

Archaeological Field Unit

Multiperiod Remains on the Site of the Proposed Genome Campus Extension, Hinxton: An Archaeological Evaluation

S Kenney

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**Multiperiod Remains on the Site of the Proposed Genome
Campus Extension, Hinxton: An Archaeological Evaluation
(TL 500/433)**

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SUMMARY

In July 2002, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological evaluation on 31.7ha of land immediately to the south of the Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire (TL 500/433). This was in advance of proposed extensions to the Genome Campus and in addition to previous evaluation trenching on the same site in 1998 (Kemp and Spoerry 1998).

Nine trenches were opened by machine and seven of these were found to contain archaeological remains. Among the features excavated were several large ditches, pits, postholes and gullies. Broadly, the features fell within the zones defined by the previous phases of evaluation and both confirm and extend the dating of much of the archaeology.

The earliest archaeology present within the development area consists of a general background scatter of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age flint work that lies within the archaeological features. A single Bronze Age feature was also identified within Trench 39. There was a marked absence of securely dated Iron Age and Roman features from this phase of work, however a previously undated cropmark can now be attributed in part to the early post-Conquest period, and may represent the restatement of an earlier boundary. Further medieval features were located just to the south of the current sports field, the area of the 1995 earthwork survey that revealed house platforms and closes. Several features could not be dated because of the absence of pottery or other datable artefacts, but those containing fragments of Niedermendig Lava quern could be Saxon or earlier.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 2nd and 13th of July 2002, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land immediately to the south of the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire (TL 500/433). The work was carried out at the request of Fuller Peiser on behalf of the Wellcome Trust, in response to a brief set by Andy Thomas of the County Archaeology Office (CAO). The evaluation was conducted in advance of proposed extensions to the existing Genome Campus.

The proposed 31.7 hectare development area lies at TL 500/433, immediately to the south of the Genome Campus (Figures 1 & 2). The eastern side of the site is bounded by the A1301 whilst on the west lies the River Cam and to the south is the A11. An area set aside for lakes and landscaping lies on the western side of the Cam within the parish of Ickleton.

The archaeological evaluation reported within this document was preceded by a desk-top assessment (Leith and Spoerry 1997) and another phase of intrusive evaluation (Kemp and Spoerry 1998, 2000, 2002). This archaeological work continues the AFU's long-standing research into the Anglo-Saxon settlement and its environs at Hinxton Hall.

The evaluation was undertaken in line with the specification for works prepared by Dr Paul Spoerry and verified by the CAO. The work was monitored by officers of the CAO.

Weather conditions during the fieldwork were occasionally poor, but since this generally increased visual contrast within the trenches, this was not a factor that is likely to have had an adverse effect upon context recognition. Accordingly, the confidence rating to be applied to the results is judged to be high.

