Northern edge truncates F.713. Four fills: [2034], latest and most extensive deposit, a dark greenish brown clayey silt of firm compaction and containing occasional inclusions of small stones and pea-grit. [2035], consisting of a firm very dark brown clay silt with occasional inclusions of small to mid sized stones and pea-grit. [2042] was a compacted mottled orange and brown clay with white calcareous flecks beneath which was [2075], a light greyish brown silty clay with no finds. This feature was interpreted as a boundary ditch of Late Iron Age period due to the eight sherds of handmade Late Iron Age pottery recovered from fill [2034].

F.712 Pit. Cut: [2038] length 0.58m+, width 0.32m+, depth 0.32m. Irregular in plan where it was not obscured by the trench edges with steep sides leading to a concave base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2037], a mottled light yellowish brown and mid brown clay silt with rare small stones and flints. No finds were recovered and the feature was interpreted as a pit. It was truncated to the east by F.713.

F.713 Pit. Cut: [2041] length 0.55m+, width 0.55m+, depth 0.37m; as excavated, with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through almost imperceptible breaks of slope. Two fills: [2039], a mottled light yellowish brown and mid brown clay silt with rare small stones and flints. Lower fill [2040], was a mottled mid brown clay silt of loose compaction with frequent inclusions of pea-grit and small stones. No finds were recovered and the feature was interpreted as a pit, truncated on the east by Iron Age ditch F.711.

F.715 Small Ditch/Gully. E-W orientation. Cut: [2047] width 0.85m, 0.21m in depth. Steep straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2045], a light grey silt with common calcareous flecks, and lower fill [2046], a mixed light grey sandy silt with lenses of re-deposited natural sand and gravel. The feature was interpreted as a small ditch or gully and, although two pieces of animal bone were recovered from [2046], its function and date could not be determined.

F.716 Slot/gully. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2049] 0.40m wide, 0.30m deep. Irregular base and sides. Base a series of undulations. Single fill: [2048], a mottled dark brown and grey 'gritty' clay soil with small to medium sized stones and occasional larger stones. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The interpretation of this feature was difficult as it appeared to have been heavily eroded but it is possible that it represented the remnants of a structural slot that once contained a row of upright posts. The base appears to have been formed through a series of touching postholes and variations in the colour and texture of the fill could represent the *in situ* rotting of timbers. Further excavation is necessary to clarify this interpretation.

F.718 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2053] width 1.42m, 0.66m in depth. Linear in plan and 'U'-shaped in profile with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope (fig. 17). Three fills: [2054], the upper fill was a soft black silty clay with occasional inclusions of gravel and small stones. [2055] was the middle fill which consisted of greyish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravel and small stones and [2056], the basal fill which was re-deposited sand and gravel in a grey silty clay soil matrix with calcareous inclusions. Fill [2054] contained 15 sherds of handmade Late Iron Age pottery and a large quantity of domestic animal bone (see Anderson below) suggesting an Iron Age date and of occupation within the near vicinity of this ditch.

F.722 Large Ditch. Cut: [2061] width 2.30m, depth 0.75m. Linear in plan with a gentle curve towards the southwest from an initial alignment of approximately E-W, steep sided with a concave northern edge leading to a narrow slightly rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2059], towards the top with lower fill [2060] predominant within the cut. [2059] was a brownish grey sandy silt of medium compaction with frequent inclusions of small stones [2060], was firmly compacted greyish brown silty clay with common inclusions of small and large stones. Potsherds recovered from [2059] suggest a mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD date for this feature. This large feature was interpreted as a boundary or enclosure ditch dated to the earlier Romano-British phase of the site and appears to have been intentionally backfilled prior to a re-working of the settlement boundary systems.

F.723, Ditch? Probably the same as F.711. Cut: [2063] largely truncated by F.724 to south and obscured by trench edge to north. Plan therefore not available but excavated portion showed a possible 'U'-shaped profile approximately 0.35m deep. Single fill: [2062], a mid greenish grey sandy silt with yellowish green mottles and occasional white flecks. No finds were recovered. Appeared to be part of F.711, cut by F.724.

F.724 Ditch**.** Cut: [2066] width 2.16m, depth 0.80m. Linear in plan, curving from approximately west to north. The cut profile was roughly 'V'-shaped but with a narrow rounded base, the sides being steep and straight with gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2064], was a soft and friable mid grey sandy silt with common white calcareous inclusions. Lower fill [2065], was a mid grey sandy silt (slight clay component) with orange/green mottles and common inclusions of small rounded stones. The feature was interpreted as large boundary or enclosure ditch that had been allowed to silt up gradually. The pottery recovered from the fills was of consistent Late Iron Age date but comprised both handmade and wheel-thrown pottery types, suggesting a date of 50BC – 50AD but with no imported Roman wares.

F.725 Pit? Cut: [2077] largely truncated by F.711 to north and obscured by trench edge to south. Plan therefore not available but excavated portion measured approximately 0.24m wide and 0.25m deep. This was filled by [2076], a mottled brownish yellow and mid green brown silty clay with rare inclusions of small stones and peagrit. No finds were recovered. Probable pit associated with others to north of F.711.

F.726 Ditch or pitting? Cut: [2058] was irregular in plan and unresolved within the trench. The excavated portion measured 1.44m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.35m in depth and comprised steep near vertical sides leading to a concave base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2057], of firm compaction was recorded, a dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized stones. The form of this feature was undecided as although in plan it appeared to be linear in nature this did not correspond to the excavated segment which supported a 'pit-type' interpretation. However it was firmly dated to the Late Iron Age by five sherds of handmade pottery and also contained six bones of domestic animals and a fragment of burnt clay.

F.727 Ditch, not fully excavated. Cut: [2095] remained largely obscured due to suspension of excavation, however width of feature was approximately 3.00m and it was excavated to a depth of 0.65m. Orientation was E-W, though a slight curve to the north was detected in sides that had a shallow slope at the top but became progressively steeper towards the base. Two fills: [2093], a dark brown sandy silt of firm compaction with rare sub-angular and rounded pebble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. Lower fill [2094], a mixed dark brown clayey silt with mid grey clay silt mottles/lenses of a coarse texture with rare inclusions of sub-angular and rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. This was not fully excavated due to the discovery of an articulated cow skeleton which was left *in situ* for attention later. Pottery recovered from [2093] indicated a Romano- British date of 2nd to 4th Centuries AD (see Anderson below).

F.732 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2079] width 2.00m, depth 0.40m. Linear in plan with shallow concave sides leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2078], was a firm, blocky, mid greyish brown sandy silt with common small stones, grit and rare medium sized angular flints. Interpretation of this feature suggested it may have been a shallow ditch with a possible re-cut to one side. Pottery recovered from the fill was a mixture of handmade and wheel turned forms dated from 50 BC – 50 AD.

Trench 201

40m in length, topsoil within this trench was between 0.30m and 0.20m thick and, the subsoil, c. 0.22m deep. Trench 201 was placed across one of the principal linear features identified within both the aerial photographs and the geophysical survey (fig. 20). Features 701, 730 and 731 were identified within the trench. F.701 appeared to define the eastern extent of the settlement, an interpretation that was later confirmed by the trench results, and which may also have been partly due to a distinct change in the natural geology from sand and gravels to 'solid' clay approximately 15m from its western end. Pottery analysis suggests that the primary enclosure ditch, F.701, was created in the Late Iron Age, approximately mid 1st Century BC, and that the substantial nature of the ditch tends towards at least a partly defensive function. This role may have been reversed in the mid 1st Century AD when there appears to have been a certain amount of backfilling of the original cut to be replaced by a much

slighter pair of secondary and tertiary re-cuts of the primary enclosure ditch, F.731 and F.730. This interpretation will need later clarification as the potsherds recovered were abraded and therefore potentially residual (Anderson, below), although this may be explained by the outlying nature of these features.

F.701 Boundary Ditch. Cut: [2010] width 4.20m, depth 1.05m. Linear in plan and followed a N-S alignment. The sides were steep and straight leading to a flat base through sharp breaks of slope. Six fill episodes were identified (fig. 23:4). Six fills: [2004], was a yellowish brown silty sand of firm compaction with common inclusions of large stones. Fill [2005], below [2004], was a brown silty sand of firm compaction with frequent inclusions of small stones and rare large stones. Beneath this was fill [2006] a brownish grey silty clay of firm compaction with frequent inclusions of small stones. [2008] was an insubstantial deposit that lay beneath [2006] and consisted of a yellowish brown silty sand of firm compaction, having a high concentration of small stones and frequent larger stones. This overlay fill [2007], a greyish brown clayey silt of firm compaction with frequent inclusions of small and medium sized stones. [2009] was the basal material, an orange and grey clay, that appeared to be either compacted re-deposited natural or a broken up *in situ* natural, notwithstanding either interpretation finds were retrieved from within this context. The pottery sequence (See Brudenell and Anderson, below) from these fills was particularly coherent with regards to interpretation and indicates a Late Iron Age cutting of a large boundary ditch that had begun to silt up before it was intentionally backfilled in several stages. The upper fills showed some characteristics of being backfill and appeared offset from the medial axis of the cut. They contained mixed potsherds of Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British periods, suggesting a mid 1st century date for this activity.

F.730 Ditch. Located near the western end of the trench Cut: [2085] width 1.10m, depth 0.35m. Linear in plan with concave shallow sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2084], was a firmly compacted mid greenish brown sandy silt with reddish mottles and rare inclusions of pea-grit and small stones. This feature was interpreted as a secondary re-cut of an earlier enclosure ditch but had no finds with which to date it.

F.731 Ditch. Truncated by F.730 along its western edge, Cut: [2087] truncated the upper fills of F.701 and measured 1.40m in width and 0.34m in depth. The feature was linear in plan with concave shallow sides leading to a wide rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [1086], was a firmly compacted mid greenish brown sandy silt with reddish mottles and rare inclusions of pea-grit and small stones. Difficult to distinguish from [2084], this deposit was also barren of finds. The feature was identified as a primary re-cut of enclosure ditch F.701.

Trench 202

Trench 202 was 40m long; the topsoil was between 0.27m and 0.25m deep, with subsoil between 0.20m and 0.25m deep. Three features were sampled, two ditches (**F.733 & F.734**) and a possible pit or ditch butt, **F.717** (fig. 21). One small curvilinear feature, **F.690**, in the northwestern end of the trench was unexcavated, although possibly a ditch terminal cut by a field-drain. The ditches appeared on the aerial photographs and geophysical plots to be the same as those in Trench 201 to the north and which seem to mark the eastern settlement boundary. These, however, were considerably shallower and only two separate ditches were identified, whereas three were seen in Trench 201 (though the possible ditch butt, F.717, may account for the third). Dating could not be undertaken due to a paucity of finds, probably an indication of the comparative distance from occupation. It was noted that the remnants of a possible western bank had been observed sealing F.733 and F.734, and that this may have been derived from plough-dispersal.

A: Ditch and bank features F. 701, F. 730 and F. 731, Trench 201

B: F. 719, F. 720 and F. 721. Iron Age enclosure ditches, Trench 204

Figure 22. Selected excavated features, Site XII

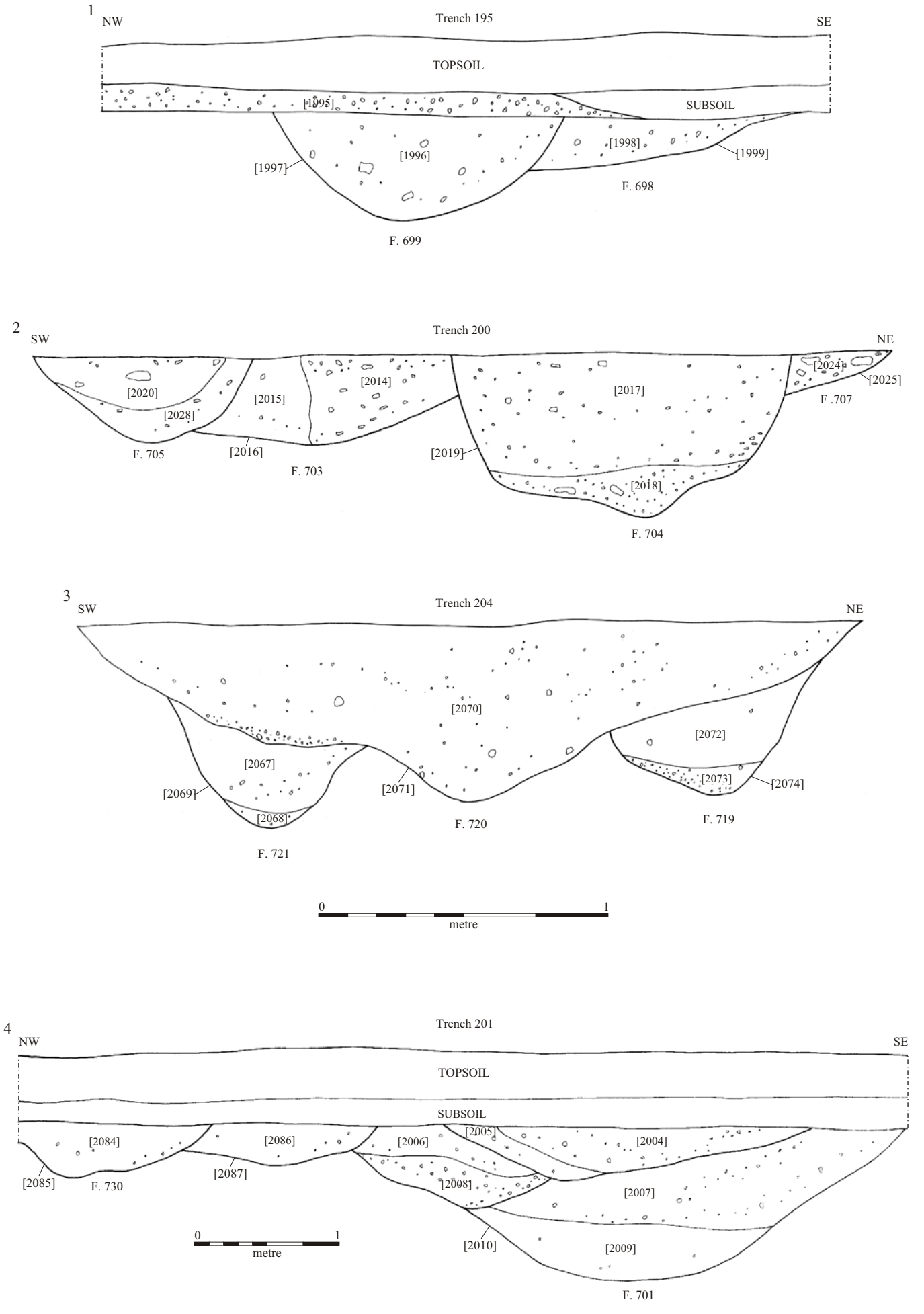

Figure 23. Selected enclosure, boundary and possible roadway ditches from Site XII

F.690 Curvilinear ditch. NE-SW orientation with sharp-angled turn at end. 0.50m wide and cut/disturbed by field-drain; located 3.00m from northwestern end of trench.

F.717 Pit or Ditch Butt. Cut: [2052] length 2.25m, width 1.29m, depth 0.24m. Sub-oval shape in plan, partially obscured by the baulk. In profile the cut was shallow with a concave side to the west and a straight side to the east leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: upper fill [2050], and lower fill [2051]. Fill [2050] was a moderately compacted dark grey with olive mottles consisting of sandy silt with a high organic content and frequent inclusions of charcoal and occasional burnt stones. Fill [2051] was a yellowish grey silty clay with rare instances of gravel and occasional charcoal pieces. No potsherds were recovered from this feature but the high occurrence of organics and charcoal in the upper fill suggested possible dumping of occupational debris (perhaps an activity undertaken outside the settlement boundary?) in a feature interpreted as either a pit or ditch butt end.

F.733 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2090] 2.35m in width by 0.51m depth. Linear in plan. The western side was irregular, the eastern concave, leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2088], was the upper and [2089] the lower. Fill [2088] was a mid greenish grey silty clay of moderate compaction with occasional inclusions of small stones, gravel and charcoal. Fill [2089] was a mid to dark greyish brown clay silt with a layer of gravel towards the top of the fill and occasional small stones and gravel elsewhere. The feature was interpreted as a boundary ditch, possibly a re-cut of F.734. No finds were recovered from either fill but it was thought that [2088] may have been the remnants of a ploughed out bank on the western side of the feature.

F.734 Ditch. Located to the east of (and truncated by) F.733, Cut: [2092] was linear in plan with concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2091], a mid greyish brown clay silt of firm compaction and blocky construct with common inclusions of small rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Became of looser compaction towards the base. This feature was interpreted as a small boundary ditch later re-cut but of indeterminate period due to lack of potsherd recovery.

Field 13

Field 13 was initially sampled with eight machine-excavated trenches, followed by a ninth judgementally sited. Total length of trenching was 694.40m, in which 15 archaeological features were identified although these were clustered in the four trenches to the northeast of the field. These trenches averaged a depth of 0.30m topsoil over 0.14m of subsoil, and their geology was predominantly sand and gravel with clay lenses. The other trenches were cut onto 'heavy'/solid clay with an average of 0.26m topsoil over 0.14m subsoil, and in which no archaeological features were identified. Following the recording of soil depths, the latter were immediately backfilled.

Trench 195

This judgemental trench was placed to locate the eastern edge of the settlement distribution (fig. 21). Two features were located at the western trench end. **F.699** was a ditch aligned north-south seen on both aerial and geophysical plots which contained Romano-British potsherds and was found to mark the eastern extremity of the settlement. **F.698** was cut by F.699 (fig 23:1), and may have been a shallow pit but it contained no finds and had an indeterminate form. Above both these features layer [1995] was seen in the trench section and was interpreted as plough-dispersed bank material, indicating an internal placement for this component of the settlement boundary.

Layer [1995] was a mixture of greyish brown silty clay and re-deposited natural materials; fragmented chalk and grey clay lenses. No finds were recovered.

F.698 Possible Pit**.** Cut: [1999] was partially obscured by the trench edge but had a rounded form in plan with shallow concave sides leading to a flat sloping base through gradual breaks of slope. The western side of the feature had been truncated away by F.699. Single fill: [1998] was a light reddish brown sandy silt with common inclusions of small rounded and angular stones. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

F.699 Ditch. NNE-SSW orientation. Cut: [1997] width 1.98m, depth 0.72m. Linear in plan with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through imperceptible breaks of slope. Single fill: [1996] was a mottled reddish brown and grey silty sand with common inclusions of small rounded and angular stones. A good quantity of Romano-British potsherds were recovered from this deposit, primarily from one vessel dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (see Anderson below). A large fragment of quern stone was also retrieved as well as animal bone and a piece of worked flint (see Anderson below). The feature was interpreted as a boundary ditch, probably originally with an internal bank (layer [1995]) which although ploughed flat still remains within the subsoil.

