



Archaeological Field Unit

**Iron Age settlement and field systems  
At Alconbury Airfield, Rail Link:  
An Archaeological Evaluation Stage 1**

Stephen Macaulay

2000

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. 174

*Commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeology Service  
(Alconbury Developments)*

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at Alconbury Airfield, Rail Link:  
An Archaeological Evaluation Stage 1**

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## **SUMMARY**

*Between 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2000, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 15 hectares of land within and immediately to the east of Alconbury Airfield (TL 2300 7600), by staff of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit. The work was carried in advance of a proposed re-development of the airfield and the construction of a rail link to the East Coast mainline.*

*Nineteen trenches were excavated across the site to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The subsequent investigation of the trenches revealed archaeological remains in all but five trenches. Those trenches which did not contain archaeology had been disturbed by 20<sup>th</sup> century activity. Archaeological remains consisted predominately of ditches, part of a Belgic/early Roman field system. Two areas of more concentrated archaeology, consisting of postholes and pits as well as linear ditches, produced pottery dated to the early/middle Iron Age. Animal bone was retrieved but in surprisingly small quantities. This perhaps suggests core settlement was not located in the immediate vicinity. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified in a number of trenches.*

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**Iron Age settlement and field systems at Alconbury Airfield,  
Rail Link: An Archaeological Evaluation Stage 1  
National Grid Ref TL 2300 7600**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

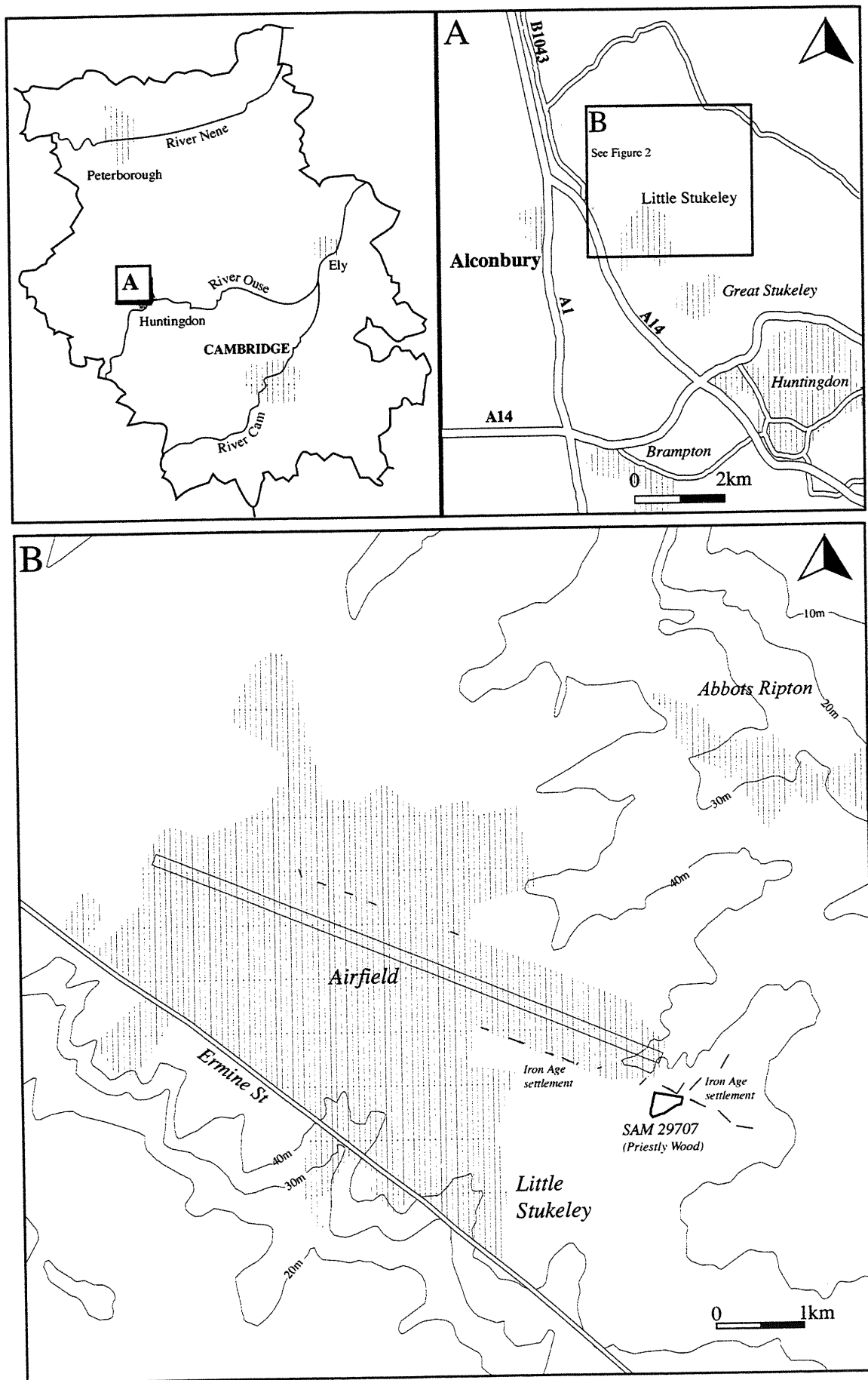
Between 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2000, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 15 hectares of land within and immediately to the east of Alconbury Airfield (TL 2300 7600), by staff of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit. The project was commissioned by The University of Leicester Archaeology Services, acting as agents for Alconbury Developments, in advance of a proposed re-development of the airfield and the construction of a rail link to the East Coast mainline. The work was carried out according to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Thomas 2000). The project was undertaken by Stephen Macaulay.

**2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

Alconbury Airfield is situated on a plateau of slightly higher land (c.40m OD) to the north of Huntingdon, adjacent to the villages of Little and Great Stukeley. The site lies on the Boulder Clay overlying Oxford Clay. The glacially deposited nature of the Boulder Clay has resulted in high instances of chalky marl deposits and patches of gravel occurring across the site. The investigation area includes two 'hill tops' one close to Prestley Wood (SAM 29707) and another to the west, within the airfield. The nature of the natural topography within the airfield is now unclear due to the extent of excavation, which has occurred there since the Second World War.

**3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A separate desk-based assessment of known archaeological information for the site was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (P Marsdan, M Sansome & P Clay 1998, *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for land at Alconbury Airfield*, Cambridgeshire. ULAS Report No 98/85). In addition to a study of the documentary and cartographic data the report included a re-assessment of aerial photographic evidence (*Alconbury Airfield, Cambridgeshire - Aerial Photographic Assessment* May 1998) and a comprehensive survey of the military installations on the site. It is not necessary to repeat the findings of these reports here below but a summary of the archaeological and historical data is included.



**Figure 1** Location plan showing built up areas, contours and zones of archaeological activity.

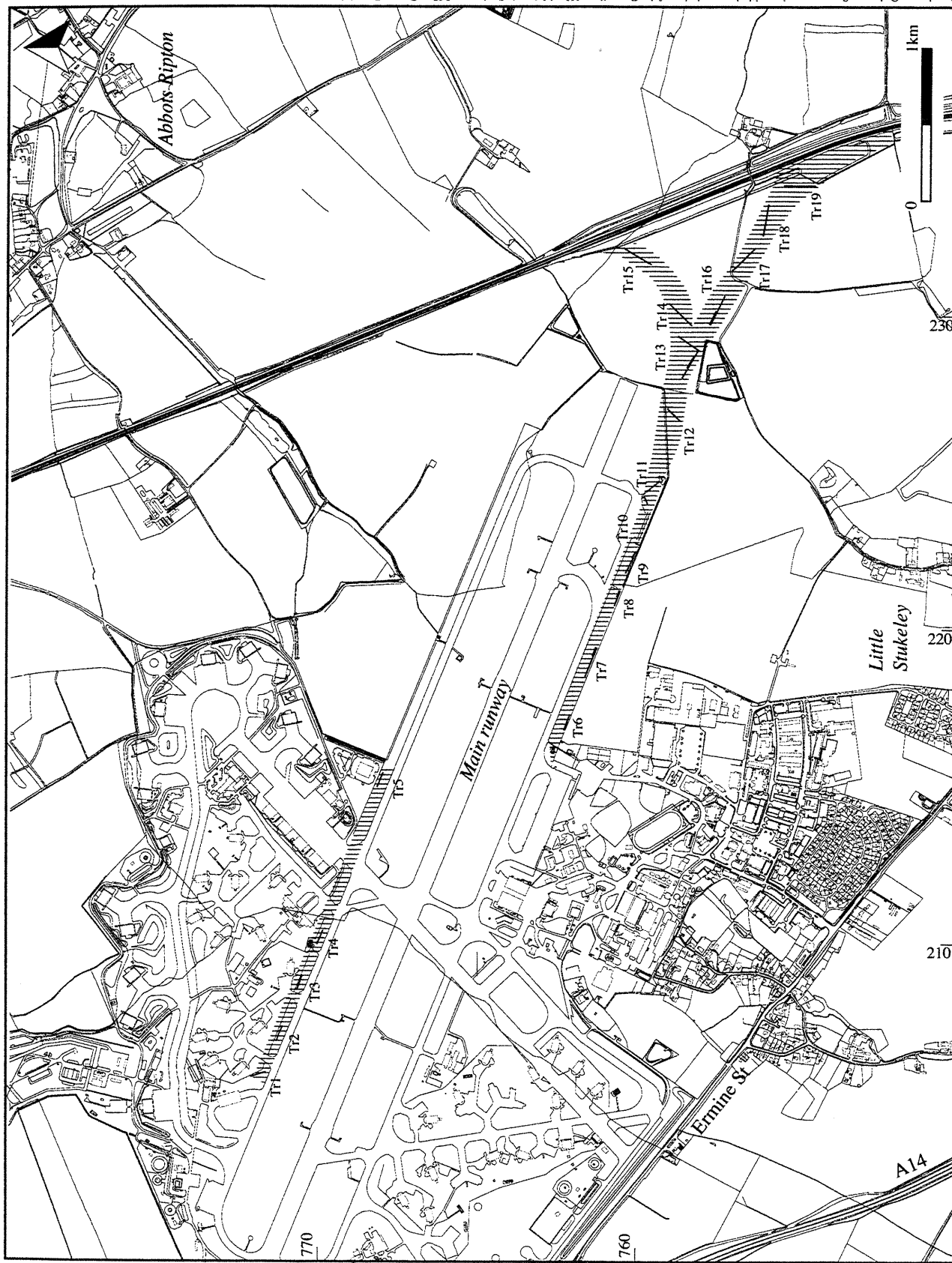


Figure 2 Trench locations and development corridor (hatched on plan)

The desk-based assessment produced by the University of Leicester Archaeology Services (Marsden et al 1998) confirmed that, despite the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record showing no archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the area had considerable archaeological potential. A number of Iron Age and Roman sites are located in the vicinity, as well as the Roman road of Ermine Street, which passes through the modern villages of Little and Great Stukeley. Prestley Wood a medieval moated site and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No: 29707) is located immediately adjacent to the rail link corridor (see Fig 2). In addition an assessment of existing aerial photographic records identified earthwork and cropmark evidence of enclosures and medieval ridge and furrow field systems close to the development area. These did not show within the airfield due to the widespread disturbance of topsoil and ground surfaces.

### **Prehistoric**

There is only limited evidence of Prehistoric activity in the area, represented by lithics and pottery scatters from a presumed Iron Age settlement 750m to the north of the development area (SMR No: 04291; TL 2300 7658). There has been an increasing number of Iron Age (and earlier Prehistoric) sites being discovered on the Cambridgeshire clay 'uplands' (Bryant in Glazebrook 1997, 25) and this lack of recorded data should not be considered proof of no activity.

### **Roman**

The area around Alconbury and more importantly The Stukeleys contains a number of important Roman sites. Roman burial mounds are known within Great Stukeley (SAM Nos: 118 & 119) situated on both sides of Ermine Street Roman road which runs through the village, some 1.5km to the south of the rail link development area.

### **Medieval**

The evaluation is flanked by the medieval villages of Alconbury, Abbots Ripton, Little and Great Stukeley, however all these lie over 1.5km from the rail link development area. Closer to the site is the moated site at Prestley Wood (SAM No: 29707), which stands isolated within modern farmland. While the presence of medieval settlement may be unlikely due to the proximity of nearby villages, there is potential for earlier Saxon remains as a precursor to the later manor.

The aerial photographic assessment identified ridge and furrow (aligned north-south, northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest) in the fields to the south, east and northeast of the Airfield. The only ridge and furrow (orientated north-south), recorded on aerial photographs, directly within the development area run across the South Sidings Area (Trenches 6-11). However, while the remaining area does not show any traces their presence should not be discounted (Air Photo Services 1998, 4 in Marsden et al 1998).



