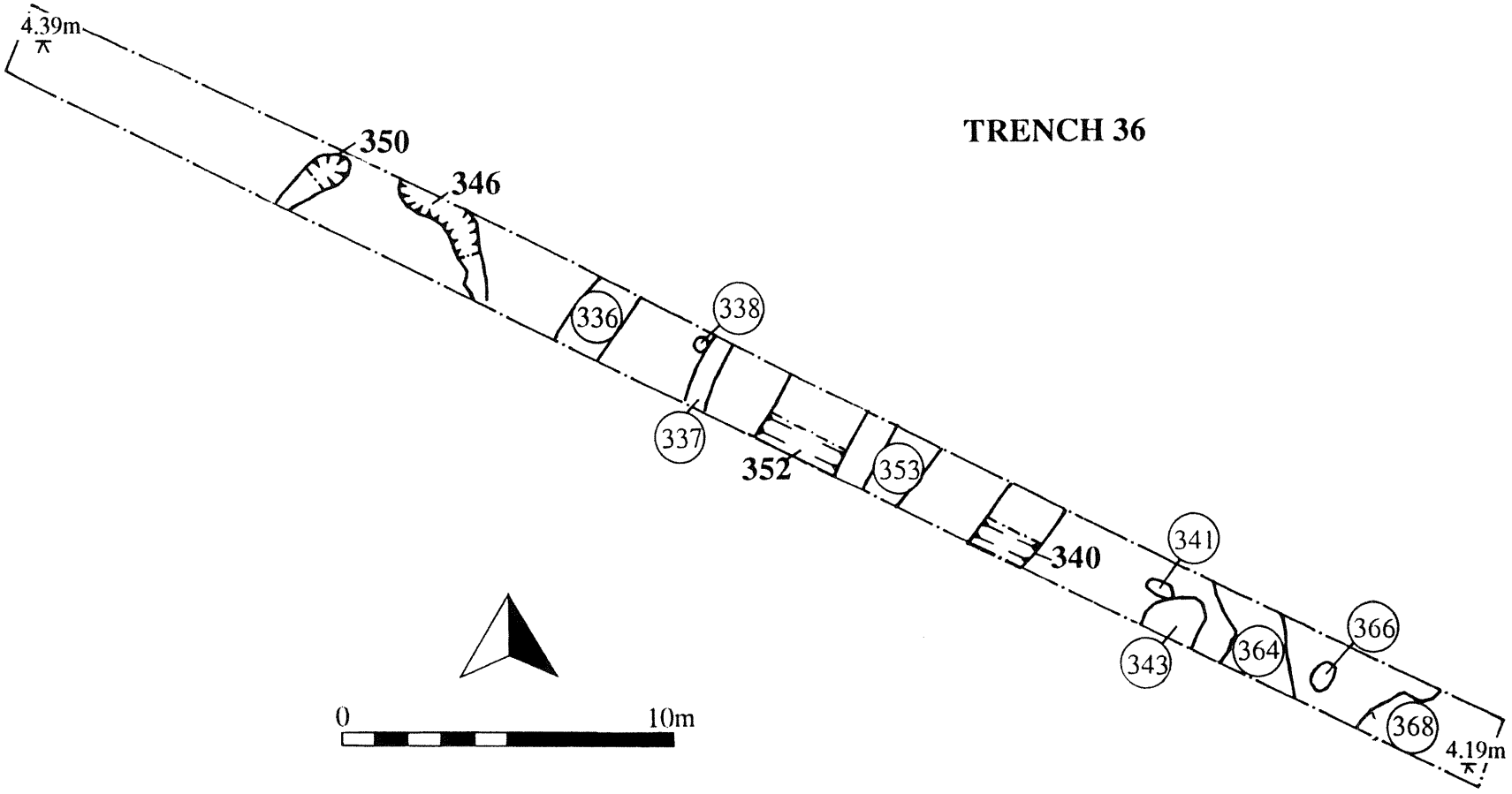

Figure 15 Trench 36

9 AREA 8 (Trenches 38-41, 43-45, 47, 51)

9.1 Background

For the purposes of this discussion Area 8 is defined as taking in the two cropmark complexes at the northern end of the development area between TL 489 642 and TL 491 649 (Figure 1, 16 & 17). The land is generally flat at approximately 5m OD.

Romano-British artefact scatters were located during the Fenland Project (Waterbeach 4 and 5: Hall forthcoming). No other finds were previously recorded by the SMR. Two cropmark tracks on converging alignments (the east one represents the line of the medieval Cambridge Way) traverse the area. Two cropmark complexes are apparent. The northern one is based on the staggered junction of two ditched tracks, and consists of a system of regular rectangular enclosures. The southern one consists of a small complex of enclosures, some of which are of curvilinear form. An area of quarrying was also identified in the north-west corner of the study area. All of Area 8 was classified as providing a good crop response (Palmer 1994, 7).

Trenches 40, 41, 44, 45 and 51 were placed to intercept the cropmark enclosures. Trenches 39 and 43 were placed in cropmark blank areas, and Trenches 38 and 47 were placed to explore the artefact scatter that comprised Waterbeach 4. 367m of trenching was undertaken.

9.2 Fieldwalking

As already mentioned, this area had been fieldwalked (30m spaced transects) under good conditions as part of the Fenland Project Survey. Fieldwalking was carried out at field parcel 9639 to further investigate the area over and surrounding the cropmark enclosures. Nineteen transects were examined, of which all but two ('R' and 'S') were 120m in length. No worked or burnt flint was recovered. Ten sherds of very abraded Romano-British pottery were collected. Of these, six were recovered from transects close to the field's north boundary, and these reflect the periphery of Hall's site Waterbeach 4. The lack of pottery, building material and other finds, over the cropmark complex is surprising. It suggests low rubbish accumulation and dispersal indicative either of a low level of settlement, or a non-settlement function.

9.3 Prehistoric

Evidence for prehistoric activity in across Area 8 is scant. Fieldwalking produced no lithic material and only one residual piece of worked flint was obtained from an excavated feature (ditch **378** in Trench 41).

In this trench 16 sherds of probable prehistoric (or Saxon ?) pottery were recovered from the upper fill of one of the sub-square enclosure ditches (381). The opposing ditch of this enclosure, **378,** was however firmly dated to the Roman period and the Saxon date of the pottery would therefore seem more consistent.

Residual late Iron Age or Roman pottery was also recovered from the base of a plough furrow **390** in Trench 38.

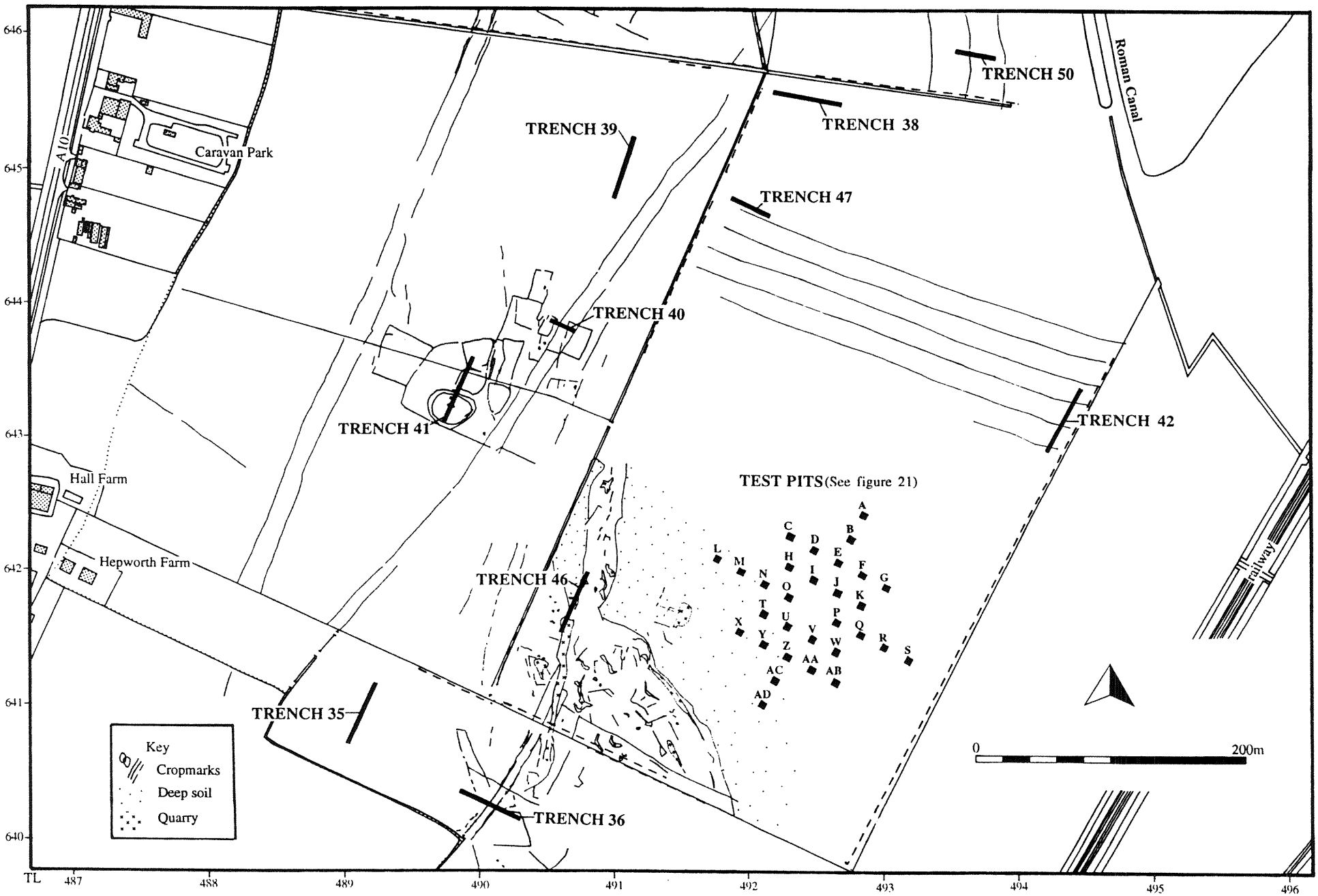

Figure 16 *Areas 8 & 9, Trench Locations*

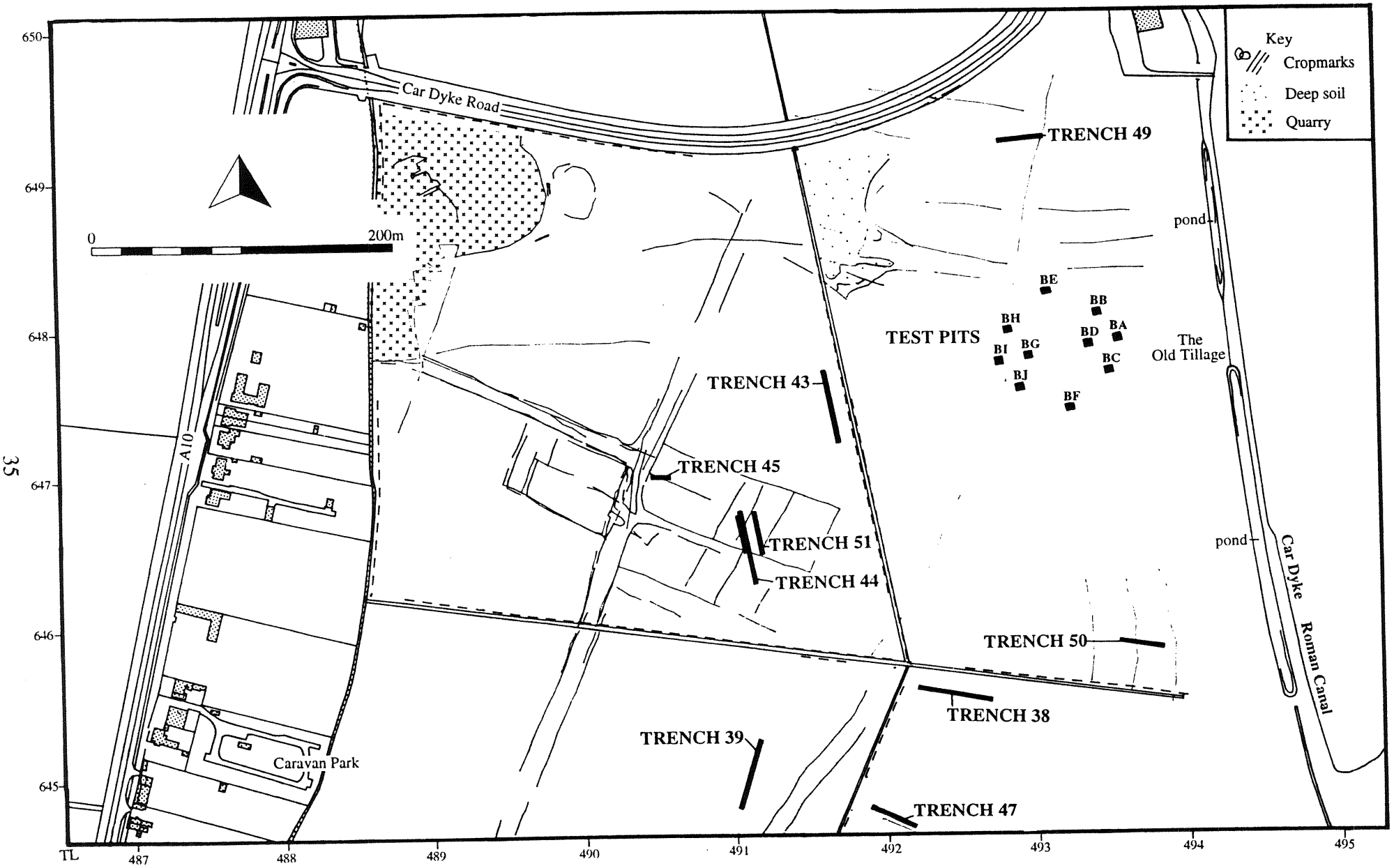

Figure 17 *areas 8 & 10, Trench Locations*

9.4 Romano-British

There are two foci of Romano-British activity in Area 8, both associated with the previously identified cropmark complexes. The most southerly of the two (described above) was investigated by Trenches 40 and 41.

In Trench 41 (Figure 18) a ditch, **378,** corresponding to a sub-square cropmark enclosure was located and produced pottery dating it to the second century AD or later. The adjacent sub-circular enclosure was examined and found to be defined by a substantial ditch. Internal pits and post holes were also revealed, though no dateable material was recovered from them.

Trench 40 intercepted cropmark features at the northern end of this complex. A narrow ditch **552** produced pottery dating to the second century AD or later, and this feature was cut by a small irregular pit **371** (? or root hole) which also produced Roman pottery. **538** at the east end of this trench was interpreted as a beam slot and contained prehistoric (or Saxon ?) pottery. Parallel Features (813) and (814) were considered similar to the above. These features could relate either to the cropmark ditches of the medieval track or to the Romano-British enclosure system that it cuts through. Given the structural nature of the features the latter suggestion is preferred; though this raises the issue of the apparent absence of any trace of the Cambridge Way.

The lack of pottery recovered by fieldwalking over this cropmark complex confirms Hall's negative fieldwalking results and suggests that the remains here represent non-domestic activity, such as stock control, or other agricultural practices. A trackway links this complex with the rectilinear complex to the north.

Trench 39 revealed a quarry pit (372), dated by pottery to the second century AD or later, a small pit **581** and a series of post -holes (all of which were undated). These indicate that the apparently blank area between the two cropmark complexes is not entirely devoid of Romano-British activity. Trench 38 picked up features associated with Fenland Project site Waterbeach 4. Pottery from (385) was dated to the fourth century AD and residual Roman pottery was recovered from possible plough furrows (388) and (395). The trench also revealed a number of undated features, and the Romano-British component of this trench is difficult to qualify further. Later features may have acted as a trap for Roman pottery, incorporating, for example, an expanse of dumped material, rather than disturbing cut features.

The second cropmark complex was investigated by Trenches 44,45 and 51. Ditches conforming to cropmarks were located and generally produced pottery dating to the second century AD or later (notably (509) and (476) in Trench 44).

9.5 Burials

In Trench 44 two inhumations were partially excavated and then re-buried (Figure 19). The grave fill of Burial 3 (475) consisted of re-deposited natural which was not immediately apparent after trench cleaning. Excavation of the grave produced abraded Romano-British potsherds, and revealed that smaller bones are poorly preserved: a reflection of the porous natural sands and gravels in the vicinity. A second burial (Burial 2) had been severely

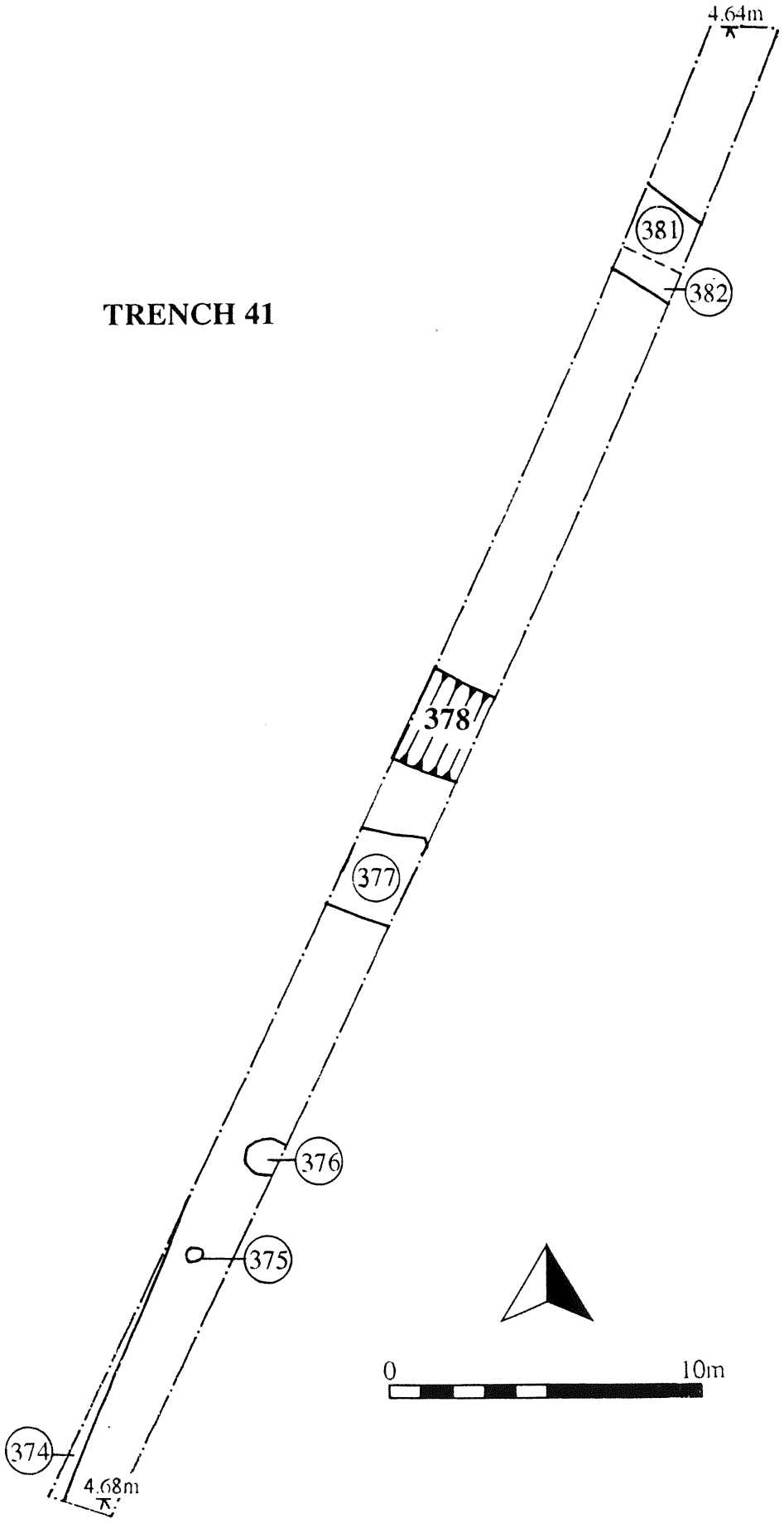

Figure 18 Trench 41

plough-truncated, though one or two more possible deeper graves were also noted.

Given the proximity of early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites the possibility that these burials are part of a pagan period cemetery has to be considered. Grave fills and possible grave fills were scanned by metal detector, but no signals were obtained. Early Anglo-Saxon inhumations in the region are usually well adorned with grave goods, and for the majority of burials an iron knife at very least accompanies the body. The absence of metal signals therefore suggests a late Roman rather than early Anglo-Saxon date for the burials.

9.6 Horningsea Ware Production Site

Two pottery kilns were exposed at the north end of Trench 44 (Figure 19). Both were cleaned and recorded in plan, but were not excavated further. Both are single chamber, single flue kilns, which produced Horningsea Ware type products in the second or early third century AD. The longevity of this production site is suggested by the fact that the chamber of one kiln, **694**, was cut through a clay dump (693) and a possible disused flue (505).

A severely plough truncated dump layer containing pottery dated to the second century AD or later partially sealed the kilns. Great quantities of pottery, as well as fragments of partially baked vegetation-tempered clay which formed the kiln domes and pellets for vent capping, were obtained from cleaning these features.

Trench 51 was opened up alongside Trench 44 to test for the continuity of kiln related features, and burials. Though a high density of probable Romano-British features was apparent, no features could be definitely identified as kilns or graves.

9.7 Anglo-Saxon

The sixteen (possible) Saxon sherds from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch in Trench 41, suggest some later activity within the earthworks of the Romano-British site here. The presence of such material is unsurprising given the proximity of the early Saxon settlement at Area 9 (see below). A single sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was also recovered from ditch **616** in Trench 43, adjacent to Area 10. This indicates the continuity of boundary features (at least) from the early Saxon settlement core less than 100m to the east (see Area 10, below).

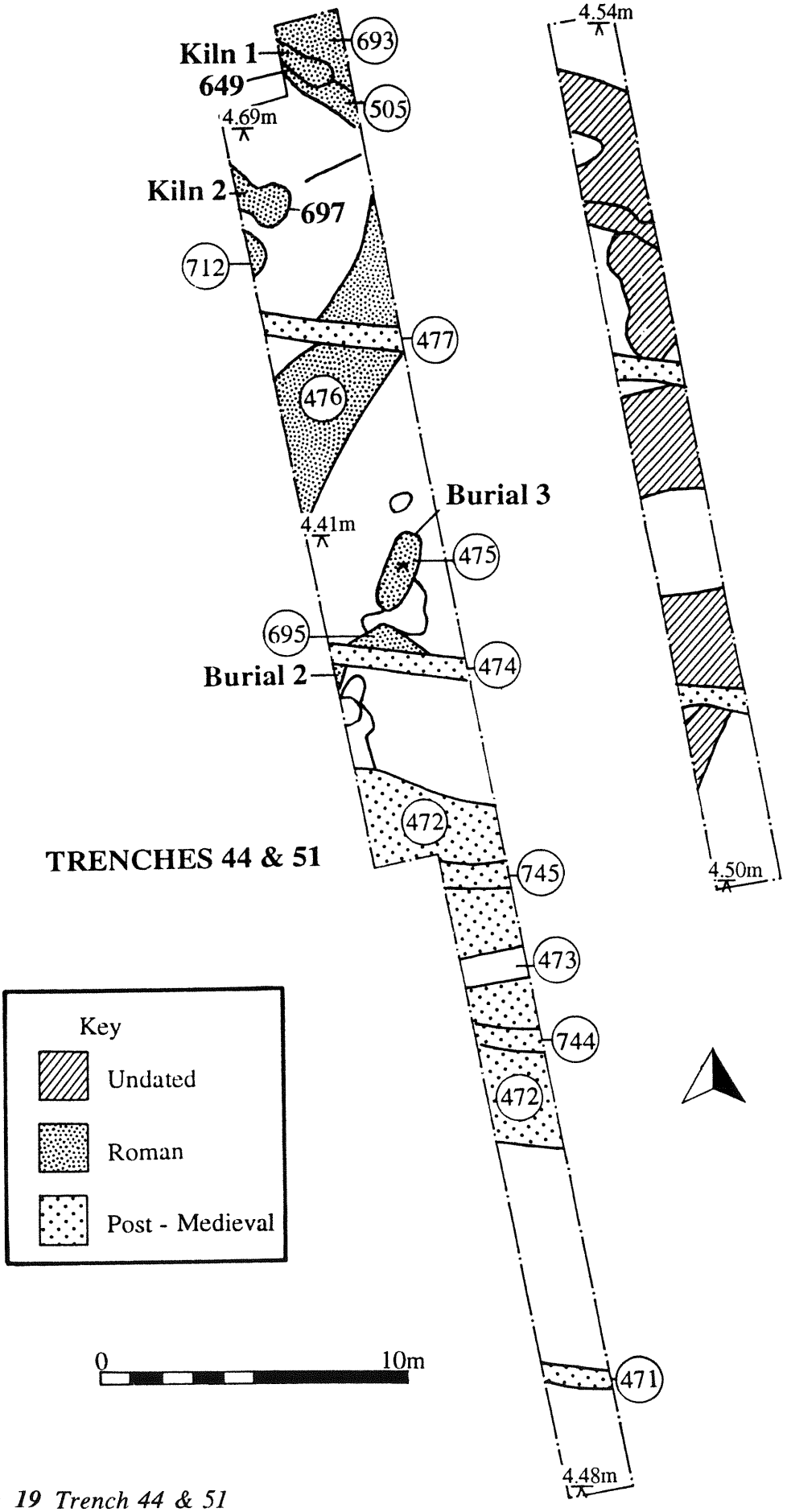

Figure 19 Trench 44 & 51

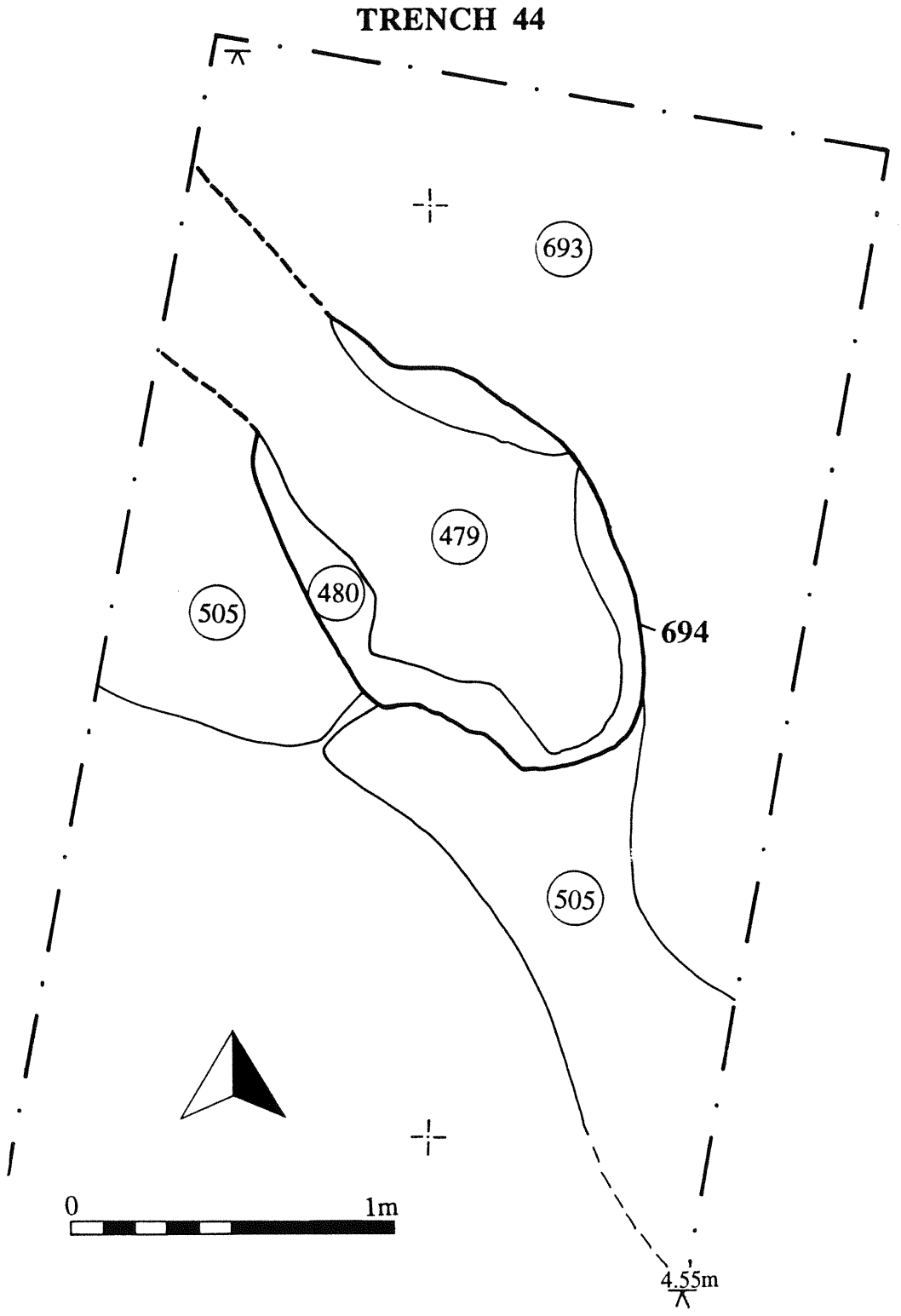

Figure 20 *Plan of Unexcavated Horningsea Ware Kiln*

9.8 Medieval and Post-Medieval/Modern

The possible bases of medieval plough furrows (**390**, (388), and (387)) were revealed in Trench 38, and in Trench 47 (713).

Six equidistant (6.4m apart) parallel modern ditches were located in Trench 43. These were aligned perpendicular to the adjacent (parliamentary enclosure) field boundary. Five more modern ditches, similarly aligned, though narrower and spaced up to 10m apart, were revealed in Trench 44. These appear to relate to former orchard boundaries or drainage gullies apparent on post-war Ordnance Survey maps. Two of these features cut a deposit (472) containing post-medieval pottery which coincides with the line of the cropmark track. A trial sondage revealed that (472) overlies a deposit of stones set in a white sandy clay matrix which was interpreted as the remnants of metalling. Deposit (472) may represent the deliberate post-medieval or modern back-filling of the slightly sunken Romano-British track.

9.9 Cropmark Correlation

Area 8 had been mapped as providing a good crop response (Palmer 1994). Unsurprisingly, slight features, such as burials and kilns revealed by trial trenching, had not generated cropmarks. Somewhat more surprising was the absence of cropmarks generated by the more substantial post-medieval/modern features in Trenches 38 and 43. The main elements of the Romano-British ditched enclosure system were accurately located by trial trenches, and were in fact visible as cropmarks (yellow leaves) in the sugarbeet during October and November.