Trench 203

This trench was 55.15m in length and was cut northeast- southwest across the southeastern corner of the cropmarks. The topsoil was c. 0.30m deep, with subsoil between 0.16m and 0.19m deep. When excavated this trench proved to follow the alignment of an underlying enclosure ditch (**F.710**), because of which a small projection was excavated in the western side of the trench to discover the width of this feature; seven other features were also recorded. F.710 was not previously expected from the cropmarks and geophysical plots, but it is evidently a continuation of the eastern enclosure of the settlement and was dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. Other features recorded were also ditches of which F.728, although not fully excavated, proved to be substantial (2.81m wide; 0.65m deep) and contained Romano-British potsherds. F.714 was located at the north of the trench and contained Early Romano-British pottery. Towards the southern end, a layer of buried soil ([2033]), or perhaps a ploughed-out trackway surface, produced two copper alloy brooch fragments of similar date. <659> was an upper portion of Colchester Derivative type fibula with decorated bow dated from the second half of the 1st century AD; <660> was of different type, being the upper section of a Langton Down type fibula and dated, more specifically, to 40-60 AD. Both were snapped off at the same point, about half way down the bow, although whether this was intentional or accidental cannot be verified.

F.689 Pit or ditch terminal. Located at northern end of trench. Cut by probable furrow. 1.05m wide.

F.691 Curvilinear ditch? Cut by F.714 and furrow. 1.00m wide.

F.692 Ditch? NE-SW orientation. With right-angled turn, cuts or is cut by F.693; located c. 30m from northern end of trench. 1.70m wide along main axis, and 1.90m wide where it returns under the baulk edge.

F.693 Ditch or Layer. Investigated by small slot 0.33m wide by 0.45m deep. Fill [2033] grey black silty clay. No finds recovered. The size of this feature was difficult to determine as it extended over 34m of the southern end of the trench.

F.710 Ditch. Cut: [2032] width 1.83m, depth 0.34m. With steep concave sides leading to a flat uneven base. The cut was linear in plan and was aligned north-northeast-south-southwest. Single fill: [2031], was a mid grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravel, becoming denser towards the base, and common inclusions of small to medium sized angular and rounded stones. The feature was interpreted

as an enclosure ditch and potsherds recovered from the fill were dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (See Anderson below).

F.714 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2044] was 1.16m in width by 0.26m. Linear in plan. The sides were shallow and concave leading to a flat uneven base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2043], a dark grey clayey silt with frequent gravel inclusions and a range of small to large angular and rounded stones. Pottery found towards the base of the feature was Early Romano-British, 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

F.728 Ditch? NE-SW orientation. Not fully excavated. Cut: [2081] width 2.81m, depth 0.65m. The excavated side was of a shallow angle but appeared to run deep to a narrow rounded base through a gradual break of slope. Single fill: [2080], a greyish brown sandy clay of firm compaction and had frequent inclusions of small stones. Pottery was recovered from this deposit dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (see Anderson below) and it was interpreted as a large boundary ditch. On its southern side it truncated F. 729.

F.729 Ditch. Cut: [2083] width 1.70m, depth 0.40m. A shallow 'U'-shape in plan with concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2082], was an orange brown sandy clay of firm compaction with frequent small stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Interpreted as an early enclosure ditch, possibly Iron Age.

Trench 204

This was 40.45m in length; the topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.30m thick, with subsoil between 0.08m and 0.15m deep. Four features were excavated within this trench: **F.706, F.719, F.720** and **F.721**. One further feature was identified as a large enclosure ditch, **F.694**, which was left unexcavated as it was felt that a partial examination of the feature would be inappropriate and protection of any stratigraphic relationships a priority. This large ditch appeared to cut across F.706, a Romano-British ditch, both being identified from cropmarks and geophysical plots. F.706 contained 52 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, including two sherds of Samian and a further three residual sherds dated to the Middle Iron Age. However, from the relative dating it appears that this apparent relationship is incorrect and that the large enclosure ditch should be Iron Age like the other associated features seen on the plots. Examination of these suggest a meeting of several enclosures at this point and that the limited area of these relationships within the trench was insufficient to firmly establish a detailed chronology for them. Towards the northern end of the trench, a series of three linear features aligned approximately north-south were excavated (F.719, F.720 and F.721; fig 23: 3) and found to be dated to the Late Iron Age. The two smaller ditches, F.719 and F.721 were re-cut with F.720, which contained 30 sherds of handmade and wheel-thrown Late Iron Age pottery forms characteristic of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition and one Early Romano-British sherd (see Brudenell, below). The form of these ditches is uncertain from the geophysical plots, but their sinuous nature suggests enclosure boundaries added to the earlier Iron Age systems and which remained open past the conquest period.

F.694 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Clearly identifiable from cropmark evidence, this feature was located at the mid-point of the trench. Width, 3.50m. Possibly contiguous with or cutting or cut by F.706.

F.706 Ditch. NNE-SSW orientation. Cut: [2023] width 1.60m, depth 0.58m. Linear in plan with moderately steep straight sides with a pronounced 'hump' in middle leading to a flat base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2022], a dark orange brown clay silt of firm compaction with rare inclusions of small stones, chalk flecks and occasional medium sized stones towards the base. The feature was interpreted as a 2nd to 3rd century enclosure ditch dated by potsherd analysis (see Anderson

below). Residual Middle Iron Age potsherds recovered as well may suggest the nearby truncation of an earlier feature and subsequent erosion of these finds into F. 706.

F.719 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2074] width 0.85m+, depth 0.49m. Linear in plan. The sides were steep, although the western edge was truncated by F.720, and irregular leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2072], a firmly compacted dark olive brown clay silt with rare inclusions of small to medium sized flint stones, pea-grit and white calcareous flecks, fill [2073], a firmly compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with lenses of orange sand and rare inclusions of calcareous white flecks and pea-grit. Interpreted as an enclosure ditch this feature was dated to the Late Iron Age by two sherds, one handmade and the other wheel-thrown (see Brudenell below).

F.720, Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2071] 1.95m in width by 0.71m deep. Linear in plan. In profile, the cut was a wide 'V'-shape with straight sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Single fill: [2070], a dark greenish brown clay silt of firm compaction and rare inclusions of small to medium sized stones and white calcareous grit. F. 720 was interpreted as a large re-cut of two smaller earlier enclosure ditches with 30 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and one sherd of early Romano-British pottery, this may have been associated with a late re-establishment of the settlement boundaries and thus remained open until the post conquest period.

F.721, Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2069] width 0.69m, depth 0.47m. Truncated on western side by F.720. Linear in plan, with steep concave sides leading to a rounded base through gradual breaks of slope. Two fills: [2067], a firmly compacted dark greenish brown clay silt with rare inclusions of small stones and calcareous flecks, lower fill. [2068], a hard compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with some striations of orange sand and rare pea-grit and white calcareous flecks. This feature was interpreted as an enclosure ditch.

Trench 205

Trench 205 was 49.10m long; the topsoil was between 0.26m and 0.36m thick, and the subsoil 0.14m to 0.10m deep. Five features, **F.672**, **F.695-F.697** and **F.792**, were located within it; two were linear features identified from aerial photographs as the ringwork circuits of an Iron Age enclosure (F.695 & F.696). As these had already been sampled in the 2004 trenching exercise (F.500 & F.511) it was decided to leave them undisturbed.

F.672 Pit? Located in extreme southwestern end of trench and cutting or cut by F.792; width to baulk, 1.40m.

F.695 Ditch. NNW-SSE orientation. Large enclosure ditch, 5.40m wide, located at northeastern end of trench.

F.696 Ditch. NNW-SSE orientation. Large enclosure ditch, 4.40m wide, located 3.5m south of F.695.

F.697 Pit or ditch terminal. Located in southern half of the trench; width, 1.90m

F.792 Ditch terminal. NW-SE orientation; width, 0.60m; probably cutting F.672.

Trench 206

Trench 206 was 100m long; the topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.21m thick, and the subsoil 0.24m to 0.15m deep. No archaeological deposits were identified within it.

Trench 207

Trench 207 was 100m long; the topsoil was between 0.24m and 0.26m thick, and the subsoil 0.14m to 0.15m deep. No archaeological deposits were identified within it.

Trench 208

This was 125m long; the topsoil was 0.24m deep, and the subsoil between 0.24m to 0.15m deep. No archaeological deposits were identified within it.

Trench 209

Trench 209 was 100m long; the topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.27m thick, and the subsoil 0.12m to 0.10m deep. No archaeological deposits were identified within it.

Trench 210

This trench was 100m long; the topsoil was between 0.24m and 0.33m thick, and the subsoil 0.12m to 0.09m deep. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Discussion

Site XII bears many of the characteristics of an Iron Age 'defended farmstead' (Evans 2003). Crucial to this interpretation is the identification of an earlier ringwork with an additional exterior circuit, measuring approximately 0.25 hectares in extent with a possible entranceway situated to the northwest. Its inner ditch was substantial, measuring approximately 5.30m in width and 1.70m in depth, producing pottery from the Middle to Late Iron Age, as well as some 1st century AD Roman sherds from its uppermost fill, suggesting it was still open at the time of the Conquest. The ditch at Site XII appears to be quite substantial in comparison to other similar sites (Wardy Hill, Mingies Ditches) but of lesser circumference, suggesting perhaps a smaller occupation area within a more massive bank fortification. As yet, no signs of internal occupation have been identified either through the aerial or geophysical plots or within the trenching scheme.

In common with the other examples, this prime focal point (i.e. the ringwork 'core'/'circle') seems to have been appended with later Iron Age enclosures, and evidence of internal occupation is apparent from the identification of probable 'eavesgullies' from the geophysical survey plot. Also apparent are 'organic' ditch enclosures that spread to the north and northeast, possibly containing further house eavesgullies. This type of settlement pattern accords well with the Wardy Hill and Mingies Ditches enclosures, where central foci act as a hub for expansive occupation, and also Hurst lane, where extensive occupation in irregular enclosures seems attached to an 'empty' focal enclosure (Evans & Knight forthcoming). Compared to these examples, however, the settlement at Site XII appears less 'balanced' overall, with a focal point offset from the main settlement axis. This may be explained by the

occurrence of a second possible focus to the north of the site where a pair of enclosure ditches may be tentatively postulated. Examination of the cropmark and geophysical results seems to indicate a vestigial western extension of settlement enclosures that lie beneath the modern roadway, so perhaps an original 'balanced' enclosure system was 'corrupted' by an additional enclosure to the north, thus creating a north-south settlement axis rather than the original northeast to southwest axis. The preliminary dating of the eastern ditches to the Late Iron Age and lack of further occupation evidence gives the settlement a 'hard-edge' in this direction although further excavation is necessary to positively confirm this.

The instigation of a major re-structuring of the ditch system immediately after the Roman Conquest is unlikely as the large boundary or defensive ditches appear mostly to have not been deliberately backfilled. Slow depositional rates showing a good stratification of finds may emphasise the continuity between periods and extended Iron Age cultural occupation, evidenced by scarce instances of potsherd overlap in primary contexts between the Late Iron Age pot types and the imported or introduced Romano-British wares (see Brudenell, below). Possibly, this was due to the poverty of the local community combined with the continuation of pre-Conquest pottery forms and local trading contacts. The metal detector finds of two copper alloy brooch fragments dated to the Conquest and Early Romano-British periods from Trench 203, as well as a low yield of residual sherds recovered from features scattered across the site suggests at least some continuity of an impoverished Iron Age settlement into the early Romano-British period. This is unlike Wardy Hill (Evans 2003), where a period of social adjustment appears as a temporary abandonment of settlement and a cultural dislocation.

The initial period of *status quo* appears to have been abruptly brought to a close when a system of ditches forming a rectilinear pattern was superimposed over the Iron Age settlement (fig. 24). This seems to have occurred by the early 2nd century AD, although the small quantities of pottery recovered from the sampled ditches suggest that any settlement *per se* in the immediate vicinity was then modest. Indeed, there was little evidence for activity after the 3rd century AD; the majority of pottery assemblages from features date from the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and we may assume a general settlement redundancy by the end of the 3rd century.

This is not the full story, however, as there is some evidence that a secondary rectilinear system of enclosures was superimposed across the earlier set on a northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest alignment. This includes the possible structural elements noted in Trench 200, and also F.708 which had a large assemblage of later Romano-British potsherds. Also attributable to this time are two parallel ditches at the southern end of Trench 142, on a slightly different alignment to the nearby early Romano-British ditches, which may also date to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. This could be evidence of the establishment of a late farmstead upon the earlier system or perhaps a change of land ownership; further excavation would no doubt be necessary to illuminate this.

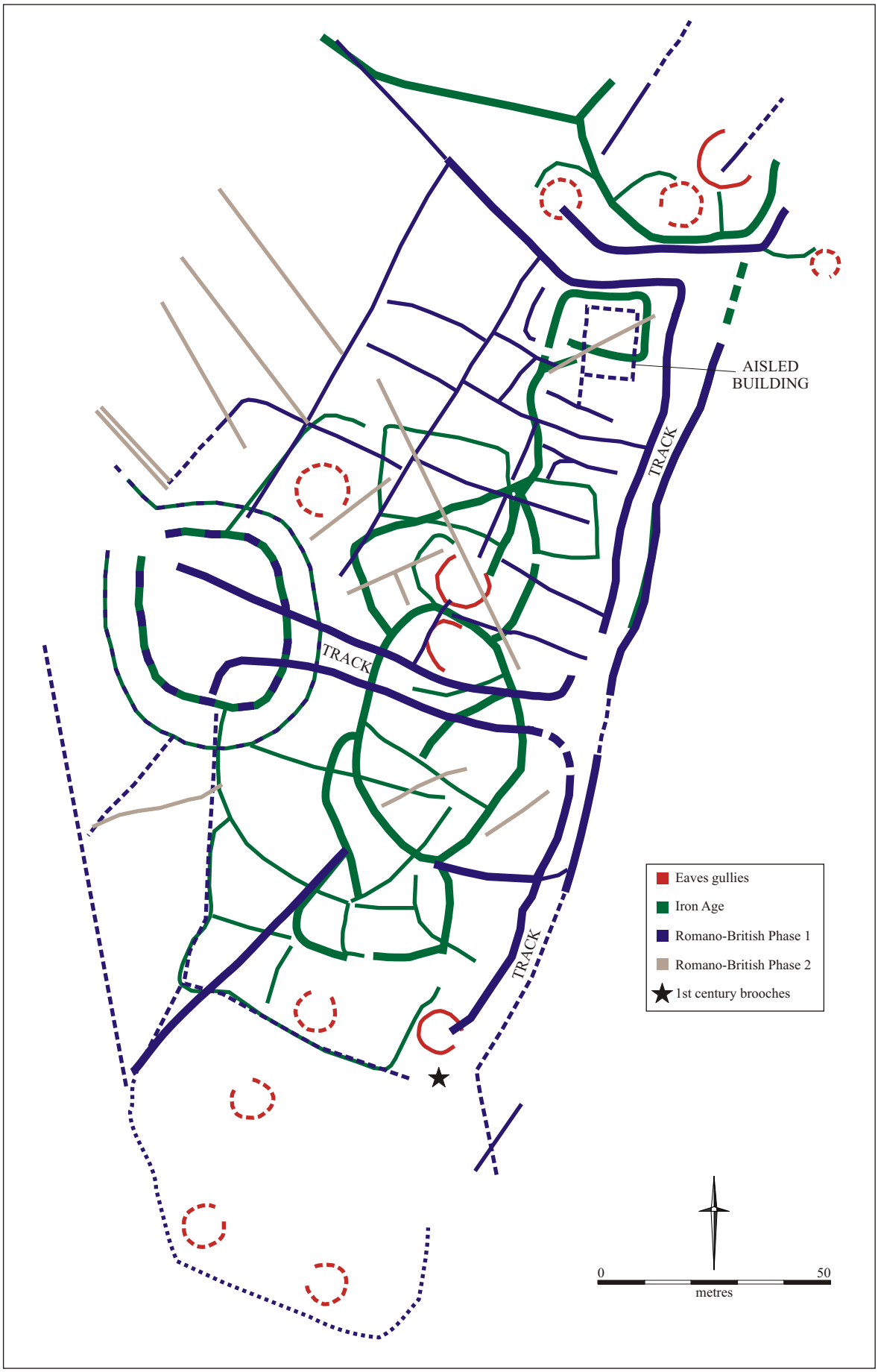

Figure 24. Settlement phases at Site XII

In summary, the trenching exercise carried out across Site XII has revealed a 'ringwork-type' settlement and appended enclosures dated from the Middle to Late Iron Age. This remained active throughout the time of the Roman Conquest, before being replaced by a rectilinear enclosure system of Romano-British type, itself replaced by a secondary, Late Roman rectilinear system.

Furthermore, and if leaving details of phasing aside, with our limited trial excavations producing more than 130 and 230 sherds respectively of Iron Age and Roman pottery (and 113 identifiable animal bones), there can be no doubt that this is a very dense, multi-phase settlement complex.

Part 6) **Sites XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX** (Fields 15-20, 23 & 24; with Duncan Garrow)

The fieldwork outlined in this section covers 37.44ha, divided between eight fields (fig. 18). Fields 15 to 20 and Fields 23 and 24 are currently agricultural land, and lie between 10m and 15m OD. Fields 15, 16, and 17 were bounded to the southwest by the A14, with Fields 16 and 17 bounded to the northeast by Oakington Brook. Field 18 was bounded to the southwest by the A14, and divided from Field 17 on the west by a drainage ditch. To the northeast, the farm track to Slate Hall Farm, divided Fields 18 and 19. Fields 19 and 20 were bordered on the southeast by the Dry Drayton Road, and on their western edges by Oakington Brook. Fields 23 and 24 are located to the north of Oakington Brook and Field 20. The landscape gently slopes upward towards the northwest in the direction of Wilson's Road, at approximately 20m OD. The underlying geology is Ampthill dark grey clays (British Geological Survey 1993).

The only site that was previously known in this area was the Mesolithic scatter, recovered earlier through fieldwalking beside Slate Hall Farm (Site I); all of the rest are new discoveries. This being said, given that the southern portion of this stretch flanks the Oakington Brook, and that much of it sees extensive lighter Greensand geology (see Evans & Dickens 2002), it was somewhat surprising that further evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation was not forthcoming. The only site of these periods being found is the Site XXVIII lithic scatter.

Field 15

Two trenches were initially machine-excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 180m in length. Topsoil was between 0.26m thick to 0.24m deep, with no subsoil. No archaeological features were observed in either trench, which were subsequently backfilled following recording of soil depths.