## **Post-medieval**

The desk-based assessment (Marsden et al 1998) reviewed the available historical and cartographic data. The Alconbury enclosure map of 1791 and the Little Stukeley enclosure map of 1773 both show the land after it was apportioned into a number of fields. The later 1852 Tithe map of Alconbury and Alconbury Weston does not include any of the development area. The First Edition 25" and 6" OS maps in 1890-91 also shows the area to consist of fields, with little change in the 1902 or 1926 editions. The airfield was in existence prior to WW2 but most development took place between 1939-1959.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Century**

The desk-based assessment describes and records at length the WW2 and Cold War development of the airfield and this will not be repeated here. The majority of the rail link development lies outside the airfield (apart from the North and South Rail Sidings) and the evaluation does not impact on any standing buildings. The most significant impact of the airfield is the large scale landscaping which has taken place to construct runways, lay service pipes and buildings.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

The desk-based assessment did not identify any specific archaeological features (other than ridge and furrow) within the proposed development area, but did identify zones of survival (Zone A – partial, Zone B – unlikely). The Rail Link Assessment was divided into 3 distinct areas: North Rail Sidings, South Rail Sidings and rail corridor linking the airfield to the East Coast Mainline. The North and South Rail Sidings lay within Zone B (unlikely survival of archaeology) and the Rail Link was outside of both zones.

In order to evaluate the area nineteen trenches of varying lengths and dimensions were excavated using a mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket (1.8m wide). The length of trenching was 15,800m, totalling 17,000m<sup>2</sup>. The trenches were located as a spread across the area of the proposed development in order to obtain maximum coverage thus increasing the possibility of discovering any archaeological features. The location of trenches within the airfield was greatly determined by the presence of utility services. Running parallel to the runway are live high voltage electric cables and storm drains. This has determined the location of the evaluation trenches in the sidings area (see Fig 2). In addition there are a number of service trenches and cables which cross the area (gas, jet fuel, water and minor electric cables). The presence of Prestley Wood Medieval Moated site (Scheduled Ancient Monument No: 29707) immediately adjacent to the development area (Fig 2) resulted in an increased 5% trenching sample in those areas adjoining the monument. Research aims that could be determined were to: (a) investigate the area adjacent to the medieval manor of Prestley Wood; (b) locate dispersed settlement evidence; (c) confirm

the level of disturbance within the airfield; and (d) provide a sample of the development area.

The modern ground surface and subsoil were removed to a depth where the natural clay or clay-chalk marl deposits were noted, between 0.36m and 1.1m below the present ground surface. Where potential features were encountered a process of cleaning and excavation took place followed by planning where appropriate. Trench spoil and the excavated surfaces of trenches were scanned by eye in order to obtain artefacts.

Archaeological trenches and features were recorded using a Zeiss RecElta 15 Total Station, and a digital base plan of the site was produced with Pro-surveyor mapping software. Trenches that contained archaeological features were planned by hand. Archaeological features were sample excavated and recorded using the pro-forma recording sheets of the Archaeological Field Unit. All trenches excavated during the evaluation were described, giving details of topsoil and subsoil depths and the natural geology visible in the base of the trench.

## **5 RESULTS (see figs 3, 4 & 6)**

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was 50m long and was orientated north-south. At the northern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey silt topsoil 0.36m thick lay directly above clean natural boulder clay. This sequence was repeated at the southern end, although the topsoil thickness had increased to 0.40m. The natural geology observed consisted of blocky yellow brown clay. The trench had been heavily disturbed with the subsoil layer entirely removed as a result of ground works on the airfield. No archaeological features were observed within the trench.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was c.50m long and ran northwest-southeast. The trench was an irregular shape due to the presence of an unrecorded electric cable. At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey silt topsoil 0.45m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.10m thick. This sequence remained the same at the southeastern end although the depth of subsoil decreased to 0.05m while the topsoil remained 0.45m thick. The base of the trench consisted of yellow brown clay natural geology that included small spreads of chalk marl.

Two modern ditches were identified cutting into the natural geology, both of which were sampled.

**Cut 004**, 0.90m wide, 0.26m deep, linear in plan, contained one fill:

Fill 005, an olive-brown silty clay with chalk marl. The fill contained a high percentage (<5%) of modern red brick fragments.

**Cut 006**, 0.13m wide, 0.28m deep, linear fence slot cut into **004**.

**Cut 043**, 1.20m wide, 0.40+m deep, U shaped profile, linear in plan, contained one fill:

Fill 042, an olive-brown silty clay. The fill contained a high percentage (<10%) of modern red brick fragments.

### **Trench 3**

Trench 3 was 50m long and orientated northwest-southeast. At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey silt topsoil 0.25m thick overlay a 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition layer (c.0.30m deep) lying above a dark yellow-brown silty clay subsoil 0.15m thick. This sequence remained the same at the southeastern end although the topsoil depth decreased to 0.20m and the subsoil also increased to 0.20m. The base of the trench consisted of a mixer of light brown and yellow-brown clay. The demolition layer consisted of numerous brick fragments and two WWII helmets were recovered. The trench has been heavily disturbed and no archaeological features were identified.

### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was 50m long and ran northwest-southeast. At the southeastern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey silt topsoil 0.40m thick overlay a brown sandy clay subsoil 0.20m thick. This sequence remained the same at the northeastern end although the depth of topsoil decreased to 0.38 and the subsoil decreased to 0.14m thick. The base of the trench consisted of light brown clay natural geology that included small spreads of chalk marl. No archaeological features were identified.

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was 50m long and ran northwest-southeast. At the southeastern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey silt topsoil 0.30m thick overlay a brown sandy clay subsoil 0.28m thick. This sequence remained the same at the northeastern end although the depth of topsoil increased to 0.58 and the subsoil decreased to 0.10m thick. The base of the trench consisted of yellow brown clay natural geology that included small spreads of chalk marl. No archaeological features were identified.

### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 consisted of two segments each 25m, orientated broadly northeast-southwest, the trench was of-set due to the presence of a modern ditch that ran

down the centre of the original alignment (see Fig 3). At the eastern end of the trench, a dark brownish clayey slit topsoil 0.28m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.20m thick which in turn sealed a light pale grey brown clay and chalky marl natural. This sequence remained the same at the southwestern end of the trench where the topsoil layer was 0.36m thick, and the subsoil layer decreased to 0.10m thick, and sealed the same natural geology. No archaeological features were identified in the trench.

Three ditches were identified cutting into the natural geology, all located at the eastern end of the trench. Each ran perpendicular to each other (running broadly north-south) and are the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (Master Cut No 007).

**Cut 009**, 0.75m wide, 0.12m deep, linear in plan, contained one fill:  
Fill 008, an olive-brown silty clay. The fill contained 1% chalk lumps and angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered

**Cut 011**, 0.88m wide, 0.13m deep, linear in plan, contained one fill:  
Fill 010, an olive-brown silty clay. The fill contained 1% chalk lumps and angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered

**Cut 013**, 0.67m wide, 0.13m deep, linear in plan, contained one fill:  
Fill 012, an olive-brown silty clay. The fill contained 1% chalk lumps and angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered

### **Trench 7 (see figs 3 & 5)**

Trench 7 was 100m long and ran broadly northeast/southwest, the trench was widened for 25m at the southwestern end to expose archaeological features identified during machining. At the southeastern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.30m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.20m thick which lay above the subsoil-natural clay interface (c.0.20m thick). At the northwestern end although the topsoil depth was 0.25m and this overlay a modern rubble layer 0.15m deep.

A series of 5 parallel northwest-southeast orientated ditches were revealed within this trench and a north-south curvilinear ditch as well as a number of discrete features towards the eastern end of the trench. The features are described from west to east.

**Cut 015**, 0.70m wide, 0.27m deep, linear in plan, flat based U shaped profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill (cut by later field drain 018):  
Fill 014, an olive-brown silty clay. The fill contained 1% chalk inclusions and angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 018**, red and white field drains (017), 0.15m wide, 0.24m deep, orientated northnorthwest-southsoutheast. Contained one fill:  
Fill 016, an olive yellow & mottled chalky clay.

**Cut 023**, 0.80m wide, 0.28m deep, linear in plan, flat based U shaped profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained two fills:

Fill 021, basal fill, a light olive-brown silty clay with mottled grey clay inclusions. The fill contained 1% chalk inclusions and angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

Fill 022, final infill, an olive brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 020**, 0.75m wide, 0.24m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill:

Fill 019 (same as 045), an olive-yellow silty clay with mottled grey clay inclusions. The fill contained frequent chalk inclusions (<70%), angular flints and 1% gravel. A single sherd (strap handle) of non-specific medieval pottery (38g) and 4 sherds of early/middle Iron Age pottery (044) were recovered. Sampled <6> for flotation but no organic material recovered.

**Cut 072** (same as 024), 0.70+m wide, 0.30+m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill (this feature is re-cut to hold a fence or palisade see 066 below):

Fill 071 (same as 025), a dark greyish brown silty clay. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 066** (re-cut of 072), 0.33m wide, 0.26m deep, linear in plan, a U shaped profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained two fills (a slot 063 and packing 068 were set along the eastern edge):

Fill 065, a light olive brown slightly sandy silty clay, weathering fill. No finds recovered.

Fill 064, a dark greyish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 063**, 0.22m wide, 0.29m deep, linear in plan with a flat based U shaped profile, contained one fill;

Fill 062, a dark greyish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 068**, number for packing of re-deposited natural 067 below.

Fill 067, a light olive brown clay with chalk inclusions. No finds recovered.

**Cut 024** (same as 072), 0.65+m wide, 0.12+m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation northwest-southeast (truncated by 072), contained one fill;

Fill 025 (same as 071), a dark greyish brown silty clay. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. A sherd of grog tempered early/middle Iron Age pottery (8g) was recovered

**Cut 031** (same as 033), 0.40+m wide, 0.22m deep, curvilinear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation broadly north-south (truncated by 072), contained one fill:

Fill 030 (same as 032 & 44), a very dark greyish brown silty clay. Four sherds of early/middle Iron Age pottery (40g) were recovered from the base. Fill sampled <5> for flotation but no organic material present.

**Cut 033** (same as 031), 0.52m wide, 0.15+m deep, curvilinear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation broadly north-south, contained one fill:

Fill 032 (same as 030 & 44), a very dark greyish brown silty clay. Ten dark brown sherds of early/middle Iron Age pottery (21g) were recovered, with a mixture of shell, grog and sand tempers (another 4 sherds were recovered from 044) and animal bone were recovered.

**Cut 027**, 0.45m wide, 0.12m deep, linear in plan, a shallow U shaped ditch profile, and orientation broadly northeast-southwest. The ditch butt ends within the trench to the northeast, appears to respect the alignment of 041 and is truncated by a modern north-south ditch. Contained one fill:

Fill 026, an olive yellow silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 041**, 0.50m wide, 0.09m deep, linear in plan, a shallow U shaped ditch profile, orientation broadly northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 026, a light olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 035**, 0.70m wide, 0.18+m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill;

Fill 034, an olive brown silty clay. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 037**, 0.50m wide, 0.80m long, 0.10m deep, sub-circular posthole, shallow U shaped profile, contained one fill;

Fill 036, a light olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 039**, c.2.5m wide, c.2.5m long, 0.35m deep, very irregularly shaped treehole. Contained one fill;

Fill 038, a dark yellow brown clayey silt with small stone and gravel. No finds recovered

### **Trench 8 (see figs 3 & 5)**

Trench 8 was 50m long and ran broadly northwest/southeast; the trench was widened for 20m at the southeastern end to expose archaeological features identified during machining. At the southeastern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.20m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.20m thick which lay above the subsoil-natural clay interface (c.0.20m thick). At the northeastern end although the topsoil depth was 0.40m and this overlay the subsoil-natural clay interface (c.0.10m thick). The subsoil depth increases towards the bottom of the slope (to the east).

Another northwest-southeast orientated ditch were revealed within this trench (parallel to those in Trench 7), again the number of features identified increases towards the eastern end of the trench. A number of possible linear features were identified in the western end of the trench, however these were natural. The features are described from west to east.

