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Neolithic ditches and Iron Age Settlement at Thrapston Road, Brampton 1992



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Neolithic ditches and Iron Age Settlement at Thrapston Road, Brampton 1992

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1993

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Report no. 81

Overview of the site from the north-west



NEOLITHIC DITCHES AND IRON AGE SETTLEMENT AT BRAMPTON:THRAPSTON ROAD 1992

TL201715

By

T.Malim and D.Mitchell

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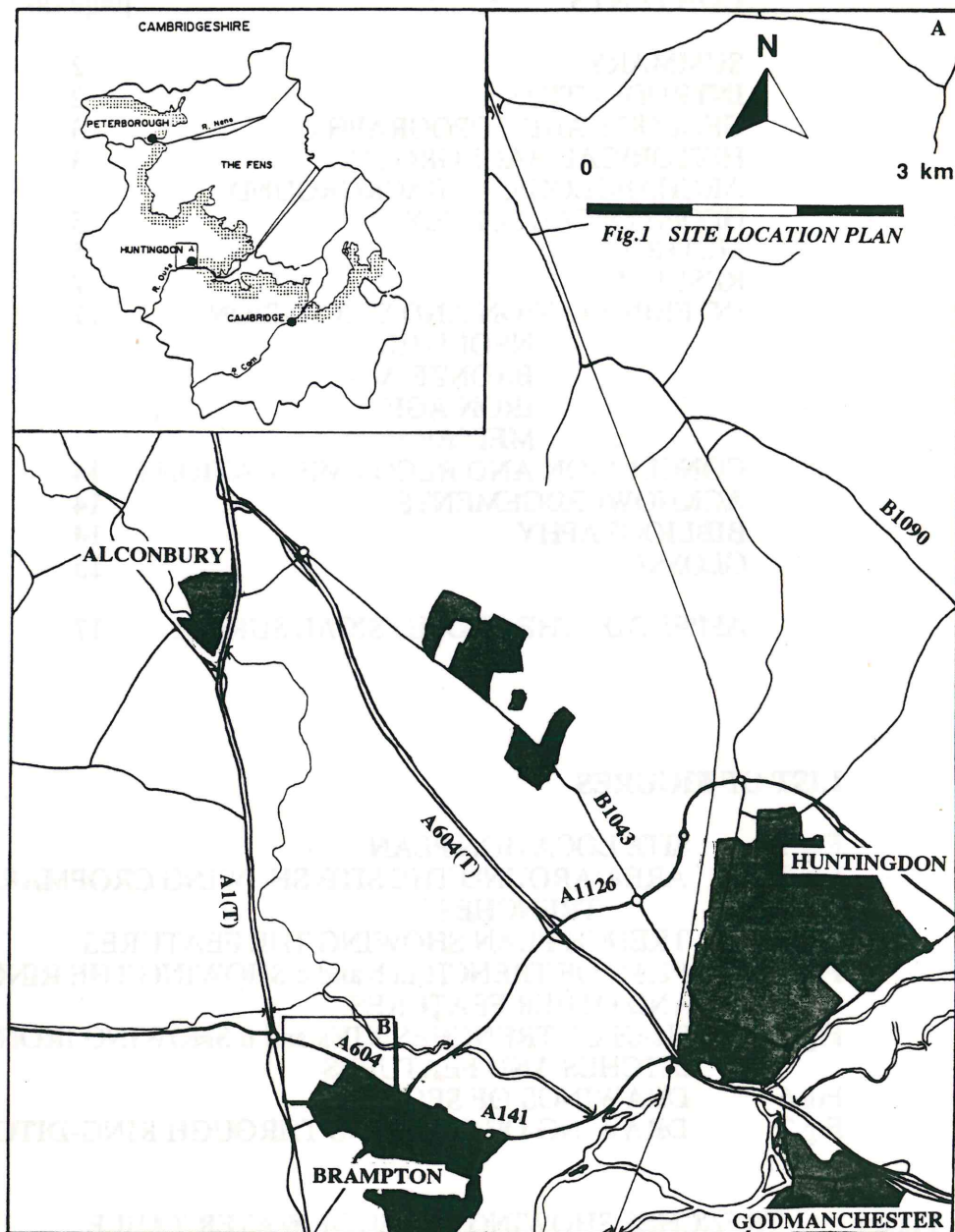
Plate 1 TRENCHES SHOWING LEVEL OF WATER TABLE

SUMMARY

An Iron Age enclosed settlement containing a roundhouse was found situated on a gravel terrace slightly above the local flood plain. Associated contemporary ditched field systems were also located, and a series of earlier parallel ditches sealed beneath deposits from a period of alluviation. These latter ditches are probably of Neolithic date and are interpreted as territorial boundary markers.

INTRODUCTION

In December 1992 an evaluation excavation was undertaken by Cambridgeshire Archaeology at an open field site directly to the south of the A604 Huntingdon to Thrapston Road and immediately west and north of the edge of Brampton's built-up area, fig.1. The work was funded by Ekins Professional in advance of plans for a change of the field from agricultural use to construction of housing. Proximity to areas of known archaeological importance, including scheduled ancient monument (Cambs. 121), suggested the presence of archaeological deposits in the area, therefore geophysical prospecting and trial trenching were conducted in March and December 1992 respectively to evaluate the archaeological potential of this site.



GEOLOGY AND TOPOLOGY

The natural bedrock of the area is first terrace river gravels, which are overlaid by alluvial deposits of variable depth. In the southern part of the field under evaluation a slight rise is apparent and the depth of alluvium increases greatly, while on the east a rise in the basal gravels occurs which accounts for a corresponding reduction of alluvium to a point at which it is largely absent. The present surface in the north of the field slopes gently from a height of 12.5m in the east to 11.7m in the west, and from 13.3m to 11.75m east to west in the south.

