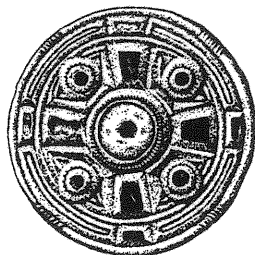


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Archaeological Field Unit

**Romano-British Settlement Remains at the A1303 Newmarket
Road / Airport Way Junction Improvement, Fen Ditton and
Teversham: An Archaeological Excavation**

R Heawood

1997

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No 143

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**Romano-British Settlement Remains at the A1303 Newmarket Road / Airport
Way Junction Improvement, Fen Ditton and Teversham:
An Archaeological Excavation**

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1997

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Report No 143

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SUMMARY

Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological Field Unit conducted an evaluation in December 1996 on arable land adjacent to Airport Way in Fen Ditton and Teversham parishes (TL 4976/5909). The work, carried out for the County Council's Environment and Transport Department, followed a desktop study and geophysical survey by WS Atkins. The evaluation consisted of the opening of trenches by machine so that any archaeological features could be recorded and assessed before the realignment of the Airport Way road proceeded. Archaeological features were identified in several of the trenches, but the most significant were in Trench C. Here, in addition to two ditches, an oval pit was identified which contained an unusual concentration of Romano-British pottery. Two postholes and a shallow gully were thought likely to suggest the former presence of a timber structure or building.

On the basis of this evidence, the County Archaeological Office requested further investigation around Trench C in February 1997, before roadworks began on this part of the route. An area measuring 21m x 13m was stripped of topsoil and subsoil by machine, and cleaned by hand so that the archaeological remains could be planned. Most of the remains were then investigated by selective excavation. Evidence was recovered for at least two timber structures, one of which was probably a building, a chalk platform, and for a number of ditches dating from at least three phases of activity. Many of the features contained late Roman Pottery, and in one posthole a small bronze coin was found minted during the reign of the Emperor Constans in the period AD 337 - 348. It is probable that most of the archaeological features investigated in this area date to the mid to late fourth century.

When this evidence is considered together with the results of a geophysical survey conducted early in 1996, it can be suggested that the road corridor passes through the edge of a Romano-British settlement centred on the crest of the low hill to the east. The alignment of a substantial late Roman ditch was followed by the modern parish boundary.

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ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT REMAINS AT THE A1303 NEWMARKET ROAD / AIRPORT WAY JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT, FEN DITTON AND TEVERSHAM: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

1 INTRODUCTION

In December 1996 Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological Field Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Airport Way in Teversham and Fen Ditton Parishes (approximate centre TL 4976/5909). The project was commissioned by the County Council's Department of Environment and Transport in advance of the forthcoming realignment of Airport Way to link with a new roundabout on the A1303 Newmarket Road. Specifically, the evaluation was concerned with a road corridor *c* 675m long x *c* 32m wide. The previously documented archaeological sites in the area had earlier been recatalogued by WS Atkins Consultants Ltd., who had also commissioned a geophysical (magnetometry) survey.

As a result of the archaeological evaluation, the County Archaeology Office requested that further excavation be carried out, focused on the area around Evaluation Trench C, before road construction began in this part of the easement. A small open area was excavated by the County Council's Archaeological Field Unit in February 1997.

This report is concerned primarily with the phase of open area excavation, but the results of the evaluation trenching are presented in Appendix A.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies largely on Lower Chalk and associated clay silts resulting from periglacial disturbance, at a height of *c* 10m OD. (Institute of Geological Sciences, 1:50,000 Series, Sheet 188). The road corridor here crosses a gentle south-west facing slope where the land falls away from a low rise to the east. This represents the watershed between the Cam 1.5km to the north-west, and the Little Wilbraham River 1.5km to the east, both of which drain into the fen 4km to the north. The site has most recently been used for arable agriculture.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

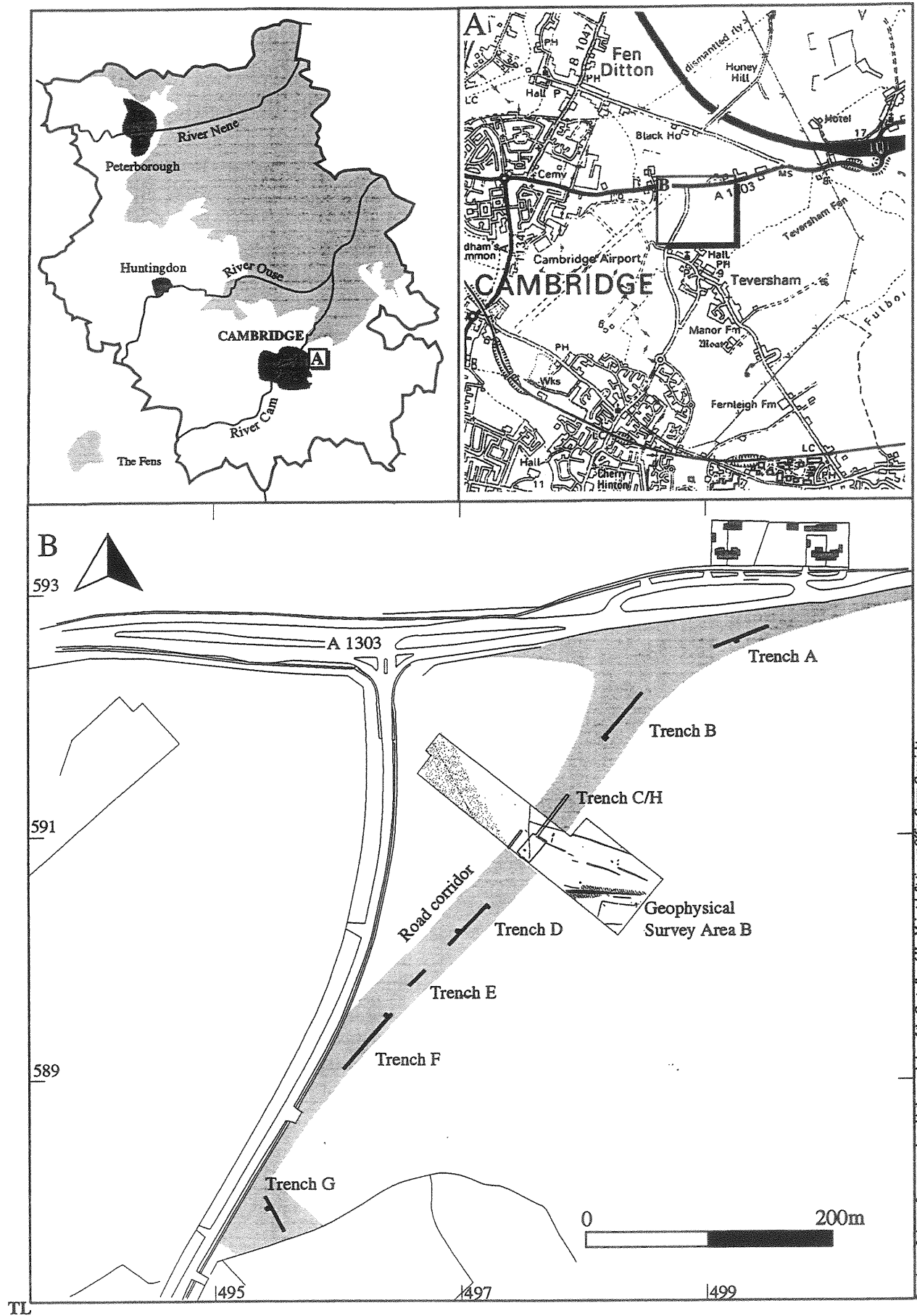
The Cam terraces and fen edge to the north of the site have yielded abundant evidence of intensive Romano-British development (Hall 1996, 158-159; Robinson and

Guttman 1996) often with clear evidence for continuity from the Iron Age (Reynolds 1994). Settlements of these periods to the east of the subject site cluster around fenward draining streams and a spring line between Bottisham and Burwell (Robinson 1992, 43-47). There is a marked paucity of settlement on the Middle Chalk towards Suffolk (*ibid*) but the south Cambridgeshire river valleys again saw significant Romano-British development.

A variety of known archaeological sites from several periods lie within *c* 1 km of the road corridor. Some are presently of uncertain date, and are known from study of aerial photographs. These include an isolated enclosure (SMR 09237), *c* 400m to the north-west, co-incidentally recently replotted by Air Photo Services (Palmer 1997a). The other undated cropmark sites have not been adequately mapped as the Archaeological Impact Assessment of the road corridor did not include replotting of available aerial photographic evidence by a specialist (WS Atkins 1996). Instead they were reproduced from the old SMR 1:10560 maps, and their form and interpretation may be inaccurate. They consist of a cropmark of an enclosure and linear feature (SMR 06379, *c* 1 km to the south-east); and a cropmark of rectilinear enclosures (SMR 09037, centred at least 1km to the north-east but extending south towards the road corridor). Further undated cropmark features have also recently been identified, but not plotted (at TL 497/592, immediately to the east of Airport Way and just to the west of the new road corridor). They may indicate the presence of levelled ditches, or may relate to the former presence of a belt of shrubs (Palmer 1997b).

Iron Age finds of pottery and bone (SMR 05151, 05156) were known to indicate activity *c* 800m west of this evaluation site, but the density and extent of Iron Age remains here have only recently been demonstrated by a large scale and important Archaeological Field Unit excavation at Greenhouse Farm in November and December 1996. This has shown a concentration of Middle Iron Age enclosure ditches, pits, and postholes extending to within *c* 500m of the road corridor. To the north-east, Fleam Dyke is evidence of major sub-Roman or Saxon activity. Early Anglo-Saxon burials with grave goods were found cut into its ditch *c* 600m from the road corridor (SMR 06303). Teversham Parish Church, *c* 500m to the south of the evaluation site, is substantially fourteenth century in date, and is assumed to lie at the core of the medieval village. Earthworks to the north-east, east, and south-east of the site preserve evidence of medieval cultivation (SMR 05471, 05472, 05118).

In addition, a Romano-British settlement, probably of considerable importance, lay *c* 1.5km to the south. Here two sites, *c* 350m apart (Figure 2), were investigated by a programme of excavation between 1978 and 1986 (Pullinger and White 1991). The larger of the sites, B (TL 498/571), produced evidence for a timber building, succeeded by substantial foundation trenches for a large range of buildings with flint and timber walls. Evidence for a tiled roof and at least one tessellated floor was also recovered. It was suggested that this was the site of a villa, initially built in the later second century AD, with a major phase of construction using flint and timber in the late third or early fourth century. At site A (TL 497/575, SMR 05100), a large cobbled surface and the foundation trenches for a timber structure and probable timber building