**Cut 048**, 0.65m wide, 0.75m long, 0.20m deep, sub-circular posthole, shallow U shaped profile, contained one fill;

Fill 047, a light olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 050**, 0.50m wide, 1.9m long, 0.25m deep, oval pit in plan, U shaped profile, orientation broadly northeast-southwest, contained one fill:

Fill 049, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 052**, 0.85m wide, >0.55m long, 0.70m deep, sub-circular posthole, deep V shaped profile with rounded base, contained three fills;

Fill 051, basal deposit a light yellow brown clayey silt. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel, 3 large rounded stones and numerous smaller stones (post-packing). No finds recovered.

Fill 059, a greyish brown clayey silt (organic staining? poss. as result of post rotting in-situ). No finds recovered.

Fill 052, a light olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 056**, 0.85m wide, >0.55m long, 0.70m deep, sub-circular posthole, deep V shaped profile with rounded base, contained three fills;

Fill 058, basal deposit a light olive brown silty clay. The fill contained angular flints and 1% gravel. No finds recovered.

Fill 057, a mottled greyish brown clayey silt (organic staining? poss. as result of post rotting in-situ). No finds recovered.

Fill 055, a mottled light olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained angular flints and 5% gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 265**, 1m wide, 0.25m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill (posthole 056 cut into the base);

Fill 264, an light olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 054**, 0.72m wide, 0.26m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill;

Fill 053, a dark greyish brown clayey silt. The fill contained small stones 5-10%. No finds recovered.

### **Trench 9 (see figs 3 & 5)**

Trench 9 was 100m long and ran broadly northwest/southeast; the trench was divided into two section (c65m/c35m) due to the presence of a redundant water pipe. At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.15m thick lay above a modern rubble demolition layer (0.25m thick). This sealed the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century topsoil (the same as the topsoil horizons in other trenches), this was 0.25m thick and overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.30m thick which lay above the subsoil-natural clay interface (c.0.15m thick). At the southwestern end the topsoil depth was 0.15m, over the modern

rubble layer (0.40m deep), buried topsoil was 0.10m thick and this overlay the subsoil-natural clay interface (c.0.35m thick).

Another northwest-southeast orientated ditch were revealed within this trench (parallel to those in Trenches 7 and 8). Other features identified in the trench, included a furrow base on the same axis (i.e. orientated north-south) as the furrow identified in Trench 6. These features are described from west to east.

**Cut 076**, 0.57m wide, 0.21m deep, linear in plan, a flat based U shaped ditch profile, orientation northwest-southeast, contained one fill;  
Fill 053, an olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained occasional small stones 5%, with some larger stones in the base. No finds recovered.

**Cut 074**, 0.50m wide, 0.35m long, 0.22m deep, oval in plan, irregular V shaped posthole, contained one fill;  
Fill 073, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 081**, 1.05m wide, 0.19m deep, linear in plan, a shallow flat based U shaped ditch profile (ridge and furrow), orientation broadly north-south, contained one fill;  
Fill 080, a mid olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 078**, 0.50m wide, 0.35m long, 0.22m deep, circular in plan, rounded based V shaped posthole, contained one fill;  
Fill 077, a dark greyish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 083**, 0.50m wide, 0.18m deep, linear in plan, a V shaped ditch profile orientation broadly northwest-southeast, contained one fill;  
Fill 082, a light olive brown clayey silt. The fill contained occasional small angular stones 1%. No finds recovered.

**Cut 079**, Treehole not recorded.

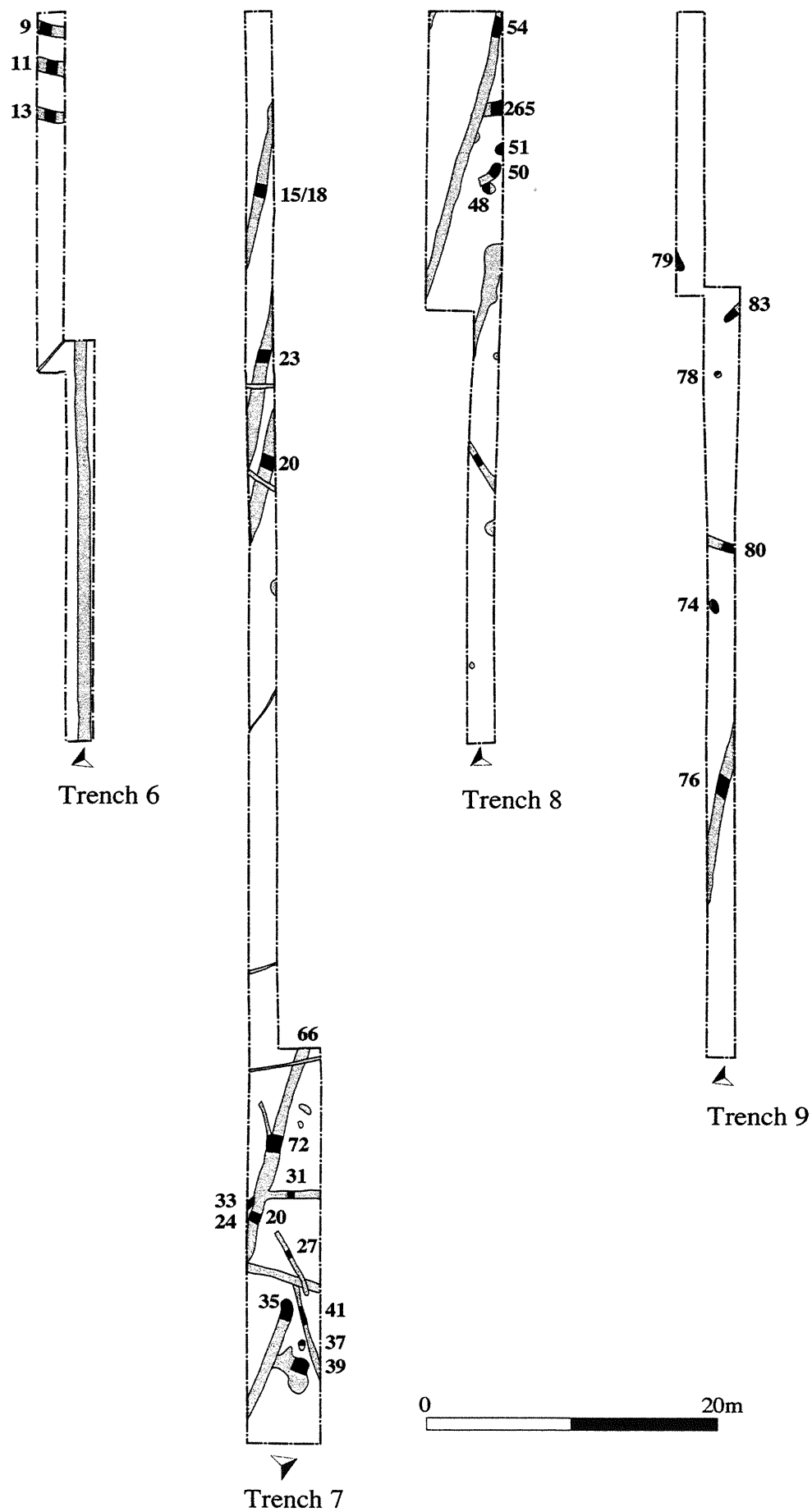
## **Trench 10**

Short 15m long trench orientated northeast-southwest. This trench contained 3 live high voltage electric cable and a water pipe. No features were observed, however the trench was not fully investigated. Topsoil was 0.15m deep and up to 0.75m of subsoil and dumped material lie above the natural.

## **Trench 11**

Trench 11 was 25m long and runs broadly east-west. Topsoil was 0.35m thick and this overlay 0.20m deep subsoil at the western end. Towards the east topsoil depth was 0.35, however this lay over 0.30m of rubble and demolition material which lay above 0.25 subsoil. No archaeological features were identified within this trench.





**Figure 3** Trench plans 6-9 (excavated sections of features in black)

### **Trench 12 (see figs 4 & 7)**

Trench 12 was 50m long and ran northeast-southwest. At the southwestern end of the trench, a brownish grey silty clay topsoil 0.36m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.13m thick which in turn sealed a sandy clay natural which also includes occasional gravel and chalk marl spreads. This sequence was repeated at the northeastern end.

Two linears, with very dark fills, were observed within the trench, along with two isolated postholes. The features are described from northeast to southwest.

**Cut 207**, 0.84m wide, 0.42m deep, curvilinear (ring-ditch) in plan, a flat based V shaped ditch profile, contained three fills;

Fill 206, a dark greyish brown silty clay. The fill contained frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small angular stones 1%. Twenty five sherds (195g) of dark early/middle Iron Age pottery (including decorating with vertical scoring and finger nail impressions) and burnt animal bone (cattle, sheep and pig) has been recovered. Fill sampled <2> & <11> although producing no organic material burnt bone (inc. pig), charcoal and more pottery was recovered.

Fill 213, a dark greyish brown silty clay with high percentage of charcoal. Contained two sherds (19g) of dark early/middle Iron Age pottery and burnt animal bone has been recovered.

Fill 214, a light brownish grey silty clay. The fill contained occasional small angular stones and common charcoal frags. A single sherd (22g) of dark early/middle Iron Age pottery and burnt animal bone has been recovered.

**Cut 156**, 0.46m wide, 0.46m long, 0.04m deep, circular posthole with a rounded U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 157, a yellow brown silty clay with occasional <5% chalk lumps. No finds recovered.

**Cut 150**, 2.65m wide, 0.86m deep, linear in plan, a complex V shaped ditch profile, contained five fills;

Fill 155, a dark greyish brown silty clay weathering (basal) fill. The fill contained occasional small angular stones and chalk frags. One sherd (6g) of coarse shelly early/middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone has been recovered.

Fill 154, a dark yellowish brown clay with chalk marl. Interpreted as bank weathering infill.

Fill 153, a dark grey brown silty clay. The fill contained occasional small angular stones and frequent charcoal frags. Forty sherds (86g) of fragile early/middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone has been recovered. Fill sampled <4> producing animal bone, shell (inc snail) and charcoal.

Fill 152, a dark yellowish brown clay. Interpreted as deliberate bank infilling of ditch. The fill contained frequent angular stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 270**, 1.35m wide, 0.32m deep, linear in plan, a V shaped ditch profile, contained one fill (re-cut of 150);

Fill 151, a very dark greyish brown silty clay. The fill contained occasional small angular stones and rare charcoal frags. Six sherds (80g) of Late Belgic Iron Age

pottery (including a cordoned or necked jar) were recovered and animal bone has been recovered. In addition a drilled bone spindle whorl base was found. Fill sampled <3> producing animal bone, shell (inc. snail) and charcoal.

**Cut 158**, 0.60m wide, 0.65m long, 0.17m deep, circular posthole with a rounded U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 159, a (yellow) brown silty clay with occasional <5% small stones. No finds recovered.

### **Trench 13 (see figs 4 & 7)**

Trench 13 was an 'L' shape, 100m long, orientated northwest-southeast and 80m northeast-southwest. The trench was widened for 40m along the northwest-southeast stretch to expose archaeology observed during machining (see fig 3). At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.25m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.15m thick. This sequence remained identical at the northeastern end of the trench. Trench 13 lay adjacent to Prestley Wood medieval moated site.

At least four ridge and furrow bases (**099, 101, 267 and 269**) were observed in the trench, all aligned broadly north-south and therefore on the same axis as other ridge and furrow identified in Trenches 6 and 9. Other linears were observed on differing alignments and date to earlier periods. Notably along the northeast-southwest arm of the trench a series of ditches (at evenly spaced intervals 4-5m apart) were recorded which ran northwest-southeast. These were not ridge and furrow, but form part of an earlier and larger field system also picked up in Trenches 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 (see below). Finally a number of discrete postholes were observed, although no pattern could be accurately determined. The features in Trench 13 have been described from west to east.

**Cut 269**, 2.2m wide, 0.12m deep, linear in plan, flat base wide U shaped profile, base of a furrow running north-south (c.f. ridge and furrow), contains one fill; Fill 268, an olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 267**, 1.5m wide, 0.11m deep, linear in plan, flat base wide U shaped profile, base of a furrow running north-south (c.f. ridge and furrow), contains one fill; Fill 266, an olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 087**, 1.35m wide, 0.25m deep, linear in plan, flat bottomed V shaped profile, contains one fill (Features **089** and **093** are cut into the top of this ditch); Fill 086, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered. Sampled <7> but no palaeoenvironmental material retrieved.

**Cut 089**, 0.30m wide, 0.60m long, 0.10m deep, circular in plan, wide U shaped posthole base, contained one fill (possible fence base cut into top of **087**); Fill 088, a light olive brown clayey silt with rounded stones and gravel, no finds recovered.