9.10 Preservation Characteristics

The ploughzone sits immediately above cut features in the vicinity of Trenches 38, 44 and 47. In the remaining trenches 5-10cm or so of subsoil lies between ploughsoil and features tops, though no raised banks or surfaces had survived truncation. The surface of the Romano-British track at Trench 44 only survived intact because it is sunken and is sealed by deposit (472). Plough score lines were visible on the surface of the kilns and surrounding deposits. One burial had evidently been severely plough damaged.

No features at Area 8 retain waterlogged or semi-waterlogged fills, although charred plant material was noted within kiln flues. The preservation of human bone at Trench 44 is not so good as that of inhumations in Trench 29 within Area 6, whose graves cut moist deposits.

10 AREA 9 (Test Pits A-AD, Trench 42)

10.1 Background

Area 9 is defined as the field centred at TL 493 644. The field has a slightly raised knoll (in fenland terms at least) just to the south-east of its centre. Land lies at approximately 5m OD, rising to approximately 6.5m OD on the summit of the knoll (Figure 16).

The area was fieldwalked as part of the Fenland Project survey, and a scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery (Waterbeach 3) was located (Hall forthcoming). During April 1993 a section was excavated through Car Dyke (Scheduled Ancient Monument Cam 3) at TL 4948 6450. This established the origins of the monument in this area as a canal which was constructed prior to mid second century AD, and provided evidence for its subsequent abandonment and re-use as a drainage ditch in the later Roman period. Further re-cutting was undertaken during the post-medieval period. The basal deposits of the canal were waterlogged, and a remnant of bank on its west side sealed a palaeosol (Macaulay & Reynolds 1994).

Area 9 was identified as providing a poor crop response by the air photo assessment (Palmer 1994, Figure 2). No cropmarks corresponding to the artefact scatter were apparent, although traces of ridge and furrow were recorded in the northern portion of the area. The field's nineteenth century enclosure boundaries follow the general alignment of the ridge and furrow.

The field was under stubble at the time of the evaluation. Thirty test pits (5m x 5m) were eventually placed over the site of the pot scatter on a 20m staggered grid. Trenches 42, 46, and 47 were excavated in order to define the extent of features revealed by the test pits. The former was also designed to test the vicinity of Roman artefact scatter Waterbeach 2.

10.2 Spoil Scanning

Fenland project fieldwalking produced a small fragment of gilded bronze (an ?Anglo-Saxon fitting, strap or brooch fragment ; Hall pers. comm.) which raised the possibility of further characterising the archaeology of this area through residual metal finds. An extraordinary number of iron nails and fragments were obtained by the very thorough metal detecting of the removed spoil. Whilst many of the nails were square sectioned and hand made, none could be dated accurately. Similarly, small scraps of bronze and lead which were recovered cannot be precisely dated. The majority of finds were clearly post-medieval and modern, however, several important finds were made.

Two third century and two fourth century AD coins were recovered from the spoil of Test Pit I, from between Test Pits AC and Z, from Test Pit AC, and from Test Pit Q, respectively. Lead spindle whorls were obtained from Test Pits D, F and X. These could be dated either to the Romano-British or to the Saxon periods, though the use of lead perhaps suggests the earlier date (J. Hines pers. comm.).

The pierced fourth century Roman coins obtained from Test Pits N (two fused coins), between X and Y, and from Test Pit H, however, are more certain reflectors of early Anglo-Saxon activity (J. Hines pers. comm.). Such coin pendants are widely associated with burials and settlement of this date.

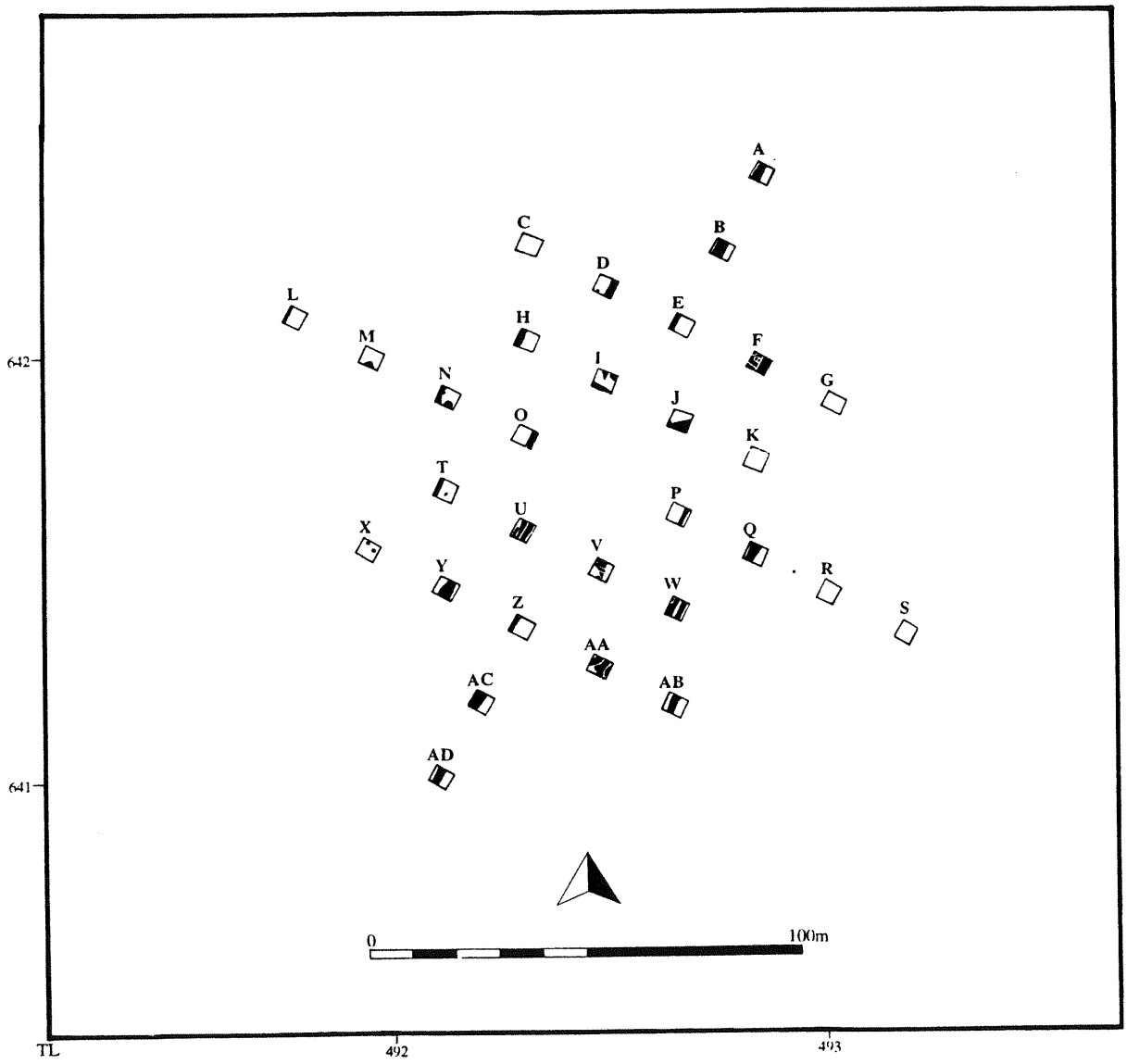

Figure 21 *Test Pits, Area 9*

10.3 Prehistoric

A small circular pit in Test Pit N **444** / (400) produced a sherd of prehistoric pottery. The largely negative result from test pitting compares well with Hall's fieldwalking results and leads us to the conclusion that there is no significant prehistoric settlement component within Area 9.

10.4 Romano-British

By coincidence the test pits of Area 9 were aligned with a series of ditches (running NNE-SSW). These features were picked up in over half of the test pits (Figure 21) . In Test Pit A a section revealed one of the features to be 0.5m deep with a wide U shaped profile. Its fill (442) produced one undated pot sherd. One sherd of first or second century AD pottery was picked up from similarly aligned ditch (522). Other elements of the Romano-British ditch system also follow this alignment: large ditches running perpendicular to the alignment were picked up in Test Pits F and I. The Romano-British boundary alignments may therefore have led subsequent field divisions.

One first or second century AD potsherd was recovered from the upper fill (518) of a ditch in Test Pit U and the primary fill of a large ditch in Test Pit I produced early Romano-British pottery. The majority of the remaining Romano-British material from this area was dated to the second or third centuries AD, although intercutting pits (**445**, **450**) in Test Pit J produced third and fourth century AD pottery (Figure 22). A small ditch **757** in Test Pit V, produced a single Roman sherd, as did pit or ditch **761** in Test Pit W.

A layer interpreted as a possible remnant of buried soil (530)/(531) in Test Pit AA produced pottery dating to the second or third century AD. No Roman features relating to Waterbeach 2 were revealed in Trench 42.

Large ditches in Test Pits F and I, produced pottery indicating Romano-British origins. Ditch **630** in Test Pit F, the first cut of a ditch re-cut several times, produced pottery dating to the second century AD. Both the penultimate and final cuts of this feature (**768** and **654**) however, produced early Anglo-Saxon pottery (see below).

A similar picture emerged in Test Pit I. The primary fill (501) of a large ditch **437** produced early Romano-British pottery. Its secondary fill (439) produced box-flue tile and pottery dating it to the third century AD or later. But again, what was initially interpreted as a final re-cut (though see below) to this feature(**504**) produced early Saxon pottery.

The above substantial features display long histories of maintenance which demonstrate their significance to the layout of Romano-British settlement within Area 9. Following the general pattern that has emerged across the development area, the apex of Romano-British activity within Area 9 may be dated to the second and third centuries AD, though continued afterwards.

The possibility that life of these features extended into the early Anglo-Saxon period, indicating the deliberate preservation and maintenance of existing ditch alignments (and therefore genuine continuity rather than abandonment and coincidental re-use) is explored further below.

TEST PIT J

SECTION 39

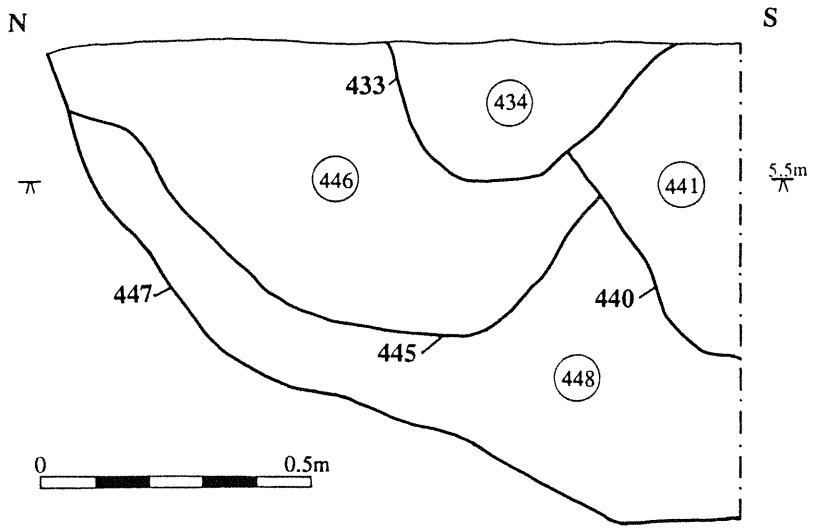

***Figure 22** Test Pit J*

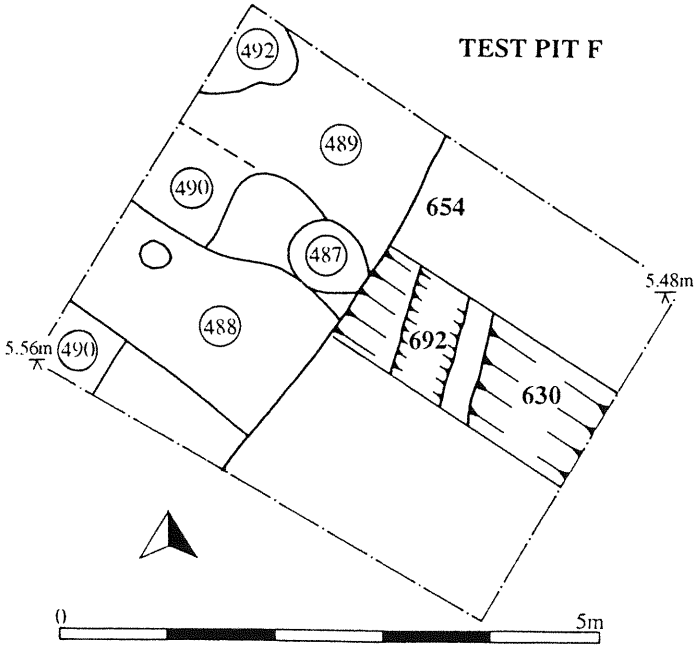

***Figure 23** Test Pit F*

10.5 Anglo-Saxon

As already mentioned above, the penultimate and final re-cuts (**768** and **654**, respectively) of the substantial ditch in Test Pit F dated to the early Saxon period (Figure 23). In Test Pit I, however, the presumed final early Saxon re-cut (**504**) of large Roman ditch **437** may be alternatively interpreted as an altogether different feature which just happened to be cut into the top of the silted ditch. The size and shape of this feature was not immediately obvious in plan (owing to the similarity between feature fills) although it was noted that a concentration of Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone was centred in the north-west corner of the test pit. And further, that a portion of cut **504** (more readily discerned at lower level within the ditch silts) appeared to arc across the line of the ditch rather than follow its edges. Given the above observations, and the flatness of the base of the re-cut **504** (which contrasts with the usual ditch profiles) the possibility that this feature represents an Sunken Feature Building must be entertained. The large quantity of animal bone found in association with the early Saxon pottery from the final fill of this feature is entirely consistent with the midden like quality of (? post-demolition) deposits often found as the final fill of early Anglo-Saxon SFBs.

The fill (436) of a small ditch **435** which cut the features described above produced a single possible Saxon pot sherd (and one Romano-British sherd). In Test Pit V the upper fill of a small pit (456) produced one sherd of probable Saxon pot.

The recognition of the Anglo-Saxon features in the test pitted area, and thus the untangling of the Anglo-Saxon component of the site from the Romano-British (if this is possible or a desirable distinction for the migration period features) suffers from two problems: the identification of residuality, and the visibility in plan of features cut into earlier features. Romano-British pottery dislodged from sealed features and incorporated into the primary fills of newly cut features is unlikely display the tell-tale signs of residuality such as abrasion and reduced sherd size. Moreover, the relative abundance of ceramics on Romano-British sites will tend to mask any subsequent post-Roman aceramic (or low frequency ceramic) activity where there is no great depth of stratigraphy or concentrations of intercutting features to provide relative chronologies. Similarly there is a growing body of evidence for the post-Roman collection ('fieldwalking') and deposition of Romano-British ceramics (local example at Hinxton Quarry: Going pers. comm.), which may further skew the dating of features.

The above concerns can be tackled in full excavation, however, through the collection of large ceramic assemblages (which will bear greater analysis than may be yet achieved) and through the implementation of an extremely sympathetic hand excavation strategy.

The cumulative evidence so far provided by prior fieldwalking, metal detector finds, and excavated features within Area 9, indicates the presence of an early Anglo-Saxon domestic site (probably a farmstead 'cluster', or hamlet-sized settlement) which occupied the site of a Romano-British settlement. There is no evidence for continuity of settlement into the middle Saxon period, although the general alignments of medieval and present fields may have originated in the Roman period.

10.6 Medieval

A possible furrow base was revealed in Test Pit Q. and it is conceivable, that some of the unexcavated NNE-SSW aligned linear features are also the bases of plough furrows. Trench 42 revealed ridge and furrow in profile and a considerable build up of soil against what was clearly an historic boundary.

10.7 Cropmark Correlation

Even the substantial ditch features revealed by test pitting at Area 9 had failed to generate cropmarks in the observed air photographs. The reasons for this cannot be easily explained.

10.8 Preservation Characteristics

The ground level, even at the 'summit' of the raised knoll, varies slightly across the area. Slight depressions have aided the preservation of the lower portions of buried soils in the vicinity of Test Pits I and J, and probably in Test Pit AA. These soils lack much of their structural integrity (ie not generally worthy of micromorphological analysis) but are nevertheless interesting for retaining trampled cultural debris in some places. If properly sampled they will aid the interpretation of site activity zones.

Elsewhere a thin subsoil (localised colluvium/ploughed in silts of medieval or later date) seals features, although the ploughzone comes straight down onto feature tops in many other areas. No upstanding bank remnants were observed. This was the first season that the field had been pan busted (D.Smart pers. comm.) and grooves of up to 5cm deep (10cm wide, spaced at approximately 1.5 m intervals) were visible in feature tops and at the top of natural in many of the Test Pits.

None of the features within Area 9 (even those of considerable depth) retain waterlogged or semi-waterlogged fills.

11 AREA 10 (Test Pits BA-BJ, Trenches 49 and 50)

11.1 Background

Area 10 is defined as the field abutting the Car Dyke and Car Dyke Road (field parcel 2700). The field is generally flat, lying at approximately 6.0m OD, but has a pronounced rounded ridge (of up to 1.5m in height) which runs roughly centrally NNE-SSW for its entire length (Figure 17).

The area was fieldwalked as part of the Fenland Project survey, and a small scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery was defined (Waterbeach 6; Hall forthcoming). With the exception of the above, no finds had been previously recorded by the SMR. The evaluation area is separated from the Car Dyke, an important Roman canal (Camb SAM 3), by a sward approximately 50m wide and by trees planted as part of a management scheme.

The area was identified by the air photo assessment as providing a poor crop response (Palmer 1994, Figure 2). No cropmarks corresponding to the artefact scatter were apparent, although traces of a ridge and furrow system were plotted. The pronounced ridge was shown to form a joint between areas of ridge and furrow. The ridge preserves the line of the 'Cambridge Way' which formerly ran to Milton, and which gave its name to the medieval field to the south of Waterbeach village (Ravensdale 1974, Figure 4, 11; 139). The line of the Cambridge Way is also charted by the parallel cropmarks which traverse Area 8 and end in the northern portion of Area 7.

The field was under stubble as set-aside at the time of the evaluation. Ten test pits (5m x 5m) were placed over the site of the pot scatter on a 20m staggered grid (Figure 24). Trenches 49 and 50 were excavated in order to further define the extent of features revealed by the test pits.

11.2 Spoil Scanning

The removed ploughsoil and subsoil was stored separately and screened for artefacts by metal detector, and through visual inspection. Detecting recovered a large quantity of iron fragments and nails, most of which could not be dated, and the usual assemblage of post-medieval and modern agricultural and personal objects. An RAF button reflects the associations of the area with Waterbeach airfield and the former Radar station at Penfold farm. A possible latch-lifter or key (? Anglo-Saxon or medieval date) from Test Pit BI and a (defaced) small Roman coin from Test Pit BH were of chief interest.

Sherds of Saxon and prehistoric pottery (whose dating could not be further refined) were obtained from the ploughsoil spoil of Test Pits BI and BC.

11.3 Prehistoric

Following the general pattern for the northern portion of the development area, evidence for prehistoric activity was generally sparse. In Test Pit BC post holes **629** , **640** yielded prehistoric or Roman, and prehistoric or Saxon potsherds, respectively. A worked flint was recovered from the surface of post hole (591). Given that other post-holes in this cluster have been dated to the Saxon period, and that some structural integrity is suggested by post-

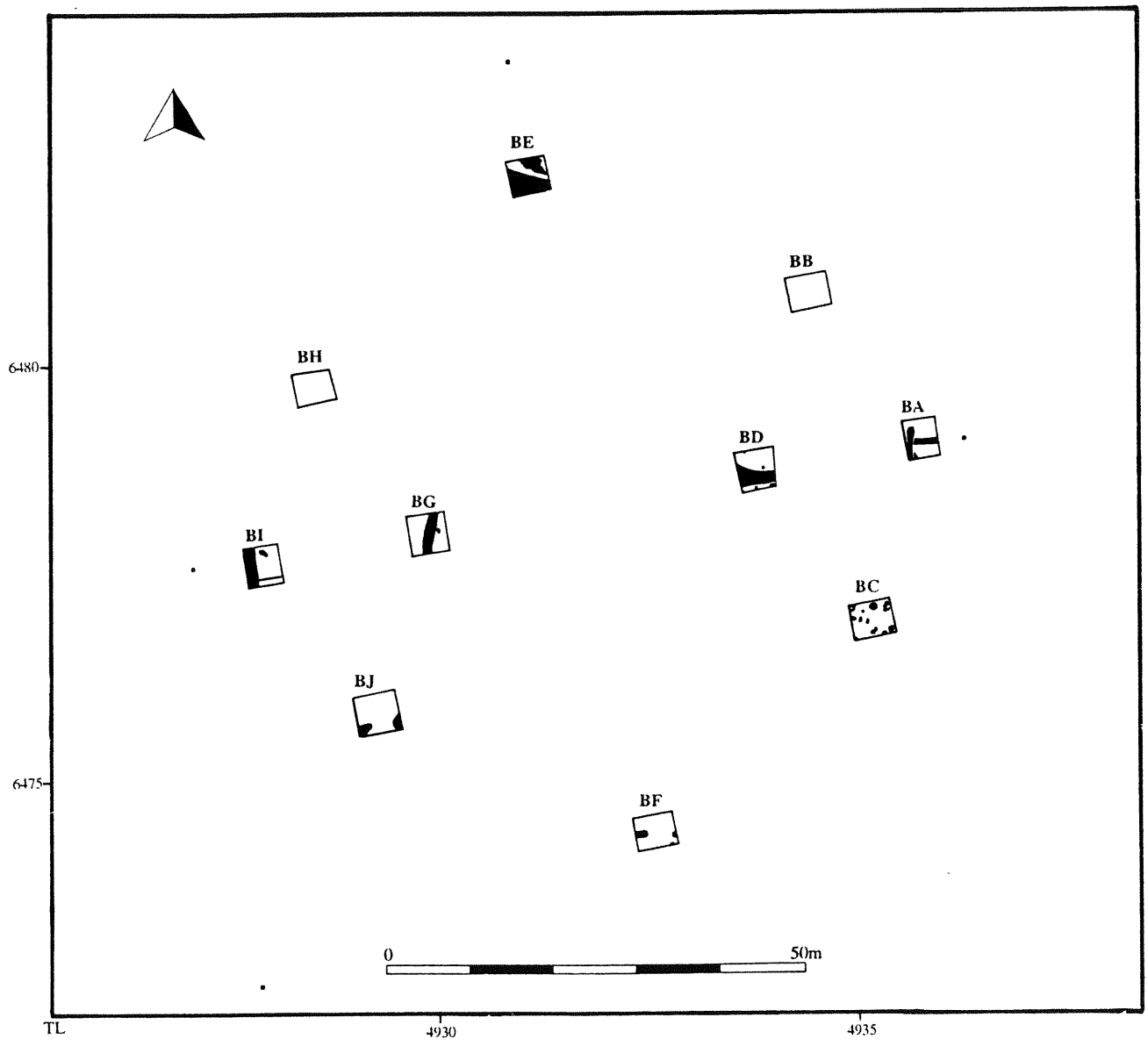

Figure 24 *Test Pits, Area 10*

hole alignments, it is likely that this material (if indeed it is prehistoric) is residual.

A large rim sherd of late Neolithic (Peterborough Ware) in good condition was obtained from cleaning the base of Test Pit BJ. This isolated find is difficult to explain by anything other than close proximity to activity of this date, though very little collaborative evidence for prehistoric activity in this area was found. It is not beyond the realms of probability that, like the fossils and Roman metal work sometimes found accompanying early Anglo-Saxon burials, its presence here is a result of Anglo-Saxon 'curiosity' collecting.

11.4 Romano-British

Evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity is mostly confined to residual material from the subsoil spoil (of Test Pits BH and BJ) where pottery of second to fourth century AD date was recovered. A single sherd of Roman pot was also noted on the surface of unexcavated ditch (596) in Test Pit BE.

Given the close proximity of this area to Romano-British settlement and industrial cores at Area 8, the presence of residual Roman pottery is unsurprising. The outlying ditches of field systems connected to these cores may also be anticipated in this area, though none were positively identified at the time of evaluation.

11.5 Anglo-Saxon

The presence of Anglo-Saxon settlement features at Area 10, first suggested by a surface pottery scatter, was confirmed. An early Saxon ditch associated with a post-hole was revealed by Test Pit BG and shallow ditch produced early Saxon pottery in Test Pit BD. Undated post holes were noted around this feature. Of greater significance, however, were the remains of structures, described below.

A post hole cluster, of roughly aligned and paired post holes was revealed in Test Pit BC. Post holes **651**, **653**, (580), 576 produced early Saxon pottery , and a possible hearth (578) also yielded early Saxon potsherds along with fired clay and burnt sandstone. A fragment of fired clay ? loomweight (with a curiously sub-square cross-section) was recovered from post hole **651**, and (584) produced a single sherd of Iron Age or early Saxon pottery.

In Test Pit BI further structural features were observed. These (**638**, **639**) seem to have provided the setting for squared posts or planks. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the fills of these features.

The remains of what has been interpreted as the north end of an earth-fast post-built hall were revealed in Trench 49 (Figure 26). The configuration of post-holes here suggests a building of c 4.8m width. Early Saxon pottery was also recovered from the overlying subsoil (719).

Test pits excavated through the medieval forend or baulk (which supported the Cambridge Way) revealed a considerable depth of soil, the lower portions of which exhibited the characteristics of well preserved buried 'A' and 'B' horizons. In Test Pit BI the relationship of the soil with early Saxon features was difficult to determine. Cuts were apparently sealed by the 'A'

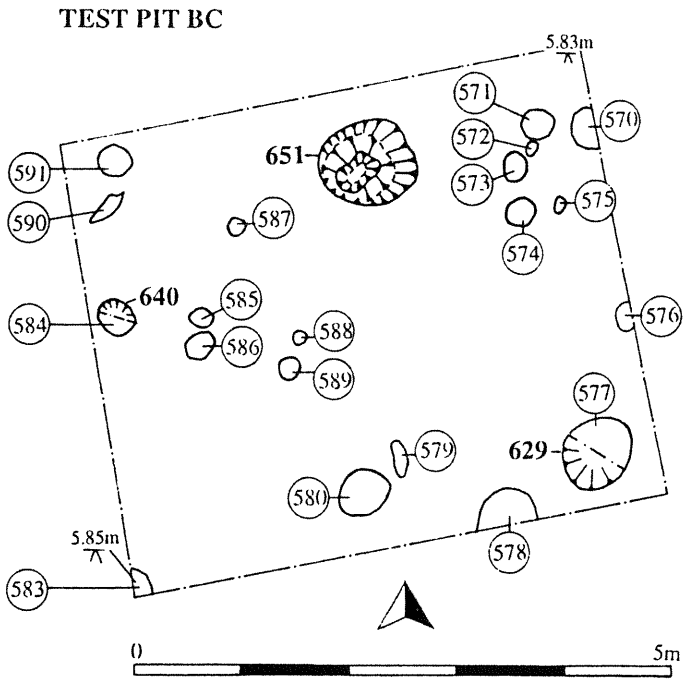

***Figure 25** Test Pit BC*

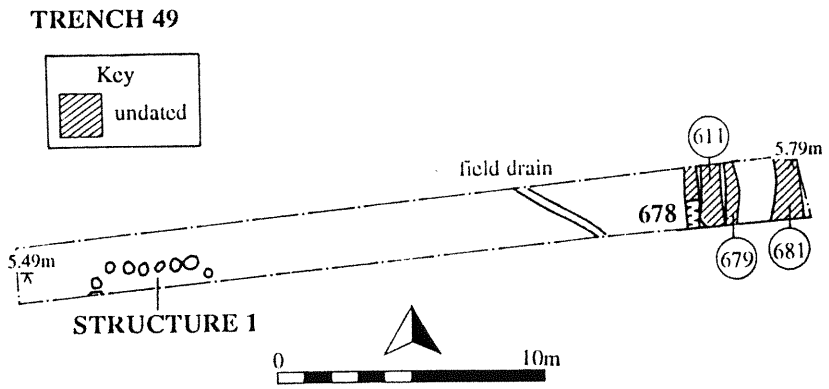

Figure 26 Trench 49

horizon, though the abundance of large unabraded pottery fragments in a horizon over ditch (627), raises questions about the post-depositional blurring of feature interfaces. Similar stratigraphy was revealed in Test Pits BJ and BI. One reason for the localised obscurity of the interface might be that the soil developed relatively unchecked around and then over existing features until its burial under the medieval ridge (trampled or deliberately laid surfaces were not identified in these test pits). Whether or not this is the case, the soil clearly contains early Anglo-Saxon cultural material which will reflect activity zones and discard patterns over this area of the settlement.

The abundance of pottery and clear structural evidence indicate the presence of early Anglo-Saxon settlement over much of this area. As at Area 9, no evidence was obtained for continuity of occupation into the middle Saxon period.

11.6 Medieval and Post-medieval

The Cambridge Way, running as a pronounced earthwork across the field, and traces of ridge and furrow running perpendicular to it, were the major representatives of medieval activity noted in Area 10. No traces of track metalling were observed. Linear feature (596) in Test Pit BE conforms in alignment to the ridge and furrow and may bear interpretation as the base of a furrow.

Further possible furrows were encountered in Trench 50, however, other features in this trench, though similarly aligned, are more narrowly spaced than the ridge and furrow and relate to post-medieval/modern drainage for orchards. One ditch contained old electric cables which were probably connected to the former Radar installation at Penfold farm.

11.7 Cropmark Correlation

With the exception of the traces of the medieval field system, described above, no significant cropmark features were mapped in this Area.

11.8 Preservation Characteristics

The preservation characteristics of Area 10 are dominated by the medieval ridge. Test Pits BG,BH, BI, BJ, revealed a depth of soil ranging from 0.9-1.10m, and established the localised preservation of a buried soil in a narrow corridor running across the field. Features directly beneath the ridge are well preserved. The ridge has clearly been ploughed down during post-medieval period and modern times, creating a spread of re-deposited plough-silt colluvium around the feature. At 30-40m away from the crest of the ridge a mere 5-10cm of this deposit lies between the modern ploughzone and Anglo-Saxon cut features. No intact surfaces, floors or upstanding features had apparently survived this far away from the ridge.

No waterlogging was apparent in features within Area 10.

12 ASSESSMENT OF SOILS AND SEDIMENTS by C.A.I. French

Introduction

Examination of the open trenches of the first phase of assessment of the application area took place on October 25, 1995. The area under archaeological assessment encompassed a range of topography on the landward edge of Milton Fen and the lower reaches of the Cam to the north of the A14 highway on the northern perimeter of Cambridge.