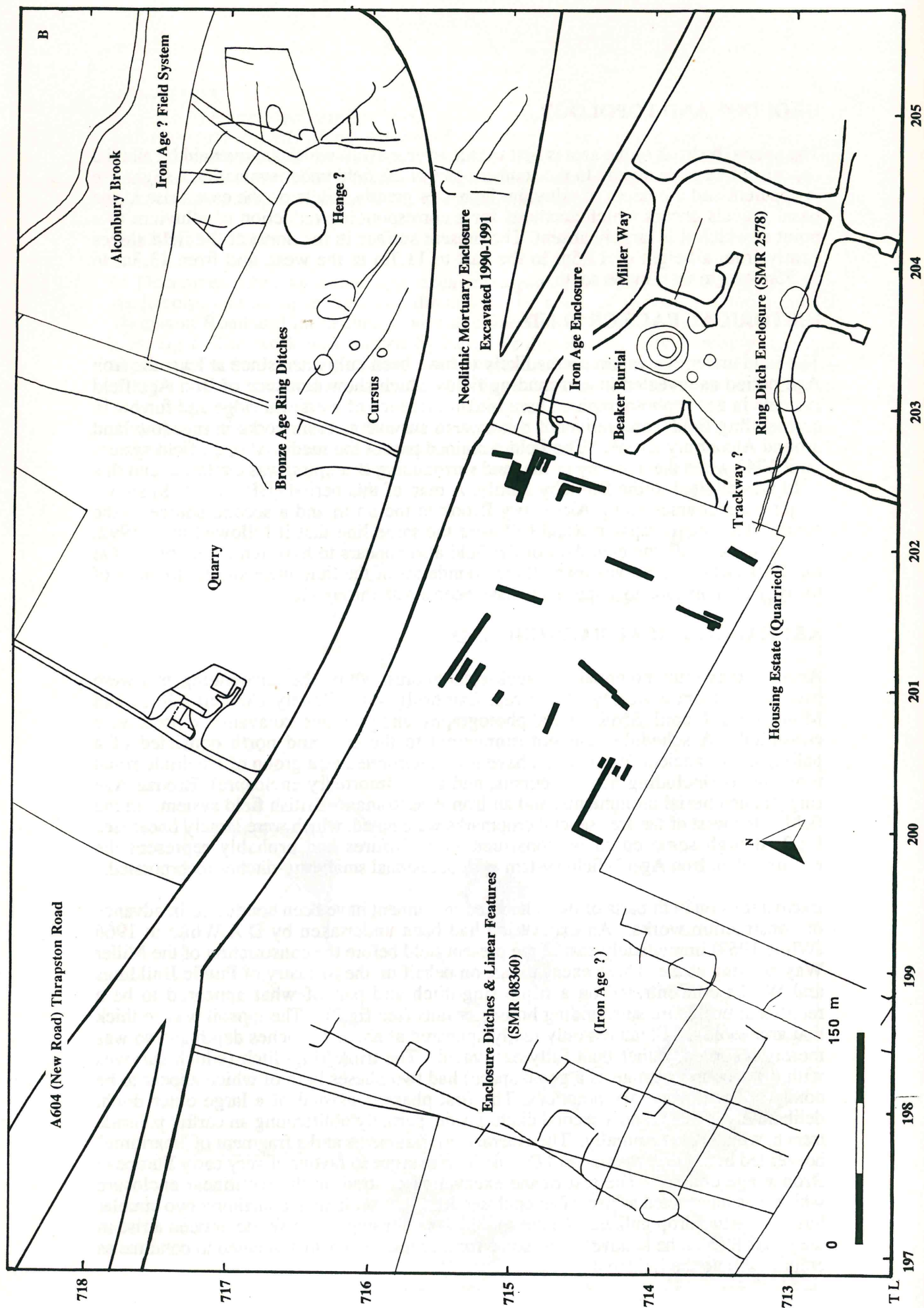
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The field under evaluation seems likely to have been cultivated since at least the Iron Age period as revealed in surrounding fields which show evidence of Iron Age field systems in aerial photographs. There is also evidence of medieval ridge and furrow in surrounding fields, and relicts of this system survive as earthworks in meadow land around Alconbury Brook. The field remained part of the medieval open-field system until 1742 when the majority of the land surrounding Brampton was enclosed, and this field was allotted to the Burnaby family. A map of this period (HRO PM/1/8) shows major watercourses along Alconbury Brook to the north and a second source to the south. The old Thrapston Road followed the same line that it followed until 1992, whilst to the south the boundary of the field also appears to have remained intact. On the 1901 Ordnance Survey map all the boundaries of the field were similar to those of today, with a division that appears to have been a path through it.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Areas of maximum potential archaeological interest within the surrounding area were established from a variety of sources. Cambridgeshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), aerial photographs, and previous excavation reports were consulted. A scheduled ancient monument to the east and north consisted of a palimpsest of ancient features that have been interpreted as a group of Neolithic ritual monuments (including henges, cursus, and a long mortuary enclosure), Bronze Age ring-ditched burial monuments, and an Iron Age/Romano-British field system. In the field to the west of the area several cropmarks were noted, which were largely linear (see fig.2) though some could be construed as enclosures and probably represent the remains of an Iron Age(?) field system with occasional small ring-ditches incorporated.

Excavations on both parts of the scheduled monument have been conducted in advance of construction works. An excavation had been undertaken by D.A. White in 1966 (White 1969) immediately east of the present field before the construction of the Miller Way housing estate. These excavations, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works concentrated on a triple ring-ditch and part of what appeared to be a rectilinear enclosure surrounding houses or huts (see fig.2). The topsoil was so thick that archaeological features only really appeared at about 16 inches depth and so was merely recorded, rather than fully excavated. The triple ring-ditch (which survives within the housing estate as a green space) had two phases both of which appear to be connected with funerary practices. The first phase consisted of a large outer ditch, deliberately infilled, and a second ditch, inside, partially obliterating an earlier palisade trench, which filled naturally. The cinerary urn fragments and a fragment of "maritime" beaker led both the excavator and David Clark to argue in favour of very early European Bronze age contact. The rest of the excavation centred on the rectilinear enclosure which was interpreted as part of an enclosed Iron Age settlement containing two circular huts with eavesdrop gullies. To the south of the housing estate White noticed a rise in the ground which he believed to be some form of trackway which seemed to continue as cropmarks into the field to the west.



In 1990 and 1991 an investigation of some of the scheduled monument north of Thrapston Road found evidence for a Neolithic mortuary enclosure at the end of the cursus seen from air photographs. Further excavations in the pasture field east of this in advance of road construction revealed Romano-British field ditches and agricultural processing areas, where archaeological remains had previously been unsuspected.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Non-intrusive investigation using geophysical prospecting was conducted by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford during March 1992. A fluxgate gradiometer was used to conduct a rapid scan of all 6 hectares of the field to identify areas of interest. However, results were poor and therefore a more detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken of 40m transects to effectively sample 50% of the site. This revealed anomalies of possible archaeological interest in the north-east of the field, despite widespread ferrous interference, and a number of faint north-south anomalies were recorded in the western part which were interpreted as possible "cultivation trends". In the north-east corner an E-shaped feature was located with a number of "pit-like responses" also. Other anomalies were recorded, but interference made it impossible to accurately plot or interpret them.