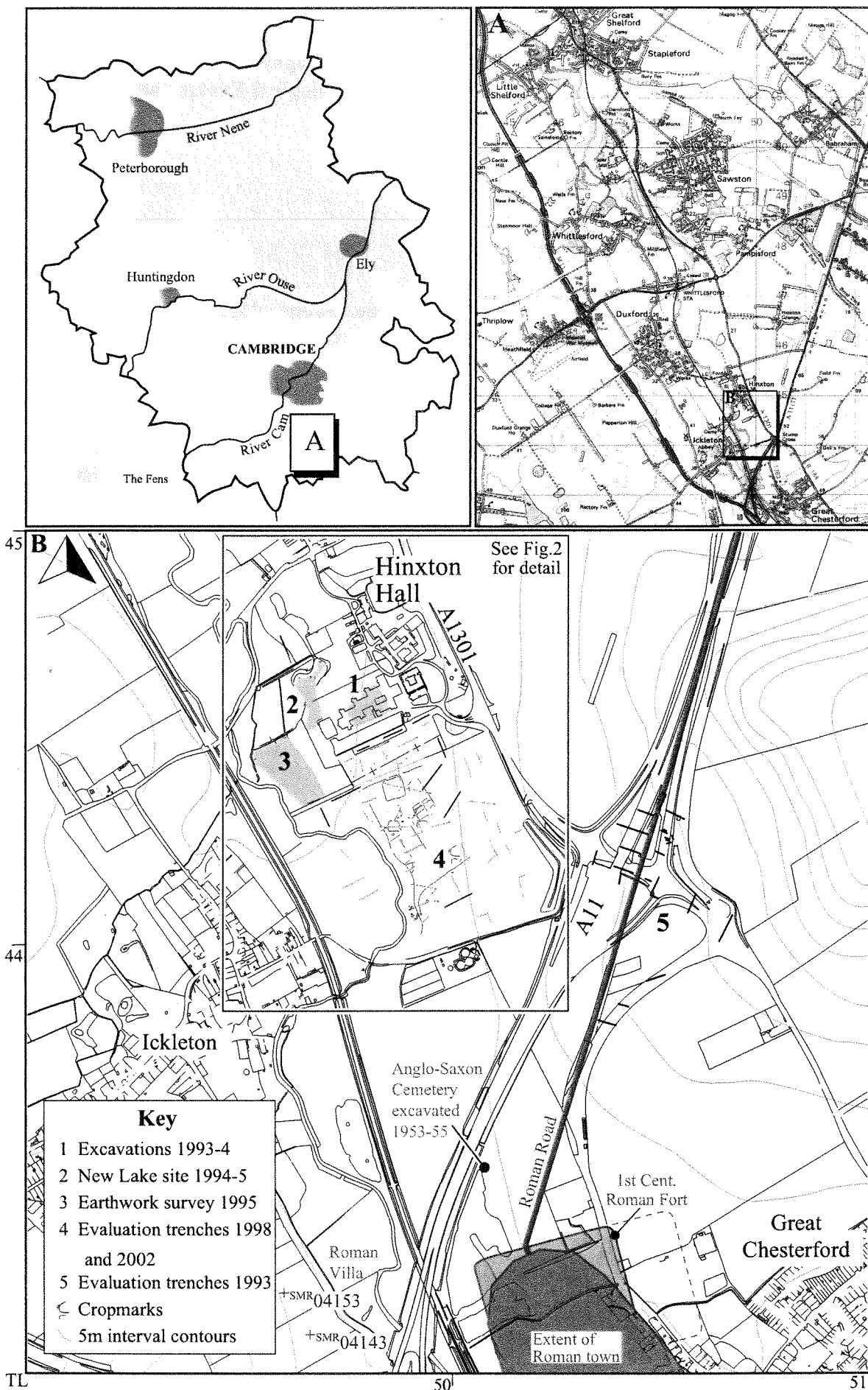


Figure 1 Site location and recent archaeological work in the immediate area

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The higher land is marked by chalk geology, whilst first and second terrace gravels lie along the course of the Cam. Close to the river alluvial sediments were encountered during excavation works in advance of the pipe laying for the Great Chesterford New Main (Roberts 1996).

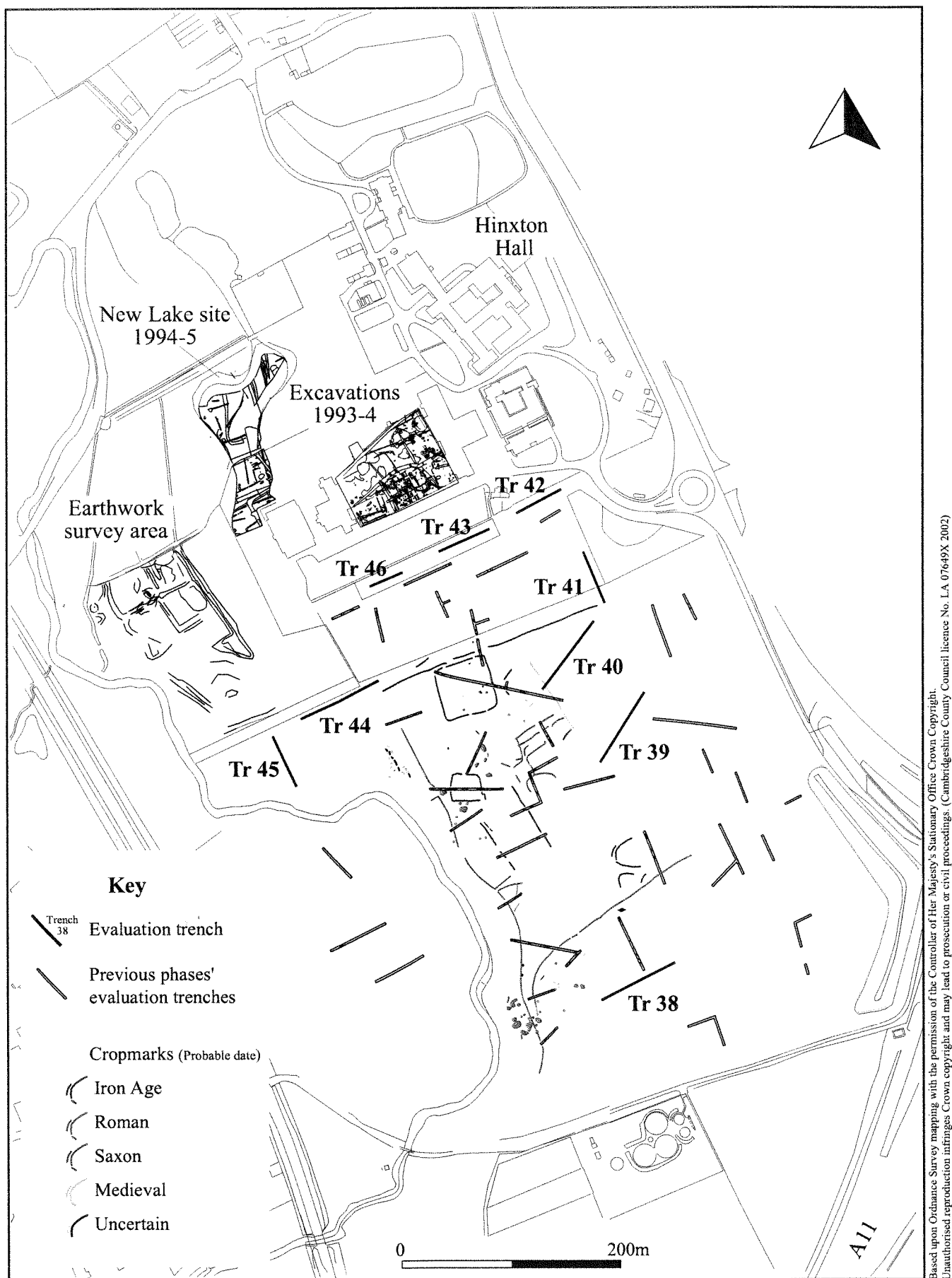
The land on the eastern side of the river Cam slopes down from 40m OD next to the A1301 to about 30m OD by the river and is marked by a series of gravel terraces. The land to the west of the Cam is largely flat lying at about 30m OD. Presently both areas are designated as set-aside.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The AFU has been involved in the specific study of the archaeology along the course of the Cam within the Parish of Hinxton since 1990. The majority of this work has centred on the Genome Campus and the New Lakes that lie to the west and south-west of Hinxton Hall.

