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CCC AFU Report Number 863

**Bronze Age, Iron Age and
Romano-British Archaeology on
the March to Chatteris
Anglian Water Pipeline,
Cambridgeshire**

An Archaeological Excavation

Mo Jones

September 2006

Cover Images

Machine stripping, Soham	On-site surveying
Roman corn dryer, Duxford	Guided walk along Devil's Dyke
Bronze Age shaft, Fordham Bypass	Medieval well, Soham
Human burial, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Timbers from a medieval well, Soham
Blue enamelled bead, Barrington	Bed burial reconstruction, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
Aethusa cynapium 'Fool's parsley'	Medieval tanning pits, Huntington Town Centre
Digging in the snow, Huntingdon Town Centre	Beaker vessel
Face painting at Hinchbrooke Iron Age Farm	Environmental analysis
Research and publication	Monument Management, Bartlow Hills

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Site Code: WIM MCP 05

CHER Event Number: ECB 2090

Date of works: 28th November 2005 to 6th February 2006

Grid Ref: TL 41000 93600 to TL 38950 87250

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Summary

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) undertook an archaeological investigation along the route of the March-Chatteris Main Pipeline. The work was commissioned by Anglian Water and took place from November 2005 to January 2006. All work was carried out in accordance with briefs issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA, Thomas 2005) and supplemented by specifications prepared by CCC AFU (Macaulay 2005).

The pipeline route stretched for 6km from Chatteris to Wimblington, predominantly following the route of the A141 Isle of Ely Way and was 15m wide. Eighteen trenches were located in the northern 4km of the route to coincide with the non-fen deposits. They were numbered sequentially from north (1) to south (18). The evaluation determined the presence of sparse archaeological remains along the pipeline route, with an area of increased activity in Trench 13 and funeral pyre activity in Trench 17. The remains were dated from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the Romano-British period, and also the late- or post-medieval period. The main phase of occupation appears to have occurred from the 3rd century BC to the mid 3rd century AD and was centred around Trench 13.

Archaeological remains were characterised by enclosures and other boundary ditches in a landscape used primarily for the keeping of livestock, particularly throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British period. Artefacts recovered, including loomweight fragments and quernstones, suggest that domestic activities such as weaving and grinding/milling were taking place in the vicinity, although there is no direct evidence for domestic occupation itself.

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Drawing Conventions

Sections	Plans
Limit of Excavation	Limit of Excavation
Cut	Deposit - Conjectured
Cut-Conjectured	Natural Features
Soil Horizon	Intrusion/Truncation
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	Sondages/Machine Strip
Intrusion/Truncation	Illustrated Section
Top of Natural	Archaeological Feature
Top Surface	Archaeological Deposit
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	Excavated Slot
Clay	Modern Deposit
Cut Number	Ridge and Furrow
Deposit Number 117	Cremation
Ordnance Datum 18.45m ODN	Plough Scar
Sample Number	Field Drain
Find Number	Cut Number 118
Stone	
Quern	
Flint	
Gravel	
Charcoal	

1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with instructions issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application N/A), which were detailed in a Specification prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed pipeline route, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990) and was carried out in three stages (see below).

The site archive is currently held by CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies a series of geological formations (Boulder Clay, March Gravels, Ampthill clay and Barroway Drove Beds) (British Geological Survey 1980). The northern end of the pipeline route begins on the March Gravels and Boulder Clay, whilst the southern end lies within the fens (Barroway Drove Beds) (Macaulay 2006). The pipeline route varies in height from 6m OD to 2m OD as it passes the villages of Wimblington and Doddington.

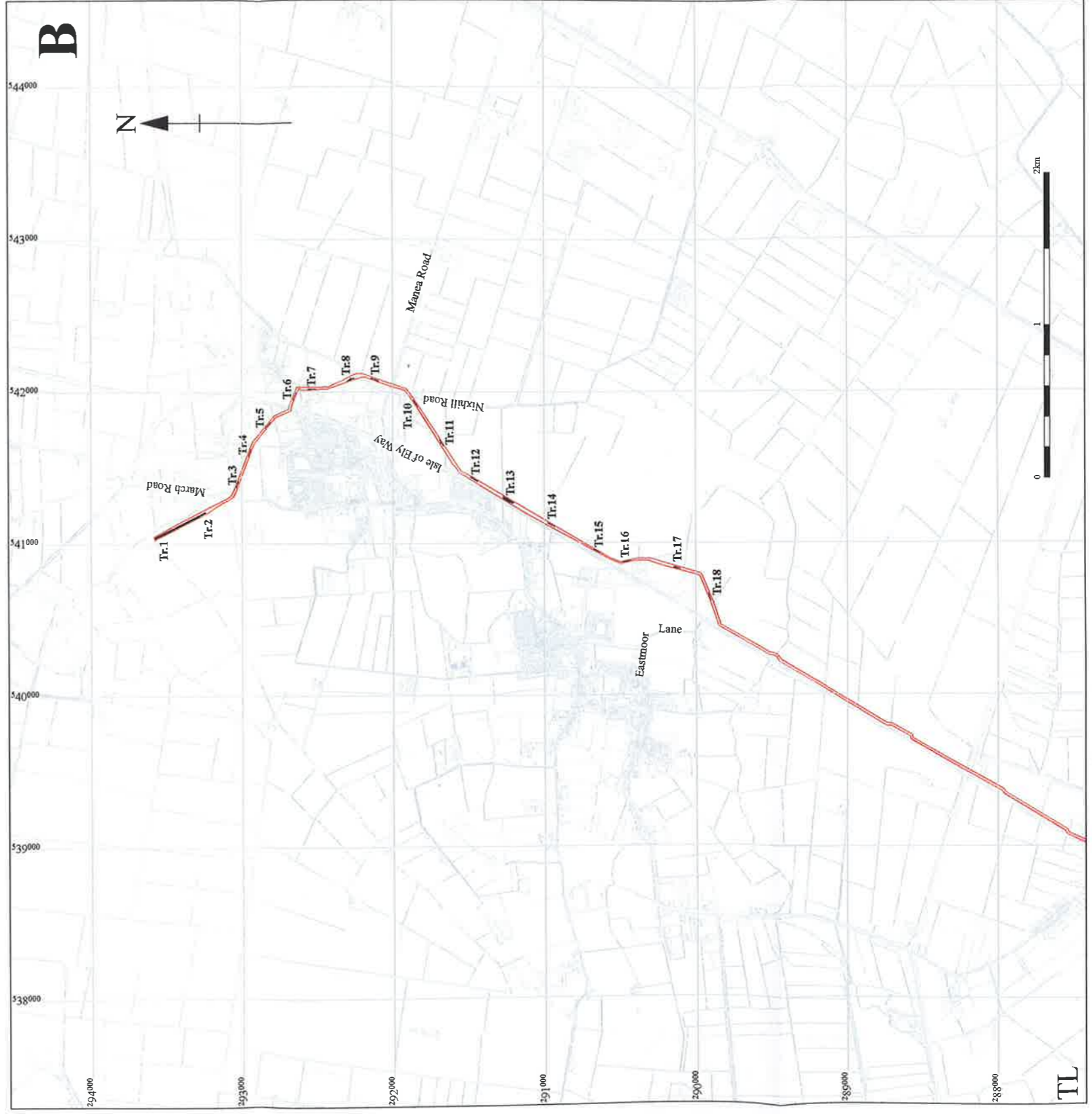
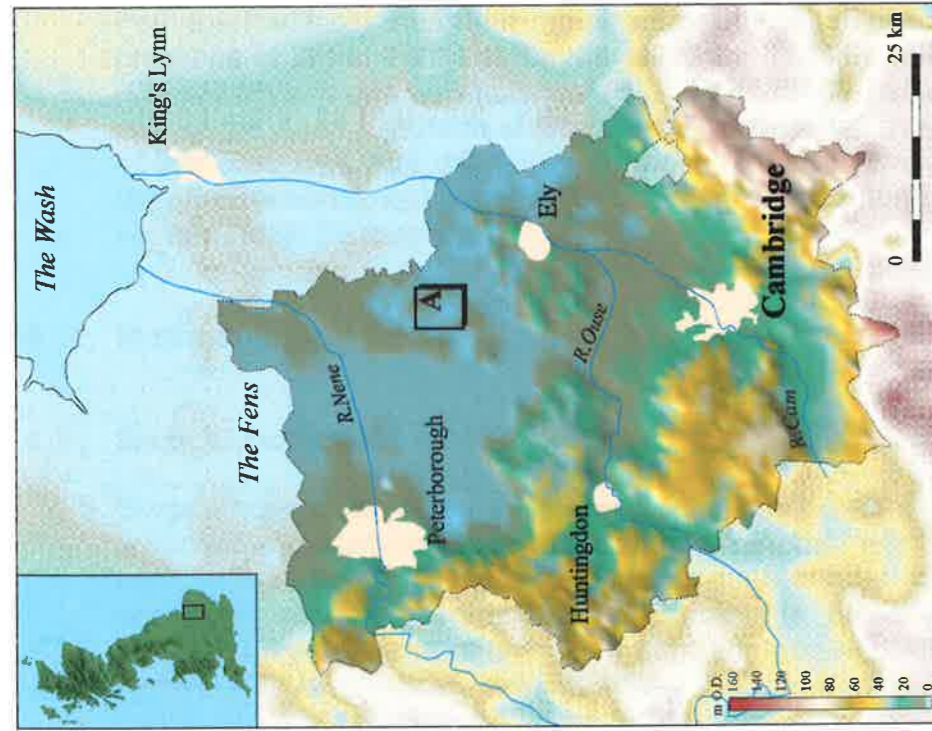
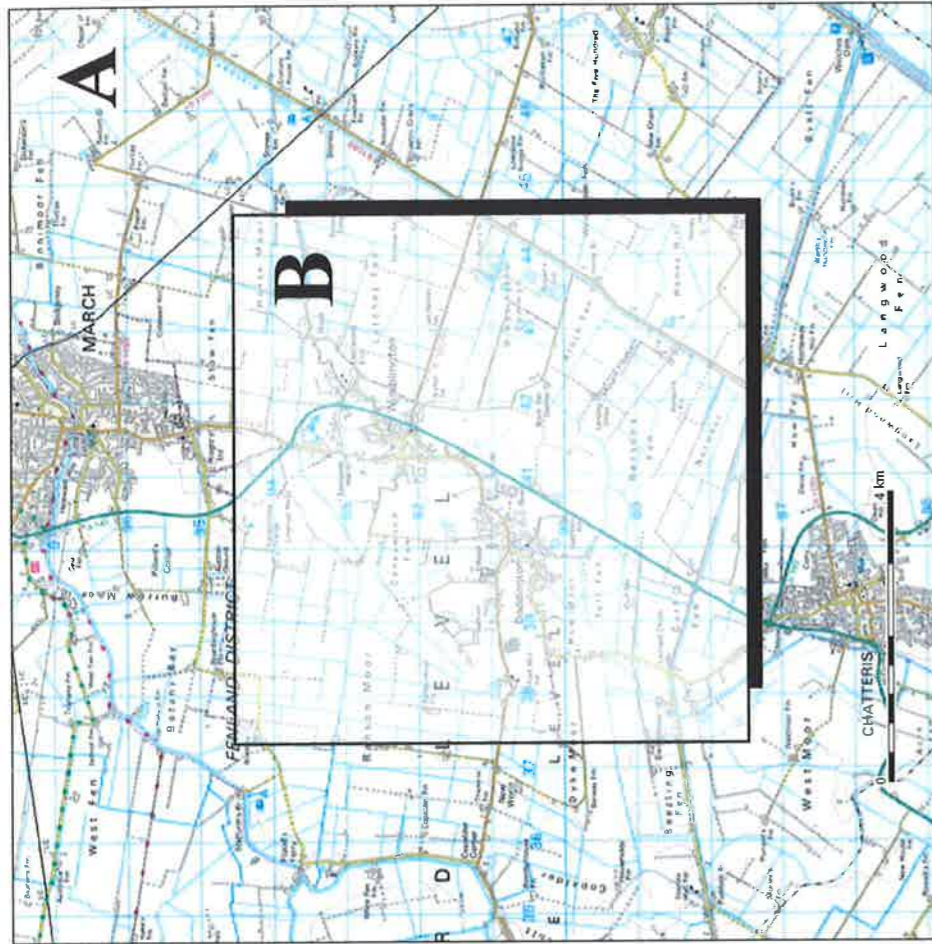
3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

The earliest remains in the area include a flint axe recovered from Curf Fen (CHER 03686) and a ditch of Mesolithic date in the excavation at Norfolk Street, Wimblington (MCB 16492). Later Bronze Age remains are known from the vicinity, for example, a socketed axe from Stitches Farm (CHER 08261). Iron Age settlements are known from the area, most significantly the Fort at Stonea Camp (Scheduled Ancient Monument) to the east and also at Bridge Lane, Wimblington (CHER 11416, 11416a and 10006a) (Macaulay 2006).

3.2 Roman

Again, whilst the most significant remains of Roman date are clearly the Roman town of Stonea Grange to the east, background remains from this date are recorded close to the pipeline route. A brooch



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Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) within the Anglian Water Pipeline route outlined (red)

(dolphin type bronze fibula) was recovered from the Old Brickmaker's Arms (HER 01424) in Doddington, while two coin hoards were also found in Doddington (HER 05896, 05910). A settlement is known from cropmarks just north of Wimblington (HER 08984), to the east of Manor Farm (HER 08968 and within Wimblington (HER 11646). Other remains include pottery scatters (HER 10006).

3.3 Medieval

The Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 33272) of the Bishop's Palace, Manor Farm (HER 01063), lies within 100m of the proposed pipeline route, to the east of the village of Doddington. Known to have been a grange of the Bishop's of Ely, it was recorded in 1086 as a manor of five hides and fisheries totalling 27,150 eels and was from 1109 one of the main residences of the Bishopric. Doddington/Wimblington has a wide range of known archaeological remains from the medieval period, including ridge and furrow (for example HER 02742, CB14519). Of particular significance is the Deserted Medieval Village of Eastwood End to the north-east of the village of Wimblington (HER 11416b). Medieval archaeology is regularly recorded in Chatteris to the south (for example HER CB15741).

3.4 Post-Medieval and Modern

A number of historic buildings are recorded (for example, the Old Toll House, Wimblington HER 05914) in the area and there are other features, such as the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway line, which ran from south-west to north-east on the east side of Wimblington and Doddington and is now the A14. The station house Perhaps the most important remains from the later periods are the presence of World War II military installations. These include a pillbox (CB 15216) and gun emplacement (HER MCB 16469), which lie either side of the A141 just north of Chatteris. The post-medieval landscape of this area was little different from today, being characterised as a largely rural settlement with scattered dwellings and a number of public houses (1886 OS map etc.).

4 Methodology

4.1 Stage 1 - Evaluation

Stage 1 consisted of an evaluation along the northern part of the proposed route where a total of eighteen trenches were excavated, each measuring 50m by 2m. The evaluation was designed to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area that might be affected by the construction and installation activities associated with pipe laying.

All trenches were excavated using a tracked 360 machine with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

All archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary and planned at 1:50 scale. Sections were recorded at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. No levels were taken on individual features. Average trench heights are currently stored as part of the survey data. The written record was compiled using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. The photographic record comprised monochrome film and colour slides of trenches and excavated features, supplemented by digital colour photographs.

Trench locations were mapped using a Total Station Theodolite and with the feature plans, related to the OS grid.

4.2 Stage 2 - Watching Brief

Stage 2 involved the archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping on those parts of the easement not investigated during the evaluation. A similar methodology to that described for Stage 1 was applied here except for recording, where archaeological remains encountered were planned at 1:200 then investigated by excavation only.

4.3 Stage 3 - Excavation

Stage 3 formed the final stage of works on the pipeline and consisted of the widening, mapping, recording and investigation of Trenches 2, 8, 11, 13 and 17. These trenches were selected for further investigation because of the nature and extent of the archaeology identified during Stage 1. Discussion and agreement of Stage 3 took place during on-site meeting involving representatives from CAPCA, CCC AFU and Anglian Water on 22nd December 2005.

The Stage 1 methodology was also applied here.

4.4 Stage 4 - Watching Brief

A second watching brief was scheduled to begin after Stage 3 had been completed, at the convenience of Anglian Water. This work was to monitor works in trenches not excavated in Stage 3. No further archaeological remains were recorded.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

Thirty-seven environmental samples were taken along the pipeline route with approximately half being taken from Trench 13 and ten from

Trench 17. This bias in the environmental record exists because Trench 13 was subject to excavation and revealed a higher number of features with potential for environmental remains. Trench 17 contained ten possible cremations, which resulted in a 100% sampling strategy. A fully competent member of CCC AFU staff carried out flotation and Val Fryer examined the dried flots.

4.6 Site Conditions

Site conditions were heavily influenced by the season (Winter) and by the various geological strata encountered along the route. Areas of clay, such as those around Wimblington, were not free-draining unlike the gravels near Doddington, causing overnight rain and/or groundwater to remain on the surface. As this left the features and even trenches waterlogged, excavation and recording was severely hampered. Health and Safety, access, services and site accommodation issues were all mitigated and provided for and any difficulties that arose during excavation were dealt with accordingly.

5 Results

The results from each trench will be discussed in order from Trench 1 to 18. Trenches 2, 8, 11, 13 and 17 were extended in order to establish the extent of the archaeology or to obtain further dating evidence. No archaeology was present in Trenches 9, 10, 14 to 16, and 18. Detail concerning soil descriptions and feature profiles are included below in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1 (4m OD)

Located on land known as Sedge Fen, Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was the northernmost within the pipeline route and oriented north-west to south-east. After excavation, the area around the trench was stripped of topsoil to the full width of the easement (max. 9m), from the northernmost point of the pipeline to the north-west end of Trench 2 to the south-east. Altogether, the area around and including Trench 1 was recorded as containing thirteen ditches and three pits.