**Cut 093**, 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep, linear in plan, shallow U shaped profile, contains one fill (ditch cut into the top of **087** possible ditch linked to fence? **089**);

Fill 092, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 133**, 0.90m wide, 0.65m long, 0.16m deep, irregular pit rectilinear in plan, wide flat bottomed U shaped profile, contains one fill (Features **129** and **131** are cut into the top of this ditch);

Fill 132, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 129**, 0.37m wide, 0.26m long, 0.21m deep, sub-circular posthole, V shaped profile, contains one fill (cut into the top of ditch **133** see **089**);

Fill 128, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 131**, 0.28m wide, 0.35m long, 0.26m deep, sub-circular posthole, V shaped profile, contains one fill (cut into the top of ditch **133** see **089**);

Fill 132, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 091**, 0.40m wide, 0.40m long, 0.10m deep, sub-circular posthole, U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 90, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds recovered.

**Cut 136**, 0.90m wide, 0.38m deep, linear in plan, V shaped profile, contains two fills;

Fill 135, basal fill an light olive brown silty clay with occasional angular stones and chalk frags. No finds recovered. Sampled <8> but no palaeoenvironmental material retrieved.

Fill 134, an olive brown silt clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 097**, 0.36m wide, 0.64m+ long, 0.06m deep, linear in plan, shallow wide U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 096, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 095**, 0.24m wide, 0.44m long, 0.18m deep, sub-circular posthole, U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 094, a yellowish brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 115**, 0.64m wide, 0.74m long, 0.23m deep, curved square posthole in plan, V shaped profile, contains two fills;

Fill 118, a light olive brown slightly clayey silt weathering fill. No finds recovered.

Fill 114, a light olive brown clayey silt with burnt flint. No finds.

**Cut 117**, 0.49m wide, 0.70m long, 0.17m deep, sub-circular posthole in plan, U shaped profile, contains two fills;

Fill 119, a light olive brown slightly clayey silt weathering fill. No finds recovered.

Fill 116, a greyish brown clayey silt with flint. No finds.

**Cut 111**, 0.33m wide, 0.34m long, 0.15m deep, sub-circular posthole in plan, flat based U shaped profile, contains one fills;

Fill 110, a light olive brown silty clay. No finds.

**Cut 099**, 0.75m wide, 0.10m deep, linear in plan, shallow flat based wide U shaped profile, base of a furrow running north-south (c.f. ridge and furrow), contains one fill;

Fill 098, a light olive brown clayey silt with frequent angular small stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 109**, 0.55m wide, 0.80m long, 0.12m deep, oval posthole in plan, wide U shaped profile, contains one fills;

Fill 108, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds.

**Cut 101**, 1.10m wide, 0.06m deep, linear in plan, shallow flat based wide U shaped profile, base of a furrow running north-south (c.f. ridge and furrow), contains one fill;

Fill 100, a light olive brown clayey silt with frequent angular small stones and gravel. No finds recovered.

**Cut 103**, 0.35m wide, 0.60m long, 0.10m deep, oval posthole in plan, wide U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 102, a light olive brown clayey silt. No finds.

**Cut 107**, 1.15m wide, 0.24m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular profile with the northeast side steeply sloping and much shallower on the southwestern side, contains one fill;

Fill 106, an olive brown silty clay with occasional angular small stones (<5%). A sherd (3g) of sandy Roman blackware pottery recovered from the fill.

**Cut 105**, 0.77m wide, 0.24m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular profile with the northeast side steeply sloping and much shallower on the southwestern side (see **107**), contains one fill;

Fill 104, an olive brown silty clay with occasional angular flint and small stones (<5%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 174**, 0.85m wide, 0.27m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular profile with the northeast side steeply sloping and much shallower on the southwestern side (see **105** & **107**), contains one fill;

Fill 175, a yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones (<3%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 176**, 0.66m wide, 0.30m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, steep sided flat based U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 177, a dark yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flint (<7%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 178**, 0.75m wide, 0.18m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, steep sided flat based U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 179, a dark yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flint (<5%). No finds recovered.

#### **Trench 14 (see figs 4 & 7)**

Trench 14 was 100m long orientated northeast-southwest. At the northeastern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.30m thick overlay rubble/tipping layer (0.15m deep) lying above a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.07m thick. At the southwestern end of the trench the topsoil depth was 0.27m, with the depth of subsoil increasing to 0.23m.

A series of 13 linears were observed running northwest-southeast, all spaced at between 4-5m apart. Initially these were thought to be the remnants of ridge and furrow, however upon investigation these ditches appear to be part of an earlier and substantial field system. All ditches are orientated northwest-southeast and are described from the southwest to northeast of the trench.

**Cut 123**, 0.81m wide, 0.16m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, concave sides with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 122, a light olive brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flint (5-10%). No finds recovered.

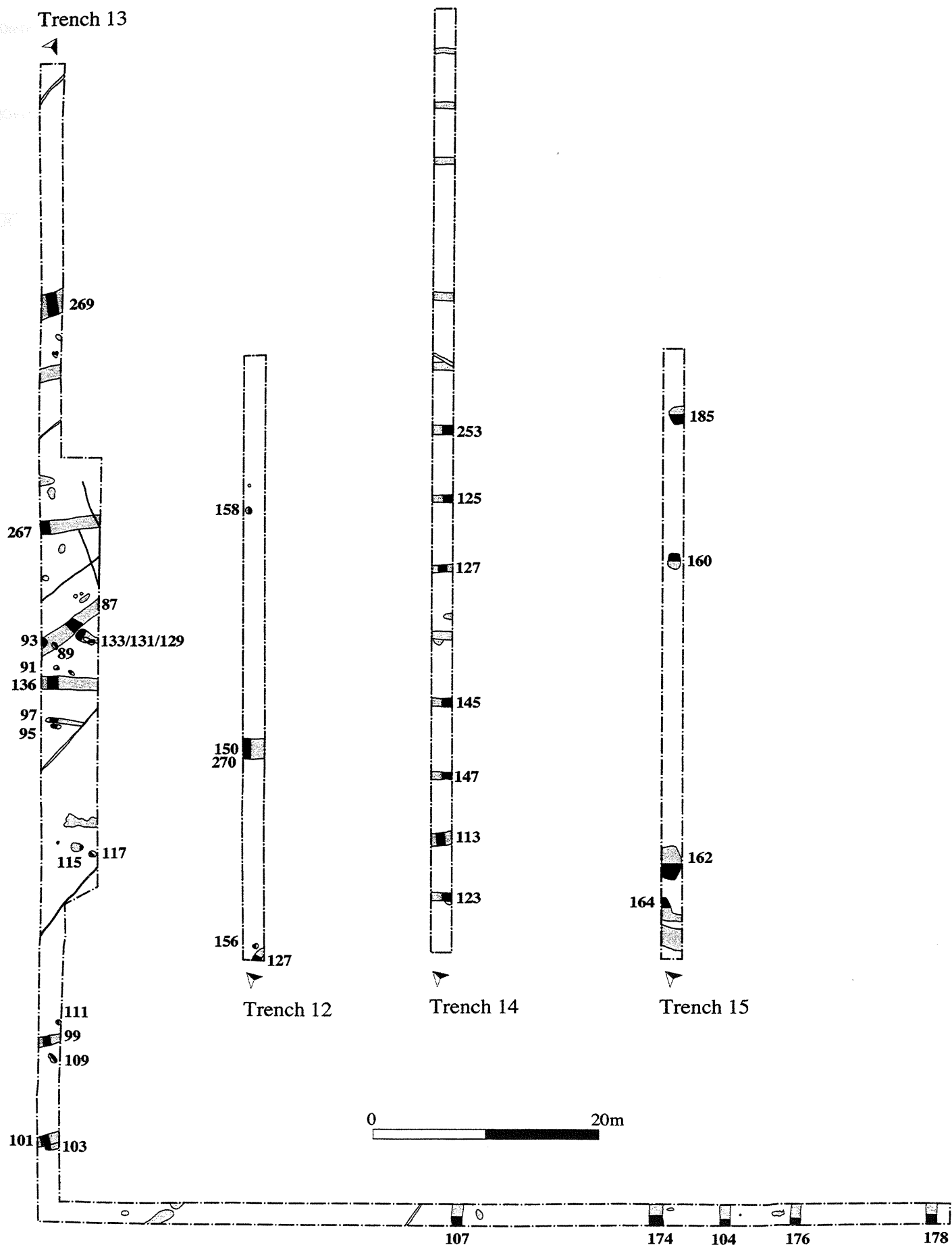
**Cut 113**, 0.70m wide, 0.21m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, steep sided with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 112, a light olive brown silty clay with occasional small stones and angular flints. No finds recovered.

**Cut 147**, 0.75m wide, 0.25m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, steep sided with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 146, an olive brown clayey silt with occasional flint and chalky lumps. No finds recovered.

**Cut 145**, 0.70m wide, 0.26m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, flat based U shaped profile, contains two fills;  
Fill 144, a light yellow brown chalky clayey (bank slump). No finds recorded.  
Fill 143, an olive brown silty clay with occasional small stones, flint and chalky lumps (5%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 127**, 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, concave sides with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 126, a light olive brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalky lumps. No finds recovered.

**Cut 125**, 1.02m wide, 0.30m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular sided stepped to the southeast forming a slot (fence enclosing land to the northwest?) with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 124, an olive brown clayey silt with rare flint and occasional chalky flecks. No finds recovered.



**Figure 4** Trench plans 12-15 (excavated sections of features in black)

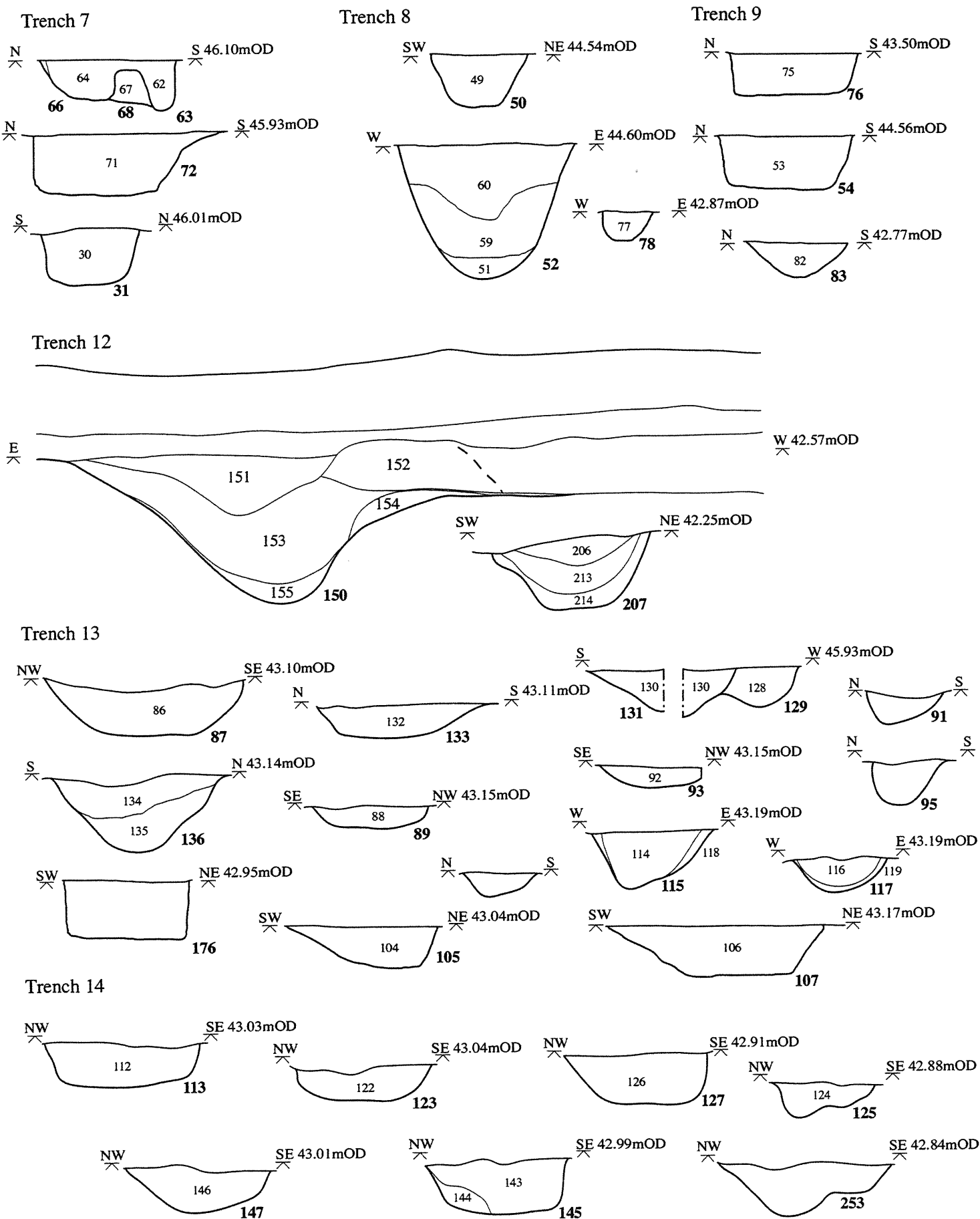


Figure 5 Sections of features in trenches 7,8,9,12,13 and 14.