These latter evaluations and excavations revealed Neolithic and early Bronze Age activity within the Hall grounds, which included farming and quarrying, interpreted from the presence of field boundaries and pits. In addition a late Neolithic 'shaft' of 1.95m in depth was cut into the chalk. Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flooding is evidenced by the presence of water borne silts covering many of these early Neolithic features and has been preserved within features and natural hollows within the site (Spoerry 1995). No Iron Age remains were encountered at the research centre or during excavations associated with the construction of the New Lakes.

Roman remains proved to be sparse during excavations at the research centre although the occasional traces of activities representing quarrying and possibly rubbish disposal were found. No traces of field systems were encountered even though the site lies only 2km from the Roman town of Great Chesterford (Spoerry 1995). To the west, however, complex Romano-British remains of 3rd to 4th century date were found during archaeological excavations at the New Lakes site (Figure 1, showing the location of most of these pieces of work in the area around the proposal site). Two enclosures associated with field systems were identified and in addition the ground plan of a timber building, probably of early-middle Saxon date, was recorded. The Roman artefacts associated with this site indicated an agricultural rather than settlement related use (Leith 1995).



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Figure 2 Cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, trench locations, and Hinxton Hall excavation areas

Excavations by the Cambridge Archaeology Unit indicate that Roman field systems continue along the river gravel terraces of the Cam and that an extensive agricultural network had developed adjacent to Great Chesterford. This work also identified the presence of a 1st century BC cremation cemetery (Alexander and Hill 1996).

The earthfast-post timber building mentioned above lies close to early-middle Saxon sunken featured buildings (*grubenhäuser*) excavated in 1994 as part of the excavations associated with the Genome Campus Extension. A group of at least four *grubenhäuser* and a number of post-built 'halls' indicate that a small, dispersed settlement existed on the site during the early to middle Saxon period. Domestic disposal in pits appears to have occurred close by (Spoerry 1995).

The late Saxon occupation of the site appears to have occurred between the ninth and early twelfth centuries. During this period the occupation area was enclosed, although the ditch system appears to have been complex, forming part of a series of rectilinear closes or fields adjacent to the settlement. Successive generations of beam slot and post-built buildings are represented in the enclosure and indicate at least one phase of settlement reorganisation and re-alignment. Ovens, wells and rubbish pits have been identified.

Outside of the main late Saxon enclosure at least one large building of sill beam construction with corner posts has been identified, this has been interpreted as a barn. The relative absence of rubbish pits and artefactual material compared to the main enclosure is thought to indicate an area of agricultural processing as opposed to occupation (Spoerry 1995).

The final phase of settlement activity at Hinxton Hall occurred in the late eleventh to early twelfth centuries by which time the enclosure was completely infilled and an oven placed within the infilled ditch. The demise of this settlement probably coincides with a move towards formalisation of the village around the parish church during the post-conquest period (Spoerry 1995).

The presence of rectilinear enclosures, platforms and hollow ways adjacent to the river and on the western side of the Genome Campus combined with historical references to the family of Bard have been used to indicate that in the seventeenth century, and possibly earlier, houses lay adjacent to the river (Leith & Spoerry 1995).

From the eighteenth century the area known as Hinxton Hall expanded with at least one phase of formal landscaping, this included the creation of an ornamental pond next to the house and the diversion of part of the Ickleton Road. In the mid nineteenth century Hinxton High Street was diverted around the park (Leith & Spoerry 1997).

The results of the previous phases of evaluation can be found in CCC AFU Report No 149, third edition (Kemp and Spoerry 2002).

4 METHODOLOGY

This phase of trenching was targeted on areas of previously limited or inconclusive evaluation, and where major development impacts were now expected.

Nine trenches with a total length of 538m were opened by a 360° mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed 1.8m wide ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist (see Figs 1&2). This constitutes an additional 0.3% sample of the development area, but a much higher percentage of the actual area of impact.

The trenches were cleaned by hand where appropriate, planned and photographed, and the features recorded using the AFU's single context recording system. The trenches were tied in three-dimensionally to the Ordnance Survey mapping using a Zeiss RecElta 15 Total Station Theodolite, and the resulting data was manipulated in AutoCAD.

5 RESULTS

Trench numbering continues from the previous phase of evaluation.

5.1 Trench 38

Trench 38 was 75m long and was oriented ENE-WSW. It contained three ditches, a pit and a posthole. Up to 0.3m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.15m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2, which in turn sealed the archaeology.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Ditch 4 was 0.15m deep, 0.52m wide and at least 2m long, with a flat-based wide U-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented N-S. The fill, 3, was a dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks and small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 6 was 0.1m deep, 0.9m wide and 1.2m long. It was subrectangular in plan with rounded corners. The fill, 5, was dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch 8 was 0.24m deep, 0.44m wide and at least 1.0m long, with a round-based slightly irregular V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan, oriented NE-SW and terminating in a rounded butt-end to the southwest. The fill, 7, was a

dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill.

Posthole **10** was 0.38m wide and 0.62m long. It was oval in plan and contained a single fill, 9, a dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch **12** was 0.2m deep, 2.2m wide and at least 2.3m long, with a flat-based very shallow-sided profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 11, was a yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small stones and several large stones up to 200mm. No finds were recovered from this fill.

5.2 Trench 39

Trench 39 was 77m long and was oriented NE-SW. It contained a ditch, three pits and a posthole. Up to 0.4m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.4m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2, which in turn sealed the archaeology.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Posthole **14** was 0.40m wide and 0.45m long. It was oval in plan and contained a single fill, 13, a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit **16** was 0.4m deep, 0.85m wide and 0.9m long. Its overall shape in plan was irregular. The fill, 15, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit **18** was 0.3m deep, 0.9m long and at least 0.5m wide. Its overall shape in plan was probably subrectangular. The fill, 17, was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit **20** was 0.4m deep, 1.2m long and at least 0.5m wide. Its overall shape in plan was probably subrectangular. The fill, 19, was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill.