METHODS

In addition to results of the geophysical survey, the topography of the field also suggested that some areas might reward further investigation, particularly the rise in the south, a series on depressions seemingly emanating from this rise, and a wetter, slightly lower area in the south-west of the field.

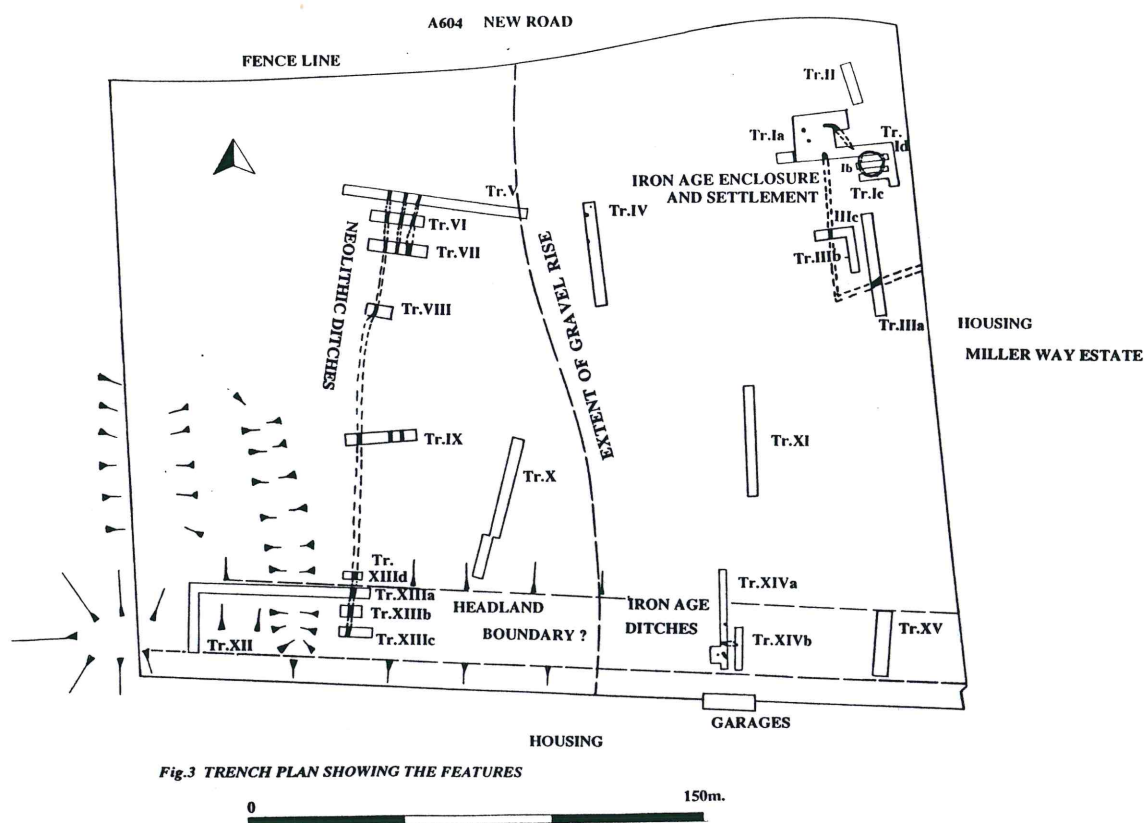


Fig.3 TRENCH PLAN SHOWING THE FEATURES

A strategy for trench location was planned with these factors in mind, and developed further after initial feed-back of information from the first trenches. Fifteen trenches were opened, representing 1.75% of the area (see fig.3).

Trenches I, II and III were dug in the north-east to investigate the western half of White's Iron Age enclosure and associated features as defined in the magnetometer plot. Trenches V-IX were excavated to investigate the "cultivation trends" which were seen on the geophysical survey, and also to investigate the change in vegetation between the east and west of the field. These trenches established how much wetter this west side of the field was as they rapidly filled with water.

Trenches XII-XV were to the south, investigating the rise or trackway. They also demonstrated clearly the water table as they became progressively drier toward the eastern end of the field.

Trenches IV, X and XI were excavated approximately across the centre of the field in an attempt to delineate the edge of the area in which the basal gravel started to rise toward the east as it was presumed that the higher ground would have been more attractive for occupation in Iron Age times. These trenches also allowed sampling of the central area within the field for which there was no indication of archaeological remains.

All trenches were machine excavated under supervision of an archaeologist to the level at which archaeological features first appeared or to natural gravels. Archaeological features were sampled by hand-excavation to give morphological information, artefacts for dating purposes, and to assess their value for preservation of organic remains that might give useful data on the contemporary environment. Soil samples were taken for analysis as required. A specialist on formation of palaeosols (Dr. C.A.I. French) visited the site and advised on the pedological history of features and the area in general.

The high water table in the west was a constraint on recording the features within Trenches V-XIII as they were under, in some cases, as much as 0.5m of water. The ditches uncovered were marked out rapidly after excavation by mechanical digger but the rapidity with which water flowed into the trenches precluded further work, and any other possible features were obscured by the decidedly muddy water (see plate 1).



Plate 1 Trenches XII and XIIIb taken from the south-west, showing the level of the water table.

RESULTS

Trench I (see fig.4) had 0.25m of ploughsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying gravel natural and archaeological features. Cutting the gravel bedrock were found three ditches (features 4/10, 5, and 7) and the top of a curving ditch (3).

A shallow ditch (5) was found 5m west of feature 4/10. This ditch was orientated north-south and was 0.3m down from the gravel to its base with shallow angled sides. The ditch terminal 4/10 (see fig.6) was sectioned and appeared to be a steep sided ditch with three different fills believed to represent separate recuts, the deepest extending 0.4m below the surface of the gravel before the water table prevented any further excavation. On the eastern side there were possible bank remains although this only appeared in section (fig.6). Trench I was extended to the north to try to find why ditch 4/10 terminated and whether a pairing ditch terminal existed to the north of it. Shallow scoops (features 6 and 9) were found and a ditch (8) which appeared to run east from its terminal, and then curve south. All these features were sectioned and recorded. Features 6 and 9 were remarkably similar both being shallow (0.2m deep) and devoid of any dating evidence or any clue as to their purpose. The ditch, feature 8 was sectioned where it met the wall of the trench (see fig.6). It extended down to a depth of 0.45m from the surface of the gravel before the water table made any investigation impossible. The ditch was steep sided and contained three fills whose inclination and composition did not suggest that they were recuts of the original ditch, but were purely different episodes of infill. Primary gravel slippage was noticed on either side.