0 1m



**Cut 253**, 0.90m wide, 0.25m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular sided stepped to the southeast forming a slot (fence enclosing land to the northwest?) with a flat base, contains one fill;

Fill 252, an yellowish brown clayey silt with very occasional flint and pebbles. No finds recovered.

#### **Trench 15 (see figs 4 & 7)**

Trench 15 was 100m long orientated northeast-southwest. At the northeastern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt with occasional gravel spreads topsoil 0.20m thick overlay a natural deposit of gravel. At the southwestern end of the trench the topsoil depth was 0.20m, with the depth of subsoil 0.10m these lay over a mix of gravel and clay natural. The gravel deposit is presumably the result of glacial deposition within the larger boulder clay geology. The depth of topsoil is low in this area and the trench has suffered much disturbance from ploughing. A number of irregular pits (potentially gravel quarrying for Ermine Street Roman Road) were observed, as well as some instances of mixed soil and gravel due to plough damage. The features are described from the southwest to northeast.

**Cut 164**, 0.88m+ wide, 1.89m+ long, 0.15m deep, an irregular shaped pit with a flat base, contained one fill;

Fill 165, a dark brown sandy silt with flint and chalk (<5%). Animal bone recovered.

**Cut 162**, 1.70m+ wide, 1.77m long, 0.44m deep, an irregular shaped pit with a flat base, contained one fill;

Fill 163, a very dark brown silty sand with flint, gravel and occasional charcoal (<90%). Five sherds (22g) of Roman pottery (including a Verulamium gritty whiteware reeded-rim jar c.2<sup>nd</sup> century AD) were recovered.

**Cut 160**, 1.24m wide, 1.50m long, 0.22m deep, an oval steep sided pit with a flat base, contained one fill;

Fill 161, an olive brown silty sand with frequent gravel (<55%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 185**, 1.30m+ wide, 1.60m long, 0.30m deep, an steep sided pit with a flat base, contained one fill;

Fill 184, a dark brown sandy silt with flint and gravel (<25%). No finds recovered.

#### **Trench 16 (see figs 6 & 7)**

Trench 16 was 100m long, orientated northwest-southeast. The trench was widened (double width) for 50m (from the northwest) to expose archaeology observed during machining. At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brown

clayey silt topsoil 0.24m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.2m thick. This sequence remained identical at the southeastern end of the trench. Trench 16 was located to the east of Prestley Wood medieval moated site and like Trench 13 is positioned on the brow of a small hill.

A number of linears, pits and postholes were observed in the trench, the ditches were all aligned either northeast-southwest or northwest-southeast, broadly perpendicular to each other and reflecting the alignment of ditches observed in Trenches 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19. Ditches inter-cut and butt ends (entrances) were recorded within the trench, overall the density of features suggested a much higher concentration of occupation and activity than in most other trenches. The features are described from northwest to southeast.

**Cut 142** (see 140), 0.70m wide, 0.15m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, concave sided with a flat base, butt ends within the trench, contains one fill;

Fill 141 (see 139), a light olive brown silty clay with regular stones and gravel and chalk flecking. No finds recovered.

**Cut 181**, 0.55m wide, 0.60m long, 0.23m deep, oval posthole with rounded U shaped profile, truncates earlier posthole **183** (re-setting?), contains one fill;

Fill 180, a light olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 183**, 0.45m wide, 0.70m long, 0.25m deep, oval posthole with rounded U shaped profile, cut by **181**, contained one fill;

Fill 182, a light olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered

**Cut 196**, 0.80m wide, 0.90m long, 0.25m deep, circular posthole with flat based U shaped profile, contains two fills;

Fill 195, a light olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

Fill 194, a dark greyish brown silty clay with decayed organic and charcoal frags (post decayed in-situ). No finds, sampled <1> but no palaeoenvironmental material retrieved.

**Cut 121**, 1.05m wide, 0.31m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, concave sided with a flat base, contains one fill;

Fill 120, a light olive brown silty clay with regular stones and gravel and chalk flecking. No finds recovered.

**Cut 140** (see 142), 0.65m wide, 0.25m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, concave sided with a flat base, butt ends within the trench, contains one fill;

Fill 139 (see 141), a light olive brown silty clay with regular stones and gravel and chalk flecking. A sherd of Roman pottery (local greyware) recovered. Sampled <9> but no palaeoenvironmental material retrieved.

Ditches **140** & **142** and postholes **181**, **186** & **196** create an entrance within the field system (see Fig 6). Ditch **121** may also be related to these features.

**Cut 230**, 1.40m wide, 0.84m long, 0.58m deep, sub-oval pit in plan, rounded bottomed U shaped, contains two fills;

Fill 231, a mottled yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small stones and gravel. A water deposited weathering fill, no finds recovered.

Fill 229, a mottled orangy-grey dark greyish brown clayey silt. No finds recovered. Sampled <10> but no palaeoenvironmental material retrieved.

**Cut 239**, 0.70m wide, 2.00m+ long, 0.28m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan butt ends within trench (truncated by **191**), U shaped profile with a flat base, contains one fill;

Fill 238, a light olive brown silty clay with regular stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 189**, 0.98m wide, 0.24m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, U shaped profile with a step on the northwestern side (truncated by ditch **191**), contains one fill;

Fill 188, a light olive brown silty clay with small stones flint (<5%). A single sherd (16g) of early/middle Iron Age pottery was recovered.

**Cut 191**, 0.97m wide, 0.32m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based with a steep convex side to the northeast and a concave side on the southwest (truncates ditch **189**), contains one fill;

Fill 190, a dark brown silty clay with small stones (<5%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 198**, 0.70m wide, 0.21m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, V shaped profile (truncated by posthole **201** and ditch **191**, however the ditch respects its position), contains one fill;

Fill 197, a light olive brown silty clay with small stones flint (<2%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 201**, 1.18m in diameter, 0.13m deep, oval in plan, with a shallow uneven profile, contains two fills;

Fill 200, a light olive brown sandy clay. No finds recovered.

Fill 199, an olive brown clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 232**, 0.57m wide, 1.6m+ long, 0.11m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, irregular profile with steep sides, contains one fill;

Fill 233, a greyish brown silty clay with small stones flint and chalk marl. No finds recovered.

**Cut 203**, 0.60m wide, 0.25m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile (truncates linear **205**), contains one fill;

Fill 202, a light yellow brown silty clay with angular flints (<2%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 205**, 0.48m wide, 0.24m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile (truncated by linear **203**), contains one fill;

Fill 204, an olive brown clayey silt with angular flints and small stones (<2%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 237**, 0.58m wide, 0.22m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 236, a yellow brown silty clay with chalk lumps and flecks. No finds recovered.

**Cut 173**, 0.70m wide, 0.15m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 172, a light olive brown silty clay with angular flints and small stones (<5%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 235**, 0.66m wide, 0.78m+ long, 0.13m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, irregular profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 234, a brown silty clay with small-large rounded and angular stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 171**, 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 170, a light olive brown silty clay with many angular flints and small stones (<5%). Sherds (7g) of late Belgic/early Roman pottery was recovered.

**Cut 169**, 0.75m wide, 0.20m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 168, a light olive brown silty clay with regular angular flints and small stones (<5%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 167**, 0.70m wide, 0.15m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;  
Fill 166, a light olive brown silty clay with many angular flints and small stones (<5%). Three sherds (4g) of Roman pottery (local greyware) were recovered.

#### **Trench 17 (see figs 6 & 7)**

Trench 17 was 100m long orientated northwest-southeast. At the northwestern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.28m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.15m thick. This is unaltered at the southeastern end.

A series of 8 linears were observed running northeast-southwest, all spaced between 4-5m apart. Initially these were thought to be the remnants of ridge and furrow, however upon investigation these ditches appear to be parts of an earlier and substantial field system. In addition a furrow base was recorded (209) running north-south and therefore on a similar alignment as other furrows recorded in Trenches 6 and 13. All features are described from the northwest to southeast of the trench.

**Cut 211**, 0.74m wide, 0.20m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 210, an olive brown silty clay with occasional small stones and frequent chalky flecks. No finds recovered.

**Cut 209**, 1.10m wide, 0.10m deep, north-south orientated ridge and furrow, linear in plan, broad flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 208, a light olive brown silty clay with frequent small stones. Pottery? recovered.

**Cut 228**, 0.80m wide, 0.12m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based V shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 227, a light olive brown silty clay with many small stones and frequent charcoal flecks. No finds recovered.

**Cut 220**, 0.68m wide, 0.08 deep, northeast-southwest orientated ridge and furrow, linear in plan, broad flat U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 221, a light olive brown silty clay with frequent small stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 224**, 0.87m wide, 0.20m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 223, a light olive brown silty clay with occasional small stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 226**, 0.76m wide, 0.17m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based U shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 225, a light olive brown silty clay with many small stones. Ten sherds (31g) of late Belgic/early Roman pottery was recovered.

**Cut 218**, 0.75m wide, 0.20m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based V shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 217, a light olive brown silty clay with many angular stones. A single sherd (4g) of late Belgic/early Roman pottery was recovered.

**Cut 222**, 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based V shaped profile, contains one fill;

Fill 221, a light olive brown silty clay with many angular stones and pebbles with chalk lumps. No finds recovered.

**Cut 216**, 0.80m wide, 0.26m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, flat based concave sided profile, contains one fill;

Fill 215, a light olive brown silty clay with many small stones. No finds recovered.

#### **Trench 18 (see figs 6 & 7)**

Trench 18 was 100m long orientated east-west. At the western end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.26m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.16m thick. This is unaltered at the southeastern end.

A series of 9 linears were observed running northeast-southwest, all spaced between approximately 7m apart. Initially these were thought to be the remnants of ridge and furrow, however upon investigation these ditches appear to be parts of an earlier and substantial field system. In addition a large pit was identified at the western end of the trench. All features are described from the west to east of the trench.

**Cut 241**, 1.45m wide, 1.60m long, 0.14m deep, sub-oval in plan, shallow flat based U shaped profile pit, contains one fill;

Fill 240, a light olive brown sandy clay with gravel (<10%) and chalky inclusions (<7%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 249**, 0.85m wide, 0.27m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, uneven profile concave to the northwest but with a steep almost vertical edge to the southeast, contains one fill;

Fill 248, a yellowish brown silty clay with many angular flints. Flint flakes recovered.

**Cut 251**, 0.87m wide, 0.28m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, concave sides with a rounded base, contains one fill;

Fill 250, a light olive brown clayey silt with occasional stones and flints. No finds recovered.

**Cut 242**, 0.96m wide, 0.32m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep almost vertical sides with a flat base, contains one fill;

Fill 243, a light olive brown clayey silt with angular flints (<10%). No finds recovered.