Ditch **23** was 0.55m deep, more than 2.2m wide and at least 2.2m long, with a complex profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NNW-SSE. The upper fill, 21, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Below this was lower fill 22, a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. A small quantity of animal bone and pottery dated to the 10th century were recovered from fill 21.

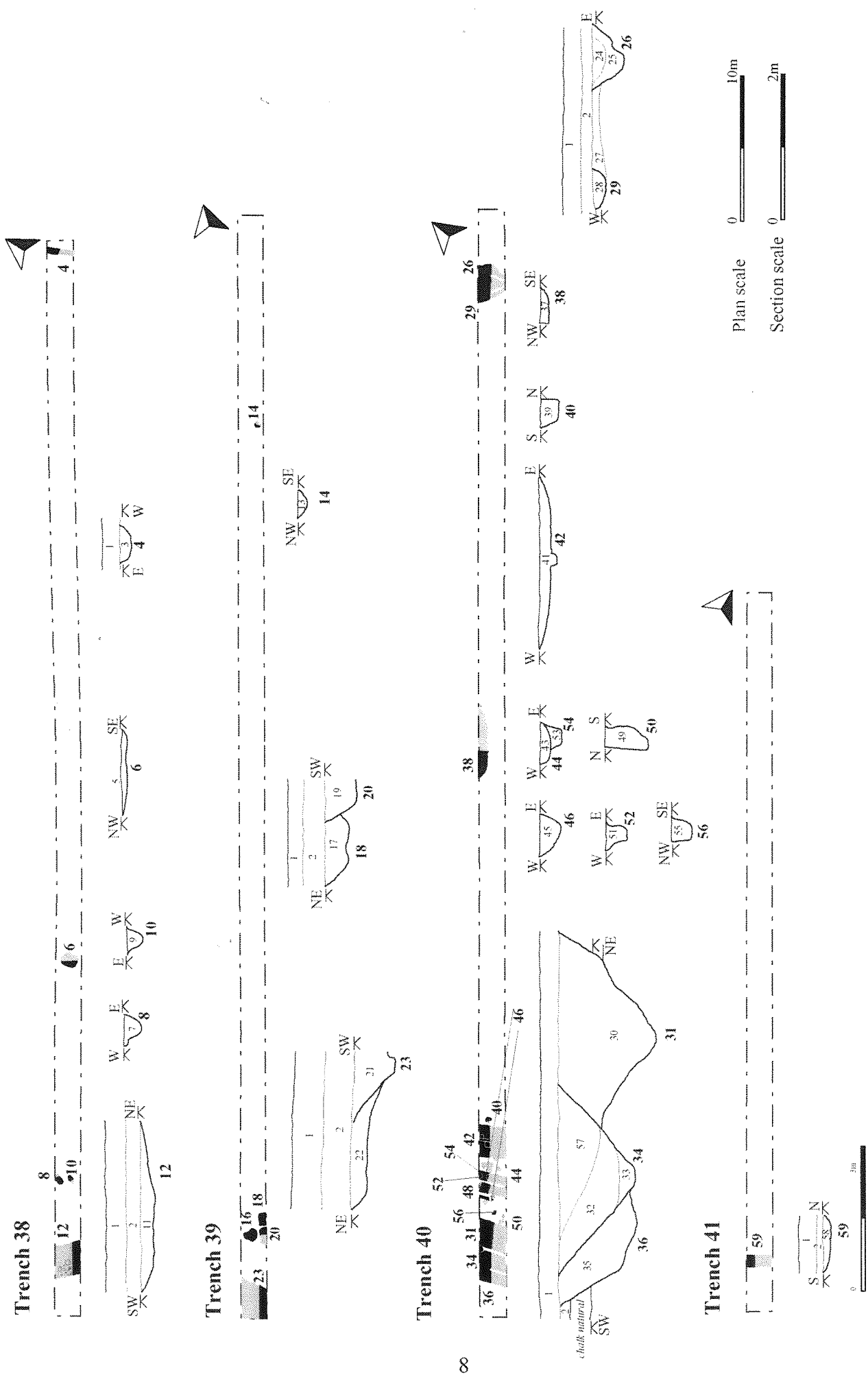


Figure 3 Trench plans and sections

5.3 Trench 40

Trench 40 was 77m long and was oriented NE-SW. It contained seven ditches, two gullies, a pit and up to sixteen postholes, of which five were excavated. Up to 0.3m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.15m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Ditch **26** was 0.44m deep, 0.9m wide and at least 2.2m long, with a round-based V-shaped profile. It was slightly curved in plan and oriented N-S. The upper fill, 24, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. Below this, lower fill 25 was a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from fill 24. This ditch appeared to cut a layer of redeposited chalk, 27.

Layer 27 was a light brownish yellow redeposited chalk from which Bronze Age pottery was recovered. It was cut by ditch **26** and gully **29**.

Gully **29** was 0.18m deep, 0.52m wide and at least 2.1m long, with a round-based profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 28, was a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Bronze Age pottery was recovered from this fill.

Pit **38** was 0.12m deep, at least 0.7m wide and 5m long. Its overall shape in plan was probably subrectangular. The fill, 37, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole **40** was 0.4m in diameter and 0.24m deep. It was square in plan, with a steep sided flat based profile, and contained a single fill, 37, a strong brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch **42** was 0.14m deep, 2.4m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a shallow concave profile that had a slot 0.12m wide and 0.1m deep in the base. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 41, was a dark yellowish brown clay sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole **52** was 0.35m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It was round in plan and contained a single fill, 51, a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole **54** was 0.35m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It was round in plan and contained a single fill, 53, a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch **44** was 0.14m deep, 0.6m wide and at least 2.1m long, with a flat-based V profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 43, was a dark yellowish brown clay sandy silt with rare small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill. This ditch cut postholes **52** and **54**.