Observations

There were three major aspects to the landscape and archaeology which warrant further consideration.

1) The assessment area is situated at the interface zone between the gravel terraces on the western side of the present River Cam and an area of former fenland to the north, through which the Car Dyke was built. About one half of the assessment area exhibits a low-lying (< c 3m OD), gently undulating landscape, currently used for arable farming. This whole zone is dominated by thin (<50cm) alluvial deposits of organic silty clays to reduced silty clays with a well developed blocky ped structure. This upper alluvium seals a variety of freshwater derived deposits of variable depths and extent, such as calcareous silt, freshwater shell-rich silty clays and peats/organic muds ranging in preservation status from partially oxidised to well preserved. In numerous instances (e.g. Trenches 3,4,6,7, 11), field ditches ascribed to the Roman period are infilled with peaty muds and capped by alluvial tertiary fills, thus suggesting that the development of this freshwater fen/ flood plain landscape was underway by this period.

Throughout the low-lying parts of the assessment area (associated with the peat, calcareous silt and alluvial deposits), there is a high ambient ground water table. During this assessment, its level was about 1.25m below the present ground surface, and the Roman period ditches were generally completely waterlogged.

2) There are well preserved buried soils present on the margins of terrace slopes. Although the palaeosol has been subject to variable additions of alluvial fines (silt and clay), it exhibits horizons and soil development. As the terrace gravels rise westward, the in situ soil becomes progressively more truncated, especially where the cropmark archaeological record is visible. Nonetheless, the basal 10-20cm of the buried soil survives in association with the main concentrations of cropmarks (eg. Trenches 14, 29). Consequently, the upper parts of the archaeological features are not completely plough damaged, and may allow the preservation of less substantial structural evidence of the settlements, as well as zones of middening.

3) The cropmark archaeology of the Roman period is very extensive and appears to be regularly aligned at right angles to the river and fen landscape to the east. It is relatively unusual to find settlement evidence associated with its contemporary field systems and enclosures which remains relatively undisturbed by modern land-use and in an apparently integral relationship with the river valley and associated small fen basin to the east and south-east.

Potential

The coincidence of cropmark, partially buried and buried archaeology in direct association with fen and riverine deposits which still remain waterlogged provides excellent potential for a full landscape study of the assessment area. This type of investigation would entail the following types of further work:

1) detailed investigation of the pollen and molluscan sequences from the marl/peat/alluvial sequence; in addition, there may be sufficiently good conditions of waterlogging in the Roman linear features for these studies to be augmented by the study of fossil beetle assemblages;

2) a limited programme of radiocarbon dating to discern the limits of the onset and duration of peat formation;

3) the micromorphological investigation of the numerous buried soils/surfaces, especially fringing the fen basin and lower parts of the Cam terraces;

4) the combined geophysical, artefactual, micromorphological investigation of the partially truncated buried soils associated with settlement components of the Roman and Saxon period cropmark sites on the western side of the Cam valley; here the slightly better preservation of these cropmark sites would allow the possibility of discovering evidence for middening, manuring, and spatial information on use of space within and around identifiable structures (based on for example detailed resistivity survey).

All of these investigations would contribute to an environmental/landscape history of this small basin on the extreme landward edge of the southern Cambridgeshire fens, with a directly associated archaeological record. This assessment area would provide an ideal opportunity for the investigation of an extensive linear, but non-nucleated utilisation of the fen-edge in Roman and Saxon times. The proposed multi-disciplinary study would provide both detailed information on the development of Roman, Saxon and early medieval fen-edge of southern Cambridgeshire, as well as provide comparative data to the studies undertaken elsewhere in the fenland region, such as in the Peterborough area in the north of the county (Pryor, 1984; Pryor and French 1985) and the March area of central Cambridgeshire (Phillips 1970; Potter 1981).

Problems

If the proposed development is to go ahead, the local groundwater table may be affected by the excavation of the rowing lake and the maintenance of new water levels in the recreational facility. Previous (French and Taylor 1985) and current hydrological monitoring research programmes have demonstrated the draw-down affects associated with drainage and changes in groundwater tables (French in Reeve and Lane in press). The ambient groundwater table must therefore be adequately maintained at current levels during and after construction to prevent the further dewatering of this small zone of fenland and the associated Roman field system ditches and the destruction of the organic record contained within them.

13 ASSESSMENT OF MOLLUSCA by Peter Murphy

Introduction

This site was visited on 17th October 1995 to inspect evaluation trenches cut by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit along the line of this proposed rowing course. Sequences of predominantly fine clastic alluvium with some intercalated peaty/organic units were visible, overlying terrace gravels. Two sections (Trenches 6 and 11) were sampled for molluscs, which it was hoped would provide information on changing deposition environments.

Methods

Sample columns, sub-divided at vertical intervals, were collected. The vertical sampling interval was adjusted where necessary to avoid sampling over layer boundaries. Each sub sample comprised 2kg of sediment. The samples were:

Trench 6. Samples 5-15. Contexts 119-122.
Trench 11. Samples 18-26. Contexts 124-5, 327-8.

The dried sub-samples were then wet-sieved over a 0.5mm mesh. Samples from the centre of each sedimentary unit, and from a buried soil (Context 121) characterised by Dr. C. French in Trench 6 were examined. For assessment purposes, five petri dishes of retent per sample were scanned under a binocular microscope at low power, to determine the presence and abundance of shells and to evaluate their potential for environmental reconstruction. Taxa noted are listed in Table 1, with an estimate of their relative abundance.

Results (Appendix G,, Table 1)

All samples included well-preserved mollusc shells in sufficient numbers for analysis to be possible. Also noted were charophyte (stonewort) remains, wood fragments and occasional insect remains. Three ecological groups of molluscs were present.

1. Terrestrial (mainly open-habitat) and marsh taxa.

2. Freshwater slum taxa, tolerant of stagnant water subject to intermittent desiccation.

3. Obligate freshwater taxa.

Assemblage taphonomy is obviously complex in a floodplain situation. However, it is probable that many, or most, of the shells of obligate freshwater molluscs are allochthonous, and were deposited during overbank flooding from the adjacent river channel. The terrestrial/marsh and freshwater slum taxa are more likely to represent the local resident fauna.

It should be emphasised that the conclusions about depositional environments proposed below are provisional, for they are based not on counts, but on estimated abundance (with the obvious risk of subjectivity this involves). Moreover, specific identification of specimens in 'difficult' groups has not been attempted during this assessment, to minimise costs.

Trench 11 (base at 2.06m OD)

Sediments and mollusc assemblages from the section in this trench were as follows (from base to top):

1. (328) (Sample 26). Black (10YR 2/1) peaty/organic clay, with in situ tree stools rooted into the subjacent gravel. This sediment produced a rather sparse assemblage dominated by obligate freshwater taxa, in particular opercula of *Bithynia tentaculata.* A few shells of the freshwater slum species *Lymnaea truncatula* were noted. No marsh or terrestrial snails were seen. It is likely that all shells from this unit relate to freshwater flooding, rather than representing a resident fauna.

2. (327) (Sample 24). Silty medium sand. This unit produced a very diverse assemblage of obligate freshwater molluscs, with ostracods, charophyte (stonewort) oospores and thallus fragments. *L. truncatula* and Succineidae were rare and terrestrial species apparently absent. The relatively coarse sediment implies a high energy depositional environment, implying emplacement of the unit by overbank flooding, with fairly high velocity flow.

3. (125) (Sample 21). Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silt. Obligate freshwater species again occurred, though *L.truncatula* and *Anisus leucostoma* were relatively common, and a single shell of the terrestrial *Cochlicopa* sp. occurred. This seems to indicate establishment of a resident 'freshwater slum' fauna at this point, implying the presence of standing water subject to periodic (perhaps seasonal) drying. There was a continued input of shells of obligate freshwater species, suggesting continued river flooding.

4. (124) (Sample 19). Dark greyish brown silt. This closely resembled (125) in lithology, and the mollusc assemblage was similar. Terrestrial/marsh snails were slightly more common, perhaps implying somewhat dryer conditions.

Trench 6 (base at 2.88m OD)

1. (122) (Sample 15). Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silt. This sample included relatively abundant *L. truncatula* and *A. leucostoma.* The sieved fraction was stony, with angular to subrounded flints, up to 25mm, presumably derived from the subjacent gravels.

2. (121) (Samples 13, 14). Brown (10YR 4/3) brown silt (buried soil). Although obligate freshwater taxa were represented in both samples, *L. truncatula* and *A. leucostoma* were more common, with Succineidae, *Vallonia spp.* and other marsh/terrestrial species.

3. (120) (Sample 11). Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) organic silt. This sample produced a broadly similar assemblage to 121, though with a wider range of terrestrial/marsh species. *Carychium* spp, Vallonia spp and the

Trichia hispida group were notably common. Formation in semi-terrestrial conditions appears to be indicated.

4. (119) (Sample 7). Brown (lOYR 4/3) silty clay. The predominance of obligate freshwater molluscs suggests renewed overbank flooding.

General preliminary conclusions.

The difference between the two column samples is explicable in terms of their elevations. In Trench 11, with its base at 2.06m OD, freshwater taxa were, overall, common and land snails rare. This location is thought to have been subject to repeated flooding. Shells of freshwater molluscs also occurred in samples from Trench 6, but generally at lower frequencies, except in the topmost sample, 7 (119). The base of this trench was some 80cm higher than in Trench 11 (2.88m OD), and this permitted soil development within the alluvial sequence. Within the buried soil, (121), marsh and open-country terrestrial snails were moderately frequent, and *L. truncatula* and *A. leucostoma* common, pointing to the development of a soil in damp to seasonally wet, open conditions. Terrestrial/marsh species were, in fact, still more common in the overlying unit, 120, which seems to have been emplaced in broadly similar conditions.

In terms of possible land-use, work by Robinson (1988) on the Thames floodplain suggests that meadow and pasture may be differentiated from the relative proportions of terrestrial and 'amphibious' species. Provisionally it seems that the buried soil at this site is likely to have formed under a pasture regime.

Recommendations for further work

At this stage specific recommendations will not be made, for further work at the site may result in the exposure of more informative sections. If not, the preliminary conclusions drawn from assessment of these sample columns will require substantiation by counting.

14 ASSESSMENT OF PALYNOMORPH ABUNDANCE AND PRESERVATION by Patricia E.J. Wiltshire

Introduction and Methods

Seven individual bagged samples were received for assessment of abundance and preservation of palynomorphs. These samples were obtained from Trenches 6, 11, 1 3 and 29 and from a variety of contexts (see accompanying table).

Standard methods were used for concentration of palynomorphs and ten standard traverses were examined in each prepared slide. Abundance and preservation were estimated on a five point scale where 1 = poor and 5 = excellent.

Results and Discussion

The results are shown on the table below

Trench Number	Context	Abundance	Preservation
TR6	(120)/16	3	4
TR6	17	1	*
TRll	(123)/27	2	4
TRll	(328)/28	1	*
TRl3	(215)/29	2	4
TR13	(170)/30	2	4
TR29	(247)/40	1	*

1 = poor
5 = excellent
* = too sparse to warrant analysis

In those samples where pollen abundance was very low, the pollen encountered was well preserved. This may simply indicate a very rapidly accumulating sediment. However, it may also be a case of differential decay. Without further work, it is difficult to evaluate these samples. In any event, analysis of such sediment is very time-consuming and could be costly.

The sample (16) from Trench 6 (Context (120)) contained moderately abundant palynomorphs and would be suitable for analysis. The samples from Trench 11 (Context (123) sample 27) and Trench 13 (Contexts (215), sample 29 and (170), sample 30) might also yield valuable information if larger samples of sediment were prepared.

Although no definitive analysis was carried out, it was clear that the pollen assemblages were dominated by plants of open habitat, particularly Poaceae (grasses). However, some grains of *Quercus* (oak), *Alnus* (alder), and *Corylus avellana* type (c.f. hazel) were found, indicating that there were trees in the catchment.

Without further information on the nature of the contexts from which the samples were taken, it is impossible to give detailed advice on a sampling strategy for analysis. However, if the polleniferous contexts represented layers of sediment, it might be possible to show temporal environmental change.

15 ASSESSMENT OF LITHICS by Tim Reynolds

A combination of surface collection and evaluation test pitting and trenching has recovered a small collection of struck flint, comprising 84 pieces with a total weight of 773 grammes. Within this collection, 20 pieces were burnt (weighing 314 grammes).

The majority of pieces came from investigated contexts (48 as against 36 from the surface) but the surface collection has the greater weight: 447g as against 326g. There is little diagnostic material, the tool assemblage includes three scrapers and a utilised blade. There are three cores, two for the production of bladelets and one informal core. A late Mesolithic/Neolithic date may be suggested for the cores, utilised blade and one of the scrapers but clear dating evidence is absent. Functional and activity-based interpretations cannot be reasonably made on this collection and raw material variability is not marked, local gravel sources are likely to have provided the source of the material.

The excavated material is distributed thus:

	Weight	No of Pieces	Burnt Weight	No of Burnt Pieces
Surface	447g	36	160g	9
Excavated	326	48	154	11

Analysis of material by context or of distribution is not appropriate for such a small assemblage. The tools recovered are as follows:

Tool type	Context
Utilised blade	Trl, (109), small find 15
Long Scraper	(1000)= ploughsoil 'Near Tr39'
Round Scraper	M60
Side Scraper	TP I, (436)

The bladelet cores came from test pits C20 and D60, the informal core came from (1000) near Trench 31.

The above collection is small and derives from a number of different contexts, no clear behavioural patterning can be identified within it and no single context has a sufficient sample size to warrant further work. Few formal tool types are present and no pieces can be assigned to specific periods on the basis of morphology, typology or technology with confidence. There do seem to be humanly struck flints in the collection but these would appear to be residual, derived from a background scatter of material in the vicinity. The potential for analysis of this collection is poor. It must be noted, however, that should further work be undertaken there will be a need to review this situation, larger assemblages from defined contexts would be important in understanding the prehistoric clearance and exploitation of the Cam lower terrace.

16 ASSESSMENT OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY by David Knight

Introduction

A total of 113 pottery sherds and a fragment of fired clay, derived from excavations and fieldwalking, was submitted for assessment (Tables 1-2). This included all of the sherds listed by D. Hall as of 'Iron Age' or 'Belgic' date (Hall, 1995), with the exception of a 'Belgic' rouletted sherd from Context (710) which could not be located (ibid., 8), plus some additional material. The material which was submitted for assessment was also examined previously by C.J.Going (Going, 1995).

The pottery was laid out by context, and each sherd was examined with the following objectives in mind:

1) The provision of spot dates for each context. Two tables have been prepared, listing all of the pottery which was submitted from the site, with an assessment of the probable date range of the material from each context and from fieldwalking (Appendix C). Considerable difficulties attend the differentiation of handmade Iron Age and Saxon vessels, many of which were manufactured from a comparable quartz-gritted fabric, and it should be emphasised that many sherds cannot be dated confidently to one or other of these periods. Dating is especially problematic for the 18 sherds obtained during fieldwalking, most of which could date either from the prehistoric or Saxon periods (Table 2).

2. A statement on the importance and potential of the prehistoric pottery for further analysis.

Dating of contexts

The evidence for dating is summarised by context in tabular form below. A small number of sherds may be dated securely to the prehistoric period on the grounds of their diagnostic form and/or surface treatment. However, similarities between the fabrics of prehistoric and Saxon vessels, many of which were manufactured from a sandy fabric with frequent quartz inclusions, render dating of the majority of sherds extremely difficult. A programme of thin sectioning is recommended to characterise accurately the fabrics of typologically diagnostic vessels, and following this it may be possible to distinguish more clearly between vessels of the Saxon and prehistoric periods. For the present, however, it must suffice to distinguish those prehistoric vessels which are typologically distinct and sherds with fabrics which appear, from this small sample of material, not to be replicated in vessels which are undoubtedly of post-Iron Age date (listed in Tables 1 and 2). A detailed fabric classification is beyond the scope of this assessment, but variations in the character of the predominant inclusions within the clay matrix of typologically diagnostic prehistoric vessels suggest a fairly wide variety of fabrics, incorporating variable quantities of mainly quartz, flint and calcareous inclusions (predominantly shell). In contrast to the Saxon fabrics, none of the typologically diagnostic prehistoric sherds appears to have been tempered with igneous material, but detailed microscopic examination and selective thin sectioning would be required to test this and to establish a definitive fabric classification.

Statement of potential

A wide chronological range of types is represented, spanning the period from the late Neolithic (Peterborough ware sherd from Context 1000, Test-Pit BJ), Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age (carinated vessel with finger-nail incisions on lip from Trench 29, Context (326); possible carinated girth sherd from Trench 29, Context (429) and the Late Iron Age (most significantly, a wheelmade rim fragment from Field 9034/B40). No sherds of undoubted Middle Iron Age date have been identified. The collection of prehistoric pottery is unremarkable, with the exception of the Peterborough Ware sherd from Test-Pit BJ and the decorated LBA/EIA rim from Trench 29. It does, however, provide useful evidence that some elements of the cropmark complex and some features not visible as cropmarks may originate in the prehistoric period. The most significant find is the Peterborough Ware sherd from Test-Pit BJ. This is large and unabraded, and although derived from a cleaning layer (1000) its condition suggests that it could be derived from a contemporary feature. Most significantly perhaps, the sherd was obtained from an area devoid of cropmarks, suggesting a wider spread of prehistoric activity than could be deduced from consideration of the air photographic data alone. The fragment of LBA/EIA carinated vessel from Context (326) may derive from a pit of this period, and hence could provide important evidence from the site for domestic activity in the earlier first millennium BC - along perhaps with a possible carinated girth fragment from Trench 29, Context (429) (Table 1). Settlement of this period would also be of considerable interest regionally, and hence further excavation could profitably concentrate on this area.

It is worth noting finally the hint of significant chronological differences in fabric type, and hence in the choice of raw material sources, from the Late Neolithic to the Late Iron Age periods. The Peterborough Ware sherd is distinguished from most of the pottery by the presence of frequent coarse milky quartz inclusions, combined with flint. The LBA/EIA carinated vessel and seven plain body sherds, one of which might also derive from a vessel with a pronounced girth angle (Context 429), were manufactured from a comparable fabric. Together, these sherds might signify an early fabric type, employed perhaps both in the Late Neolithic and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods.

Shell, by contrast, might have been employed mainly for later pottery, given that the only typologically diagnostic pieces to contain calcareous inclusions may be attributed to the Late Iron Age or later (notably, a LIA rim fragment recorded during fieldwalking of Field 9034). The argument is extremely tenuous, and a considerably larger assemblage, combined with petrological analysis to determine precisely the range of inclusions and the possible sources of raw materials, would be needed to establish whether clay/temper sources had genuinely changed over time. It is hoped also that a programme of thin sectioning would help resolve the vexed question of the differentiation of prehistoric and Saxon fabrics.

17 ASSESSMENT OF ROMAN POTTERY by C.J. Going

Introduction

The assemblage of pottery (38.337 Kg) submitted for examination comprised both excavated and fieldwalked material. No prior sorting had taken place. The primary purpose of examining this material was to provide the excavators with dating data and to make an assessment of the kiln material and its potential. The assemblage was treated in two ways. The excavated material was briefly 'indexed' for spot dating purposes, the reasons for the dating advanced being set forth in an abbreviated form together with records of the most significant material, including intrinsically interesting pottery. The fieldwalked material was scanned for intrinsically important pieces and also for material which might materially alter any of the conclusions advanced in the sections below. This paper archive will be lodged with the excavation archive.

General observations on site dating (see Appendix D)

The context spot dates spanned the prehistoric to post-Mediaeval periods. There was a little prehistoric material, mostly flint gritted wares of the LBA-E/MIA, very little material of the later pre-Roman Iron age, and comparatively little material of the first century AD. Most of the material appeared to be datable to the second-early third centuries AD. There was comparatively little material of the later Roman period, some important post Roman pottery, and a few contexts were assignable to the Mediaeval and post Mediaeval periods. This discussion however, is devoted to the Roman pottery and the Roman period.

Contexts datable to the later Roman period, particularly after c AD 250/60 -i.e., to the 'upswing' period of the later third century and to the fourth century were rather in the minority, While dates were given which spanned the period only three contexts (385, 446, & 457) were clearly assignable to the fourth century. This lack was evident in the ceramics as a whole although we have only 'soft indicators': certainly there were rather few vessels which were stylistically datable to after c AD 240150; for example, the flange-rimmed bowl, (the Cam f 305B), which is introduced in its fully flange-rimmed form after about AD 260 (Going 1987, form B6), is only present in a very few contexts (e.g. (712) in Trench 44, and (598) in Nene Valley colour-coat), and in the fieldwalked material (the only examples noted from K80, B60, and S20)

Perhaps of greatest importance was the lack of Oxfordshire red ware (only noted in context (446)), and shell-tempered wares. Although there is the possibility of a locally earlier distribution from the very poorly-known Harston kilns (Pullinger and Young 1980) Oxfordshire oxidised slipped wares appear only to be widely distributed in East Anglia after c AD 350 and their lack here is probably chronologically significant (Going 1987, 3). Late shell-tempered pottery, again an indicator of post mid fourth century activity in Essex is also, perhaps significantly, absent (Going 1987, 10). Some oxidised Hadham wares were noted, however. These probably belong to the later third or fourth century date. Late thick white Nene valley colour coats, and Nene valley wares with thick painted colour coated decoration were not particularly common on the site. Again, these are an indicator.

While it must be borne in mind that the date when activity occurred on a site, and the date of its ceramics - particularly fieldwalked assemblages - are seldom as closely related as one would wish (Going 1992), the general lack of obviously later Roman pottery compared with, say, Arbury (Going in prep), and even parts of Cambridge (pers observation), make it clear that in the later third fourth centuries AD the site (or at least those parts sampled) either went aceramic, or did not receive discarded pottery from those areas of the site where occupation *did* continue.

General observations on the assemblage

The range of material

The bulk of the material comprised grey-wares and of these the overwhelming majority were probably produced in Horningsea type kilns. More distant provincial sources identified included the Nene valley, which produced most of the fine wares noted. Other sources include Hadham, Oxfordshire, and possibly Harrold in Bedfordshire, from which the few shell tempered sherds noted may have come. Continental imports were vanishingly rare: there were only two sherds of Samian noted, and no amphora sherds. In this the site is typical of rural assemblages from the Cambridgeshire-Essex region and no doubt elsewhere as well.

Vessel forms, affinities and links

Vessel forms reflect the essentially utilitarian nature of the ceramics assemblage. The majority (over 60% by sherd count) were jars of one kind or another, with open forms such as dishes forming the bulk of the remainder. Table wares such as flagons and beakers were uncommon while specialist wares such as mortaria were barely present. Late Roman flagon forms were notable by their absence

Implications for the Horningsea pottery industry

Defining the production area

The site has important implications for the Horningsea ceramics industry (Walker 1912; Hughes 1902; Swan 1984; Evans 1991).

The identification here of two pottery kilns brings the total number of kilns which can be classed as producing Horningsea type wares to ten and the total on the west bank of the river Cam to four (including two from nearby Milton: for the others see the summary in Swan 1984, 233). Those east of the river Cam all lie within about 1 km of our site and are clearly part of the same complex (for a location map see Evans 1991, fig 1).

If the potteries were located close to sources of Gault clay the rather greater outcrops to the west of the river Cam suggests that the known kilns may be easterly outliers of a concentration west of the river Cam (Jones 1938, fig 4, 12-3).It seems clear that the term 'Horningsea wares' should be used to embrace the products emanating from all of the kilns flanking the Cam for a distance of c 7-8 Km or so downstream from Cambridge.

Horningsea Ware: Distribution and products

No distribution map of Horningsea products has been published but following Dr Evans, the highly characteristic bifid-rimmed storage jar has been selected as delineating the industries' reach. This would seem to extend southwards into north Essex (it is found at Great Chesterford, westwards as far as Godmanchester, northwards towards Wisbech, and eastwards towards Haverhill. The production centre appears to lie towards the southern end of its catchment area, which embraces much of the Fens. To the North-west it is hemmed in by the Nene valley potteries and on the south by the Hadham industries and (probably more severely) by the Harston kilns (Swan 1984, 232-3). On its eastern side the Nar valley industries probably checked expansion into Norfolk. As befits an industry covering the Fens, its siting close to the Car Dyke indicates that water transportation was of major significance in the distribution of its products.

The staple products of the Horningsea kilns - the combed storage jar, the jar and the dish, probably closely reflect the ceramics wants of their principal market - the Cambridge area and the Fens. There appears never to have been a fine ware component to the industry. After the disappearance of the War Ditches production site the region was reliant for fine wares on the Nene valley or other more distant regional producers than any indigenous production centre save for the enigmatic Harston site, itself significantly sited south of Cambridge.

Dating

Evans' recent (1991) survey of the Horningsea pottery (or at least the data recovered from the material in the Museum of Arch and Anth) may be taken as superseding B Hartley on the topic. In the light of data from Denny Abbey and nearby Teversham (Millett 1980; Pullinger and Young 1991) Evans concluded that pottery production spanned the later first-early second centuries AD to possibly as late as the mid-fourth. However, while the presence of stylistically fourth century forms in Nene valley colour-coats certainly indicates activity there in the fourth this is not necessarily production evidence. While the existence of flange-rimmed bowls might indicate post c AD240 production (e.g. fig 5.52, the example cited although this looks more like the transitional Cam f. 305A). Kiln waste from the kilns sampled, include the large storage jar types (Evans 1991, fig 2.1-9, fig 3.10-11), narrow necked jars fir 3.12-14), and plain rimmed dishes (e.g. Fig 5.66-8). The storage jar types are decorated with combing and also combed internally. The lower walls may be lightly fettled (cf. Evans 1991 fig 6.76) - a characteristic quirk of the potteries. The dating evidence thus far available suggests that these kilns fall into the second/early third centuries AD rather than later.

I have commented elsewhere on the fact that the major ceramics industries in the east of the country (with the exception of Hadham and the Nene valley) Colchester, and various East Anglian sites appear not to have weathered the recession of the third century. Horningsea is perhaps another such. The locality appears never to have generated (or perhaps more importantly, retained) the wealth required to sustain a fineware industry of its own. Certainly the small-fine-ware production centre at the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton (Mckenny Hughes 1904) does not appears to have outlasted the second century and the enigmatic production site at Harston, while it attempted to manufacture fine wares in the later Roman period appears not to have made major local inroads. However in default of good quantified

data from anywhere in the region it is extremely difficult to make statements.

Conclusions

The value of this assemblage is twofold: firstly and most obviously it its important as a means of dating. If we use to the full its 'soft markers', -the presence and absence of certain fabrics and forms- we may throw useful light on the development of a tract of land which suffered considerable turbulence in the later Roman period (Bartholomew 1984, Thompson 1992; Going in prep). To a lesser degree the assemblage can also be used to gauge the wealth of the community which discarded it: the lack of Samian, amphorae and other fine or table wares indicate that the community from which it came was comparatively impoverished

To the Roman ceramacist however, the principal interest of the assemblage is for the light it throws on the development of an industry which has been little studied since the work of McKenny Hughes (1902) and F G Walker (1912).

New data from production sites, coupled with the elucidation of a sequence of groups from Cambridge itself (e.g. the recently excavated Hadrianic-early Antonine group from New Hall F2: Going and Woods in prep), together with quantified and distributional data from other sites in the area should rapidly improve our knowledge of the dating of Horningsea types and the contexts in which it may be found. This accords with the suggestion in Fulford and Huddleston (1991, 34, that the south of the county requires a modern synthesis of the ceramics current, and this should take production evidence into account.

While this report principally concerns itself with the potential of the Romano-British material the importance of the post Roman assemblage must be mentioned here. The isolation of post-Roman, probably early Saxon, pottery from contexts (259), (261), (355), (357), (365), (437-8), (475), (486), (569), (580), (584), (592), (598), (636-7), (656), (704), (710), (719) and the discovery of a hall-like post hole structure is a most useful discovery and indicates that a full excavation of parts of this site might be extremely productive.

Statement of potential

It is clear from the evidence excavated and scrutinised for the purposes of this report that this tract of land contains two Horningsea ware kilns of second-third century date and it is almost certain that further work (particularly geophysical survey) would reveal more kiln sites. This ought to be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Data from these kilns adds materially to what is known of the Horningsea industry. It is clear that this development represents the only opportunity likely to arise to explore this regionally important ceramics industry in the foreseeable future.

There is considerable uncertainty about the development of the countryside in the region in the later Roman era. The conventional, (one might say Oxford-based view) is that later Roman Britain was an island of prosperity in an Empire otherwise beset with turmoil. However some archaeologists

(Reece, Going) are isolating numismatic and ceramic problems with this interpretation and others are finding problems with the textual data (Bartholomew 1984, Thompson 1991). This site affords an important opportunity to put some of these ideas to the test.

18 ASSESSMENT OF ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY by David Hall

Provenance and Quantity

The pottery examined came from features in the area of two surface scatters of pottery and bone, discovered at Waterbeach during the Fenland Survey (Hall 1996, sites Waterbeach 3 and 6). The submitted collection, contains Roman (60 sherds plus '2 bags', see below) and Saxon material (112 sherds). There are a few probable Iron Age sherds (23), many of them of late date, falling into the first century AD. There are also 21 sherds from the seventeenth century, presumably deriving from ploughsoil and of no significance.

Dating

Dating guides for hand-made Saxon pottery are few. Often early material has body walls thick in proportion to the vessel size and some have decoration. Middle Saxon pottery is usually thinner without decoration, and, in East Anglia, wheel-made Ipswich Ware would be expected in a sherd group of any size.

The Waterbeach group has no Ipswich Wares, few thin sherds and some decorated, and so falls into the early period. It is likely that the group is very early since some of the decoration consists of raised bosses and ribs familiar on urns from cremation cemeteries.

Another early indicator is the occurrence of Roman and Saxon sherds in the same contexts (437, 438, 486, 598, 656, 710 and 712). While residual Roman sherds can be expected on a multi-period site, none of the sherds appears to be residual and there is likely to be contemporary usage, suggesting that some of the Saxon material dates from the late fourth century. The late date of the Roman sherds in these particular contexts was confirmed by C. Going. A date of fourth-sixth century seems likely for the group as a whole.

Fabric and forms

Where there are several bags from a particular context they are distinguished by Roman numerals (which have been added to the bags).

Roman

Roman pottery from the site has been fully assessed by C. Going, but some of the contexts studied contained Roman and Saxon pottery. In these, Roman material has been grouped into two types 'Horningsea Ware' and 'other' (H and O in Appendix E, Table 1). The H type (60 counted sherds plus 2 bags with a large sherd number, only checked for absence of Saxon material) includes all reduced wares those of true Horningsea type. Most of the sherds are probably 'Waterbeach type' since a kiln was found during the current work. Many of the sherds are kiln-related being grossly overfired either from a kiln accident or by re-use as part of kiln-wall fabric. Contexts (438) and (470) IV produced samples of kiln wall. Roman 'other' (10 sherds) includes all other types such as Hadham and late shelly- and colour-coated wares of the 4th century (contexts 438 III, 470 V, 475, 486, 598).