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Figure 1 Site location

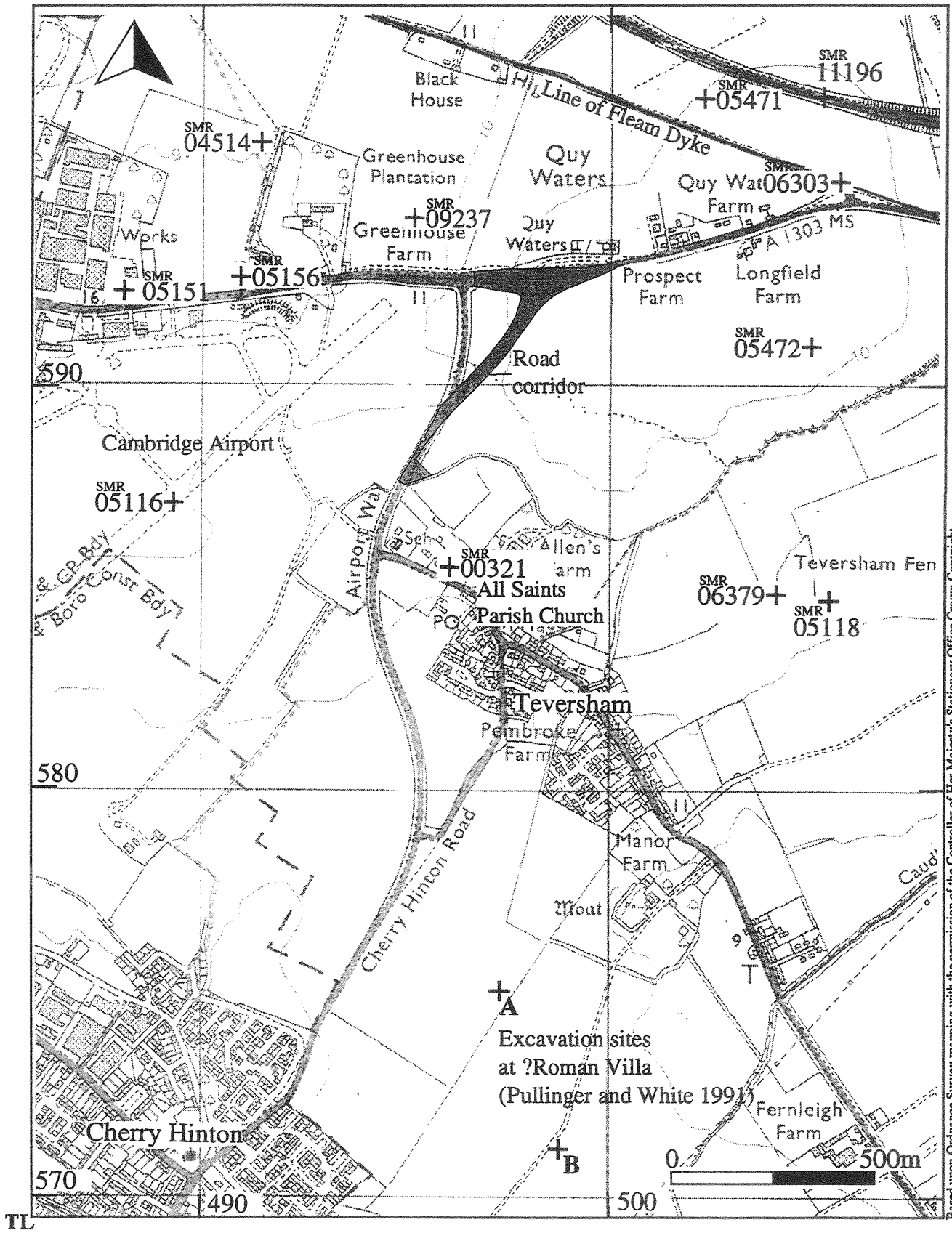
were investigated, together with part of a possible pottery kiln. This was thought to be an area where ancillary activities relating to the villa were carried out.

Within the road easement itself, the results of the magnetometry survey carried out in early 1996 showed anomalies in one area, and a lack of response elsewhere. The anomalies were inconclusive, but similar to the responses created by truncated ditches. Subsequent evaluation trenching (Appendix A) showed that one of these geophysical anomalies represented a substantial ditch of the Romano-British period. However, the greatest concentration of anomalies lay immediately to the south-east of the road corridor, and thus just beyond the evaluation area. Here there was the possibility that one corner of a rectilinear enclosure had been located (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1996).

The Archaeological Impact Assessment of the road corridor (WS Atkins 1996), of which the geophysical survey was part, failed to provide a specialist reassessment of the available aerial photographic evidence. It has now been possible to conduct a limited reappraisal (Palmer 1997b). This has revealed no cropmark or soilmark evidence which could be related to the geophysical survey anomalies, or to the features exposed during evaluation. However, cropmark features were observed immediately to the east of Airport Way (see above), and the presence of former field boundaries and service trenches crossing the easement was noted.

4 METHODS

When further excavation was requested by the County Archaeology Office, a small open area measuring *c* 21m x 13m was stripped to the base of the colluvial subsoil by machine, and then cleaned by hand (Trench H). In effect, this involved an expansion of the south-western end of Evaluation Trench C. A relatively high density of archaeological features was revealed, and a total station survey was undertaken to provide a base plan. The majority of the features were then investigated by selective excavation. The emphasis was on (1) recording stratigraphic relationships between features so that a sequence could be produced; (2) obtaining pottery and tile to assist with the refinement and dating of the sequence, and to aid the characterisation of the occupation on the site. It was intended to take environmental samples for the recovery of macro-botanical evidence where appropriate, but no suitable deposits were encountered.



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Figure 2 Known archaeological sites close to the road corridor

5 RESULTS

Grouping

The archaeological features recorded have been divided into 'groups' composed of features thought to have been associated both in time and in function. A considerable density of archaeological remains was recorded, but most were negative features cut either into an occupation soil, or into the undisturbed chalk and periglacial silts. This meant that in many cases, stratigraphic relationships between features could only be established where features intersected one another. Thus, only a limited number of stratigraphic relationships was available for use in the grouping process. Association of features was also assessed by considering spatial relationships and shared alignments, functional characteristics, similarity of fills, and similarity/date of pottery. Many of the resultant groups could only be tentatively identified, but they still provide a useful framework for presentation of the evidence recovered.

Stratigraphic relationships and pottery dates have been used to attempt to arrange the groups in chronological sequence. The relative dating of groups 12 -14 is uncertain, and they have been listed at the end. The chronological sequence is described in more detail in the Discussion below. Cut numbers are written in bold type, deposit numbers in parentheses.

Group 1 Prehistoric or Early Roman Features

(100), 101, (102), 103, (107), 106, (108), 109

These small ditches and linear features shared roughly the same north / south alignment, and had relatively pale fills. 106 may be a drainage ditch.

Ditch 106 was sealed by Deposit (10), a layer into which most of the known Late Roman features were cut. It was 0.68m wide and 0.36m deep, with a distinctive profile: the upper sides were concave with a gradient of *c* 1:1, but a vertical sided square groove 0.10m wide x 0.10m deep formed the base. This profile may suggest repeated cleaning out of a drainage ditch. No finds were recovered.

Ditch 109 was truncated at either end by features containing late Roman pottery (Cuts 5 and 105). It was 0.71m wide x 0.28m deep, with sides of gradient *c* 1:1, and a gently rounded base. The feature was only 4.3m long, and is difficult to interpret. The profile and fill both differed markedly from those of Foundation Trench 105, which truncated this feature at its southern end.

Linear Feature 101 measured 2.52m in length. It was 0.48m wide x 0.26m deep, with near vertical sides and a gently sloping base. It truncated an earlier cut, 103, to the south-east which extended into the section and could not be seen in plan. This latter appeared to have parallel sides, and may have been another linear feature.

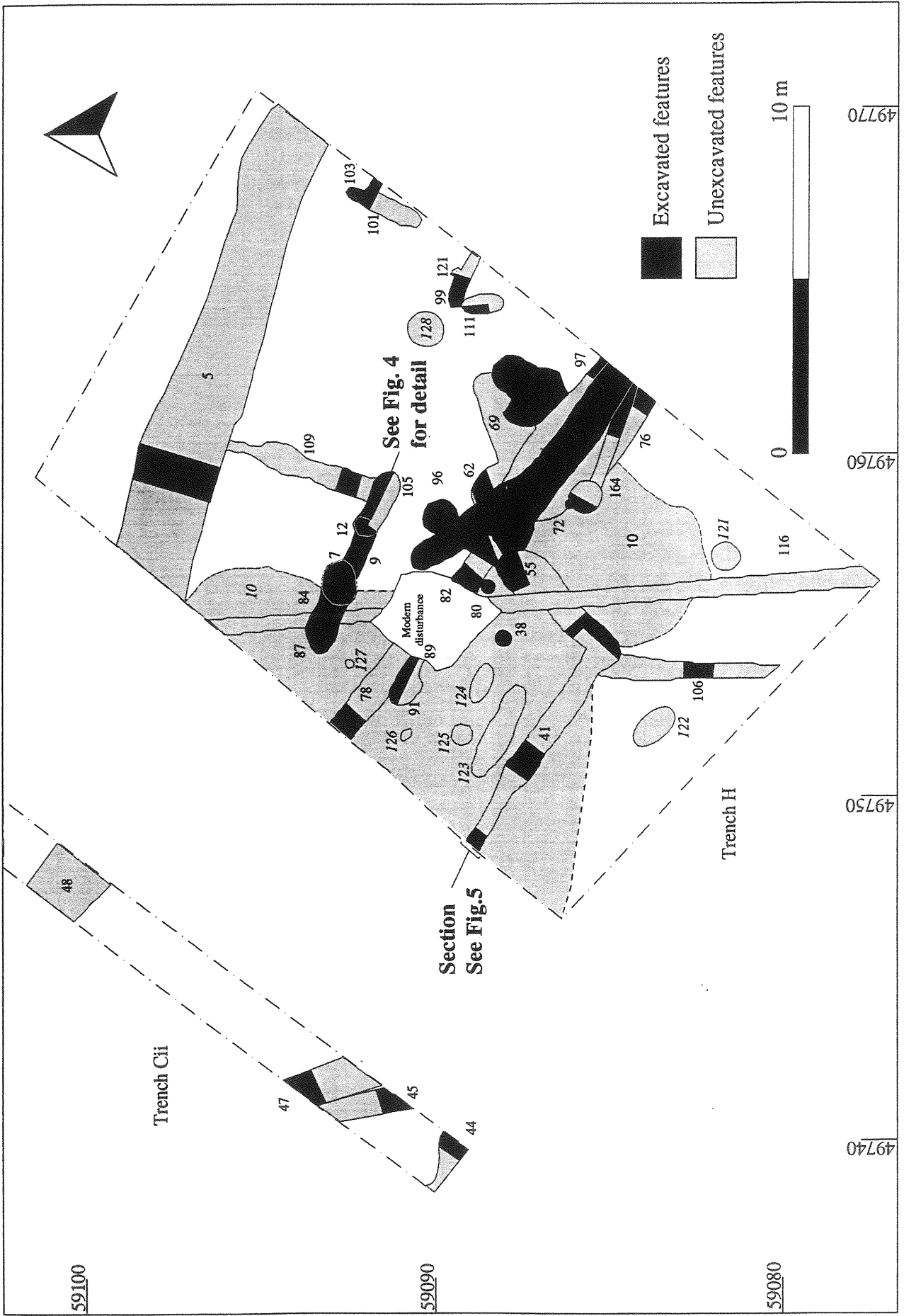


Figure 3 Plan of Trenches Cii and H (Evaluation Trench C expanded to form open area)

Group 2 Posthole

(37), 38

This well defined posthole was the only structural feature recorded as having been sealed by Deposit (10). This relationship should be regarded as rather uncertain, because the posthole's fill was very similar to deposit (10) itself. It is possible that the feature was present at a higher level, but was only recognised after the removal of (10). The posthole clearly truncated Ditch 106.

Posthole 38 had a diameter of 0.44m, and was 0.35m deep. The sides were steep but slightly concave, and the base was gently rounded. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Group 3 Occupation Soil

(10)

This deposit extended over c 33% of Trench H. During the evaluation phase, two hand dug sondages c 0.4m wide were excavated through it, and two further machine dug sondages 2.0m wide were cut through subsequently. It sealed Ditch 106 and possibly Posthole 38, but all other features with which it had a physical relationship appeared to be cut into it. The deposit was thought to represent a layer of settlement related soil because of its dark colour, relatively organic composition, and the small sherds of pottery it contained. Its edges appeared to lens out and were difficult to define, and it did not appear to be filling a depression of any kind.