Ditch **46** was 0.3m deep, 0.6m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a round-based asymmetrical V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 45, was a dark yellowish brown clay sandy silt with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Gully **48** was 0.1m deep, 0.2m wide and at least 1m long, with a shallow concave profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 47, was a dark yellowish brown clay sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole **50** was 0.35m wide, 0.35m long and 0.6m deep. It was oval in plan and contained a single fill, 49, a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole **56** was 0.3m wide, 0.35m long and 0.28m deep. It was oval in plan and contained a single fill, 55, a strong brown silty clay with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch **31** was 0.3m deep, 0.4m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a round-based V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 30, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. 11th century pottery was recovered from this fill, along with a small quantity of animal bone.

Ditch **34** was 0.98m deep, 2.6m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The upper fill, 57, was a dark greyish brown clay sandy silt with occasional small stones. Middle fill 32 was a dark brown clay sandy silt with moderate stones. Lower fill 33 was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones. 11th century pottery was recovered from fill 31, as well as a small quantity of worked flint and an iron nail.

Ditch **36** was 0.3m deep, 0.4m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a round-based V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 35, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. 11th century pottery was recovered from this fill, along with animal bone.

5.3 Trench 41

Trench 41 was 50m long, oriented NNW-SSE and contained a single ditch. Up to 0.25m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.15m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2, which in turn sealed the archaeology.

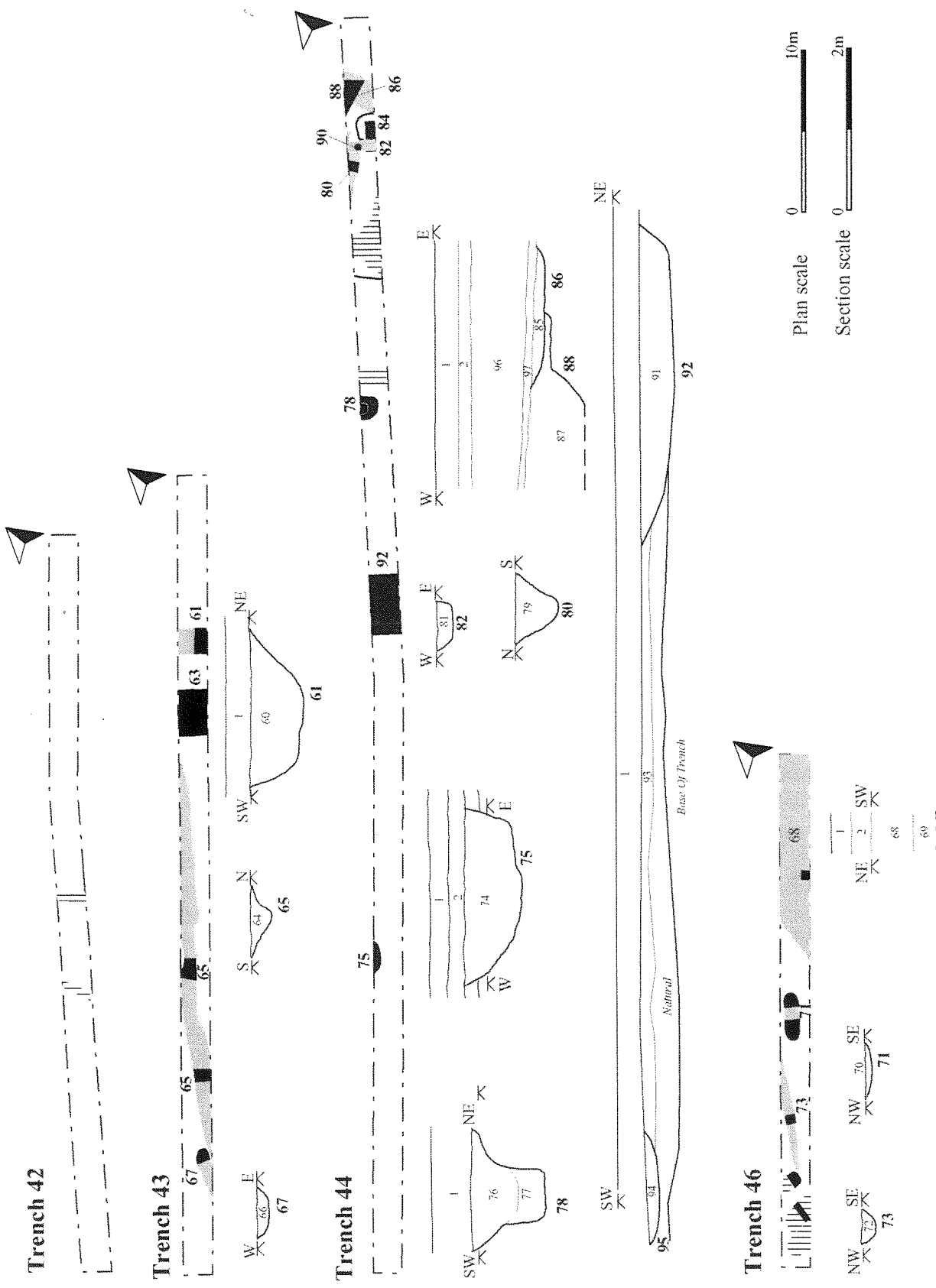


Figure 4 Trench plans and sections

Ditch 59 was 0.1m deep, 0.8m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a concave sided flat-based profile. It was straight in plan and oriented ENE-WSW. The fill, 58, was a dark yellowish brown silty sand with moderate small stones and occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

5.3 Trench 42

Trench 42 was 46m long and oriented ENE-WSW. It contained no archaeological features. Up to 0.35m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.35m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2.