Saxon material

The Saxon pottery (112 sherds) has been grouped into two classes, 'black ' (30 sherds) and 'buff' (76 sherds), with decorated sherds (6) being isolated out. The decorated sherds all fall into the black type. The majority of the sherds (69 percent) are in a buff-coloured fabric. Surface colours vary from cream through buff to brown and occasionally red. The fabric is often dark below the surface and contains crushed igneous rock and a fair amount of find sand and glistening particles Some sherds have low sand and igneous content with a little grass tempering.

The 'black' classification (27 percent) includes some black examples of the fabric otherwise classified above as 'buff', as well as very hard gritty sherds with a high concentration of crushed igneous rock and fine glistening particles, familiar throughout the East Midlands and East Anglia as 'Saxon'. Generally this fabric has more sand and igneous content than the 'buff' material. Many of the 'black' sherds are thick, but a few of them are thin.

A few sherds contain considerable amounts of white grits (flint or oolite) as well as crushed igneous rock. The same fabric occurs at nearby Willingham, Cambs, where it formed 24 percent of a small collection (29 sherds). The fabric can be seen as an early pre-cursor of medeival pottery which characteristically contains white grits. The Waterbeach examples have grits up to 3mm diameter.

The vessel forms are globular with very slightly made bases (in both buff and black wares). Rims occur in both fabrics, being roughly formed, and many are from large vessels made with body walls up to 1.6cm thick. The size of the vessels is one of the remarkable features of this collection and it seems possible that imitations were being made of the large Roman Horningsea vessels. The buff finish is similar to some of the Roman wares, presumably from use of the same clay.

The decorated sherds (6), all occurring in the black fabric, are described below.

Context

243 Small sherd with zig-zag decoration lcm high, lcm wide base, with five horizontal lines scored underneath, making a 0.7cm wide band in all. Similar to Myers 1977, fig. 96, 904 from Lackford, Suffolk, and Hills et al 1987 fig. 24, 2410, from Spong Hill, Norfolk

437 A presumed Roman sherd has horizontal rills of 3 and 2 lines; if Saxon it copies Roman decoration.

438I Nearly complete boss, oval 5cm by 2cm, raised about 0.5cm. One small stamp with a cross on the boss, three and a possible fourth stamp over the top (probably there was a complete circle of stamps around the boss). Similar to Spong Hill example, Hills et al 1997, fig. 18, 2349.

Another decorated sherd in this context has two rows of horizontal incised dots, 0.5cm, over three lines, 0.6cm in all, over two more lines of dots, 0.6cm, that were made with a stamp of four dots. Overall width of decoration, 3cm band. Compare Myres 1977, fig 94, 244 from Girton, Cambs.

438II Decorated sherd with an impressed line 0.4cm wide, probably near the (absent) rim.

486III Small sherd with a raised rib 0.6cm long. Similar to cremation urns from S, John's College, Cambridge, 5th-6th century (on display in Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology).

656 A boss in almost a Roman fabric, dark with buff exterior,

Primary sources and documentation

The primary sources are material excavated at Waterbeach in 1926 (Lethbridge 1927) and from Saxon cemeteries around Cambridge (vessel forms and decoration published by Myers (1977), material at Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, as well as more recently discovered material in the Cambridge region. This comes from Waterbeach (Hall in Mortimer 1996), Willingham, Madingley (both reports by Hall for Cambridge Archaeological Unit, 1995 and 1991), Hinxton (Wilkinson and Young 1995), Pampisford (Young 1995) and elsewhere.

Farther afield, comparative material is found in Lincolnshire (Hills et al 1987, Vince and Young 1991-3), Milton Keynes (Blinkhorn 1993), Norfolk (Hills et al 1987) and elsewhere

Data collection

Each context (or part of a context if there was more than one bag) had the sherds separated into period and fabric types. Where there are several bags from a particular context they are distinguished by Roman numerals (which have been added to the bags). All Saxon sherds have been counted and commented upon; sherds of other periods are noted as necessary. The numbers of sherds are given in Table 1 (Appendix E), with notes at the end of each entry.

The information has not yet been put on a data-base, pending the recommendations currently being considered by the Medieval Pottery Research Group. Funding limitations prevented detailed descriptions of each sherd and individual weights being given.

Table 2 (Appendix E) gives the date of each context in convenient form.

Further work and potential

The material should be analysed to help assess the nature and date of the settlement and the range of its outside contacts. Drawings should be published of all the decorated sherds, rims and bases.

The collection needs further breakdown into fabric categories which should be sampled for thin-section analysis (it is hoped that English Heritage will support this). It will then be possible to assess the group in the regional programme currently being undertaken for Eastern England by Vince and Young

New research is required to establish the source of the igneous, sandstone and other inclusions in the fabrics. It is possible that glacial erratics and Roman quernstones were used as well as igneous material from Charnwood Forest, Leics.

The Waterbeach Saxon material is very remarkable and of considerable local and regional importance. Locally it needs relating to the other material from Waterbeach found in 1926 at TL 4909 6533 (Lethbridge 1927) and recently (Mortimer 1996).

Of particular interest is the relation of the unusually large vessels to other Saxon material occurring in large forms, such as Ipswich Ware and Thetford Ware. Thetford type ware (late Saxon) was made at Norwich and at Grimston (Norfolk) and perhaps was also made in the Cambridge region, developing from an early tradition at Waterbeach.

The Waterbeach material lies on gravel terrace, as has so often been found elsewhere in the country, for instance, in the Welland and Thames Valleys. Substantial exposures of gravels are not available near Cambridge, being buried under the fen, and so the Waterbeach sites are important for the area.

The pottery is of domestic origin and derives from features and structures preserved on the site. Often on early sites all remains are ploughed out. The location of the site away from a villa is interesting, implying it was a community rather than a few people visiting Roman ruins. The interaction between the Roman and early Saxon periods is available for study at Waterbeach, undisturbed by any later remains, which is a rare and unusual occurrence. The Waterbeach Saxon remains are therefore of regional and probably national importance. They should either be studied completely, in relation to the other Waterbeach Saxon remains, or preserved. Partial excavation and partial burial would not be a satisfactory method of dealing with such an important site.

Summary of recommendations

i) To establish a rim and form type for the area by drawing all rims and decorated sherds.

ii) Make thin-sections of a sample of the fabrics to identify the likely sources of inclusions.

iii) Relate to local and regional sites

19 ASSESSMENT OF CHARRED AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS by D.E.Schlee

Introduction

A total of nine bulk soil samples (of 10 to 20 litres) were taken during the evaluation, in order to assess the quality of preservation of charred and waterlogged plant remains in different parts of the evaluation area, and their potential to produce useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methods

Most of the samples were processed using a standard Sirraf-type flotation machine for the recovery of charred plant remains. With sample 4, which contained waterlogged material, sub samples were taken, dispersed in water, and a brief scan of the organic material contained within was made using a X10 magnification lens.

Results

Sample 4 (context 247) Trench 29

Waterlogged twigs, leaf stems, roots, and weed seeds were abundant in this sample. In addition there were cereal stem nodes. This suggests that crop processing, perhaps threshing waste, was discarded in the ditch along with other domestic rubbish including leather. Alternatively the straw nodes may be the remains of fodder or bedding for livestock. Although no insect remains were visible in the sample, further analysis may produce evidence that may establish the source of this straw. The proximity of this ditch to the settlement site and to the fen edge suggests that both domestic waste including plant remains, and flora associated with the local environment will be represented in further analysis of this sample.

Sample 31 (context 194) Trench 14

A 10 litre sample from the fill ditch of ditch **172** containing large quantities of charred plant matter including cereal grain visible during excavation was processed. From pottery fragments within the fill (194), the feature was dated to the Roman period (second century AD or later). Other features in the vicinity also contained fills that appeared to be visibly rich in charred plant material.

This sample was very rich in charred cereals including barley, spelt, emmer?, bread wheats and oats. Cereal chaff fragments included spikelet forks, rachis fragments, and glume bases. Also present were a variety of wild grasses and weed seeds. The range of macrofossils is indicative of secondary crop processing, where cereal grain is separated from weeds and chaff using a sieve, prior to further processing (such as grinding to produce flour) in a domestic context. The resulting waste material has then been disposed of by burning before being dumped in the ditch feature. Alternatively, the assemblage may represent grain that has been accidentally burnt during the drying of cereals in a corn drier, prior to storage, but before secondary processing. The absence of significant quantities of wood charcoal in the assemblage may support this interpretation.

Preservation of this sample is generally good. It can safely be assumed that other features in the locality that were not sampled during the assessment, but were also visibly rich in charred plant remains, will be equally productive. As well as enabling detailed interpretation of the domestic activities associated with the archaeological features in the vicinity, the range of weed seeds growing in association with the crops should provide useful information on the conditions and agricultural practices under which cereals were being cultivated in the local fields on the fen edge.

Although not assessed in any detail, the organic rich clays and basal peat encountered in Trenches 11 and 18 are likely to contain waterlogged plant macrofossils in addition to the visible wood fragments etc.

The remaining samples were all taken from features in a series of test pits intended to locate and define the nature of two pot scatters believed to be Saxon settlement sites.

Sample 33 (context 400) Test pit N

20 litres of soil were processed from the fill of a cut feature. Apart from a small quantity of charred wood fragments, no other charred plant remains were recovered. A single small flint flake was recovered from the heavy residue.

Sample 34 (context 456) Test pit V

A 20 litre sample was taken from the fill of a possible Saxon pit. A small quantity of charred wood fragments and fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Sample 41 (context 577) Test pit BC

A 20 litre sample was taken from the fill of pit/posthole **629**. 7 poorly preserved wheat grains and a moderate quantity of wood charcoal was recovered along with fragments of animal bone and two small flint flakes.

Sample 48 (context 636) Test pit BI

A 10 litre sample was taken from the fill of a possible beam slot **638**. One barley grain and a moderate quantity of charcoal were recovered.

Sample 49 (context 637) Test pit BI

A 10 litre sample was taken from the fill of a beam slot **639**. The sample contained 2 poorly preserved barley grains, 1 indeterminate cereal grain, 2 legume seeds and a moderate quantity of wood charcoal fragments. A small quantity of animal bone fragments were also recovered.

Sample 50 (context 569) Test pit BC

A 20 litre sample was taken from the fill of post pit **651**. 2 poorly preserved wheat grains, 1 barley grain and 8 unidentifiable cereal grains were recovered along with a moderate quantity of wood charcoal fragments.

Sample 51 (context 598) Test pit BG

A 20 litre sample was taken from the fill of ditch **622** of Saxon date. The sample contained 3 wheat grains, 2 barley grains, 3 indeterminate cereals, 3 legume seeds and a small quantity of wood charcoal fragments.

Discussion

Sample **31**, and **4**, come from Areas 5, 8, and 6, respectively, where there is extensive evidence of Roman settlement and agricultural field systems. The proximity of this area to the fen edge, especially Trench 29, has generally resulted in favourable conditions for the preservation of environmental indicators. The evidence from both charred and waterlogged macrofossils is partly complementary; the waterlogged component offering a wider range of local plant species, while the charred component is biased towards those species specifically associated with agriculture and other human activities. The quality of both charred and waterlogged preservation in association with this settlement evidence offers good potential of reconstructing the agricultural management of the fen edge environment in relation to the settlement economy during the Roman period. Combined with geomorphological and pollen evidence, an excellent reconstruction of the environmental conditions at the time should be possible.

The area of the site on which there is evidence of Saxon settlement lies on higher ground in comparison to the Roman settlement mentioned above. The position of the fen edge appears to have altered in the intervening period, necessitating the abandonment of settlement in the lower lying areas. The higher ground is better drained and lies upon gravels. Unfortunately, these drier conditions are generally not conducive to good preservation of environmental data. All these samples illustrate that the quality of preservation and the overall quantity of charred plant material in the Saxon features is low. If further excavation occurs, it is unlikely that better results could be obtained unless specific features that are biased in favour of charred material (such as hearths etc.), are located. In addition, larger sample sizes would be necessary if a useful range and quantity of plant species were to be recovered.

The poor preservation of plant macrofossils exhibited in the Saxon features is also likely to be the case for the features located in the west half of Area 6 and at Area 8. Indeed, visual examination during excavation of these features indicated that the fills were generally rather sterile and were not deemed worthy of sampling. As mentioned earlier, however, if specific features such as hearths, ovens or kilns, (which are likely to contain higher proportions of charred plant macrofossils) are encountered, sampling would be desirable.

If further excavation occurs at the Rowing Lake site, bulk sampling for the recovery of charred and waterlogged plant remains will need to be carried out as an integral part of the archaeological excavations and as part of a multi-disciplinary programme of environmental work. While preservation is best in the lower lying parts of the site, especially Areas 5 and 6, sampling will be desirable in other areas, should suitable features be encountered.

20 ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL BONE by L.Higbee

Quantity of Material

The bulk of the assemblage (18.139 kg) was hand collected either from the surface of unexcavated features or from the fills of excavated features. A small amount of bone was collected from field walking, this part of the assemblage will not be considered here.

Provenance of material, dating, residuality etc..

The vast majority of the identifiable bone assemblage (12.765 kg) comes from contexts which have been securely dated to the Romano-British period. These include several ditches and pits located in Areas 5, 6, 7, 8, and in both pottery scatter areas covered by test pits.

Securely dated bone material comes from Saxon (1,931 kg) and Iron Age (298g) contexts. The securely dated Saxon material is all located in the pottery scatter areas and the only securely dated Iron Age context is located in Area 6. The remaining part of the assemblage is either from contexts which are not securely dated, or contexts for which the material is too fragmentary to be identified. For those contexts which are securely dated one can confidently assume that little or no residual bone material is contaminating the assemblage. This is borne out by the generally excellent preservation state of much of the assemblage, thus, implying that it had not been subjected to an extreme taphonomic history.

Range and variety

All bone collected from the excavation was analysed. Fragmentary material was not identified unless it bore clear features typical of the particular species, however, as already indicated the bulk of the assemblage is both identifiable and dateable. Table 1 (Appendix F) gives the identified mammalian elements by context.

All the typical domestic species are well represented within the assemblage these include cattle *(Bos taurus)*, sheep/goat *(Ovis/Capra)*, pig *(Sus scrofa)*, horse *(Equus caballus)*, dog *(Canis familiaris)*. Some roe and red deer bones have also been identified. Red deer *Cervus elaphus* has been recovered from Saxon (438) (656), and Romano-British ((530) (437)) contexts. The roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* has been identified from only one context, (437). The presence of deer indicates that some hunting of wild mammal must have taken place.

Only cattle bones show clear signs of butchery, these include the distal humerus, astragalus, calcaneus, and distal femur, all main points of butchery on Anglo Saxon cattle (see Crabtree, 1989).

Few pathologies were recorded, of those that were, all effected pigs. Two instances of osteocytic (bony) growth were recorded, in both instances this effected the phalanx prima.

One piece of worked antler (small find 4) was recovered from the beneath the third alluvial parcel (1004). The antler is from a *?roe deer and one quarter of one of the tines has been ?cut off. The cut section through the antler is clean and regular, suggesting a deliberate break using a sharp tool.

Condition of material

In general the assemblage is in an excellent state of preservation and has suffered little damage from chemical and physical weathering. Only very minor exfoliation of the bone surface has been recorded.

Statement of potential

Only a very basic analysis of the faunal assemblage has been attempted at this stage, since due to the small size of the assemblage and the vast size of the evaluation site from which bone was collected, any conclusions drawn from metrical or statistical analysis would prove very misleading and largely insignificant. If the faunal assemblage is increased by further field work, then there exists immense potential for detailed metrical and statistical analysis which will help to reconstruct site animal husbandry and economic patters. This type of analysis and the information gleaned from it would further be enhanced by comparison to other multi-period sites (e.g. West Stow, Crabtree, 1989, also see Maltby, 1979 & 1981).

21 PLEISTOCENE ARCHAEOLOGY BETWEEN MILTON AND WATERBEACH by Tim Reynolds

The area of proposed development lies on the First/Second Terrace gravels of the present River Cam. These deposits have elsewhere produced an archaeological assemblage yielding handaxes and Levallois cores along with flakes and the occasional flake tool. The terrace sequence has been dated through faunal and floral data primarily from Histon Road, Cambridge which has been taken to represent the change in environment from interglacial to glacial conditions dated to 105,000 years BP (i.e. the end of the Ipswichian). This is a crucial period to our understanding of human origins, particularly the origins of anatomically modern humans, and the latter' s relationship with the Neanderthal stock in Europe. Identifying the pattern of archaeological associations during this period, the nature of the environment and human use of it, and the chance of finding hominid remains makes the Cam terrace sequence very important. Well-preserved faunal remains (mammoth) are known from the First/Second terrace at Milton whilst occasional tools have also been identified.

Pleistocene sites are rarely identified and cannot, at present, be adequately dealt with within the development control process using assessment. It requires the bulk removal of gravel and sand deposits to expose such remains and then the problem is to identify and record them before they have been quarried away. Thus, the opportunity to scan the gravel deposits should be taken whenever possible.

Recent developments in Cambridgeshire have identified the Palaeolithic as a major research priority, particularly as the dating of the Cam terrace sequence has been questioned (Reynolds forthcoming). Any development involving gravel removal should be considered for the appropriateness of a strategy of monitoring and recording of Pleistocene deposits in keeping with these priorities. The plans of the Cambridge Rowing Trust, using a 360 excavator to remove gravel would seem particularly suitable for a monitoring programme.

22 CONCLUSIONS

22.1 Archaeological Significance of the Development Area

The proposed development area has been demonstrated to comprise a tract of landscape which has witnessed human exploitation and development since the late Mesolithic (possibly even Palaeolithic) period. The character of this prehistoric intervention is, as yet, least understood, and will only be further elucidated through the implementation of detailed sampling strategies led by the findings of this evaluation. It is clear however that there exists considerable potential to relate the analysis of the local environment (locked within the buried soils and other deposits) to the lithic debris, and thus reconstruct the prehistoric use of the floodplain.

The intensive development of the landscape during the Roman period has been much better characterised. Remains identified within the development area relate to settlement, agriculture, industry and burial, with a peak of activity (in the sampled areas at least) during the second and third centuries AD. Of major significance is the relationship of these activities to the fenland/floodplain and its resources. The settlement at Area 6 looks towards the Cam and fen, not towards the nearby Roman Road (Akeman Street) or to the light soils to the west: this low-lying area probably provided the economic basis for the settlement and there exists considerable potential to investigate the character of Romano-British life here. Of further significance is the presence of Horningsea ware kilns: the further mapping of the production site within the development area (through magnetometry) is considered essential.

Very few of the fen edge Romano-British settlements have been examined in appropriate detail under modern conditions. The extent, state of preservation of the remains, and their association with nearby monuments such as Car Dyke, the Roman Road (Akeman Street), and the major pottery production site at Horningsea, increases both the informational and preservational value of the archaeology of this area.

The presence of early Anglo-Saxon settlements is also a prime consideration for any proposed mitigation strategies. Whilst the fen highlands and fen edge have yielded a few cemeteries of this date (for example, Ely, Witchford, Soham, and most recently Haddenham; Robinson & Duhig 1993) settlement remains have proved elusive. Recent development-led evaluation discoveries at Willingham (Dickens 1995) and Waterbeach (Mortimer pers. comm.) of 'fenland' sites and more comprehensive excavations on south Cambridgeshire river terrace sites (Hinxton Hall, Spoerry 1991; Hinxton Quarry, Bourn Bridge), have helped to redress the county-wide imbalance, although any comprehensive investigation of a fenward-looking settlement would be unique.

The presence of settlement raises the possibility of encountering early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries with the development area. These are never very receptive to reconnaissance evaluation techniques (widescale metal detecting may help), but would be a considerable concern if discovered during the development programme.

The examination of tracts of landscape, rather than 'sites' has two chief attractions for archaeological research. The first is that activity centres may be studied along with neighbouring centres, within their immediate hinterlands. The second is that landscapes capture information regarding

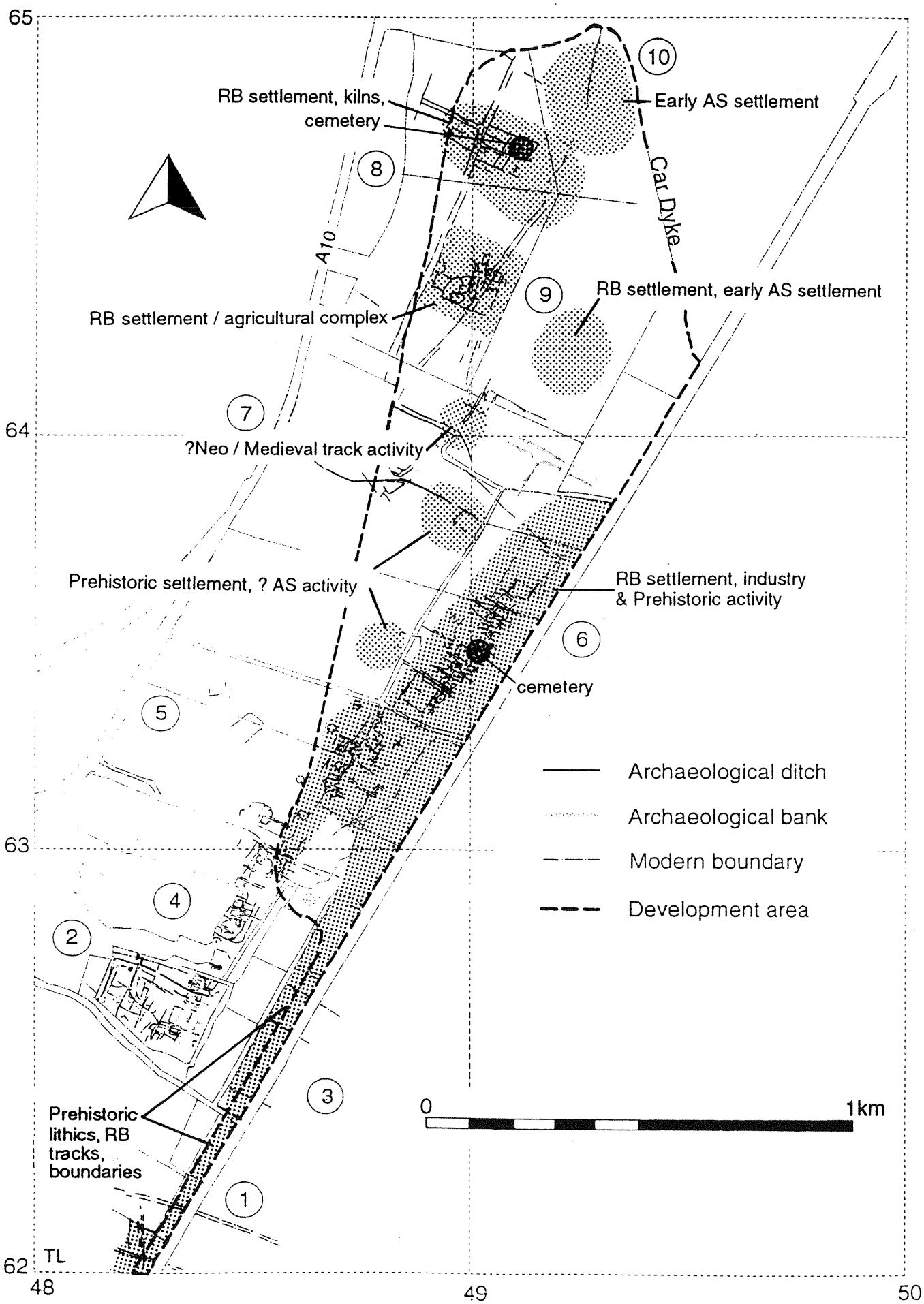

Figure 27 Settlement / Activity Zones

sequences of development over time (rather than simply providing snapshots of isolated activity) even where the physical evidence 'wanders' (ie settlements shift) over the landscape.

The development area holds the potential to facilitate the examination (for example) of the dynamics between the various Romano-British activity centres (which are clearly of different character), over time, and the transition of the Romano-British landscape into an Anglo-Saxon one: an extremely important issue for current archaeological research. The examination of the early Anglo-Saxon settlements within their wider field systems, and the development of these field systems into medieval open field agriculture is another important research issue which may be addressed by large-scale open area excavation within the development area.

The archaeological significance of the development area is increased by the relationships between anthropogenic activity and the environment of the fen edge and Cam floodplain. The 'direct' environmental evidence contained within alluvium and buried soils, and the 'indirect' evidence contained in crop processing residues and settlement organisation, will complement each other to allow a powerful analysis of the exploitation of this important landscape throughout time. The reconstruction of a prehistoric and proto-historic narrative for development of the subject area and its environs, akin to Ravensdale's exemplary study of the area's historic development, could then be attempted.

22.2 Preservation Characteristics

A summary of preservation characteristics for each of the examined areas was presented under the 'Area' headings. A synthesis of this information is presented in diagrammatic form by Figure 28.

Zone A is characterised by excellent preservation conditions, comprising the survival of upstanding features (such as banks) and buried soils, waterlogging and semi-waterlogging.

Zone B is characterised by very well-sealed archaeological remains and the preservation of buried soils.

Zone C is characterised by pockets of better preservation (remnant buried soils etc) amongst plough-truncated areas. Only isolated pockets of semi-waterlogging in those areas near Zone A may be anticipated.

The development area is amongst a very few areas in the region where features such as raised banks are known to survive in association with their ditches, and may be unique within the region for the association of buried soils with early Anglo-Saxon settlement features.

22.3 Anticipated Impact of Proposed Development

The obvious impact of the excavation of the rowing course, lake, and drainage ditches on the buried archaeology of the area, needs no further discussion. The less obvious ('secondary') effects of excavation require further examination. Earth-moving with heavy plant, particularly under wet conditions, is likely to have a severe effect on archaeological remains across the area (particularly kilns, and settlement features) through compaction and wheel-rutting. Steps should be taken to ensure that either this does not

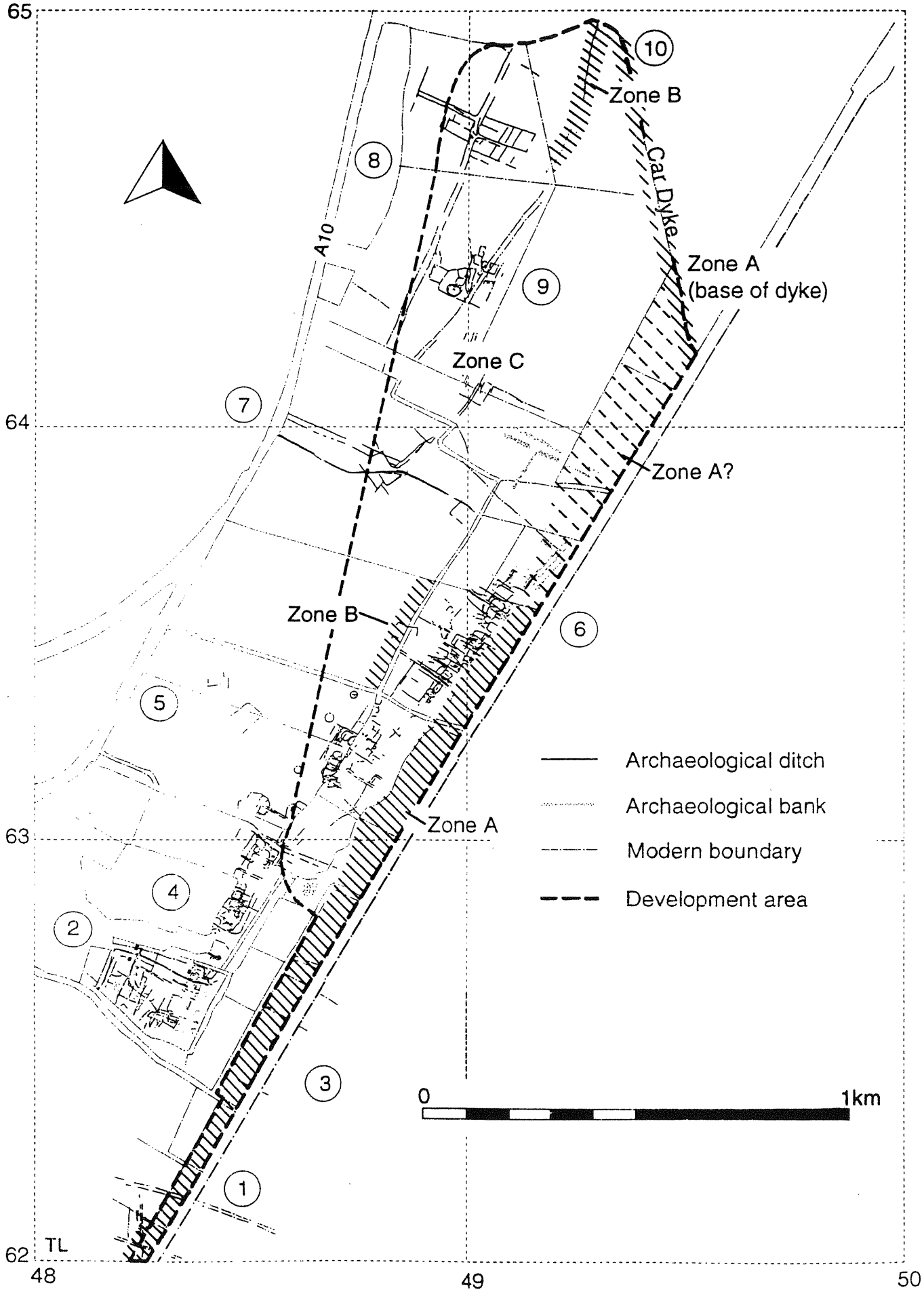

Figure 28 Preservation characteristics

happen, or to treat the potentially effected areas as though they were to be quarried away and incorporate them into excavation strategies. Tree root activity is also ultimately extremely damaging to archaeological deposits: Tree planting regimes must be considered with this in mind.

The creation of a large sump during the excavation of the rowing course and lake may promote the de-watering of surrounding archaeological deposits. Recent work in the fens (French pers. comm.; French & Taylor 1995) has demonstrated the speed with which degradation of organic material occurs. The potential de-watering effects on the basal fills of Car Dyke (note Peter Murphy's comments in Macaulay & Reynolds 1994) the waterlogged deposits within the development area, and those which remain to be discovered between the development area and the river Cam must be considered in the determination of the impact of this development proposal.