Deposit (10) was composed of dark grey clay silt, with frequent small, medium, and large fragments of chalk clunch rubble. Several sherds of pottery and some fragments of animal bone were recovered from the surface, but charred plant remains were not observed. The deposit covered an area of >13m x 11m. It extended beyond the trench to the north-west, but was not present 7.5m away in Evaluation Trench Cii.

Group 4 Ditches

(75), 76, (77), 78, (81), 82

Three small ditches on the same north-west / south-east alignment, and thought to predate the Group 6 structural features. They may be boundary or drainage ditches.

Ditch 76 was truncated by Beam Slot 64, and thus it is presumed that the ditch predated all the structural features in Group 6. Cuts 78 and 82 were almost certainly parts of one ditch, as their alignment, fills and profiles match well. The relationship between Cuts 82 and 96 was truncated by subsequent features, but the spatial position of this ditch suggests that it cannot be contemporary with the structural features. (Although parallel to Cut 41 and at right angles to Cut 96, Cut 96 and continued beyond 82 to the north-east where it reached a butt end. In addition, Cuts 78/82 and

41/96 have different profiles). However, it was very difficult to establish whether 78 and 82 should be grouped with 76, or with the ditches clearly post-dating the structural features. It is tentatively suggested on the basis of the gently angled sides and relative paleness of the fills of 78 / 82 that this ditch was associated with 76, and predated the structures.

Ditch 76 had a slightly concave, gently angled south-west side, but was truncated by later ditches to the north-east. It was 0.48m deep and at least 1.28m wide. Its north-western extent was obscured by later features, but there was a suggestion in plan that it may have narrowed or reached a butt end after *c* 5m. An alternative possibility is that it may have extended into the ditch represented by 78 / 82.

Cuts 78 and 82 had gently sloping sides with a gradient of *c* 1:2, and a flat base. Cut 78 was 1.13m wide x 0.37m deep, and Cut 82 0.90m wide x 0.31m deep.

Group 5 Structure A

(39), (40), 41, (95), 96

Cuts 41 and 96 were aligned at right angles, and appeared to be part of the same feature. Their profiles strongly suggest that they formed the foundations for two sides of a structure. The relatively square shape of the lower part of the cut in several of the excavated sections is thought to indicate either that the feature was dug to hold a timber sill beam, or that it was intended to support vertical timber uprights. Cut 41 extended beyond the limit of Trench H to the north-west, but was not present in Trench Cii a further 7.5m away, so it is possible that the feature had a third side, a return to the north-east that would have been parallel to Cut 96. However, had a fourth, north-eastern foundation of the same form and on the same set of alignments existed, it would have been visible within Trench H. No such feature was present. It thus remains uncertain whether Structure A was a building or small palisaded enclosure.

The fills of these features have been grouped together with the cuts, but they probably relate to the disuse of the structure rather than to the period of its use. Fill (39) contained many finds, but probably formed only after the primary fill of Cut 41 had slumped to leave a hollow. No evidence for the position of timbers or for any in situ packing was present, and the recorded fills probably formed after the robbing out of timbers had taken place. The probability of a robbing event recutting foundation trenches complicates the placement of Structures A and B in the sequence of activity. This is discussed further below.

Cut 41 measured up to 0.98m wide x up to 0.60m deep, though the upper part of the cut was indistinct. It extended for at least 7m, oriented roughly south-east / north-west. Three sections were excavated across the feature, and although the profile was found to differ slightly, perhaps reflecting robbing activity, the sides were mostly inclined at a gradient of 2:1 or steeper, with the base roughly flat.

Cut 96 was only revealed in part as it was truncated by several features which were not fully excavated. It was again a maximum of 0.98m wide, with steep sides and a roughly flat base. It

extended for 7.1m from a rounded butt end to its junction with Cut 41, and was oriented north-east / south-west. The base was inclined slightly downwards from north-east to south-west, dropping by 0.16m in total. The cut intersected with Ditch 82 (Group 0), but the fills were very similar and it was not possible to determine a stratigraphic relationship. The features had different profiles and probable uses, and are not thought to have been contemporary.

Group 6 Structure B

Subgroup 6.1 (85), 86, (6), 7, (83), 84, (8), 9, (104), 105, (11), 12, (112), 113, (114), 115

These features are thought to have been associated with the use and disuse of a length of shallow foundation trench, a total of 5.8m long, oriented east-south-east / west-north-west. It varied in profile and depth along its length, and was recorded as Cuts 9, 84, and 105. Towards the western end, two later pit cuts were identified, 7 and 86. Whilst their location here could be coincidental, it seems possible that they were related to the robbing out of building materials. Pit 7 had irregular sides, and both of these intrusive features contained occasional large fragments of limestone, which may have been displaced packing stones. A similar fragment of stone was found to the east within the fill of 105 itself. In addition, three small postholes, Cuts 12, 113, and 115, were found at the base of Cut 105. The presence of postholes here seems to reinforce the suggestion that the shallow linear feature was structural. Changes in fill appeared to indicate that the postholes were earlier than 105, but if all these features were filled only after a robbing out episode at the end of the life of a structure, it seems quite possible that postholes and linear cut were contemporary.

It seems likely that within this short length of foundation trench, two different constructional techniques were used. The postholes located towards the eastern end suggest that here a post in trench method was applied. To the west, Cuts 9 and 84 were shallower, with no evidence for postholes in the base. They may have held a sill beam. Although occasional large limestone fragments were found within this group of features, they were small in number and there was no evidence for mortar. It is thought probable that the stone fragments found represent reuse of building materials as packing stones rather than evidence for a stone structure in this location.

Pit 86 measured 1.14m x 0.68m x 0.35m deep. The sides were inclined at a gradient of *c* 1:1, and the base was gently rounded.

Pit 7 measured 1.30m x 1.02m x 0.50m deep. It was roughly ovoid in plan, with irregular concave sides of gradient *c* 2:3, and a rounded but rather irregular base.

Linear Cuts 84, 7, and 105 were a total of 5.8m long, and were aligned east-south-east / west-north-west. At the west end of the feature, Cut 84 was a maximum of 1.08m wide x 0.23m deep, with concave sides of gradient *c* 1:1 and a roughly flat base. The central part of the feature, where Cut 9 was recorded, was narrower and slightly shallower, 0.60m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.20m. The sides were concave, with a gradient of less than 1:1, and the base was roughly flat. At the east end the feature became very slightly wider and deeper, with sides steeper than 1:1 and a flat base (Cut 105).

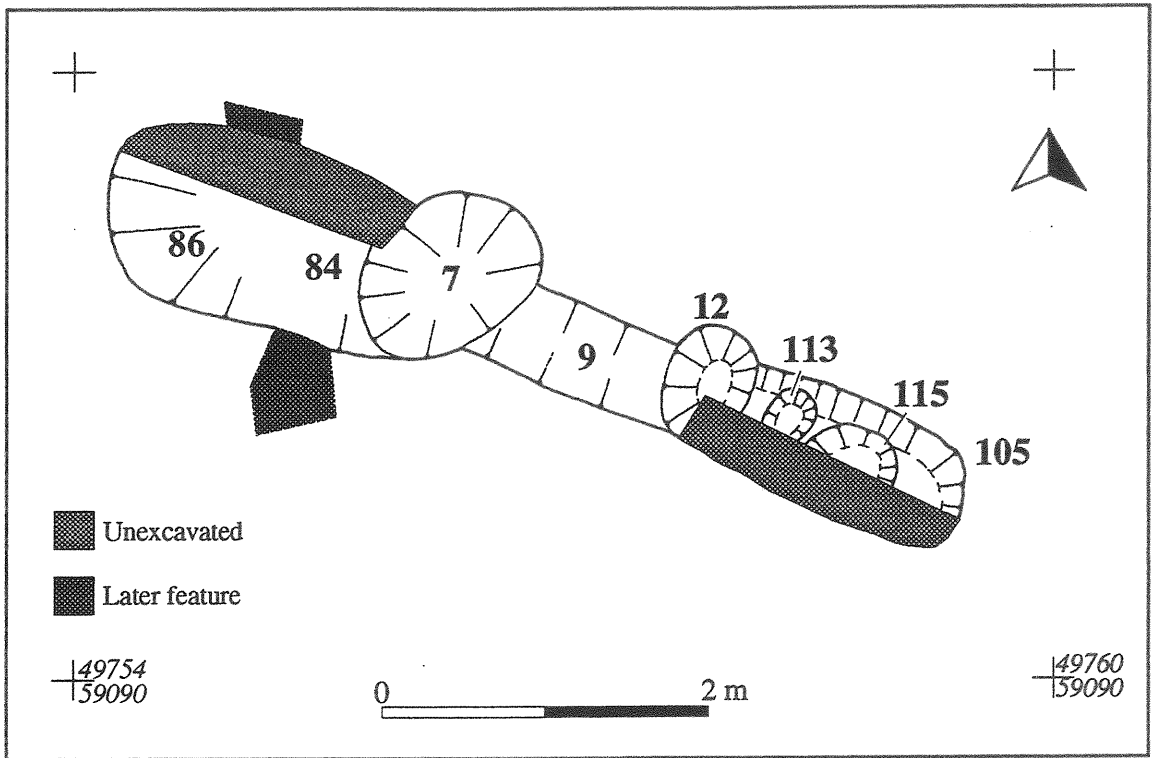


Figure 4 Plan of interrupted sill beam and post-holes (Structure B; see Fig.3)

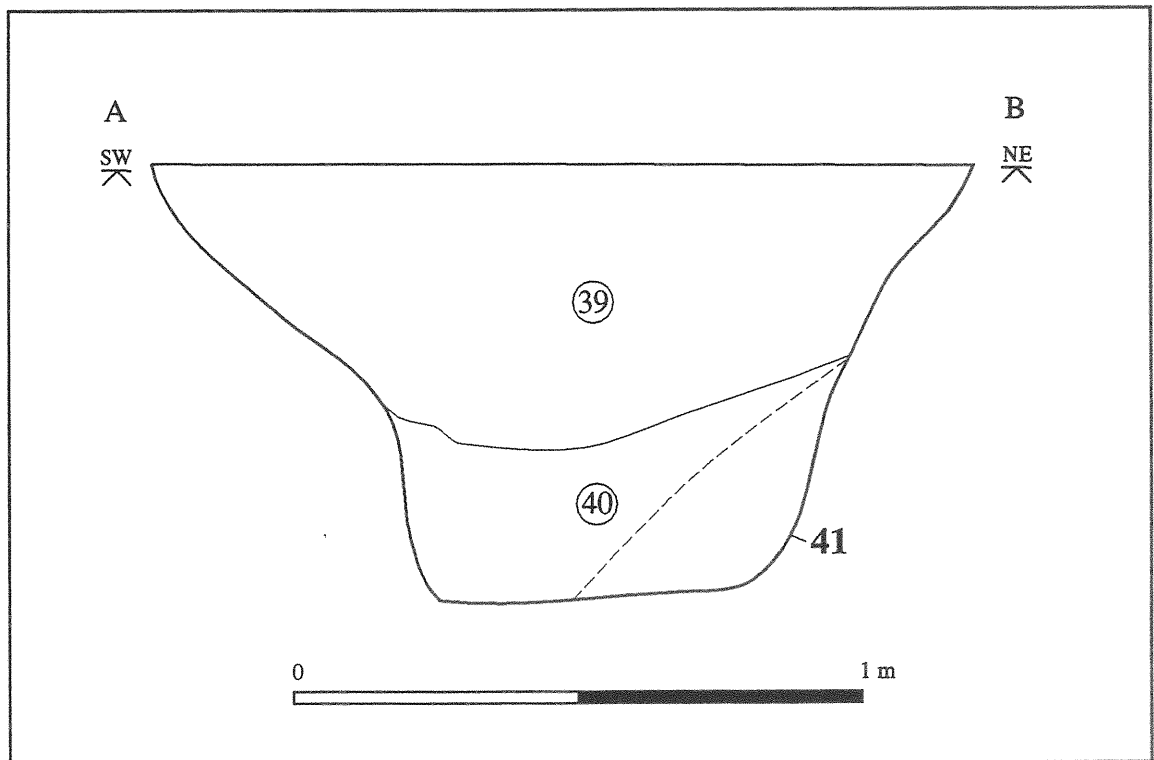


Figure 5 Section across foundation trench (Cut 41, Structure A; see Fig. 3)

Posthole 12 measured 0.74m x 0.54m and was 0.17m deeper than the base of Linear Cut 105. Because it was wider than 105 it could be seen that its total depth was 0.40m. It was steep sided with a flat base. Postholes 114 and 112 were both 0.12m deeper than 105. They were only partially excavated, but had sides with a gradient typically of 1:1, and flat bases.