5.3 Trench 43

Trench 43 was 50m long and oriented ENE-WSW. It contained four ditches. Up to 0.3m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.15m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2, which in turn sealed the archaeology.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Ditch 61 was 0.62m deep, 2m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based wide U-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 60, was a very dark greyish brown clay sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch 63 was 0.4m deep, 2.9m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based wide U-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 62, was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch 65 was 0.1-0.3m deep, 0.7-1.3m wide and at least 25m long, with a round-based wide V-shaped profile. It was roughly straight in plan and oriented NE-SW, although the width varied. The fill, 64, was a dark greyish brown clay sandy silt with occasional to moderate small stones. Animal bone and fragments of Niedermendig Lava quern were recovered from this fill.

Ditch 67 was 0.15m deep, 0.64m wide and at least 3m long, with a round-based concave profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW, terminating to the northeast in a rounded butt-end. The fill, 66, was a very dark greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. Animal bone and worked flint was recovered from this fill.

5.3 Trench 44

Trench 44 was 81m long and was oriented ENE-WSW. It contained six ditches, three pits and a posthole. Up to 0.3m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.15m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2,

which in turn sealed the archaeology. This trench was unusual in that it contained at least two layers sealing the ditches at the northeastern end.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Layer 96 was at least 15m long, 2m wide and 0.7m deep. It was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt and overlay layer 97. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Layer 97 was at least 15m long, 2m wide and 0.1m deep. It was a very dark greyish brown sandy clay silt and overlay the fill of ditch 86. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Ditch 86 was 0.15m deep, 1.7m wide and at least 3m long, with a flat-based very wide U-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW. The fill, 85, was a pale brownish grey sandy silt with frequent stones up to 60mm. This ditch cut the fill of ditch 88. Roman pottery was recovered from this fill, along with animal bone and worked flint.

Ditch 88 was 0.74m deep, 0.4m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a complex stepped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW. The fill, 87, was a very dark grey sandy silt with rare small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 84 was 0.6m deep, 1.6m long and at least 1.1m wide. Its overall shape in plan was probably subrectangular. The fill, 83, was a brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Posthole 90 was 0.35m wide and 0.35m long. It was circular in plan and contained a single fill, 89, a black sandy silt with frequent charcoal lumps and flecks. This posthole was cut into the fill of ditch 82. A heavily abraded sherd of 11th century pottery was recovered from this fill.

Ditch 82 was 0.2m deep, 0.6m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based steep sided profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW. The fill, 81, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill. This ditch cut the fill of ditch 80.

Ditch 80 was 0.5m deep, 0.9m wide and at least 4.5m long, with a round-based V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented E-W. The fill, 79, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. A flint scraper was recovered from this fill. This ditch appeared to cut the fill of ditch 88.

Pit 78 was 0.9m deep, 1.4m wide and at least 1.1m long. Its overall shape in plan was probably subrectangular. The upper fill, 76, was a brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Below this, the lower fill was 77, a very dark greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones.

Ditch 92 was 0.3m deep, 4m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based, shallow sided profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 91, was a greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill. This ditch appeared to cut, or was congruent with the edge of a gravel layer 93. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Layer 93 was up to 0.15m deep and extended 7m southwest from the edge of 92, and was then cut by ditch 95.

Ditch 95 was 0.2m deep, 2m wide and at least 1.8m long, with a flat-based, shallow sided profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NW-SE. The fill, 94, was a greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill. This ditch appeared to cut, or was congruent with the edge of a gravel layer 93.

Pit 75 was 0.7m deep, at least 0.45m wide and 2.2m long. Its overall shape in plan was probably oval. The fill, 74, was a greyish brown sandy clay silt with frequent small stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

5.3 Trench 45

Trench 45 was 50m long and was oriented NNW-SSE. It contained no archaeological features. Up to 0.45m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.4m of dark brown sandy clay silt subsoil 2.

5.3 Trench 46

Trench 46 was 32m long was oriented ENE-WSW. It contained two ditches, three modern pits which were not numbered, and a black silty area that was probably part of the natural geology. Up to 0.25m of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt topsoil 1 overlay up to 0.25m of dark brown sandy silt subsoil 2, which in turn sealed the archaeology.

From the east, the features were as follows:

Layer 68 was at least 13m long, 2m wide and 0.5m deep. It was a black silt and overlay layer 69. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Layer 69 was at least 13m long, 2m wide and 0.3m deep. It was a light brownish grey and brownish yellow silt and overlay natural. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Ditch 71 was 0.1m deep, 0.7m wide and at least 3m long, with a shallow concave profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW. The fill, 70, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small stones and occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Ditch 73 was 0.18m deep, 0.44m wide and at least 7m long, with a round-based wide V-shaped profile. It was straight in plan and oriented NE-SW. The fill, 72, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small stones and occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

6 DISCUSSION

Table showing the presence or absence of periods within individual trenches (includes residual finds).

Trench	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
Period									
Palaeolithic									
Mesolithic									
Neolithic			X				X		
Bronze Age			X						
Iron Age									
Roman			X				X		
Saxon		X				?			
Medieval			X						
Post-medieval									
Modern				X	X				X
Unknown	X		X	X		X	X		X

Two particular concentrations of features stand out from these results. The first is the group of ditches at the southwestern end of Trench 40, of which the larger examples all date to the early post-Conquest period. Features of this date had not been identified during previous phases of evaluation. These ditches coincided exactly with a cropmark feature identified from aerial photographs and running NNW-SSE. This ditch system was also identified during previous phases of evaluation. Just to the northeast of these, three smaller ditches and a gully were not datable, however, all of these features proved to be stratigraphically later than a series of postholes. These postholes produced no finds upon excavation, but their identical fills suggest contemporaneity, although no specific arrangement could be discerned that suggested a building.