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APPENDIX A

ALLUVIAL PARCEL DESCRIPTIONS

Parcel (1001) occurs directly below the topsoil (1000) in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 at levels between 3.24m OD and 3.62m OD. Remnants of this layer survive as lenses and as the final fill of ditches in Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 at 2.90-3.03m OD. It may be that this layer was formerly more extensive but has been truncated and incorporated into the topsoil.

The nature of (1001) varies somewhat from trench to trench, but is characterised by abundant molluscs and a very firm, compact, blocky structure comprising varying amounts of grey to brown silt and clay (predominantly clay). The mollusc assessment identified obligate freshwater species which suggests over-bank flooding (see Assessment of Mollusca)

Parcel (1002) varies in texture from a humic silt to a humic clay and has been described as a desiccated organic mud rather than as a true peat. This layer was identified at levels between 2.62 and 3.50m OD in the lower lying trenches (1, 3-11, 18, 29). It also forms the final fill of Roman ditches in Trenches 12, 30 and 31 at levels up to 3.62m OD. (1002) has been truncated and incorporated into the very black, humic ploughsoil on the slightly higher parts of the area. The presence of such dark soil within slight undulations at Area 6 testifies to its former encroachment over parts of the Romano-British settlement.

In Trench 11 a 10m x 2.10m strip of parcel (1002) was machined off and hand sorted for finds. A Romano-British pot sherd was recovered from within this parcel, and another sherd found at the surface of the underlying parcel (1005). A ditch **230** excavated in Trench 11 was sealed by (1002), and its primary fill (249) produced a sherd of third-fourth century date. This indicates that parcel (1002) began to form in this area during the late Roman period at the earliest, though a post-Roman date is as likely.

An assessment of the pollen content of this layer showed a good degree of preservation and a moderate abundance, which will bear further analysis (see Assessment of Palynomorph Abundance and Preservation). Surprisingly, the pollen was in a far better state of preservation than that recovered from (1006), a lower-lying waterlogged deposit in which wood was well preserved. This suggests that (1002) must have formed fairly rapidly, preventing the pollen grains exposure and degradation.

Parcel (1003) was recorded in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 at levels between 3m-3.33m. It overlies the terrace gravel and underlies the organic layer (1002). Features in these trenches were cut from the upper horizon of (1003). Lithics were recovered from the (1003) surface in all four of these trenches, and the identification of a late Mesolithic/Neolithic blade (small find 15) in Trench 1, the only broadly dateable artefact from this parcel, suggests an early date for its origination. Machine sondages were excavated through the 0.20m thick layer in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 and the spoil was carefully hand sorted, however no further finds were recovered. Overlying horizon spoil heaps were allowed to weather and were also (unsuccessfully) scanned for finds. This suggests that human activity took place on a fairly stable horizon which was not subject to any notable aggregation or reworking of the sediments.

Parcel (1003) is characterised by frequent, poorly sorted stones and gravel in a soft matrix. The abundant gravel indicates a high energy depositional environment; probably during the early Holocene. No molluscs were noted. The sediment varies

from brown to greyish brown to dark yellowish brown silt, clayey silt, silty clay and sandy clay.

Parcel (1004) was identified in Trenches 6-11 at 2.12m-3m OD. This layer is below the paler, calcareous (1005) and overlies layers of mixed, re-deposited gravel and alluvium. In Trenches 10 and 11 it overlies the peat layer (1006). (1004) is characterised by the presence of molluscs and in four of the six trenches by flecks and small fragments of charcoal. The texture varies from a soft to very soft silt, clayey silt and clayey sand with sandy senses. The colour varies but is consistently darker than (1005) above.

Parcel (1005) was identified in Trenches 6-11 at levels between 2.45m-3.06m OD. Where features occurred (in Trenches 6-8 and 11) they were cut into this horizon. Parcel (1005) differed from (1003) to the south in that, while (1003) was deposited in a high energy environment and was generally brown or yellowish brown, (1005) comprised mostly pale, greyish silt and clay. This layer had very few stones, and where recorded, these were very small and infrequent; molluscs were recorded in all of the exposures.

In Trench 6 (121/1005) was identified as a buried soil influenced by alluviation. The mollusc assessment showed the presence of marsh/terrestrial species along with freshwater 'slum' and obligate freshwater species (P. Murphy, below). This parcel in Trench 7 was described as having some soil characteristics, although it could not be classed as a true buried soil (Dr. C.A.I. French, pers. comm.). The deposition of alluvial fines on both (1003) and (1005) may be responsible for impeding drainage and the consequent development of the overlying stagnant organic mud which comprises (1002).

Parcel (1006) is a layer (or a sequence of several broadly contemporary layers) of peat or organic mud up to 0.2m thick, occurring at the base of Trench 11 and in low lying hollows at the base of Trench 10. It was recorded at levels between 1.92m-2.28m OD. In Trench 11 this was ?truncated by the coarse, sandy layer (327) while in Trench 10 it was ?truncated by (331/1004). A piece of 'bog oak' over 1m long and c. 0.2m in diameter was pulled out of the peat and underlying clay, but its growth rings were too close together to permit accurate measurement and dendrochronological dating (J. Hillam pers. comm.). A sample of wood fragments from (1006) provided an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 2380+_ 60 BP (cal BC 770 to 380). An assessment of the pollen content showed a low abundance and poor preservation despite well waterlogged conditions and the preservation of wood. This may imply the slow formation of (1006).

Layer (327), below (1004) in Trench 11, is crucial to the interpretation of the depositional sequence in this area. This very pale, medium sand was interpreted by P. Murphy as the result of a fairly high energy depositional environment. Dr. C.A.I. French has added that this sediment may have been filtered out of the current by tree roots, such as the bog oak rooted in (1006) and other vegetation which would have impeded the flow of water in this area.

The upper surface of a palaeochannel (deposits (112) and (730)) were observed in the base of Trench 3. Trench 48 was excavated to further clarify its relationship with observed features. This channel had clearly truncated (1003), and was cut by ditches **770** and **104**, and by gully **787**. Sections across the ditches failed to produce pottery or lithics, though some animal bone was recovered. No finds were recovered from a further segment of a similarly aligned ditch in Trench 1. A single flint flake was recovered from the surface of the (unexcavated) gully **787**.

APPENDIX B

TRENCH, TEST PIT AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 was 48m long, 2.1m wide and reached a maximum depth of 0.66m. The modern ploughsoil 0.25m in depth overlies alluvial deposit (107/parcel 1001); this is 0.18m thick and comprises a grey (10YR 5/1) clay with iron staining and abundant mollusc shells. Beneath this is (108/parcel (1002), a soft, very dark grey (10YR 3/1) desiccated peaty clay up to 0.25m thick. The surface of this deposit is covered by a thin layer of whole and comminuted mollusc shells; freshwater species were noted in the field. Below (108) is alluvial deposit (109/1003); this is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay with frequent poorly sorted stones and abundant molluscs. A worked flint (small find 5) and a utilised blade dating to the late Mesolithic or Neolithic period (small find 15) was recovered from the surface of this layer. The trench was experimentally machined to several levels, with the surfaces of all three natural horizons exposed, in order to determine the presence of buried land surfaces or otherwise stable horizons.

Trench 1 was positioned in order to investigate a series of north-south linear cropmarks. One of these **127** was located in the north-west end of the trench, where it cuts the lower alluvium (109/1003) and is sealed beneath the humic layer (108/1002). This flat based U-shaped ditch is filled by (128), a dark brown (10YR 5/7) organic clay which probably represents the initial development or deposition of the organic clay layer (108/1002). Bone but no pottery was recovered from a segment of this ditch.

Trench 2 was 11m long, 2.10m wide and 0.38-0.45m deep and was positioned in order to investigate a ridge on which a soilmark of re-deposited gravel was visible. The ploughsoil is 0.3-0.35m thick and lies directly over the natural terrace gravel. A layer of very pure blue-grey clay lay across the centre of the trench; the western edge of this deposit is linear and very well defined, however the clay grades into the natural gravel to the east. The deposit was interpreted as re-deposited gault from a geological borehole.

Trench 3 was initially 48m long, 2.10m wide and 0.7m deep. The trench was later extended 5m to the south and **Trench 48** was machined at a right angle from the southern end towards the higher ground to the north. The added machining was carried out in order to further investigate palaeochannel deposits and to attempt to locate related archaeological features. Trench 48 was 13m long and will be described along with Trench 3.

The natural stratigraphy of Trench 3 was identical to that of Trench 1, with a 0.3m ploughsoil overlying the upper alluvial layer (110/1001). This layer is 0.12m thick and overlies an organic silt (111/1002). This is at its thickest (0.18m) in the southern part of the trench, thinning to 0.10m to the north and south. Layer (111) overlies the lower alluvium (116/1003) in the northern part of the trench. Machining was taken down to the surface of (116), the horizon from which the features were cut. A worked flint (small find 16) was found on the surface of (116/1003). A machine slot 2.1m x 2m was excavated through the layer , which is 0.2m in depth and overlies the terrace gravel. The spoil was carefully trowel sorted for further flints, however none were recovered. The southern third of the trench was machined to the same level, onto the surface of a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silt (112) which was interpreted as the fill of a river channel cutting through (116/1003).

Beneath the channel in-fill (112) was a blue gleyed clay (730) (6 10 BB/6 5 GY) with frequent roots (probably *Phragmites*). In Trench 48 this layer could be seen in section

to overlie (731), a light grey (10YR 7/2) silt showing very distinct oxidation and reduction on the interface with (112).

Trench 3 was positioned in order to identify and possibly date a pair of parallel WNW-ENE ditches interpreted as a trackway or droveway leading down off the gravel terrace towards the fen edge. These parallel ditches were located and one was excavated, and a further four features were identified.

Ditch **104** , the southern of the two trackway/droveway ditches, is 2.2m wide, 0.44m deep and has a wide U-shaped profile. It has a single fill (105) which is probably the same as the organic silt (111/1002), although it would have begun to form or accumulate earlier in the ditch than on the upper surface of (116).

Ditch **729** runs parallel to **104** and is also filled by desiccated organic layer (111/1002). This was unexcavated.

Between **104** and **729** is a bank formed by the upcast of these two ditches. The bank material was probably derived from both (116), through which ditch **729** was cut, and (112), the stream deposit through which **104** was cut. The upcast material between the ditches lacks wear, though has a thin covering of pebbles at its surface suggestive of an attempt at metalling. The presence of (112/1002) as the upper fill of both ditches indicates that though partially silted it remained open until the late Roman or post-Roman period, at which time the organic silt began to form in this area (see below)

770 is an unexcavated north-south orientated ditch 1.3m wide and filled by (701). Again, this is probably the same deposit as (111) but it retains more of its organic character. Animal bone was recovered from this fill.

786 is an unexcavated north-south orientated ditch parallel to [770]. This is filled by (111/1002).

787 is an unexcavated east-west orientated gully filled by (111/1002). A flint (small find 1) was recovered from this fill.

788 is an unexcavated gully running parallel and 1m to the south of [787]. This is also filled by (111/1002). No finds were recovered.

Trench 4 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.65m in depth. Alluvial parcels (1001, 1002 and 1003) are represented, sealed beneath a 0.3m layer of ploughsoil. Layer (113/ 1001) is 0.12m thick, thinning towards the centre of the trench. Beneath this is layer (114/1002), 0.14m thick and sealing (115/1003). The trench was machined to the surface of (115/1003) and three flints (small finds 2,3,10) were recovered from this horizon. A machine slot 2.1m x 2m was excavated through (115/1003), which is 0.20m in depth and overlies the terrace gravel. The spoil was carefully trowel sorted, however no further flints were recovered.

Trench 4 was placed in order to locate two parallel WNW-ESE orientated ditches interpreted on the aerial survey as a trackway or droveway running parallel to the trackway in Trench 3. These ditches were located, and the northern one was excavated. Ditch **100** has a flat based V-shaped profile and is 0.6m deep with three fills. Primary fill (101) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) clayey silt. Secondary fill (102) is a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt. This is sealed by the organic silt layer (114/1002). Layer (113/1001) slumped in c. 0.10m over (114). No finds were recovered. . The ditch remained a substantial earthwork until it was choked by the development of (1002).

The unexcavated ditch **117** lies parallel and to the south of ditch [100]. This is 2.75m wide and the alluvial and organic deposits (113) and (114) could be seen to comprise the final fills.

Between ditches **100** and **117** is a bank (layers 103, 132, 133) formed by the upcast. This is 0.18m high, which places the surface a few centimetres above the organic mud (114/1002) which accumulated over the occupation horizon (115/1003). This may have acted as an agger. The bank is sealed by the upper alluvium (113/1001).

Trench 5 was 36m long, 2.10m wide and 0.65m in depth and was placed in a 'blank' area. Alluvial parcels (1001, 1002 and 1003) are represented. The upper alluvium (334/1001) is 0.16m thick and overlies the organic silt (333/1002), which is 0.12m thick. The trench was machined down to the surface of layer (118/1003); seven worked flints were recovered from this horizon, however there were no features. A machine slot 2.1m x 2m was excavated through (118/1003), which is 0.25m in depth and overlies the terrace gravel. The spoil was carefully trowel sorted, however no further flints were recovered.

Trench 6 was 48m long, 2.10m wide and 0.75-0.80m in depth. The ploughsoil is 0.25m in depth and overlies the upper alluvium (119/1001) which is 0.22m in depth. Below this is the desiccated organic silt layer (120/1002) which is 0.15m in depth; an assessment of the pollen content of this layer showed a good degree of preservation and a moderate abundance warranting further analysis. This overlies (121/1005), which has been interpreted as a buried alluvial soil 0.09m thick. Below (121/1005) is a darker alluvial layer 0.08m thick which overlies the Devensian gravels onto which the trench was machined.

Trench 6 was positioned in order to pick up a linear NNW-SSE cropmark. This was located, along with a narrower, parallel linear feature which had not shown up on the air photographs. The cropmark ditch **183** is 1.47m wide and 0.72m deep, with a flat based U-shaped profile. The primary fill (184) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/1) clay 0.15m in depth. This is derived at least in part from the upcast bank to the south-west of the ditch. The secondary fill comprises the organic layer (120/1002) suggesting that the ditch is broadly contemporary with the parallel ditches in Trench 3. There were no finds.

The narrower ditch **205** lies 3.6m to the south of **183** The cut is 0.6m wide and 0.6m deep, with a flat based U-shaped profile. The primary fill (186) comprises a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4.2) clay; this is derived from the slumping of the contemporary upcast banks to the north-east and south-west. The secondary fill comprises the organic silt layer (120/1002); a pollen assessment sample from this deposit produced material too sparse to warrant analysis. There were no finds.

The parallel ditches in Trench 6 differ from those in Trenches 3 and 4 in that there are two upcast banks, rather than a single, central bank which could be interpreted as an agger. This feature is nevertheless likely to have acted as both field boundary and trackway/droveway. The regular occurrence of these parallel tracks suggests that they were contemporary and that they fulfilled a similar function.

At the north end of the trench a poorly defined feature interpreted as a tree throw hole was found. Within this fill (720) was a large (c. 0.5m) piece of wood, under which was found an antler fragment (small find 4), apparently sawn off at one end. This was sealed beneath the alluvial layer (122/1004).

Trench 7 was an L-shape, made up of a 48m and 51m trenches. It was 0.48-0.68m in depth. The ploughsoil is 0.25m in depth, and directly overlies the desiccated organic silt layer (335/1002). This layer is only c. 0.08m thick, having been truncated and incorporated into the ploughsoil. Below (335/1002) is alluvial parcel (289/1005); this

shows some soil characteristics but cannot be defined as a fully developed buried soil (Dr. C.A.I. French, pers. comm.). (289/1005) is 0.09m in depth and overlies (290/1004), an alluvial silt 0.12m in depth and containing occasional molluscs and charcoal. This overlies (291), a (5Y 6/2) silty clay, which was interpreted as a weathering horizon of the (10YR 6/8) Devensian alluvium below.

Trench 7 was positioned in order to assess a blank area while also investigating a pair of parallel WNW-ESE cropmarks . These were interpreted as another trackway or droveway and are on the same alignment as those in Trenches 3 and 4. Only one of the ditches was located. Ditch **139** is 1.93m wide, 0.71m deep and contains two fills. It was cut from the upper surface of (1005). The primary fill (138) is a greyish brown clay, and the secondary fill (137) is a very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) clay with frequent molluscs. No finds were recovered from the segment examined in this trench. Another feature (**147**) was examined but found to be a product of root activity.

Trench 8 was 48m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5-0.83m in depth, with part of the trench machined onto the surface of (1005) and the remainder onto the first terrace gravels. The 0.25m thick ploughsoil directly overlies the organic layer (293/1002). Below this is (422/1005) which is 0.20m thick . This overlies (423/1004), a very soft clayey sand with occasional molluscs, charcoal and sandy lenses.

Trench 8 was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area. A ditch [467] and three possible features were recorded; these were cut through parcel (1005)and were sealed by parcel (1002).

467 is a linear NNE-SSW orientated ditch 0.9m wide and 0.48m deep. It has a U-shaped profile and three fills. The primary fill (426) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt from which a flint flake was recovered. Secondary fill (718) is a (10YR 5/2) clayey silt, distinct from the surrounding deposits in that it contained a greater number of molluscs. This deposit is sealed by the organic layer (293/1002). Several other features of dubious origin (probably caused by root disturbance) were noted.

(424) is the fill of what was initially interpreted as a ditch butt running under the southern baulk. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt with no finds.

(425) is the fill of what at first appeared to be a curving ditch terminal. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4.2) sandy clay with no finds

(732) was initially interpreted as two intercutting features, due to the complexity of the shape in plan. This undefined fill is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey sand.

The latter three features became less convincing on further excavation and might have been formed through tree root action.

Trench 9 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and up to 0.88m in depth. The 0.25m ploughsoil directly overlies (779/1002), a layer of organic silt 0.15m in depth. This overlies a thin layer (0.04m) of soft, brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt (780) which was interpreted as part of parcel (1005). Below this is (781/1005), a pale silt 0.16-0.18m in depth. This overlies (782/1004), a darker alluvial horizon 0.12-0.18m in depth. This overlies a thin (0.02m) lens of white sand (783). Below this is (784), a dark greyish brown poorly sorted sandy gravel distinct from the orange Devensian sand and gravel below in its more humic appearance.

This trench was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area. The gravel base of the trench appeared to have suffered some root disturbance (which was sealed by

(1005) but no archaeological features were noted, either at that level or cut from the upper horizon of (1005).

Trench 10 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.91m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area on the lower lying land to the east of Area 5. The ploughsoil is 0.25m deep and is very black and humic, having truncated and incorporated the organic layer (329/1002) below. The upper alluvium (1001) is not represented, and only 0.12m remains of (329/1002). Below (329/1002) is (330/1005), a very light and powdery greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silt, 0.20m thick and containing charcoal and mollusc shells. This overlies layer (331/1004), which is a darker shade of (10YR 5/2) and comprises a very soft silt 0.15m thick. This has truncated an organic layer (332/1006) below, incorporating lenses of peaty clay near the lower interface. This peaty clay occurs at thicknesses of up to 0.14m in hollows on the Devensian gravel and alluvium surface, lensing out and vanishing over the slight rises in the natural geology.

A network of narrow, peat filled gullies or channels occurs in the south of the trench all sealed by (1004); these were interpreted as natural and produced no finds when partially excavated.

Trench 11 was initially 46m long, 2.10m wide and 1.05m in depth. It was later widened 2.1m x 9.3m to a depth of 0.5m below the ground surface, in order to expose the upper interface of (1005) into which two ditches were cut.

A ploughsoil 0.28m thick directly overlies organic layer (123/1002), although lenses of (1001) were apparent at the interface. (1002) was assessed for pollen, which was well preserved although it will require a larger than standard sample size should analysis proceed. (124/1005) is 0.16m in depth and overlies (125/1004), an almost identical but slightly darker layer. Below this is (327), which differs from (1004) in that it is a much coarser deposit, comprising a silty medium sand 0.22m in depth. This layer also truncates and incorporates lenses of the underlying organic layer (328/1006). The latter extends across the base of the trench, reaching a thickness of up to 0.2m. A pollen sample from (328/1006) showed a low abundance and poor preservation of palynomorphs, despite the fairly good preservation of other organics. The trench base was flooded, with the water table standing at 2.05m OD.; the gleyed alluvial clay, silt and sand below the organic mud/peat was not fully exposed. A piece of 'bog oak' (small find 36) was recovered from the peat (1006) and underlying alluvial clay. Unfortunately, its rings were too compressed in order for dendrochronological dating (J. Hillam pers. comm.), and thus it could not be used as an independent control for the radiocarbon date.

Trench 11 was placed in a low lying 'blank' area in order to test the continuity of a pair of linear cropmarks which ran WNW-ESE down the gravel terrace slope. These ditches were identified and the trench was extended so that they could be recorded in plan. The topsoil was first removed, and the peat layer sealing the occupation horizon was stripped separately and trowel sorted for dating material; a Roman pot sherd was recovered, and a further Roman sherd was recovered from the (124/1005) surface.

Ditch **235,** the southern of the two, is 1.45m wide and was not excavated. It is filled by the organic silt layer (123/1002). Ditch **230** is 1.78m wide with a stepped profile and is at least 0.55m in depth; it could not be fully excavated due to the water level. The lower fill (249) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) semi-waterlogged clay from which pot (dating to the third or fourth century AD) and animal bone were recovered. The upper fill (231) was correlated with organic layer (123/1002), which produced a pot sherd dating to the second to third century AD. It is evident that this ditch was partially silted before the onset of (1002).

Ditches **230** and **235** were correlated with ditches **188** and **165** in Trench 13, where these cropmark features were also exposed; a pot sherd dated to the second century AD or later was recovered from ditch **188**.

Trench 12 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m in depth. The trench was positioned in order to test the air photographic coverage of an area of sparse cropmarks. The ploughsoil is very black and humic in this field; the organic layer (1002) is almost entirely incorporated into the ploughsoil which directly overlies the occupation horizon (1005). Layer (1002) was found to survive only as the fills of two parallel NNE-SSW orientated ditches **733** and **734.** These were unexcavated but were interpreted as the continuation of a pair of linear cropmarks which probably relate to the Roman enclosure system extending SSW from Area 6.

Trench 13 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m in depth. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a pair of parallel linear cropmarks and to ascertain whether further, undiscovered features were associated. The features cut terrace gravels and are sealed beneath 0.4m of ploughsoil. One pit was hand excavated, two ditches were machine excavated and a further nine deposits were recorded.

Pit **136** is 1.4m in diameter with a flat based V-shaped profile and four fills. The primary fill (170) is a very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) silty clay with no finds. This was sampled for pollen, which was well preserved but occurred in low frequencies. Secondary fill (169) is a brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy silt probably derived from edge slip. Tertiary fill (190) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 5/2) from which no finds were recovered. Quaternary fill (135) is a very dark grey silty clay with a humic appearance, from which pottery dating to the second to third century and animal bone were recovered.

Ditch **165** was machine excavated to its basal fills and spoil was hand-sorted for artefacts. The basal fills were then hand excavated. This linear feature was correlated with a WNW-ESE cropmark and also with ditch **235** in Trench 11. The cut is 3.2m wide and 0.66m deep and the profile is a wide U-shape with a flattish base. Two fills were recorded. Primary fill (166) comprised a dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay with animal bone and Roman pottery dating to the second century or later. Secondary fill (164) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay with mottling and a humic appearance. No finds were recovered.

Ditch **188** was also machine excavated in the manner described above. This linear feature ran parallel to **165** and was correlated with a WNW-ESE cropmark and also with ditch **230** in Trench 11. The cut is 4.7m wide, 0.6m deep and has a wide U-shaped profile. There are five fills. Primary fill (215) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay with a humic appearance; a pollen sample from this deposit was assessed and preservation was found to be good, although the frequency was low. The interfaces of secondary fills (212, 213 and 214) were steeply sloping, which would have suggested that they were fills of re-cuts if the interface with the underlying deposit (215) had not been so flat and regular. It is therefore suggested that these secondary fills were the result of the slumping in of an upcast bank (which no longer survives) which had been raised on the north side of the ditch. The final fill (211) had a humic appearance. Roman pot dating to the second century AD or later was recovered from fill (212).

Ditches **165** and **188** form a double-ditched boundary which may also have acted as a trackway or droveway leading towards the fen edge; although it should be noted that there no little evidence of metalling or trampling. The upcast was deposited alongside the track, possibly because at this higher level there was no need for a raised agger such as that found in Trenches 3 and 4 (and possibly also 6). The cuts on the gravel terrace in Trench 13 were considerably wider and deeper than those in Trench 11,

which suggests that the boundaries were in use for a longer period on the higher ground.

Unexcavated deposits in Trench 13 are briefly described below; no finds were recovered from the feature surfaces. Ditch fill (216) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt. (217) is the fill of either an angled linear feature of two intersecting linear features. This is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty clay. Post hole fill (218) is an (undefined) silty clay. Post hole (219) is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty clay. Pit fill (220) is an (undefined) silty clay. Fill (222) is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3.2) sandy silt which has been interpreted as a possible flue or industrial feature. The nearby pit fill (223) may be associated; this is a black sandy silty clay which may derive from industrial activity, or alternatively from a domestic hearth. (735) and (736) may relate to a single undefined feature cut by ditch [188]. (735) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft organic silty clay which resembles other final fills in its desiccated humic character. (736) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silt with moderate poorly sorted stones and pea grits; this was interpreted as an earlier fill underlying (735) and probably derived from gravel edge slip.

Trench 14 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.40m in depth. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a hollow on the gravel terrace over which no cropmarks had been recorded. The archaeology is sealed beneath the ploughsoil and is cut into the mottled orange and white silts of the terrace gravel, as well as through the remnants of a possible buried soil (contexted as 144, 147, 149, 150 and 164). Roman pottery dating to the first or second century or later was recovered from buried soil layer (144), and pottery dating to either the Iron Age or Saxon period was recovered from (149). Three features were excavated.

Ditch **106** is 1.72m wide and 0.64m deep with a flat based V-shaped profile and two fills. Primary fill (130) is a black silty sand, the colour deriving from both charcoal flecks and from some slight waterlogging. Roman pottery dated to the first to second century or later and bone were recovered. Secondary fill (131) is a very firm dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4.2) silty clay with no inclusions noted. A layer identical to this deposit was also noted in lenses at the interface of the buried soil/terrace gravel surface and the ploughsoil. This is probably a localised deposit which accumulated in the hollow through which Trench 14 was placed, although originally it may have been more widespread. It was interpreted as a waterlain deposit which has been truncated by the ploughsoil.

Ditch **171/172** is 1.60m wide and 0.36m deep with a complex, flat based V-shaped profile. A deeper, narrower U-shaped cut extends through the base of the feature; this may relate to a separate phase. Primary fill (195) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy silty clay with abundant charcoal. Secondary fill (192/194) is a black, slightly clayey silt, the colour deriving from both an abundance of charcoal (including whole, visible cereal grains) and a humic, peaty character. Roman pottery dating to the second to fourth century was recovered from this fill. Tertiary fill (191) is a black, slightly sandy clayey silt with only occasional charcoal. A post hole **173** was cut through the base of ditch **171/172**.

Adjacent to **171/172** is a pit or ditch butt with a similar pattern of in-filling. **174** is a vertical sided, U-shaped cut 0.85m wide, 0.35m deep and containing three fills. The primary fill (199) is identical to the final phase of silting (191/3) in the adjacent feature. Secondary fill (198) is identical to the black, charcoal rich fill (192/194) and produced pottery dating to the second century or later. The tertiary fill (197) is identical to the tertiary sandy clayey silt (191/193). These features were clearly contemporary, but it is unclear whether they were part of an industrial process or were merely backfilled with the waste products of industrial (or domestic) processes sited nearby.

Features **171/172** and **174** were cut through remnants of the buried subsoil (150/149). This is a varicoloured (10YR 5/2 and 10YR 4/3) greyish brown, brown, reddish brown and orange brown clayey sand.

Ditch **635** is 0.77m wide, 0.5m deep and has a round based V-shaped profile. The single fill (634) is a mottled greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand from which no finds were recovered. This is notably paler than the other features in the trench, and may date to an earlier phase of activity.

Unexcavated deposits in Trench 14 are described as follows: (143) is an undefined fill, possibly of several intercutting features. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with no finds. (145) is the fill of pit or ditch butt **727**, which cuts pit/ditch butt (146) and also the buried soil (144). (145) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sandy clay from which pottery dating to the Roman period or later was recovered. Pit/ditch butt (146) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay. Ditch fill (148) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clay similar to the uppermost fill (131) of ditch [106]. Animal bone, Roman pot and a clay pipe stem were recovered from the surface of this fill. Ditch fill (151) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand. This is the fill of **728**, which cuts the buried soil (150). (153) is a post hole fill which may relate to possible post hole(s) (187). Post holes (154, 155 and 156) were set fairly equidistantly in a WNW-ESE orientation; all had identical dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay fills. Pot dating to the second century or later was recovered from (156). Ditch fill (157) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy clay running under the WNW baulk of the trench. (158) and (159) are adjacent post holes in the ESE end of the trench; postholes (161, 162 and 163) may be related. Fill (160), a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand, may represent the fills of several intercutting features.

It is notable that all the ditches in Trench 14 were aligned in the same direction, i.e. NNW-SSE. The line of post holes (154-156) lies at a right angle to these ditches. These orientations follow the same alignment as the Roman Area 6, which appears to extend SSW along the gravel ridge at least as far south as NGR 548400/262800. (Note Milton kiln location; on same alignment as the settlement but further to the south along the ridge).

Trenches 15, 16 and 17 formed an H shape. Trench 15 was 46m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5m deep. Trench 16 was 25m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5m in depth. Trench 17 was 53m long, 2.10m wide and 0.35-0.5m in depth. The trenches were placed in order to investigate an area of deeper soil where no cropmarks had been observed, but where a continuation of the cropmark Area 6 features might be expected. All three trenches were machined onto the terrace gravel into which the archaeological features were cut; these were sealed by c. 0.3m of ploughsoil and up to c. 0.2m of subsoil (a remnant of former ploughsoil ?)

Ditch **238** is a WNW-ESE orientated linear feature extending for over 20m across Trenches 15 and 16. This was machine excavated in Trench 16. The cut was 2.64m wide, 0.69m deep and had a wide U-shaped profile and two fills. Primary fill (237) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey sandy silt. Secondary fill (236) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silt with no finds. This ditch is on the same alignment as the Roman enclosures of Area 6, and probably forms the SSE boundary of a rectangular field which shows as a cropmark immediately to the NNE.

A narrow ditch (737) lies perpendicular to **238** in Trench 15. This unexcavated fill is a brown (10YR 4/3)clayey silt from. No finds were recovered from the surface of this feature.

A second cropmark ditch should have been apparent in Trench 17, but this was not located.