Two further trenches were laid out parallel to Trench I to investigate the full extent of curving ditch 3 and these (**Trenches Ia and Ic**) proved conclusively that this feature formed a ring-ditch 8m in diameter. It was sectioned in four places and seemed similar to ditch 5 in fill and depth. In section the ring-ditch seemed to cut through the subsoil and gravel, 0.4m in total depth, and it was filled with a single deposit that showed no evidence of recuts. On the inside of the ring next to one of the sections there was a small post hole of relatively shallow depth. A rim sherd of late Iron Age pottery was found on the surface of the ditch in Trench Ib close to this posthole. Trench Id was then positioned along the eastern ends of Trenches Ia - c to link them up. No features were found in this trench.

Trench II was excavated to the north of Trench Ia and orientated north-south. It had a depth of 0.6m to the gravel but no features were found.

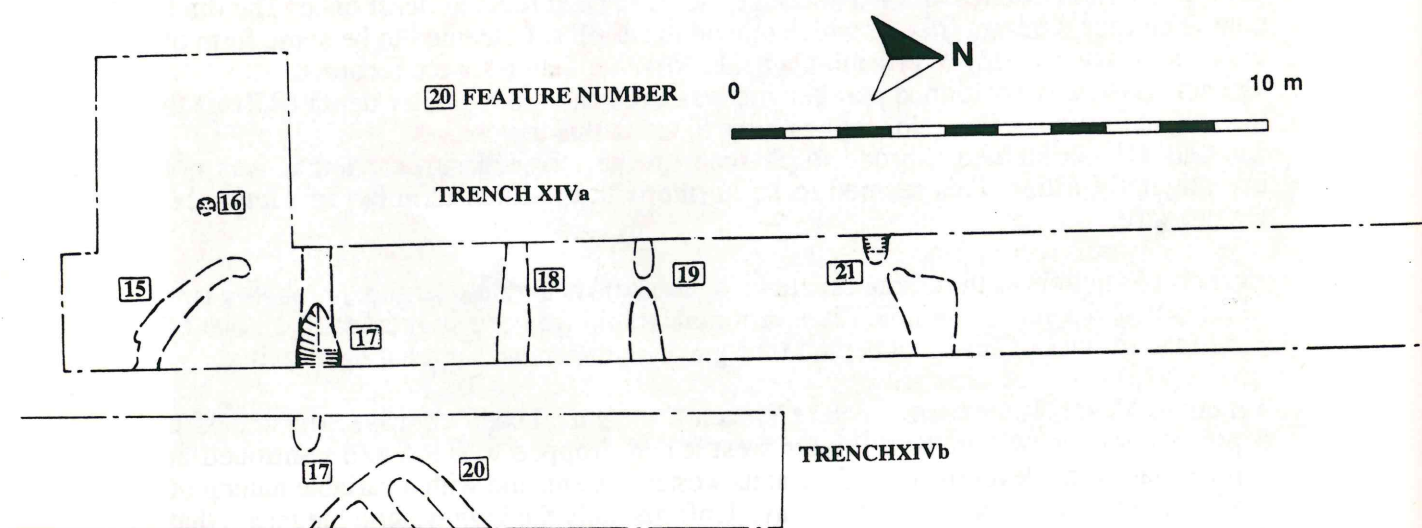
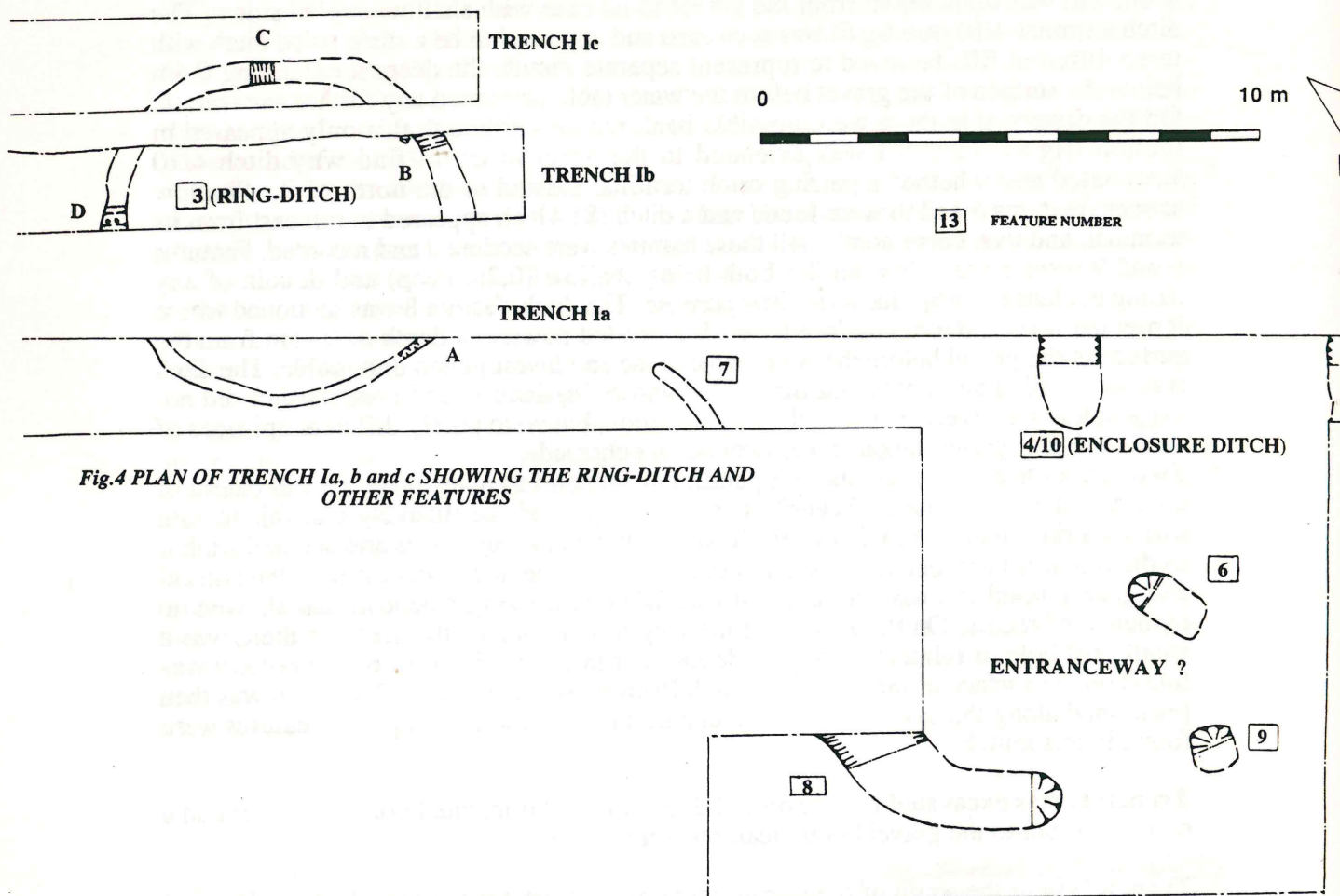
Trench IIIa in the south of the corner contained a ditch cutting gravel under 0.3m of ploughsoil and 0.18m of subsoil. This was excavated to a depth of 1.1m before the water table meant that any further investigation was impossible. The ditch was still 1.1m. wide at the limit of excavation and seemed to have been recut at least once. The ditch contained four different fills of which one on the north side seemed to be some form of gravel slippage possibly representing a bank. No other features were recorded.