**Cut 247**, 1.55m wide, 0.45m deep, linear in plan running northwest-southeast, irregular sided stepped to the northwest forming a slot (fence enclosing land) with a rounded base, contains one fill;

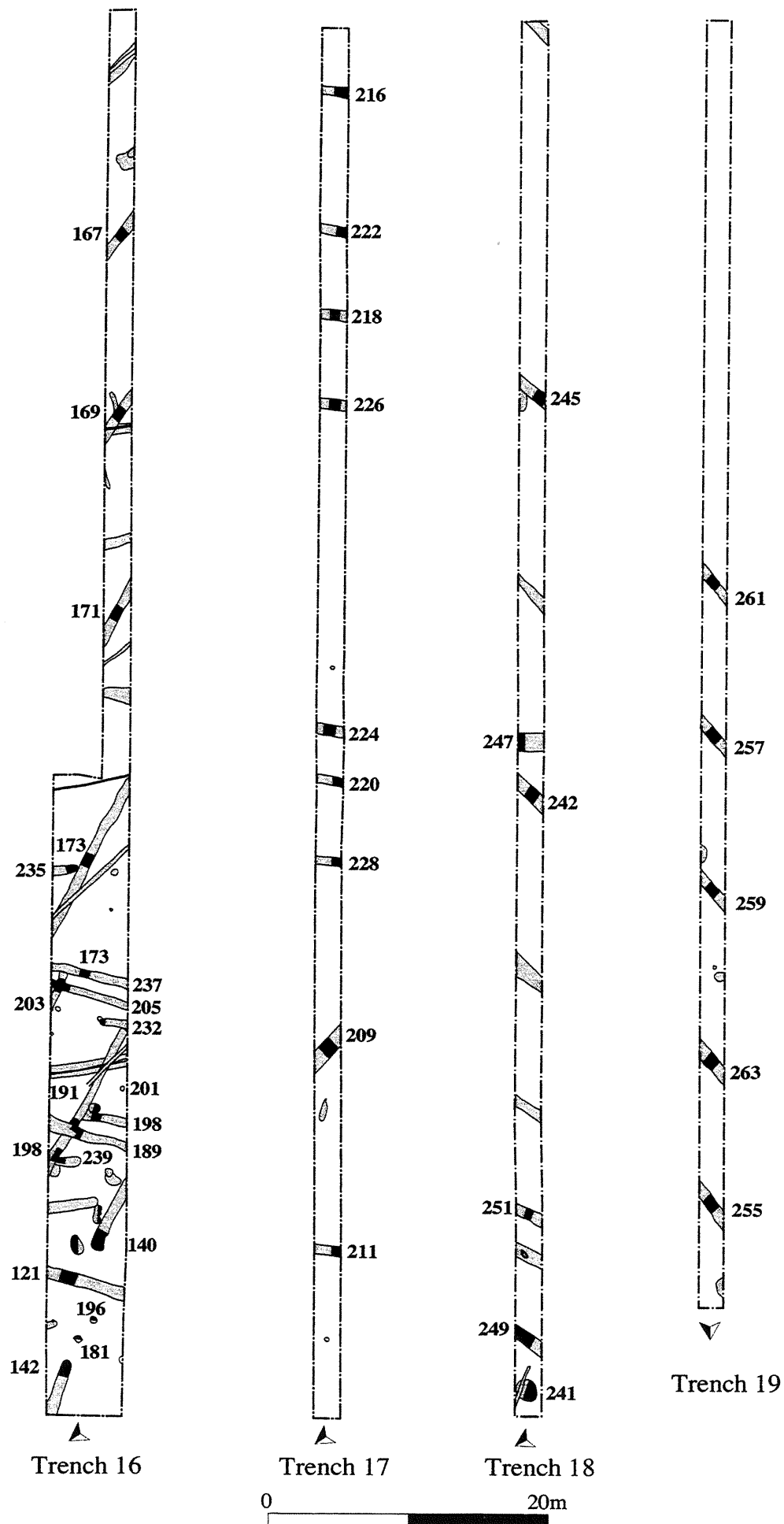
Fill 246, an olive brown clayey silt, occasional chalky flecks and stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 245**, 0.60m wide, 0.25m deep, northeast-southwest orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep almost vertical sides with a flat base, contains one fill;

Fill 244, a light olive brown silty clay with occasional well rounded pebbles and angular flints (<10%). No finds recovered.

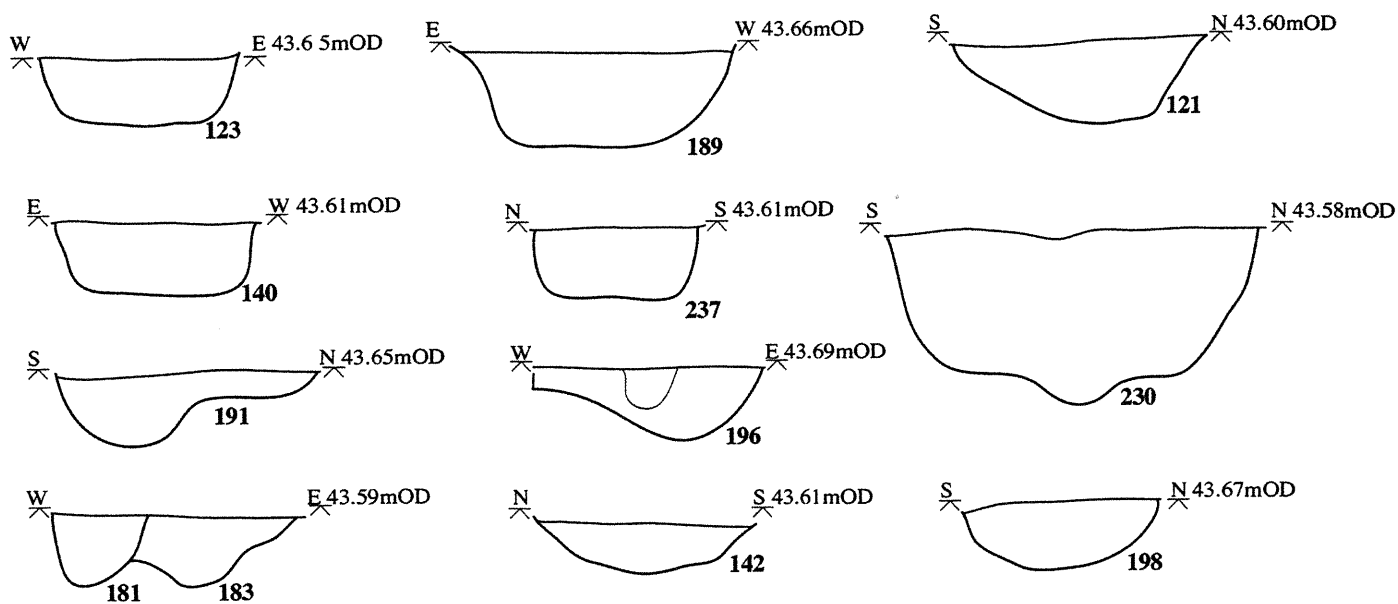
#### **Trench 19 (see figs 6 & 7)**

Trench 19 was 100m long orientated north-south. At the northern end of the trench, a dark brown clayey silt topsoil 0.25m thick overlay a dark yellow brown silty clay subsoil 0.17m thick. At the southern end of the trench the topsoil depth increases to 0.28m. The subsoil overlies a light brown clay natural with chalky marl.

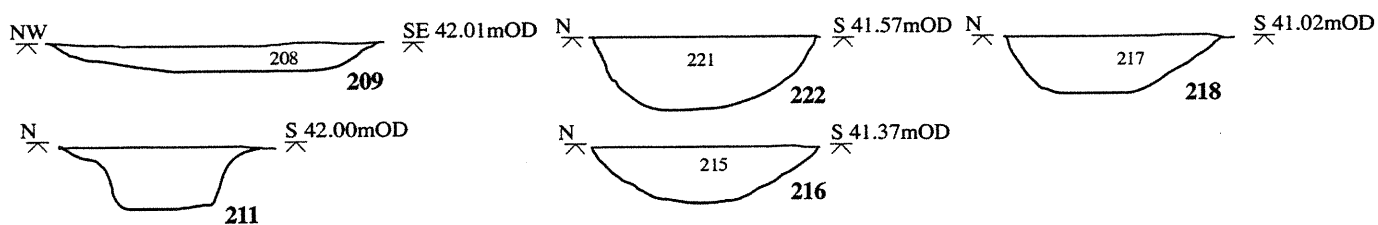


*Figure 6 Trench plans showing excavated sections of features in black*

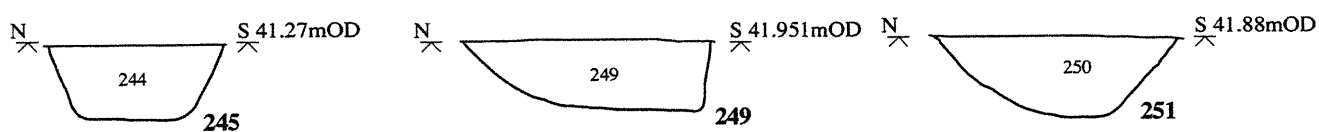
### Trench 16



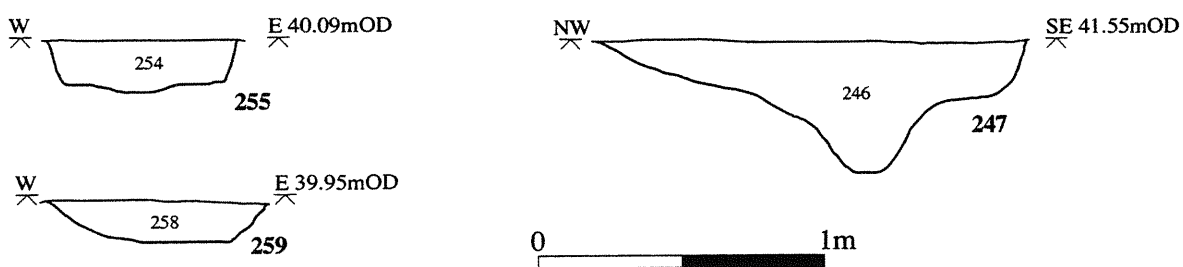
### Trench 17



### Trench 18



### Trench 19



0 1m

Figure 7 Sections of features in trenches 16,17,18 and 19



A series of 5 linears were observed running northeast-southwest, all spaced between approximately 7-8m apart. Initially these were thought to be the remnants of ridge and furrow, however upon investigation these ditches appear to be parts of an earlier and substantial field system. No other features were observed within the trench. All features are described from the north to south.

**Cut 255**, 0.64m wide, 0.20m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep almost vertical sides with a broad flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 254, an olive brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags and angular flints. No finds recovered.

**Cut 263**, 0.93m wide, 0.22m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep concave sides with a flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 262, an olive brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags and frequent small stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 259**, 0.86m wide, 0.15m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, concave sides with a broad flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 258, a light olive brown silty clay with chalky inclusions and small stones. No finds recovered.

**Cut 257**, 0.87m wide, 0.18m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep almost vertical sides with a broad flat base, contains one fill;  
Fill 256, an olive brown silty clay. No finds recovered.

**Cut 261**, 0.70m wide, 0.20m deep, northwest-southeast orientated ditch, linear in plan, steep almost vertical sides with a rounded base, contains one fill;  
Fill 260, an olive brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions and small stones. No finds recovered.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The full nature of Prehistoric and medieval activity on the site cannot be fully determined from evaluation trenches. However the nature and perceived extent of the deposits encountered indicate that significant Iron Age activity has been identified within the area of the proposed Alconbury Airfield Rail Link development (Stage 1). In addition a large and regular (co-axial) field system has been identified which predates the later medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (figs 8 & 9). Despite the lack of recorded finds in the Sites and Monuments Record, excavation of the exposed surfaces in all undisturbed evaluation trenches revealed a significant number of archaeological features with a notable (and important) concentration in Trenches 7, 8, 12, 13 and 16 (figs 3-9). These concentrations suggest a focus of at least two Iron Age settlements within the development area. Trenches 6 through to 19 contained archaeological features, mostly series of parallel linears (figs 8 & 9).

With the exception of WW2 remains archaeology was not found in Trenches 1-5 (North Rail Sidings Area) due to the impact of recent (20<sup>th</sup> century) ground disturbance during the construction and on-going developments in the airfield. All trenches had suffered from the removal of levels above the natural and in other places both removal and tipping of later building debris, while the high concentration of service pipes, trenches and cables has also contributed to the disturbed nature of the area.

Trenches 6-11 (South Rail Sidings Area) lay on the southern perimeter of the Alconbury Airfield (see fig 2). Although service trenches, storm drains and cables crossed this area, it had not suffered the same level of disturbance as the North Rail Sidings Area. There was evidence of tipping (e.g. Trench 9) however this built up the ground surface, rather than infilling hollows etc. As noted above, ridge and furrow predicted from aerial photographic evidence was identified (Trenches 6 and 9; **009, 011, 013 & 081**), however this aerial photographic record did not reveal the presence of other ditches on differing alignments (i.e. all northwest-southeast ditches in Trenches 7, 8, & 9).

The archaeology in Trenches 7, 8 and 9 are significant and represent more than just agricultural field systems (fig 3). Crossing these trenches from northwest to southeast runs a series of parallel ditches (Cuts **015, 023, 020** and **072=024**), they have flat bases, steep sides and are filled with olive-brown to dark brown silty clay fills. These features were originally thought to be modern, however excavation has produced a Prehistoric date.