Trench 18 was 32m long, 2.10m wide and c. 1.10m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area and to investigate the inter-relationship between the archaeology and the fen stratigraphy recorded in Trenches 1 and 3-11. The base of the trench was at c 1.90m OD., and it began to flood even as it was machined. The water eventually reached a depth of c. 0.5m, which inhibited detailed recording. The stratigraphy correlated with that of Trench 11, and no features were noted at any depth.

Trench 19 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.65-0.85m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a blank area immediately to the west of the cropmark complex at Area 6. The topsoil is 0.35m deep and overlies a low ridge which runs parallel to the dyke immediately to the east of the trench. This dyke cleaning upcast had the effect of sealing and preserving what has been interpreted as a buried soil which has not survived elsewhere in this part of the site (Dr. C.A.I. French, pers. comm.). Archaeological features were cut into terrace gravel at the base of the trench and were apparently sealed beneath the buried soil. The buried A horizon (458) is 0.16m thick, comprising a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt overlying a buried B horizon (459). This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clayey silt 0.17m thick. Two worked flints and a pot sherd (small finds 32, 33 and 34) were found on the gravel surface at the base of the trench and were attributed to the buried B horizon (459). The pot sherd is either prehistoric or Roman, or possibly even Saxon.

Five features were recorded but were not excavated. (724) is a pit or ditch butt fill comprising a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt from which a quartzitic stone was recovered. (725) is a similar feature running under the opposite baulk of the trench; the fills were identical. Post hole fill (726) is a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt from which a ? prehistoric pot sherd (small find 31) was recovered. No related post holes were identified. Ditch fill (777) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay within a NNW-SSE orientated feature. (778) is an identical fill of an ESE-WNW ditch. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Trench 20 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.45m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a cropmark 'blank' area, and the orientation was determined by the farmer's request that the trenches be aligned with the tractor wheelings. There are two features cut into the gravel surface below a 0.3m ploughsoil and a thin (0.10m) subsoil. (789) is the fill of an unexcavated N-S orientated ditch and comprises a brown (10YR 4/3) soft silt. Pit **244** lies 1.3m to the west. This is 2.2m wide and 0.5m in depth, with a U-shaped profile. Fill (245) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 21 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.45m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area west of Area 6, and was orientated according to the farmer's request. There are 12 features cut into the gravel surface, sealed below a 0.3m ploughsoil and a thin (0.10m) subsoil. Two pits were excavated, and the surfaces of all features were briefly investigated for finds.

Pit **556** is 1.10m wide and 0.3m deep, with a wide, flat based profile. Fill (277/553) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand from which a single prehistoric (not closely dated) potsherd was recovered. A second closely abutting pit cut **558** was also identified. Fill (559) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand from which pottery of unknown, possibly Roman date, and brick or tile was recovered.

Pit fill (243) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand from which pottery and a pot boiler flint (small find 24) were recovered. The pottery (decorated with a chevron) is probably Saxon but may be prehistoric. (243) is the only fill of a shallow pear-shaped pit.

Unexcavated fills are described as follows: (241) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand filling a short, curving, linear feature. Pit fill (256) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand from which small finds 25 (pre-medieval pot) and 26 (worked flint?) were recovered. (255) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand which appeared to be the fill of an isolated post hole. Ditch fill (253) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand on a north-south alignment. The ditch is 0.6m wide and only about 0.2m in depth. Ditch fill (254) runs parallel to (253) and has an identical matrix. A possible worked flint was recovered (small find 23). Post hole fill (252) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand. There were no recovered finds and the feature has no obvious relationships. Pit fill (246) is identical to those above and produced no finds. Pit fill or ditch butt (251) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand from which two worked flints (14 and 15) were recovered. Pit or ditch butt (721) is a very soft brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt from which a worked flint (small find 12) and a (tentatively) Roman pot sherd (check this !) were recovered. (722) is an undefined fill, possibly of a north-south orientated ditch. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clayey silt from which a possible pot boiler was recovered (small find 11).

Trench 22 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.45m in depth. The trench was positioned in a 'blank' area, with the orientation determined at the farmer's request. The trench was machined down to terrace gravel, sand and silt, through which a single post hole (790) was recorded. Its upper fill is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) clayey sand from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 23 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.45m in depth. The position and orientation are as for Trench 22. It was machined onto terrace gravel and silts. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trench 24 was 52m long, 2.10m wide and was 0.4-0.45m in depth. The trench was positioned as for Trench 22 and also machined on to mixed gravel and silts. A single ditch (orientated east-west) was located; ditch fill (791) is a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey sand from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 25 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.45-0.5m in depth, and was machined onto orange and pale grey silts (alluvium). The position and orientation were as for Trench 22. The features weren't immediately apparent, but weathered out after about a week. One ditch was excavated.

Ditch **258** is 1.8m wide, 0.33m deep and has a flat based V-shaped profile. It is orientated NW-SE and has one fill (259). This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand from which animal bone and three Saxon potsherds were recovered. Parallel to ditch **258** is ditch **774**, which is filled by (775), a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt mottled with iron oxidation and with occasional charcoal flecks. The two ditches are probably contemporary. Both cut north-south ditch (776) whose fill is a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt with orange mottling. Adjacent to (776) is post hole (723), which has a fill identical to (776) and contained a single worked flint.

Trench 26 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.45-0.6m in depth. It was positioned in order to investigate a series of boundary ditches and an enclosure which were identified on the air photographs. The orientation of the trench was determined by the necessity of aligning the trench with the cultivated rows, as requested by the farmer. One feature was excavated, and most others were subject to partial excavation to confirm anthropogenic origins and to obtain dating evidence. All features were sealed by up to 20cm of silty subsoil (? remnant ploughsoil).

Ditch **239** was correlated with the rectangular enclosure identified on the air photographs at TL 4900 6375. The cut is 1.65m wide and 0.6m in depth, with a round based V-shaped profile. It is orientated NNE-SSW and has a single fill (240). This is

a mottled brown and yellow brown (10YR 5/3 + 5/4) silty sand with iron staining and flecks of manganese. Three pot sherds were recovered along with two burnt flints and a small amount of animal bone. The pot has been dated to either the prehistoric or Saxon periods.

Ditch **239** is cut by a large, undated WNW-ESE ditch **296** which has been correlated with the series of boundary ditches on the air photographs. **296** is filled by (297), a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with no finds. It is cut by **298**, an undefined cut (possibly a re-cut) mostly truncated by the northern baulk of the trench. **298** is filled by (299), a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand.

Other unexcavated features are as follows: (295) is a pit or ditch butt fill comprising a brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt with no finds. Pit or post hole fill (301) is a brown/yellow brown (10YR 5/3-5/4) sandy silt from which a single worked flint was recovered. Pit or post hole fill (302) is identical to that of (301), however no finds were recovered. Pit or post hole fill (303) is a brown (10YR 5/3) clayey sand with no finds. Pit fill (304) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand from which a pot boiler flint was recovered (small find 30). Post hole fill (306) is a brown (10YR 4/3) silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 27 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.55m in depth and was machined onto sandy gravel with mixed grey and orange silts. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a 'blank' area. Two small features were investigated recorded but not fully excavated. Pit fill (307) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand. Fill (308) was interpreted as the fill of a narrow (0.53m) ditch butt. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) fine silty sand. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Trench 28 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.35-0.55m in depth. It was machined onto gravels, dark red brown silts, pale sand with gravel and grey silts. A narrow linear ditch with straight, regular, vertical sides was interpreted as a ? post-medieval drainage feature. To the north of this a pale, silt filled feature was recorded, however this was later interpreted as natural (root disturbance).

This trench was expected to reveal a linear NW-SE orientated ditch identified on the air photographs. Only the possible drain described above matches this orientation and might therefore indicate a displacement of c 6.0m of the cropmark plot in this locality. There were areas of concentrated iron and manganese panning or precipitation in the trench which were initially interpreted as feature fills (similar red, mineral rich deposits occurred as ditch fills in Trench 36 to the north) but upon closer inspection were thought to be natural.

Trench 29 was initially about 35m long, and was later extended to 40m. It was 2.10m wide and varied in depth from 0.7m-1.20m. It was positioned in order to test an area of proposed ditching and offered the opportunity to examine the relationship between Romano-British features and the alluvial stratigraphy. The natural geology dropped sharply from the western end of the trench to its eastern end consistent with the slope of the gravel scarp. The nature of the geology changes with the slope; on the higher ground the trench was machined down to pale grey and orange alluvial silts into which the features were cut, while towards the eastern end of the trench the drift geology comprised terrace gravels. Alluvial layers and an organic horizon comparable to those described in the southern end of the development area were encountered.

Grave cuts were revealed beneath c. 0.7m of overburden (describe more ! mostly as result of recent plough wash ?) and cut into the natural alluvial silts of the gravel terrace. Four burials were recorded (human bone was present at the upper interface of the features) along with a further two probable burials. All these features, both certain and possible burials, occurred in a space 10m x 2.10m. One inhumation was exposed, recorded and re-buried.

Its grave cut **228** is 1.83m long, 0.58m wide and at least 0.10m in depth, with a sub-rectangular shape in plan. It is orientated SE-NW, with the head to the SE. Its relationship to adjacent (though differently orientated) grave fill (325) is not clear. Burial 1 is an extended supine adult of undetermined sex. The skeleton is nearly complete, with only a few carpals, metacarpals, phalanges and metatarsals missing. As the body was not lifted, these may still be present in the grave. At least four metal objects (? corroded nails) were found associated with the burial: a nail was found near the feet and a another corroded iron object was found on the left shoulder, others along the south side of the burial suggest the former presence of a coffin. Iron staining around the feet is probably a result of natural iron panning caused by the presence of an interface between differentially permeable materials (shoes for example ?).

The skull was slightly damaged by the JCB, but preservation on the whole is very good. Grave fill (226) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) slightly sandy silty clay from whose surface a Romano-British potsherd (not closely dateable) was recovered. Fill (227) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) slightly clayey sand. The feet, buried within a sandier fill (227), were not so well preserved as the legs and upper body, which lay within fill (226).

The unexcavated features on the 'dry-land' half of Trench 29 are as follows:

(319) is the fill of a narrow linear feature 0.4m wide and orientated NNE-SSW. This is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) mottled silty sand from which Roman or post-Roman pot was recovered. (323) is the fill of a 0.3m wide linear feature running parallel to (320). This is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt from which no finds were recovered. Its relationship with (360) is uncertain. Grave fill (325) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand with a skull visible on the surface. Roman pot and an iron object were found on the surface. The relationship of this grave with **228** was not clear. (326) is the fill of a semi-circular cut truncated by the southern trench baulk. This may be a pit or a ditch butt, but may also be a grave cut. Fill (326) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt from which a sherd of Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pot was recovered. (355), running under the opposite baulk, is a similar feature which produced late Iron Age (or conceivably Saxon pot). Given the similarity of this fill to (326) the earlier date is preferred. (356) is the fill of a 2.10m wide NNE-SSW orientated ditch. This is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) and reddish brown silty sand with pot and oyster shell recovered from the surface. (356) is cut by post hole **741**, the fill of which (357) is a black silty sand with prehistoric pot. (357) is one in a line of three post holes orientated WNW-ESE. These appeared initially as a single flue cut through the ditch fill, however after heavy cleaning they appeared as three discrete features. The fills of (357, 358 and 359) are identical. (360) is a grave fill consisting of a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt. This was not excavated, however the bones of a child or infant were observed on the surface. (792) is the (unrecorded) fill of a 1m wide ditch orientated NW-SE. This is cut by **314** which will be described below.

The features below were observed in the lower, eastern end of the trench.

Ditch **314** is 2.45m wide and 0.83m deep, with a flat based V-shaped profile. This NNE-SSW orientated feature was machine excavated to its basal deposits which were then hand excavated. The single fill (260) is a greenish black (gleyed 10Y 2.5/1) clayey sand streaked with green; pottery dating to the second to third century AD was recovered.

Ditch **314** is adjacent to but not clearly cutting or cut by ditch **315**, which is apparently on the same alignment. This feature was also partially machine excavated along with **316**, **317** and **248**. These ditches form a NNE-SSW boundary ditch

alignment (ie parallel with the terrace slope) which was cleaned out and re-cut at least three times.

Ditch **315** is 0.33m in depth, with 0.57 remaining of its truncated width. The profile is a flat based U-shape. The one fill (261) is a very dark brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty sand with yellow and orange lenses; the pottery recovered from this fill has been dated to the prehistoric or Saxon periods. Fill (261) is cut by ditch **316**, a re-cut 0.45m in depth and with a truncated width of 0.8m. The profile is a flat based V-shape with convex sides. Primary fill (279) is a very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) silty sand with green lenses and no finds. Secondary fill (278) is similar, also with no finds retrieved. This is cut by **317**, a flat based U-shaped ditch 1.12m wide (slightly truncated) and 0.4m in depth. The primary fill (282) is a very dark brown (7.5YR 2.5/2) sandy silt with pottery dating to the second century or later. Secondary fill (280) is a very dark grey (2.5Y 3.1) silty sand with no finds. Tertiary fill (281) is a black sandy clay with no finds. This is sealed by (262), a layer extending across ditch **316** as well as **317** and comprising a dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay with reddish brown, orange and grey mottling. This is probably of the same phase as (313), a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) mottled silty clay which seals ditch **248**. This very humic layer (262/313), along with other final phase fills of Romano-British features on the gravel terrace slopes, may broadly correlate with parcel (1002).

The tertiary fill of **317** is cut by **248**, a round based V-shaped ditch 2.5m wide and 1m deep, with eight fills including two primary fills. Primary fill (284) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) waterlogged silty sand with wood, straw and charcoal as well as part of a Horningsea storage jar dating to the second century or later (this was also found in (247). Primary fill (283/430) is a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sandy gravel derived from the slumping of the upcast bank to the east. Secondary fill (247) is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) waterlogged silt from which animal bone, a scrap of leather, and several very large sherds of a Horningsea type storage jar were recovered. This context has been dated to the mid third century. These large pot sherds had been placed over the skull of a horse or cow (check !) (not fully retrieved from the section). The pollen from this deposit was surprisingly sparse and poorly preserved, especially given the state of the other organics. Tertiary fill (285) is a black, waterlogged silt with very frequent grass, straw and other macrobotanical remains. Quaternary fill (312) is a waterlogged black silt with wood, straw, grass and other organics. The fifth fill (311) is a black, partially waterlogged sandy silt. The sixth fill (324) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy clay sealed by (313), which has been described above. This final phase of in-filling (313) comprises a desiccated organic clay or silty clay which may correlate with (1002).

Immediately to the east of **248** is an upcast sand, silt and gravel bank (430) standing 0.55m high and described above. This has slumped back into the ditch, forming one of the primary fills. Upcast (430) seals a thin (0.06m) humic layer of very dark brown (10YR 2/2) clayey silt which may be an organic sediment but may also be a buried turf line or buried A horizon. This overlies a layer of white sand which has been interpreted as a lens in the terrace gravel below. Above (430) is layer (429), a dark greyish brown silty sandy gravel capping the bank. Residual pottery from this deposit may date to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

Pit fill (793) was sealed beneath the bank (430) and probably by the putative turf line (461). It has a peaty fill (from which no finds were recovered).

Ditch **462** is an unexcavated NNE-SSW orientated feature cut through the terrace gravel and also through layer (457). It is sealed below the possible turf line (461). Fill (463) is a very soft, very dark greyish brown waterlogged sandy silt with no finds.

Layer (457) is sealed beneath bank deposit (430) and is cut by ditch **462**. This layer has been interpreted as the Roman ground surface; pottery from (457) probably dates

to c 350 AD or later. (457) comprises a very soft, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silt with moderate gravel. Below this is (464), a dark greyish brown sandy silty gravel overlying the terrace gravel. This represents a layer of mixed natural gravel which may form a subsoil 'B' horizon of that period.

The natural wetland stratigraphy begins to the east of the bank deposits (430) and (429). The most recent deposit (460) is a very dark brown (10YR 2/2) organic silt which has been correlated with parcel (1002). This overlies bank layer (429), lapping up against the bank but not entirely sealing it. Pottery from (460) has been dated to the second century or later. The top of the bank appears flattened, which suggests that it (along with any overlying deposits) has been truncated by the modern ploughsoil which overlies it. It seems likely that (460/1002) once over-topped the bank, joining layers (313) and (262).

Below (460) is (466), a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey organic layer overlying alluvial layer (465) and underlying bank layer (429). This bank layer appears to have washed down-slope, interleaving with (466) and (460) which may both relate to (1002).

The alluvial deposit (465) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt with moderate mollusc shells. This overlies (457), which forms the Roman ground surface described above.

Trench 30 was 18m long, 2.10m wide and 0.35m in depth. Machining was taken down to a mottled silt directly below the ploughsoil adjacent to Professor Frend's 9m x 5m trial trench. The trench was placed on the slope of the gravel terrace in order to investigate an area of dense cropmarks and surface finds, and to investigate the relationship of these features with the natural stratigraphy. Four features were recorded but were not excavated.

Ditch **272** is oriented east-west and cuts (273). The fill (271) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy clayey silt from which pot (dating to the second century AD or later) and bone were recovered. (273) is the fill of a NNE-SSW ditch and comprises a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand with no finds. Pit fill (275) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt with abundant pot on the surface; this has been dated to c 160-250 AD. **288** is a NNE-SSW ditch with two fills; (287) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty sandy gravel with Roman pot dating to the second century AD or later. Above this is (286), a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) clayey silt which appears to be a desiccated organic layer, either part of (1002) or a deposit which formed in the ditch depression at about the same time.

Trench 31 was initially a 5m x 5m test pit opened over the south-eastern part of Area 6, in order to test an area which coincided with dense cropmarks and which produced ploughsoil finds of large stones interpreted as possible building debris. Two trenches 2.10m wide were extended from the NNE and WNW corners of the test pit; the total area was c. 55 sq m. Features were encountered directly beneath the ploughsoil (0.3m in depth) cut into terrace gravel.

Ditch **232/738** is 2.3m wide and was machine excavated to the level of basal fills which were then hand-excavated. Two NNE-SSW orientated cuts were visible in section. **232** is a flat based V-shaped feature filled by sandy gravel edge weathering (739). Ditch **738** probably cut **232**; the profile is a wide U-shape and fill (233) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt with animal bone, Roman pot (dating possibly to the fourth century) and a fragment of box flue tile.

Ditch **265** is an unexcavated ESE-WNW linear with at least two fills. From the surface the early or primary edge weathering (264) could be seen to underlie final fill

(263), a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) humic silty clay which may correlate with (1002). Roman pottery was recovered from the earlier or primary fill (264).

270 is an unexcavated ditch parallel to **265** and filled by (269), a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) clayey silt from which pot (dating to mid third century AD) and bone were recovered. It cut ditch fill (771), a brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt filling a NNE-SSW linear feature. (771) was cut on its NNE end by ditch **717**, which runs parallel to **265** and **270**. The fills resembled those of ditch **265**, with a primary gravel fill (715) sealed below a peaty organic clay (716). Primary fill (715) was dated to the second century or later. A layer (266) between ditches **265** and **270** comprises 0.05m of poorly sorted stones in a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey sand matrix with abundant pot and tile. This context, a dump layer ?, has been dated to the second century AD or later.

Ditch **565** was not recognised in the first instance, as it was paler than the other features in the trench. This NE-SW orientated feature is filled by (564), a strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) mottled silty sand from which animal bone and a Roman pot sherd (which could not be dated more accurately) were recovered. This correlates with a small enclosure ditch seen on the air photographs.

Trench 32 was 51m long, 2.10m wide and 0.35-0.4m in depth. It was positioned in order to assess the western extent of Area 6 in an area which is largely 'blank' apart from a pair of parallel linear ditches. The features are cut into terrace gravel and are obscured by a thin layer of mixed, dirty gravel below the ploughsoil. A pit and six parallel WNW-ESE ditches were recorded. The southernmost ditch **606** was machine excavated. This feature is 4.6m wide and 1.2m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile. Primary fill (607) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy gravel; this is semi-waterlogged or only recently desiccated. Above this were slightly humic re-deposited sands and gravels (608) with (? residual) Iron Age or Romano-British pot, slag and animal bone. The remainder of the features in Trench 32 were unexcavated and will be described below. No further finds were recovered.

(794) is a ditch fill 0.9m wide and comprising a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silt mottled with iron re-deposition. (795) is 1.7m wide and consists of a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt mottled with iron re-deposition. This fill is identical to (798) and may be contemporary. Ditch fill (797) is 2.2m wide and comprises a brown (10YR 4/3) mottled clayey sand. Ditch fill (798) is 1m wide and is identical to (795). Pit fill (799) is a dark brown (10YR 3/3) humic clayey silt and may be modern. All linear features conform in alignment to rectilinear features of the cropmark complex.

Trench 33 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.45m in depth. The trench was machined down to natural alluvium comprising pale grey and orange silts, and was positioned in order to investigate a cropmark 'blank' area.

One ditch was excavated. **322** is a NNE-SSW orientated feature running c. 27m across the trench and curving towards the south; its southern end is cut by ditch **809**. The line of the ditch is irregular, and several narrow ditches branch off towards the east. The cut **322** is 0.87m wide and 0.31m in depth, with a V-shaped profile and one fill (321). This is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy silt mottled with iron staining. A small fragment of pot was recovered; this was the only artefact found in the trench, and has been described as either prehistoric, Roman or possibly even Saxon.

Four unexcavated post holes were set alongside ditch **322.** Fills (804) and (805) (to the east of the ditch) are a mottled yellowish brown and dark yellowish brown (10YR 5/6 + 4/4) clayey silt. Post hole fills (806) and (807) are c. 13m to the north on the opposite side of ditch **322**. These are a brown (10YR 5/3) charcoal flecked silt.

Four parallel WNW-ESE ditches cross the south end of the trench. The two later ones **808** and **809** are clearly contemporary, and probably relate to a trackway seen on the

cropmark plot to the east of Trench 33. **808** and **809** cut two ditches (800) and (810) respectively, which may or may not be contemporary with one another (the fills are somewhat different). The fills of the later ditches (801) and (802) are a brown (10YR 4/3) clayey silt. (800) is a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, and (810) is a brown clayey silt.

Trench 34 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m-0.45m in depth. It was machined onto silt, clay and gravel and was placed in a 'blank' area to the west of Area 6. Four features were identified, and one was partially excavated. (428) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt of varying thickness; root holes extended this deposit into the natural clay to the north. This was interpreted as a hedge line. No finds were recovered.

(714) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt fill of a sub-rectangular feature truncated by the eastern baulk. No finds were recovered. (811) and (812) are either pits or ditch butts running under the eastern trench baulk. (811) is a brown (10YR 5/3) mottled silt and (812) is a grey (10YR 5/1) mottled silt. Charcoal occurred in both but no finds were recovered.

Trench 35 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.6m in depth. It was machined onto fine orange sand and pale yellowish grey silt in a 'blank' area. Only one feature, sealed by up to 20cm of yellowish brown sandy silt, was observed and excavated. Pit **554** is 1.5m x 0.85m in plan and 0.26m in depth. Fill (555) is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand (alluvium). The very pale fill of this feature (contrasting with the majority of others in the vicinity) suggests that either it is very early or it is natural.

Trench 36 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5-0.75m in depth. It was machined down to mixed yellow brown and orange alluvial silts into which all features were cut. The location was chosen in order to investigate a cluster of cropmarks including a NNE-SSW orientated ditched track. Thirteen features were recorded including five north-south orientated ditches. Four features were excavated.

At the western end of the trench two curving ditches **346** and **350** were investigated. The western ditch **350** is 0.7m wide and 0.3m in depth with a flat based U-shaped profile; ditch **346** is 0.76m wide and 0.35m in depth with a similar profile. The fills (345) and (349) are a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand, notably paler than the other deposits observed in the trench. This suggests that these were either natural or very early features. The ditches curved towards on another, both butting in the trench. The terminals were excavated in the hopeful expectation that these might represent the penannular ditch of a circular structure. Unfortunately no finds were recovered.

Parallel ditches (336) and **352** were interpreted as contemporary due to their identical surface fills and similar north-south orientation. **352** was excavated, proving to be 2.5m wide and 0.86m deep with a complex, stepped profile, two fills and a re-cut. Primary fill (546) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy silty clay. Secondary fill (545) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay. This is cut by re-cut **740**, which is 1.05m wide and 0.45m in depth. The re-cut profile is flat based with the western edge slightly undercut. The fill (544) is a grey (2.5Y 5/1) sandy clay. No finds were recovered from either the original ditch or the re-cut. The parallel ditch (336) was not excavated and produced no surface finds.

Ditches **340** and **354** also had identical final fills and a north-south orientation. Unfortunately no finds were recovered from either ditch. **340** is 1.85m wide and 0.42m in depth, with a flat based U-shaped profile and three fills. Primary fill (482) is a white and brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay derived from weathering in of the natural drift. Secondary fill (481) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5.3) sandy clay. Tertiary fill (339) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silty sand. **354** was not excavated.

The remaining fills were recorded but not excavated. Ditch (337) is the fill of a 0.4m wide north-south ditch; this comprises an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy clay from which two fragments of daub were recovered. The adjacent post hole fill (338) contains burnt and partially burnt wood which appear to be modern. Pit fill (341) is an olive yellow (2.5Y 6/6) slightly clayey sand with no surface finds. Pit or ditch butt (343) is a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) slightly clayey sand with no surface finds. Ditch **365** is orientated NW-SE, a different orientation to the others recorded in Trench 36. Fill (364) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 3/4) slightly clayey sand with no surface finds. Pit fill (366) is a brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) slightly clayey sand with no surface finds. (368) may be a ditch fill, or the fill of several intercutting features; this is a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy clay.

Trench 37 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5-0.65m in depth. It was positioned over two parallel linear banks identified on the air photographs (these were not identified on the ground). It was machined onto yellow-orange silt and gravel, through a 0.3m ploughsoil and 0.2m of mixed alluvium incorporating ? remnant ploughsoil. Four ditches were recorded, three of which are parallel and align with the cropmarks, and two of which were excavated. **406** is one of three WNW-ESE orientated ditches. This is 2.2m wide, 0.4m deep and has one fill (407). This is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) find silty sand. There were no finds, apart from a ceramic field drain laid across the top of the ditch. This must suggest that the ditch had survived as a earthwork when the field drain was laid (nineteenth century). The ditch aligns with the ridge and furrow recorded to the north.

(401) is the fill of an unexcavated ditch parallel to **406**. This is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sand and gravel with no finds. (404) is the unexcavated fill of another parallel ditch, comprising a brown (10YR 5/3) silty sand.

Ditch **408** is a NE-SW orientated ditch extending for over 11m across the trench and running under the south-western baulk. A 1m slot across the terminal and a further 0.5m slot were excavated, however no finds were recovered. The cut is 0.18m deep and 0.4m wide, with a U-shaped profile. The fill (405) is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand. This feature runs perpendicular to that interpreted as a post-medieval drain in Trench 28 (above).

Trench 38 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m in depth. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a Roman pot scatter identified by D. Hall during the Fenland Project field survey. Two features were excavated and a further seven deposits were recorded.

Linear cut **390** is 2.2m wide and 0.15m in depth, with shallow sloping sides. This was interpreted as the base of a plough furrow. It is filled by (394), an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey sand, and is orientated NNE-SSW. This is perpendicular to the ridge and furrow plotted on the air photographs less than 100m to the south, and aligned with that plotted to the immediately to the east. A single sherd of Late Iron Age or Roman pot was recovered.

Linear cut **397** is on the same orientation as **390** and is similarly insubstantial, with a width of 0.8m and a depth of 0.13m. The fill (396) is a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/3) silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

Unexcavated deposits in Trench 38 are as follows: (373) is the undefined fill of what are probably two separate features. This is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) clayey sand with no surface finds. (385) is an undefined fill comprising a very dark greyish brown sandy clay from which Roman (fourth century) pottery was recovered. A near complete horse skeleton of uncertain date was revealed on the surface of this fill. (386) is an undefined fill, possibly of a ditch butt. This is a very dark greyish brown

(2.5Y 3/2) clayey silt with animal bone on the surface. (387) is an undefined fill, probably of a pit or ditch butt. This comprises a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) clayey sand with no surface finds. (388) is identical to (387), and fills a NNE-SSW orientated feature, possibly a plough furrow. Pottery recovered from this fill has been dated to the second century or later. (393) is the fill of a possible ditch butt; this is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) sandy clay with no surface finds. (395) is the fill of one of several NNE-SSW orientated linear features, possibly plough furrows. This is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay with surface pottery dating to the Roman period or possibly later.

Trench 39 was 48m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m in depth. It was positioned in a 'blank' area between two clusters of cropmarks and was machined onto alluvial sand and silts . Four post holes, a pit, and an undefined deposit were recorded.

(372) is the fill of a large undefined feature 5.87 x >2.14m in plan and 0.3m in depth. This fill is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5.4) clayey sand. A 1m wide slot was excavated through this steep sided, irregular feature, and pottery dating this feature to the second century or later was recovered.

Pit **581** measures 1.1m x 0.8m in plan and 0.33m in depth. Two fills were recorded in excavation; primary edge slip (601) is sealed by (582), a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty sand. No finds were recovered.

The four unexcavated post holes appeared to form an arc, however no structure can be positively identified. Post hole fill (516) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) clay. (763) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) clayey silt. (541) and (543) are a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

Trench 40 was 20m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m deep and was machined onto alluvium. The trench was positioned in order to investigate a cluster of enclosures which appear to be cut by a NE-SW orientated trackway. Five features were recorded, three of which were excavated. Two sherds of (possible) prehistoric pot were recovered from the trench spoil.

Pit **371** is semi-circular in plan and extends under the southern trench baulk. This feature is 1.2m x 0.4m in plan and 0.28m in depth, with a very irregular cut. This may in fact represent a tree throw hole. Fill (370) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand from which Roman pot was recovered. The pit cuts ditch **552** a narrow north-south orientated feature 0.53m wide and 0.23m in depth. The profile is U-shaped with slightly undercut edges. Primary fill (551) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt from which pot was recovered; this dated the feature to the second century or later. Secondary fill (539) is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand with no finds. This ditch is difficult to match with specific cropmark features, however it may be a settlement feature related to the enclosure through which the trench was placed, rather than the trackway ditch.

Feature **538** is 0.67m wide, 0.41m deep and is orientated north-south. The profile is stepped, with one vertical side and one partially vertical side and a flat base. This has been interpreted as a beam slot. The fill (537) is a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty sand with one prehistoric (? Iron Age) pot sherd and bone recovered. Parallel to this feature is fill (813), a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt of about the same width. This may also be a beam slot. Parallel to this, and truncated by the eastern trench baulk, is ditch fill (814), which is identical to (813). Again, this feature is probably related to the enclosure boundary shown on the air photographs.