Two ditches and one pit were identified and excavated during the trenching stage. Parallel ditches **5** and **7** (Fig. 3, S1 and S2) were oriented north-east to south-west and located at the north-east and middle of the trench respectively. Ditch **5** was slightly wider than ditch **7** at 0.75m but both were approximately 0.3m deep. Their fills were also the same although ditch **5** had organic material at the base of the cut, thought to be wood or roots (unconfirmed).

Located in the northern corner of the trench and truncating ditch 5 was pit 3. It extended beyond the trench edge and appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, although it may have formed the terminus of a north-west to south-east oriented ditch forming a later boundary. No finds were recovered.

The remaining eleven ditches and two pits (Fig. 2) were found in the stripped area surrounding Trench 1. Ditch 370 was situated approximately 28m from the north-west end of the easment and measured 1.3m wide by 9m+ long. Ditches 371 and 372 formed a T-shape 100m to the south-east. Ditch 372 ran approximately parallel with 370 measuring on average 1.5m wide. Ditch 371 ran north-west towards 370 from 371. It measured 0.8m wide and, like the other ditches, was unexcavated. Ditches 369, 374, 375 and 376 were all north to south or north-east to south-west aligned and lay within the large enclosure. All were truncated by ditch 371 except 369. Located to the south-east of these features were ditches 373, 379, 380 and 381. All but 373 lay on an approximate east to west alignment and were 0.6m to 1m wide.

Two pits (377 and 378) were identified near the corner of ditches 371 and 372 on the west side. They measured 0.3m to 1.1m in diameter with unknown depths and fills. Their date and function are unknown.

5.2 Trench 2 (5m OD)

Trench 2 (Fig. 2) was located south-east from Trench 1 and lay on the same alignment. After excavation the trench was fully extended and machine stripped to the upper interface of archaeological features. A total of seven ditches and three pits were identified.

Parallel ditches 9, 11, 13 and 17 were oriented approximately east to west and extended from south to north at 8m intervals. Each one measured approximately 1m wide by 0.3m deep and had U-shape profiles with flat bases (Fig. 3, S4 and S6).

Two more parallel ditches (111/119 and 382) were aligned north-west to south-east and spaced 4.5m apart. As these ditches were not clearly stratified in plan and no pottery was recovered, their date remains uncertain.

Pits 115, 117 and 121 all measured under 0.5m wide but varied in depth from 0.08m to 0.35m. Their function and relation to either the field systems or each other is unknown. No finds were recovered.

5.3 Trench 3 (6m OD)

Trench 3 (Fig. 2) was oriented west-north-west to east-south-east and located on the corner of March Road and Bridge Lane. It contained a

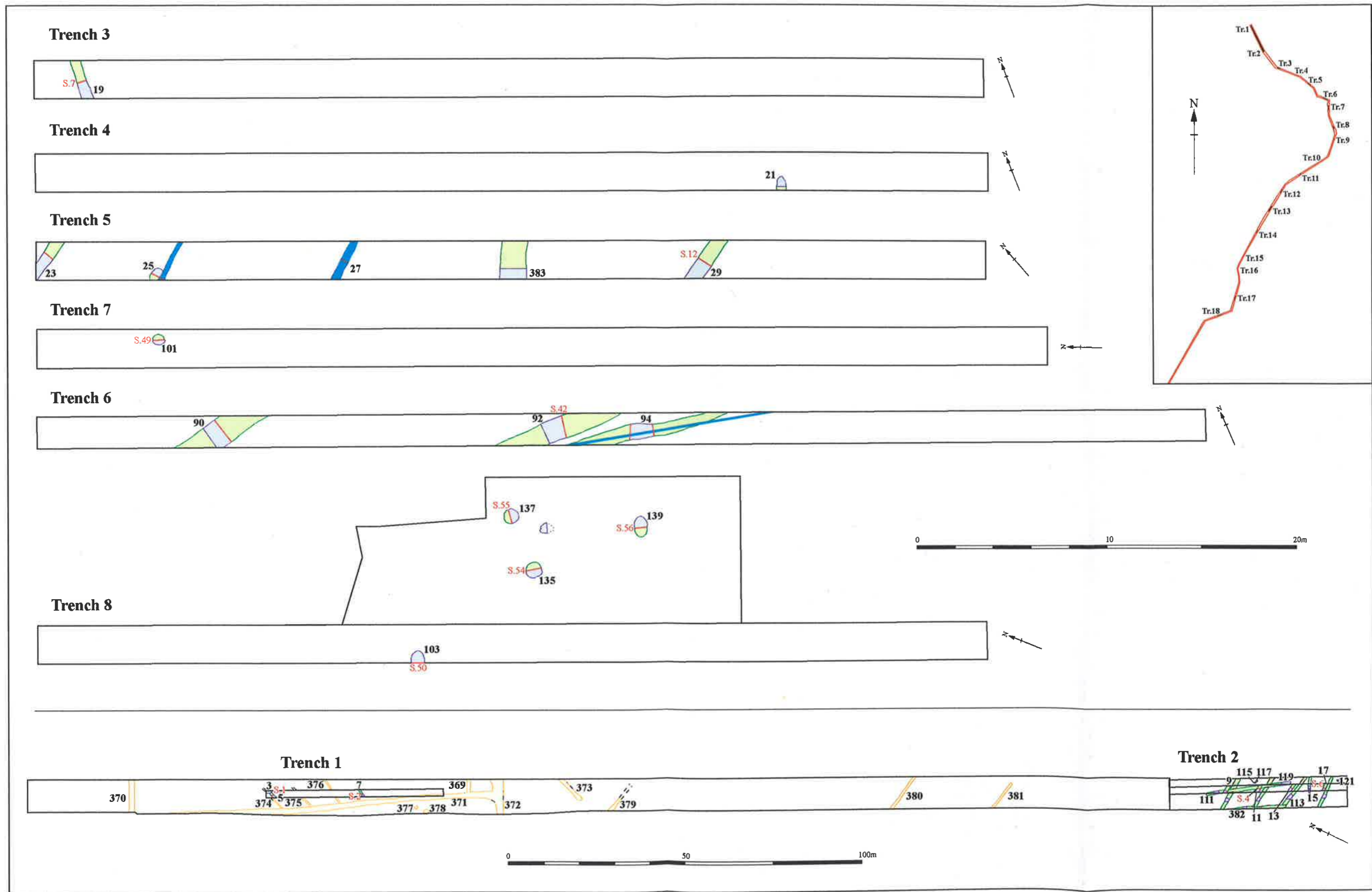


Figure 2: Trench plans 1 to 8 with extended areas

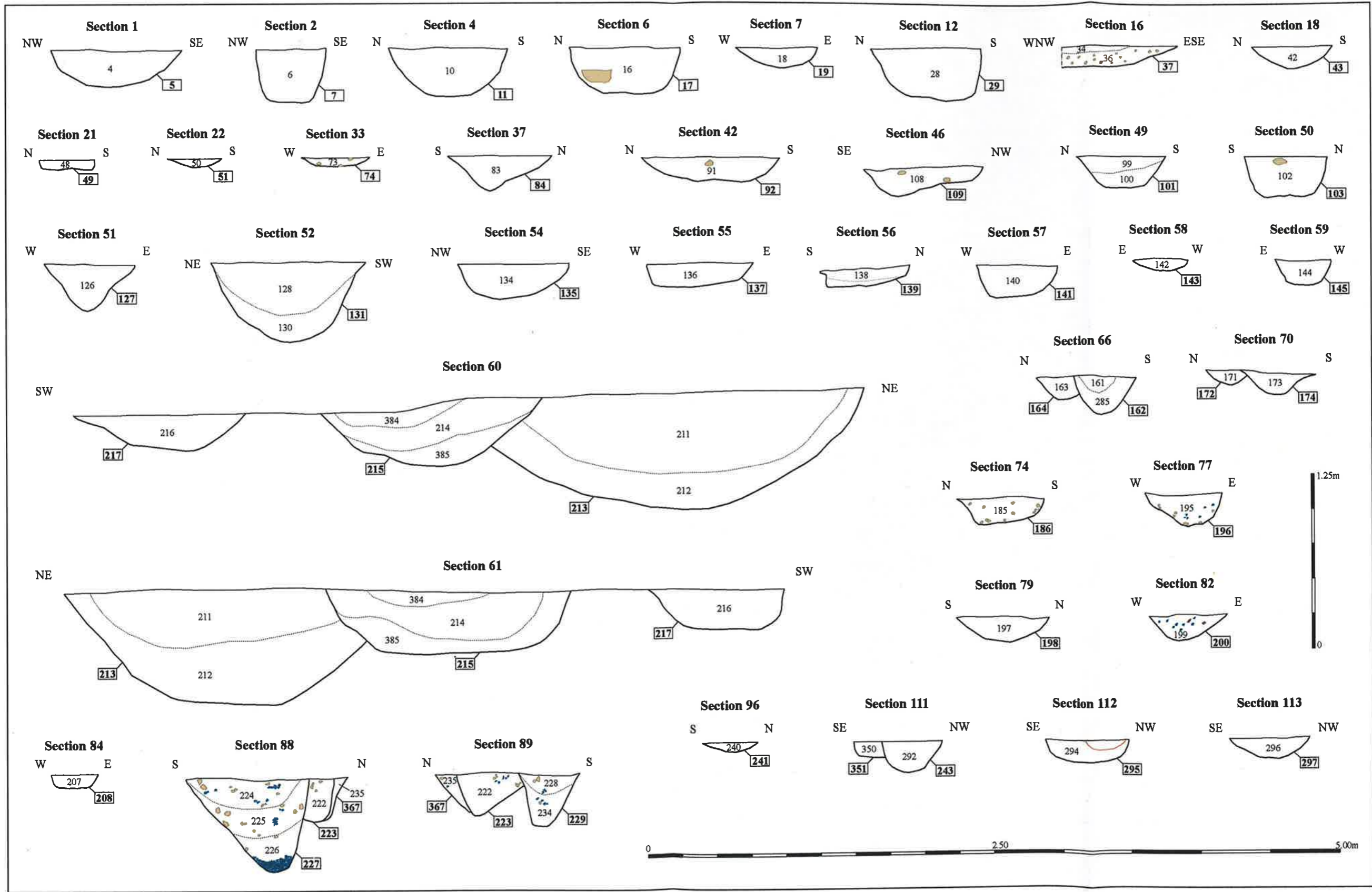


Figure 3: Section drawings

single feature, **19** (Fig. 3, S7) a small, shallow, north to south oriented ditch with a U-shape profile. A single sherd of early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill (18).

5.4 Trench 4 (4m OD)

Trench 4 (Fig. 2) lay on a similar alignment to Trench 3 and also contained one feature, undated ditch terminal **21**. It was very similar in shape, form and alignment to ditch **19** (see above) and may be contemporary.

5.5 Trench 5 (6m OD)

Trench 5 (Fig. 2) lay south-east from Trench 4 and contained three ditches, one pit and two land-drains.

Two of the three ditches, **23** and **29** (Fig. 3, S12), were aligned approximately east to west and had very similar profiles. In contrast, ditch **383** was aligned north-east to south-west and lay in the middle of Trench 5. It measured 1.3m wide and was of unknown depth.

Pit **25** was a discrete feature lying between ditches **23** and **29**. Finds included a sherd of Nene Valley grey ware and a piece of clay tobacco pipe, which almost certainly derived from the ceramic field drain which truncated the pit.

5.6 Trench 6 (6m OD)

Trench 6 (Fig. 2) was located between Isle of Ely Way and Eastwood End, south-east from Trench 5. It contained three ditches and one field drain.

Ditches **90** and **92** (Fig. 3, S42) were aligned approximately east to west and measured on average 1.2m wide. Both were shallow with uneven bases and filled with light greyish silty clay (89 and 91). A few pottery sherds recovered from **92** dating to the prehistoric period and the 2nd century AD.

Ditch **94** was a shallow, irregular linear feature with a very uneven base that lay parallel with ditch **92**. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep and was truncated along its length by a field drain.

5.7 Trench 7 (5m OD)

Trench 7 (Fig. 2) was located south of Eastwood End on high ground, just before the land falls away to the Fen edge to the south. It was oriented north to south and contained one feature, pit **101** (Fig. 3, S49), 6.5m from the north end. This measured 0.65m wide by 0.22m

deep and was filled by dark black brown silty clays. Both the fill (100) and a small area around the cut were burnt.

5.8 Trench 8 (3m OD)

Trench 8 (Fig. 2) lay downslope and to the south of Trench 7 on a north to south alignment. An extended area was stripped by machine to the upper layer of archaeological activity adjacent to and to the south-east of pit **103** (identified in the evaluation), (Fig. 3, S50) which contained a further three pits (**135**, **137** and **139**) (Fig. 3, S54, S55 and S56) and one small natural feature, probably a tree throw.

All four pits were similar in size, with **103** being the deepest at 0.28m. Each contained dark fills with charred organic material and burnt flints but no direct dating evidence. Iron Age pottery was, however, recovered from the natural (1)/subsoil (800) interface approximately 2m north-west from pit **135**.

5.9 Trench 9 (2m OD)

Trench 9 lay just north of Manea Road, south of Trench 8 and lay on a north-east to south-west alignment. No archaeology was present in this trench.

5.10 Trench 10 (2m OD)

Trench 10 was also oriented north-east to south-west and was located south of Manea Road and immediately adjacent to Nixhill Road. No archaeology was present in this trench.

5.11 Trench 11 (2m OD)

Trench 11 (Fig. 4) was located between Isle of Ely Way and Nixhill Road, south-west from and on the same alignment as Trench 10. Five ditches and a land drain were identified. During Stage 3, a small area measuring 5.5m by 8.5m was stripped by machine on the north-west side of the trench, approximately 23m from the south-west end. This enabled further observation of ditches **213**, **215** and **217** (Fig. 3, S60 and S61) in order to establish their alignment, form, stratification and date. The machine was also used to excavate a second slot through the ditches and a second section was drawn.

Ditch **213** was the largest and earliest ditch in the trench. It measured 2.7m+ wide and 0.8m deep and was truncated by **215** a ditch approximately half its size, with a similar alignment, profile and sequence of eroded and waterlogged fills. Parallel with **213** and **215** was ditch **217**. It was smaller than **215** and measured a maximum of

1.24m wide and 0.28m deep with fills similar to 214. No dating evidence was recovered.

Boundary ditch **105** lay 3.7m south-west of ditch **217** and was oriented north-west to south-east. It was 0.5m wide and was filled by mid greyish brown 103 that contained a single sherd of Neolithic/Iron Age pottery (28g). A fourth undated boundary ditch, **107**, was located 2.5m south-west from **105**. It was oriented east to west and measured 1.25m wide.

5.12 Trench 12 (2m OD)

Trench 12 (Fig. 4) was oriented north-east to south-west to the right of Isle of Ely Way, south-west from Trench 10. It contained one ditch and one linear feature (unexcavated). Ditch **109** (Fig. 3, S46) was an undated, irregular, shallow feature that may have been a pit or a ditch. It measured 0.9m wide by 0.2m deep and was filled by mid grey brown silty clay (108).

5.13 Trench 13 (2m OD)

Trench 13 (Fig. 5) was aligned north-east to south-west, adjacent to the A141 Isle of Ely Way. It contained the densest archaeological activity and as a result was extended by machine to an area of approximately 960m². Within this area a large number of features were identified with a concentration at the north-east end that fell into four broad phases of activity represented by field systems, possible structures, pits and postholes.

5.13.1 Phase 1 (Neolithic/Bronze Age) (Fig. 7)

Ditch **289** was oriented north to south and located in the middle of the western side of the trench. It 0.75m wide and 0.05m deep and contained no dateable material. It was dated by pale brown leached fill (288).

Features **356**, **351** and **359** formed a small group of intercutting pits measuring approximately 2m wide by 0.6m deep. They were filled by pale, mixed silty clays with evidence of leaching and frequent tree root disturbance. They were dated by the residual Bronze Age pottery recovered from (220) (pit **221**) that truncated this feature, and, like ditch **289** and two further pits (unexcavated), on the basis that they were stratigraphically early.

5.13.2 Phase 2 (Iron Age/Transitional) (Fig. 8)

Iron Age features (Plate 1) were found in the north half of the trench only and formed a dense cluster of ditches and pits and postholes.