Field 16

Ten trenches (245-253 & 258) were machine-excavated in this field, totalling 675.64m. Topsoil varied in depth between 0.27m and 0.22m deep, with subsoil depths between 0.32m and 0.20m deep. Twelve archaeological features were exposed in Trenches 245, 246, 249, 251, 258 and 259 across the southern half of the field. Of

both later Iron Age and Roman date, and producing moderate quantities of material, this grouping has been designated as Site XXVI (and which extends into the northern third of Field 17; see below and fig. 25). Both the nature and date of this site is ambiguous. Whilst producing both later Iron Age and Early Roman assemblages (F.739 and F. 742 respectively), and locally a few distinctly settlement-type features occurred, generally the evidence of occupation *per se* - as opposed to a fieldsystem - was sparse.

Trench 245

Trench 245 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was 0.23m deep, and the subsoil between 0.24m and 0.26m deep. This trench contained two ditches **F.739**, and **F.740**, oriented north-south and northeast-southwest, respectively, with F.739 cutting F.740. The nature of fills and orientation of F.739 suggest this dated to the later Iron Age; it continued into Trench 258.

F.739 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2111], width approximately 1.40m, depth 0.58m. Steep near vertical sides with initial break of slope to step, followed by convex break of slope to steep side and further concave break of slope to flat base. Cuts F.740. Fill [2109] orange brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and occasional gravel inclusions. Two fills: [2109], an orange brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and occasional gravel inclusions, pottery and bone, [2110], a dark grey sandy silt (higher clay content than [2109]) with charcoal inclusions (burnt wood fragments) at the base of the fill. Finds: pottery from both fills, with bone only in upper fill.

F.740 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2113] width 1.20m, depth 0.35m. Moderate to steep sides with uneven base. Cut by F.739. Single fill: [2112], a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and rare gravel inclusions. No finds.

Trench 246

Trench 246 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.26m and 0.25m deep, and the subsoil between 0.29m and 0.27m deep. This trench contained a single ditch feature, **F.773**. The nature of its fill and orientation suggest it may have been a later Iron Age or early Roman boundary ditch.

F.773 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2192] width 0.97m, depth 0.32m. Steep sides with concave base. Single fill: [2191], a compact orange brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusion and charcoal flecks. Finds: pottery, flint and burnt stone.

Trench 249

Trench 249 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was 0.27m deep, with the subsoil 0.28m deep. This trench contained a single ditch feature, **F.772**, of unknown date.

F.772 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2190] length 1.00m, width 0.97m, depth 0.56m. Steep sides with concave base. Single fill: [2189], a moderately compact mid brown orange sandy silt with very occasional gravel with burnt stones at base of fill. Burnt stones.

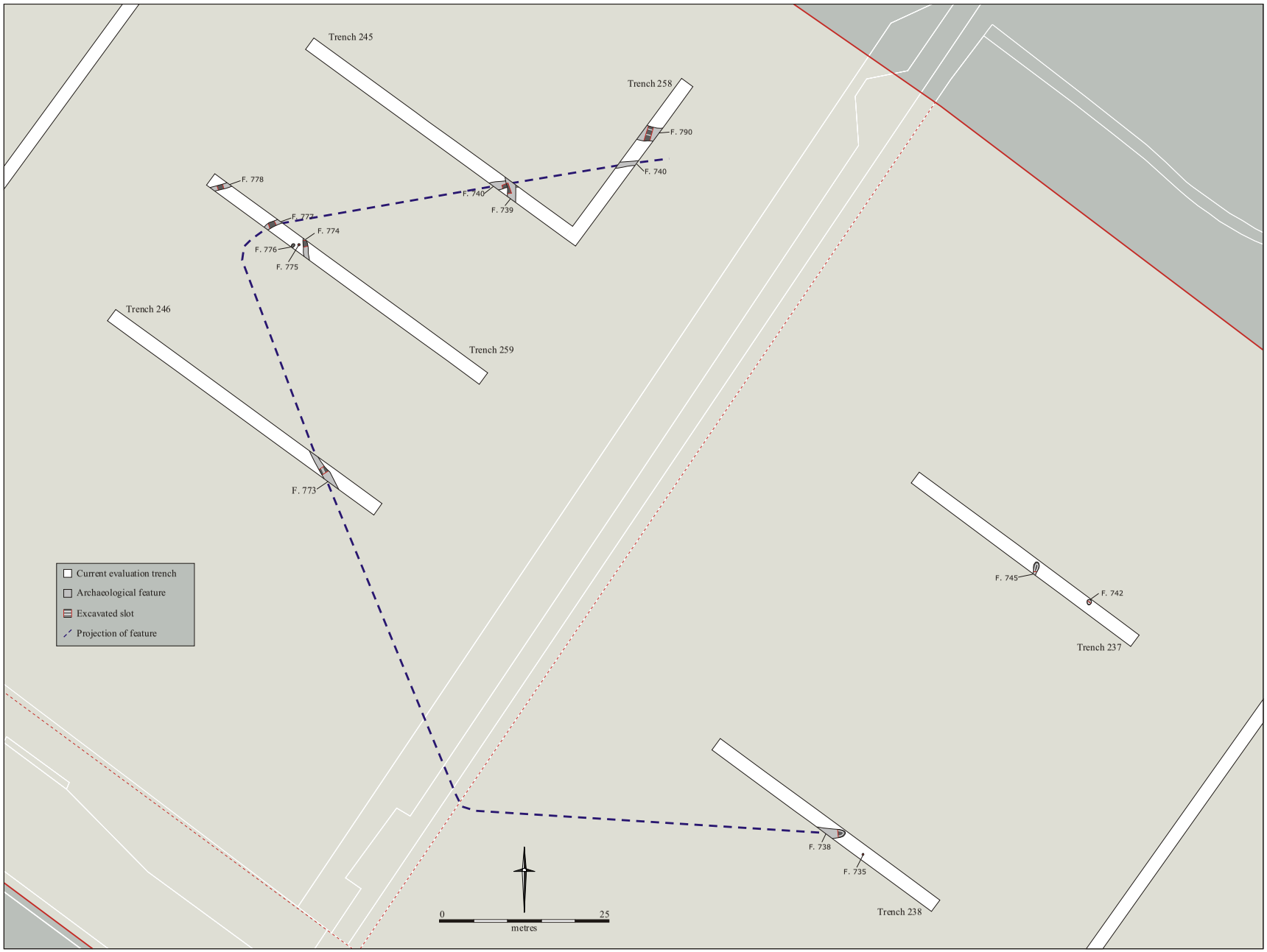

Figure 25. Site XXVI, Fields 16 and 17, excavated features and projected alignments

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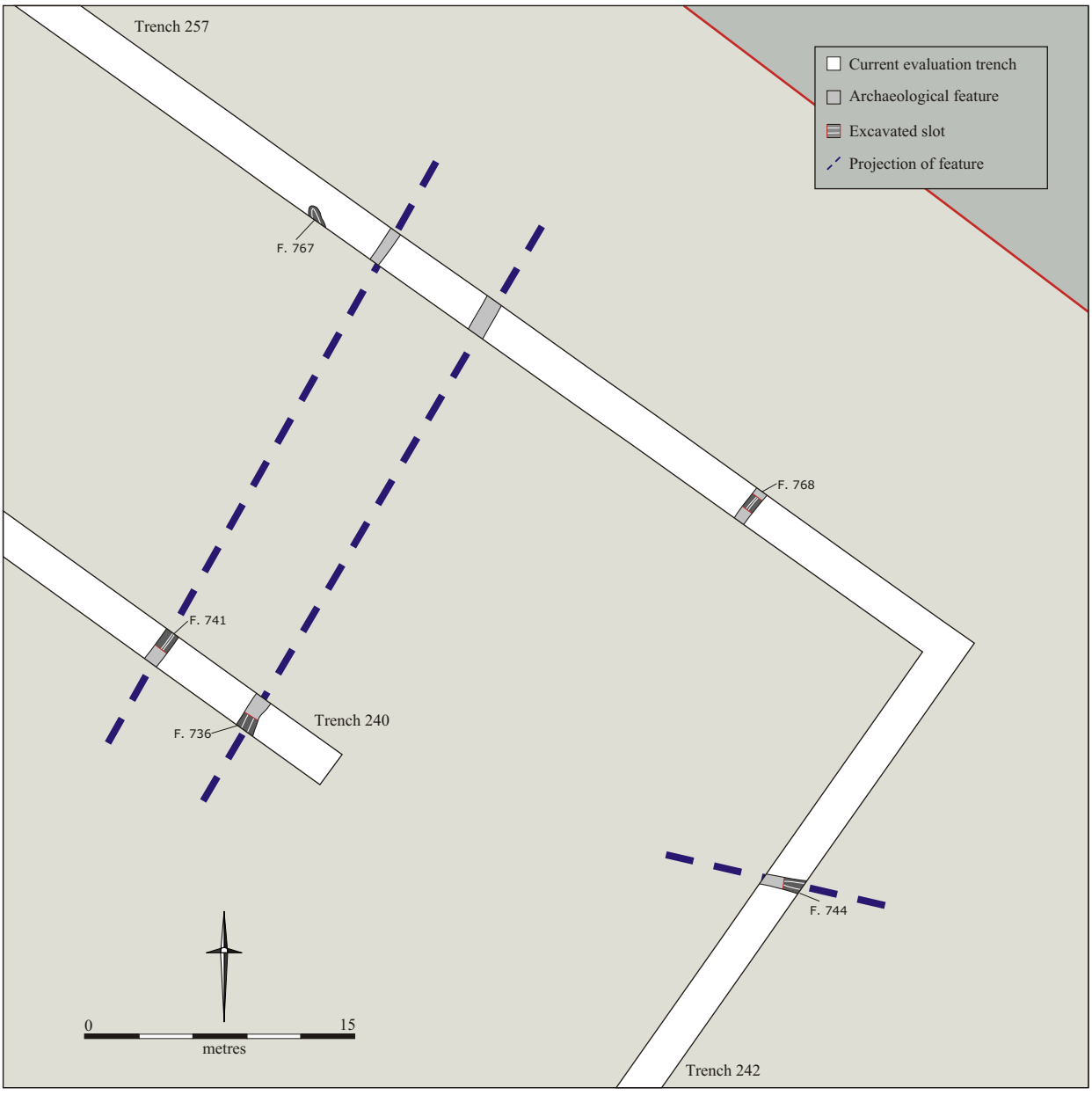

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Figure 26. Field 17, projected alignments of excavated features, possibly relating to either Site XXVI (Field 16) or Site XXVII (Field 18)

Trench 251

Trench 251 was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.26m and 0.27m deep, and the subsoil between 0.26m and 0.27m deep. This trench contained a single ditch feature, **F.743**. The nature of fills and orientation of this feature suggest it may be Medieval ridge-and-furrow.

F.743 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2119] length 1.00m, width 1.15m, depth 0.12m. Shallow sloping sides with concave base. Single fill: [2118], a grey red silty clay. No finds.

Trench 258

Trench 258 was 30m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.23m and 0.22m deep, with the subsoil 0.29m deep. This trench contained two ditch features, the northeastern projection of F.740 from Trench 245 and, to the north, **F.790**. Bone and pottery was recovered from the latter, with the pottery dating to the 2nd – 4th centuries AD. The size, orientation and nature of its fills, when considered together with the pottery, suggest F.790 formed part of an enclosure or boundary ditch.

F.790 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [1605] width 2.28m, depth – water-table encountered so not bottomed. 'U'-shaped, where seen in section with steep sides on NE edge, moderate on SW side. Three fills: [1741], a grey brown clayey sand with few gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks, [1742], a mid grey sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions with flecks of charcoal and orange material, [1743], a dark grey clayey silt with occasional stones and charcoal. Finds: pottery and bone; all from [1741].

Trench 259

Trench 259 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.24m and 0.23m deep, and the subsoil between 0.27m and 0.29m deep. This trench contained a small pit, **F.776**, posthole, **F.775**, and three ditch features, F.774, **F.777** and **F.778**. The nature of the fill and orientation of the ditches suggest these may have been Late Iron Age or Roman boundary ditches; F.774 being parallel with F. 739 in Trench 245. A probable Iron Age, and certain prehistoric date, is inferred for F.776 based on the nature of the fill and recovery of a single flint, although this may be residual deposit.

F.774 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2194] width 0.76m, depth 0.16m. Gently sloping shallow sides and flat base. Single fill: [2193], a firm compact mixed mid grey orange sandy silt with occasional small, <20mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and some charcoal flecks. No finds.

F.775 Posthole. Cut: [2196] length 0.39m, width 0.35m, depth 0.20m. Steep sides with concave 'V'-shaped base. Single fill: [2195], a firm compact mixed mid grey orange sandy silt with occasional small, <20mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and some charcoal flecks. No Finds.

F.776 Pit. Cut: [2198] length 0.65m, width 0.50m, depth 0.14m. Steep gradual sides with concave base. Single fill: [2197], was a mid brown sandy silt with occasional very small, <20mm, rounded and sub-angular pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds: flint.

F.777 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [1701] width 0.78m, depth 0.36m. Steep near vertical sides with clear break of slope to flat base. Two fills: [2109], a compact mid brown orange sandy silt with a few

small, <30mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and charcoal flecks, [1700], a firm mid grey clayey silt with occasional small, <50mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and charcoal flecks. Finds: bone, from [1701].

F.778 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [1703] width 0.68m, depth 0.20m. Gentle slopes with concave base. Single fill: [1702], a mid brown sandy silt with occasional small, <30mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and charcoal flecks. Finds: pottery.

Field 17

Ten trenches were excavated totalling approximately 550.13m in length, revealing nine features in Trenches 237, 238, 240, 242 and 257. Topsoil was between 0.26m thick to 0.23m deep, with subsoil varying between 0.30m and 0.20m deep. Nine features were exposed within this field, in Trenches 237, 238, 240, 242 and 257. Trench 256, a 50m trench, was located immediately to the west of the stream dividing Fields 17 and 18 to establish if the archaeology in the latter of these extended to the west of Oakington Brook. Although a small quantity of bone was recovered, these were from shallow channels identified as erosion gullies, associated with an earlier palaeochannel. Those within its two northernmost trenches (237 & 239) would at least, in part, seem to relate to Site XXVI (see Field 16 above and fig. 25). Otherwise, the status of those features within its middle swathe (fig. 26) is more ambiguous as to whether they constitute a discrete site, or relate to either Site XXVI or Site XXVII in Field 18.

Trench 237

Trench 237 was 45m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was 0.25m deep, and the subsoil between 0.20m and 0.22m deep. This trench contained a small pit, **F.742** and a small ditch-like feature, **F.745**. The nature of the fill and orientation of the ditch feature suggest this may be a remnant of Medieval or post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow. Sherds of pottery, more than 260, recovered from the small pit-like feature, F.742, date this to the Early Roman period.

F.742 Small pit. Cut: [2117] width 0.69m, depth 0.14m. Gently sloping shallow sides with gradual break of slope to flat base. Single fill: [2116], a red brown clayey silt with charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery.

F.745 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2123] width 0.76m, depth 0.16m. Single fill: [2122], was a pale yellow grey silty clay. Gently sloping shallow sides and flat base. Finds: single small sherd of abraded pottery.

Trench 238

This was 45m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.24m deep, and the subsoil between 0.20m and 0.22m deep. This trench contained a single small posthole, **F.735** and a ditch terminal, **F.738**. The nature of the fill and orientation of the ditch suggest this may be a later Iron Age field boundary, although no datable artefacts were recovered from it. Similarly, the lack of artefacts for the posthole prevents this from being securely dated.

F.735 Posthole. Cut: [2101] length 0.18m, width 0.30m, depth 0.13m. Vertical sides with sharp break of slope to flat base. Single fill: [2100], a compact dark brownish grey clay with frequent small charcoal lumps and flecks, and occasional gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.738 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2108] width 1.30m, depth 0.32m. Steep sides with concave break of slope to flat base. Single fill: [2107], a hard compact mottled orange and grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions and white sandy patches towards the base. Finds: burnt stone.

Trench 240

Trench 240 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.24m deep, with the subsoil 0.25m deep. This trench contained two parallel ditches, **F.736** and **F.741**. The orientation and parallel relationship of these ditches suggest these may be Medieval or post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow, but the recovery of Roman pottery from both (in conjunction with their profiles) cannot exclude a Roman origin.

F.736 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2104] width 1.03m, depth 0.47m. 'U'-shaped profile with steep sides and gradual break of slope to concave base. Two fills: [2102], a compact olive brown silty clay with very rare stones, [2103], was a compact grey brown sandy clay with frequent gravel and organic matter. No finds.

F.741 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2114] width 0.86m, depth 0.32m. 'U'-shaped profile with steep sides and gradual break of slope to concave base. Single fill: [2113], a hard compact yellow grey mottled silty clay with very occasional gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal. Finds: pottery.

Trench 242

Trench 242 was 100m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.26m and 0.25m deep, and the subsoil between 0.25m and 0.20m deep. This trench contained a single feature, ditch **F.744**. Its orientation and the nature of its fill suggest this is part of a field boundary dating from either the Iron Age, or Roman period.

F.744 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2121] width 0.50m, depth 0.23m. Shallow 'U'-shaped profile gentle slopes and concave base. Single fill: [2120], a pale yellow grey silty clay. No finds.

Trench 256

This was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was between 0.24m and 0.23m deep, and the subsoil between 0.25m and 0.30m deep. No archaeological features were observed in this trench, although a quantity of bone was recovered from small erosion channels assumed to be associated with an earlier palaeochannel of the stream separating Fields 17 and 18.

Trench 257

This was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was between 0.23m and 0.24m deep, and the subsoil between 0.28m and 0.26m deep. This trench contained a ditch terminal, **F.767**, and ditch, **F.768**. No datable artefacts were recovered from either; however, they represent the direct northward continuation of the ditches in Trench 240.

F.767 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2174] width 0.64m, depth 0.38m. 'V'-shaped profile with concave base. Single fill: [2173], a grey brown silty clay with charcoal and occasional flint gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.768 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2176] width 0.59m, depth 0.23m. 'V'-shaped profile with near vertical slope on south-eastern edge, steep on north-western side with sharp concave base. Single fill: [2175], a grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks. Finds: pottery.

Field 18

Sixteen trenches (211-226 & 291) were excavated totalling 1283.54m in length (fig. 18). A right-angle extension to Trench 211 measuring 27m, Trench 291, was dug to identify the course of a presumed palaeochannel found in Trench 226. Although the palaeochannel was not present in the extension, the trench was recorded in plan as five archaeological features were identified, ditches F.819, F821-822 and possible pit F.820 and one feature identified as a continuation of F.711, but not investigated further following the sampling strategy adopted for the current programme. Topsoil in Field 18 varied between 0.33m deep and 0.19m deep, and the subsoil depth between 0.30m deep to 0.15m deep. Eight trenches, 211, 212, 214, 217, 224, 225, 226, and 291 contained archaeological features. The majority of archaeology was concentrated in Trenches 211, 212, 214, 217, 225 and 291, revealing a high density of Late Romano-British occupation (fig. 27). Where Trenches 211 and 226 intersected, the geology was disturbed, probably by water action, and obscured features in this area, although two possible ditch alignments were thought present. No archaeology was found in Trenches 213, and 218 to 223, and these were accordingly backfilled following recording of soil depth. The archaeology was closely localised to the area of gravel sub-soils in the northwest corner of the field (the reminder having a heavy clay natural), and which is designated as Site XXVII.