Trench 41 was 52m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m deep. It was positioned across a concentration of cropmark enclosures (including a sub-circular enclosure) and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Four ditches and two pits were recorded; one of

the ditches **378** was machine excavated. Pottery recovered from trowel-scanning the removed fill was dated it to the second century AD or later.

Ditch **378** is 3.2m wide and 0.9m in depth, with a wide U-shaped profile. Primary fill (380) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand from which no finds were recovered. Secondary fill (379) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand with pot and animal bone. The ditch is orientated WNW-ESE and was correlated with the southern boundary of a sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure c. 18m x 20m across.

The northern WNW-ESE boundary of this cropmark enclosure overlaps with the southern boundary of another, irregular sub-rectangular enclosure located immediately to the north. There were two unexcavated ditch fills which coincided with these boundaries; these may have been two fills of a single ditch, or two separate ditches, or one may have been the fill of a re-cut ditch. (382), to the south, comprises gravel in a brown (10YR 4.3) matrix. (381) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand from which bone and sixteen sherds of ? late Iron Age pottery were recovered. It appears then that the southern enclosure dates to the second century AD or later, and that the northern enclosure dates to the Iron Age , unless the pottery recovered is residual.

Unexcavated ditch fill (377) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds. This correlates with the sub-circular enclosure identified on the air photographs at NGR 548978/264321. Three unexcavated features lie within the confines of the ring ditch . (374) is a NNE-SSW ditch fill running mostly under the western baulk. This comprises a brown (10YR 5/3) silty sand from which animal bone was recovered. (375) is a pit or post hole fill comprising a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand with no surface finds. (376) is a pit comprising a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds.

Trench 42 was 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.75-0.8m in depth. It was positioned across an area of ridge and furrow identified on the air photographs. It was machined through 0.3m of ploughsoil and 0.45m of subsoil (636) in which the ridge and furrow was evident. Residual second-fourth century AD pottery was recovered from this deposit. pottery The subsoil is a brown (10YR 5/3) firm silty clay which overlies gravel with clay lenses and orange silt. No features pre-dating the ridge and furrow were discovered.

Trench 43 was 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.5m in depth. It was machined onto white and yellow silts and was placed in a 'blank' area to the north-east of the northern cropmark complex of Area 8. Six equidistant (c 6.4m apart) east-west ditches (510, 511, 513, 514, 515, 751) were recorded, three of which were machine excavated (751, 515, 514). The fills were comparable, ranging from a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt to an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4 and 5/4) medium sand. Medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered from (511) and (514), and post-medieval finds were recovered from (751).

The southernmost post-medieval ditch **764** cut an earlier north-south ditch **616**, which was hand excavated. **616** is 0.95m wide and 0.43m deep, with a flat based U-shaped profile. Fill (617) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty sand from which animal bone and one prehistoric or Saxon pot sherd was recovered.

Ditch **752** cut an undefined fill (753); this is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt with no surface finds. **752** also cut a rectilinear edged deposit of clay and gravel (754) which appeared to be unmixed natural. This is similar to the clay in Trench 2, which was interpreted as a geological test pit; this explanation is less likely in the case of (754), as it is cut by the post-medieval ditch **752**. It may be that (754) is a peri-glacial feature; the concentration of gravel along the edges may support this interpretation.

Trench 44 was originally 50m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m in depth. The width was later extended by 2.10m for a length of 26m alongside the original trench. Machining was taken down to gravel, pale orange-brown silts and white silt. The location of the trench was chosen in order to investigate a cluster of small, rectilinear cropmark enclosures divided by a trackway running WNW-ESE.

Five post-medieval ditches cut across the earlier features in Trench 44 (471, 474, 477, 744, 746). A sherd of residual first century AD pot was recovered from (471), and residual first or second century pot was recovered from (477). These east-west orientated features were 0.6-0.8m wide and had identical fills, described variously as dark greyish brown, olive brown and dark olive brown (10YR 4/2; 2.5Y 4/3 and 3/3).

Two of these **743** and **745** cut a wide (c. 12m) layer or fill (472); this is an olive grey (5Y 4/2) clayey sand from which brick, bone and pot dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods were recovered. This deposit may have accumulated in a hollow formed between the trackway ditches defined on the air photographs. A machine sondage c. 0.3m deep revealed a white surface with c. 70% small stones sealed below (472). This layer (473) looked initially like concrete but the stones were in fact set in a matrix of very soft sandy clay. This was interpreted as a remnant of metalling between the two trackway ditches.

Burial 3 lies to the north of the trackway within grave cut **658**. The feature was not fully excavated, and only the legs were exposed. The burial was extended and supine, with the bones in poor condition. The feet were missing altogether, presumably having disintegrated in the sandy matrix. The grave fill (475) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) medium sand, from which three abraded Roman pot sherds were recovered. (475) consisted of re-deposited natural whitish silt which was not very distinct from the natural. After the discovery of this burial the trench was widened by a bucket width and the area was hand cleaned in order to locate further possible burials. Several pale features were identified, very possibly signifying more graves. One undefined fill (695) produced a sherd of stamped Samian ware dating to c 140 AD or later. A second burial was found at the western baulk. Burial 2 lies only 0.28m from the ploughsoil surface and has been hit by the plough. The bone is in very poor condition apart from the right femur which is buried more deeply. Only the right humerus, radius, femur , several ribs and a metatarsal were exposed.

Ditch fill (476) corresponds to a NNE-SSW enclosure ditch identified on the air photographs. This is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand with abundant surface pottery dating to the second century or later. It was not excavated.

Two kilns were discovered in the north of the trench, but were not excavated. Kiln 1 (cut **694**) is a rounded, cruciform shape with the flue orientated towards the north-west. The feature is 0.96m wide and >2.15m long. The cut was lined by (480), a reddish yellow (5Y 6/6) baked clay 0.10-0.15m thick. The fill (479) is a dark grey (2.5Y 4/1) medium sand from which pot dating to the second century or later was recovered. Kiln 1 cut ditch fill (505) and clay dump (693). This is a very pure greenish grey (gley 6/10Y) deposit which has been described as a potting clay pure enough to use without treatment (C. Going, pers. comm.). One pot sherd was recovered from the surface.

Kiln 2 comprises a circular cut [697] measuring 1.35m in diameter with a flue >1.2m long, 0.9m wide and orientated to the north-west. A baked clay layer lines the bowl of the kiln This is filled by (699), from which pottery dating to the third century or later was recovered. The fill of the flue (700) is very black, with lenses of potter's clay and abundant pottery dating to the second century or later.

A layer (478) partly sealed the kilns; this very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty sand probably derives from rubbish accumulation associated with the kilns, and has been spread from the tops of features by the plough. The pottery within this deposit dates to the second century or later.

Immediately to the south of Kiln 2 is (712), an undefined, semi-circular feature running under the western baulk. Its fill resembles flue fill (700), being very black and charcoal rich with abundant pot. This was identified as over-fired Romano-British period pottery (contra. Going below) after further consultation between ceramic specialists (Hall pers. comm.).

Ditch fill (505) is similar to (700) and (712); this black silty sand also produced abundant pot, and is cut by kiln 1 (**694**). It was not excavated.

Trench 45 was 12m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m in depth. It was machined onto gravel and orange-brown silt in a location and orientation dictated in part by the harvesting schedule of a crop of sugarbeet. The trench was placed in order to investigate an enclosure ditch and any associated features in Area 8 (north). Two north-south ditches (506) and (507) were recorded, as well as a possible pit (508) and a WNW-ESE ditch (509). The latter was correlated with an enclosure ditch identified on the air photographs. (506) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) silty sand and (507) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) medium sand. Pit fill (508) and ditch fill (509) are similar to (505) and (506); all the features in the trench are probably contemporary. The only finds were bone and pot recovered from the surface of (509); the pot was dated to the second century AD. No further excavation took place.

Trench 46 is 49m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.45m in depth. It was machined onto yellow and orange alluvium which was deeply plough scored. The trench was positioned in order to test the extent of the features associated with the Saxon A pot scatter (Area 9). Two NW-SE orientated ditches were encountered. (815) is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clayey silt with no surface finds. (816) was not recorded. A field drain in the north of the trench ran parallel to a narrow linear which was probably also a modern drainage feature.

Trench 47 was 32m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m in depth. The trench was positioned to the south of Trench 38 in order to test the extent of the cluster of features located in the more northerly trench. It was machined onto orange alluvial silts into which a single ditch was cut. (713) is a brown (10YR 5/3) clayey sand from which medieval and post-medieval pot and tile were recovered.

Trench 48 -see Trench 1, below.

Trench 49 was 30m long, 2.10m wide and 0.65-1.05m in depth. It was placed c. 100m north of pot scatter B (Area 10) in order to test the extent of the settlement to the north towards the Car Dyke Road. The trench ran half way across the forend ridge, which rose to a height of 0.67m. The surface of the natural drift (gravel and alluvium) is irregular but does not show any corresponding rise. This indicates that the entire formation of the ridge is due to human agency.

At the western end of the trench a series of nine post holes formed the end of what is probably a rectangular structure, interpreted as an Anglo-Saxon Hall. This is 4.8m wide, with six post holes forming the northern end, the other three forming the east and west walls which run under the southern trench baulk.

Two of the post holes were excavated. **610** measures 0.33 x 0.31m and is 0.14m in depth with a round-based V-shaped profile. Fill (609) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey silt from which a very small piece of ? iron slag and a fragment of animal bone was obtained.

Post hole **650** is 0.49m x 0.43m and 0.13m in depth. Fill (649) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt. Post hole fills (615, 667, 671 and 673) comprise an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3 and 4/4) clayey silt; fill (669) comprises a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey silt. The post-holes were sealed by subsoil (773).

A series of north-south ditches were recorded at the eastern end of Trench 49. These were sealed by subsoil (773) but cut (772) (see below). These appeared initially as one large feature and the uppermost layer (683) was machine excavated. This is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey silt from which no finds were recovered. A few machine scrapes sufficed to remove this deposit and to define five ditches or re-cuts sealed below. One of these **612** was hand excavated.

612 is 0.73m wide with a complex profile comprising a U-shape with a step. Fill (611) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty clay from which one bone fragment was recovered. The feature cuts ditch **680** and is cut by ditch **678**. The latter is 0.61m wide with a wide U-shaped profile. Fill (677) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey silt with no finds. Ditch **680** is 0.53m wide with a wide U-shaped profile; fill (679) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey silt. Ditch **680** cuts ditch **769** a steep sided cut 0.6m wide and filled by (684), a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay. This feature cuts ditch **682** a 1.2m wide feature with a wide U-shaped profile. Fill (681) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) clayey silt.

The stratigraphy of the forend in Trench 49 can be correlated with that of the 'B' series test pits (Area 10). Layer (773) seals what may be a buried 'A' horizon (772). This overlies a paler 'B' horizon (719), from which a Saxon pot sherd was recorded. The ditch sequence must therefore be Saxon or later, and the post hole s

Trench 50 was 29m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4-0.5m in depth. It was machined onto a grey silty clay with lenses of sandy silt. The trench was located c. 150m to the south of pot scatter 'B' and was placed perpendicular to a series of north-south orientated linear cropmarks. The trench revealed four north-south ditches, much closer together than those on the air photographs but probably part of the same system of ridge and furrow. The western of these ditches contained electric cables which are believed to relate to wartime activity connected with Waterbeach airfield. Ditch **659** was excavated and proved to be 1.7m wide and 0.3m deep. The profile was flat based with one very gradually sloping side and one very steep side with a field drain at the base (probably intrusive). This profile supports the interpretation of the ditch as the base of a plough furrow. The fill (660) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay. The unexcavated fills of the parallel ditches were (662), a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty clay and (664), a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand. A sherd of red-glazed pot and a brick fragment were recovered from the latter.

Trench 51 was 29m long, 2.10m wide and 0.4m in depth. It was machined onto gravel and silt. This trench was opened up solely in order to locate further burials so that it could be established whether the first burial found in Trench 44 is isolated or is part of a cemetery. Seven ditches were located, including the post medieval ditches **696** and **747** which were recorded in Trench 44. No definite further graves were noted, though other Romano-British features continue into this area.

Test Pit A was 0.4m deep and was machined onto alluvium. One feature, a NNE-SSW orientated ditch **442** was recorded. Upon excavation this proved to be 1.93m wide and 0.57m in depth, with a wide U-shaped profile. The single fill (443) is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand from which a single sherd of Romano-British pot and a little shell and bone were recovered.

Test Pit B was 0.36m deep and was machined onto alluvium. One NNE-SSW ditch was planned but was not recorded. This is on the same alignment as **442** to the NNE and (485) to the SSW. This is probably one feature and may also be the same as (529) in Test Pit Z, (535) in AC and (536) in AD.

Test Pit C was 0.6m deep and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. There were no archaeological features.

Test Pit D was 0.48m deep and was machined onto alluvium with lenses of gravel. A NNE-SSW orientated ditch (484) and a post hole (483) were recorded but not excavated. Ditch fill (484) is a dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) silty sand with no surface finds. Post hole fill (483) is 0.32m x 0.35m in plan and comprises a greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit E was 0.45m deep and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. One NNE-SSW ditch (485) was recorded but not excavated. This is aligned with (529) in Test Pit Z and with **442** in Test Pit A and comprises a dark brown (2.5Y 3/3) silty sand. There were no associated finds.

Test Pit F was 0.45m deep and was machined onto alluvium. Four intercutting ditches were recorded and the most recent **654** was excavated. This proved to be a re-cut of a large NNE-SSW ditch sequence. The earliest cut **630** is more than 1.85m wide, with possibly another 0.3m running under the eastern baulk. **630** is 0.75m in depth, with a wide U-shaped profile. Fill (655) is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand from which pot and bone were recovered. The pottery was dated the ditch cut to the second century AD or later. This ditch cut is truncated by two re-cuts **692** and **768**, both of which are cut by a further re-cut **654**. Ditch re-cut **692** is 0.65m wide and 0.38m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Fill (691) comprises a grey (2.5Y 5/1) silty sand from which Roman pot was recovered. Ditch re-cut **768** is >1.25m wide (probably c. 1.5m wide when fully exposed and prior to truncation). It is 0.35m deep and has a flat based U-shaped profile with one fill. (656) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sand with Romano-British and Saxon pot and animal bone.

Re-cuts **692** and **768** are cut by **654**, a ditch 1.97m wide and 0.42m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Fill (486) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt with pot, bone and an iron object. The majority of pot is of Horningsea ware with some Hadham ware, and two sherds dated to the Saxon period.

The features described below were not excavated. The ditch sequence **630/692/768/654** cuts two WNW-ESE ditches **749** and **750**. **749** is filled by (488), a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand with no surface finds. This fill is cut by **748**, a post hole 0.26m x 0.24m in plan. Fill (491) is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy silt with no surface finds. Ditch **750**, also cut by the ditch sequence **630** runs parallel to (488). The fill (489) is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand with two pot sherds found on the surface. These were dated by one specialist to the Roman period and were cited as being of uncertain date by another. (492) has been defined as a possible pit fill, however this is not clear. Its relationship to the two ditches (490) and (489) is also unresolved. (492) is a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt with pot recovered from the surface. This was dated to the second century AD. (487) is the fill of a small pit with no clear relationships with other features. It is a greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit G is 0.46m in depth and was machined onto greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt. This sterile deposit (493) was interpreted as alluvium, but may be the remnant of a buried soil. A fragment of tile or brick was recovered from the surface.

Test Pit H was 0.38m in depth and was machined onto gravel. One NNE-SSW ditch (494) was recorded but was not excavated. This is a brown (10YR 4/3) silty sand with no surface finds. This may be the same feature as (498) in Test Pit T.

Test Pit I was 0.42m deep and was machined onto a mixed silt which was interpreted as the remnant of a buried soil (French pers. comm.). Several intercutting features were apparent in plan (all cut through the soil), and a sondage helped further define feature relationships.

A large ditch **437** running WNW-ESE was partially excavated. This is at least 1.25m in depth but may be deeper; just under half of the profile (probably a wide U-shape) was exposed. Primary fill (501) is a light brownish grey (2.5Y 6/2) silty sand with early Roman pottery and animal bone. Secondary fill (439) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sand with box flue tile and pot dating to the third century or later. This is cut by re-cut **504** which is 0.5m in depth and contains four fills. Primary fill (742) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay with no finds. Secondary fill (502) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay with no finds. Tertiary fill (503) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay with no finds. Quaternary fill (438) is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) clayey sand with Saxon pot and animal bone. Pottery ascribed to the cut number **437** more probably relates to (438)/**504,** but was recovered, before the existence of this feature had been established.

A narrow, shallow ditch **435** orientated NNE-SSW was also excavated. This flat based feature is 0.8m wide and 0.23m deep and cut **437/504** . Fill (436) is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty clay with animal bone and (residual) Iron Age or ? Saxon pot.

Test Pit J was 0.44m deep and was machined onto alluvium. A large east-west ditch **447/455** was excavated and was found to be cut by five pits. The ditch either turned to the NNW or intersected with a separate feature on that alignment. The width of the feature was recorded as >1.5m, as it was not fully exposed in the test pit. The primary ditch fill is (448/454), a brownish yellow (10YR 8/6) silty sand with no finds. This is cut by pits **445** and **452**. **445** is 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep and is filled by (446), a dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy silt with fourth century pottery and animal bone. **452** was not fully exposed; fill (453) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt with no finds. This is cut by pit **450**, which is 1.1m wide and 0.4m in depth with two fills. Primary fill (451) is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt with no finds. Secondary fill (449/431) is a pale brown (10YR 6/3) sandy silt containing pottery dating to the third century or later. Pit **445** is cut by pit **440**, which is 0.5m in depth and filled by (441), a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt with no finds. This is cut by pit **433** which is 0.47m wide and 0.25m in depth . The fill (434) is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sandy silt with no finds.

Test Pit K was 0.37m deep and was machined onto grey subsoil. This was not bottomed, and no features were revealed.

Test Pit L was 0.48m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. A NNE-SSW orientated ditch (495) was recorded but was not excavated. (495) is a brown (10YR 5/3) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit M was 0.4m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. One pit or ditch butt (391) was recorded but not excavated. This is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) mottled clayey silt with no finds.

Test Pit N was 0.34m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Four features were recorded, one of which was excavated.

Pit **444** is 1.3m x 1.4m in plan and 0.85m in depth. Fill (400) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) clayey sand from which one sherd of prehistoric pot (dating could not be further refined) was recovered.

Ditch (393) is orientated NNE-SSW and comprises an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) clayey sand with no finds. Two post holes were located alongside and to the east of this feature. (398) is 0.22m in diameter and comprises an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) clayey sand with no surface finds. (399) is identical apart from a lack of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

Test Pit O was 0.45m in depth and was machined onto grey alluvium and gravel. One feature was recorded but not excavated: NNE-SSW ditch fill (496) is a brown (10YR 4/3) silty sand with a lump of slag recovered from the surface. This ditch is probably the same as (484) in Test Pit D and (528) in Test Pit Y.

Test Pit P was 0.5m in depth and was machined onto alluvium and clay. One feature was recorded but was not excavated. (497) is the fill of a NNE-SSW orientated ditch; this comprises a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy silt with no surface finds. This may correlate with ditch (533) in Test Pit AA.

Test Pit Q was 0.46m in depth and was machined onto grey and brown clay. A NNW-SSE ditch was tentatively identified but was later discounted as a variation in natural.

Test Pit R was 0.4m in depth and was machined onto grey and brown clay. No features were identified.

Test Pit S was 0.45m in depth and was machined onto grey and brown clay. No features were identified.

Test Pit T was 0.34m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Two post holes and a ditch were recorded but were not excavated. (498) is the fill of a NNE-SSW orientated ditch; this comprises a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds. This may correlate with ditch (494) in Test Pit H. Post hole fill (499) is c. 0.25m in diameter and comprises a dark greyish brown silty sand with charcoal but no surface finds. The adjacent post hole fill (500) is identical to (499) and produced no surface finds.

Test Pit U was 0.38m deep and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Three NNE-SSW ditches were recorded but were not excavated. (517) and (518) were identical fills comprising a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) sandy silt. One pot sherd dating to the first to second century AD was recovered from (518). Ditch **755** is also orientated NNE-SSW and cuts ditch (517) on the NNW side, butting about halfway across the test pit. The fill (519) is a grey (10YR 5/1) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit V was 0.48m in depth and was machined onto grey clay and gravel. Four features were recorded but were not excavated. Pit fill (456) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy clay with one prehistoric or Saxon pot sherd on the surface. (520) is a possible ditch or layer comprising a grey (10YR 5/2) clayey sand with no surface finds. This is cut by **756** a NW-SE ditch 0.43m wide and filled by (521), a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clayey sand with no surface finds. This feature is cut by **757**, a NNE-SSW ditch filled by (522), a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) sandy clay with one Saxon pot sherd on the surface.

Test Pit W was 0.28m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Four features were recorded but were not excavated. **758** and **759** are parallel NNE-SSW ditches with identical fills: (523) and (760) comprise a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) clayey sand. Ditch fill (523) is cut by pit or ditch butt **761**; this is filled by (525),

a very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) sandy clay with one Roman pot sherd on the surface. (525) is cut by post hole **762**; this is filled by (524), a silty sandy clay with no surface finds.

Test Pit X was 0.34m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. Two post holes were recorded but not excavated. (526) and (527) comprise a dark brown (10YR 3/3) medium sand; neither produced surface finds.

Test Pit Y was 0.34m in depth and was machined onto gravel and alluvium. A single NNE-SSW ditch was recorded but not excavated. (528) is a dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty sand with no surface finds. This may correlate with (496) in Test Pit O and (484) in Test Pit D.

Test Pit Z was 0.33m in depth and was machined onto alluvium. A single NNE-SSW ditch was recorded but not excavated. (529) is a silty sand with brick/tile on the surface. This feature may correlate with similarly aligned ditches in Test Pits A, B, E, AC and AD.

Test Pit AA was 0.44m in depth and was machined onto alluvium. Five features were recorded but not excavated. (530) was interpreted as a large, irregular pit fill but may also be part of a layer or buried soil. This comprises a dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) sandy clay with animal bone and Romano-British pot on the surface. (531) is a dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) sandy clay, also with Romano-British (second century or later) pot on the surface. This may be part of a layer or buried soil which includes deposit (530). (532) is a post hole fill comprising an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty sand with no surface finds. (533) is the fill of a NNE-SSW ditch 0.81m wide and possibly correlating with (497) in Test Pit P. Fill (533) is an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) silty sand with no surface finds; (534) is identical. This may be part of a layer or buried soil which includes (530) and (531).

Test Pit AB was 0.34m in depth and was machined onto clay with gravel. A NNE-SSW ditch was tentatively planned but was not very clear. This is on the same alignment as the possible ditch in Test Pit Q.

Test Pit AC was 0.38m in depth and was machined onto gravel. A single NNE-SSW ditch (535) was recorded but not excavated. This comprises a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds. This may correlate with similarly aligned ditches in Test Pits A, B, E, Z and AD.

Test Pit AD was 0.5m in depth and was machined onto clay with gravel. A single NNE-SSW ditch was recorded but not excavated. (536) is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) silty sand with no surface finds. This may correlate with the similarly aligned ditches recorded in Test Pits A, B, E, Z and AC.

Test Pit BA was 0.45m-0.5m in depth. Two ditches and an undefined fill were recorded. Ditch fill (566) is a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt, unexcavated and with no surface finds. It fills an east-west cut measuring 0.65m in width and a length of >3.2m. This is cut by **633**, a north-south ditch 0.7m in width and 0.25m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The terminal of this >4m long feature was excavated, however only animal bone was recovered. The fill (567) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand. **633** also cuts a possible pit fill (568). This is a greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay with no surface finds.

Pottery recovered from the subsoil spoil (702) was dated to the Roman period and to the post-medieval period.

Test Pit BB was 0.35m-0.5m deep machined onto the same natural as BA. No archaeological features were encountered.

Test Pit BC was 0.4m-0.5m deep and remarkable for its dense concentration of post holes (20 in all). Several alignments can be seen within this cluster, with a possible structure orientated east-west. This includes several pairs of post holes or double post holes which may represent either one phase of paired posts or two phases, with posts being replaced and the holes re-cut. Four post holes were excavated. Prehistoric or Saxon pot was recovered from the ploughsoil spoil.

629 is an oval shaped post hole 0.74m x 0.68m in plan and 0.12m in depth. The base is rounded, with a wide U-shaped profile. The fill (577) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay with pot and baked clay. The pot has been dated to either the prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods. Post hole **640** is 0.35m x 0.28m in plan and 0.23m in depth with near vertical sides and a rounded base. The fill (584) is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silt from which a single Iron Age or Saxon pot sherd was recovered. Post hole **651** is 0.85m x 0.7m in plan and 0.18m in depth, with a circular cut extending a further 0.10m through the flat base. The feature may represent several phases of activity. The fill (652) of the deeper cut is a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy clay which may have served as post packing. A shallow lens of clay lines the base of the post hole, with a final fill (569) comprising a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt from which half a ? loom weight (small find 37), animal bone and two Saxon pot sherds were recovered. The loom weight is made of baked clay and has a sub-square lateral section.

Post hole **653** is 0.4m in diameter, with a flat base and a depth of 0.05m, probably due to plough truncation. Fill (580) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) clayey sand with Saxon pot. The remaining, unexcavated post holes (570-576, 579, 583, 585-591) had brown, dark greyish brown to very dark greyish brown fills comprising sandy clay or clayey sand. A flint was recovered from (591), and Saxon pot was recovered from (576).

Pit fill (578) has been interpreted as a possible hearth. The feature is 0.6m x >0.4m and is truncated by the southern trench baulk. The fill is a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay with baked clay, bone and burnt sandstone on the surface.

Saxon pottery was recovered from the subsoil spoil (704) and from the ploughsoil spoil (1000).

Test Pit BD was 0.45m-0.5m in depth. An east-west orientated ditch and three post holes were recorded. The ditch **631** turned out to be only 0.15m deep on excavation, and has probably been truncated by the plough. It is 1.5m wide and filled by (592), a dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey sand. One Roman and two Saxon pot sherds were assigned to the cut number **631**. Unexcavated post hole fills (593), (594) and (595) are an identical dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit BE was 0.45m-0.5m deep. Two deposits were recorded, however no excavation took place. (596) is probably the fill of a large east-west orientated ditch, however only one edge was visible as the feature ran under the baulk. (596) measures >5.00m x >3.4m and comprises a dark greyish brown (2.5YR 4/2) silty sand. One Roman pot sherd was recovered from the surface.

(597) is almost certainly the fill of several intercutting features; this very irregular deposit is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit BF was 0.4m-0.5m in depth. Three features were recorded but not excavated. (624) is the fill of a pit, post hole or ditch butt which was truncated by the eastern baulk. This is a very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) sandy clayey silt. (625) is probably a post hole; this measures 0.27 x >0.33m and runs under the baulk. This comprises a dark grey (2.5Y 4/1) silty sand with no surface finds. (626) is a ditch butt

fill 0.63m x >1.4m and comprises a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with no surface finds.

Test Pit BG was 0.9m deep. Two features were recorded, sealed beneath the forend ridge. Ditch **622** is 1.2m wide and 0.5m in depth with a round based V-shaped profile. It is orientated north-south, and is filled by (598), a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty sand from which Saxon pot and animal bone were recovered. Adjacent to this is the unexcavated post hole fill (600), a mottled light greyish brown (2.5Y 6/2) silty sand measuring 0.55m x 0.46m in plan. There were no finds from the surface of this feature.

Test Pit BH was 1m in depth and was cut through the pronounced ridge of the field joint. There were no features cut into the alluvial silt, however a pot sherd and a lump of slag were recovered from the trench base surface. Three layers were apparent in the trench baulk. (686) is directly beneath the ploughsoil and comprises a dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silt 0.3m in depth. Below this is (687) a soft clayey silt (10YR 3/2) interpreted as a buried 'A' horizon. Below this is (688), a very dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt 0.10m in depth. This overlies the natural brown (10YR 5/3) silt.

Pottery dating to the second to fourth century AD was recovered from the subsoil spoil (709).

Test Pit BI was 1.10m deep and presented identical stratigraphy to that in BH. The upper layer (766) is siltier and darker than (686), and is 0.2m thick. This overlies (641), which is up to 0.26m thick and identical to (687), and from which Saxon pot was recovered. Saxon pot was also recovered from the subsoil spoil (710) and ploughsoil (1000). The latter also contained two possible prehistoric sherds. The basal layer (765) is 0.08-0.18m in depth and corresponds to (688). This layer sealed the features cut into the brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clayey silt ? alluvium in the trench base.

As machining was carried out, the darker layer (641) was identified as a possible buried soil horizon. A 1m wide strip was therefore machined to the surface of this layer and not taken any deeper. In this way it could be seen in plan that ditch (627) did not cut through this layer, or if it did so the cut had been completely obscured by worm action. Pottery and slag were recovered from (641); if (627) is cut through (641) then these finds may be attributed to the ditch fill.

Ditch (627) is a grey (2.5Y 5/1) sandy silt from which bone was recovered. It is orientated roughly north-south and is >1.3m wide, running under the western baulk. This feature was not excavated.

Construction cuts **638** and **639** may be contemporary features. They appear to form vertical sided, flat based slots for an alignment of squared (c. 0.3 x 0.3m) upright posts or planks. This is visible for 1.3m running WNW-ESE, with a further short length running NNE-SSW. Fill (636/637) is a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) medium sand from which bone, and Roman (single sherd) and Saxon pottery were recovered. (645) is another post hole which continues the line of **638** and **639** east-south-eastwards. This fill measures 0.25m x 0.23m and is identical to (636/637). Immediately to the south of (645) is a possible stakehole (646) measuring 0.06m in diameter; this fill is also identical to (636/637).

Test Pit BJ was excavated to 1.10m in depth with a stratigraphy similar to that of BH and BI. Pottery dating to the second to fourth century AD was recovered from the subsoil spoil (643). A late Neolithic (Peterborough) rim was recovered from the base of the trench during cleaning. Two features were recorded but not excavated. (599) is a poorly defined feature which may be interpreted as a pit running under the baulk. This is a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand with no surface finds. (623) is the fill of a

truncated pit or ditch butt and comprises a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty sand with no surface finds.