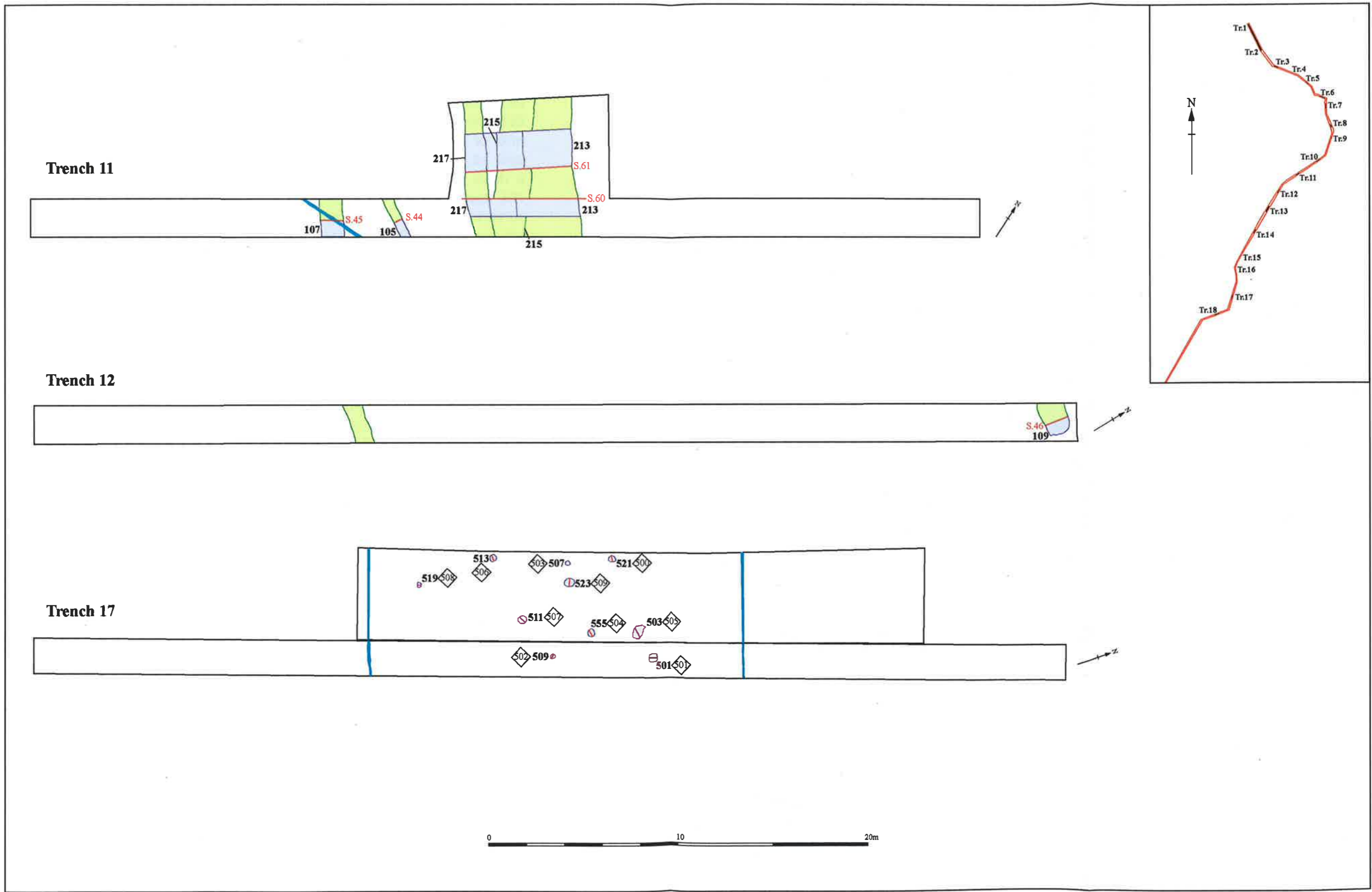


Figure 4: Trench plans 11, 12 and 17 with extended areas

Enclosure 1

Enclosure 1 was comprised of a sequence of four or five (see below, ditch **367**) east to west aligned curvilinear ditches, the final stages of which formed a 4m wide entranceway. The east side of the enclosure began as a shallow, segmented ditch **164/223/335/337**¹ that measured 10.5m long by up to 0.75m wide. This was re-cut by short ditch **333** (Fig. 6, S125) at its eastern end and moved 1.5m to the south to form ditch **164/223/333**. At this point the ditch was shortened to its final length (9.5m). The second re-cut, **162/229/291**, moved the ditch a further 0.5m south but retained the alignment. To the west was **241** (Fig. 3, S96), a 2m+ long opposing ditch with a square-ended terminus similar to (terminus) **291** (Fig. 6, S124). These two ditches formed the entranceway to the southern enclosure.

Postholes **243** and **245** were located within the entranceway and were probably marker- or gate-posts either denoting or controlling access and egress. They measured approximately 0.2m in diameter and were 0.04m deep².

The finds assemblage came from slots **162**, **164** (Fig. 3, S66), **223** and **229** (Fig. 3, S89), and was small. It included fired clay and slag as well as pottery, but no animal bone. The recovered sherds (2 unclassified prehistoric, 7 Iron Age, 23 Late Iron Age and 2 Roman) suggest the enclosure could have originated as early as the 7th century BC, perhaps going out of use by the 1st century BC.

Ditch **367** (Fig. 3, S89) was 2m long, oriented east to west and severely truncated by ditches **257** and **164/223**. It was possibly the earliest phase of Enclosure 1, but was separated from it stratigraphically by ditch **257**.

Enclosure 2

North to south aligned curvilinear ditch **131/157/254** (Fig. 3, S52 and Fig. 6, S92) truncated ditch **164/223** and was located in the north-east corner of the trench. It formed the south-west side of an enclosure that extended for an unknown distance to the north and east. It was 10.5m+ long and 0.7m to 1.25m wide and filled by dark greyish brown silty clay (128/156/253) that contained sixteen sherds of Late Iron Age pottery which are almost certainly residual from ditch **257**.

Enclosure 3

Ditch **127/155/279** (Fig. 3, S51 and Fig. 6, S93) formed the south-west corner of an enclosure of unknown size in the north-west corner of

¹ Shown on the matrix (Appendix 1) as Enclosure 1.1

² Shown on the matrix (Appendix 1) as Enclosure 1.2

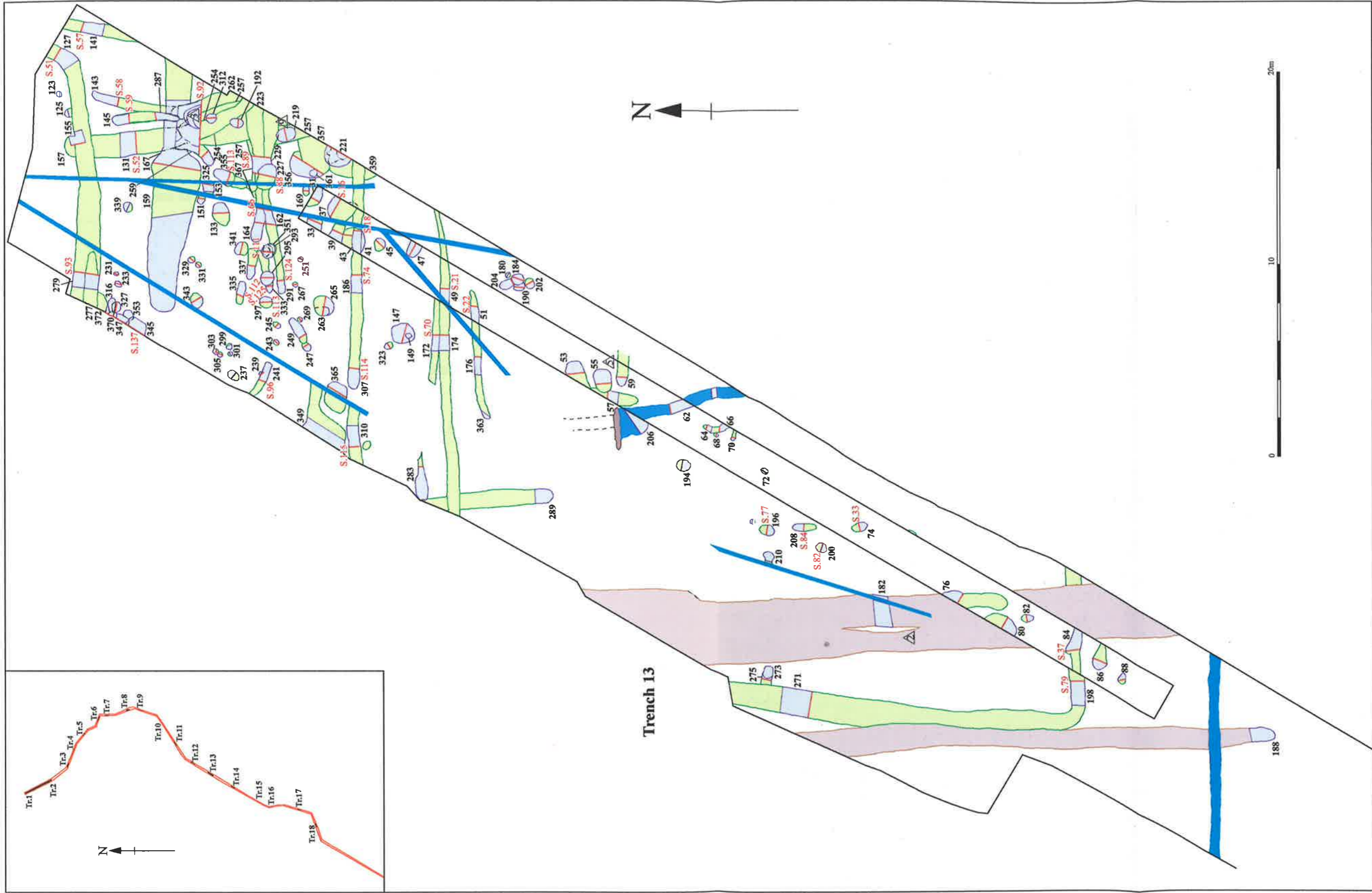


Figure 5: Trench plan 13 showing original trench location within the extended area

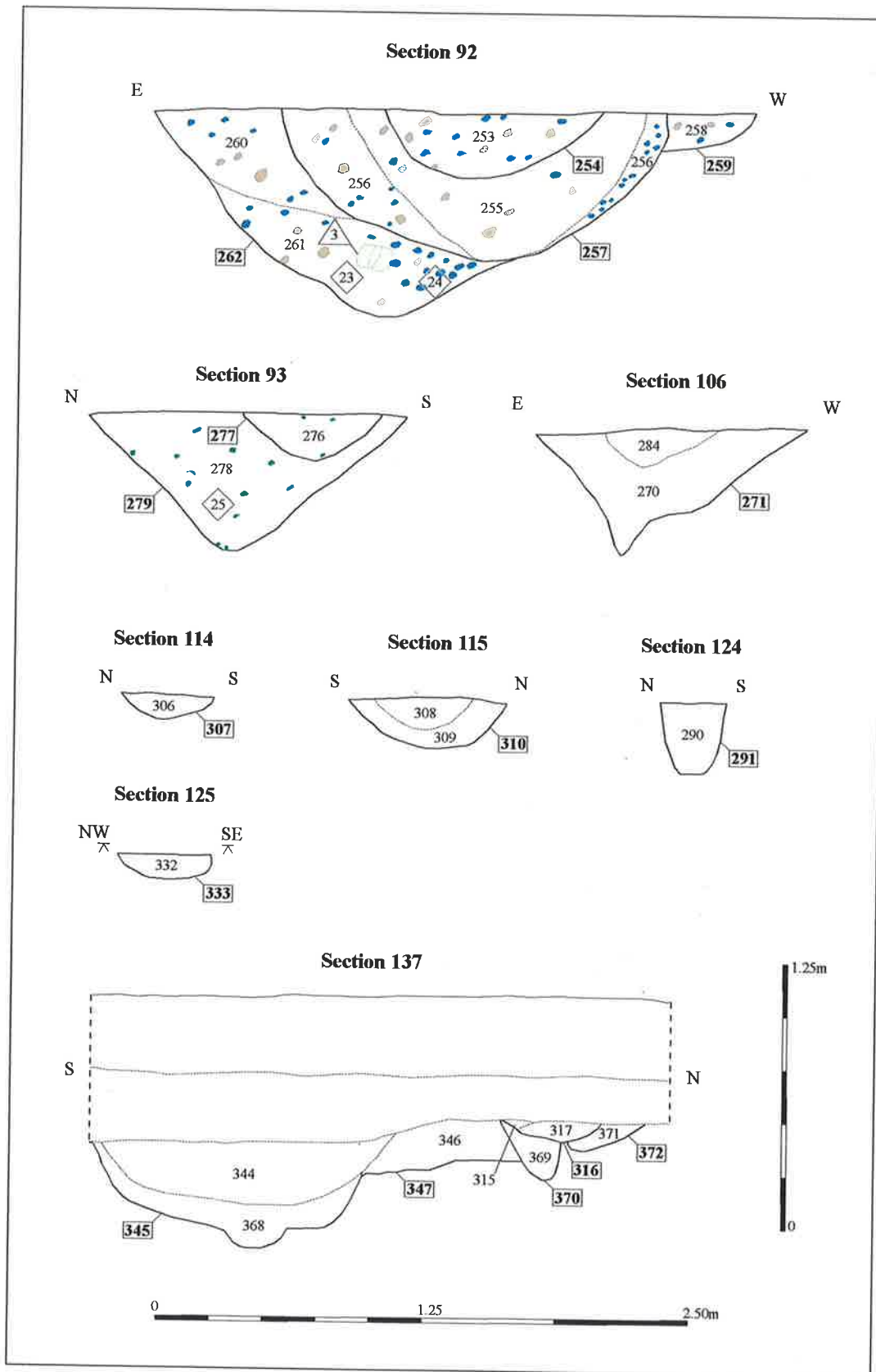


Figure 6: Section drawings

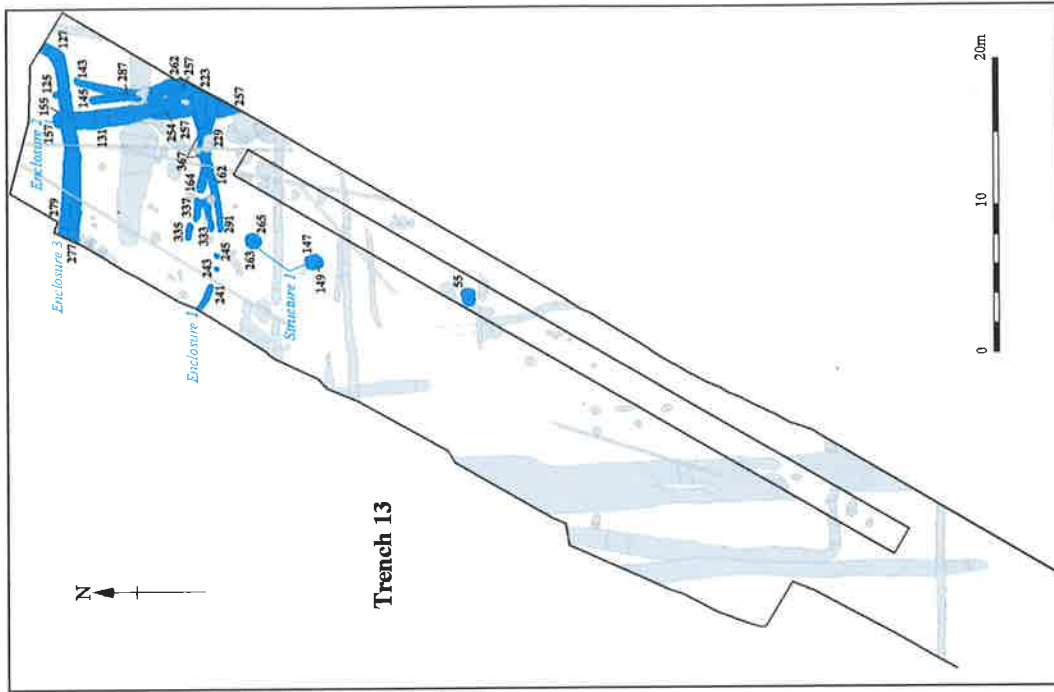


Figure 8: Phase Plan of Iron Age (blue)

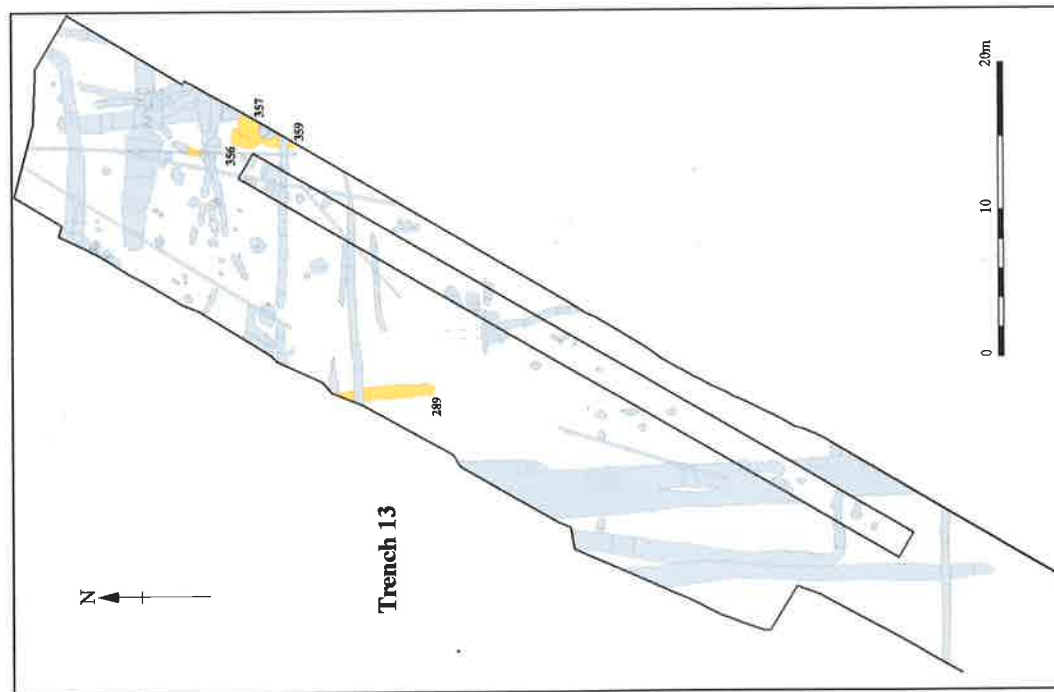


Figure 7: Phase Plan of Bronze Age / Pre Iron Age (yellow)

Trench 13. It was aligned predominantly east to west, turning to the north-east at its east end and measured 15m+ long by 0.7m to 1.35m wide. The fills (126/154/278) were mid greyish brown silty clay and indistinguishable from 128/156/253. Nine sherds of Late Iron Age and two sherds of residual and heavily abraded prehistoric pottery were recovered from fill 126 only.

Ditch **127/155/279** was partly re-cut at its western end by a small ditch measuring 2.9m+ long and 0.21m deep (**277**) (Fig. 6, S.93). It was filled by light brown silty clay (276) and contained no finds. It is not known whether this ditch was part of Enclosure 3.

Ditches

Curvilinear ditch **143** (Fig. 3, S58) was located near the north-east corner of the trench and was truncated by **145** (Fig. 3, S59), a short, curvilinear ditch measuring 3.4m long and **262**, a deep ditch on the same north to south alignment. It measured 9m+ long and was 0.09m deep (Fig. 3, S.58). Although undated, its early stratigraphic position and dark fill suggest it may be Iron Age.

The terminus of ditch **262** (Fig. 6, S92) was located immediately to the south of ditches **143** and **145**. It measured 2.9m+ long and was 1m deep and contained a very small assemblage of pottery and animal bone and a large fragment of a millstone grit beehive quernstone (SF3, Plate 2) weighing over 5kg. The quernstone (from fill 261) is thought to date to the 1st century AD and dates the disuse of the ditch to the Early Roman period, although it had probably been in use throughout the Iron Age. It was truncated by **257** to the west and by **145** to the north.