Subgroup 6.2 (65), (70), 66, (71), 72, (63), 64

This subgroup consists of two postholes and a beam slot. Postholes 66 and 72 are thought to have been associated with Beam Slot 64 because of their position at its western terminal. Posthole 66 appeared to cut both Beam Slot 64 and posthole 72. Its upper fill, (65), contained a small bronze coin (AE 4, 15mm diameter), probably dating to the period AD 337-48 (Appendix E). All these features were clearly stratigraphically later than Ditch 76.

Posthole 66 was 0.87m in diameter, and 0.35m deep, with very steep sides breaking gradually to a flat base.

Posthole 72 measured 0.25m x 0.15m x 0.18m deep, with very steep sides and a rounded base.

Beam Slot 64, oriented east-south-east / west-north-west, was > 3.2m long and extended beyond the limit of Trench H. It was 0.40m wide and 0.22m deep, with concave sides of gradient c 1:1 and a rounded base.

Subgroup 6.3 (98), 99, (120), 121

This subgroup consists of a beam slot and a posthole. The fills of both features appeared to be identical, and they were probably contemporary.

Beam Slot 99, oriented east-south-east / west-north-west, was >1.8m long and extended beyond the limit of Trench H. It was 0.46m wide and 0.08m deep, with very steep sides and a flat base.

Post Hole 121 measured 0.31m in diameter and was 0.20m deep. It had near vertical sides, and its base was inclined gently downwards from north-east to south-west.

Structure B It is thought probable that the structural features described in Subgroups 6.1 - 6.3 were contemporary and formed part of a single structure. It is possible that parts of two parallel long walls of a building have been located, the presence of beam slots perhaps suggesting a building rather than a pair of parallel fences. It seems very probable that other related structural features may have existed, but been completely removed by horizontal truncation. Beam Slot 99 survived only as a feature 0.08m deep. It is impossible to estimate the original depth of these features, but horizontal truncation could easily have occurred with the onset of the colluviation phase when deposit (14) was formed. A possible feature parallel to Foundation Trench 84 was recorded on the base plan, but not excavated. This may also be part of the same Structure B, but this is very uncertain as its fill was much paler than those of the other constituent features described here.

Structure B was parallel to Ditch 5, a large boundary or enclosure ditch. This suggests that the two were contemporary, or at least that the structure was built whilst the ditch was still a feature in the landscape.

It is possible that structures A and B were contemporary, but this seems very unlikely. The resultant structure would have been extremely irregular both in plan and in building technique. It seems more likely that the structures date from successive phases of activity, though it is not at present possible to determine an order of construction. It is clear, though, that after the abandonment of structures A and B, the foundations of both were truncated by at least two of the ditches described in Group 9 below.

Group 7 Chalk Foundation

(49), (69), (67), (68), 73

This group consists of a small subrectangular chalk clunch foundation, (67), the deposit in which it was set, (68), and a shallow construction cut, 73. Two deposits which sealed the foundation after its use are also included. The foundation was truncated to the south-west by Ditch 97, but its shape suggests that it may not originally have been much larger than its surviving extent.

It is not known what function this structure served. Within the excavation area, it was the only feature of its kind, and the only other chalk rubble found was in occasional loose concentrations within Layer (10), a probable occupation soil. The feature appeared to be roughly half way between the two long walls of Structure B, and it may have been internal. Whether or not this is so, it seems very probable that it supported a platform of some sort. There was little wear visible on the chalk rubble, and although some medium chalk fragments and stones were present between blocks, there appeared to have been no packing of fine material to form a surface. This may be because the upper levels of the structure had been cleanly truncated or robbed out before Dumps (49) and (69) were deposited.

The feature may have been contemporary with Structures A or B. It was earlier than Ditch 97.

Cut 73 measured 2.1m in diameter, and was *c* 0.2m deep. It had gentle concave sides rounding gradually to an uneven but roughly flat base. The base was covered by a gravelly layer *c* 30mm deep, (68).

Above, (67) was formed mostly of subcircular fragments of chalk, with dimensions typically of 260mm x 200mm x 150mm. Additionally, there were some smaller chalk fragments (*c* 80mm x 70mm x 50mm), subcircular flints (*c* 60mm x 50mm x 10mm), and subcircular but sometimes broken field stones, presumably glacial erratics (*c* 200mm x 120mm x 70mm).

The foundation was partially sealed by Deposits (49) and (69), layers of clay silt which appear to have been dumped after the use of this structure.

Group 8 Substantial Ditch and its Fills

(5), (13), 5

Ditch 5 appears to have been a substantial boundary or drainage ditch. It has few stratigraphic relationships, but Structure B shares roughly the same alignment and may have been contemporary. It is probable that this ditch itself was a long-lasting feature of the local landscape, as it lay to the north-east of almost all the archaeological features known in this area, appearing to delimit them. This is reinforced by the unusual rounded profile and sharp interface with the chalk below, which may indicate a feature that had been cleaned out repeatedly, and then backfilled in one episode at the end of the period of its use. In Trench Cii, Deposit (48) was almost identical to the upper fill of Cut 5, and probably demonstrates the same ditch continuing, but on a slightly different alignment, having turned towards the north-west.

Ditch 5 was 2.35m wide x 0.86m deep, and was present across the full 13m width of Trench H. Its northern edge was concave with a gradient of *c* 1:1, whilst the southern edge had a more gentle gradient of *c* 2:3 and was concave at the top but convex towards the base, so that a step was almost formed. The base was gently rounded. Two fills were identified, both of firm yellowish brown clay silt, with a diffuse boundary between them. Both were homogenous, and there was a very sharp interface with the chalk below, and no sign of any chalk weathering fills tipping into the feature. Both fills contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Four mollusc samples were taken at different depths from a section through the feature.

Group 9 Ditches (50), 51, (74), 97, (93), 94

Ditch 51 appeared to be a recut of Ditch 97. Ditch 94 was defined in plan and partially excavated at least 6m to the north-west of the section through 51 and 97, but it seemed likely to be the same feature as one of these ditches.

Ditch 51 truncated one of the beam slots attributed to Structure B (64), whilst Ditch 94 truncated one of the foundation trenches of Structure A (96). The ditches in this group appear to be boundary or drainage features which were dug after Structures A and B had gone out of use. They follow roughly the same line as earlier Ditches 76 and 78 / 82, which may have predated the structures.

Ditch 97 was at least 4.5m long. It was oriented roughly north-west / south-east, extending beyond Trench H to the south-east. It was at least 0.82m wide and 0.53m deep, with steep near vertical sides rounding to a flat base. The south-west side was almost completely truncated by Recut Ditch 51.

Ditch 51 was at least 5m long, again oriented north-west / south-east and extending beyond Trench H to the south-east. It was 1.05m wide and 0.45m deep with very steep sides and an almost flat base.

Ditch 94 was at least 2.4m long, oriented north-north-west \ south-south-east, but appearing to curve around slightly towards the south-east. It was 1.2m wide and 0.26m deep. The north-east side was steep, with a gradient of at least 1:1, but the south-west edge was less steep. The base was flat. In plan the feature appeared to merge with Ditches 97 and 51, but in between it was partially truncated by the shallow cuts of Group 10.

Group 10 Shallow Features Above Ditch 94

(54), 55, (58), 59, (62), (92), (60), 61, (56), 57

These shallow features were identified when a narrow slot a maximum of 0.6m wide was excavated across what appeared in plan to be the intersection of Linear Cuts 94, 96 and 51 / 97. The features were not visible in plan, and are poorly understood as they lay only partly within the excavated sondage. They appear to be shallow scoops or parts of linear features, and may have been horizontally truncated. Considerable amounts of pottery in two of the features suggests a use, either primary or secondary, as places for rubbish disposal.

Shallow Scoop 55 measured >1.1m x >1.0m, and was 0.12m deep. It had gentle concave sides and a flat base. The fill contained a considerable amount of late Roman pottery.

Possible Linear Feature 59, oriented north-west / south-east, was of unknown length, and it was not clear how it related to Ditches 51 and 97 to the south-east, but it was stratigraphically above Ditch 94. It was 1.0m wide and 0.11m deep, with gentle sides and a flat base. Fragments of pottery, bone, and oyster shell in the fill suggested a secondary use for rubbish disposal. Deposit (92) recorded to the north-west, may have been a part of this fill.

Deposit (62) appeared to be a truncated remnant of a layer, perhaps dumped.

Possible Linear Feature 57 appeared to be oriented north-east / south-west and at least 1.5m long. It was >0.77m wide and 0.12m deep, with relatively steep sides and a flat base. The fill was composed of at least 60% subcircular pebbles, and was truncated horizontally by Cuts 55 and 59.

Possible Linear Feature 61 barely extended into the sondage, but had a very similar fill to 57. It measured >0.66m wide x 0.13m deep, with gentle sides and a flat base. Its fill suggests that it may have been related to 57 and contemporary, and both features were truncated by 59. The relationship to ditches 51 / 97 is unknown, but it cut into the fill of Ditch 94. Although the high proportion of pebbles within Cuts 57 and 61 suggests deliberate filling or lining, the function of these features is unclear.

Group 11 Postholes

(52), 53, (79), 80

These two postholes were *c* 1m apart, but were not necessarily associated. Their fills were very similar, though the fill of 80 was firm rather than friable.

Cut 53 measured *c* 0.55m in diameter x 0.39m deep. It was circular and steep sided, with a flat base. It was later than the shallow features described in Group 10.

Cut 80 measured 0.45m in diameter x 0.24m deep. It was circular and vertical sided, with a flat base. It was later than Ditch 82 which it truncated.

Group 12 Cut Features Possibly Contemporary with Beam Slot 99

(110), 111, (128)

These two features lay close to Beam Slot 99, and appeared to have similar fills. It is possible that they were related to 99, but far from certain. Linear cuts 101 and 103 were also filled by a similar deposit but are thought to be much earlier. Their function is unknown.

Pit 111 was ovoid in plan but was only partially excavated. It measured 1.20m long x 0.5m wide x 0.40m deep. The concave sides were of gradient *c* 1:1 and the base was flat. The fill contained 49 human long bone fragments (Appendix D), together with a fragment of animal bone.

Probable Pit (128) was unexcavated. It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.1m.

Group 13 Pits Containing Burnt Clay Fragments

(90), 91, 88, 89

This group consists of two intercutting pits containing fragments of burnt and unburnt clay, and charcoal. No dating evidence was recovered.

Pit 91 was oval in plan, measuring 1.08m x 0.70m x 0.25m deep. The sides were steep and concave with a gradient of *c* 2:1, and the base was rounded. The fill was very dark grey, with frequent fragments of charcoal and burnt and unburnt clay. It truncated Pit 89.

Pit 89 was subcircular in plan, measuring 0.90m x 0.60m x 0.10m deep. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. A possible small posthole on the southern side was not excavated. The fill contained moderate fragments of burnt clay.