Examination of the aerial photographic record of Field 18 showed a complete absence of definitive cropmarks (although 'disturbance' could be seen in the northwestern half of the field; see Part 3 above), which otherwise might have alerted us to the presence of such a high density of features. Following initial machine-excavation within the area of Site XXVII, significant quantities of pottery and bone were observed both *in situ* and on the spoil heaps. The nature of the archaeological evidence clearly suggested dense settlement or similarly related activity, thus requiring a sampling strategy to ensure sufficient features were excavated in the time available. Consequently, all features in Trenches 211 and 217 were excavated, with only one feature in Trench 214 and none in Trenches 212 and 225 investigated. In view of the significance and density of archaeology revealed in this field, all of the trenches and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector. This produced numerous coins (largely 3rd and 4th century in date), two brooches, bronze vessel fragments, a steelyard weight

and a decorative mount and *hipposandal* (see Hall below). A geophysical survey was subsequently carried out across Field 18, revealing a network of small enclosures contained within a larger enclosure. Casual observation of the field surface further revealed numerous sherds of abraded Roman pottery, quern fragments and also a few prehistoric flint flakes and cores. It is, however, relevant to note that this site was not detected during the course of Cotswold Archaeological Trusts earlier fieldwalking programme (see Evans & Dickens 2002).

Trench 211

Trench 211 was 50m long on an east-west alignment. The topsoil was between 0.26m and 0.30m deep, and the subsoil between 0.19m and 0.20m deep. This trench contained thirteen ditches, **F.746**, **F.748-749**, **F.752**, **F.753**, **F.755**, **F.757**, **F.769-771**, **F.782-783** and **F.786**, an oval pit, **F.766**, and a layer of dark material containing numerous finds and overlaying several features. The orientation and nature of the fill from ditch F.746 casts some doubt on the date of this feature, with a possible identification as Medieval or post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow containing residual pottery. All other features investigated in Trench 211 produced numerous faunal remains, Romano-British pottery, mortaria, roof-, box- and floor tiles, and further metalwork finds. Two environmental samples were taken from the dark 'capping' layer. Determining relationships between some features was difficult due to the limited areas exposed and excavated, and also because of the sheer number of features (e.g. between F.753, F.757 & F.786 in Trench 211; fig 28: 2). Artefacts recovered from features in this trench clearly demonstrate some form of structure existed in the northwestern corner of Field 18, with evidence of roof and floor tiles, and nails (and also evidence of cereal processing and on-site consumption; see de Vareilles, below).

F.746 Ditch terminal. N-S orientation. Cut: [2125] length 1.30m, width 0.91m, depth 0.09m. Shallow gradual sides with gradual break of slope to flat base. Single fill: [2124], a brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone, burnt clay.

F.748 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2132] length 0.50 m, width 0.72m, depth 0.31m. 'U'-shaped profile with steep convex slope on northeastern edge, steep on southwestern side with rounded concave base. Poorly defined relationship with adjacent F.749 (fig 28: 1), either cutting or cut by it. Two fills: [2130], a medium compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional very small gravel and occasional charcoal flecks; pottery, [2131], a medium compact light brown olive clayey silt with occasional flint gravel and chalk; bone, metal. Finds: pottery, bone, iron nails (see Hall, below).

F.749 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2135] width 0.85m, depth 0.39m. 'U'-shaped profile with steep convex slope on southwestern edge, steep on northeastern side with rounded concave base. Poorly defined relationship with adjacent F.748, either cutting or cut by it. Two fills: [2133], a medium compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks; pottery, [2134], a light olive brown clayey silt with occasional small gravel and occasional charcoal flecks; pottery, bone, shell, metal. Finds: pottery, bone, shell, iron nail fragments (*ibid.*).

F.752 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2146] depth 0.46m. Feature cut by F.753, edges not observed in section. Single fill: [2145], a soft mid brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. No finds.

F.753 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [1726] depth 0.65m. Re-cut of F.752. Second slot in this features. Cuts F.757 and F.786. Covered by layer [1723]. Width not established and sides not seen in section; concave base. Two fills: [1724], a firm compact mid grey brown silty clay with few gravel inclusions; pottery, bone, tile, nails, [1725], was a very hard compact mid grey green silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions; pottery, bone. Fill similar to [2143]. Finds: pottery, tile, bone, nails (*ibid.*).

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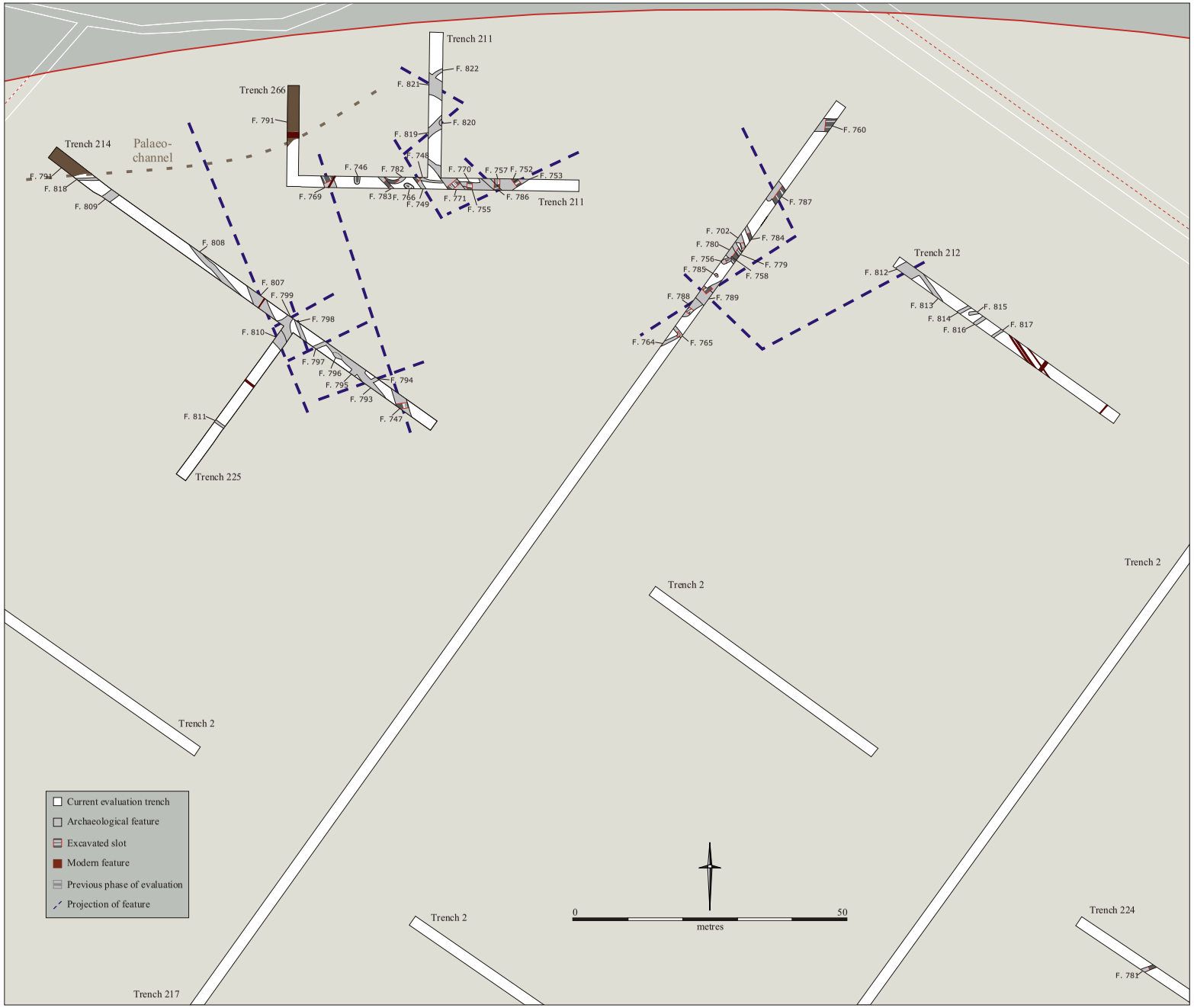

Figure 27. Site XXVII, Field 18, excavated features and projected alignments

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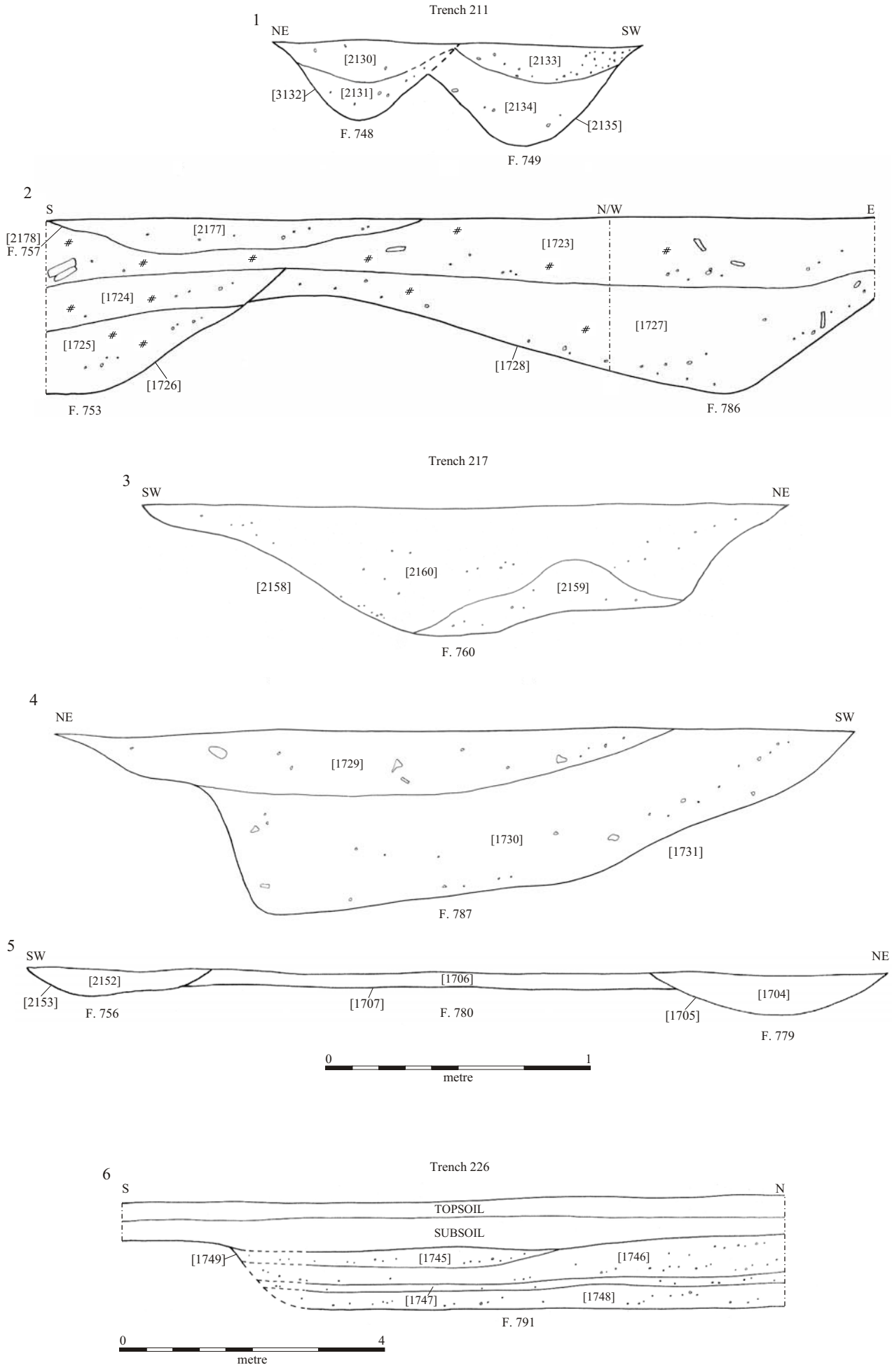

Figure 28. Selected feature sections from Site XXVII, the 'villa' site

F.753 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2144] width 1.52m, depth 0.65m. Feature cuts by F.752. 'V'-shaped profile with steep sides and 'V'-shaped concave base. Three fills: [2141], was a firm compact dark grey brown clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions; pottery, bone, [2142], a firm compact mid grey brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions; pottery, bone, [2143], was a very compact mid green grey silty clay with moderate gravel and stone inclusions; pottery. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.755 Ditch terminal. NW-SW orientation. Cut: [2150] width 1.10m – 1.20m, depth 0.30m. Initial shallow sides with clear break of slope, *c*.1.00m from sides, to narrow steep-sided 'U'-shaped profile with concave base. Single fill: [2149], a compact brownish grey silty clay with <1% very small, <3mm, flint inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone, shell, iron metal (*ibid.*), bracelet; Small Finds number 7 (see Appleby, below).

F.757 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2178] width 0.97m, depth 0.12m. Cuts dark layer [1723]. Shallow gentle sloping sides with flat base. Single fill: [2177], a light mid brown grey silty clay with few gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. No finds.

F.766 Oval pit. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2172] length 1.87m, width 0.96m, depth 0.51m. Steep sides with break of slope to ledge with further break of slope to near vertical sides and flat base. Single fill: [2172], a compact mottled olive brown and orange silty clay with occasional angular flint and frequent very small flint and chalk, <1mm. Finds: pottery, bone, shell, iron nails (see Hall, below), quern stone.

F.769 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2184] width 2.00m, depth 0.57m. Disturbed by field drain on northeast. Southwestern side slope steep with gradual break of slope to irregular base. Three fills: [2181], was a grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions; pottery, bone, bronze, metal, shell, slag, burnt clay, [2182], a grey clayey silt; pottery, [2183], a brown silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone, bronze twisted fragment, 15 small iron nails (hobnails) (*ibid.*), shell, slag, burnt clay.

F.770 Ditch terminal. N-S orientation. Cut: [2186] width 1.15m, depth 0.26m. Short near vertical side with break of slope to steep side on eastern side with slightly concave base. Irregular slope on western edge as cut by or cuts F.771. Possibly same ditch as F.755. Single fill: [2185], a compact mid greyish brown silty clay with flint inclusions and chalk flecks. Finds: pottery, bone, charcoal.

F.771 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2188] width 0.78m, depth 0.20m. Steep near vertical side on western edge and small shallow lip at top, with clear break of slope to flat base. Poor definition of relationship with F.771, possibly forming a double ditch feature.. Single fill: [2187], a compact mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with flint inclusions and chalk flecks. Finds: pottery, charcoal.

F.782 Ditch. curvilinear. Cut: [1712] width 0.54m, depth 0.22m. Short, steep near vertical side on northeastern edge and clear break of slope to flat base. Cut by F.783. Single fill: [1711], was grey clayey silt with charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone, shell, iron nails (*ibid.*).

F.783 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [1714] width 0.82m, depth 0.13m. Shallow uneven slope on southwestern side, with break of slope to flat base. Cuts by F.782. Single fill: [1713], a grey brown clayey silt with light grey patches. Finds: pottery.

F.786 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [1728] width 1.00m, depth 0.67m. Moderately steep sides with 'V'-shaped profile; dimensions not fully determined. Overlain by layer [1723] and cuts F.753. Single fill: [1727], was a compact light mid grey brown silty clay with few gravel inclusions and frequent flecks of charcoal. Finds: pottery, bone.

Layer [1723] Soft dark black brown silty clay fill sandy components with moderate charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions, sealing F.753 and F.786. Dimensions not determined. Finds: pottery, tile, bone, copper alloy casket/harness mount and vessel fragments; Small Finds numbers 4-6 (i*bid.*).

Trench 212

Trench 212 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Topsoil was between 0.33m and 0.28m in depth, and the subsoil was 0.19m deep. A minimum of five, probably six, archaeological features were identified, **F.812-817**, following initial machine-excavation. These consisted of a large probable enclosure ditch, F.812, oriented northeast-southwest, three smaller parallel ditches (F.814, F.816, F.817) on a similar alignment spaced at regular intervals, and a possible ditch terminal oriented east-west (F.815). In addition, a narrower ditch, F.813, aligned northwest-southeast, formed a right-angled connection with the presumed enclosure ditch. Following the excavation strategy for Field 18, features were recorded on a base-plan at 1:50, but were not further investigated. Nonetheless, surface finds from the trench and spoil heaps, and orientation of the features strongly indicates these constituted part of the enclosure and boundary ditches seen in Trenches 211 and 217.

F.812, Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Fill on surface recorded as orange brown clayey silt. 3.00m wide; located at northern end of trench and cutting or cut by F.813.

F.813, Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Fill recorded on surface as orange brown clayey silt. c. 0.70m wide, cutting or cut by F.812.

F.814, Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Fill recorded on surface as orange grey clayey silt. 0.60m wide. Possibly part of parallel ditch system.

F.815, Ditch terminal. E-W orientation. Fill recorded on surface as orange grey clayey silt 0.55m wide. Located between F.814 and F.816.

F.816, Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Fill recorded on surface as orange grey clayey silt. 0.70m wide. Possibly part of parallel ditch system.

F.817, Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Fill recorded on surface as orange grey clayey silt. 0.55m wide. Possibly part of parallel ditch system.

Trench 214

This was 75m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Topsoil was between 0.27m and 0.25m in depth, and the subsoil between 0.15m and 0.28m deep. 12 enclosure and boundary ditches were revealed by initial machine-excavation, **F.747**, **F.793-795, F.798-799** and **F.807-809** and **F.817**, principally on the same alignment to the features found in Trenches 211, 212 and 217. F.793 appeared to be a boundary ditch intersecting at right angles smaller ditches, F.794-795 and F.797. F.807 appeared to be a substantial boundary ditch, traceable as F.810 in Trench 225. Surface finds included pottery and a metal-detecting survey resulted in the recovery of a bracelet, two coins and a brooch. Only one feature, F.747, was investigated at the southeastern end of the trench. This feature was found to be a large enclosure ditch, containing pottery, bone, shell and a fragment of roof tile. The artefacts recovered from F.747, and the orientation of the other features, demonstrated these were part of the same series of enclosure and boundary ditches found in this corner of Field 18, further supporting the interpretation that these were part of a dense, but discreet zone of Romano-British activity.