Ditch **257** (Fig. 6, S92) lay directly beneath **131/157/254** and was also truncated by southern enclosure ditch **164/223** and **162/229/291** and pit **219** (see 5.13.3, below). It measured 1.65m wide by 0.7m deep and contained a small assemblage of fired clay, animal bone, burnt stone, burnt bone, four sherds of residual 7th to 1st century BC pottery and an iron sprung bow brooch (SF9, Fig. 11) typologically dated to the 1st century AD (Appendix 3). A terminus at the northern end (**157**) may indicate an entranceway.

Structure 1

Two large postholes (**147** and **149**) formed a possible structure that lay directly south of terminal **291** (part of enclosure **162/229/291** and **241**). They measured up to 1m wide and 0.5m deep, were set 4.5m apart on a north to south alignment and had been re-cut. Thirty-three small to medium sized pottery sherds was recovered from re-cut fill (146=148). They ranged in date from as early as the 7th century BC to 2nd century

AD. As the highest number of sherds (28) were 1st century AD it seems likely that the postholes went out of use at that time.

Pit

Pit **55** was located near the middle of the excavated area within the original Trench 13. It was 0.9m wide by 0.25m deep and filled by mid grey brown silty clay (54). It contained two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.

Postholes

Posthole **125** was located in the north-east corner of the excavated area, truncated by enclosure **127/155/279** and adjacent to undated posthole **123**. It measured 0.42m wide by 0.36m deep and had a tapered profile suggesting it may have been driven into the ground. The proximity of **125** to the terminus of enclosure **131/157/254** indicates that it may have been an entranceway marker-post.

5.13.3 Phase 3 (Roman) (Fig. 9)

Enclosure 4

Three enclosure ditches in the northern third of the excavated area may have formed part of the south-east corner of a sub-rectangular enclosure. Ditches **43/186/307** (Fig. 3, S18, S74 and Fig. 6, S114) and **310** (Fig. 6, S115) formed the southern side with a 0.8m wide entranceway (**307** and **310**) and north to south ditch **141**, in the north-east corner of the trench, which may have formed the eastern side. All the ditches had similar u-shape profiles and were similar sizes (Table 1).

Cut Number	Width (m)	Depth (m)
141	0.60	0.21
43	0.57	0.15
186	0.61	0.20
307	0.50	0.11
310	0.74	0.25

Table 1: Width and depth measurements for the excavated slots in the northern sub-rectangular enclosure

Internal Features – Structure 2

Within Enclosure 4 was a possible east to west aligned structure consisting of postholes **293**, **295**, **297** (Fig. 3, S112 and S113) (re-cut

351) and 341. They formed an L-shape that measured 3.5m long by 2.2m wide and were located approximately 8m north-east from its entranceway (307 and 310).

Internal Features – Pits

Seven pits of varying sizes and shapes were located to the east of Structure 2 and in the postulated south-east corner of Enclosure 4 (Table 2). Although dateable material was sparse and almost entirely residual, these features appear to be later on the basis of stratigraphic relationships and were probably associated with Structure 2.

Cut Number	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)
133	0.92	0.13
192	0.40	0.08
219	0.70	0.16
221	0.70	0.35
227	0.90	0.66
355	0.80	0.15
Unexcavated pit	0.35	N/A

Table 2: Size variation in pits associated with Structure 2 and Enclosure 4

Enclosure 5

A second possible large sub-rectangular enclosure was located approximately 4m south from and parallel with Enclosure 4. The north side was demarcated by east to west ditch **172/283** (Fig. 3, S70), and similarly aligned ditch **49/174** (Fig. 3, S49 and S70). Both measured approximately 0.5m wide and no more than 0.2m deep. The south-west corner was formed by curvilinear ditch **84/198/271** (Fig. 3, S37 and Fig. 6, S106). It almost doubled in size along its length, from 0.73m wide by 0.26m deep, to 1.25m wide by 0.58m deep and had a stepped, V-shaped profile. It was filled by reddish grey silty clay (83/197/220) that contained pottery, animal bone and fragments of a triangular loom weight (SF4, Plate 3).

Internal features - Structure 3

Structure 3 consisted of a group of five postholes (**74, 196, 200, 208** and **210**) (Fig. 3, S33, S77, S82 and S84) that formed a possible rectangular structure near the western edge of Enclosure 5. It had a north to south alignment and measured 4m by 12m.

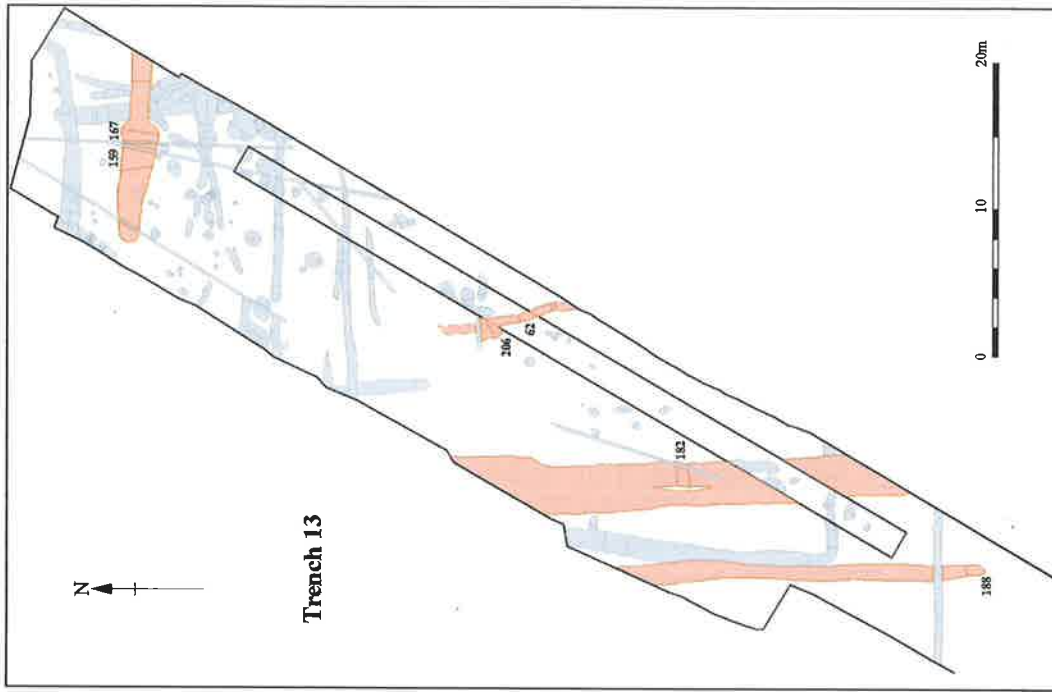


Figure 10: Phase Plan of Post-Medieval / Modern period (orange)

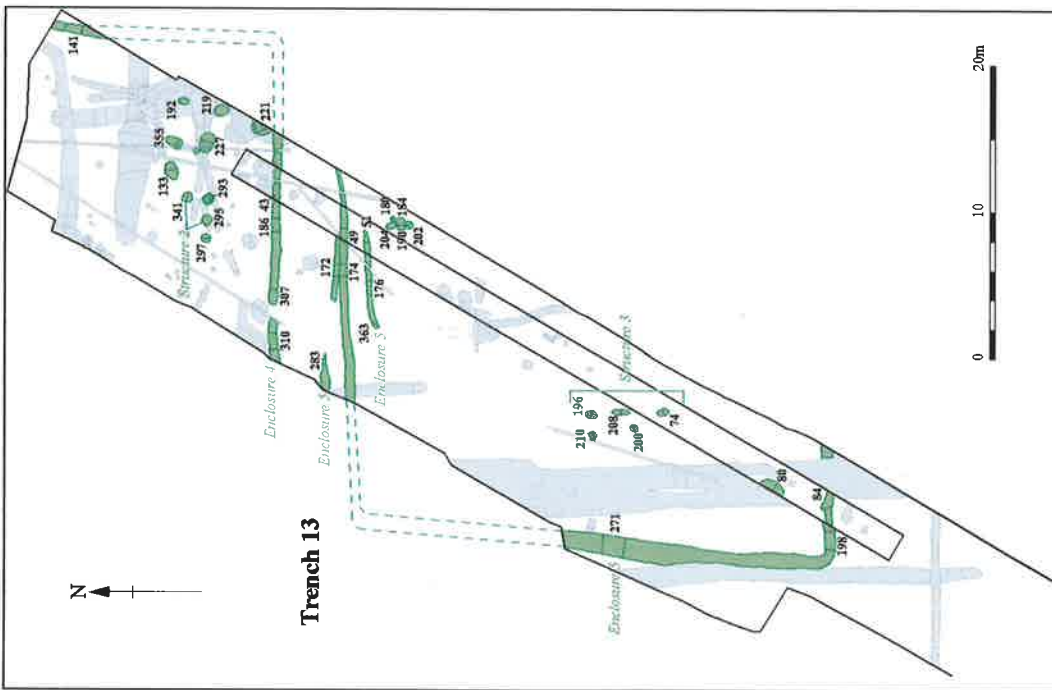


Figure 9: Phase Plan of Roman period (green)

Internal features – Ditch

Approximately 1m south from and running parallel to the north side of Enclosure 5 was ditch **51**(Fig. 3, S22)/**176/363**. It had a very shallow, U-shape profile, and measured approximately 7m long, 0.5m wide and less than 0.1m deep. No finds were recovered.

Internal features – Pit

A single, probably oval and undated pit (**80**) was located 5m from the south-west corner of Enclosure 5. It measured 1.8m wide and 0.27m deep and was filled with mid grey brown silty clay (79).

Internal features - Postholes

Features **180**, **184**, **190**, **202** and **204** were a group of small intercutting pits varying in size from 0.28m wide by 0.3m deep (**180**) to 0.51m wide by 0.26m deep (**184**). They were located at the eastern edge of site, 1.5m to 3m south from the eastern terminus of ditch **51/176/363**. Posthole **204** contained pottery sherds loosely dated to the 1st to 4th centuries AD.

5.13.4 Phase 4 (Post-Medieval/Modern) (Fig. 10)

Ditches

Ditch **159** lay on an east to west alignment at the north end of the excavated area. It measured at least 13m long and extended for an unknown distance beyond the east edge of excavation. It is thought to be a modern feature because it overlay all the features at the north end of the trench and contained a distinctly different fill.

Running north to south at the south-west end of the excavated area were ditches **76/182** and **188**. Neither feature was deeper than 0.11m or contained any pottery, although a copper alloy stud (SF2) was found in fill 181 (ditch **182**).

Ditch **62** was aligned approximately north to south and located on the east side of the evaluation area. It was 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep and possibly truncated by tree throw **206**. It became more indistinct towards its northern end and faded out after approximately 10m.

Pit/Tree Throw

Pit/tree throw **167** was truncated by ditch **159**. Its fill (160) was almost indistinguishable from 158, the fill of ditch **159**, and contained no dating evidence.

5.13.5 Undated

Phase 5 consists of thirty-nine undated features (Table 3), 78% of which were located within the area defined by Enclosure 5. They are not thought to be associated. Some 12% of these were located wholly within Trench 13 during the evaluation (Stage 1).

Although most features were classified as postholes, it would be difficult to assign a function to them. Some or all may have served a structural function, but there were no patterns, preserved timbers, *in situ* burning or distortion of the cuts (indicating the removal of a post), etc. to suggest that this was the case.

There is one exception, however. Postholes **151**, **312** and **329** were aligned east to west and lay on the south side of ditch **159**. They were spaced approximately 3.5m to 4.5m apart and appear to have formed a fenceline. Due to the lack of dating, it is not clear whether they were contemporary with ditch **159** (and therefore post-medieval/modern), or whether they relate to a different phase of activity.

Cut	Phase	Width	Depth
0	unphased	0.55	0.07
68	unphased	0.2	0.1
72	unphased	0.4	0.08
82	unphased	0.33	0.13
88	unphased	0.5	0.2
151	unphased	0.41	0.39
153	unphased	0.62	0.11
169	unphased	0.32	0.11
194	unphased	0.58	0.12
231	unphased	0.23	0.11
233	unphased	0.24	0.33
237	unphased	0.35	0.18
239	unphased	0.2	0.3
247	unphased	0.34	0.15
249	unphased	0.5	0.13
251	unphased	0.25	0.13
259	unphased	0.4	0.18
267	unphased	0.2	0.06
269	unphased	0.38	0.14
273	unphased	0.51	0.25
275	unphased	0.59	0.08
299	unphased	0.33	0.06
301	unphased	0.19	0.04
303	unphased	0.17	0.14
305	unphased	0.2	0.05
316	unphased	0.44	0.19
323	unphased	0.28	0.09
325	unphased	0.46	0.1
327	unphased	0.35	0.1
329	unphased	0.27	0.1
331	unphased	0.28	0.1
339	unphased	0.4	0.11
343	unphased	0.55	0.13
345	unphased	1.22	0.43
347	unphased	0.27	0.14
349	unphased	3.04	0.27
353	unphased	0.55	0.04
365	unphased	1.05	0.18
370	unphased	1.3	0.28
372	unphased	3.3	

Table 3: Unphased features

5.13.6 Miscellaneous Features

Twelve features were identified in the evaluation (Stage 1) that did not appear in the open area excavation (Stage 3). This is peculiar because the open area was stripped by machine to a higher level (up to 0.1m) than the trial trench, where the features should have been present. As a result, the interpretations applied to these features are doubtful and therefore they may not be of archaeological origin, despite the

presence of pottery in features 37 (Fig. 3, S16), 41 and 59 and flint in 57.

Cut Number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings Type	Date
31	pit	0.33	0.07		
33	pit/ditch	0.25	0.13		
37	pit	0.4	0.16	pottery	Roman
39	ditch	0.7	0.08		
41	pit	0.95	0.08	pottery, animal bone	Iron Age
47	pit	0.45	0.1		
53	ditch	1.2	0.25		
57	ditch	0.7	0.08	flint	
59	ditch	0.5	0.2	pottery	Bronze Age
64/66	gully	0.25	0.14		
70	gully	0.2	0.09		
86	pit	0.6	0.05		

Table 4: Features in appearing in Trench 13 only

5.14 Trench 14 (2m OD)

Trench 14 was oriented on the same alignment as Trenches 12 and 13 and contained no archaeological features.

5.15 Trench 15 (2m OD)

See above.

5.16 Trench 16 (2m OD)

Trench 16 was oriented north to south and located to the east of Isle of Ely Way, south-west from Trench 15. No archaeology was present in this trench.

5.17 Trench 17 (2m OD)

Trench 17 (Fig. 4) was located immediately south-east of agricultural buildings associated with Manor Farm. It lay on a north-east to south-west alignment and contained ten pits of varying size and shape, covering an area 20m long by 8m wide. The pits were arranged in a random pattern.

After secondary stripping to widen the trench to the full width of the easement, the area containing the pits was thoroughly cleaned by hoeing and photographed. Photographs were also taken of each pit prior, during after excavation, following the procedure set out in the

Methodology, above. Each pit was then excavated by half-section initially, then after recording, was fully excavated and 100% sampled.

Six of these features were filled with burnt and/or ashy material and varying quantities of cremated human bone (up to 265g) (Plates 4 and 5) (Appendix 9). The remaining four features contained charcoal fragments but no cremated human bone and two (**523** (Plate 6) and **511**) contained a small number (8) of prehistoric and later Bronze Age potsherds (Appendix 2).

5.18 Trench 18 (2m OD)

The southernmost of all the trenches, Trench 18 was sited south-west from Trench 17 and lay on a north-east to south-west alignment. No archaeology was present.

6 Discussion

This evaluation was the first large-scale investigation of the archaeological remains in and around the Fenland villages of Wimblington and Doddington and has added greatly to the understanding of agricultural and to an extent, settlement activity in the area. However, it is important to note that it was also a limited investigation due to the spatial constraints of a narrow transect through a landscape and the results are a key-hole view of the archaeology of the periods represented. Features were identified throughout the evaluation dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period and were largely confined to the higher areas of Wimblington and Doddington.

Discussion of the archaeological remains is presented chronologically below.

6.1 Phase 1 – Neolithic/Bronze Age

The earliest activity found during the evaluation dates to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age and was sparse. This is reflected in the very small flint assemblage gathered along the pipeline, which, apparently indicates sporadic and low-key activity (Appendix 5).

The Neolithic/Bronze Age was characterised by ditches, pits (Trenches 11 and 13), and funerary activity (Trench 17). Features dating to this period were found on the south edge of the Wimblington Island and the east edge of the Doddington Island, lying between 2m and 7mOD.

The large boundary ditch (**213**) dates to the later Bronze Age, a time of increasing formal division of the landscape where field systems were

becoming more prevalent. With the smaller ditches in Trench 13 it shows the land was being sub-divided into distinct areas within which smaller enclosures were created. A small cluster of possibly contemporary pits to the east of enclosure ditch **289** was located on the Ampthill Clays, perhaps for water storage. A general lack of finds, in particular pottery and animal bone, suggests that this activity was not close to areas of domestic occupation.

Other Bronze Age activity was found towards the south of the pipeline route. A series of ten pits containing burnt material were found in Trench 17, six of which contained cremated human bone. Analysis of the remains suggests that all the pits probably contained deposits of pyre debris (Appendix 6). One of the pottery sherds is similar to an unclassified food vessel found at the base of a grave at Harford Farm, near Norwich (Appendix 6) and indicates that the cremation activity may date to between 2000BC to 1200BC. It is presumed that the pyre site and burial(s) lie nearby beyond the edge of excavation.

In Trenches 7 and 8, a total of five pits were excavated that are thought to be prehistoric in date. They were located on the fen edge, facing south-east. No finds were retrieved from any pit but environmental analysis of fill 101 revealed that they contained relatively high (for this evaluation) amounts of fuel/hearth waste (Appendix 9). In addition, the cut was differentially burnt, suggesting that a post, or some other material was burnt in the pit. As there are no other indications of domestic occupation nearby, it is likely that these pits served some other function on the fen edge. Similar pits have been found at Barleycroft Farm (Evans and Knight, 1997).