The second group of features was found at the northeastern end of Trench 44, where several intercutting ditches crossed the trench on differing alignments. The most recent of these features could be dated to the Roman period, and stratigraphically earlier features contained only animal bone and worked flint, although it must be stressed that this does not prove that they are prehistoric in date. Also in Trench 44 was a medieval pit that may relate to the settlement that existed just to the north, within the area now occupied by the sports field.

The unusual feature found at the northeast end of Trench 40 is the first definite evidence of Bronze Age occupation found on the site, and serves to confirm the presence of such remains within the development area. The usual small assemblage of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age worked flint was also recovered from the trenches.

The gravel surface seen in section in Trench 44 and bounded by ditches may have been a road. Other trackways like this have been identified previously in the development area (Roberts 1996).

This evaluation has identified features belonging to periods not seen during previous investigations on the site, but almost all within the zones of activity defined by the earlier work. It has highlighted concentrations of archaeological features in areas of previously unknown character, and provides further definition to any mitigation strategy for the site.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The objective of the project was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site in advance of development. Information from the evaluation will allow an assessment of the proposed development's archaeological implications and to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The project has been successful in achieving its objectives. Prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology has been identified that contributes greatly to the picture built up from those features investigated during previous phases of evaluation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Fuller Peiser who commissioned the archaeological work and The Wellcome Trust, who funded it. Dr Paul Spoerry managed the project for the AFU and edited the report. Chris Montague worked on the site in all weathers in good humour.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas of the CAO and who also visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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Appendix A Medieval pottery by Paul Spoerry and Carole Fletcher

This assessment considers pottery from the evaluation at Hinxton Riverside in July 2002.

1 Methodology

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991) In addition the MPRG documents 'Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations' (Blake and Davey, 1983) and 'A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms' (MPRG, 1998) act as a standard.

Spot dating was carried out using the Archaeological Field Unit's in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. New types have been given descriptive identifiers, but full fabric descriptions using binocular microscope and x20 magnification have yet to be carried out for these. All sherds have been counted classified, and weighed. Sherds warranting possible illustration have been flagged as have possible cross-fits.

All the pottery has been spot dated on a context by context basis; this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 1997) which allows for the appending of quantification data.

The pottery and archive are curated by the Archaeological Field Unit.

2 The Assemblage

2.1 Quantity and date range of material

The fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 100 sherds, 1559g of pottery, including unstratified material, from 9 contexts out of a total of 92 excavated.

The main periods represented are late Saxon and early post conquest

The date of most material is 900 to 1000AD (late Saxon), but the slightly later pottery present dates the assemblage as a whole to early post conquest or Saxo-Norman, 1050 to 1150AD. Refer to Table 1 for full details.

Further to this material there are seven pre-AD850 sherds, which may be Bronze Age, one unidentified body sherd that may be Roman and a rim of Roman date, a single sherd of abraded glazed medieval pottery that appears to be intrusive. There is no later material. The assemblage offers little potential for characterising anything more than a local assemblage in the period 1050-1150, with probably continuity throughout the late Saxon, and early post conquest as indicated by the relatively unabraded sherds of late Saxon material, suggesting some overlap of the fabric types present, with the late Saxon tradition continuing beyond 1000, and possibly narrowing the date range of the activity on site.

There is potential for more work on the late Saxon material and post conquest material but little potential for further work on the medieval or Bronze Age material. See Table 1.

2.2 Contamination, bias and condition

A The assemblage was small and statistical analysis is not viable. It seems likely that the pottery late Saxon material was manufactured locally, with the early post conquest material also being produced close by across the border in Essex.

There is a degree of residuality in the assemblage with the small amount of Roman and Bronze Age material present. The date range of the late Saxon material may also indicate some residuality, but the un-abraded nature of the sherds suggests that this material is in part contemporary with the earliest Saxo-Norman pottery.

Contamination of this assemblage is light and there is only a single intrusive sherd to suggest later activity on the site.

B Sampling bias

The evaluation trenches were excavated by machine and further excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. There are only small amounts, however, and serious bias is not expected to result.

C Condition

This assemblage is very small. On average the sherd size is also fairly small (15.59g per sherd). No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely.

This assemblage has a single near complete vessel. It is moderately to significantly fragmented and in a well-understood and published region would be deemed of limited value beyond the basic requirements of the stratigraphic sequence and the need to provide comparative period statistics.

3 Provenance and functional assemblage

A Geographical location

The assemblage is very small and it appears that the fabric types are all local or from the Essex region. It must be stated here that the site is located very close to the modern border with Essex and local is defined as being a Cambridgeshire product.

B Main Vessel types

The vessel types represented in the assemblage are kitchen vessels. The near complete late Saxon vessel is a convex based jar with a heavily sooted base, the thumb rim in the Saxo-Norman fabric are from jars and there is a single rim sherd from a bowl. A single intrusive glazed sherd represents the only table vessel present. The assemblage is therefore one of domestic vessels.