Within Trench 7 the fills of the ditches closer to other activity (i.e. Cut **072**) which truncates **031**) have darker charcoal rich fills, potentially as a result of proximity to nearby occupation. Pottery recovered from these features dates to the early/middle Iron Age (c700-100BC). Feature sampling for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction did not provide any positive data. The function of these ditches appears to be that of a Celtic or Iron Age field system. These ditches (**072**) truncate a curvilinear ditch (ring-ditch **031=033**), a narrow palisade slot which was an enclosing fence or wall. This ditch (fill **032**) also produced early/middle Iron Age pottery. These ditches and fence lines have good stratigraphic relationships. There is a deliberate continuation of the enclosing function of ditch **033** and a re-cut of ditch **072** to erect a fence line (**066**) to the north (see figs 3, 5 & 8.). The remains of shallow ditches (**027** and **041**) with lighter coloured fills also respect these ditches and may be the faint traces of fences. In or close to this area there appears to lie an early/middle Iron Age settlement with outlying fields enclosed by ditches, located on the brow of a small hill.

Trenches 8 and 9 also contains a northwest-southeast ditches (**054** and **076**), again with a dark brown fills. Although no pottery was recovered these features were identical to those in Trench 7 (**072** etc.). Several isolated pits and postholes (**048, 052, 056, 074** and **078**) lie to the south and east of the ditches. Some of the postholes are very substantial (>0.70m deep), with the posts set in shallow ditches/pits (**050** and **265**). Although no artefactual material was

recovered, the nature of the fills and morphology also suggest that these are part of the early/middle Iron Age activity in the area (see Trench 7).

Trenches 12-19 lay outside the Alconbury Airfield, within the corridor for the rail link. This land has not been altered to the same extent as that within the airbase and topographically reaches its highest point around Prestley Wood.

Trench 12 contained a large northwest-southeast ditch **150** with a very dark fill. It was substantially larger (2.65m wide) than those recorded in Trenches 7-9 (c0.70m wide), with a steep V shaped profile and is more likely to be a boundary ditch. This feature contained large quantities of early/middle Iron Age pottery from its lower fills (155 & 153). After the bank had been deliberately slighted the ditch was re-cut as **270** and the final fill (151) of this much smaller ditch contained late Iron Age (Belgic) pottery. Samples taken for assessing the quality of survival of organic material for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction were negative. The samples only produced burnt animal bone and pottery. The ditch/boundary seems to have been a long lived and important feature, potentially separating the Iron Age settlements recorded in Trench 7-9 and that centred around Prestley Wood (Trenches 13, 14 & 16). This feature also contains large quantities of burnt animal bone (pig, sheep and cattle). To the northeast of this boundary feature was a ring-ditch (**207**) in the corner of Trench 12. This feature was also filled with a very dark brown soil and contained much animal bone. All fills contained early/middle Iron Age pottery (large quantities). Again samples taken for assessing the quality of survival of organic material for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction were negative.

Trench 13 lay adjacent to the medieval moated site of Prestley Wood. Four ridge and furrow bases were identified (**099**, **101**, **267** and **269**) on the same broadly north-south alignment as those excavated in Trenches 6 and 9. Although not visible on aerial photographs these features would be expected if the cropmarks were extended. More significant are the remains of earlier activity demonstrated by ditches and postholes. The series of parallel ditches recorded in the northeastern section of the trench (**107**, **105**, **174**, **176** & **178**) running northwest-southeast are intriguing. Some possess the steep sided flat-based profiles (**176** & **178**) of those ditches on the same alignment found in Trenches 7-9. However a number (**107**, **105** & **174**) have a steeper side to the northeast with a shallow side on the southwest, implying some enclosing to that side. Similar ditch systems are recorded in Trenches 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19. A single sherd of Roman pottery from **106** (**107**) was the only dating evidence recovered from Trench 13, however both Roman and late Iron Age (Belgic) pottery was recovered from ditches (**166**, **170** & **188**) in Trench 16.

As noted above Trenches 13, 14 and 16-19 all contain series of parallel ditches, evenly spaced, none of which were predicted from aerial photographs. The pottery assemblages from these ditches are middle/late Iron Age (Belgic) or early Roman and given that the material does not seem to be residual then the ditches must be seen as Iron Age/early Roman. Although the ditch spacing is very even (4-5m apart) it is not possible at this stage to determine if all are contemporary or if this represents continuity over some time. The ditches might be evidence

for intensive and fairly organised arable cultivation, which would be rare but not unique for this early date. A similar ditch system was excavated at Milton (near Cambridge) and dated to the middle to late Iron Age (Connor 1999). The paucity of animal bones from the site, while not discounting the possibility of animal husbandry might support a theory on this basis. However, given the nature of some of the linears which have clear palisade or enclosing features (e.g. 107, 125 or 253), a system enclosing larger fields must also be considered. Only further investigation of the system over a larger area will provide better supported data.

The nature of the local geology and topography within Trench 15 appears to have resulted in the nature of archaeology encountered in this area of the site. Located at the far northeast corner of the development area, the trench revealed spreads of gravel rather than chalky clay at the base. This gravel outcrop (the result of boulder clay glacial deposition) had only a very thin layer of topsoil and no subsoil. This resulted in the trench being the only one outside of the Airfield to have no linears within it either associated with the late Iron Age field system or later medieval ridge and furrow. Evidence of small scale gravel quarrying was observed and the recovery of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD Roman pottery would appear to indicate that this quarrying was linked to the construction or maintenance of the nearby Roman road of Ermine Street which passes through The Stukeleys. Although the road lies some 1.5km's to the south of the site the gravel in Trench 15 would be the closest source at this point.

Despite the extensive number of archaeological features identified, the size of the artefactual assemblage recovered was comparatively small. A total of 103g of animal bone was recovered from seven contexts (92g or 89% from two features within Trench 12). The pottery assemblage, although relatively small, was evenly spread throughout the site, with most features producing dating material. This assemblage dates predominately to the early/middle Iron Age, with small quantities of late Bronze Age, late Belgic and Roman material (see Appendix A).

The archaeological remains around Trenches 7, 8 & 9, within the South Rail Sidings area, and Trenches 13 & 16 within the rail link corridor, have more concentrated remains than seen elsewhere on the site. This may represent the difference between early or middle Iron Age settlement and later Belgic/early Roman field systems. The presence of postholes and pits, in addition to ditches, within these trenches supports a higher level of activity. In contrast to this the archaeology recorded within other trenches (6, 14 & 17-19) was almost exclusively a series of linears which are part of either the late Belgic/early Roman field system or later medieval ridge and furrow. The exceptions to this are Trenches 12 and 15. Trench 12 produced the most artefactual remains on the site (65% of pottery recovered) from a large boundary ditch (150) and a ring-ditch (207). While Trench 15 produced evidence of small scale gravel quarrying of Roman date.

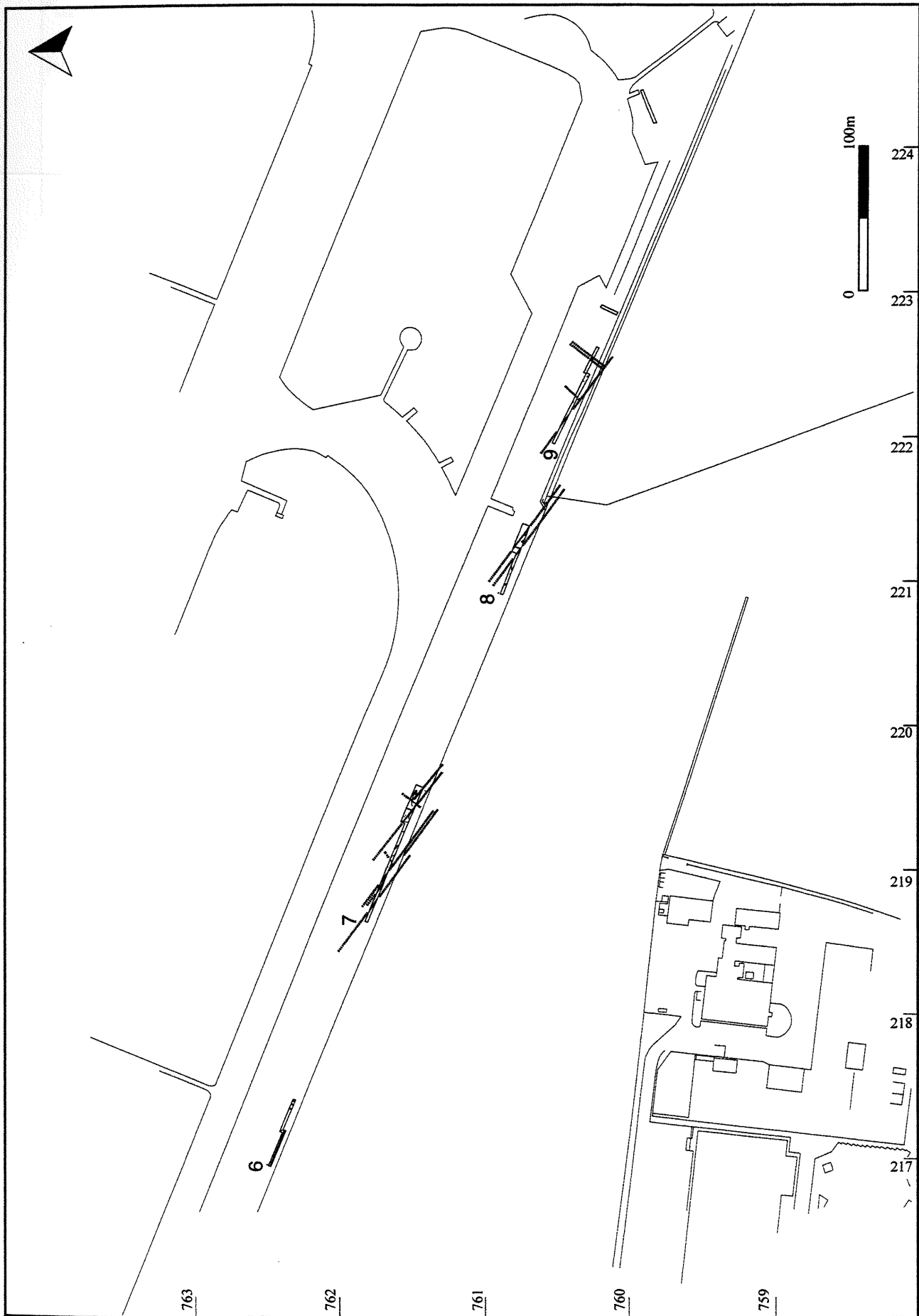
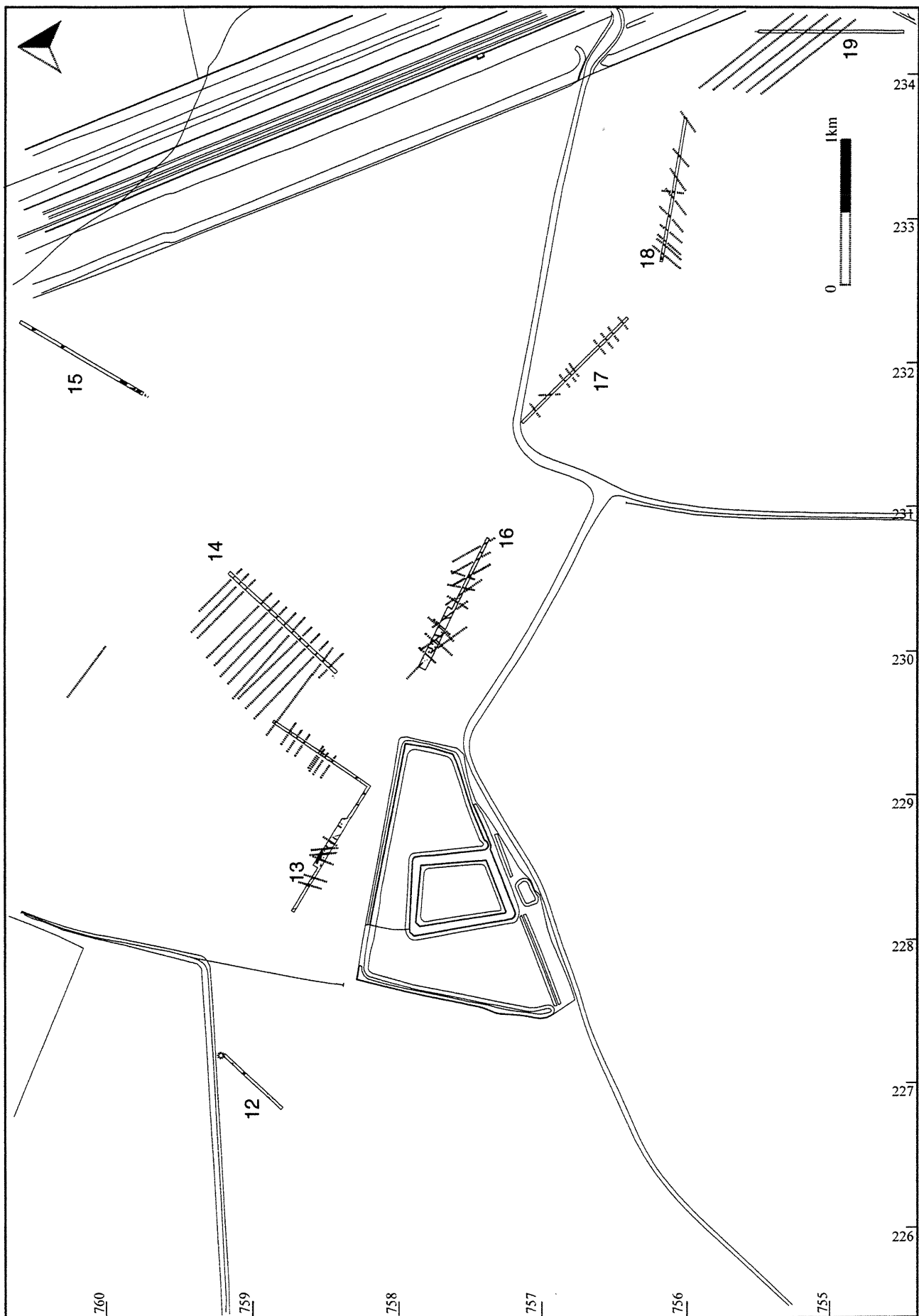