6.2 Phase 2 – Iron Age/Transitional

There was no evidence for Bronze Age activity continuing into the Iron Age along the pipeline route except in Trench 13.

Here, the south side of an enclosure of unknown size with a small entranceway was created (Enclosure 1, **241** and **291**). It was then partially divided by a north to south ditch (Enclosure 2) and finally divided again by Enclosure 3 to the north. Since no alterations were made to Enclosure 1, for example, closing the entranceway, all three areas may have been used at the same time. The pottery assemblage from the enclosures indicates that activity may have commenced around the 3rd to 1st century BC.

Other contemporary evidence includes Structure 1; two large posts set on a north to south alignment. The function of this structure is unclear but its position south of enclosure **241/291** suggests it could have marked the south-western limits of the enclosure system. Pottery evidence from the upper fills of posthole 147/149 suggest that the structure went out of use in the Early Roman period, when the Iron Age

enclosures were replaced by sub-rectangular Enclosures 4 and 5 (see below). The discovery of a millstone grit quernstone (Fig. 6, S92, SF3, Plate 1) in the lower fill of Iron Age ditch **257**, a puddingstone quernstone (SF1, Fig. 11, Plate 7) (unstratified, 170) and a spring bow brooch (318) (Fig. 11, SF9), all dated to the 1st century AD (Appendix 3), strongly suggest that these Iron Age enclosures went out of use at this time and were replaced immediately afterwards by the large sub-rectangular enclosures discussed below.

6.3 Phase 3 – Roman

A massive expansion of activity took place in the early Roman period and features of this period appeared along the pipeline in Trenches 2, 3, 5, 6 and 13. This activity dated from the 1st to the 3rd century AD and consisted of enclosures, boundary ditches, structures, pits and postholes.

The bulk of the activity was found in Trench 13 where two large sub-rectangular enclosures dominate the area. The full dimensions of both enclosures are unknown as they extend beyond the excavated area, but Enclosure 4 was at least 16m wide by 21m long and Enclosure 5 was 33m wide by at least 25m long. They were aligned on the same north to south axis that was seen in the Bronze Age and Iron Age (see above), indicating further continuity of use. This is supported by a large fragment of triangular loom weight (SF4, Plate 3,) (found in fill (270) of Enclosure 5), which has been dated to the 1st century BC to 1st century AD (Appendix 3).

The large size of the enclosures suggests that they were intended to hold livestock and the presence of two small shelters in each (Structures 2 and 3) supports this. They were possibly temporary shelters designed to protect against the elements. A number of pits containing small quantities of animal bone, flint and pottery were associated with the shelters.

Evidence gained from analysis of the faunal and environmental remains (see Appendix 8), which came predominantly from Trench 13, suggests that the enclosures in use throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British period were used to keep livestock and not for processing crops. Plant macrofossils, in particular cereal grains, were very rare, found in only three contexts. The faunal assemblage shows that the livestock comprised cattle and sheep/goat bones only, with cattle dominating.

Ditches **23** and **29** in Trench 5 may have represented a third sub-rectangular enclosure (Fig. 2). They lay parallel, approximately 34m apart and were also oriented on roughly the same alignment as Enclosures 4 and 5. This was either part of a very extensive system (unlikely) stretching north from Trench 13, or a separate area of enclosures relating to a second settlement.

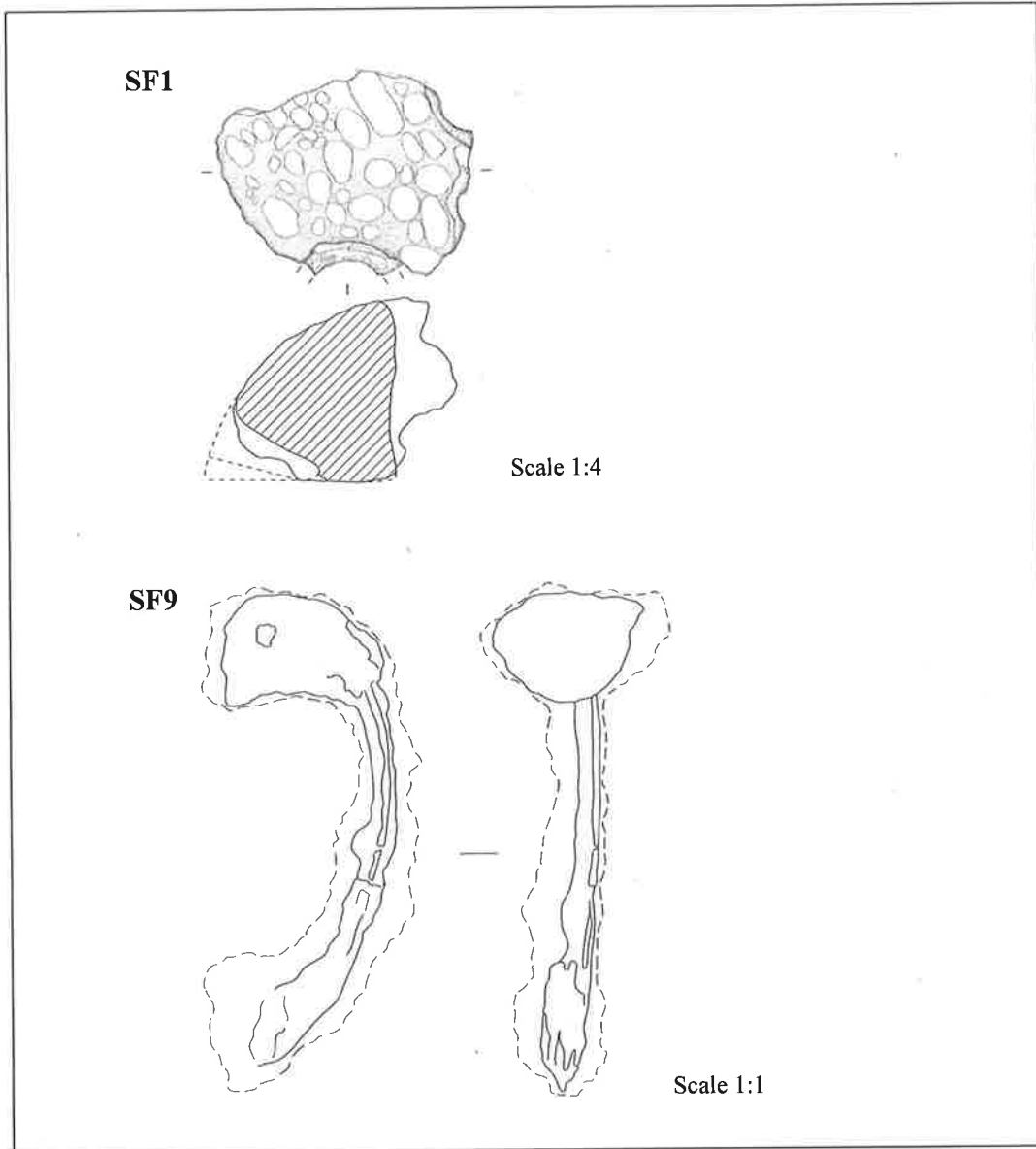


Figure 11: Puddingstone quernstone fragment (SF1) and sprung bow brooch (SF9)

Ditches **9**, **11**, **13** and **17** in Trench 2 were probably part of a rectilinear field system measuring approximately 32m wide. Pottery evidence (7 sherds at 0.052kg) suggests this feature was dateable to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Ditch **19** in Trench 3 is difficult to interpret. It was an isolated feature close to March Road that appeared not to relate to activity in Trenches 2 or 4. It was probably a boundary ditch. Ditches **92** and **94** (in Trench 6) were much wider than others in nearby trenches and a large (46g) sherd of 1st to 2nd century AD pottery amongst very small and abraded prehistoric sherds (2), suggests they may have belonged to this [Roman] phase of activity. Although undated, ditch **90** was similar in form to **92** and **94** and therefore probably contemporary.

6.4 Phase 4 – Post-medieval/Modern

Post-medieval and modern activity is well represented along the pipeline route and was found in Trench 1, Trench 12 and Trench 13. Activity of note includes the ditches (**370**, **371** and **372**) in Trench 1 that were field boundaries of post-medieval fields on Sedge Fen and ditch and tree throw **62** and **206** (in Trench 13), which were thought to be the remains of a pathway. Both are shown on the 1885 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

7 Conclusions

This evaluation has shown that Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British activity was taking place on the edge of the fen islands of Wimblington and Doddington and was largely agricultural in character, although with Bronze Age ritual activities on the edge of the fen island.

Prior to this evaluation, most of the archaeological work undertaken in the Wimblington area had been small scale and focussed on the current settlement area, where the remains have been identified as medieval or post-medieval, for example HER 05914 (see section 3.4 above) and ECB2056. At the periphery of the current settlement, remains were dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods, such as HER10006 and 06064.

Remains of a similar date were found nearby in 2005 during the excavations at Wimblington Road, March, carried out by Rob Atkins of CCC AFU. The site was a rural settlement on March island, occupied from about the 3rd century BC until the mid 3rd century AD (Atkins 2005). The main site (Trench 13) at Wimblington however differs from the site at March in many ways; firstly it appears to have been purely agrarian in nature. It contained no evidence of domestic occupation - the structures identified were only small shelters, with no evidence for

hearths, floor surfaces or accumulation of debris. Both the Iron Age and Roman pottery assemblages (small, at 281 sherds and abraded) and the exceedingly scarce environmental remains (Appendix 9), indicate that domestic occupation would be located nearby, perhaps in the form of a farmstead or low order settlement (Appendix 2). Secondly, the site was comparatively low status, as reflected in the pottery and small finds assemblages. Not only was the quantity of finds smaller than that at Wimblington Road, but it was also of lesser quality. Only one metal object of significance was found (the sprung bow brooch, SF4, Fig. 2, Plate 3) and the pottery comprised a fragmentary and abraded assemblage, with few imported/fine wares. A single sherd of samian was recovered.

The general pattern of activity along the pipeline route shows a landscape that was used at a low intensity during the Bronze Age, with the definition of large areas by large ditches and the setting out of enclosures. There is also evidence of a Bronze Age community, possibly located at Doddington, adjacent to the area of funeral pyre remains found in Trench 17. As no other contemporary activity was seen along the pipeline corridor, it is likely that the south-east of the Wimblington island and the east side of Doddington were the focus of Bronze Age activity. This may be supported by surface finds from the Doddington area, found during the Fenland Project, including a perforated pebble hammer, a plain, socketed looped-axe, a few flints and a Bronze Age Beaker (Hall, 1992). Artefacts have also been recovered from Jenny Gray's Farm and Stonea to the east, which include lithics, and barrows have been identified in the same area (Hall 1992).

During the Iron Age, activity remained on the south-east side of the island, but appears to have become focussed on the area around Trench 13 where a large enclosure was repeatedly divided into smaller areas for keeping livestock (cattle and sheep/goats). This marks the beginning of the period of most intense activity in the area, which peaked around the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD and then declined during the 2nd century AD. Although currently unlocated, it is likely that the domestic areas associated with these enclosures were located on the higher ground immediately to the east. The presence of (undated) enclosures shown as cropmarks to the south of Trench 13 and east of Trench 14 (HER11640) and to the north-east of the island (HER08984) may indicate that during the Iron Age the population had expanded and that a series of small settlements had emerged scattered across the Wimblington island, resulting in a more intensively occupied landscape, of which the enclosures in Trench 13 were a part.

Between the 1st and 2nd century AD, enclosures and boundary ditches appear along the length of the pipeline route showing a change to a more extensive system of agriculture with both rectilinear field systems and large sub-rectangular enclosures. There may be two reasons for this. Firstly, during the Roman period a regional fall in sea

level appears to have occurred; Stonea, to the east of the evaluation, was identified as located on the maximum limit for these different tidal waters. The fens would therefore have been a reasonably accessible and rich area for settlement during the Roman period, as the environmental conditions would have been benign. Secondly, the organisation of the empire with the enterprise of the local population allowed a rapid exploitation of the region (Malim 2005).

Previous studies of the fenland region suggest that the aftermath of the Boudican rebellion left the fens seriously depressed, with a population decimated and a landscape of ravaged settlements and crops. It is thought that the Roman settlers would have found a landscape that had been largely neglected for two to three generations where they could create a fresh landscape and establish new communities (after Malim 2005). This may also have occurred at Wimblington. The evidence from the pottery assemblage suggests that occupation lasted into the 1st century BC and recommenced later in the second half of the 1st century AD (Appendix 2). Despite this break in occupation, traces of the Iron Age field system must still have been evident in the ground. The large sub-rectangular fields of the Roman period, particularly in Trench 13, lie directly over and on the same alignment as the earlier enclosures.

Pottery evidence suggests the area was in decline during the 3rd century AD, with very few later fabrics of later date. This decline in activity in the 3rd century is seen elsewhere in the fenland region, for example at Upwell, Welney, Hockwold, Earith, Fengate Grandford and Flaggrass (Malim 2005). Unlike the site at this evaluation, however, and at Wimblington Road, March, these places were abandoned due to the widespread flood episodes that deposited a thick layer of silt over earlier features (Malim 2005). As nearby Stonea escaped most of the worst flooding, it is not inconceivable that the Wimblington site also suffered less or perhaps not at all. No evidence of silting was identified anywhere along the pipeline route.

It would appear therefore, that the site identified at Wimblington is a fairly typical example of small Iron Age and Romano-British fen edge occupation, affected by the changes imposed by the Romans and the effects of widespread flooding events during the 3rd century BC. What is perhaps most interesting about the site is the evidence of a much earlier occupation of the landscape, starting as early, perhaps, as the Neolithic period.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks also go to staff from Northamptonshire Archaeology and CCC AFU, including Rachel Clarke for surveying. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay.

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

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| Thomas, A | 2005 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation on the March to Chatteris Main, Anglia Water Pipeline (Wimblington)</i> |



Plate 1: Iron Age features (Phase 2) at the north-east end of Trench 13



Plate 2: Millstone grit quernstone (SF3)



Plate 3: Fragment of triangular loomweight (SF4)



Plate 4: Funeral pyre deposit, pit 501 (pre-excavation)



Plate 5: Funeral pyre deposit, pit 501 (post-excavation)



Plate 6: Possible pyre deposit, pit 523 (post-excavation)

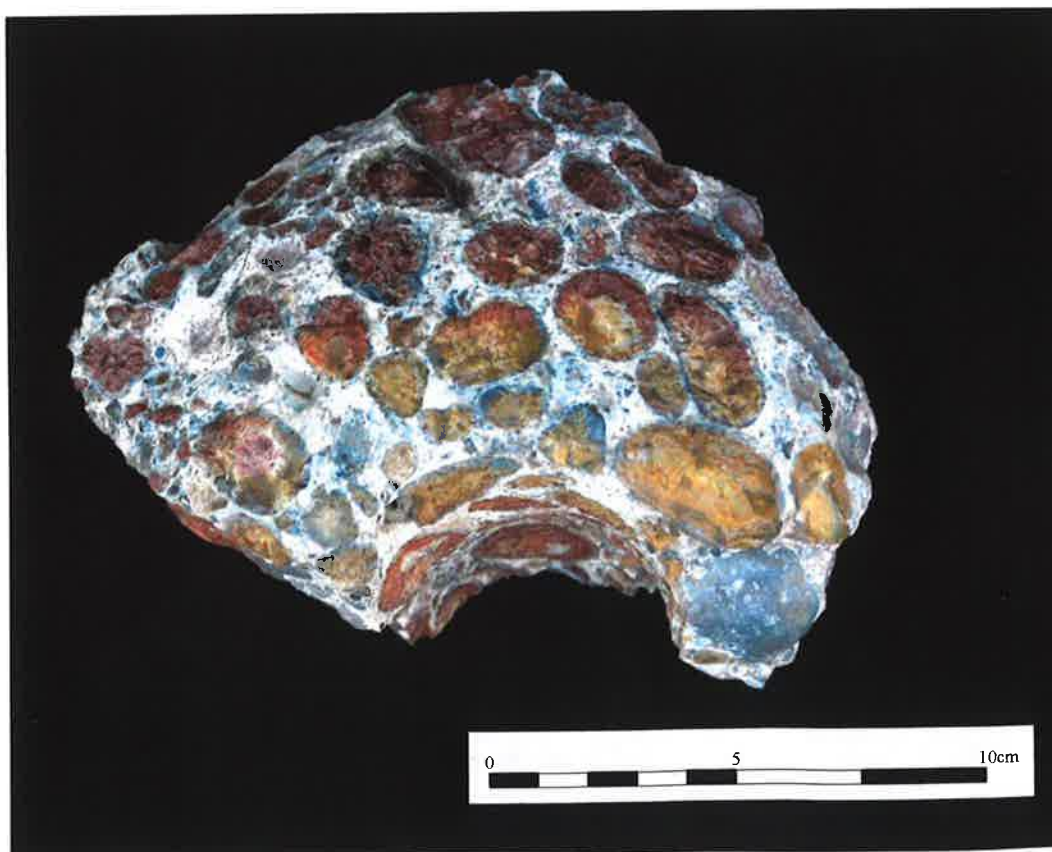


Plate 7: Puddingstone quernstone (SF1)