Table 1 Spot-dating information

Context	Number of Sherds	Fabric	Description	Date Range
21	1	Roman	Smooth fabric some mica, heavily sooted body sherd from a jar	
	1	SW	Body sherd fine fabric	900-1000
27	4	FLINT 1	Heavily flint tempered body sherds	Bronze Age
28	4	FLINT 1	Heavily flint tempered body sherds oxidised	Bronze Age
30	1	GROG 1	Abraded body sherd	900-1000
	2	EEMIC	Sooted jar sherds, fine fabric	1050-1150
	1	SW	Neck angle from jar	1050-1150
32	14	SEEMIC	Heavily quartz tempered fabric with mica, mainly sooted sherds & thumbled rim from a heavily sooted jar	1050-1150
	1	THET	Simple jar rim	900-1200
	1	Roman	Jar rim	
	7	EEMIC	Body sherds, mainly sooted	1050-1150
	1	GROG 1	Abraded body sherd	900-1000
	3	EMW	Small abraded body sherds	1050-1150
33	2	SEEMIC	Heavily quartz tempered fabric with mica sooted body sherds	1050-1150
	1	EEMIC	Sooted body sherds	1050-1150
76	1	SW	Abraded green glazed body sherd. (Intrusive)	1200-1350
	20	SEEMIC	Heavily quartz tempered fabric with mica, thumbled rim from a sooted jar, heavily sooted sagging base, flat base sherd and a single sherd with combed wavy line	1050-1150
	1	SW	Body sherd fine fabric	900-1000
	2	SW	Inturned bowl rim & body sherd in fine quartz tempered fabric	900-1150
	31	GROG 1	Near complete jar with sagging base and external sooting & rim sherds from a bowl also with external sooting	900-1000
85	1	Roman	Reduced heavily combed sherd	
89	1	SW	Very abraded	1050-1150

Type Fabric Codes used

EEMIC	Early Essex micaceous wares
FLINT 1	Heavily flint tempered fabric as yet not fully identified
GROG 1	Grog and Mica tempered fabric as yet not fully identified
SEEMIC	Sandy Early Essex micaceous wares
SW	Sandy ware (date varies)
THET	Thetford ware

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English Heritage 1991 MAP2

Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998 A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

Appendix B Environmental Report by Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

Four 10-litre samples were taken from features that provided dating evidence from across the evaluated area and submitted for assessment. Samples 2 and 4 were taken from ditches of Iron Age or Roman date. Sample 3 was taken from a post hole of post conquest date and sample 1 came from an upper fill of a pit.

The samples were processed using bucket flotation; the flots were collected in a 0.5mm mesh and the residues were retained in a 1mm sieve. The dried flots were rapidly scanned under a binocular microscope at low power (x 14). The heavy residues were scanned by eye.

Results

The materials noted in these samples are listed in Table 1. Preservation was by charring and was generally poor making identification difficult.

Sample 1, context 76

This sample contained some poorly preserved cereal grains, predominantly wheat and possible oats. A single seed of *Polygonum* sp was present. Several mussel shells were found in the residue along with a few fragments of bone suggesting domestic refuse.

Sample 2, context 87

This sample contained four poorly preserved, fragmented cereal grains, probably wheat and two fragments of bone, one of them burnt.

Sample 3, context 89

This sample constituted the entire fill of a posthole. The flot consisted of a large volume (250ml) of charcoal. 50ml of the flot was examined under the microscope and only one cereal grain was noted. There was very little charcoal left in the residue, which contained several pieces of burnt flint and a single piece of burnt clay. These results may suggest that the sample represents burning of the post pipe *in situ*.

Sample 4, context 32

This sample also contained poorly preserved charred grain, probably wheat and maybe barley. A few weed seeds of *Chenopodium* sp and *Polygonum* sp were present along with a few small bones.

Conclusions

All the samples taken during this evaluation indicate that although charred material is present, preservation of this material is generally poor. None of the samples show any evidence for crop processing or specific agricultural activity taking place around the features. The low density of the charred seeds precludes the identification of any specific activity that may be associated with the features other than sample 3

Recommendations

Although the quality of the charred material is limited and poorly preserved, it should be possible to identify crop processing waste and food plants such as pulses in future samples. Samples from a wider range of features would be required for full interpretation.

Rachel Fosberry
Environmental Assistant
18/07/02

Table 1 Contents of Samples

Sample Number	Context Number	Initial Volume/ Volume Processed in litres	FLOT				RESIDUE						Comment
			Grain	Seeds	Charcoal	Bone	Grain	Shell	Charcoal	Bones		Pot	
										Small	Large		
1	76	10/10	###	#	#	#	0	##	0	0	#	0	Mussel shell, tooth
2	87	10/10	#	0	#	0	0	#	0	0	#	0	1 burnt bone
3	89	5/5	#	?	#####	0	0	#	#	0	0	0	Burnt flint, fired clay
4	32	10/10	##	#	#	#	#	#	0	0	0	0	

Appendix C Lithic Report

Stephen Kemp BA MSc AIFA

This report is supplementary to the Lithic Analysis report prepared for the HINRIV98 evaluations. The pieces found during 2002 are consistent with these earlier results with the majority of artefacts, debitage and tools being made on locally available small flint river cobbles. Flint debitage flakes are small, being <30mm in maximum length.

The assemblage from this phase of evaluation was very small, amounting to 5 artefacts. Three of these came from Trench 44, while the remaining piece, a broken flake, was recovered from Trench 38.

Two tools were collected during feature excavation. In Trench 44, an end-scraper on a hard hammer flake, maximum dimension 40mm, was found in context 79, the fill of a small ditch. Context 32, the middle fill of a large ditch in Trench 40, included a backed knife on a blade of 60mm in length. Both show slight traces of burning.

The assemblage in total supports some Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, whilst the first phase evaluation attests to Iron Age flint knapping.

Appendix D Finds Quantification

Context number	Date Range	Animal bone	Fired clay	Flint	Human skeletal remains	Metalwork Fe	Pottery	Quern stone
7	unknown			3				
19	unknown			7				
21	900-1000	4					7	
27	Bronze Age						26	
28	Bronze Age						27	
30	1050-1150	3					18	
32	1050-1150	4		25		8	172	12
33	1050-1150?	36	2	7				
64	unknown	110						
66	unknown	85		14				6
76	1050-1150	10					1276	130
79	unknown			23				
85	Roman	68		6			19	
89	1050-1150						7	
99999	Unknown				77			



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