F.747 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [2127, 2129] width 2.5m, depth 0.4m. Stepped profile on western side with steep near vertical slope on eastern edge, with narrow 'U'-shaped base. Three fills: [1750], was slumped re-deposited natural, [2126], was a hard compact dark grey silty clay with <2% flint inclusions; pottery, bone, shell, tile, [2128], was a hard compact dark grey clay with <2% very small, <5mm, flint inclusions. [2127] was a cut; possible re-cut of [2129] or later feature, with unclear edges with shallow slope on western edge and steep on eastern side. Finds: pottery, tile, bone, shell, charcoal.

F.793, Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Fill on surface recorded as brown clayey silt. 1.30m wide; located at southeastern end of trench and cutting or cut by F.794, F.795, F.796 and F.797.

F.794, Ditch. E-W orientation. Fill recorded on surface as grey clayey silt. c. 0.70m wide, cutting or cut by F.793.

F.795, Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Fill recorded on surface as darkish grey clayey silt. 1.15m wide, cutting or cut by F.793.

F.796, Ovoid pit? Indistinct feature recorded on surface of F.793, possibly a tree-throw. 1.90m long by 0.85m wide.

F.797, Ditch. E-W orientation. Fill recorded on surface as grey clayey silt. 0.60m wide, cutting or cut by F.793.

F.798, Ditch. N-S orientation. Fill recorded on surface as mid grey clayey silt. 0.75m wide. Possibly intersects with F.797 and F.799

F.799, Ditch? NE-SW orientation. Fill on surface recorded as mid brown clayey silt. Possibly cutting or cut by F.807 and F.810.

F.807, Ditch. N-S orientation. Fill recorded on surface as light grey clayey silt. 2.50m wide, possibly cutting or cut by F.799.

F.808, Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Fill recorded on surface as brown grey clayey silt. 1.00m wide

F.809, Ditch. E-W orientation. Fill recorded on surface as pale grey clayey silt. 1.70m wide, cutting or cut by F.812.

F.818, Ditch. E-W orientation. 0.40m wide, located in northwestern end of trench.

Trench 217

Trench 217 was 269m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Topsoil was 0.19m in depth, with the subsoil was between 0.25m and 0.20m deep. This trench contained ten ditches, **F.702**, **F.756**, **F.760**, **F.764-765**, **F.784**, **F.787-789**, similar to those in Trenches 211, 212 and 214, two pits, **F.758** and **F.785**, and the remnants of Medieval or post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow, **F.779** (fig 28: 5) and **F.780**. Features investigated in Trench 217 produced numerous faunal remains, Romano-British pottery, tile, coins and, notably, a *hipposandal* from the surface of F.787.

F.702 Ditch. N-S orientation. Fill [2011, 2012], Cut: [2013] width 0.70m, depth 0.34m. Steep near vertical sides with concave base. Two fills: [2011], compact very dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal, occasional small gravel, frequent pottery and bone and one piece of iron, [2012] compact mid grey brown slightly silty clay with very rare small gravel, with some bone and occasional pottery. Finds: pottery, bone, iron nails (*ibid.*).

F.756 Ditch terminal. NW-SE orientation. Fill [2151, 2152], Cut: [2153] width 0.84m, depth 0.12m. Short near vertical sides with uneven to flat base. Two fills: [2151], a soft dark grey brown silty clay with rare small gravel inclusions, <30mm), and occasional small fragments of charcoal; pottery, bone,

tile, coin (/19\), [2152], similar to [2151] but with moderate quantities of pale grey clay. Finds: pottery, bone, tile, iron nail(s); Small Finds number 19 (*ibid.*).

F.758 Small pit. Cut: [2155] width 0.39m, depth 0.07m. Very short steep sides with flat base. Single fill: [2154], was a mid grey brown silty clay with moderate patches of pale brown silty clay, with some rare small, <30mm, gravel inclusions and rare charcoal fragments. Finds: pottery, oyster shell.

F.760 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2160] width 2.44m, depth 0.51m. Convex steep slope on northeast edge, moderate on southwest side, with clear break of slope to wide step on former edge, with further shallow concave break of slope to concave base. Two fills: [2158], was a moderately compact grey brown clay silt with few gravel inclusions, [2159], a hard compact grey clay. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.764 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2168] width 0.70m, depth 0.29m. Steep sides with concave base. Intersects with F.765. Single fill: [2167], a compact mid golden brown silt clay with rare pea-grit inclusions and rare small stones. Finds: pottery.

F.765 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2170] width 0.50m, depth 0.18m. Steep sides with concave base. Intersects with F.764. Single fill: [2169], was a compact mid golden brown silt clay with rare pea-grit inclusions and rare small stones. No finds.

F.779 Furrow. N-S orientation. Cut: [1705] width 0.90m, depth 0.15m. Shallow concave side and concave base. Interpreted as Medieval furrow. Single fill: [1704], a mid grey brown silty clay. Finds: clay pipe.

F.780 Hollow? possible N-S orientation. Cut: [1707] width 3.00m, depth 0.07m. Cut by F.756 and F.779 where excavated. Flat base. Single fill: [1706], mid brown silty clay. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.784 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [1720] width 0.70m, depth 0.17m. 'U'-shaped profile with gradual to moderately steep concave sides with concave base. Single fill [1719], was a medium compact mid brown clayish sand with rare, very small inclusions. Finds: animal tooth.

F.785 Small pit. Cut: [1722] width 0.45m, depth 0.06. Shallow oval pit. Steep shallow concave sides and concave base. Single fill: [1721], a grey brown silty clay with occasional small charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.787 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [1731] width 3.00m, depth 0.68m. Short steep slope on southwestern edge with break of slope to small step and further sharp convex break of slope to near vertical side with sharp break to uneven flat base (fig. 28: 4). Slope on southwestern edge initially near vertical with gradual concave break of slope to convex side and further concave break of slope to base. Two fills: [1729], was a mid brown grey silty clay with abundant charcoal flecks, [1730], yellowish mid grey fine silty sand. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.788 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [1734] width, 1.26m, depth 0.55m. Steep convex slop with concave break of slope to slightly concave base. Cut by F.789. Two fills: [1732], a medium to hard compact dark grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks, [1733], was a medium to hard compact mottled olive orange and grey silty clay with rare gravel and occasional pieces of charcoal, with an increasingly 'greasy' texture towards the bottom. Finds: pottery, bone.

F.788 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [1738] width 0.59m, depth 0.43m. Steep slope with concave break of slope to flat base. Cut by F.789. Three fills: [1735], a medium compact dark grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and small pieces of gravel, [1736], was a hard compact mottled grey and olive sandy silt with fewer stones and occasional charcoal flecks, [1737], a medium compact orangey silty clay (possibly re-deposited natural). Finds: pottery, bone.

F.789 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [1740] width 0.71m, depth 0.29m. Steep to gradual concave slope and concave base. Cuts F.788. Single fill: [1739], a hard compact mid grey silty clay with small gravel pieces and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds: pottery, bone.

Trench 224

Trench 224 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Topsoil was 0.21m thick, and the subsoil was between 0.21m and 0.20m deep. Trench 224 was located in the northeastern corner of Field 18, and was the only trench in that area containing archaeology. A single feature, ditch **F.781**, was found in the trench, towards the south-eastern end. Although no artefacts were recovered from F.781, the orientation of the ditch, width and nature of the fills indicate that this may be an outfield boundary of the settlement located in the northwest corner of Field 18.

F.781 Ditch, E-W orientation. Cut: [1710] width 70m, depth 0.26m. 'U'-shaped profile with steep near vertical sides with concave base. Two fills: [1708], was a compact dark yellowish brown slightly silty clay with rare very small, <20mm, inclusions, [1709], a hard compact dirty brownish grey clay, with very rare inclusions. No finds.

Trench 225

Trench 225 was 40m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. Topsoil was between 0.29m thick and 0.24m in depth, with the subsoil between 0.26m and 0.19m deep. Trench 225 intersected with Trench 214, and two enclosure ditches continued from the latter (across the intersection with Trench 225), thus possibly defining an outer enclosure ditch of the settlement found in Field 18. Two parallel features, **F.810** and **F.811**, orientated northwest-southeast, were also revealed in Trench 225. The most northerly of these features, F.810, abutted F.797 in Trench 214 and is probably the same as F.807. The more southerly feature, F.811, was not investigated due to the tight schedule for excavation. However, with a surface fill consisting of a mid brown silty clay, a prehistoric date is possible for it, although a modern origin cannot be excluded without further investigation.

F.810, Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Fill on surface recorded as brown clayey silt. C. 2.50m wide; located at northern end of trench and cutting or cut by F.797.

F.811, Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Fill recorded on surface as mid brown silty clay. 0.50m wide, cutting or cut by F.812.

Trench 226

Trench 226 was 20m long on a north-south alignment and ran at a right-angle from the southwestern end of Trench 211. Topsoil was between 0.31m thick and 0.25m in depth, with the subsoil between 0.27m and 0.25m deep. A large dark feature was revealed following initial machine-excavation, with Roman pottery and an Iron Age/Conquest period brooch found on or near to the surface (see Hall and Brudenell, below). The close proximity to Oakington Brook and the colour and nature of the soil suggested this feature, **F.791**, may be a palaeochannel, whose upper profile was conveniently employed for the disposal of waste material from the adjacent settlement. A slot was inserted into the feature (fig. 28: 6) to determine whether it pre-dated the settlement (and if contemporary waterlogged remains, therefore, be anticipated); the results of which proved negative.

F.791 Palaeochannel. Cut: [1749] dimension not established, but machine-excavated to clean natural. Sides sloped steeply to wide flat base; disturbed on southern edge by modern field drain. Three fills: [1745], was a mid brown silty clay with orange red iron staining; pottery, bone, [1746], a yellowish grey clay, [1747], a mid dark grey silty sand with occasional twigs. Pollen sample taken, environmental sample <106>. Finds: pottery, bone.

Trench 291

Trench 291 was 27m long on a north-south alignment and intersected with Trench 211. In addition to the continuation of F.711, Trench 291 contained four features, ditches **F.819**, **F.821-822** and a small pit, **F.820**. Under the sampling and excavation strategy these features where planned, but not investigated further.

F.819 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Width 1.70m, cut by pit F.820.

F.829 Pit? Small circular feature with only western half exposed. Width 1.20m.

F.821 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Width c.3.00m, cutting or cut by F.822.

F.822 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Width 0.70m. Slightly curving, cutting or cut by F.821.

Geophysical Survey Results and Settlement Layout

Having discovered by trenching the dense Roman settlement in the northwestern corner of this field, it was decided to undertake magnetometry survey across its core (see Part 1 above; fig. 29). When the resulting plot is set against the trench plans they show a remarkable degree of correspondence and it presents a readily intelligible 'picture' of a settlement. It reveals a main enclosure bounded by ditches F.787, F.788 and F.807/810 (94m x 62m+), with its interior sub-divided by small square and quasi-circular paddocks. The geophysical survey did not, however, define its full extent and it is clear that ditch systems extended off of its western and eastern sides; with the latter, at least, probably enclosing a series of ancillary paddocks. (The settlement does not continue into either of the neighbouring fields - 17 & 18 - in those respective directions.)

The main southern line of the settlement (F.788 & F.812) would, indeed, seem to bound the settlement as such, and in Trenches 212 and 217 only a few minor linear 'gully-like' slots continued beyond it for c. 3.00m and 15.00m distance. This is consistent with the fact that as exposed within the trenches the settlement was clearly restricted to the lighter gravel that outcrops within this immediate area and did not continue onto the heavy clay sub-soil throughout the rest of the field. It should, however, be noted that the geophysical plot shows one, and possibly two, faint linears extending southwards from the main perimeter and that these, seemingly fieldsystem boundaries, were not found within the trench south thereof. In fact, only one possible contemporary fieldsystem ditch was found over the rest of the field (F.781 in Trench 224). This raises the possibility that, due to plough-damage and difficult detection in clay sub-soils, some other fieldsystem ditches went unrecognised.

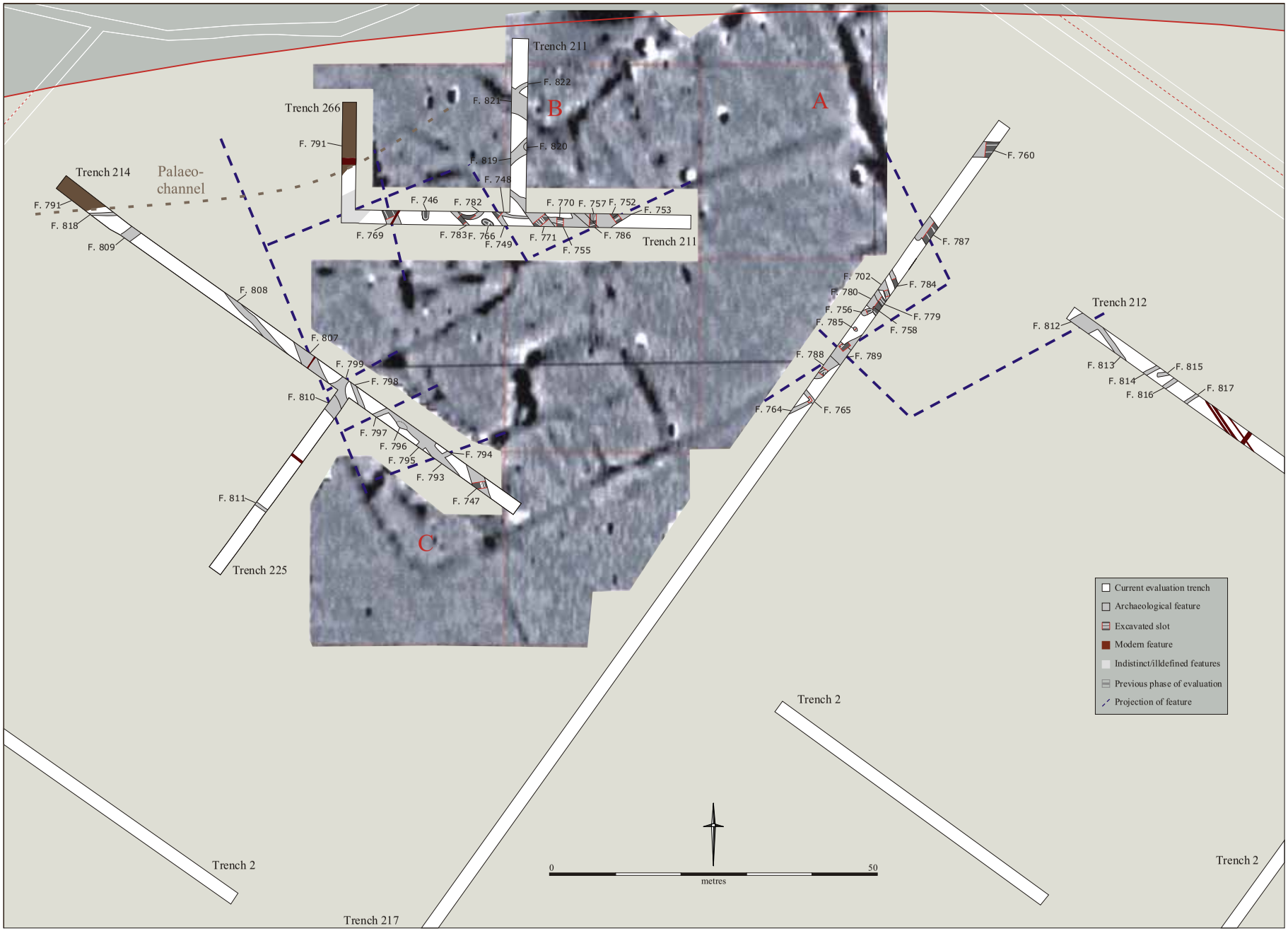

Figure 29. Site XXVII, Field 18, geophysical survey results with trench and feature locations

Of the site's northern extent, the geophysical plot confirms the evidence of the trench-cut section through the northern palaeochannel and that its course had no influence on the enclosure's layout. In fact, as shown by the survey there is no reason to think that the settlement stops along the modern field boundary and the present line of the Brook. It is quite likely, therefore, that it continues into the fields to the north. We should equally be wary of the seemingly 'easy' coherence of the geophysical image. Closer inspection of it reveals that there are also a series of much fainter boundaries in contrast to the dark register of the settlement's main ditches (and interior paddocks). This suggests that the greater complexity offered by the trench plan is probably closer to the truth and that this was a very dense, multi-phased Roman settlement. Nevertheless, and with these many caveats in mind, the main enclosure plan (i.e. the 'dark-ditch' system) does seem to be quite formal/regular and, therefore, the final question to address is whether buildings *per se* can be distinguished. Three candidates seem readily apparent, the most obvious being the right-angle rectangle in its northeastern corner (A) and which, in turn, seems overlain by another 'rectangle' on a different alignment (B). Less apparent, or at least much more complicated, is the range-like arrangement of small paddocks/'cells along the southwestern side (C). With its many parts variously represented by ditches F.749, F.769, F.794, F.795 and F.797-799, close scrutiny reveals what seems to be a 'U'-shaped courtyard-like pattern. The issue of the site's attribution/function can only be further developed when the evidence of its finds are introduced (see *Part 6 Discussion*, below).

Field 19

Twelve trenches were machine-excavated, totalling approximately 710m in length (fig. 18). Topsoil was 0.19-.36m thick, with subsoil varying between 0.30m and 0.17m deep. Two features, **F.737** and **F.759**, were revealed in Field 19, in Trenches 232 and 305, respectively. Of note, was the recovery of a Saxon period bone comb from the fill of the former. Along with the comb, the nature of the fills in F.737 and F.759 suggests these are related (fig. 30); the evidence of the latter would suggest a Roman attribution. Due to the presence of high-pressure water-mains bisecting the field, it was not possible to further establish the nature of the relationship between F.737 and F.759, or the full extent of the archaeology. Nevertheless, within this field the scale of this archaeology is not felt to be such to warrant a separate site designation. Whilst this ditch line may be associated with Site XXVII to the southwest, it more probably relates to still another settlement cluster whose core lies across the Dry Drayton Road to the northeast (see Part 3 and also Field 20 below).

Trench 232

This was 80.65m long. The topsoil was c. 0.24m deep, and the subsoil 0.17-.22m thick. This trench contained a narrow ditch terminal, **F.737**. Bone, horn and shell was recovered from the ditch, in addition to a bone comb, dating from the Saxon period.

F.737 Ditch terminal. N-S orientation. Cut: [2106] width 1.15m, depth 0.24m. Shallow slopes with concave base. Single fill: [2105], a dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, red material and frequent gravel and occasional small stones. Finds: Saxon comb, bone, horn, shell.