Group 14 Possible Cut Features, Unexcavated

(121), (122), (123), (124), (125), (126), (127)

These contexts were pale in colour compared with most of the known archaeological features in Trench H. They may have been silty anomalies in the underlying geological deposits; no time was available to investigate them further.

6 DISCUSSION

Phasing

The vast majority of the pottery assemblages from individual features date to the fourth century AD (Appendix B). Of these, some assemblages were thought to have originated after AD 350, whilst others could only be spot dated more generally as fourth century.

When the pottery spot dates were appended to a matrix of stratigraphic relationships in Trench H, there appeared to be no clear correlation between features known to be late in the stratigraphic sequence, and pottery assemblages spot dated at AD 350+. Rather, features producing assemblages assigned to AD 350+ appeared to be scattered at different points up and down the stratigraphic matrix. This may suggest that the majority of the features present in Trench H date to the mid fourth century or later. Most of the features appeared to be stratigraphically later than Deposit (10), which contained pottery spot dated to AD 350+. This in itself appears to give a *terminus post quem* for many features, although it is possible that ploughing has introduced later material into the deposit. The only dating evidence independent of the pottery was a coin probably minted in the period AD 337-48 (Appendix E) recovered from a fill of Posthole 66. Although this feature had few definite stratigraphic relationships, its position in plan suggested that it belonged to Group 6, and was not from the last phase of Romano-British activity in this area.

It seems that most of the pottery assemblages in individual features are from such a narrow period that they are of limited use in providing absolute dates for the different phases of activity in Trench H. Phasing must be based largely on stratigraphic relationships.

Phase A: Group 1 Within the open area excavation (Trench H), the earliest remains were thought to be a group of linear features, aligned very roughly north / south. These features may not be contemporary, but as well as sharing the same rough alignment, they had relatively pale fills. One was probably a field boundary and / or drainage ditch and extended right across the excavated area (106). No pottery was recovered from it, but its profile with a steep sided groove near the base was similar to Iron Age Ditches from the excavation at Greenhouse Farm. The others were shorter features of unknown function, but two of them contained scraps of first / second century Roman pottery (103 and 109), and a third scraps of Roman pottery of unknown date (101). The presence of Ditch 106 suggests that in the late prehistoric or early Roman periods the landscape here was exploited and divided into fields, but that settlement was not in this precise location. The undated north / south ditch (19) in Trench D may have been part of the same system of field boundaries.

Phases B and C: Groups 2 and 3 The next features in the sequence were thought to be a solitary posthole, and then a layer of dark grey clay silt, an occupation soil, containing small sherds of late Roman pottery and chalk rubble (possibly derived from a midden). Their presence suggests that by the mid fourth century, settlement had begun close to Trench H.

Phase D: Group 4 Probably shortly afterwards, one or more linear features were cut, their gently sloping sides suggesting a function as boundary or drainage ditches. They in turn were probably short lived, and they seem to have been replaced by at least two timber structures.

Phase E: Groups 5, 6, 7, and 8 Structure A was difficult to place in the sequence. Its relationship with the Group 4 ditches was ambiguous, but it is thought likely to have been built after them, at a similar time to Structure B. It may have been earlier than Structure B. This is suggested only because it lies parallel to the Group 4 ditches, whereas Structure B, known to have been later than at least one of these ditches, was on an altered alignment, parallel to Ditch 5. It is impossible to be certain of the structure's function from the portion present in Trench H. It could be part of a building, although the depth of the feature and lack of a return north-west / south-east foundation might suggest instead the footing for a timber palisade.

Structure B consists of three subgroups of constructional elements which have been linked because of their common orientation. It seems likely that this was a timber building, possibly contemporary with a chalk foundation (Group 7) and probably constructed whilst a substantial boundary ditch was functioning (Group 8).

Phase F: Group 9 After the use of the structures, more boundary or drainage ditches were cut through the same area, appearing to recut the line of Ditch 76 (Group 4), but terminating shortly after truncating the south-west arm of Structure A.

Phase G: Groups 10 and 11 Final phases of activity are indicated by a cluster of shallow features which are not fully understood, and by two postholes. The shallow features may represent the remains of slight structures, but more certainly had a use, possibly secondary, for rubbish disposal.

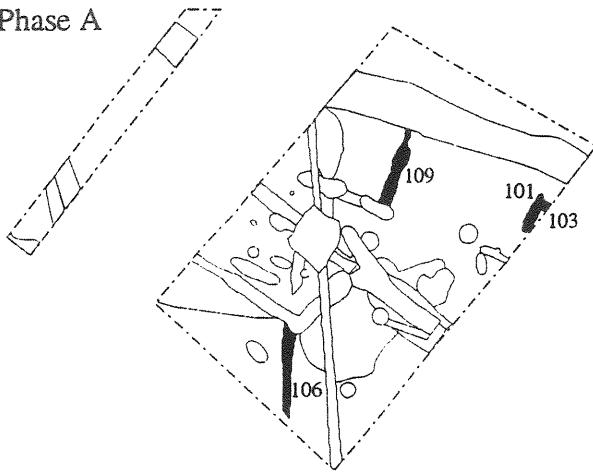
Groups 12 - 14 consisted of isolated features which were difficult to relate to this sequence.

The Date of Occupation

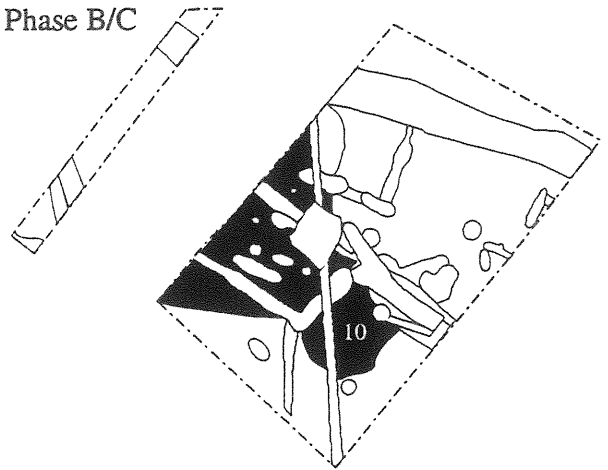
The exact date of the features discovered remains problematic. The interpretation of the pottery evidence suggested above implies that several phases of activity occurred very rapidly in the mid to late fourth century. This might be partially explained by agricultural or craft usage of this part of the settlement rather than domestic habitation. However, the deposition of an occupation soil, the digging of two phases of ditches, and construction of timber structures are unlikely all to have occurred in a period of a little over twenty-five years.

Two additional factors must be considered. Firstly, the evidence for structures is derived from cuts which may relate to robbing activity after those structures had fallen out of use. This suggests that the structural cuts may originally have been dug earlier than appears. In effect, this means that the probable settlement related buried soil may have been contemporary with the structures, and have built up around them. Secondly, it is possible that activity on the site (such as the demolition of structures) continued after new pottery had ceased to be brought in. Thus later ditches and pits could derive from after the period c 350 - 375, with associated pottery either continuing in use for a long period, or being residual. It can be suggested that

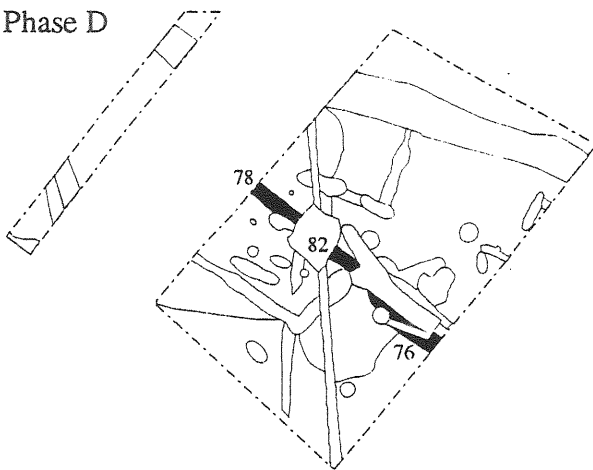
Phase A



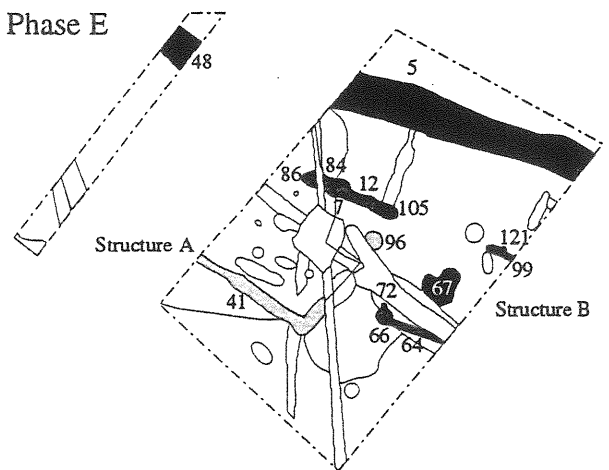
Phase B/C



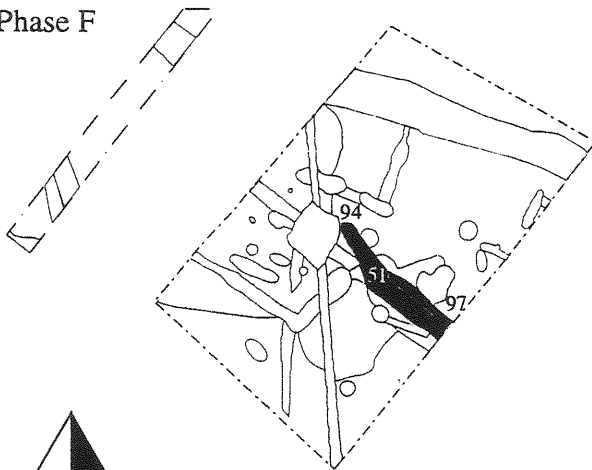
Phase D



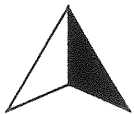
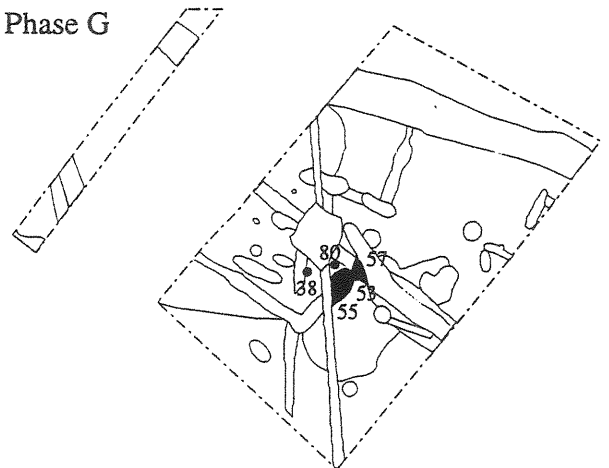
Phase E



Phase F



Phase G



0 10metres

A scale bar with a horizontal line and vertical tick marks at 0 and 10 metres.

Figure 6 Plans of Phases A-G

Structures A and B and buried soil (10) may date to the *c* 350-375, and that cut features then continued to be dug for an unknown period. In Appendix B, Going notes that there was little 'ultimate Roman' pottery, but is uncertain whether this is of chronological significance. He did not, however, note any evidence for residuality of certain sherds, or for the deliberate curation of old sherds.

The Correlation of Excavated Features with Geophysical and Aerial Photographic Evidence

The density of features within Trench H was considerable, yet here there were only two geophysical survey anomalies, one representing Ditch 5, the other Ditch 116, a post-medieval feature shown as a field boundary on Ordnance Survey maps dated from the first edition (1888) to 1953 (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1996, 2). Furthermore, only former field boundaries and two modern service trenches could be seen crossing the road corridor in aerial photographs (Palmer 1997b). The lack of geophysical and cropmark anomalies in the area in which dense archaeological features were uncovered by excavation may in part result from the masking effect of colluvium, which was present here to a depth of 0.4m. The lack of archaeological features visible in aerial photographs may also be a product of former land use, and the fact that photographs were taken at times of year when crops or soils were not responding to sub surface variations (Palmer 1997b).