Trench IIIb was positioned parallel and was excavated to a greater depth (0.81m) to locate features in section. No features were found in this trench.

Trench IIIc contained a broad ditch seen on the stripped surface but it was not investigated further. This seemed to be in line with the ditch terminal in Trench Ia, feature 4/10.

Trench IV contained three small features 0.43m below the field surface, probably two small pits and a pit or possible ditch terminal. Rapid probing suggested that none of these features was of any great depth in the gravel and there was no sealing alluvium.

Trenches V-VII At the eastern end of Trench V the gravel bedrock was found at 0.45m depth. However, within 10m further west it had dropped to 0.9m and continued at approximately this level rising slightly at its western extent, and with a variable natural of sand and gravel with patches of silty clay. Unfortunately the high water table meant that the trenches in this area filled with water very rapidly after excavation so that any features had to be noted and marked quickly but could not be further investigated.



Despite this at least three linear ditches were found running north-south across the trenches (see fig. 3), filled and sealed by 0.25m of alluvium.

Trench VIII had one ditch noted showing continuation from the preceding trenches. The ditch appeared to be curving slightly, but was again rapidly submerged.

Trench IX showed that the ditches in Trenches V-VII continued through this trench though once again the speed with which the trench filled with water made anything more than merely marking them out impossible. The ploughsoil in this trench was 0.30m deep, while the gravel did not appear until a depth of 0.6m.

Trench X contained no visible features apart from two slanting, recent, tile field drains, interestingly the comparatively modern path on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map was not seen here or in Trench XIV. The gravel level ranged between 0.45m and 0.7m below the surface but the topsoil was steady at 0.3m in depth.

Trench XI was intended to establish whether features existed between those seen in Trench I and Trench XIV and was 0.5m deep to gravel bedrock. The ploughsoil extended to the gravel base. It contained no features.

Trench XII This trench, the furthest to the south and west filled most quickly with water but appeared to contain no features despite excavation to a depth of nearly a metre. The ploughsoil here was only 0.25m deep, while the alluvial subsoil was 0.65m deep.

Trench XIII investigated the rise in the field surface along its southern edge and the extent of the linear north-south surface depressions, which proved to have no archaeological origin. However, one of the ditches seen in Trenches V - IX was found in the east end of Trench XIIIa before it was submerged. Three other trenches were excavated parallel to this eastern end (Trenches XIIIb,c and d), one to the north (d) and two south (b and c) of the trench all of which also showed the linear ditch's progress before the water rose over their bases. The ditch was now 0.98m below the surface of the field but in fact had risen 0.5m OD from its height in Trench V. No other features were recorded. This was largely due to the increased depth of alluvial subsoil, 0.6m in depth and a similar percentage increase in topsoil to 0.4m.

Trench XIV contained a number of features cut into the gravel bedrock (see fig.5). These were somewhat confused as the depth of the trench combined with the wetness of the ground meant that the trench sides partially collapsed, making an overall view impossible. Despite this a seemingly isolated posthole (fig.5, number 16), a small ditch terminal and the most certain of three possible ditches (fig.5, number 17) were investigated. The latter seems to have been recut at least once and possibly twice as it has three separate fills and gravel slippage to the north which may have been a bank. All the features were sealed by a layer of alluvium thicker than recorded elsewhere (0.7m) and 0.25m of ploughsoil.

Trench XV was excavated to 1.1m below the surface of the top soil and contained the end of a recent quarry extending to the south, and two vague features that were not investigated. In the less disturbed north end of the trench 0.3m of alluvial subsoil overlaid the gravel bedrock and was in turn sealed by 0.3m of topsoil.

Sampling

Soil samples for phosphate analysis were taken along the length of Trench IIIa and into the ring-ditch in Trench I at 10m intervals. High phosphate levels can indicate the presence of human occupation or corralled animals.