APPENDIX C

PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Table 1. Pottery from Excavation Trenches and Test-Pitting

Context	Sherd count	Date
149(Tr 14)	1	Preh/Saxon
240(Tr 26)	1	Preh/Saxon
243(Tr 21)	1	Saxon. Single incised chevron above zone of ?combing
256(Tr 21)	1	Fired clay frag.; date unknown
259(Tr 25)	3	Saxon
261(Tr 29)	1	Saxon
277(Tr 21)	1	Preh?
321(Tr 33)	1	Preh/Saxon
326(Tr 29)	1	LBA/EIA. Rim from probable carinated vessel with high slightly everted neck and at least two finger-nail incisions along lip. Sufficient of profile survives to suggest sharp change of angle at girth. Close fabric parallels between this sherd and seven coarse body sherds classified here as 'preh?': frequent milky quartz inclusions, combined with flint; compare also LN sherd from Test-Pit BJ. Illustration recommended
355(Tr 29)	1	Saxon? (conceivably LIA combed sherd, but fabric compares most closely with diagnostic Saxon material)
357(Tr 40)	1	Preh/Saxon?
381(Tr 41)	16	Preh/Saxon; includes 4 small body sherds with traces of ?combing on exterior (could be LIA or possibly Saxon); all sherds probably from same vessel
394(Tr 38)	1	LIA/RB.Body sherd from vessel with pronounced rounded girth and horizontal groove immediately above girth angle. Form invites comparison with wide range of LIA bowls of Aylesford-Swarling tradition; handmade
400(TP N)	1	Preh?
429(Tr 29)	2	LBA/EIA? Includes possible shoulder sherd, with slight change in angle of wall at ?girth raising the possibility of a carinated/ round shouldered vessel (comparable perhaps to vessel from 326).
436(TP I)	2	RB? rim (1) & preh/Saxon: single direct rounded rim of vessel with short upright/ everted neck
438(TP I)	2	Saxon*
456(TP V)	1	Saxon?
459(Tr 19)	4	Preh/Saxon? -possibly even RB

Context	Sherd count	Date
486(TP F)	3	Sax/Med? (one large body sherd preserves several randomly scored lines on exterior, suggesting a comparison with IA scored ware, but fabric unusual: a later (Sax-med?) date. This and one other body sherd also stand out on the grounds of the unusual thickness of the vessel walls (not definitely pottery)
577(TP BC)	1	Preh/Saxon
580(TP BC)	3+frags	Saxon*
584(TP BC)	1	Preh/Saxon
592(TP BD)	1	Saxon?
608(Tr 32)	1	LIA/RB? neck fragment
617(Tr 43)	1	Preh/Saxon
631(TP BD)	3	Saxon? (2) & RB/Med (1)
636(TP BI)	2	Saxon*
637(TP BI)	4	RB (1) 8 Saxon (3)
641(TP BI)	2	Saxon*
656(TP F)	19	RB (17) & Saxon* (2)
704(TP BC)	2	Saxon*
719(Tr 49)	1	Saxon?
726(Tr 19)	1	Preh?
1000(TP BI)	4	Preh/Saxon (2) and Saxon? (2)
1000(TP BC)	2	Preh/Saxon
1000(TP BJ)	1	Late Neolithic (Peterborough) rim from vessel with high everted neck and flattened rim, pinched out slightly internally; regular line of elongated impressions along lip and another row of similar impressions along outer edge of rim, plus random circular impressions all over interior of neck. Distinctive fabric with frequent coarse milky quartz and flint inclusions; compare vesssel from 326. Illustration recommended.
1000(Tr42)	2	Preh?

Total sherds = 95 + 1 fragment of fired clay

* Saxon fabric type sherds

Table 2. Pottery from Fieldwalking

Field	Sherd count	Date
6256/H100	2	Preh/Saxon
6256/K80	1	Preh/Saxon
9034/A40	1	Saxon? - combing on exterior
9034/B40	1	LIA rim: finely moulded externally to form triangular profile; vessel form uncertain; traces of burnishing on exterior; wheelmade?
9034/C60	1	Preh/Saxon
9034/C80	1	Saxon?
9034/D60	1	IA?; Direct rounded rim from neckless vessel of uncertain (ovoid?) form
9034/E40	1	LIA/RB? - wheelmade? body sherd
9034/F40	3	Saxon? - one sherd combed
9034/F60	2	Preh/Saxon
9034/G20	1	Saxon? - several curving scored lines on exterior
9034/G60	1	Preh/Saxon
9034/G80	1	Saxon?
9034/J80	1	Preh/Saxon

Total sherds = 18

Date ranges in the above two tables have been expressed within the following range of probability:

Preh:	definitely prehistoric (LN = Late Neolithic; LBA/EIA = Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age [c.9th-5th centuries BC]; MIA = Middle Iron Age [5th/4th-1st centuries BC]; LIA = Late Iron Age [mid-1st century BC-mid 1st century AD])
RB:	definitely Romano-British
Saxon:	definitely Saxon: defined on grounds of distinctive form/surface treatment and/or close correspondence with fabric type sherds
Preh?:	possibly prehistoric - distinctive fabric with frequent coarse milky quartz and flint inclusions, comparing closely with fabric of LBA/EIA vessel from 326; no close parallels with Saxon fabrics (determined by examination of type sherds)
RB?:	possibly Romano-British
Saxon?:	possibly Saxon
Preh/Saxon:	equal probability of prehistoric or Saxon

APPENDIX D

ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY

Context	Date
139	C1 -2+
135	C2-3rd
144	C1/2+
145	Roman+?
148	Roman
149	pre?
156	C2+
166	C2+
189	C3-4th
194	C2-4th
198	C2+
212	C2+
226	RB?+
231	C2-3rd
232	C4?
240	pre or RB?
243	pre?
247	c230+
249	C3-4
256	pre Med
259	Sax?
260	C2-3
261	pre or Sax
264	Roman
266	C2+
267	RB?
269	c240+
271	C2+
275	c160-250
277	pre
282	C2+
284	C2+
287	C2+
319	Roman+
321	Roman?
325	Roman
326	pre

Context	Date
325	Roman
326	pre
355	pre or Sax
357	pre or Sax
363	C2-3+
371	Roman
372	C2+
378	C2+
381	pre? Post-R?
385	C4th
388	C2+
394	pre? Sax?
395	Roman+
400	pre
426	Unknown
429	pre or RB
431	C3+
436	pre? Rb?
437	RB or saxon
438	Saxon
439	C3+
446	C4th
456	?pre
457	c350+?
459	pre? RB?
460	C2+
470	Med+PMed
471	C1st
472	Med+PMed
474	PostMed
475	?PostRoman
476	C2+
477	C1/2+
478	C2+
479	C2+
486	Sax-Med
489	Unknown

Context	Date
486	Sax-Med
489	Unknown
492	C2+
501	early Roman
509	C2+
511	Med+PMed
514	Med+PMed
518	C1-2nd
522	Roman?
525	Roman
530	Roman
531	C2+
551	C2+
559	Unknown
564	Roman
569	Saxon?
577	?pre or ?RB
578	Fired clay
580	Saxon
584	Sax?
592	Saxon
596	Roman
598	Saxon
608	Unknown
617	pre?
631	pre? RB?
636	Saxon
637	Saxon
641	Post Roman
643	C2-4
655	C2+
656	Saxon
689	c250+
690	c250+
695	c140+
699	C3+
700	C2+

Context	Date
702	Roman+
704	Saxon
705	Med+PMed
706	Med+PMed?
707	Med+Pmed
708	Roman?
709	C2-4
710	Saxon
712	Med+PMed
713	Med+ PMed
715	C2+
719	pre? Saxon?
721	Roman?
726	pre

APPENDIX E

ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY

Table 1 Saxon pottery by context (sherd numbers)

H = Horningsea wares O = other Roman D = decorated Blk = black

Cxt	Iron Age	Belgic	Roman		Saxon			Other	Notes
			H	O	Dec	Blk	Buff	17th	
145			4						red-orange grossly over-fired
149							1		thick
226			3						
226 II				1					
260				1?					fragment
240 II							1		fragment
240 III							3		thickish, one with very coarse white grits (Willingham type)
243					1				black; thickish with decoration of 5 fine-combed lines with zig-zag above [draw]
256									1 fragment, of daub?
259						2	1 brown		one of the black is leached shelly, but thick - a Maxey Ware precursor? other thin. Brown sherd is thick with grits and mica
261						1			thinnish, very finely made,
267			1						burnished outer surface
267									
275			many						
319			1						
321						1?			greyish fragment, may be Saxon
355	1?								curious sherd; black, hard, some sand/grit, combed decoration
357	1								soft black fragment
381	16								mostly fragments of dark soft Middle IA (not wheel made)
385			1						over-fired
385 II			6	6					some overfired
394	1?		1?						Roman seems to be hand-made, orange surfaces
395			2?						very small fragments
429							1		thick
436	1?								black fabric, Roman type of hand-made rim. Hard. Saxon copy?
437			1?			2	1		one black is thick and the other a very thin rim
437 II							1		thick, light buff, fine mica

Cxt Iron Age Belgic	Roman		Saxon			Other	Notes
	H	O	Dec	Blk	Buff	17th	
438 I	3	2	2	4	5		The decorated are both dark; one has a boss, probably encircled by stamps; other has 2 rows of double-dots separated by three lines. Buff one is very thick body sherd (1.5cm), 2 are rims [draw]. One piece of Roman kiln fabric.
438 II		2	1	2	12		Black sherds, 1 thin with white grits as well as mica. Decorated sherd has a slightly Pressed band. The buff sherds (creamy) nearly all very thick from large vessels (1.4cm); 2 rims. Two grey, thick, well made sherds - copy of Roman (rim)?
438 III	2	3			4		Saxon is light buff (one has an applied strip not Saxon?). One of 'other Roman' is a late shelly rim and 2 red Hadham fabrics.
438 IV		1					
456				1			thin rim
459	4						small overfired fragments
470	3					1	Roman is overfired (ie kiln wasters)
470 II	many						Very large quantity of 'Horningsea' ware, some overfired.Checked that there is nothing else with it.
470 III	18	2					
470 IV	24						plus 3 pieces of kiln wall
470 V	27	2					Roman 'other' are late colour-coated
470 VI	12						mostly overfired
472	1?						
472 II	2					1	
472 III	7						mostly over-fired
472 IV	2						fragments
474						1	Stafford
475	2	1					'other' is late Roman shelly
475 II	2	1					
486	8	2			1		Roman is late colour-coated and Hadham rim.
486 II				1	1		black is thick with mica etc and a good rim [draw]
486 III	6	1	1				Saxon is small piece with part of a boss or rib [draw].

Cxt	Iron Age	Belgic	Roman		Saxon			Other	Notes
			H	O	Dec	Blk	Buff	17th	
489			2						
511								4	
516								4	2 Pancheon Pieces
522			1						
559				2					
569							2		thick
576							1		thick, buff, some white grits not much mica
580							3		plus many fragments; thick, some grass temper, no igneous
584	1?								dark, leached shelly, no sand etc
592							1		thinner several
598			2	1 late			4		large white grits (Willingham type) 'other' Roman is late colour-coated; 2 Saxon fit to make a base [draw]
608		1?							dark and gritty but no mica; late IA storage jar most likely
617							1		thinner, some white grits
636							2		very thick, a base [draw]
637			3				1		Saxon red, hard with knife scratches. 'Roman' material OK?
641			5			11	21		5 rim types (2 forms in black). Four sherds (1 black) are large Pieces, one very large [draw].
641			2						
656			15	2	1		1		buff thick with 'mica', decorated almost a Roman fabric with boss. Roman grey late.
656 II			3						
656 III			1	2			2		pink-red, thick, with large white grits (Willingham type)
702								3	
704							2		brown, one rim of large pot, but relatively thin; a few white flecks and grass tempering voids
705			1					4	
706			1					1	
707			2	3?				1	
710		1	4			4	3		Buff all thick, some very thick (1.6cm),and from large pots. The 'Belgic' is dark and very fine with a rouletted decoration - date?.
712			6						
712 II			19				1		thick
713								1	
719						1			not much sand or grit, but a little mica
721			1						

Table 2 List of contexts with date of latest material

IA = Iron Age
S = Saxon
R = Roman
PM = post medieval

Context

145 R	357 IA	475 R	617 S
149 S	381 IA	486 S	636 S
226 R	385 R	489 R	641 S
226 R	394 R	511 PM	656 S
240 S	395 R	514 PM	702 PM
243 S	429 S	522 R	704 S
256 ?	436 IA	559 R	705 PM
259 S	437 S	569 S	706 PM
261 S	438 S	576 S	707 PM
267 R	456 S	580 S	710 S
275 R	459 R	584 IA	712 R
319 R	470 R	592 S	713 PM
321 S	472 R & PM	598 S	719 S
355 IA	474 PM	608 IA	721 R

APPENDIX F

FAUNAL REMAINS

Table 1 List of domestic and wild mammals by context

NOTE: site refers to specific areas identified in the evaluation progress report. RB = Romano- British, IA = Iron Age, S = Saxon, Med = Medieval, s/g = sheep/goat, * = uncertain identification needs checking using reference material.

Site	Context	Date	Context type	Mammal
5	130	C1-2+	ditch	pig
5	135	C2-3	pit	horse
5	148	RB	ditch	cattle
5	166	C2+	ditch	cattle
6	232	C4?	ditch	cattle
				s/g
				pig
7	240	RB	ditch	cattle
5	249	C3-4	ditch	cattle
6	269	c240+	ditch	s/g
				pig
6	275	c160-250	?	s/g
6	277	?	pit/butt end	horse
				*?dog
6	282	C2+	ditch	horse
				?cattle
8	357	IA/S	posthole	cattle
9	363	C2-3+	subsoil	cattle
8	378	C2+	ditch	cattle
				pig
8	381	IA/RB	ditch	cattle
9	437	RB/S	ditch	pig
				s/g
				cattle
				*?roe deer
				*?red deer
9	438	S	ditch	pig
				cattle
				s/g
				*?red deer
				*?dog
9	439	C3+	ditch	cattle
9	486	S/Med	?	cattle
				s/g
				pig
9	530	RB	pit	*?red deer
				s/g
				cattle
8	551	C2+	ditch	cattle
9	598	S	ditch	cattle
6	608	IA??	ditch	cattle
9	637	S	Beam slot	pig

Site	Context	Date	Context type	Mammal
				rodents
9	655	C2+	ditch	s/g
9	656	S	ditch	cattle
				pig
				s/g
				*?red deer
10	708	RB	?	cattle
10	710	S	?	s/g

Table 2 **Skeletal Elements by Context**

Context	Mammal	Skeletal element	Comments
130	pig	metapodial	J
135	horse	acetabulum (pelvis)	
	cattle	two maxillary molars	
148	cattle	humerus	?butchery cut mark
166	cattle	L. mandible	
		prox. radius	
232	cattle	L. & R. scapular	
		metatarsus	
		radius	
	s/g	3rd molar	
	pig	phalanx prima	Pathological bony growth
240	cattle	atlas	
		R. mandible	
249	cattle	L. maxillar	
269	s/g	M2 & 3	
	pig	phalanx prima	
275	s/g	metapodial	
277	horse	phalanx secunda	
	*? dog	mandible	M1 very worn
282	horse	femur	J
		dist. femur	
	??cattle	Longe bone Frag.	
357	cattle	metapodial	
363	cattle	Upper incisor	
378	cattle	vertebrae (x4)	
		astragalus	?butchery cut marks
		calcaneus	?butchery cut marks
		metatarsus	
		scapular	
	pig	phalanx prima	
381	cattle	fossa articularis of scapular	
437	pig	ulna	J
		canine	
		metacarpal IV x2	one J
		tibia	J
		mandible	
		radius	
		phalanx prima	
		two frags. mandible	

Context	Mammal	Skeletal element	Comments
		two frags. maxillar	
		incisor	
		dist. humerus	
	cattle	maxillary premolar & molar	
		dist. fermur	?butchery cut mark
		astragalus x3	
		loose deciduous tooth	
		metapodial x4	three J
		prox. tibia	
		calcaneus	J
		two fossa articularis of scapular	one J
		two frags. mandible	J
		metatarsus	
	s/g	two molars	
		metacarpi	
		metapodia x3	one J & one burnt
		metatarsus x3	
		dist. tibia x2	
		dist. femur	J
		dist. radius	
		fossa articularis of scapular	
		ulna	
		two innominate	
		two L & two R mandibles	
		dist. humerus	
	*?roe deer	mandibular frag.	with deciduous P3 & P4
	*?red deer	mandibular frag.	
		radius	
	*??Bovine?/s/g	two horn cores	
438	pig	three mandibular frags.	J (3 loose deciduous teeth)
		phalanx prima	pathological bony growth
		astragalus	
	cattle	Upper incisor	
		astragalus x2	
		metacarpus x2	
		loose ?premolar	
		metapodial x2	
	s/g	metacarpus	
		metatarsus	
		metapodial	
		ulna	
	*?red deer	L. & R. mandibles	
	*? dog	loose canine	
	??Bovine??s/g	two horn cores	
439	cattle	deciduous molar	
486	pig	prima & terminal phalanges	
	cattle	calcaneus	
		metapodial	
	s/g	metapodial	
		acetabulum (pelvis)	
		calcaneus	
530	cattle	prox. humerus	J
	s/g	humerus	

Context	Mammal	Skeletal element	Comments
		molar	
	*?red deer	antler	main & brow tines
551	cattle	molar	
598	cattle	upper molar	
608	cattle	?pelvis	
637	pig	calcaneus	J
	rodentia	various bones	probably one rodent
655	s/g	metapodial	
656	pig	metacarpal IV	
		metatarsal II	
	cattle	mandible x2	one R.
		maxillar frags. x2	
		loose deciduous premolar	
		acetabulum	
		radius x3	one J
		loose molar	
		metacarpus x2	one J
		dist. humerus	
		ulna	
	s/g	loose molar	
		metapodial	
		metatarsus	
		prox. humerus x2	
	*?red deer	mandible	?deciduous dentition
708	cattle	astragalus	
710	s/g	L. mandible	

APPENDIX G

MOLLUSCA

Table 1: Mollusca and cther macrofossils

Trench	11	11	11	11	6	6	6	6	6
Context	328	327	125	124	122	121	121	120	119
Sample	26	24	21	19	15	14	13	11	7
Obligate freshwater molluscs									
Valvata cristata (Mueller)	x	xxx	x	x	x	x	x	x	xx
Valvata piscinalis (Mueller)	x	xxx		x					xx
Bithynia tentaculata (L.)	x	xx	xx	xx		x	x	x	x
Bithynia sp(p). (opercula)	xx	xxx	xx	xx	x	x	x	x	xxx
Lymnaea glabra (Mueller)		x	x	xx		x		x	
Lymnaea palustris (Mueller)					x				x
Lymnaea peregra (Mueller)	x	x		x			x	x	x
Planorbis planorbis (L.)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Planorbis carinatus Mueller		x		x					
Anisus vortex (L.)		x		x					
Bathyomphalus contortus (L.)			x						
Gyraulus albus (Mueller)	x	xx		x	x	x	x	x	
Armiger crista (L.)		x	x	xx	x	xx	x		x
Hippeutis complanatus (L.)		x					x	x	
Segmentina nitida (Mueller)						x			
Planorbarius corneus (L.)			x	x	x				x
Large bivalve frags.		x							
Pisidium amnicum (Mueller)		x							
Sphaeriacea (juveniles)	x	xxx	xx	x	x		x	x	x
Freshwater 'slum' molluscs									
Aplexa hypnorum (L.)							x		
Lymnaea truncatula (Mueller)	x	x	xx	xx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	x
Anisus leucostoma (Millet)		x	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x
Terrestrial/marsh molluscs									
Carychium sp(p)				x	x	xx	x	xx	
Succineidae		x		x	xx	xx	xx	xx	
Cochlicopa sp(p)			x					x	
Vertigo antivertigo (Draparnaud)						x		x	
Vertigo pygmaea (Draparnaud)						x		x	
Pupilla muscorum (L.)								x	
Vallonia sp(p) inc. V. pulchella (Mueller)				x	x	x	xx	xx	
Arionidae						x	x	x	x
Nesovitrea hammonis (Strom)								x	
Limacidae					x	x			
Euconulus fulvus (Mueller)								x	
Trichia hispida gp.						x	x	xx	
Other macrofossils									
Charophyta		xxx						x	x
Ostracods		x							
Bone fragments						x			

APPENDIX H

WATERBEACH, ROWING LAKE 1995 - Finds Weights by Context (in Context No.Order)

Trench, Test Pit, or Field No.	Context or Field Walking Stint	Pottery	Tile & Brick	Fired Clay or Daub	Clay Pipe	Plaster/ Mortar	Animal Bone	Shell	Wood	Charcoal	Stone	Flint	Quern	Metals Fe	Metals Pb	Metal Slag	Totals Weights by Context
Tr 1	128						334										334
Tr 14	130	34	37				80	8						3			162
Tr 13	135	269					198										467
Tr 14	144	71															71
Tr 14	145	48					8										56
Tr 14	148	14			1		250										265
Tr 14	149	4															4
Tr 14	156	129															129
Tr 13	166	290					716				42						1048
Tr 6	184						121										121
Tr 14	189	41															41
Tr 14	194	41					10										51
Tr 14	198	57		5			1										63
Tr 13	212	148												78			226
Tr 29	226	57		20													77
Tr 11	231	58															58
Tr 31	232	212	143				925										1280
Tr 26	240	42					128				293						463
Tr 21	243	5								1							6
Tr 29	247	6743					8										6751
Tr 11	249	19					124		2								145
Tr 21	256	4															4
Tr 25	259	36					36										72
Tr 29	260	10															10
Tr 29	261	4															4
Tr 31	264	111	19														130
Tr 31	266	187	262				23										472
Tr 19	267	3															3
Tr 31	269	602					34										636
Tr 30	271	17					9										26
Tr 30	275	266					16										282
Tr 21	277	9					68										77
Tr 29	279		44														44
Tr 29	282	106	311				980										1397
Tr 29	284	1930															1930
Tr 30	286						13										13
Tr 30	287	134															134
Tr 29	319	6															6
Tr 29	320	14															14
Tr 33	321	1															1
Tr 29	325	10	27								135	24					196
Tr 29	326	23															23
Tr 36	337			1													1
Tr 36	351						218										218
Tr 29	355	9															9
Tr 29	356		12					2									14
Tr 40	537	3		10			68										81
Tr 42	363	89					54										143
Tr 40	371	2														2	4
Tr 39	372	5															5
Tr 41	374						25										25
Tr 41	378	55					689					2					746
Tr 41	379						119										119
Tr 41	381	36					109										145
Tr 38	385	97		32													129
Tr 38	388	4															4
Tr 38	394	20	24														44
Tr 38	395	2									45						47
TP N	400	7															7
Tr 37	407						68										68
Tr 8	426	1	1							1							3
Tr 29	429	31									188						219
TP J	431	99															99
TP I	436	8					119				324						451
TP I	437	40					5664				397						6101
TP I	438	1265					1816	22		19	385		23				3530
TP I	439	22	313				15	3									353
TP J	446	281					5										286
TP V	456	6															6
TP J	457	281					25				572						878
Tr 19	459	4															4
Tr 29	460	21															21
Tr 29	465						29										29
Tr 44	470	7600	356	1869													9825
Tr 44	471	13															13
Tr 44	472	216	55	91			395				113			5			875
Tr 44	474	15	89														104
Tr 44	475	121															121
Tr 44	476	2294		251													2545
Tr 44	477	13															13
Tr 44	478	645		117													762
Tr 44	479	175															175
TP F	486	242	281				494				300			26			1343
TP F	489	7															7
TP F	492	32															32
TP G	493		16														16
TP O	496															5	5
	501	28					6										34
Tr 45	509	90					141										231
Tr 45	511	26															26
Tr 43	514	194												10			204
TP U	518	13															13
TP V	522	2															2
TP W	525	10	88								286						384
TP Z	529		19														19
TP AA	530	12					846										858
TP AA	531	80															80
Tr 40	551	52					31										83
	559	2	644		6			3								12	667
Tr 31	564	3					26										29
TP BA	567						177										177
TP BC	569	13		152			2				105						272
TP BC	577	13															13
TP BC	578	4					38				416						458
TP BC	580	75					2										77
TP BC	584	3															3
TP BC	586						1										1
TP BD	592	5					1										6
TP BE	596	64															64

WATERBEACH, ROWING LAKE 1995 - Finds Weights by Context (in Context No.Order)

Trench, Test Pit, or Field No.	Context or Field Walking Stint	Pottery	Tile & Brick	Fired Clay or Daub	Clay Pipe	Plaster/ Mortar	Animal Bone	Shell	Wood	Charcoal	Stone	Flint	Quern	Metals Fe	Metals Pb	Metal Slag	Totals Weights by Context
TP BG	598	212				4	33				41	10					300
Tr 32	608	47					298										345
Tr 49	609						1									1	2
Tr 49	611						13										13
Tr 43	617	3	8				8										19
TP BE	624									1							1
TP BI	627						17										17
TP BD	631	4	94														98
TP BI	636	44															44
TP BI	637	53					24									10	87
TP BI	641	644	46								41					76	807
TP BH	642										284						284
TP BJ	643	17															17
TP F	655	223					87	36									346
TP F	656	320					1766	5								53	2144
TP BH	687															37	37
TP F	689	139															139
TP F	690	961		11													972
TP F	692		690														690
Tr 44	693			10													10
Tr 44	695	35															35
Tr 44	699	139		151													290
Tr 44	700	100		146													246
Tr 3	701						236										236
TP BA	702	48														4	52
TP BC	704	31												3			34
TP BD	705	82		46	4												132
TP BE	706	14		29													43
TP BF	707	41	26														67
TP BG	708	21	4		6		4	4				9					48
TP BH	709	13															13
TP BI	710	184	34	1			58			1							278
Tr 44	712	385		194			1										580
Tr 47	713	8															8
Tr 34	714											7					7
Tr 31	715	78												7			85
Tr 49	719	7															7
Tr 21	721	7															7
Tr 19	724										82						82
Tr 19	726	4															4
	1000	227															227
1900	1000										310						310
9034	1000	83										12					95
9639	1000											8					8
TP A	1000	55															55
TP BC	1000	26															26
TP BE	1000															47	47
TP BI	1000	27				29						18					74
TP BJ	1000	29															29
Tr 11	1000	3					50										53
Tr 12	1000	29															29
Tr 14	1000	321					57									16	394
Tr 18	1000	72					43		1								116
Tr 29	1000	7		161													168
Tr 31	1000	27										6		1			34
Tr 37	1000						24										24
Tr 38	1000	16															16
Tr 42	1000	2															2
Tr 43	1000											4					4
Tr 44	1000	356		26													382
6256	F120		19														19
1900	A40		41														41
1900	C20	11															11
1900	C40	7															7
1900	D40		66														66
1900	D100		1														1
1900	E20	61														9	70
1900	E40	25															25
1900	E60	19															19
1900	E80	8															8
1900	H80		176														176
1900	H100		56														56
1900	I60		19														19
1900	I100		12														12
6100	E40	20															20
6100	F100	1						3									4
6100	G80	30															30
6100	G100		38														38
6100	H40	24															24
6100	H100	14															14
6256	A100	17															17
6256	B40	5															5
6256	B60	35															35
6256	C60	98															98
6256	C120	79															79
6256	D80	12															12
6256	E60		103														103
6256	E100		3														3
6256	E140	13															13
6256	G20	17															17
6256	G120	8															8
6256	H20	6	15														21
6256	H60	23	257														280
6256	I40		12														12
6256	H100	10															10
6256	I100	15															15
6256	I140	6										4					10
6256	J100														110		110
6256	J120										75		44				119
6256	J140	12															12
6256	J20										155						155
6256	J40	4															4
6256	J60	5															5
6256	K20	2															2
6256	K80	8															8
6256	K120	12															12
9034	A20	226									154						380

WATERBEACH, ROWING LAKE 1995 - Finds Weights by Context (in Context No.Order)

Trench, Test Pit, or Field No.	Context or Field Walking Stint	Pottery	Tile & Brick	Fired Clay or Daub	Clay Pipe	Plaster/ Mortar	Animal Bone	Shell	Wood	Charcoal	Stone	Flint	Quern	Metals Fe	Metals Pb	Metal Slag	Totals Weights by Context
9034	A40	384	321				14							9			728
9034	A60	128															128
9034	A80	14															14
9034	B20	68					11										79
9034	B40	350									1595						1945
9034	B60	40	148								134						322
9034	B80	18															18
9034	C20	84															84
9034	C40	9															9
9034	C60	228															228
9034	C80	3															3
9034	D20	31															31
9034	D40	80															80
9034	D60	248															248
9034	D80	99	228														327
9034	E40	41					13										54
9034	E60	300															300
9034	E80	127															127
9034	F20	7															7
9034	F40	208															208
9034	F60	588	111											13			712
9034	F80	201															201
9034	F/G40	37	184														221
9034	G20	82									825	5					912
9034	G40	649	91														740
9034	G60	404	25	16			56				346						847
9034	G80	327	11				14				203	17					572
9034	H20										127						127
9034	H40	24															24
9034	H60	99															99
9034	H80	52															52
9034	I20	3															3
9034	I40	49															49
9034	I60	26															26
9034	I80	97															97
9034	J20	7															7
9034	J40	66					12										78
9034	J80	180					29				146						355
9034	K20	4															4
9034	K80	68	321														389
9034	L80	93															93
9034	M60	8															8
9034	M80	50					5										55
9034	N20	10															10
9034	N40	26															26
9034	N60	15															15
9034	N80	199									2170	40					2409
9034	O80	14															14
9034	P80	45															45
9034	Q40	13															13
9639	A20		29														29
9639	A40	5															5
9639	A60	25						5									30
9639	C20	18															18
9639	D20	28	5														33
9639	G20	48															48
9639	G40	19															19
9639	H20	1	12														13
9639	I60	17															17
9639	J60	16															16
9639	M20	9															9
9639	M100		56														56
9639	O80	5															5
9639	P20	20															20
9639	P100	7															7
9639	Q60	3															3
9639	R20		77														77
9639	S20	33															33
Total Weights by Finds Type		38339	6080	3339	17	33	18139	91	3	23	10289	166	67	155	110	272	77123

APPENDIX I

CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS

Below are listed the specialists who have so far provided advice and/or initial assessment of excavated material.

Beta Analytical Ltd (Florida, USA) Radiocarbon dating

Dr C. French (MacDonald Institute, Cambridge University). Soils and sedimentology, Fenland and alluvial archaeology.

C. Going (freelance) Romano-British and LPRIA ceramics

D. Hall (Fenland Project) Fenland archaeology, Saxon ceramics

L. Higbee (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit) Faunal remains

J.Hillam (University of Sheffield) Dendrochronolgy

Dr D. Knight (Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust) Prehistoric ceramics

Dr P. Murphy (University of East Anglia, English Heritage regional palaeoenvironmental co-ordinator) Molluscan analysis, palaeoenvironment

R. Palmer (Air Photo Services) Air photographic interpretation

Dr T. Reynolds (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office) Lithics

D. Schlee (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit) Macro-botanical remains

J.F. Spencer (Bournemouth University) Magnetic Susceptibility

Dr P. Spoerry (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit) Medieval ceramics

P. Wiltshire (University College London) Palynology

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Archaeology

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