7 CONCLUSION

All indications at present are that the timber structures and ditches identified in Trenches C and H relate to a hitherto unknown late Romano-British settlement which lay up slope to the south-east of the area of excavation. This is suggested by the fall off of features recorded in Trench Cii to the north-west, and by the results of a magnetometry survey indicating a concentration of anomalies to the south-east, including the corner of a possible rectilinear enclosure. It seems probable that a very high density of archaeological features lies beyond the easement in this area, beyond the limits of the corridor available for evaluation and excavation. Finds of tesserae and box flue tile from Trench H may indicate that a high status Roman building stood in the near vicinity. It is possible that these materials had been imported to the site for secondary use, or amongst refuse, but they are unlikely to have travelled far. It can be suggested that here further investigation through fieldwalking and metal detecting would be worthwhile to the south-east of the road corridor. Finds of fragments of human bone from a pit (Appendix D) are interesting but difficult to interpret. They may represent the reburial of bones from a disturbed grave nearby.

It is probable that the site investigated lay within a densely populated and heavily exploited late Roman landscape. A possible villa site lay *c* 1.5km to the south, extending across at least 350m, and was probably also occupied in the mid fourth

century (Pullinger and White 1991). Here there was rather more evidence for tile roofs and tesserae floors, and the foundations of a large range of flint and timber buildings was recorded. The range of pottery fabrics and forms was similar, and foundation trenches for timber structures were recorded that, in terms of dimensions and profile, closely resembled those at Airport Way.

Away from the focus of settlement at Airport Way, initial evaluation trenching revealed few features (Appendix A below). However, the direct correlation between the position of a probable later Roman ditch and the modern parish boundary is worthy of note (Trench D). Whilst this may be entirely coincidental, the possibility of Saxon and medieval parish boundaries continuing Roman estate boundaries, as proposed elsewhere in the region, must be considered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX A RESULTS OF EVALUATION TRENCHING

Methods

Seven evaluation trenches were opened using a 360 degree excavator, giving a total length of trenching of c 310m. One trench was located so as to cross the magnetometry anomalies where they extended within the road corridor (Trench C). A further trench 18m long was added at the backfilling stage to establish the north-western extent of features recorded in Trench C. Hand cleaning of trenches was carried out where necessary, but feature definition was generally very good because of the chalk geology and damp, dull weather conditions. Some larger features were partially excavated by machine, but excavation was completed by hand. Sections were excavated across all features, except where they were clearly modern. Metal detecting was carried out to obtain metal artefacts likely to characterise periods of settlement or other landuse. The intended scanning of the soil for residual artefacts, such as worked flint, was prevented by snow and heavy frost.

Trench A

Trench A was 47.5m long. A depth of 0.28m of mid brown clay silt topsoil was removed to reveal reddish brown clay silt with moderate to frequent fine and medium subangular flint pebbles. Two parallel narrow linear gullies were recorded, 1.20m apart, aligned roughly north / south. A 2m long segment of the eastern gully, Cut 2, was excavated. It measured 0.20m deep x a maximum of 0.48m wide, and was filled with soft yellowish brown clay silt. Two small sherds of pottery and an iron nail fragment were recovered, one of the pot sherds medieval or post medieval in date.

It is thought probable that the two irregular gullies were hand dug drainage ditches, probably post-medieval or modern. This date is suggested by the small sherd of glazed pottery recovered from Cut 2, and the fact that both features are aligned at right angles to the axis of the deep ploughing marks visible in the base of the trench.

Trench B

Trench B was 49.2m long. As in Trench A, 0.28m of topsoil was removed to reveal reddish brown clay silt with subangular flint pebbles.

No archaeological features were present.

Trench C

Trench C was 64.3m long and was cut through two deposits. On top lay a soft dark brownish grey clay silt topsoil a maximum of 0.36m thick. Below was a deposit, (14), of soft reddish brown clay silt a maximum of 0.50m thick, and thought to be partly colluvial in origin. Extensively weathered chalk and yellowish brown periglacial clay silts lay in the base of the trench.

A concentration of archaeological features was recorded towards the south-west end of the trench. All were sealed by Deposit (14). This area was selected for a phase of further excavation, and Trench H was opened here in February 1997. The features recorded at this end of Trench C are described above with Trench H.

At the other end of Trench C, a shallow truncated pit, Cut 16, containing a fragment of coal, was thought to be of post medieval or modern date.

Trench Cii

Trench Cii was opened when the evaluation trenches were being backfilled to gain further information about the features located in Trench C. It was 18m long, with a depth of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.50m of colluvial clay silt being removed to reveal clay silt with occasional to moderate fine and medium flint pebbles. At the north-eastern end of the trench, a linear deposit, (48), of yellowish brown clay silt a maximum of 2.00m wide was recorded in plan. It was aligned north-west / south-east, and appeared to be very similar to the upper fill of Cut 5, the substantial ditch revealed in Trench C.

A small ditch, Cut 47, was recorded *c* 8m to the south-west. It was 1.10m wide, aligned north-north-west / south-south-east, with slightly concave edges inclined at a gradient of *c* 1:1, and a rounded base. The fill contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery, and a band of cleaner clay silt and redeposited chalk was noted towards its base. Immediately parallel to it, Deposit (45) filled a shallow depression 0.6m wide and 0.10m deep. To the south *c* 1m away was a large feature which extended beyond the trench, Cut 44. The cut was slightly concave and aligned at an angle of *c* 1:1, but the base lay beyond the limit of excavation, and it was not possible to establish the probable shape of the feature in plan. The fill contained an iron nail and a small number of Romano-British pot sherds dating to the fourth century AD. All the archaeological features recorded in Trench Cii were sealed by the colluvial clay silt.

Deposit (48) was almost identical to the upper fill of Cut 5, recorded in Trenches C and H, and probably demonstrates the same ditch continuing, but on a different alignment, although its position implies a more complex change of direction than a simple turn to the north-west.

The two other substantial features located were not present in Trenches C or H. Cut 47 may be another Romano-British boundary or drainage ditch, although its alignment differed from that of any of the linear features discussed above. If it continues south-south-east it would have passed beyond the south-western limit of Trench C. It seems that only a small part of Cut 44 lay within Trench Cii, and it remains undated; it is uncertain whether it is a pit or ditch. Both these features were sealed by a probable colluvial deposit, (14), as were all the Romano-British features in Trench C. It is discussed in more detail below (Trench D).

Trench D

Trench D was 45.7m long. A depth of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.26m of dark yellowish brown clay silt, Deposit (42), probably partly colluvial in origin, was removed by machine. Weathered chalk and periglacial yellowish brown clay silts were revealed in the base of the trench. A ditch, Cut 19, aligned north-north-east / south-south-west and sealed by Deposit (42) was recorded. It was 1.12m

wide x 0.47m deep, with concave sides of gradient *c* 1:1 and a gently rounded base. Fill (17) was very compact and contained animal bone but no pottery, whilst (18) had a moderate chalk content and appeared to be a weathering fill.

To the south-west, a shallow modern ditch, Cut 21, was recorded aligned west-north-west / east-south-east, and cutting Deposit (42). Although recent, it cut two earlier linear features with compact fills. Cut 23 lay immediately below 21. It was 0.98m wide and 0.48m deep, with irregular sides and a rounded base. The northern edge dropped vertically to a horizontal step then curved gradually to the base. The southern edge was convex, but again curved to the base. The overall gradient of both sides was 1:1. At the western edge of the hand excavated segment the deeper part of the cut appeared to come to a rounded butt end, but the feature appeared to continue to the west in a shallower form. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the homogenous fill. A third ditch, Cut 25, was parallel, and also truncated by the modern feature. It had no relationship with Cut 23, but was sealed by Colluvial Deposit (42). It measured 1.10m wide x 0.35m deep, with gently angled sides and a slightly rounded base. Four Romano-British pot sherds was recovered from Fill (24), dating from not earlier than the second century AD.

Ditch 19 was undated, but may be much older. It contained no pottery, but was sealed by Deposit (42). The origin of this deposit is in turn uncertain, but it is thought to have been formed by a combination of colluviation, and perhaps a limited number of deep ploughing episodes. Deposits similar to (42) were present in Trenches located on or close to the base of the south-west facing slope, but absent in Trenches A, B, and G, suggesting the importance of hillwash in their formation. Yet at the same time, these deposits exhibited considerable variation depending on the colour and composition of the underlying strata. In Trench C, Deposit (14) seals features containing concentrations of Romano-British pottery, apparently showing post-Roman formation. It seems most probable that (14), (42), and other similar deposits have been continually evolving since the Roman period, perhaps with added impetus derived from recent ploughing. This might suggest that even comparatively recent features could appear to be 'sealed' by mobile colluvial deposits. Nevertheless, the fills of Cut 19 were very compact, and differed greatly from the soft deposits above, whilst the small fragments of bone found appeared to be slightly calcified. It can be suggested that the feature might be Romano-British or prehistoric.

Towards the centre of Trench D, Cut 21, a broad shallow linear feature, corresponds with the line of the parish boundary between Teversham and Fen Ditton. It clearly cuts through a colluvial deposit, (42), and appears to represent a field boundary which was probably in existence until the late twentieth century. Cuts 23 and 25 were earlier ditches on the same axis, 25 underlying Deposit (42). They are of interest as they demonstrate an existing administrative boundary and recent field boundary closely following probably much earlier alignments. Cut 23 contained four Romano-British pottery sherds dating to the second century AD or later: although they could be residual, it is possible that the ditch dates from the middle of the Romano-British period.

Trench E

Trench E was 18.2m long. A depth of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.53m soft reddish brown colluvial silty clay was removed by machine to reveal weathered chalk and periglacial clay silts.

No archaeological features were present.

Trench F

Trench F was 58.9m long. It was again cut through topsoil, and colluvial clay silt here 0.25m deep, to reveal weathered chalk and periglacial clay silt features. Towards the north-east end of the trench, two linear features were recorded, Cuts 27 and 29. Both were wide and relatively shallow in comparison, 0.53m and 0.29m deep respectively. Cut 27 had a steep southern edge with a gradient of 2:1, but a gradually sloping northern edge, and truncated the other feature. Cut 29 had two gently sloping sides and an almost flat base. Both appeared to cut through the colluvium present at this point, suggesting that both are relatively recent, and Cut 27 additionally contained mottles of soft decayed chalk within its fill that appeared recently deposited. The alignment was roughly west-north-west / east-south-east. Towards the south-western end of the trench, a shallow vertical sided gully, Cut 31, was recorded, but it is thought likely to be a frost crack.

Linear Cuts 27 and 29 were probably the remains of a relatively recent field boundary. They appeared to cut through the colluvial deposit present in this trench, and are probably too wide and shallow to have been drainage features. Cut 31 was most probably a frost crack; other periglacial features such as frost polygons were observed in this trench.

Trench G

Trench G was 33.0m long. It was cut through 0.30m of topsoil, and a deposit of weathered chalk and pale brown clay silt, (36), forming on top of the cleaner chalk below. Two ditches were found aligned roughly north-north-west / south-south-east, but on slightly different angles, so that they appeared likely to converge beyond the evaluation trench. The western ditch cut, 33, was 1.06m wide and 0.36m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base, the sides having a gradient of *c* 1:1 to the west and 2:3 to the east. The eastern cut, 35, was 1.25m wide and 0.49m deep, again with concave sides and rounded base; both sides were at a gradient of 2:3. There were no finds in either feature, and both remained undated. They were sealed by the topsoil, and cut Deposit (36). No colluvium was present in Trench G.