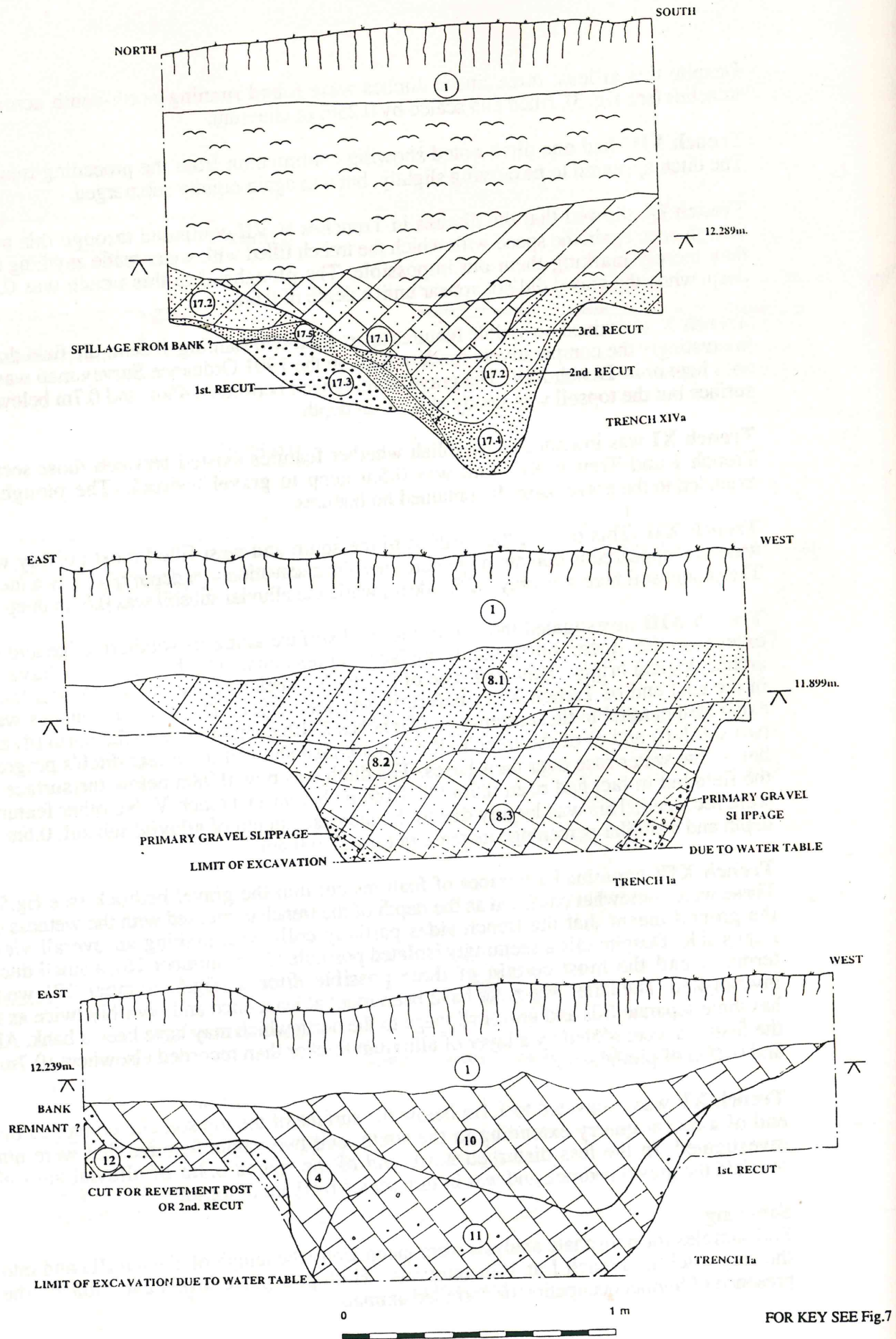


Fig.6 DRAWINGS OF SECTIONS

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

NEOLITHIC

The three ditches running north-south through Trenches V-VII, VIII, XIII, and IX are believed to be Neolithic in date. Although none of these features were excavated this interpretation was based on their similarity (in colour and stratigraphic sequence) to the ditches excavated in the field immediately to the north of the assessment area during 1990 and 1991. These features were cut into a much disturbed natural of sands and gravels suggesting the presence of a possible palaeochannel in the immediate vicinity. The ditches themselves could be discerned as having a distinct light yellow clayey fill and were clearly sealed by alluvium 0.45 - 0.65m deep. The field system seen in cropmarks in the field to the west was not found extending into the assessment area by our evaluation unless the features seen as cropmarks are similar to these Neolithic ditches, rather than their more likely interpretation as Iron Age ones. If Neolithic in date then the field system to the west would be of considerable interest. At present the multiple Neolithic ditches found during evaluation are difficult to give a functional interpretation, but in the context of the monuments immediately to the north, which form a discrete ceremonial landscape in their own right, it is possible that these ditches were some form of territorial boundary similar to other known examples such as the Mile Ditches running from the barrow field on Therfield Heath (Royston) to Bassingbourn springs. Although narrow for this purpose, they may have been foundation trenches for some kind of palisade.

BRONZE AGE

No direct evidence from this period was found, although very early burials had been excavated from the ring-ditches under Miller Way housing estate. Bronze Age burial monuments in a lowland context such as these are generally found in marginal areas beside watercourses, on land unsuitable for settlement or arable agriculture. The extensive alluviation within the field under evaluation would argue for an active stream in the immediate vicinity which had periodic flooding episodes, and it would seem reasonable to place this during the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. Iron Age features do not appear to be sealed by alluvial deposits (except where redeposited during medieval times) whereas the Neolithic ditches discussed above are filled and sealed by waterborne silts.

IRON AGE

The size, general profile and position of ditch 13 in Trench IIIa suggested that it is the continuation of the enclosure excavated by White in 1966. According to the geophysical plot this ditch seems to turn at right-angles nine metres west of Trench IIIa and it appears in Trench IIIc with a north-south orientation which when extended corresponds to feature 4/10 in Trench Ia. The evidence in plan appears to mirror that seen in the north-east corner of White's excavation where the ditch has a gap of 4m as an entranceway. A gap of 7m occurs between 4/10 terminal and ditch 8 terminal, which suggests another entranceway. However, ditch 8 turns abruptly south and its line continuation thereafter is unknown. There was no evidence of the recommencement of the enclosure ditch in Trench Ia nor was there any evidence that a northern arm extended from White's excavation, as Trench II, positioned across the probable area through which it would pass showed no features at all. Excavation of 4/10 seemed to show that it was the same ditch as 13 and suggested that the enclosure ditch had been recut. Feature 8 in Trench Ia was the only possible evidence of the northern arm of the enclosure being of similar dimensions (down to the water table) to both 13 and 4/10, but it turned toward the south-east at the point where it met the trench side. Further investigation is needed to define the course of this feature.

Ditch 5 in Trench Ia is almost level with White's huts, and with the ring-ditch further east in Trench I, and it is possible that 5 is also a ring-ditch. It is, however outside the enclosure and does not curve in the short piece exposed and so an alternative explanation may be that the ditch is part of the entranceway between 4/10 and 8, forming a staggered gate which aids defence and is commonly found on Iron Age sites. In this case features 6 and 9 in the space between 4/10 and 8 could also be connected with an entranceway as the bases of posts at the "gate". In Trenches Ia, Ib, and Ic there is a ring-ditch, feature 3. In 1966 White uncovered two circular ditches which he believed to be evidence of buildings (hut a and b). Feature 3 would appear to be a third circular ditch and the sherd of late Iron Age pottery found on the surface of the ditch securely dates it to a similar period with the huts. When excavated the ditch proved to be quite shallow (see fig.7) possibly suggesting some smaller-scale usage, and the relatively small diameter of feature 3 (7.5m) and an absence of pottery also makes it less likely that it was a house. Alternative suggestions are that occupation was not continuous but seasonal, or it may have been a storage hut. The two huts and feature 3 all seem to be in the north of the enclosure. Although thorough investigation in the south is not complete there may be a case for suggesting that the southern area could have been an animal fold. The features in Trench IV may be connected to this apparent settlement but their limited nature restricts any definite supposition.