Appendix 1: Description of Contexts and Trench 13 Matrix

Context Summary

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
1	0		layer	topsoil	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
2	3	1	fill	pit	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
3	3	1	cut	pit			u-shape
4	5	1	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown, dark mottling	
5	5	1	cut	ditch			wide, shallow u-shape
6	7	1	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown, orange brown mottling	
7	7	1	cut	ditch			regular
8	9	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
9	9	2	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
10	11	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
11	11	2	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
12	13	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
13	13	2	cut	ditch			stepped, flat-based u-shape
14	15	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
15	15	2	cut	ditch			shallow u-shape
16	17	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
17	17	2	cut	ditch			flat-based u-shape
18	19	3	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
19	19	3	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
20	21	4	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown, orange mottling	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
21	4	cut	ditch				u-shape
22	23	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	regular	
23	23	cut	ditch				
24	25	fill	pit	silty clay	mid grey brown	u-shape	
25	25	cut	pit				
26	27		drain				
27	27		drain				
28	29	fill	ditch	silty clay	greyish brown	flat-based u-shape	
29	29	cut	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown		
30	31	fill	pit				
31	31	cut	pit				
32	33	fill	pit/ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown	wide, shallow u-shape	
33	33	cut	pit/ditch	silty clay	dark blackish grey		
34	35	fill	pit				
35	35	cut	pit				
36	37	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish brown		
37	37	cut	pit				
38	39	fill	ditch	silty sand	mid orangey brown	shallow, flat-based u-shape	
39	39	cut	ditch	sandy clay	dark orange brown		
40	41	fill	pit				
41	41	cut	pit				
42	43	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark brownish grey	shallow wide u-shape	
43	43	cut	ditch				
44	45	fill	pit	silty clay	mid orange brown	shallow wide u-shape	
45	45	cut	pit				
46	47	fill	pit	silty sand	mid orange brown		
47	47	cut	pit				
48	49	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid black brown	u-shape	
49	49	cut	ditch				
50	51	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid black brown	u-shape	
51	51	cut	ditch				
52	53	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	u-shape	
53	53	cut	ditch				

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
54	55	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid grey brown	
55	55	13	cut	pit			flat-based u
56	57	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid orange brown	
57	57	13	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
58	59	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid black brown	
59	59	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
60	59	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid orange brown	
61	62	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	
62	62	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
63	64	13	fill	gully	silty clay	mid grey brown	
64	64	13	cut	gully			u-shape
65	66	13	fill	gully			
66	66	13	cut	gully			
67	68	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid grey brown	
68	68	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
69	70	13	fill	gully	silty clay	mid grey brown	
70	70	13	cut	gully			u-shape
71	72	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
72	72	13	cut	pit			shallow u-shape
73	74	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid grey brown	
74	74	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape
75	76	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	light greyish brown	
76	76	13	cut	ditch			very shallow u-shape
79	80	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid grey brown	
80	80	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape
81	82	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid orange brown	
82	82	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape
83	84	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	
84	84	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
85	86	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid grey brown	
86	86	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape
87	88	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid orange brown	
88	88	13	cut	pit			u-shape

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
89	90	6	fill	ditch	silty clay	light grey brown	
90	90	6	cut	ditch			u-shape
91	92	6	fill	ditch	silty clay	light greyish brown	
92	92	6	cut	ditch			wide shallow u-shape
93	94	6	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	
94	94	6	cut	ditch			irregular u-shape
95	96	10	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid orange brown	
96	96	10	cut	ditch			u-shape
97	98	10	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	
98	98	10	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
99	101	7	fill	pit	silty clay	dark grey brown	
100	101	7	fill	pit	silty clay	dark black brown	
101	101	7	cut	pit			u-shape
102	103	8	fill	pit	silty clay	dark grey brown	
103	103	8	cut	pit			u-shape
104	105	11	fill	ditch			
105	105	11	cut	ditch			
106	107	11	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid orange brown	
107	107	11	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
108	109	12	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	
109	109	12	cut	ditch			irregular
110	111	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	
111	111	2	cut	ditch			wide and shallow
112	113	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	
113	113	2	cut	ditch			shallow wide u-shape
114	115	2	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
115	115	2	cut	posthole			wide u-shape
116	117	2	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
117	117	2	cut	posthole			u-shape
118	119	2	fill	ditch	silty clay	light brown	
119	119	2	cut	ditch			
120	121	2	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
121	121	2	cut	posthole			u-shape

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
122	123	13	fill	posthole	sandy silt	mid orange grey	
123	123	13	cut	posthole			shallow wide u-shape
124	125	13	fill	posthole	sandy silt	mid brownish grey	
125	125	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
126	127	13	fill	ditch	silt	dark grey	
127	127	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
128	131	13	fill	ditch	silt	greyish dark brown	
131	131	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
132	133	13	fill	pit	silt	brownish	
133	133	13	cut	pit			wide shallow u-shape
134	135	8	fill	pit	sandy silt	dark orange grey	
135	135	8	cut	pit			u-shape
136	137	8	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
137	137	8	cut	pit			wide u-shape
138	139	8	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
139	139	8	cut	pit			wide u-shape
140	141	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
141	141	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
142	143	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
143	143	13	cut	ditch			shallow wide U-shape
144	145	13	fill	ditch			
145	145	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
146	179	13	fill	post pit	silty clay	mid blackish grey	
147	147	13	cut	pit			shallow wide U-shape
148	149	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid blackish grey	
149	149	13	cut	postpipe			u-shape
150	151	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
151	151	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
152	153	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid brown	
153	153	13	cut	pit			u-shape
154	155	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey	
155	155	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
156	157	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark grey	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
157	157	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
158	159	13	fill	pit	clay silt	mid brown	u-shape
159	159	13	cut	pit/ vegetation			
160	167	13	fill	ditch	clay sand	mid brown	
161	162	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid yellowish grey	v shaped
162	162	13	cut	ditch			
163	164	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey	u-shape
164	164	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
167	167	13	cut	ditch			
168	169	13	fill	pit	clay	light brown	u-shape
169	169	13	cut	pit			
170		13	layer	cleaning			
171	172	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark brown	
172	172	13	cut	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	regular u-shape
173	174	13	fill	ditch			
174	174	13	cut	ditch	silty clay	mid yellowish brown	v-shaped
175	176	13	fill	ditch	loam	light brownish yellow	u-shape
176	176	13	cut	ditch			
177	147	13	fill	posthole/pit	clay	mixed orange brown	
178	149	13	fill	posthole/pipe	silty clay	mid brownish grey	
179	180	13	fill	posthole	silty sand	mid reddish grey	u-shape
180	180	13	cut	poathole			
181	182	13	fill	ditch/furrow	silty clay	light yellowish brown	wide, flat u-shape
182	182	13	cut	ditch/furrow			
183	184	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
184	184	13	cut	posthole			
185	186	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	irregular u-shape
186	186	13	cut	ditch			
187	188	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid grey brown	shallow u-shape
188	188	13	cut	ditch			
189	190	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	dark brownish black	u-shape
190	190	13	cut	posthole			

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
191	192	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	dark grey black	
192	192	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
193	194	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	dark grey brown	
194	194	13	cut	posthole			slightly irregular u-shape
195	196	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid greyish orange	
196	196	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
197	198	13	fill	ditch	loam	mid reddish brown	
198	198	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
199	200	13	fill	posthole	clay	dark greyish orange	
200	200	13	cut	posthole			wide u-shape
201	202	13	fill	Posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
202	202	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
203	204	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid brown	
204	204	13	cut	pit			u-shape
205	206	13	fill	pit/vegetation	silty clay	pale orange brown	
206	206	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape
207	208	13	fill	pit/ posthole	silty sand	mid orange grey	
208	208	13	cut	pit/posthole			flat based u-shape
209	210	13	fill	pit/posthole	silty sand	mid reddish brown	
210	210	13	cut	pit/posthole			uneven u-shape
211	213	11	fill	ditch	clay	orangeish grey	
212	213	11	fill	ditch	clay	mid orangeish grey	
213	213	11	cut	ditch			wide u-shape
214	215	11	fill	ditch	clay	grey	
215	215	11	cut	ditch			Wide, flat-bottomed u-shape
216	217	11	fill	ditch	pale	orange grey	
217	217	11	cut	ditch			Wide, flat-bottomed u-shape
218	219	13	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
219	219	13	cut	pit			wide, shallow u-shape
220	221	13	fill	pit	silty clay	greyish brown	
221	221	13	cut	pit			wide u-shape

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
222	223	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark blueish grey	wide u-shape
223	223	13	cut	ditch			
224	227	13	fill	pit	clay loam	mid orange grey	
225	227	13	fill	pit	silty clay	dark blackish grey	
226	227	13	fill	pit	silty gravel	light orange grey	u-shape
227	227	13	cut	pit			
228	229	13	fill	ditch	clay loam	light brownish grey	flat based u-shape
229	229	13	cut	ditch			
230	231	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
231	231	13	cut	posthole			
232	233	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
233	233	13	cut	posthole			
234	229	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark blackish grey	
235	223	13	fill	ditch	sandy clay	light orange brown	
236	237	13	fill	posthole	clay silt	mid brown	u-shape
237	237	13	cut	posthole			
238	239	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	flat based u-shape
239	239	13	cut	posthole			
240	241	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	very shallow u-shape
241	241	13	cut	ditch			
242	243	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	shallow u-shape
243	243	13	cut	posthole			
244	245	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	shallow u-shape
245	245	13	cut	posthole			
246	247	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
247	247	13	cut	ditch			
248	249	13	fill	ditch		same as 246	u-shape
249	249	13	cut	ditch			
250	251	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
251	251	13	cut	posthole			
252	263	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	pale brown	
253	254	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark greyish green	
254	254	13	cut	ditch			u-shape

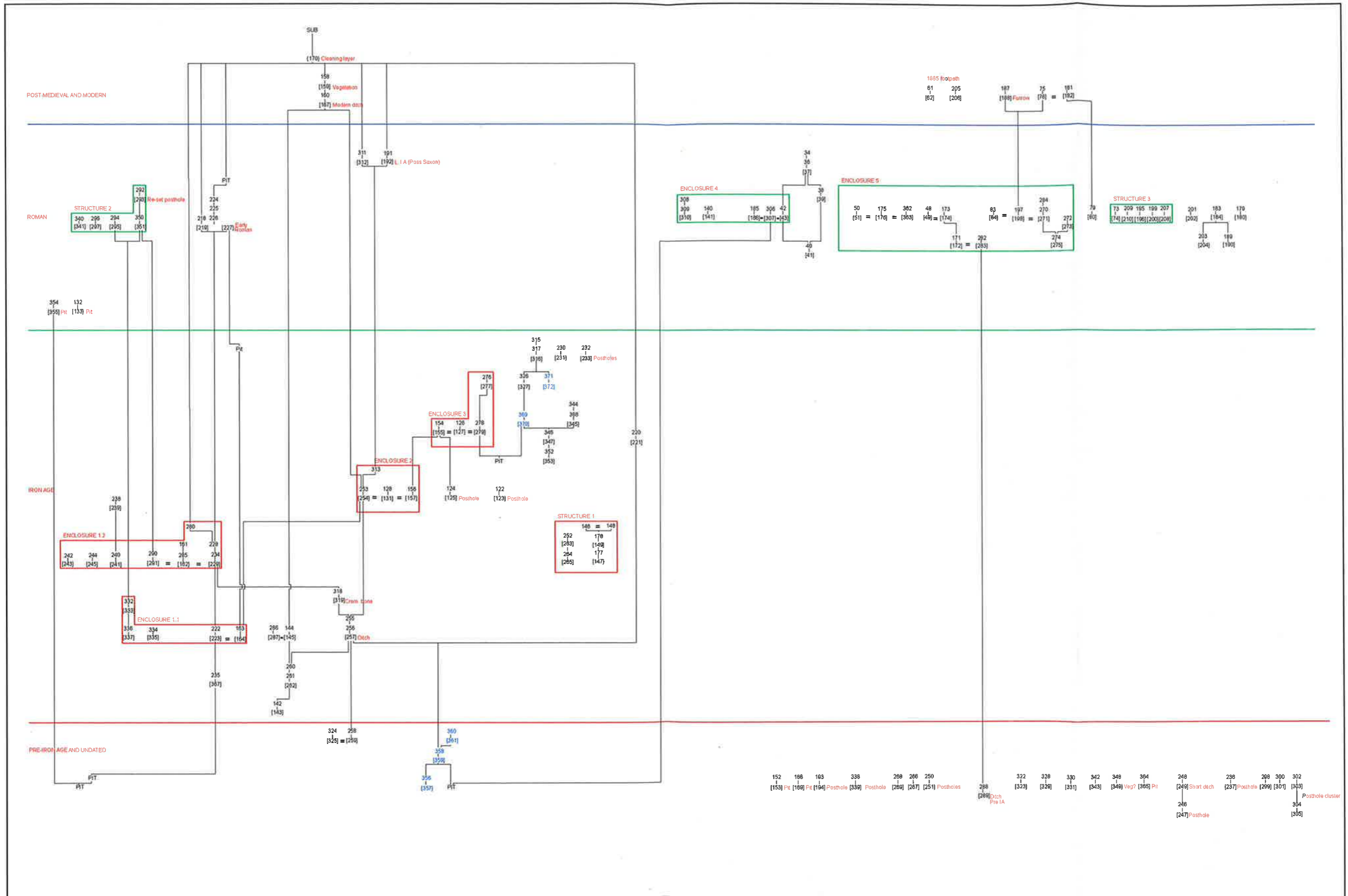
Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
255	257	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	dark grey	
256	257	13	fill	ditch	clay silt	mid greyish brown	
257	257	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
258	259	13	fill	gully	silty clay	dark brown	
259	259	13	cut	gully			u-shape
260	262	13	fill	pit	silty clay	dark grey	
261	262	13	fill	pit	silty clay/sandy gravel	mixed dark greyish orange	
262	262	13	cut	pit			u-shape
263	263	13	cut	posthole			u-shape
264	265	13	fill	pit	silty clay	pale brown	
265	265	13	cut	pit			uneven u-shape
266	267	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	
267	267	13	cut	posthole			wide u-shape
268	269	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid orange brown	
269	269	13	cut	posthole			wide u-shape
270	271	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brownish grey	
271	271	13	cut	ditch			uneven v-shape
272	273	13	fill	pit/posthole	silty clay	dark brownish grey	
273	273	13	cut	pit/posthole			u-shape
274	275	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
275	275	13	cut	ditch			u-shape
276	277	13	fill	gully	silty clay	light brown	
277	277	13	cut	gully			wide u-shape
278	279	13	fill	ditch		same as 126	
279	279	13	cut	ditch			
280	281	13	fill	ditch	silty loam	dark brownish grey	
281	281	13	cut	ditch			u-shape profile
282	283	13	fill	gully		same as 171	
283	283	13	cut	gully		same as 172	
284	271	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid greyish brown	
285	161	13	fill	ditch	clay	mid yellowish grey	
286	287	13	fill	gully	silty clay	dark grey brown	
287	287	13	cut	gully			u-shape

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
288	289	13	fill	ditch	clay loam	mid greyish brown, orange flecks	wide, shallow u-shape
289	289	13	cut	ditch			
290	291	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	narrow u-shape
291	291	13	cut	ditch			
292	291	13	cut	ditch	clay	yellowish brown	u-shape
293	293	13	fill	posthole			
294	293	13	cut	posthole	silty clay	yellowish brown	
295	295	13	fill	posthole			
296	295	13	cut	posthole	silty clay	pale yellowish brown	wide u-shape
297	297	13	fill	posthole			
298	297	13	cut	posthole	clay	dark orange brown	u-shape
299	299	13	fill	posthole			
300	299	13	cut	posthole		see 298	u-shape
301	301	13	fill	posthole			
302	301	13	cut	posthole	sandy clay	mid grey brown	u-shape
303	303	13	fill	posthole			
304	303	13	cut	posthole	clay loam	light orange grey	wide u-shape
305	305	13	fill	posthole			
306	305	13	cut	posthole		same as 185	
307	307	13	fill	ditch		same as 186	
308	310	13	cut	ditch	silty clay	mid brownish grey	
309	310	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid yellowish grey	u-shape
310	310	13	cut	ditch			
311	312	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid greenish grey	u-shape
312	312	13	cut	posthole			
313	314	13	fill	gully	silty clay	dark grey	u-shape
314	314	13	cut	gully			
315	316	13	fill	hearth	silty clay	dark brown black	u-shape
316	316	13	cut	pit			
317	316	13	fill	hearth	clay	light yellowish brown	
318	257	13	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish black	truncated u-shape
319	318	13	cut	pit			
322	323	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	light greyish brown	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
323	323	13	cut	posthole			regular u-shape
324	325	13	fill	gully		same as 258	
325	325	13	cut	gully			u-shape
326	327	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
327	327	13	cut	posthole			
328	329	13	fill	posthole	sandy clay	dark orange brown	wide u-shape
329	329	13	cut	posthole			
330	331	13	fill	posthole	clay	very dark orange brown	wide u-shape
331	331	13	cut	posthole			
332	333	13	fill	ditch	silt clay	greyish brown	shallow, asymmetrical u-shape
333	333	13	cut	ditch			
334	335	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	greyish brown	shallow u-shape
335	335	13	cut	ditch			
336	337	13	fill	ditch	silty clay	mid brown	wide, shallow u-shape
337	337	13	cut	ditch			
338	339	13	fill	posthole	sandy clay	mid orange brown	u-shape
339	339	13	cut	posthole			
340	341	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid brown	wide u-shape
341	341	13	cut	pit/posthole			
342	343	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid brown	irregular u-shape
343	343	13	cut	pit			
344	345	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
345	345	13	cut	pit			
346	347	13	fill	posthole	silty clay	mid brown	u-shape
347	347	13	cut	posthole			
348	349	13	fill	unknown	silty clay	mid blueish brown	flat-based u-shape
349	349	13	cut	unknown			
350	351	13	fill	pit/posthole	silty clay	greyish brown	wide, flat-based u-shape
351	351	13	cut	pit/posthole			
352	353	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid greyish brown	shallow u-shape
353	353	13	cut	pit			
354	355	13	fill	pit	silty clay	mid yellowish grey	

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
355	13	cut	pit				flat-based u-shape
362	13	fill	ditch			same as 175	
363	13	cut	ditch			same as 176	
364	13	fill	pit		silty clay	light reddish grey	wide, shallow u-shape
365	13	cut	pit				u-shape
367	13	cut	ditch		silty clay	light yellowish brown	
368	13	fill	pit				
369	13	cut	ditch				
370	13	cut	ditch				
371	13	cut	ditch				
372	13	cut	ditch				
373	1	cut	ditch				
374	1	cut	ditch				
375	1	cut	ditch				
376	1	cut	ditch				
377	1	cut	posthole				
378	1	cut	pit				
379	1	cut	ditch				
380	1	cut	ditch				
381	1	cut	ditch				
382	2	cut	ditch				
500	17	fill	pit		clay	dark orange brown	u-shape
501	17	cut	pit				
502	17	fill	pit		clay	dark orange brown, black	stepped u-shape
503	17	cut	pit		silty clay	very dark	asymmetrical u-shape
504	17	fill	pit				
505	17	cut	pit		silty ash	mid greyish black	flat based u-shape
506	17	fill	pit				
507	17	cut	pit		sandy clay	yellowish brown	wide u-shape
508	17	fill	pit				
509	17	cut	pit		silty sand	blackish brown	
510	17	fill	pit				

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Fine Component	Colour	Profile
511	511	17	cut	pit			regular squared shape
512	513	17	fill	pit	silty sand	mid orange brown	
513	513	17	cut	pit			sharp u-shape
518	519	17	fill	pit	silty clay	dark greyish brown	
519	519	17	cut	pit			u-shape
520	521	17	fill	pit	silty ash	dark black	
521	521	17	cut	pit			squared u-shape
522	523	17	fill	pit	sandy clay	mid brown	
523	523	17	cut	pit			u-shape
800	0		layer		silty sand	mid orange brown	



Trench 13 matrix

Appendix 2: The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

By Sarah Percival with specialist comment by Alice Lyons

1 Summary

A small assemblage of 281 sherds, weighing 2,268g, was recovered from 57 excavated contexts and unstratified deposits. The assemblage contained pottery from several periods, principally the later Iron Age and Roman. Small quantities of earlier prehistoric pottery were also found (Table 5).