Linear Cuts 33 and 35, remain undated; they could be derived from any period, although their pale brown fills did not appear recently formed. A function as drainage and/or boundary ditches seems probable.

Discussion

With the exception of Trench C, it is probable that all the archaeological features located during the evaluation phase were boundary or drainage ditches. They lay on a variety alignments, and were probably derived from the field systems of several periods. Unfortunately, most did not yield datable artefacts; this is not surprising given their probable distance from a settlement. Occasionally, as in Trench D, continuity of a field boundary can be demonstrated. Here, a recent ditch was found on the site of the present parish boundary between Fen Ditton and Teversham. However,

this feature closely followed the line of an earlier ditch which contained Romano-British pottery dating from the second century or later. Although the quantity of pottery is very small and it may be residual, the earlier ditch was certainly of considerable age as it appeared to be sealed by a thick colluvial deposit. It is here possible to show that a modern boundary may be following an ancient land division.

APPENDIX B THE ROMAN POTTERY C J Going

The assemblage was examined and used as the basis of the 'spot dating' advanced in table 1, which is a brief index of the more significant material.

Date Range

C1st-2nd pottery was identified in Trench D [22], and trench H [75], [100], [102], and [108]. However the bulk of the material recovered from trenches A, C and D belonged almost wholly to the later Roman period. There was a scarcity of residual pottery. For example no Samian was found, suggesting the site contained very little pre-3rd century material.

The bulk of the pottery may be assigned to the date range 250/75-375 AD. One useful indicator is later shell tempered wares. Vessels in the fabric were manufactured throughout the Roman period at Harrold, Bedfordshire and at other places, but it is only in the 4th century that it is widely dispersed within East Anglia. Here it almost takes the places of reduced wares, suggesting a 4th century date for most of the contexts. One 'Romano Saxon' sherd was noted, a small reduced necked jar from Trench C [39]. This is probably a Much Hadham product. Oxfordshire oxidised wares were found in trench C, contexts [10] and [13], and trench H [39]. which suggests that ditch [5] in trench C was not backfilled before the later 4th century. There was, however, rather little typologically 'ultimate Roman' pottery -to use an awkward phrase- but this may not be an indicator of chronological significance.

Fabrics and Forms

Three fabric groups made up the majority of the pottery from the site.

These were 1) fine wares from the Nene valley, some pinkish wares, but mostly the late 'thick white wares'. There were also some sherds of white-ware mortaria from the same region. 2) Hadham wares, usually oxidised, although some of the rather few reduced sherds in the assemblage may be from this source. There was also 3) some shell-tempered pottery. This resembled the products of the Harrold (Beds) kilns, a major supplier throughout the region in the later third and 4th centuries AD.

Other fabrics were also present, but in very much smaller quantities. They are detailed in the table, but worth mentioning here are two sherds of Oxfordshire oxidised red wares, present in the region, for the most part, only after c AD 350.

The only continental ware identified was a sherd of an amphora (Dressel 20), a product of the Kilns on the Guadalquivir in Spain. This is probably to be dated to the second century AD. It is rather abraded and almost certainly residual to its context (Trench C [43]).

Forms

A rural, later Roman assemblage of this kind is often composed for the most part of open forms, mainly dishes and bowls, and jars, with drinking vessels (beakers and flagons) and 'specialist' types forming a minority of the remainder of the assemblage.

For the most part this assemblage conformed to expectations and forms noted were from bowls, dishes or jars, as well as beakers. Less typical was the comparative lack of flagons. The Nene valley and the Hadham potteries both made a wide range of flagon forms and their lack is of interest.

The Assemblage in its Context

The nearest known assemblage is that from Teversham (Pullinger and White 1991). Its date is later Roman for the most part, and the range of fabrics represented and the forms encountered are similar. This assemblage indicates a site with comparatively easy access to fine wares, presumably via Cambridge. The quantity, however, is rather too small for more than tentative conclusions to be advanced

CJG 3.iii.97.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations used in Table POT 1

Terms are in alphabetical order: **Buff**, Brownish or buff-coloured wares of all kinds. Usually flagons, mortaria, or miscellaneous fine wares occur in buff fabrics. **CC** Colour-coated fabric, origin uncertain (here probably Nene valley); **f.38** Imitation Dragendorff f 38; **FRD** Flange-rimmed dish; **HADOxid** (Hadham ware, oxidised); **HORN** Horningsea ware; **Mort**, Mortarium; **NVlate CC**, Nene valley colour coated wares, usually in the thick white fabric characteristically of the 4th century AD; **Nene valley ww** Nene valley white wares; **Oxid** Oxidised ware of uncertain origin; **Oxon red C/C** Oxfordshire oxidised wares, colour coated; **PRD** Plain-rimmed dish; **Reduced wares**, **Redu** Reduced wares of all kinds. **Romg** Romanising: ware with blackish surfaces, pinkish margins and a brownish grey core. Usually (but not always) of early Roman date (C1st-2nd); **SHEL** (Shell tempered wares). **STOR** storage jar.

POT 1: TEV AW 1996 Spot Dating Table:

Trench	Context	Details	Date	Condition
A	1	2x M+PM?	M+PM	Sl Abr
C	4	SHEL; HADoxid; redu	C4th?	Abr
C	6	NVCC; SHEL. HADoxid	c4th	abr
C	8	Late SHEL; ?Oxon ww mort rim	C4th	abr
C	10	Oxon wa Mort; shel, c/c.	C350+	Abr
C	13	Oxon red c/c; NVCC; Redu (burnt mort rim)	C350+	Abr
C	39	Late SHEL; NVCC; Oxid f38; Redu; HADredu Rom Sax rim(*); SHEL; Dr 20 chip; HORN	c350+	Abr
C	40	SHEL x1	C3-4th	abr
C	43	Dr20; s/t; Had oxid	C4th	Abr
C	46	x2Hadoxid	C3+	abr
D	22	Redu x1	C4	Abr
D	24	Redu x4 same vess, closed form	C2+	Abr
H	4	SHEL(STOR); CC bkr (s-) Horn; HAD oxid; NVCC	C4th	Abr
H	6	HADoxid	C4th	Abr
H	10	SHEL; HADoxid; Redu	C4th	Abr
H	39	Oxon red cc (foorting bowl); SHEL	C350+	abr
H	40	NVww Mort	C300+	ASl abr
H	49	SHEL x1.	C4th	Abr
H	50	NVCC; lateST; ?HADoxid; Redu; Romg	c350+	Abr
H	52	HADoxid; Redu	c3rd+	abr
H	54	NVlateCC; SHEL; REDU; HADoxid	c350+	abr
H	58	Had oxid, LateNVCC Prd x2.	c350+	asl abr
H	63	SHEL; ?HORN; NVCC Prd; HADoxid	C4th	Abr
H	69	Hadoxid jar rim; Buff; lateSHEL (G; R-)	c350+	abr
H	70	HADoxid; SHEL+C48 scrap	C4th	Abr
H	74	SHEL; Buff; HadOxid; ?Buff HORN jar rim	C4th	Abr
H	75	1x redu	Roman	abr
H	83	SHEL body sherds	C350+	abr
H	85	NVWW burnt?; redu	C3+	Abr
H	87	Chinax2; 1 green glazed; HADoxid; NVlate cc carinated bowl rim	M+PM	Abr
H	90	SHEL; OXID	C4?	Abr
H	92	HAD oxid; SHEL, NVTWW	C4th	Abr

Trench	Context	Details	Date	Condition
H	100	FGx1, 2x buff scraps	CRoman ?	Abr
H	102	Redu scraps	C1/2	Abr
H	104	Oxid; Buff, NVLateCC.	c350+	V Abr
H	108	Redu scraps; FClay?+C26	C1/2nd	Abr
H	117	HADoxid; NVlate CC; M+PM +Mole drain piece	M+PM	Abr
H	119	SHEL; NVlate CC inc 2xPRD; HAD oxid	C350+	Abr
Unc	52	Hadoxid VC (s-).	C4th	Abr
Unc	95	SHEL; Reduced	C4th.	V Abr

APPENDIX C FAUNAL REMAINS L Higbee

Context	Trench	Comments
u/s	H	1 rib frag, mamm, roughly broken; 5 unid c 4-5cm; 1 charred (black) unid; cattle UM; WS=j (tooth); horse LM (tooth)
(4)	C	2 unid c 5cm; 1 mand frag lg mamm (no teeth present); cattle mand, protruberance, with PM3 only
(6)	C	4 unid 2-3cm; one long bone frag, med mamm; one long bone frag, lg mamm; sheep/goat proximal diaphysis tibia, badly root etched surface; sheep/goat distal half of humerus, articular end chopped on posterior side, roughly chopped midshaft in distal direction, surface badly root etched; Dog proximal tibia, immature individual, evidence for butchery on midshft, chopped on lateral margin, with shallow knife cut lateral to width of bone on anterior shaft, surface root etched; cattle loose LM (tooth); cattle right mand containing M2 only, this badly damaged, large abscess near margin of second root of M2 + first root of M3, bone resorption with some degree of healing, surface badly root etched
(8)	C	5 unid 3-4cm
(10)	C	5 unid long bone frags, 2-8cm
(13)	C	7 unid 1-4cm; sheep/goat 4 mand frags, c 2-3yrs, surface root etched, loose DP4 heavily worn
(17)	D	13 unid 1-6cm
(39)	C/H	11 unid frags 1-6cm; 2 rib frags lg mamm, neatly chopped; 2 rib frags med mamm; 6 vert frags lg mamm; 2 vertebral bodies, lg mamm; sheep/goat diaphysis of tibia, surface badly root etched; sheep/goat left mand, DP4-M2 present, WS=HGB; sheep/goat distal metapodial chopped mid-shaft in distal direction on posterior; lateral codyle absent; horse canine, loose and damaged at biting surface, root surface badly root etched; 8 frags pelvis ?horse; 1 frag scapular ?horse
(49)	H	1 unid c 6cm
(50)	H	9 unid 1-4cm; 2 long bone frags lge mamm, 1 long bone frag med mamm; cattle maxillor frag, no teeth present; cattle phalanx prima frag; sheep/goat diaph radius; sheep/goat loose molar

Context	Trench	Comments
(52)	H	15 unid 1-8cm; 1 med mamm longbone frag; 1 lg mamm long bone frag; sheep/goat 2 loose upper molars; cattle loose upper molar; cattle distal left tibia, slight surface porosity, surface root etched; cattle distal metapodial, medial condyle absent, anterior surface above condyles battered, chopped above nutrient foramen in distal direction removing medial condyle
(54)	H	4 unid 1-6cm; 3 longbone frags med mamm; cattle phalanx secunda, chopped along medial side; cattle upper molar and premolar
(58)	H	4 unid 1-2cm; mand frag lg immature mamm; sheep/goat distal humerus, strange red staining on interior surface
(63)	H	2 unid 1-2cm, 1 charred; 4 long bone frags med mamm; 1 long bone frag lg mamm; cattle 3 frags mand of immature individual; cattle phalanx secunda, badly damaged; cattle astragalus, extremely large individual, ?surface badly damaged or covered in new porous bone; cattle right tibia, most of shaft, and distal articulation, shaft chopped near proximal end and split longitudinally
(65)	H	1 unid c 2cm
(67)	H	2 unid c 1 cm; cattle metacarpal, articular surface quite porous, surface of shaft badly root etched, chopped midshaft
(74)	H	4 unid 2-8cm; cattle matatarsal, proximal anterior shaft and articular surface exhibit pathological condition, bone has become ankylosedto metatarsal joint surface, poss results from infection of soft tissue on bone (osteomyelitis)
(88)	H	3 unid 1-6cm
(90)	H	1 unid c 4cm
(92)	H	2 vert frags lg mamm; 1 long bone frag med mamm; both badly root etched
(95)	H	??goat horn core, uncertain whether deliberately removed from skull
(100)	H	1 unid frag c 1cm
(108)	H	4 unid frags 1-3cm
(111)	H	unid acetabulum

APPENDIX D HUMAN REMAINS C Duhig

Context (13) (Ditch fill)

Right proximal ulna

Context (111) (oval-pit fill)

Humerus, radius, femora, tibiae, fibula, (49 fragments refit into 21 fragments of these 7 bones)

APPENDIX E A ROMAN COIN C Montague

Ae 4 Obverse: CONSTANS AVG Bust

Reverse: Two soldiers standing either side of standard

From the pre-reform bronze coinage, AD 337-348. Constans (ruled AD 337-350) was the youngest son of Constantine I.