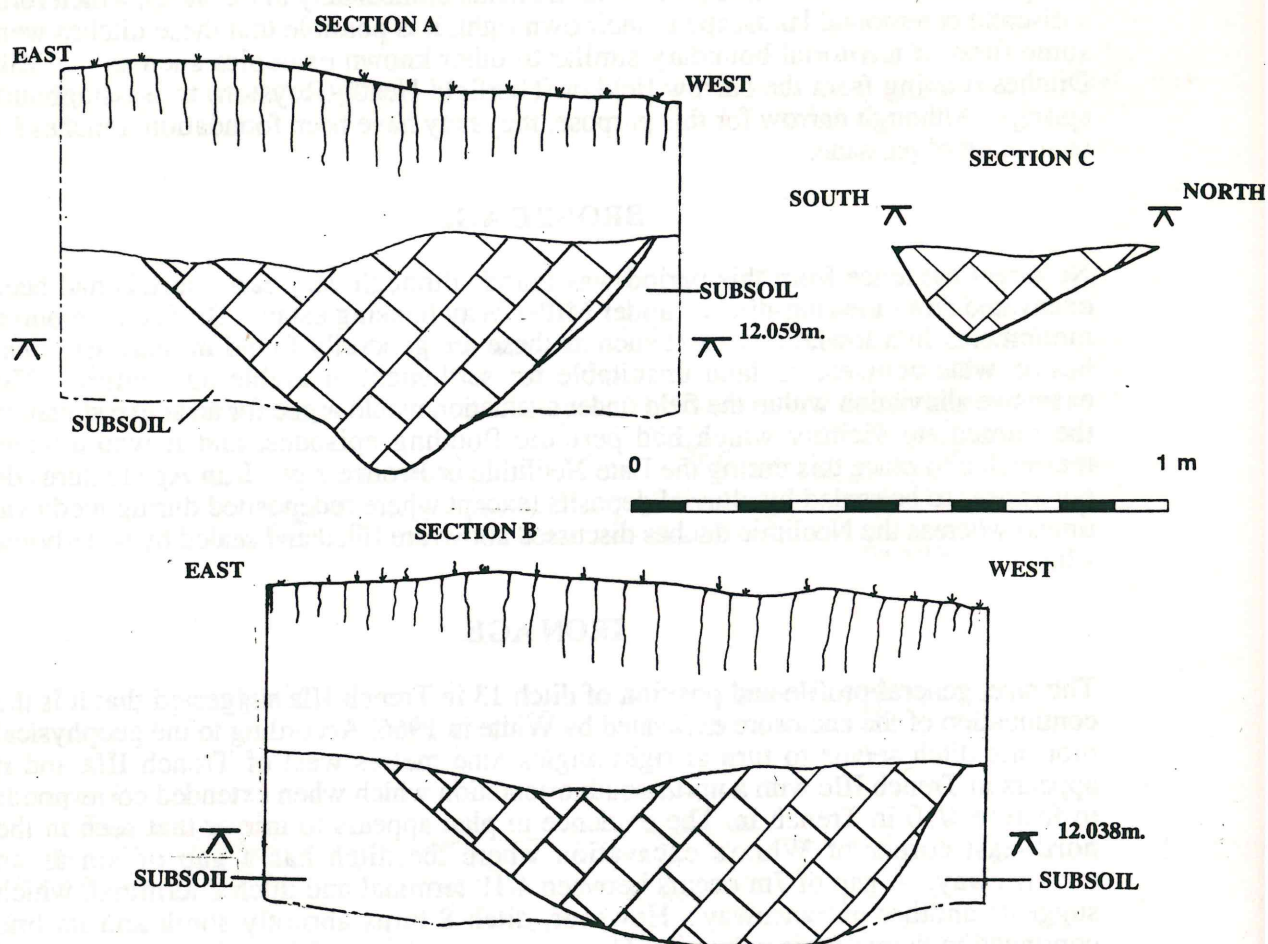
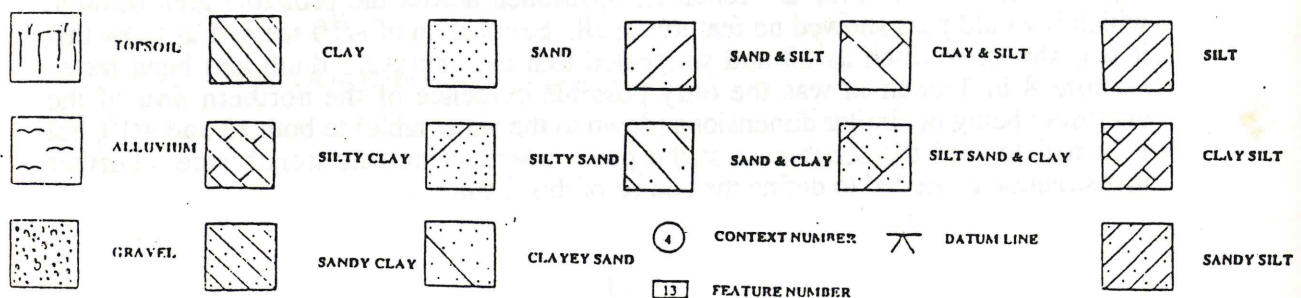


Fig.7 DRAWINGS OF SECTIONS THROUGH RING-DITCH



The features in Trench XIV seem to be sealed by the rise in the south identified as a medieval headland, and so must pre-date this. They are very similar to the other Iron Age features on the site, and are thus interpreted as part of the field system associated with the settlement, which can also be seen as cropmarks in the field to the west. Dating comes from lack of any finds more recent than Iron Age (one body sherd and possible daub fragments were found) and the morphology of the cropmarks which are similar to those near Alconbury Brook. No other evidence of such a system was definitively identified in the other trenches of this assessment, and Ditch 17 shows distinct phases of fill representing different activities, with a post-hole and other features in close proximity, and therefore this area could also be a product of occupation and associated activities. Further open-area investigation would reveal this.