No complete vessels or vessel profiles are present. The sherds are small and highly fragmentary, many are abraded. Most of the pottery was found in the fills of ditches with a small quantity coming from pits and post-holes. The Iron Age pottery is consistent with small-scale domestic activity and appears to be largely redeposited. The Roman assemblage consists mostly of locally produced coarsewares typical of a low order Fen edge settlement.

Period	Quantity	Weight (g)
Prehistoric	29	77
Bronze Age	1	5
Earlier Bronze Age	7	76
Iron Age	50	512
Later Iron Age	110	783
Roman	73	784
Not closely datable	1	31
Total	281	2268

Table 5: Quantity and weight of pottery by period

2 The Assemblage

Prehistoric

Twenty-nine sherds, weighing 77g, were assigned a prehistoric date but were too small and abraded to be more closely identified.

Bronze Age

A single sherd of probable Bronze Age date was found in the fill of ditch 59. The sherd is made of distinctive grog tempered fabric but could not be identified to a specific form.

Earlier Bronze Age

Seven sherds, weighing 76g, were recovered from three features (Table 6). The sherds are made of a coarse grog tempered fabric containing moderate medium size sub-angular pieces of grog and quartz sand. Two rims were found. One, from pit 523, has a shallow everted rim decorated with slashes or impressions on the exterior. The sherds are highly abraded. A second rim, from pit 221, has an internal bevel typical of earlier Bronze Age forms but cannot be closely identified.

Trench	Feature	Cut	Quantity	Weight (g)
13	Ditch	43	1	9
13	Pit	221	1	7
17	Pit	523	5	60
Total			7	76

Table 6: Quantity and weight of later Bronze Age pottery by feature

The decorated rim from pit 523 Trench 17 is similar in form to an unclassified Food Vessel found at Harford Farm, near Norwich (Ashwin and Bates 2000, fig.73). The Harford Farm vessel was found inverted at the base of a grave and may have been an accessory vessel accompanying a secondary inhumation or cremation placed within a round barrow. Food vessels were in use from around 2000BC until 1200BC, and were often found associated with burials or cremations (Gibson 2002, 97).

Iron Age and later Iron Age

The Iron Age assemblage has been catalogued using two headings, the term 'Iron Age' has been used to describe the sherds which are not closely datable within the Iron Age period and 'later Iron Age' to include sherds dating to the 3rd to 1st centuries BC. Although it is possible that an earlier phase of Iron Age activity took place at the site it is more likely that the Iron Age sherds represent long lived forms, which were in use alongside the more distinctive later Iron Age vessels.

3 Fabrics

Ten fabrics were identified in four fabric groups. The majority of the sherds are of sand tempered fabrics (900g; 70%), with smaller quantities of shell (222g; 17%), grog (145g; 11%) and flint tempered sherds (28g; 2%).

Period	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
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Iron Age	F1	1	28
	Q	4	2
	Q1	33	237
	Q2	5	76
	Q3	3	56
	S1	13	84
	S2	1	29
	Later Iron Age	G2	13
Q1		24	120
Q2		29	248
Q4		3	8
Q5		10	106
Q6		9	33
QM		1	14
S1		8	17
S2		13	92
Total			170

Table 7: Quantity and weight of Iron Age and later Iron Age pottery by fabric

The predominantly sand tempered assemblage compares well with pottery from other Iron Age sites around Ely and March many of which show a preference for quartz sand rich fabrics despite a ready supply of shell rich sources being available (Hill and Horne 2003, 171). This use of sand temper contrasts with contemporary assemblages from Huntingdon, Haddenham and St Neots that are predominantly shell tempered. It is probable that the quartz sand tempered fabrics utilised the Boulder Clays which contained naturally occurring organic material whilst the majority the shell-tempered pottery was made of locally available Kimmeridge Clay which contained fossil shell.

The grog tempered wares are similar to those found in small quantities on most mid-to-late Iron Age sites in Cambridgeshire and were probably brought to the site from sources in southern Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex (Hill and Horne 2003, 170).

4 Forms

The assemblage contains a minimum of fourteen vessels (based on rim count). The vessels of generic mid-to-late Iron Age form comprise a range of jars. These include two are shouldered jars with short upright flattened rims and a shouldered jar short upright rounded rim, typical of example found at Ely (Hill and Horne 2003, fig.82, 1). A single small burnished jar has a flat-topped rim and one a vessel has a flattened rim with possible fingertip impressed decoration to the rim top (Hill and Horne 2003, fig.76, 1). Two sherds are scored.

Later forms include a medium mouth jar with short neck rounded shoulder and rounded rim (Hill and Horne 2003, fig 83, 7), a wide

mouth jar and at least three cordoned jars (Hill and Horne 2003, fig. 83, 1). Rim forms are rounded, beaded or pointed. Body sherds have thin walls and sinuous curves. All forms are handmade. Decoration is absent. The cordoned jars confirm the later Iron Age date of the assemblage and indicate the beginning of a transition to more Romanised cooking and dining habits.

5 Distribution and Deposition

The Iron Age pottery was not evenly distributed between the trenches. The majority of the assemblage came from Trench 13 (1160g; 90%), 3% came from Trench 2 (39g), 2% from Trench 11 (28g) and less than 1% from Trench 7 (3g). Sixty-five grams came from unstratified contexts. The pottery from Trench 2 is of later Iron Age fabric and form, whilst the single sherd from Trench 11 is of flint tempered fabric and may be of earlier Iron Age or perhaps even earlier Neolithic date.

Trench 13 contains both Iron Age and later Iron Age forms, mostly recovered from the fills of ditches (Table 8 below). Features that contain generic Iron Age pottery include boundary ditch [145] and ditch **141**. It is possible that these ditches may be earlier in origin than features that also contain later Iron Age and Roman forms. Boundary ditches **127**, **131** and **281** and enclosure ditch **271** contain only 3rd-to-1st century forms and may have gone out of use at this time.

All the pits and post-holes that contain Iron Age and later Iron Age pottery were found in Trench 13. Of these pits **41**, **229** and **262** contain pottery of possible mid Iron Age form whilst **55**, **208**, **219** and **227** contain only later Iron Age sherds. The remaining pits and post-holes contain mixed forms suggesting a later date for these features. All the pit assemblages are small, none containing more than six sherds.

Trench	Feature Type	Cut	Quantity	Weight (g)
0	Unknown	0	15	65
2	Ditch	9	2	15
		13	2	7
		17	1	17
7	U/S	U/S	6	3
11	Ditch	11	1	28
13	Cleaning	0	11	175
	Ditch	84	1	6
		127	6	11
		131	3	14
		141	2	10
		145	9	53
		162	15	77
		164	12	110
		186	11	86
		223	6	9
		254	13	102
		257	4	50
		271	5	9
		281	2	33
		285, 225	6	12
			Gully	287
297	2			41
314	1			7
	Pit	41	2	11
		55	3	15
		206	1	2
		219	3	6
		227	2	5
		229	1	2
		262	5	124
		265	1	13
		319	2	15
	Pit/posthole	208	6	64
	Posthole	125	2	8
		179	2	11
		191	1	7
	U/S	U/S	1	37
Total			170	1295

Table 8: Quantity and weight of Iron Age and later Iron Age pottery by feature by trench

6 Discussion

The assemblage is typical of contemporary assemblages found in the March and Ely region being characterised by shouldered jar forms in mainly sandy fabrics. The small quantities of shell and grog tempered sherds suggest that the site was receiving small quantities of pottery imported to the site from southern Cambridgeshire, especially in the

later Iron Age, the 3rd-to-1st centuries. Contemporary assemblages have been found at Wardy Hill, Coveney, Ely (Hill and Horne 2000) and at Wimblington Road, March (Lyons and Percival 2004). Unlike the assemblage from Wimblington Road, March this assemblage is highly fragmentary consisting mostly of small sherds with few rims or other diagnostic forms, this suggests a high degree of residuality within the assemblage.

The assemblage suggests small-scale occupation later Iron Age, at least from the 3rd century BC and into the 1st centuries BC and perhaps earlier, almost certainly with a farmstead or other dwelling close by. The assemblage is domestic in nature mostly consisting of medium size cooking jars with a small number of shell tempered storage jars, perhaps being imported onto the site.

7 Roman Pottery

A small assemblage (73 sherds; 784g) of Romano British pottery was recovered from the fills of twenty features, the majority from Trench 13. Nine fabrics were identified, most are unsourced but locally produced coarse wares. Although a single sherd of samian imported from Gaul (Tomber and Dore 1998, 25-41) and fabrics from the regional pottery production centres at the Nene Valley (Tomber and Dore 1998, 117-120) and Horningsea (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116) were also found.

The assemblage is mostly in poor condition and has a low average sherd size of 10g.

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
BSRW	Black surfaced red ware	2	29
GWF	Fine grey ware	1	12
HORN	Horningsea ware	1	11
NVGW	Nene Valley grey ware	7	123
SAM	Samian	1	20
SCW	Sandy coarse ware	46	421
SGW	Sandy grey ware	12	145
SOW	Sandy oxidised ware	2	14
SRW	Sandy reduced ware	1	9
Total		73	784

Table 9: Roman pottery fabric types

A limited number of forms are present; these include three wide mouth jars in NVGW, a medium mouth jar in BSRW, and two narrow mouth jars and in SGW and SCW. Other forms include a straight-sided dish in NVGW and a Horningsea combed storage jar. One SGW base had a hole punched through post-firing that suggests that the vessel had been re-used. Only two fine wares are present, the single base sherd of fine grey ware possibly from imitation samian bowl (Tomber and

Dore 1998, 185) and a base sherd from a Samian dish from central Gaul.

This is a small and very abraded assemblage mostly consisting of not closely datable locally produced coarsewares with some Nene Valley grey wares and one unprovenanced fine grey ware. The assemblage contains no specialist wares apart from one Samian sherd, which is a more useful indicator of date than status. Samian was very rare until after the mid 1st century when it came into the civilian market, therefore a date in the later 1st century into the 2nd century is probable. The lack of later fine wares such as Nene Valley colour coat confirms this date. This is a typical Fen edge assemblage from a farmstead or similar low order settlement.

8 Conclusion

The assemblage is similar to the Roman assemblage from Wimblington Road, March that contained a sizeable transitional Iron Age to Roman assemblage indicating continuous occupation of the site throughout the 1st centuries BC to AD with activity ceasing by the middle of the 3rd century AD (Lyons and Percival 2004).

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Appendix 2.1: Fabric Descriptions

F1 Coarse angular flint inclusions.

- G2 Fine sandy fine grog tempered fabric, moderate quartz (0.5mm), sparse grog (0.25mm).
- QM micaceous fabric with plant tempering, moderate mica (tiny), sparse plant voids (4mm), rare quartz (0.25mm).
- Q1 Sandy fabric with sparse plant temper (?). Common quartz (0.75mm), sparse iron oxides (0.75mm), sparse plant voids (4mm), some mica.
- Q2 Fine sandy fabric. Abundant quartz sand, some mica.
- Q3 Dense sandy fabric with angular flint. Abundant quartz sand, moderate angular flint (4mm), moderate rounded quartz.
- Q4 Sandy fabric with occasional shell, common quartz (0.75mm), sparse shell (1mm), some mica.
- Q5 Sandy fabric with common quartz (1mm), moderate red iron oxide (0.75mm), sparse dark iron inclusions.
- Q6 Fine sandy fabric with common quartz (2mm), rare shell (3mm).
- S1 Shelly fabric with abundant large pieces of shell (5mm).
- S2 Shelly fabric with some sand. Common shell (2mm), moderate quartz (1mm).

Appendix 3: The Metalwork, Quernstones and Loomweights

By Nina Crummy

The only copper-alloy object is a stud, while the iron objects consist of nails, most probably post-medieval or modern, and a sprung bow brooch. The brooch (Fig. 11, SF 9), from pit/cremation 318 is of the simple form that belongs to the period of transition from the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman period, and is of native manufacture. The characteristics of the type are quite broad, with the form of the bow varying from an even curve, as on this example, to straight following a sharply angled turn at the head, as on many of those from Dragonby, Lincolnshire. Most examples have a four-coil spring, but this has seven or eight. The Dragonby brooches came from contexts producing pottery ranging in date from the late 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD (Olivier 1996, 235, 237, figs 11.1-3), and the iron bow brooches from the King Harry Lane settlement and cemetery at Verulamium, Hertfordshire, are of similar date (Stead & Rigby 1989, 20, 96-8, 102). The number of spring coils on the March-Chatteris brooch suggest that it belongs to the first half of the 1st century AD, or perhaps slightly later.

Two quernstones from the site are both beehive-shaped upper-stones from rotary querns, one of Hertfordshire Puddingstone and one of Millstone Grit (SF 1, Fig. 11, Plate. 7 and SF 3, Plate2). Although Hertfordshire has the principal outcrops of Puddingstone, it also occurs in other counties and can also be found as glacial erratics, as can Millstone Grit, which comes from the Pennines (Major 2004, 2). Both stones may therefore have been made locally from erratics, but it is more probable that they were imported to the site. The Millstone Grit upper-stone has broken across two angled handle holes that pass fully through the thickness of the stone to the hopper. Puddingstone querns were, in contrast, usually fitted with an iron hoop that had an attached horizontal handle (Buckley & Major 1983, 76). The date of both of the Wimblington quernstones almost certainly lies in the 1st century AD, as although Millstone Grit querns occur throughout the Roman period, the beehive form of this example makes it contemporary to that of Puddingstone. The evidence from Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex, suggests that production of the latter started between c 10-25 AD, and ended between c. 40-160 AD, while the rural farmstead of Abbotstone, near Colchester, received a supply of Puddingstone querns in the late 1st century or early 2nd century, placing the end-date no earlier than c 100 (Major 2004, 3-4; Crummy forthcoming).

The two triangular loomweight fragments can only be closely dated by assemblage associations rather than form, as the type belongs to the Iron Age in general and did not die out until after the Roman conquest. The two from Wimblington are therefore most likely to be contemporary

with the Late Iron Age pottery from the site, dating to the 1st century BC to 1st century AD. At 704 g, the larger fragment (Plate. 3, SF 4), from ditch **271** probably represents rather more than half the weight of the complete object, which would lie within the range of 1.2-1.5 kg shown by the complete weights from Danebury, Hampshire (Cunliffe & Poole 1991, 375).

In terms of agricultural and craft activities the quernstones provide evidence of cereal cultivation and the loomweights of textile production using an upright warp-weighted loom. The fibre used is most likely to be wool, and therefore the community at Wimblington would have kept a flock of sheep or goats, at least some of whom would have been allowed to achieve maturity rather than being slaughtered within their first or second year, as would occur if the animals were kept only for the production of milk or meat. The iron brooch, although of British manufacture, need not necessarily have been made on site and therefore cannot be taken as proof of iron-smithing.

Catalogue

Metalwork

SF 2. Tr. 13 (181). Ditch fill. Copper-alloy stud with damaged convex head. Length 13 mm, diameter of head 11.5 mm.

Fig. 11, SF 9. Tr. 13 (318). Fill of pit/cremation **319**. Iron sprung one-piece bow brooch, complete apart from the pin. The wire bow forms an even curve from head to foot. The spring is of seven, perhaps eight, turns, with an inferior chord. The catchplate is small and solid. Length 65 mm.

SF 5. Tr. 13 (58). Ditch fill. Bent iron nail shank fragment. Length 24 mm.

SF 7. Tr. 2 (116). Ditch fill. Two iron nails, one with most of head missing, the other bent and with small round convex head. Lengths 62 and 72 mm. Post-medieval or modern.

SF 6. (99999). Unstratified. Iron nail with small round convex head; tip of shank missing. Length 40 mm. Post-medieval or modern.

Quernstones

Fig. 11, Plate 7. SF 1. Tr. 13 (170). Layer. Fragment of a beehive-shaped upper-stone from a rotary quern of Hertfordshire Puddingstone. The hopper hole tapers in diameter from top to bottom. Height 101 mm, diameter (incomplete) 220 mm, maximum diameter of central hole 55 mm.

Plate 2. SF 3. Tr. 13 (261). Fill of pit **262**. Fragment of a beehive-shaped upper-stone from a Millstone Grit rotary quern. The hopper hole tapers in diameter from top to bottom. There is a narrow handle hole, tapering towards the centre about halfway up on one side, and another set close to the base on the other side, but not diametrically opposite the first. Two small hollows, one near the top of the central hole and the other on the outer face are probably where pebble inclusions have fallen out, rather than abandoned handle holes. Height 159 mm, diameter 280 mm, maximum

diameter of central hole about 100 mm, maximum diameter of lower handle hole 22 mm.