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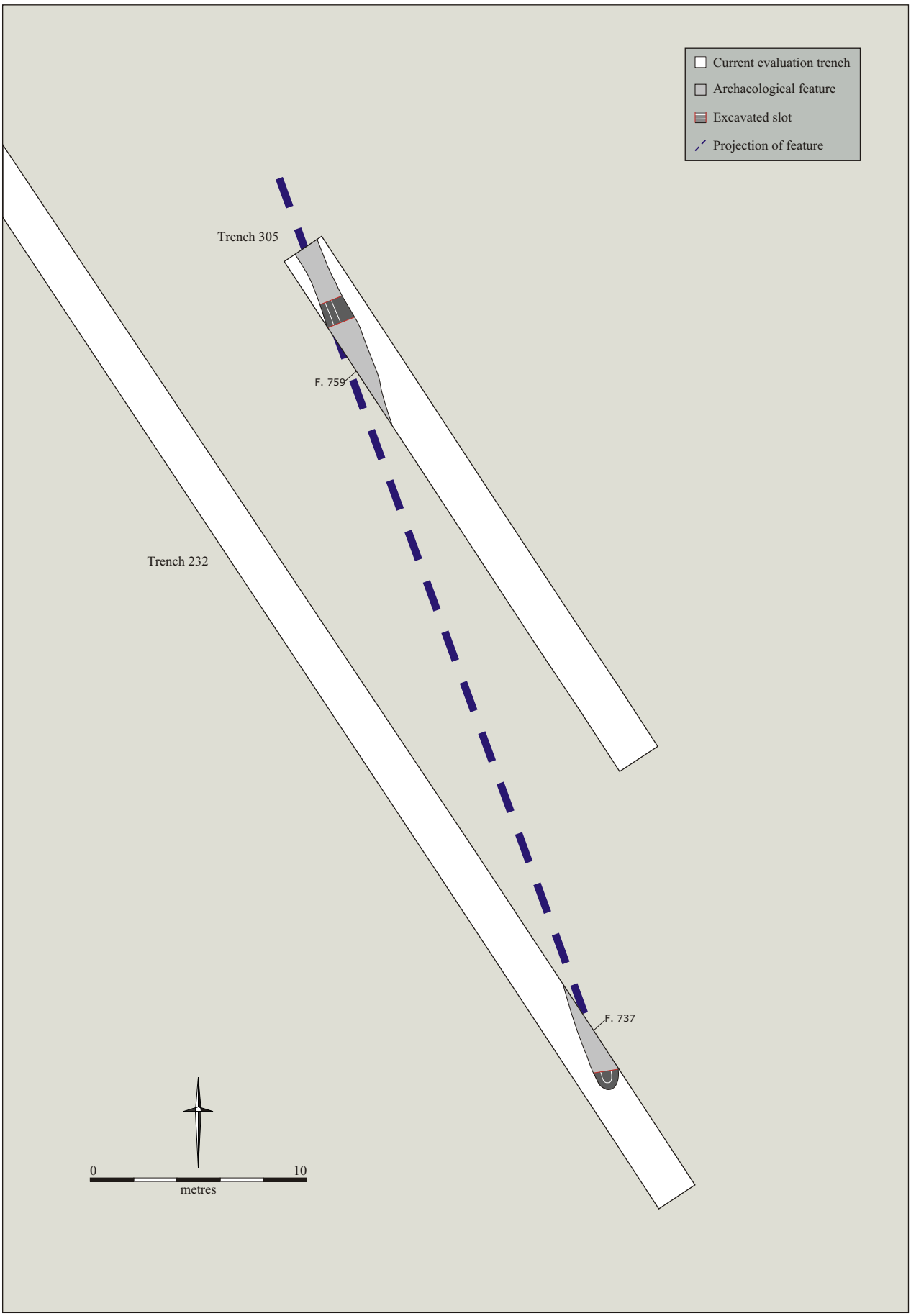

Figure 30. Field 19, projected boundary ditch, possibly relating to an as yet unconfirmed 'new' Roman site

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Trench 305

This was 80.65m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was 0.24m deep, with the subsoil between 0.23m and 0.21m thick. This trench contained a single ditch terminal, **F.759**, from which a sherd of Romano-British pottery (an undiagnostic coarse sandy ware) and bone were recovered. The orientation, width, and fill suggest this feature is contiguous with **F.737**, in Trench 232; thus dating both to Roman times.

F.759 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2157] width 1.30m, depth 0.36m. Steep sloping sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat, slightly concave, base. Single fill: [2156], was a compact mid grey brown sandy silt with a few, <50mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds: pottery, bone.

Field 20

Four trenches were initially machine-excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling approximately 281.95m in length (fig. 18). Topsoil was between 0.26m thick to 0.19m deep, with subsoil between 0.35m and 0.25m deep. With the exception of Trench 303, archaeology was observed in all of the trenches, consisting of a minimum of nine boundary or enclosure ditches. Under the excavation strategy adopted for the evaluation only selected features were investigated to determine the nature of the archaeological evidence, and to recover potential datable artefacts. Six enclosure ditches, **F.751**, **F.750**, **F.754**, **F.761**, **F.762** and **F.763**, were thus excavated. The nature of the fills from these features, pottery and orientation provide evidence of a substantial Middle Iron Age settlement, and which is designated as Site XXIX (fig. 31). Whilst clearly not extending southwest into Field 19 (nor is it known whether it continues north into Field 21 on the other side of the brook, or northeast into Field 22), on a number of aerial photographs there are 'hints' of a network of curvilinear cropmarks in the field immediately south of Oakington Road and which suggest the core of a larger settlement complex.

Trench 300

Trench 300 was 73.70m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was 0.26m thick, and the subsoil between 0.28m and 0.25m deep. Four features were identified, with two features, **F.750** and **F.763**, investigated. F.750 was located at the mid-point of the trench, with F.763 situated towards the extreme northeastern end. Artefacts recovered from F.750 included pottery, bone and burnt stone. The pottery is primarily Middle Iron Age in date, including a large storage or cooking jar. The upper fill from this feature also included sherds from two other vessels, most likely dating from the Late Bronze Age. The shallow ditch, F.763, oriented east-west, contained no finds, and due to its orientation and nature of its single fill, it is a distinct possibility this is a remnant of Medieval or post-Medieval ridge-and-furrow.

F.750 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2138] width 1.00m, depth 0.63m. Steep concave to convex slope on northeastern side, with 'U'-shaped concave base, and steep slope on southwest edge, with clear break of slope to near vertical side with a further break of slope towards the base. Two fills: [2136], a soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional gravel and rounded and sub-angular sandstone, <100mm, inclusions and some rare small fragments and flecks of charcoal; pottery, bone, burnt stone, [2137], was a friable mid grey sand without inclusions. Finds: pottery, bone, burnt stones.

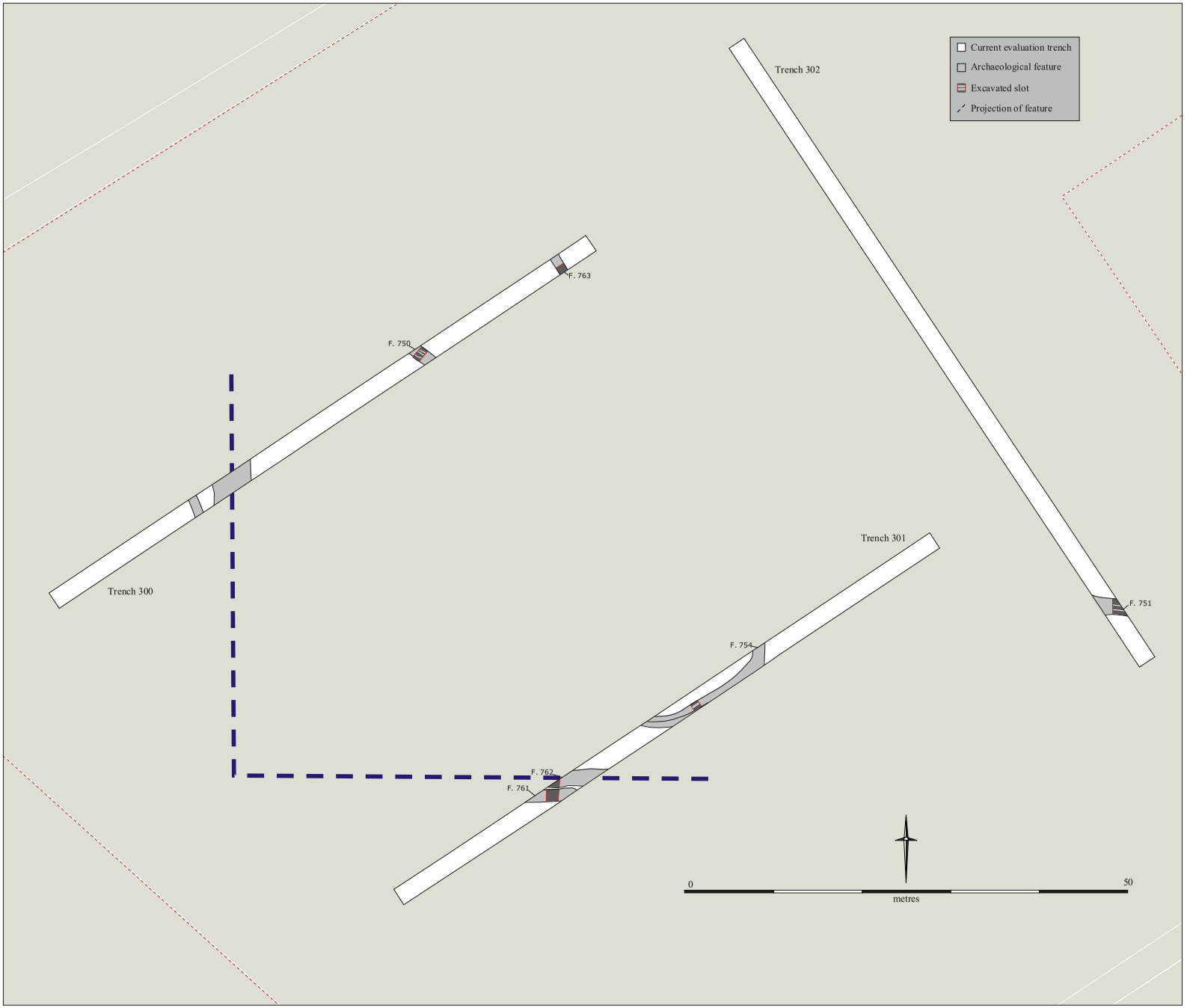


Figure 31. Site XXIX, Field 20, excavated features and projected alignments

F.763 Ditch or furrow. E-W orientation. Cut: [2166] width 1.00m, depth 0.11m. Gentle shallow sides with concave base. Single fill: [2166], a compact light brown orange sandy silt with occasional very small, <20mm, rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions. No finds.

Trench 301

Trench 301 was 73.50m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.20m and 0.19m thick, with the subsoil between 0.34m and 0.35m deep. Trench 301 contained four features. Three features were excavated, a curvilinear ditch, **F.754**, and possible double- or parallel ditch, **F.761** and **F.762**. The pottery recovered from F.754 is of a similar fabric to the Middle Iron Age pottery from Trench 300, although this feature may represent an earlier phase of settlement activity. The close relationship, orientation and similarity of fills in F.761 and F.762 suggest these formed part of the boundary or enclosure ditches of an Iron Age settlement, and possibly contiguous with the unexcavated ditches in the southwestern portion of Trench 300.

F.754 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [2148] width 0.89m, depth 0.44m. 'V'-shaped profile with steep side. Single fill: [2149], a dark brown grey sandy silt, becoming darker with depth, with few gravel and charcoal inclusions. Finds: pottery.

F.761 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [2162] gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a 'U'-shaped base. Runs parallel to F.762. Single fill: [2162], a compact light brown sandy silt with occasional small, <30mm, angular and sub-rounded pebble inclusions and charcoal flecks. No finds.

F.762 Ditch, E-W orientation. Cut: [2164] steeply sloping concave side. Base not observed in section. Runs parallel to F.761. Single fill: [2163], was a light brown sandy silt with occasional small, <10mm, angular and sub-rounded pebble inclusions and charcoal flecks. No finds.

Trench 302

Trench 302 was 84.60m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.20m in depth, and subsoil between 0.32m and 0.35m deep. Trench 302 contained a single ditch feature, **F.751**. Although F.751 was the only feature in Trench 302 the orientation and nature of the fill suggest it is contemporary with the other ditches excavated in Field 20, and thus probably also dating to the Middle Iron Age.

F.751 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [2140] width 1.70m, depth 0.25m. Irregular sides, gradual on the north-west edge, steep on the south-east side, and flat base. Single fill: [2139], a soft brown sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. Finds: bone.

Figure 32. Field 23, excavated features and projected alignments

Field 23

Ten trenches (378-86 & 389) were initially machine-excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 648.35m in length (fig. 32). Topsoil was between 0.45m thick to 0.15m deep, with subsoil between 0.83m and 0.25m deep. Twenty one features were revealed in Trenches 378 to 386. The majority of these features, **F.1950** to **F.1964** and **F.1967** to **F.1968**, consisted primarily of a fieldsystem, although **F.1956** and **F.1962** were curvilinear in nature. Two small pits, **F.1965** and **F.1966**, were also revealed in Trenches 382 and 378, respectively. The number of datable finds from these features was limited, confined to two flint blades recovered from two ditches in Trench 385 (F.1952 & F.1958), and abraded sherds of Roman pottery from ditch F.1962, Trench 382, and ditch F.1964, Trench 378. The recovery of a sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery from ditch F.1963, Trench 378, is likely to be residual. The orientation and nature of the fills of the field boundaries suggest these are probably Romano-British, although a later prehistoric date cannot be entirely excluded. It warrants notice that this system may well relate to the 'linears' that were distinguished during the geophysical survey in Field 21 (see above).

Trench 378

Trench 378 was 98m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was 0.30m in depth, and subsoil between 0.30m and 0.50m deep. Trench 378 contained three ditch features, **F.1963**, **F.1964**, **F.1967**, and a small circular pit or posthole, **F.1966**. A Late Bronze Age sherd was recovered from F.1963, in addition to an abraded Roman pottery sherd from F.1964.

F.1963 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [12727] width 0.64m, depth 0.18m. Steep sides with flat base. Single fill: [12726], a greyish sand with significant clay content, flint and stones, and occasional seams of red sand. Finds: Late Bronze Age pottery.

F.1964 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut : [12729] width 1.35m, depth 0.35m. Gradual slope with uneven concave base with bioturbation at base. Single fill: [12728], a compact grey brown clay silt with rare inclusions of small stones and charcoal. Finds: Roman pottery and burnt stones.

F.1966 Pit. Circular. Cut: [12733] width 0.32m, depth 0.24m. Steep irregular sides with a concave base. Single fill: [12732], a blue grey clay with significant quantity of sand with occasional flint and large pieces of charcoal. No finds.

F.1967 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [12735] width 0.80m, depth 0.16m. Steep sides with concave base. Single fill: [12734], a mid orange to brown silty sand with gravel inclusions and very frequent very small pieces of flint. No finds.

Trench 379

Trench 379 was 47.5m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.45m and 0.31m in depth, with subsoil between 0.30m and 0.36m deep. Trench 379 contained a single ditch feature, **F.1954**. The orientation, width and fill characteristic of F.1954 suggest it is contemporary with the other ditches excavated in this field.

F.1954 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [12709] width 0.52m, depth 0.10m. Regular sides with a concave base. Single fill: [12708], a brown grey silty sand with occasional very small black gravel. No finds.

Trench 380

Trench 380 was 48.1m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.27m and 0.42m in depth, and the subsoil between 0.45m and 0.31m deep. Trench 380 contained a single ditch feature, **F.1955**. The orientation, width, shallow nature and fill characteristic of this feature suggest that it is possibly contiguous with **F.1954,** on the same alignment in Trench 379.

F.1955 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [12711] width 0.60m, depth 0.15m. Moderately steep sides with a concave base. Single fill: [12710], a firm compact mid grey sandy silt with pea-grit inclusions and root disturbance. No finds.

Trench 381

Trench 381 was 94m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.38m and 0.15m in thickness, with the subsoil between 0.52m and 0.60m deep. The trench contained a three parallel ditch features, **F.1959**, **F.1960**, and **F.1961**. The orientation of these, their width and shallow depth suggest their direct interrelationship/contemporaneity.

F.1959 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut : [12719] width 0.59m, depth 0.15m. Moderately short steep sides with concave base. Single fill: [12718], a compact mid orangey grey silt clay with rare pea-grit inclusions, significant bioturbation and diffuse basal boundary. No finds.

F.1960 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [12721] width 0.80m, depth 0.25m. Steep shallow sides with a concave base. Single fill: [12722], a firmly compact mid orangey grey silty clay with occasional iron-panning, rare pea-grit and bioturbation. No finds.

F.1961 Ditch. E-W orientation. Cut: [12724] width 0.67m, depth 0.11m. Very shallow near vertical sides with clear break of slope to a flat base. Single fill: [12723], a firm compact mid orangey grey silty clay with rare pea-grit inclusions, occasional iron-panning, significant bioturbation and diffuse boundary. No finds.

Trench 382

Trench 382 was 146m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.35m and 0.20m in thickness, and the subsoil between 0.52m and 0.60m deep. The trench contained four ditch features, **F.1953**, **F.1956**, **F.1957**, **F.1962**, and a small circular pit, **F.1965**. The orientation of **F.1953** and **F.1957** and fill characteristics suggest these relate to the larger fieldsystem. Ditch, F.1956, was identified as 'S'-shaped, but may be a small Iron Age eavesgully adjacent to a similar, but Roman-attributed feature, F.1965. The relationship between F.1965 and F.1956 is uncertain, although both contained similar fills, and thus are likely to be contemporaneous in date, as are probably also F.1956 and F.1962.

F.1953 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [12707] width 0.92m, depth 0.20m. Concave regular sides with concave base. Single fill: [12706], an orange brown silty (small fraction) sand with occasional large, 20mm, pieces of iron-panning. No finds.

F.1956 Ditch. 'S' shaped curvilinear. Cut: [12713] width 0.55m, depth 0.11-0.08m. Gentle shallow concave sides with irregular base. Single fill: [12712], a firm mid grey silty sand with very rare pea-grit and occasional iron-panning, disturbed by occasional root and worm action. No finds.

F.1957 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [12715] width 0.60m, depth 0.23m. Steep straight side on eastern edge, with irregular shallow ledge on western side (possibly a separate feature), with convex break of slope to steep concave side and concave base. Single fill: [12714], a compact dark orangey brown silty sand with rare pea-grit inclusions, bioturbation and diffuse boundary. No finds.

F.1962 Ditch. Curvilinear. Cut: [12725] width 0.66m, depth 0.13m. short shallow steep sides with concave base. Single fill: [12724], a firm light orangey brown silty sand with rare pea-grit inclusions, bioturbation and unclear basal layer. Finds: Roman pottery sherd, flint.