Figure 8 Trenches 6-9 showing projected course of linear features



**Figure 9** Trenches 12-19 showing projected course of linear features

## 7 CONCLUSION

The objectives of the project were to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site likely to be affected by ground disturbing development. This information was then to be used to allow an assessment to be made of the proposed development's archaeological implications and to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy. The development of a rail link and sidings will include the excavation of a railway cutting through the site and the potential impact on below-ground remains over the whole development area is likely to be extensive.

The project has been very successful in achieving its objectives. Archaeological remains were identified in all but five of the 19 trenches (Trenches 1-5) suggesting that the area to be developed had been used as a place of human activity from at least the Iron Age. As noted above the density and nature of the remains identified have made it possible to make some predictive models. The desk-based assessment identified two zones of survival (Zone A – partial & Zone B – unlikely). Trenches 1-11 were located in Zone B. As noted Trenches 1-5 were heavily disturbed and contained no archaeology, however Trenches 6-11 contained well preserved remains. It must be concluded that within the airfield much archaeology will survive in undisturbed areas.

Although archaeological features have been identified across the majority of the site there is a clear concentration of deposits (early/middle Iron Age settlement) around Trenches 7-9 and 12, 13 & 16. Iron Age settlement is being discovered in increasing numbers on the clayland within the United Kingdom and East Anglia in particular (Glazebrook 1997). Within the parish of The Stukeleys itself a large middle Iron Age settlement has been identified adjacent to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (Hinman 1999). The presence of early/middle Iron Age settlements at Alconbury is significant and not wholly unexpected. Also of importance is the detection of a late Belgic (possibly early Roman) agricultural or field system concentrated around Trenches 13, 14 and 16-19. Such remains are not well documented on the East Anglian clays and are an important discovery considering their total invisibility to 20<sup>th</sup> century aerial photographic investigation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The brief for archaeological work was written by Andy Thomas, who also visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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## Appendix A – Pottery Assessment - Alconbury Airfield (ALCAF00)

Jackie Wells 25/07/00 – *BCAS Pottery Summary*

Evaluation produced 123 pottery sherds, weighing 627g (Table 1). Sherds are generally small, undiagnostic and abraded, with an average weight of 5g. Most vessels are represented by single sherds, with the exception of those from ditch fills (206) and (153); the latter containing forty sherds (86g) from a single vessel.

Trench	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spotdate*	Pottery
07	19	20	Ditch	?medieval	1:38
	25	24	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	2:11
	30	31	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	4:40
	32	33	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	10:21
	44	46	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	4:6
	45	46	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	4:16
12	151	150	Ditch	late Belgic Iron Age	6:80
	153	150	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	40:86
	155	150	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	1:6
	206	207	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	25:195
	213	207	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	2:19
	214	207	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	1:22
13	106	107	Ditch	Roman	1:3
15	163	162	Pit	Roman (C2)	5:22
16	139	140	Ditch	Roman	1:5
	166	167	Ditch	Roman	3:4
	170	171	Ditch	late Belgic IA/early Roman	2:7
	188	189	Ditch	early/middle Iron Age	1:16
17	217	218	Ditch	late Belgic IA/early Roman	1:4
	225	226	Ditch	late Belgic IA/early Roman	10:31
<b>Total</b>					<b>123:627</b>

\* based on date of latest fabric type present in context  
see also **Table 3** for breakdown of fabric types by context.

**Table 1: Pottery by trench and context (sherd count:weight in g)**

The assemblage dates predominantly to the early/middle Iron Age (mainly early), with a small quantity of late Bronze Age, late Belgic Iron Age and Roman material. (Also a single sherd of medieval date). Several sherds are too small and abraded to be satisfactorily classified. Twenty-one fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by BCAS. Fabrics are listed in Table 2, in approximate chronological order.

Common name	Fabric Type	Sherd No
<u>Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age(c. 1000-650BC)</u>		
Coarse flint	F01A	1
Fine flint	F01B	2
Vesicular shelly	F16A	5
<u>Early/Middle Iron Age (c. 650-350BC)</u>		
Non-specific Iron Age	F	1
Grog and sand	F03	2
Fine mixed inclusions	F14	7
Coarse shelly	F16	6
Grog	F17	7
Sand and Organic	F19	40
Shell and Grog	F27	1
Fine sand	F28	9
Coarse Sand	F29	6
Sand and Calcareous inclusions	F30	18
<u>Late Belgic Iron Age (c. 100BC-AD50)</u>		
Fine Grog	F06A	1
Sandy	F34	1
<u>Roman (c. AD50-350)</u>		
Non-specific Roman	R	10
Fine greyware	R06C	2
Sandy blackware	R07B	1
Gritty whiteware	R03B	1
<u>Medieval (c. 1150-1400)</u>		
Non-specific medieval	C	1
<u>Unknown</u>		
Unidentified ware	UNID	2

**Table 2: Pottery type series**

The main pre-Roman fabric groups identified: shell, sand, grog, flint and organic tempered, are consistent with those recovered from contemporary prehistoric sites such as Edix Hill, Barrington (Woudhuysen 1997, 33) and Margett's Farm, Buckden (BCAS in prep). The overall small quantity, poor quality and few forms, make it impossible to more accurately date the assemblage. The presence of scored ware, however, exclusive to ditch [207], may suggest a middle Iron Age date for this feature.

Details of forms and decoration are listed in Table 3. Early-middle Iron Age rims are rounded or flattened, a single flat base sherd was identified, and decoration comprises finger tip impressions and scoring. Diagnostic forms of late Belgic Iron Age and Roman date comprise a lid-seated jar, cordoned or necked jar, reeded-rim jar and miscellaneous everted rim, possibly from a beaker.

All vessels are likely to be of local manufacture, except the single Roman sherd of gritty whiteware (163), known to be a product of the Verulamium region industries.

Feature	Context	Common name	Fabric Code	Comments	Sherd	Wght
20	19	Sand	?C	misc sandy -strap handle	1	38
24	25	Grog	F17		1	8
24	25	Fine sand	F28		1	3
31	30	Fine mixed	F14	base sherds. thumbd at iunction of body & base	4	40
33	32	Vesicular shelly	F16A	v. abraded	5	8
33	32	Fine sand	F28		2	10
33	32	Grog	F17		2	2
33	32	Coarse shelly	F16		1	1
46	44	Fine sand	F28	int. sooting/residue. cross-context 1	1	2
46	44	Coarse shelly	F16	leached	1	1
46	44	Grog and sand	F03	abraded	2	3
46	45	Grog	F17		1	2
46	45	Fine sand	F28	cross-context 1	2	5
46	45	Shell and Grog	F27		1	9
107	106	Sandy blackware	R07B	sheared rim sherd. abraded	1	3
140	139	Non-specific	R	greyware	1	5
150	151	Grog	F17		2	5
150	151	Coarse shelly	F16	faint ?twig-brushing	1	25
150	151	Fine mixed	F14		2	25
150	151	Sand	F34	cordoned or necked jar	1	25
150	153	Sand and Organic	F19	1 jar. abr int. flat base. rounded/flat	40	86
150	155	Coarse shelly	F16		1	6
162	163	Fine flint	F01B		1	2
162	163	Coarse flint	F01A		1	6
162	163	Gritty whiteware	R03B	reeded-rim jar	1	9
162	163	Fine sand	F28		1	1
162	163	Fine Grog	F06A	lid-seated jar. v. abr	1	4
167	166	Fine greyware	R06C	everted rim ?beaker	2	2
167	166	Unidentified ware	UNID	misc shelly. v. abr	1	2
171	170	Non-specific	R	poorly fired misc sandy -?Roman or Belgic Iron Age	1	6
171	170	Unidentified ware	UNID	misc sandy. v. abr	1	1
189	188	Fine sand	F28		1	16
207	206	Sand and	F30	cross-context 2. finger-nail	16	73
207	206	Coarse shelly	F16	vertical scoring. 1 pot	2	16
207	206	Grog	F17	flattened rim ?jar	1	2
207	206	Fine mixed	F14	random ?vertical scoring	1	11
207	206	Coarse Sand	F29	cross-context 3. vertical scoring. 1	5	93
207	213	Sand and	F30	cross-context 2	2	19
207	214	Coarse Sand	F29	cross-context 3. random	1	22
218	217	Non-specific	R	misc sandy ?Roman or late Belgic	1	4
226	225	Non-specific	R	int. white residue. v. abr misc sandy	7	27
226	225	Non-specific Iron	F	misc sandy. prob. early/middle IA	1	2
226	225	Fine flint	F01B		1	1
226	225	Fine sand	F28	abraded	1	1

**Table 3: Pottery type by Context**

*Note - I am uncertain about the possible beaker sherds, so have catalogued them as sand and calcareous inclusions (type F30) of early/middle Iron Age date. The surfaces are very poor, but the sherds don't seem any more abraded than others from that context.*

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## Appendix B – Palaeoenvironmental Analysis - Alconbury Airfield (ALCAF00)

A total of 11 samples (120 litres) were taken from a selection of features to determine the presence and quality of plant macrofossils within preserved deposits. The environmental samples were processed using the standard flotation procedure that binvolves the separation of the flot element from the main residue faction. Each individual 10 litre sample were presoaked in a 0.1% solution of Decon 90 to aid deflocculation. Flots were collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residues were retained in a 1mm mesh. Both flots and residues were air-dried prior to a rapid appraisal for macroscopic remains.

### Palaeoenvironmental Samples

Number	Context	Feature	Trench	Size
<1>	194	posthole	16	10L
<2>	206	ditch	12	20L
<3>	151	ditch	12	10L
<4>	153	ditch	12	10L
<5>	30	ditch	7	10L
<6>	19	ditch	7	10L
<7>	86	ditch	13	10L
<8>	135	ditch	13	10L
<9>	139	ditch	16	10L
<10>	229	pit	16	10L
<11>	206	ditch	12	10L

### Flotation Quick Sorting

Number	Context	Bones	Shell	Seeds	Charcoal	Other
<1>	194		+			
<2>	206		+			
<3>	151		++			
<4>	153		++			
<5>	30			x 4		
<6>	19			x1 pea		
<7>	86		+			
<8>	135			x 1		
<9>	139		+			
<10>	229			x 1		
<11>	206		+			

### Residue Quick Sorting

Number	Context	Bones	Shell	Seeds	Charcoal	Other	Description
<1>	194	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		very small residue
<2>	206	++			+	daub?	lots bone, burnt teeth
<3>	151	+	+		+	pottery	burnt bone & pottery
<4>	153	+	+		+	pottery	bone, charcoal, shell
<5>	30				+		
<6>	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	pottery	very small residue
<7>	86		+	?			very gravelly fill
<8>	135		+				
<9>	139	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		very clayey/sterile
<10>	229	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		very clayey/sterile
<11>	206	+++	+		++	pottery	burnt bone (pig tooth)

The samples exhibited very poor preservation and did not contain charred seeds or plant macrofossils for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. The samples taken from features in Trench 12 (Samples Nos: <2>, <3>, <4> & <11>) contained well preserved burnt animal bone from charcoal rich fills but no other material.



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