APPENDIX F CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description	Nature	It's above	It's below
001	Fill of 002	Yellowish brown clay silt	002	Tpsl
002	Linear cut	Sides c 1:1, irregular base	Nat	001
003	Linear feature	Unexcavated	Nat	Tpsl
004	Upper fill of Ditch 005	10YR5/3 brown clay silt	013	014
005	Ditch cut	Complex profile, rounded base	108	013
006	Fill of 007	10YR5/3 greyish brown clay silt	007	014
007	Pit cut	Oval plan, irregular sides, rounded base	008, 083	006
008	Fill of 009	10YR4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt	009	007, 086
009	Linear cut	Gentle sides, gently ropunded base	011	008
010	Deposit (? Buried soil)	10YR4/1 dark grey clay silt	?037	041, 076, 078, 082, 084, 096, ?123-127
011	Fill of 012	10YR4/2dark greyish brown clay silt	012	009, 105
012	Posthole cut	Sreep sides, flat base	Nat	011
013	Lowerfill, Ditch 005	10yr5/2 greyish brown clay silt	005	004
014	Colluvium	Reddish brown clay silt	*	116
015	Fill of 16	Greyish brown clay silt	016	?014
016	Pit cut	Very gentle sides, rounded base	Nat	015
017	Fill of 019	Light grey sandy clay silt, hard	018	042
018	Fill of 019	Light grey sandy clay silt, hard	019	017
019	Ditch cut	Sides concave c 1:1, flat base	Nat	018
020	Fill of 021	Dark brown sandy silt	021	Tpsl
021	Ditch cut	Irregular sides c 1:1, irregular / flat base	022, 042	020
022	Fill of 023	Yellowish brown clay silt	023	021
023	Ditch cut	Complex profile, rounded base	Nat	022
024	Fill of 025	Yellowish brown clay silt	025	042
025	Ditch cut	Gentle sides, rounded base	Nat	024
026	Fill of 027	Dark brownish grey clay silt	027	Tpsl
027	Ditch cut	Complex sides taper to blunt point	028	026
028	Fill of 029	Dark brownish grey clay silt	029	027
029	?Ditch cut	Very gentle sides, rounded base	?42	028
030	Fill of 031	Light brown clay silt	031	42
031	Linear cut	Near vertical sides, flat base	Nat	030
032	Fill of 033	Light brown clay silt	033	Tpsl
033	Ditch cut	Gentle sides, rounded base	036	032
034	Fill of 035	Light brown clay silt	035	Tpsl
035	Ditch cut	Gentle sides, rounded base	036	034
036	Weathering chalk	Pale brown / white clay silt and chalk	Nat	033, 035
037	Fill of 038	Dark grey clay silt	038	?010
038	Posthole cut	Circular plan, steep sides, rounded base	107	037
039	Fill of 041	10YR4/1 dark grey clay silt	040	014
040	Fill of 041	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt, hard	041	039
041	Linear cut	Steep sides, flat base	010	040

Context	Description	Nature	It's above	It's below
042	Colluvium	Dark yellowish brown clay silt	017, 024, 030,	021, 029
043	Fill of 044	Mid grey clay silt	044	014
044	Large cut	Concave side <i>c</i> 1:1, not bottomed	Nat	043
045	Deposit	Yellowish brown clay silt	Nat	014
046	Fill of 047	Yellowish brown clay silt	047	014
047	Linear cut	Concave sides <i>c</i> 1:1, rounded base	Nat	046
048	Ditch	Unexcavated	Nat	014
049	Deposit	10YR4/4 dark yellowish brown clay silt	067	097
050	Fill of 052	2.5Y4/3 olive brown sandy clay silt	051	014
051	Linear cut	Very steep sides, near flat base	063, 074	050
052	Fill of 053	10YR5/1 grey clay silt	053	014
053	Posthole cut	Circular plan, steep sides, flat base	054, 058	052
054	Fill of 055	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	055	053
055	Pit cut	Oval plan, gentle sides, flat base	056	054
056	Fill of 057	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	057	055, 059
057	?Linear cut	Relatively steep sides, flat base	081, 095	056
058	Fill of 059	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	059	053
059	?Linear cut	Gentle sides, flat base	056, 060, 062	058
060	Fill of 061	10YR6/2 light greyish brown clay silt	061	059
061	?Linear cut	Gentle sides, flat base	093	060
062	Deposit	10YR5/4 yellowish brown clay silt	093	059
063	Fill of 064	2.5Y4/3 olive brown clay silt	064	051, 066
064	Beam slot	Steep sides, rounded base	063	075
065	Fill of 066	10YR4/1 dark greyish brown clay silt	070	014
066	Posthole cut	Circular in plan, v steep sides, flat base	063, 071	070
067	Chalk foundation	Large sub-circular chalk blocks	068	049, 069
068	Deposit	10 YR5/4 yellowish brown silty sandy clay, v frequent gravel	073	067
069	Deposit	10YR5/4 light olive brown clay silt	067	097
070	Fill of 066	2.5Y4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt	066	065
071	Fill of 072	2.5Y4/2 greyish brown clay silt	072	066
072	Posthole cut	Circular plan, v steep sides, rounded base	075	071
073	Foundation cut	Gentle sides, flat base	Nat	068
074	Fill of 097	2.5Y4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt	097	051
075	Fill of 076	10YR5/1 grey silty ?clay	076	064, 072, 097
076	Ditch cut	Gentle side, ?gently rounded base	010	075
077	Fill of 078	10YR5/3 brown clay silt	078	089
078	Ditch cut	Straight sides <i>c</i> 1:1, flat base	010	077
079	Fill of 080	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	080	014
080	Posthole cut	Circular plan, v steep sides, flat base	081	079
081	Fill of 082	10YR5/3 brown clay silt	082	077, 088, 094,
082	Ditch cut	Concave sides <i>c</i> 1:1, flat base	010	081
083	Fill of 084	10YR5/4 light olive brown clay silt	084	007, 086
084	Linear cut	Concave sides <i>c</i> 1:1, rounded base	010	083
085	Fill of 086	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	086	014
086	Pit cut	Oval in plan, steep sides, flat base	083	085
087	Fill of 116	Very dark grey clay silt	116	tps1

Context	Description	Nature	It's above	It's below
088	Fill of 089	2.5Y4/1 dark grey clay silt	089	091
089	Pit cut	Oval plan, gentle sides, flat base	077	088
090	Fill of 091	2.5Y3/1 very dark grey clay silt	091	014
091	Pit cut	Steep concave sides, rounded base	088	090
092	Fill of 094	10YR5/2 greyish brown clay silt	093	014
093	Fill of 094	10YR5/2 Greyish brown clay silt, hard	094	061, 062 092
094	Ditch cut	Complex profile, flat base	095	081
095	Fill of 096	10YR6/2 light brownish grey clay silt, hard	096	057, 094
096	Ditch cut	Steep sides, flat base	010	095
097	Ditch cut	V steep sides, flat base	049, 075	069, 074
098	Fill of 099	2.5Y5/4 light olive brown silty clay	099	014
099	Beam slot	Steep sides, flat base	Nat	098
100	Fill of 101	10YR5/4 light olive brown clay silt	101	014
101	Linear cut	Steep sides, sloping base	102	100
102	Fill of 103	2.5Y5/6 light olive brown clay silt	103	101
103	?Linear cut	Rel gentle sides tapering to a blunt point	Nat	102
104	Fill of 105	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt	105	014
105	Linear cut	Steep sides, flat base	011, 114	112, 104
106	Ditch cut	Concave sides c 1:1 tapering to a square groove	Nat	107
107	Fill of 106	10YR4/2 dark grey clay silt	106	?038
108	Fill of 109	2.5Y5/4 light olive brown clay silt	109	005, 113
109	Ditch cut	V steep sides, gently rounded base	Nat	108
110	Pit cut	Oval plan, concave sides c 1:1, flat base	Nat	111
111	Fill of 110	2.5Y5/6 light olive brown clay silt	110	014
112	Fill of 113	10YR4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt mottled w chalk	113	105
113	Posthole cut	Subcircular plan, sides c 1:1, flat base	108	112
114	Fill of 115	10YR4/2 dark greyish brown clay silt mottled w chalk	115	105
115	Posthole cut	Subrectangular plan, steep sides, flat base	Nat	114
116	Ditch cut	Steep sides, near flat base	014	087
117	U/S finds	Around Trench H	-	-
118	?Pit	Unexcavated	-	014
119	U/S finds	Trench H	-	-
120	Fill of 121	2.5Y5/4 light olive brown silty clay	121	014
121	Posthole cut	Circular in plan, steep sides, sloping base	Nat	120
122	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
123	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
124	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
125	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
126	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
127	?Feature	Unexcavated	-	014
128	?Pit	Unexcavated	-	014

* Context 14 was above contexts 4, 6, 39, 50, 52, 65, 79, 85, 90, 92, 98, 100, 104, 111, 120, 122-8

APPENDIX G FINDS QUANTIFICATION TABLE

TEVERSHAM, AIRPORT WAY 1996 - Finds Types by Context (in grammes)																					
Trench	Context	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Tile & Brick	Tesserae	Fired Clay & Daub	Clay Pipe	Metal Fe	Metal Cu	Metal Pb	Metal Slags	Animal bone	Human Bone	Shell	Stone	Worked Stone	Lava Quern	Flint Weight	Flint Count	Glass	Total Weights by Context
	m/d & f/w uls	484	n/e	1625				173	768	1433	62										4545
				67																	67
A	1	9	2					6													15
C	4										83	61									144
H	4	414	17		10																424
C	6	464	69		3			81								6225					6773
H	6	13	2			57			1			239									310
C	8	80	8					6				15									101
H	10	266	20					193				52		32							543
C	13	105	12									29	27								161
D	17											20						5	1		26
D	22	8	1																		8
D	24	16	4														29				45
C	39							54													54
H	39	299	27					6				983									1288
C	40	8	1																		8
H	40	153	1																		153
C	43	84	4					29													113
C	46	34	2																		34
H	49	10	2		9							7									26
H	50	98	14		16	5						114			104			32	2	1	371
H	52	72	6	215								179									466
H	54	505	24									85		9							599
H	58	160	24									25									185
H	63	201	13		15							281		27							524
H	65	35	7					27	1			3				73					139
H	67											98			5528						5626
H	69	65	4					8													73
H	70	6	2																		6
H	74	391	41		18	25		9				204						24	1		672
H	75	7	1																		7
H	83	13	1																		13
H	85	33	2			566															599
H	87	49	5																		49
H	88					114						3									117
H	90	6	1			37						5			556						604
H	92	54	6									43									97
H	95	10	2									26						20	2		199
H	98														466						466
H	100	4	2		10							1									15
H	102	15	3																		15
H	104	35	7																		35
H	108	4	3									8									12
H	111							16					242								258
H	117	187	13	10			7	62	12	7											285
H	119	221	21		34		6											25	2		421
Total Weights by Finds Type		4618	374 sherds	1917	115	804	13	670	782	1440	145	2614	269	68	6795	6298	29	106	1 frag	1	26691



Cambridgeshire
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