F.1965 Small pit. Circular. Cut: [12731], width 0.45m, depth 0.27m. Irregular steep sides with break of slope to a flat base. Single fill: [12730], a red orange sand with grey patches with occasional small stones and iron-pan inclusions. No finds.

Trench 383

Trench 383 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.34m and 0.30m deep, with subsoil between 0.30m and 0.40m thick. The trench contained two ditch features, **F.1950** and **F.1951**, aligned at right angles to one another. The orientation of these two features and the nature of their fills suggest these are also field boundary ditches.

F.1950 Ditch. NW-SE orientation. Cut: [12701] width 0.60m, depth 0.16m. Steep regular sides with concave base. Single fill: [12700], a soft dark orangey brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks and pea-grit inclusions. No finds.

F.1951 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [12703] width 0.83m, depth 0.30m. Irregular sides with a flat to concave base. Single fill: [12702], a grey brown slightly silty sand with occasional small, <20mm, stones, small flint, <10mm, and bright red iron stains. No finds.

Trench 385

This was 49.5m long. Topsoil was between 0.32m and 0.25m deep, with subsoil between 0.43m and 0.60m thick. The trench contained two ditch features, **F.1952** and **F.1958**, aligned northeast-southwest in the southern end of the trench. Residual flint blades were recovered from both. Considered together, with the same alignment and similar fills, these ditches are likely to be contemporaneous; a single flint blade was recovered from F.1952.

F.1952 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [12705] width 0.44m, depth 0.16m. Irregular sides with concave base. Single fill: [12704], an orange brown sand with very small stones. Finds: flint blade.

F.1958 Ditch. NE-SW orientation. Cut: [12717] width 1.05m, depth 0.37m. Irregular slope on western side with gradual break of slope to base, with steep near vertical side on eastern edge with distinct concave break of slope to concave base. Single fill: [2716], a slightly compact light orangey brown sand with a silt component, with rare iron-pan and pea-grit inclusions and diffuse basal boundary. Finds: flint blade.

Trench 386

Trench 386 was 48.8m long on a northwest-southeast orientation. Topsoil was between 0.38m and 0.35m in depth, and the subsoil between 0.32m and 0.25m deep. The trench contained a single feature, ditch **F.1968**. The orientation, width, and fill characteristic of this feature, similar to **F.1955** in Trench 380, and suggest it constitutes a field boundary. The latter interpretation is lent credence with possible bank material slumping into it.

F.1968 Ditch. N-S orientation. Cut: [12738] width 1.30m, depth 0.32m. Steep concave slopes with gradual break of slope to a concave base. Two fills: [12736], a dark slightly brownish orange silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks (possible slumped material), [12737], a mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones and rare pea-grit inclusions. No finds.

Field 24

Three trenches (387, 388 & 390) were initially machine-excavated under archaeological supervision, totalling 136.72m in length. Topsoil was between 0.34m to 0.25m in depth, with subsoil between 0.60m and 0.25m deep. Only three small oval pits, **F.1969**, **F.1970** and **F.1971**, were revealed (in Trench 387), despite the additional judgemental location of Trench 390 excavated to assess the extent and density of the archaeology in this area (fig. 33). Seemingly of mid/later Bronze Age date, the distinction of this activity is considered sufficiently important to a designation as a site (XXX).

Trench 387

This was 48.7m long on a north-south orientation. Topsoil was between 0.31m and 0.26m deep, with subsoil between 0.25m and 0.30m thick. The trench contained three small pits, **F.1969**, **F.1970** and **F.1971**. 23 sherds and fragments of grog-tempered pottery, weighing 255g, were recovered from F.1971, suggesting a Bronze Age attribution for these three features.

F.1969 Small pit. Oval. Cut: [12740] width 1.16m, depth 0.34m. Steep shallow sides with concave base. Single fill: [12739], a compact dark orangey brown clay with occasional pea-grit inclusions. No finds.

F.1970 Small pit. Oval. Cut: [12743] width 0.65m, depth 0.25m. Steep shallow sides with concave base. Two fills: [12741], a mid slightly brownish silty clay with frequent iron-pan inclusions and occasional pea-grit, [12742], a light grey clay with orange mottling and no inclusions. No finds.

F.1971 Small pit. Oval. Cut: [12745] width 0.85m, depth 0.28m. Steep shallow sides with flat base. Single fill: [12744], a pale mid brown grey clay with frequent small iron-pan inclusions seen in section. Finds: pottery.

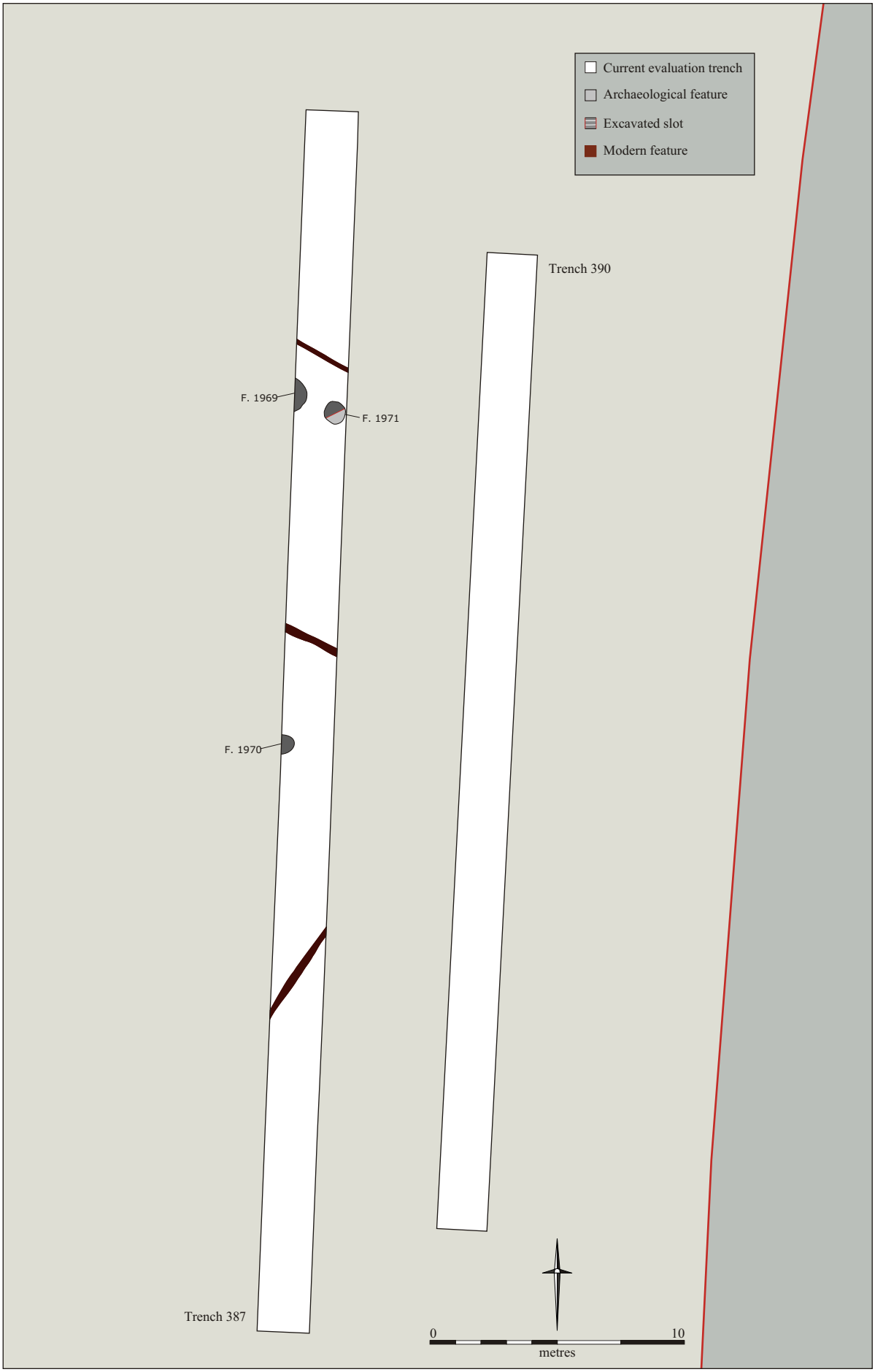


Figure 33. Site XXX, Field 24, excavated features

Discussion

The recovery of the Site XXVIII flint scatter in Field 21 (see Part 1 above) is potentially significant as it is the only pre-Bronze Age site found in the current evaluation programme to date. It equally resonates with the Site I Mesolithic scatter found earlier near Slate Hall Farm. This is not only true of its date (predominantly Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic), but also its locale, as it is also situated on slightly higher ground (on lighter Greensand geology) overlooking the Oakington Brook. In the course of the Field 18 investigations a palaeochannel of this water course was trenched and, being of definite pre-Roman attribution, the general antiquity of this stream was thereby demonstrated. Given this, these early flint scatter sites - Sites I and XXVIII - may, in fact, have been located within the corridor of this waterway and along a routeway into the then-forested landscape, which equally would have offered a permanent source of water.

As opposed to more favoured, major river valley locations (e.g. the Ouse or Cam), the availability of water could otherwise have been a significant factor influencing the degree to which this 'heavy' landscape was utilised prior to the later Bronze Age, at least for anything other than short-stay resource procurement. As strikingly demonstrated at the recent Striplands Farm excavations (Patten & Evans 2005), it was only with the 'invention' of deep 'pit-wells' during the second half of the 2nd millennium that permanent sources of water - promoting extended 'fixed' occupation - could be assured.

Straddling the line of the Slate Farm trackway (and Fields 16/17), by no means can Site XXVI be considered major. With its ditches laid-out on a northwest-southeast orientation (and its return) - the same as the Site XXVII Roman settlement in Field 18 500m to the southeast - the question could be posed whether Site XXVI actually deserves such a designation or if it simply was part of the fieldsystem associated with the definite, Site XXVII s*ettlement*. Yet, the fact that F.744 in Trench 242 was the only ditch on an appropriate/matching orientation in the swathe between them, and the relative quantity of finds associated with Site XXVI, then it seems appropriate that this is entitled to be designated a discrete site. Predominantly of Roman date (but also with Late Iron Age material), whilst its finds densities are not prolific, they are sufficient to suggest that the system lies adjacent to a settlement core, probably located immediately northeast of the roadside corridor on the slope below/beneath Slate Hall Farm itself.

By projection, this site's features would continue to within 50m or less the A14. If, as is widely understood, it marks the line of the Roman Godmanchester/Cambridge road, then certainly the layout of this site would not have respected it, and nor was any evidence found of its route anywhere along the roadside corridor.

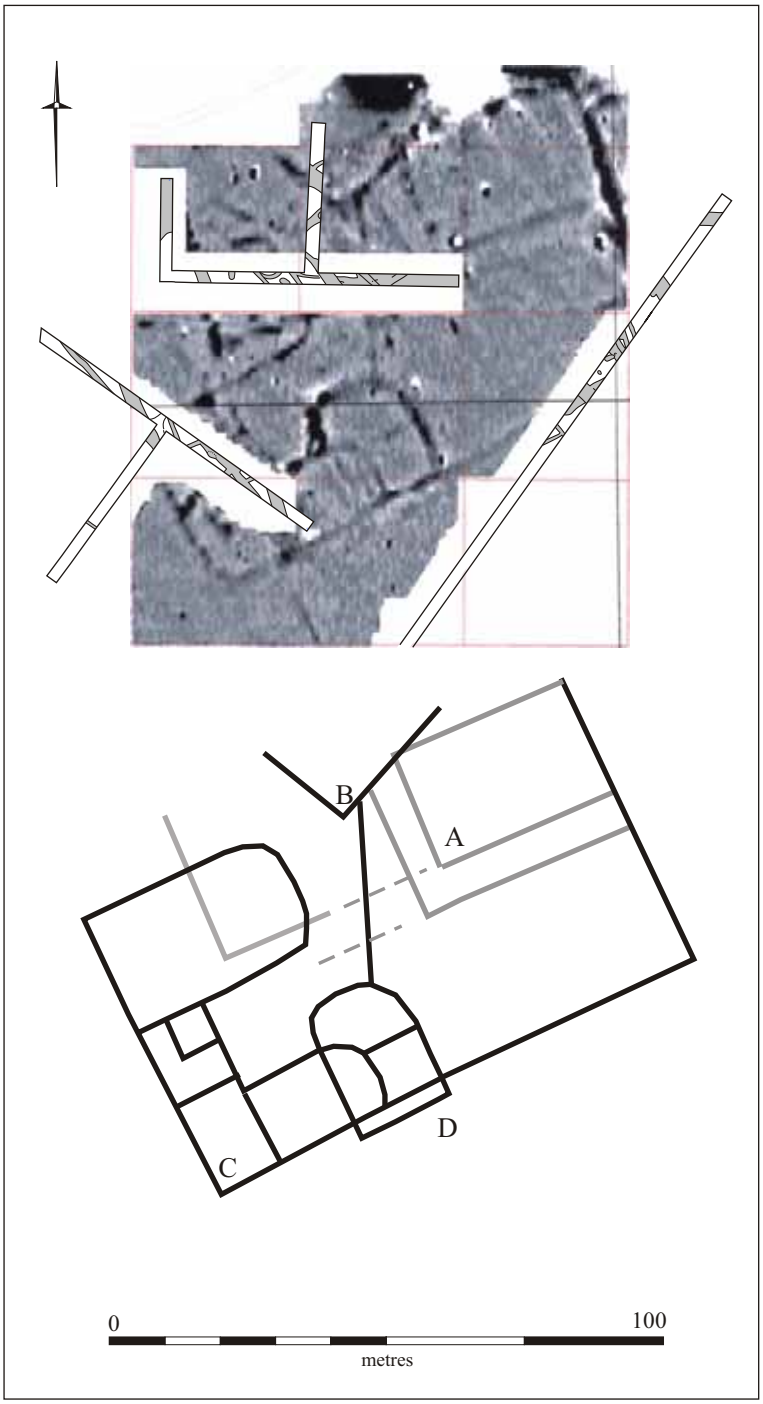
Completely 'unannounced' by aerial photography, the discovery of Site XXVII must rank amongst the foremost of the fieldwork programme to date. Localised to the northwest corner of Field 18, its myriad of features (see above for discussion of its plan/extent) proved prolific in finds it produced, for example, more than 1160 sherds of Roman pottery (and also 115 identifiable animal bones; see respectively Anderson

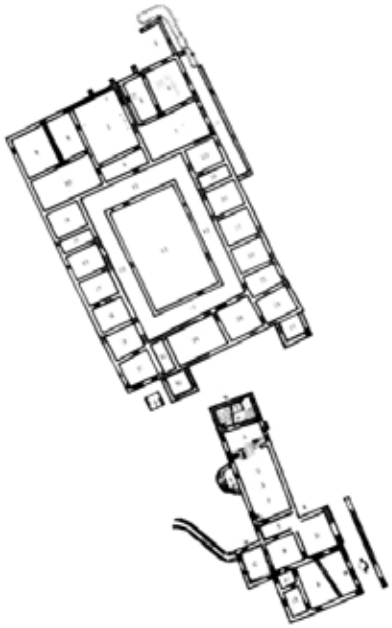
and Swaysland below). However, as regards the attribution/function of the site, more telling is the range and quality of its other finds categories. Its building materials includes both quantities of *tegulae* (roof-), floor-, *tubulae*- (box-flue) and *pedilis* (pier-) tiles (the latter two attesting to a hypocaust heating system; see Anderson, below) and also a variety of nails. As detailed by Hall and Brudenell below, even more remarkable is its fine metalwork. Not only does this include the 16 coins recovered, two bracelets (with another in shale also found; see Appleby below), a probable iron stylus and a fragment of a copper alloy vessel, but also a decorative mount fitting (possible for a horse harness) and a complete *hipposandal* (fig. 35: 3 & 5). The latter two are extraordinary finds, with the 'sandal' being a temporary iron shoe for horses. In short, the site's assemblages include a great quantity of 'special' material and, in all likelihood, based on its plan, it probably relates to a major villa complex. This seems a 'ready' association based on the courtyard-like setting of the probable building(s) in its southwestern corner (fig. 34. C). Yet, in this regard the sheer size of the structures is important, as each of its 'wings' would be comparable to the entire area of, for example, the King's Hedges Arbury villa (fig. 34). Equally, the wings of the Site XXVII building would be atypically 'long' and they are, moreover, rounded, suggesting apsidal ends. Therefore, given this, Building C could be another kind of structure altogether, perhaps a bathhouse. Whilst the latter suggestion would correlate with the quantity of flue-tile retrieved, the fact that no sunken floor structure is visible on the plots could argue against this.

Be this as it may, the idea that 'Block C' is a separate specialist building may indicate that Structure A was the main residential quarters, and on the plot this portion appears to have a corridor around its southern and western sides. Yet, close scrutiny of the imagery actually suggests that it may have originally extended further south-westwards, with the northern arm/wing of 'C' possibly superseding it. By this logic, the western corridor of 'A' might mark what was originally an internal staircase. (Building B may equally have also superseded the later reduced area of 'A'.) From all this it is clear that we are seeing a very major and complicated building sequence here. Whilst for convenience it will be termed a *villa* - all be it of a very grand scale - other possible 'civic-type' buildings could also be possible, either a *mansio* or posting station.

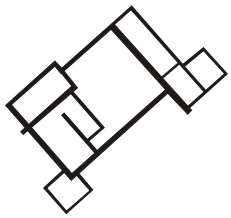
In the main, this complex would seem to date from the 2nd-4th centuries AD. Whilst a minor 1st century presence is attested to by one vessel alone of that date in F.742 in Trench 237 and the recovery of both Colchester Derivative and dolphin-style brooches, no Iron Age pottery whatsoever was recovered from this area. Given its tentative villa and/or 'official' status, unlike Site XII where the evidence of Iron Age/Roman continuity is unequivocal, Site XXVII would essentially seem to have been a 'new' Roman foundation.

Of Romano-British date, it is conceivable that the ditch boundary, F.737, in Field 19 relates to the line of the/a Roman road. Yet, in all likelihood, it is probably simply a component of the larger settlement complex now known on the southern side of the Dry Drayton Road at this point, and to which the Site XXIX Iron Age settlement in Field 20 is also clearly related. This, and the nearby recovery of the Saxon comb fragment, raises the possibility of post-Roman occupation within that larger site.