MEDIEVAL

Dr. Charles French of Cambridge University visited the site to assess the composition of the soils. Over the larger majority of the site he observed that the soils were similar to those on the previous site north of the road and that there was no need for additional work to that he had done there at this stage. The site has a buried soil level of mixed (silt, sand and gravel) terrace deposits sealed by an alluvial ploughsoil horizon. On the higher ground the alluvial deposits were greatly reduced or absent. Dr. French also pointed out that the rise to the south was likely to be a medieval headland constructed by ploughing which concentrated soil on this side of the field. Subsequently this convenient rise may have been used as a route for a track.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Survival of archaeological features dating back at least 2000 years, and possibly as far as 4-5000 years, has been shown to be good, without excessive damage or contamination from modern disturbance. The potential for finds recovery and for good organic preservation seems low, but the benefit of giving detailed ground plans to features of a variety of periods and functions is high, with a consequent group value of important additional information to the extensive archaeological work already completed in the vicinity. Considered together the synthesis of all this data will allow a detailed reconstruction of prehistoric land use at Brampton and will add considerably to our understanding of the complex development of this area.

Geophysical surveying has been shown to have limited value on this site, and aerial photography has so far failed to catch the field with a suitable crop to give positive results. Thus further limited excavation would seem to be the most suitable method for furthering our knowledge of archaeological deposits within the application area.

Open area excavation is required in at least three areas to enable a more complete picture of the extent and function of archaeological remains.

- i) Iron Age enclosure at north-eastern corner of application area.
- ii) Iron Age ditches at south-eastern end to establish their function and relationship to the enclosure complex.
- iii) Neolithic ditches at south-eastern end to establish whether these are isolated features or form part of a greater grouping, and to recover basic morphological information that the prevailing wet conditions made impossible during winter 1992.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Anglo-Saxon. The period dating between the withdrawal of the Roman legions in 410 and the Norman invasion of 1066. Within this period several ethnic groups from northern Europe vied for control of the British Isles, including the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, and Norwegians. The latter two groups are collectively known as the Vikings and became involved in British politics from the eighth century, later than the others. The Vikings were successful in occupying a large part of the north and Midlands of England, before providing a King (Cnut) for the whole of England. For most of this time England was divided up into several kingdoms until Saxon resistance to Viking incursions led to the unification of England under Aethelstan and Alfred.

Artefact. Any object made by people. Generally, this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artefact itself.

Bronze Age. Prehistoric period c. 2000 - 700 BC when bronze was used for many types of tools and weapons.

Cropmarks. Archaeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensitive crops through moisture retention or loss. For example, the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches or pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of the crop. These discrepancies in crop growth can be easily detected from the air, and by taking photographs the cropmark patterns can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

Cursus. A linear feature of Neolithic date formed by a bank and ditch on both sides, possible functions suggested for them have been as trackways, horse racing tracks and ritual processional ways.

Enclosures. An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlements, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

Fieldwalking. Technique of archaeological survey. Walking over ploughed and weathered soil, an experienced observer can collect many ancient artefacts, and by plotting the distribution of such find spots on maps an idea of the use of the landscape can be built up for each period of the past.

Geophysical Survey. Investigation of changes occurring in the magnetic and electrical characteristics of the soil, which can often be induced by human activity.

Henge. See below, hengiform monument.

Hengiform monument. A feature which has the form of a henge, i.e. a circular area with opposed entrances formed by a bank and ditch, the bank of which is outside the ditch and, therefore, unlikely to be a defensive earthwork. Some of these characteristics are lacking even in 'true' henges and a hengiform monument may grade into the ring-ditch feature type, being, however, generally larger than them.

Iron Age. Prehistoric period c. 700 BC - AD 43 when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of AD 43 but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

Medieval. Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. **Post-Medieval** is generally considered to date from 1500.

Mesolithic. The period from the end of the Last Ice Age at 10,000 BP until the start of the Neolithic period at c. 3500. The life style of the people was a continuation of hunting and gathering, no polished stone tools or pottery are associated with it in England.

Neolithic. Prehistoric period c. 3500 - 2000 BC when farming and pottery were introduced. Stone tools of fine workmanship were produced and exchanged over long distances, but before the use of metals.

Palaeosol. A preserved soil which does not owe its origin to the existing land surface.

Pit alignment. A line of pits, usually dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. They are thought to be a native means of boundary marking. The pits do not often have rubbish in them and so are not thought to be rubbish pits.

Posthole. A hole dug to receive a post. They can also result from driving posts into the ground. The latter, however, do not have distinct fills such as packing and a post pipe. A post pipe is the fill of a posthole which formed in the place of a removed post.

Ridge and Furrow. Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to a corrugated ridge and furrow effect. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

Ring-ditch. A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house normally of an Iron Age date.

Round barrow. A Bronze Age burial mound formed by heaping up earth over a central burial. They have several forms, including numbers of encircling ditches and can have many burials in them. The first burial is known as the primary burial, subsequent ones are referred to as secondary burials. It has been suggested that these burial mounds are a way of marking tribal territories, and they are often placed in prominent locations. They can occur in clusters known as 'barrow cemeteries'.

APPENDIX:

THE GEOPHYSICAL REPORT

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford were commissioned to conduct a scan and detailed survey of the assessment area. The area was scanned with a magnetometer at approximately 5m intervals to identify areas for detailed survey. However potential anomalies were found to be too weak to identify, a sampling strategy was adopted. A 50 per cent sample was surveyed in 40m strips at 40m intervals. Two 40m by 40m areas were later surveyed further in areas identified by this sample as containing possible archaeological features. The survey was complicated by the recent ploughing of the field, ferrous disturbance and evidence of recent bonfires in the west of the area.

RESULTS

There were a number of long faint anomalies running in an approximately north-south orientation. A similar anomaly, running east-west on the northern edge of the survey corresponds to a deep rut caused by ploughing parallel to the field boundary. Anomalies of probable archaeological potential appear to be confined to the North-eastern corner of the survey. An E-shaped anomaly was found at the eastern end of this corner with a length of possible ditch running westwards from the south-western corner and a number of pit-like responses in and around this enclosure. These could possibly represent ploughing interference. Immediately to the north of the E-shaped anomaly a single pit-like response was located on the edge of the survey area. South of this corner a weak ditch-like anomaly was recorded in the same east-west orientation as the "E" but appeared otherwise to be isolated, although it was located on the edge of the survey and so may be part of a feature outside the assessment.