Loomweights

Plate 3. SF 4. Tr. 13 (270). Fill of ditch **271**. Fragment of an abraded triangular loomweight, in seven pieces. Part of a corner survives, with a groove or saddle running across it, and most of one edge and one face. One perforation runs across the corner, and there is a part of another lower down the edge. The fabric is sandy and has a very few inclusions of small grit and small shattered pieces of burnt flint. It has fired to orange or orange-brown both internally and externally. Maximum surviving length 146 mm, maximum surviving length of edge 100 mm. Weight 704 g.

SF 8. Tr. 13 (256). Fill of ditch **257**. Fragment of a triangular loomweight, in fourteen pieces. The largest is from an edge and retains part of a perforation. The fabric is hard and has only a very few small grit inclusions, and has fired to very dark brown or black both internally and externally. Maximum surviving length of edge 56 mm. Weight 95 g.

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Appendix 4: Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher and Mo Jones

This evaluation recovered only a small assemblage of fired clay (Table 10). The condition of the overall assemblage was poor and the average size of fragments from individual contexts was small. No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely.

A single daub fragment was found within the assemblage (253) that has a surface but no wattle impression. The remainder of the assemblage consists of unclassified fragments, that is, material that has no identifiable features.

Material	Weight (g)	Quantity
Daub	2	1
Unclassified Fired Clay	609	55
Total	611	56

Table 10: The fired clay types represented in the assemblage

This small and relatively undiagnostic assemblage, in particular the lack of daub, suggests that there were no buildings in the vicinity of the pipeline route and that kilns and other similar structures were also not present or nearby. It is not possible to draw any further conclusions from this assemblage.

Appendix 5: Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

1 Introduction

This evaluation recovered ten pieces of worked flint and a single fragment of burnt flint. This report quantifies and describes the material (Catalogue), offers some comments on its significance and recommends any further work required. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

The material was recovered from a variety of contexts, most of which probably post-date the contained lithics, and the material can therefore be regarded as largely residually deposited.

2 Burnt Flint

A single fragment of burnt flint, weighing 8g, was recovered from unstratified deposits. It is burnt to the extent that it changed colour and became 'fire-crazed', consistent with burning in a hearth. Although generally indicative of settlement-type activities, the quantities recovered are too small to indicate any actual settlement location in the immediate vicinity, and more likely represents residual background waste.

3 Worked Flint

3.1 Raw Materials

A wide range of flint types and colours are present which, combined with the weathered and often smooth-rolled or chattered marked cortex present on many pieces, suggests the raw materials were obtained from derived, probably alluvial, sources such as the March gravels (Middleton 1992). No better-quality flint from the chalky boulder clays of the area was positively identified.

3.2 Condition

Overall, the assemblage is in good condition although a few pieces exhibited slight edge abrasion, indicative of light post-depositional damage consistent with their recovery from later features. One or two pieces retain larger, heavily hinge fractured scars, consistent with higher energy impacts such as from plough strikes.

4 Discussion

The assemblage is small and can only indicate sporadic and low-key activity in the vicinity of the investigations during the prehistoric period. No cores are present and the assemblage consists of flakes or flake fragments, a scraper and a fragment of otherwise unmodified burnt flint. Four fragments of unworked flint, from contexts 08, 12, 126 and 218 were also submitted for examination but are not discussed further in this report.

The only definitely retouch piece consists of the short-end scraper recovered from topsoil deposits in Trench 11. These are notoriously difficult to assign a date to and similar examples can be found within Mesolithic to Bronze Age assemblages. This particular example is competently made with some attempts to impose symmetry, which, although only tentative, may be most closely matched with Later Neolithic or Beaker-period scrapers (cf Middleton 1992, fig 8).

No other chronologically diagnostic pieces are present although considerations of the technological attributes of assemblage as a whole, particularly the prevalence of short, thick flakes with cortical or simple striking platforms, visible Hertzian cones and pronounced bulbs of percussion, suggests that the bulk of the it would be most consistent with Bronze Age industries, particularly those of the mid 2nd millennia BC onwards.

5 Recommendations

Due to its size and paucity of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed.

The material does contribute to the body of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and a reference should be made to it in the local Sites and Monuments/Historic Environment Record. In addition, a short description of the assemblage should be included in any published account of the fieldwork.

Should further fieldwork be considered attention should focus on obtaining as large and closely contexted lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted and, through consideration of other recovered artefact groups and environmental based evidence, this information should be incorporated into

establishing as detailed and complete an understanding as possible of the prehistoric exploitation of the area.

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Catalogue

Context 01 Tr. 3

Flake of semi-opaque grey flint with cortical striking platform 7mm thick, pronounced bulb of percussion and overshoot distal termination. Dorsal has a single flake scar and c.20% chattermarked cortex. 30mm X 30mm X 9mm.

Context 01 Tr. 11

Short-end scraper of translucent black flint with lightly edge-trimmed striking platform 4mm wide, pronounced bulb of percussion and retouched distal termination. Dorsal consists of several unidirectional flake scars. Retouch consists of convex steep scalar flaking limited to the distal. 42mm X 42mm X 8mm.

Context 02

Proximal flake fragment of opaque light brown flint with cortical striking platform 5mm thick, developed Hertzian cone, pronounced bulb of percussion and missing distal end. Dorsal has three unidirectional flake scars. >23mm X 23mm X 6mm.

Context 06

Flake fragment of opaque grey flint

Flake of translucent black flint with cortical striking platform 5mm thick, developed Hertzian cone, pronounced bulb of percussion and hinged distal termination. Dorsal has single flake scar and c.20% thin, rough cortex. 28mm X 22mm X 7mm.

Context 56

Proximal flake fragment of translucent black flint with a lightly edge-trimmed striking platform 7mm thick, developed Hertzian cone, pronounced bulb of percussion and missing distal end. Dorsal has two parallel flake scars. > 12mm X 17mm X 6mm.

Flake of opaque grey flint with plain striking platform 5mm thick, developed Hertzian cone, pronounced bulb of percussion and hinged distal termination. Dorsal has three multidirectional flake scars. 22mm X 30mm X 5mm.

Context 160

Decortication flake of translucent black flint with cortical striking platform, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Dorsal has a single flake scar and c.80% thick, slightly weathered cortex. 31mm X 27mm X 10mm.

Laterally snapped flake fragment of translucent black flint with a dihedral striking platform 5mm thick, developed Hertzian cone, pronounced bulb of percussion and missing distal end. >50mm X >25mm X 9mm.

Context 218

Burnt flint flake with plain striking platform 13mm thick, diffuse bulb of percussion and hinged distal termination. Dorsal has several post-knapping scars which may have been intentional (ie retouch) but much more likely to have been accidental. Dorsal has single flake scar and c.80% thin rough cortex. 24mm X 40mm X 11mm

Context 99999

Burnt flint fragment weighing 8g

Appendix 6: Cremated Human Remains

By Natasha Dodwell

Cremated human bone was identified in a group of six small pits, of unknown date, clustered together in an area measuring 20m long by 8m wide in Trench 17. The analysis of the burnt human bone and a summary of the results in tabular form are presented below.

1 Methods of recovery and analysis

All deposits containing cremated bone were half-sectioned, then fully excavated and all of the soil recovered was wet sieved and the residue passed through 10mm, 5mm and 2mm sieves. All bone >5mm was extracted for analysis; the 2mm fraction was scanned and all bone fragments identifiable to skeletal element were removed and weighed. Osteological analysis followed procedures for cremated human bone outlined by McKinley (2002 and 2004). Full details of identifications are held in the archive. Because of the lack of any diagnostic elements, age was estimated solely on the size and robustness of the limb shafts and skull fragments. Occasionally this could be refined slightly by the appearance of the skull sutures. No estimate of sex could be made. No evidence of pathological lesions was observed and no pyre or grave goods were identified.

2 Results

The bone fragments were predominantly buff white in colour indicative of full oxidation of the bone. All of the bone fragments have a slightly worn and chalky appearance. Trabecular bone and articular surfaces were not represented and this is probably due to adverse soil conditions.

The weight of bone recovered from each deposit was very low, between 4 and 265g, far less than one would expect from an adult cremation (McKinley 1993). The number of identifiable bone fragments, i.e. those that could be identified as skull, axial skeleton, upper or lower limb was small, between 0 and 33% of the total bone weight recovered. Bone fragments identifiable to skeletal element were far smaller, between 0 and 16% of total bone weight. This is largely due to the degree of bone fragmentation; in each deposit the majority of bone was recovered from the 5mm fraction and the largest bone fragments ranged from 12 to 37mm, in contexts 508 and 500 respectively. Whilst no faunal remains were positively identified it is possible that some of the unidentifiable fragments are in fact animal.

The degree of fragmentation and the small quantity of bone recovered from each feature greatly inhibits the demographic information that can be gleaned from this group. Bone from two of the deposits, 500 and 504, was identifiable as 'adult', from a further two, 502 and 520, as 'subadult/adult' and only as juvenile/subadult/adult from 506. No age could be attributed to the bone fragments from 508. Given the small quantity of bone and as no duplication of skeletal element or obvious age differences were observed it is even possible (although unlikely) that the remains derive from a single individual.

The depth of features from which cremated bone was recovered varied from 0.04m (506) to 0.27m (520) with four of less than 0.15m (500, 504, 506 and 508). It is very likely that bone has been lost to disturbance or truncation although how much is not quantifiable. In an unurned burial burnt bone is usually present as a discrete concentration or as a spread of material at one level within the grave fill. Formal deposits of pyre debris are represented by a thorough mix of archaeological components throughout the fill of the feature; predominantly charcoal with small amounts of bone, sometimes burnt clay and flint (McKinley 1997). In all six deposits the burnt bone is described as being mixed with charcoal or an ashy fill. Fragments of fired clay are recorded in 502 and 504 and a possible concentration of burnt bone is recorded in the fill of 500. The osteological and contextual evidence suggest that these deposits are either disturbed/truncated cremation burials or more probably deposits of pyre debris. It is possible that further deposits containing cremated bone, possibly the burials themselves, lie beyond the area of excavation. Four further pits, (511, 513, 519 and 523) were recorded close to those containing cremated human bone and although they themselves contained charcoal fragments and no bone it is possible that they are related to the burial/pyre deposits.

The results are summarised in tabular form below.

Context (fill)	Sample no.	Total weight (g) *	Age	Depth of deposit	Deposit type
500	501	265	adult	0.13m	? unurned burial
502	505	84	subadult/adult	0.18m	?pyre debris
504	504	174	adult	0.14m	?pyre debris
506	503	6	juvenile/subadult/adult	0.04m	?
508	502	4	?	0.07m	?
520	500	14	subadult/adult	0.27m	?pyre debris

Table 11: Summary of results

* total weights do not include bone from the 2mm fraction unless it was identifiable to skeletal element.

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Appendix 7: Flots from Cremation Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

1 Methodology

A group of ten pits identified as containing cremated bone or potentially associated with such deposits were 100% excavated and the soil retained as bulk samples. Each sample was subjected to bucket flotation. The resulting residues were retained for human bone analysis and are described in Appendix 6, above. The flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

2 Results

Sample No	Context no	Flot volume (ml)	Cremated bone in residue	Deposit type
500	520	800	Yes	Pyre debris
501	500	100	Yes	Unurned burial
502	508	30	Yes	Possible Pyre debris
503	506	2	Yes	Possible Pyre debris
504	504	10	Yes	Possible Pyre debris
505	502	650	Yes	Pyre debris
506	512	30	Yes	Possible Pyre debris
507	510	30	No	Unknown
508	518	40	No	Unknown
509	522	30	No	Unknown

Table 12: A tabular summary of results

All the flots contained charcoal. Samples <500> and <505> both produced significant flot volumes (800ml and 650ml respectively) the majority of which were comprised of charcoal. Sample 501 produced approximately 100ml whereas the other samples produced flot volumes of 2 to 20 ml. All of the flots contained modern rootlets. Weed seeds were largely absent.

3 Conclusion

The lack of plant remains in samples 507, 508 and 509 precludes the identification of any specific activity that may be associated with these features.

Predictably all of the flots from Samples 500 to 506 contain charcoal in varying quantities. The significant volume of charcoal in samples 500

and 505 suggest that they represent pyre debris that had been collected from the pyre site and placed in pits. Sample 501 contains the largest quantity of cremated bone and has been interpreted as an actual burial. The accompanying charcoal was presumably swept up with the bones fragments. Samples 502, 503, 504 and 506 are more difficult to interpret. They all contain small volumes of charcoal and, as the residues contain small quantities of bone, it is likely that these samples represent pyre debris that had been reworked or that the features from which these deposits derived had been truncated.

Appendix 8: Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

1 Introduction

The assemblage in question was obtained from an evaluation carried out on the March to Chatteris pipeline, with features dating from the Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods. Twenty-five contexts contained bone, with twenty-two containing elements identifiable to species. The assemblage consisted of 123 total fragments, with 37 being identifiable to species (30% of the total sample). All bones were recovered by hand with preservation being generally good, albeit extremely fragmented in many cases.

2 Methodology

Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. In addition, any taphonomy i.e. burning, gnawing etc was recorded where necessary. All unidentifiable fragments were classed as being from medium/large sized mammals. Completeness was assessed by percentage and anatomical zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). All data was entered using MS Excel.

3 Assessment

Before any assessment can be made the question of fragmentation must be addressed. As mentioned earlier (although well preserved), the majority of the assemblage was extremely fragmented, with only 30% being identifiable to species. This degree of fragmentation can lead to an over representation of more robust elements such as limbs and teeth (Table 14). Nonetheless conclusions can be drawn from the assemblage as it stands. The broad species distribution can be seen in Table 13. The assemblage consists entirely of cattle and sheep/goat remains, making up 70.2% and 29.8% of the identifiable sample respectively. Although each individual context is too small to warrant an in-depth analysis, several general trends are apparent. In terms of dating the species distribution (particularly the lack of any pig remains), is indicative of some Late Iron Age sites (Hambelton 1999, 45-57). In addition the dominance of cattle in relation to sheep is a pattern seen widely in other East Anglian sites of similar date (ibid, 89).

Whilst the body part distribution data must be viewed with caution for reasons outlined above, coupled with widespread signs of butchery

seen in the assemblage it does suggest industrial/domestic waste. The majority of elements came from adult animals, again suggesting the exploitation of animals for meat.

Species	NISP	NISP %	MNI %	MNI %
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	26	70.2%	2	50%
Sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i>)	11	29.8%	2	50%
Total	37	100%	4	100%

Table 13: Species distribution for entire assemblage (% of identifiable sample)

	Cranial	Axial	Ribs	Pelvis	Front limbs	Hind limbs
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	8	1	4	0	8	5
Sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i>)	4	2	0	0	2	3

Table 14: Body part distribution by species

4 Conclusions

Due to the small size of this assemblage it was only possible to give a broad overview. Due to fragmentation and a lack of complete mandibles it was not possible to attempt stature estimates or to age the entire population (although in an assemblage this size little further information would be gained). What is clear is the number and proportion of the species in this assemblage is comparable with other late Iron Age sites in East Anglia, and, despite the sampling problems outlined above, the range of body parts recovered and their condition does suggest butchery waste.

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Appendix 9: Environmental Remains

By Val Fryer

1 Introduction and Method Statement

Samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, and seventeen were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by CCC AFU and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 15. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were common throughout.

2 Results

With the exception of small charcoal fragments, which were present throughout, plant macrofossils were exceedingly scarce. Cereal remains, comprising wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and glume bases, were only recorded as single specimens within three of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British samples from Trench 13 (samples 19, 26 and 27). A single sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) fruit was recovered from sample 9, from an undated ditch fill within Trench 6. Pieces of charred root/stem were moderately common within sample 14 (pit 103), and a fragmentary culm node was noted within sample 19 (post-hole 233).

Other material types were equally scarce. The pieces of black 'cokey' and tarry material are probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Minute fragments of burnt bone were noted within the assemblages from samples 8 (ditch 94), 19 (post-hole 233) and 27 (pit 319). The small fragments of coal are possibly modern contaminants.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages are characterised by extremely low densities of plant macrofossils. With the possible exception of sample 13 (pit 101), all are probably derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, which accidentally accumulated within the feature fills. Sample 13 contains a slightly higher density of material (principally charcoal) and may be indicative of the deliberate deposition of a small quantity of fuel/hearth waste. As charred remains are so scarce, it would appear

most likely that the entire excavated area was well removed from any main centre of human activity.

As none of the samples contained sufficient material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

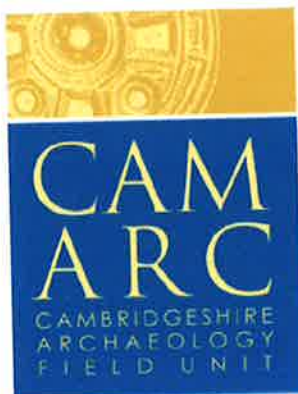
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Key to Table

x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 10 - 50 specimens xxx = 50+ specimens b = burnt

Sample No.	Context No.	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Cereal indet. (grains) (glume bases)	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Charred root/stem	Indet. culm nodes	Black cokey material (remains of root channels)	Black tarry material	Bone	Fish bone	Small coal frags.	Volume of flot (litres) (litres)	% flot sorted
7	91				xx								x	0.1	100%
8	93				x							xb		<0.1	100%
9	89			x	xxx				x					<0.1	100%
10	20				xx									0.1	100%
11	24				xx									<0.1	100%
12	28				x									<0.1	100%
13	10 0				xxx	x			x					0.3	50%
14	10 2				xx		xx		x				x	<0.1	100%
18	23 0				x									<0.1	100%
19	23 2		x		x			x	x		xxb		x	<0.1	100%
20	23 8				x									<0.1	100%
22	27 2			x										<0.1	100%
23	26 1				xx	x								<0.1	100%
24	26 1				xx									<0.1	100%
25	27 8				x				x	x				<0.1	100%
26	31	x	x		xx	x								<0.1	100%



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