Godmanchester, Mansio and Bath House



Arbury Villa, Cambridge

Figure 34. Site XXVII projected building plan compared to Arbury Villa and Godmanchester Mansio sites (at the same scale)

It has proven impossible to firmly attribute a date to the dispersed ditch components found in Field 23. Falling on a northwest-southeast orientation (and return), these probably represent a fieldsystem, which (based on the evidence of the geophysical survey) appears to continue into Field 21 (see Part 1) and is probably quite extensive. It could, on the one hand, be associated with the Bronze Age pits that constitute Site XXX lying just to north; that a few flints and a further sherds of later Bronze Age pottery was recovered from these features could further the system's 'early' attribution. As, moreover, would also its orientation, which is common to most Bronze Age fieldsystems in the region (e.g. Barleycroft/Over on the Ouse; Evans & Knight 2000). Yet, seeming to attest to very long-term continuity, many Romano-British fieldsystems - such as on the Isle of Ely or the Addenbrooke's/Clay Farm lands in Cambridge (Evans & Mackay 2005; Evans *et al*. 2006) also maintain this alignment. Here it is equally relevant that Roman pottery was also recovered from the Field 23 ditches. Whilst lying relatively 'high' and having light Greensand-derived sub-soils, there is no doubt that we are seeing earlier, Neolithic/Bronze Age activity in this area; however, the evidence is not sufficient to postulate a Bronze Age fieldsystem. Accepting caveats of its potentially early origins, it will, therefore, be tentatively assigned to Roman times. Given this, it may well be related to the larger Site XXIX complex as it extends across into the fields south of the Dry Drayton Road, or still else a hitherto unknown Roman site lying further upslope, northeast of Fields 21 and 23. Pending further work in this area, the latter option is considered the most likely.

Specialist Studies

Flint (Emma Beadsmoore)

A total of only 16 flints were recovered from five sites within the infrastructure route, listed by feature/context and type in Table 3, and by trench and type in Table 2. Limited evidence for background Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic activity was supplied by blades recovered from Trench 214, Site XXVII, and F.706, Site XII. A residual burnt and damaged possible Neolithic flake was also recovered from a later enclosure ditch, F.788, Site XXVII. Two further residual flakes were recovered from ditch F. 1952, which yielded a potential Neolithic flake, and ditch F. 1962, which yielded a possible biface thinning flake.

		Type					
Site	**Feature/context**	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	secondary blade	irregular core	**Sub totals**
XII	F.699/[1996]	1					1
	F.700/[2001]		1				1
	F.706 [2022]				1		1
XXVI	F.773 [2192]		2			1	3
XXVII	F.788 [1732]			1			1
XIII	F.800 [2200]		1				1
XXV	F.804 [2216] [2212]		2				2
XXX	F.1952 [12704]			1			1
	F.1962 [12724]			1			1
	Totals	1	6	3	1	1	12

Table 3 – Flint types listed by feature/context

	Site				
	XXVII	XXV		Field 12	
Type	Trench 214	Trench 265	Trench 268	Trench 279	**Sub-totals**
secondary flake		1		1	2
tertiary flake			1		1
secondary blade	1				1
Totals	1	1	1	1	4

Table 4 – Flint types listed by trench

Two expediently manufactured flakes were recovered from F.804, Site XXV. They had no traces of systematic flint working, are consistent with later prehistoric flake production/core reduction strategies, and potentially date from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. A third flake recovered as a surface find from Trench 265 was manufactured by a comparable technology and is also likely to date from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. Additional, potentially later prehistoric waste flakes were recovered from: Trench 268, Site XXV; Trench 279, Field 12; F.800 (Trench 297), Site XIII; and

Trench 200, Site XII. The remaining material recovered from the evaluation comprises chronologically non-diagnostic waste flakes and unworked burnt chunks.

Prehistoric Pottery (Matthew Brudenell)

An assemblage comprising 415 sherds weighing 3448g was recovered from five separate 'sites' identified along the infrastructure route (Table 5). In general the condition of the material was fair to good, the majority of the assemblage comprising small to medium sized sherds (<8cm in size), mixed amongst a few larger vessel fragments, notably those from F.754, Site XXIX. By count, 9.4% of the assemblage was scored, and 9.4% was burnished. The mean sherd weight is moderately high at 12.3g.

Site	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	No. burnished	No. scored	% LBA/ EIA	% handmade Later IA tradition	% handmade LIA/'Belgic'	% wheelmade LIA/'Belgic'
XIV	147	668	7	29	0.3	99.7	-	-
XII	136	1307	32	9	1.1	85.1	1.3	12.5
XXVI	8	22	-	0	18.2	13.6	-	68.2
XXIX	123	1448	-	1	4	96	-	-
XXX	1	3	-	-	100	-	-	-

Table 5: Site assemblages (% by weight).

The assemblage consists largely of handmade sherds of Later Iron Age date (c.400/300 BC-50 AD). These are typified by a narrow range of mainly open, ovoid and globular profiled vessels, with weakly defined 'slack-shoulders'. Vessels of this date are usually made in dense sand or shell fabrics, and have occasional finger-tip/finger-nail impressions along the rim-top. The Longstanton area lies close to the boundary between two different traditions of handmade Later Iron Age pottery, with shelly Scored Wares dominating the region to the north and northwest, as at Over, Earith and Haddenham (Hill & Braddock forthcoming), while sandy plainware characterises southern Cambridgeshire (Hill & Horne 2003). Four identified sites at Longstanton produced pottery of Late Iron Age date (c.50 BC-50 AD), belonging to the 'Belgic' or Aylesford-Swarling tradition. For the most part these vessels are wheel-turned, though handmade forms in the 'Belgic' style were also produced. These new ways of potting continued alongside the production of handmade Later Iron Age vessels, both 'traditions' persisting into the immediate post-Conquest period (c.50 AD). This creates the possibility that Iron Age and early Roman ceramics could be contemporary. In features where both occurred the stratigraphic position of sherds was taken into account before determining whether or not the Iron Age sherds were residual or contemporary. Also present in the assemblage was a small LBA/EIA component characterised by flint-tempered sherds, and broadly dated c.1100-400 BC.

Sherds were assigned to one of five broad fabrics groups based on the principle inclusions present. This follows the scheme already used in the analysis of Site XII pottery in an earlier phase of evaluation. Fabrics are discussed on a site by site basis only where it was felt that a large enough sample had been obtained to warrant analysis. For the purposes of this report assemblages are discussed on a site by site

basis. Detailed information on the quantity of both handmade and wheel-made Iron Age pottery is provided.

Site XIV

A total of 147 sherds (668g) were recovered from four Site XIV features in Trenches 166 and 170. The single feature in Trench 170 may be unconnected to the main Site XIV focus, but is included here for ease of analysis.

91 sherds weighing 516g were recovered from three Site XIV features in Trench 166. With the exception of a single residual LBA/EIA flint-tempered sherd in F.658 (2g), all the pottery is Later Iron Age in date, characterised by either dense sandy fabrics, occasionally with organic inclusions, or shelly wares. Given that three one metre slots were excavated through the Site XIV enclosure ditches, the quantity of material recovered is remarkably low. Only 20 sherds were recovered from the ditches (111g), representing a minimum of three vessels, with a MSW of 5.6g. No pottery was recovered from F.659, whilst F.658 and F.665 yielded just five (13g) and 15 (98g) sherds respectively. On average, the weight of pottery per slot was only 37g, or seven sherds. Within the enclosure, pit F.653 yielded 71 sherds (405g) belonging to a single slack-shouldered scored vessel (Hill & Horne 2003: Type A) in a shelly fabric, with a rim diameter of c.11cm and a base diameter of c.8cm.

Beyond the Site XIV enclosure, Later Iron Age pottery was recovered from a single posthole in Trench 170. F.650 yielded 56 sherds (152g), from a minimum number of two vessels. One rim sherd was adorned with rim-top finger tip impressions and a perforated neck, whilst one body sherd was scored.

Site XII

The Site XII assemblage comprised 136 sherds weighing 1307g. Material was recovered from 13 features across Trenches 200, 201 and 204. The assemblage is dominated by quartz-tempered fabrics (88.6%), but also includes material with shell (3.2%), shell and quartz (4.2%), chalk or limestone (1.1%), and grog (2.8%) inclusions. The assemblage was dominated by handmade sherds of the Later Iron Age tradition, with a small wheel turned LIA component. There was no conclusive evidence for early LBA/EIA presence.

Trench 200

Features F.700 and F.704-706 all contained residual Later Iron Age pottery mixed amongst sherds typical of the mid-later Roman period (see Anderson, below). The Iron Age pottery consisted of material in both the handmade MIA tradition and wheel-turned LIA/'Belgic' tradition. F.704 yielded eight residual sherds (78g), all bar one of which were in the handmade MIA tradition. Two rim sherds were recovered from the ditch, both displaying rim-top decoration; one embellished with finger-tip impressions, the other with finger nail-impressions. Residual Iron Age pottery from F.705 comprised seven sherds weighing 35g; four in the handmade MIA tradition, the remaining two belonging to LIA wheel-turned vessels. Three sherds weighing 36g were recovered from F.706, all in the handmade MIA tradition, whilst two handmade sherds (8g) were retrieved from F.700.

F.718 contained 15 sherds (155g) of handmade Later Iron Age pottery, including fragments of a neck-less round-bodied open vessel with a flat finger-nail decorated rim-top (Hill & Horn 2003: Type L). The vessel was c.12cm in diameter, and with external sooting. Three further features in Trench 200 yielded exclusively Later Iron Age handmade pottery. Eight sherds (106g) were recovered from F.711, including an internally-bevelled rim, whilst F.709 and F.726 yielded two sherds (5g), and five sherds (210g) respectively. The deposit in F.726 contained fragments of a slack-shouldered ovoid jar with a flat externally expanded rim, c.15cm in diameter (Hill & Horne 2003: Type A), and the flat rim of an ovoid vessel with constricted mouth, c.15cm in diameter (Hill & Horne 2003: Type C). Together all these assemblages can be dated no closer than c.350 BC-c.43 AD. Although no LIA wheel-turned

pottery was present in these features, it is possible that all are contemporary with the rest of the Iron Age assemblage from Site XII, spanning the period between c.50 BC-c.50 AD.

F.724 yielded 27 sherds (230g) of Later Iron Age pottery. 17 sherds (153g) were in handmade fabrics of the MIA tradition, and included fragments of a slack-shouldered jar with a rounded direct rim (Hill & Horn 2003: Type A). The remaining pottery was all wheel turned, and included two angular shouldered sherds with cordons above the carination; two slightly beaded rims and a single foot-ring base. Together, this assemblage can be dated c.50 BC-c.50 AD, and contains no early Roman pottery. A similar date is suggested for the assemblage from F.732 which also contained a mixture of handmade and wheel turned sherds. Five sherds weighing 18g were recovered from the features, two sherds (8g) of which were in MIA handmade fabrics

Trench 201

A single feature in Trench 201 yielded Iron Age pottery. F.701 contained 21 sherds (149g) of Iron Age pottery mixed with early Roman ceramics. The material was stratified across four of the six fills. The lowest fills, contexts [2009] and [2007], were devoid of Roman material; producing 10 sherds (39g) of handmade Later Iron Age pottery and two sherds (31g) of LIA wheel-turned pottery, one of which displayed combed decoration. A mixture of Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from the top fills of the ditch, in contexts [2005] and [2004]. Nine handmade Later Iron Age sherds (79g) were recovered, along with four Early Roman sherds (17g). Although it is possible that the Iron Age material is residual, the material could be contemporary as pottery of typifying the Later Iron Age continued to be produced up to, and immediately post-dating the Roman conquest. Taken together, the pottery from this feature can be dated c.50 BC-50 AD.

Trench 204

Iron Age pottery was recovered from two features in Trench 204; both with a mixture of handmade and wheel-turned pottery. 30 sherds (217g) of handmade and wheel-turned Iron Age pottery were recovered from F.720, mixed with a single Early Roman sherd. 25 sherds (153g) were in handmade Later Iron Age fabrics, whilst five sherds (64g) belonged to the LIA tradition, being either wheel tuned, or handmade but with forms/characteristics of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition. Two LIA sherds had combed or rilled decoration, whilst a further sherd displayed a cordon. F.719 yielded two sherds (36); one, a handmade Later Iron Age body sherd (9g), the other, a beaded rim and rippled neck of a handmade vessel in the LIA tradition (17g).

Site XXVI

The Site XXVI assemblage comprised eight sherds weighing 22g, from two features. Seven sherds from two different contexts were recovered from Feature 739. Five sherds (15g) of wheel-turned LIA pottery came from context [2109], while context [2110] contained two chalk or limestone tempered sherds (4g), which are maybe of LBA/EIA date. If so, these are likely to be residual; the assemblage suggesting a date of c.50 BC-50 AD. Feature 745 yielded a single, residual quartz tempered sherd (3g).

Site XXIX

The Site XXIX assemblage comprised 123 sherds (1448g), deriving from two features.

The ditch assemblage from F.750 comprised 47 sherds (210g) of handmade prehistoric pottery. The bulk of the handmade pottery belongs to the Later Iron Age, including one small scored sherd and two refitting sherds from a handmade, pinched base.

Ditch F.754 yielded five (59g) residual LBA/EIA sherds in flint tempered fabrics, and 71 sherds (1179g) belonging to two Later Iron Age handmade vessels. Almost all (99%) of the Later Iron Age

pottery derived from a neck-less, cylindrical or tub shaped vessel (Hill & Horn 2003: Type K), with a flat finger-tipped rim. Around 23% of the rim was intact, with a diameter of c.22cm. Two rim sherds of a second tub shaped vessel were also present in the assemblage (Hill & Horn 2003: Type K), though they were two small to enable measurement of the diameter.

Site XXX

The Site XXX assemblage comprised a single flint-tempered sherd (3g) characteristic of the LBA/EIA.

Together, the site assemblages from Longstanton form a small but informative collection, with the potential to further elucidate local chronological developments and issues of Iron Age community identity. The quantity and distribution of later prehistoric pottery suggests this was an extensively occupied landscape from the 4th century BC onwards. In total, Iron Age activity is present on at least five of the sites identified within the infrastructure route (possibly six if Site XXX is included). The majority of the pottery dates to the Later Iron Age, although a significant LIA wheel-turned component is present on four of the sites, together with a much smaller LBA/EIA presence.

Evidence for intensive LBA/EIA activity is scarce, although a 'background' of residual flint-tempered sherds were present in many of the site features. A definitive LBA/EIA focus is not indicated by the ceramics. Five Later Iron Age settlements are identified on the basis of the pottery. Almost all were characterised by a majority of sandy Plain Wares more typical of southern Cambridgeshire. In terms of the wider Later Iron Age pottery distribution, Longstanton lies near the 'ceramic boundary zone' between communities in the Fenland which mainly used shell-tempered Scored Wares during the later Iron Age, and that in south Cambridgeshire which used sandy Plain Wares. The character of assemblages recovered in previous evaluation phases at Longstanton suggests the material has closer affinities to the latter. Results from the current phase largely support this claim, although the Site XIV assemblage had a high proportion of shell-tempered wares and scoring. At Site XIV, the high level of scoring is distorted by fragments of a single scored vessel in pit F.653, and should therefore be discounted. However, at Site XVIII on the airfield, 18.1% of sherds were scored, including a variety of different vessels (see Brudenell below). This figure is just below levels normally expected in Scored Ware assemblages on sites further to the northwest, i.e. c.20-30% (Hill and Braddock forthcoming). This may suggest that communities with different ceramic affiliations were living in close proximity at Longstanton; a pattern matched in the Upper Delphs (Hill & Braddock in Evans & Hodder 2006). How fixed or fluid the boundaries between these communities were is a matter of interest, and calls into question concepts of identity in this transitional ceramic zone.

Four of the sites with Later Iron Age ceramics also produced LIA wheeled-turned/'Belgic' style pottery. In the period post-dating c.50 BC, communities in this area continued to make and use handmade Later Iron Age wares alongside the newly introduced LIA wheel-turned pottery. At Longstanton, most contexts yielding wheel-tuned LIA material also contained larger quantities of handmade Later Iron Age pottery. This pattern is typical of areas north of Cambridge, in the Fens, Peterborough, and further afield, in Norfolk and northern Suffolk (Hill 2002: 158). New wheel-

turned forms were adopted within existing patterns of ceramic use, which continued to be practiced up until the period immediately post-dating the Roman conquest (c.50 AD). In this region the proportion of wheel-turned to handmade vessels appears to be much lower than that encountered in the south of Cambridgeshire, although few attempts have been made to quantify the data (although see Evans *et al*. 2004). Site XII had 12.5% wheel-tuned sherds; a figure within the range calculated for sites around the Fen edge (Evans, Knight & Webley forthcoming). Obviously, the sample sizes from Longstanton are too small for any firm conclusions to be drawn, and in this respect no comment has been made on the levels of wheel-tuned pottery at Site XXVI (less than 100 sherds). However, the sites have the potential to further understand the process of adopting wheel-tuned forms and their social impact in an area just beyond the main Aylesford-Swarling distribution.

Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

A total of 1456 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 12677g and representing 16.22 EVEs were recovered from six sites along the infrastructure route. All of the material was examined and details of fabric, form, decoration, useware, EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) and date were recorded. For the purposes of this report the pottery is divided by site and then discussed by feature, although due to the large number of features which contained Roman pottery, only selected features have been chosen for individual discussion.

Field	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Mean Wt(g)	EVE
XII	237	1815	7.7	3.36
XXV	4	7	1.8	0
XXVI	18	250	13.9	0.1
XXVII	1169	10136	8.7	11.74
Field 23	3	45	15	0.5
TOTAL	**1456**	**12677**	**X**	**16.22**

Table 6: Showing the quantities of Roman pottery by Site

Site XII

Features around Site XII contained a total of 215 sherds weighing 1745g.

Trench 204

Feature 706 contained the greatest number of sherds with 52 in total, weighing 294g. These included several sandy greyware sherds, most of which were non-diagnostic, although a beaded bowl and several jars were represented. There were also two Central Gaulish Samian sherds, both of which were from Dr18/31, although from different vessels, dating AD 120-150. The remaining pottery in this feature dates 2nd-3rd century AD. This feature also contained a small number of Middle Iron Age pottery sherds.

22 sherds were recovered from Feature 699, weighing 70g, consisting of sandy coarseware sherds, 21 of which were from a single, unidentifiable vessel. The fabric however, dated this pottery 2nd-4th century AD.

Trench 200

Feature 704 contained 32 sherds (270g), most of which were sandy greyware sherds. This included four different jar rims dating 2nd-4th century AD. Several Middle Iron Age sherds were also recovered from this feature (see Brudenell, above).

43 sherds weighing 182g were recovered from Feature 708. The most remarkable factor about the pottery from this feature is that the vast majority of the sherds (*c*. 95%) were Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, dating mid 2nd-4th century AD. This is of particular interest when it is realised that the sherds from this feature represent 31% of the total Nene Valley colour-coated wares from all Longstanton sites. Due to the small size of most of these sherds, and a relatively high level of abrasion, only two of these sherds were diagnostic, consisting of one base from a small beaker and one rim from a funnel neck beaker. The body sherds were, however, from several different vessels. The high proportion of colour-coated wares may be significant in indicating that this site was of a higher status, or that the site functions were slightly different to other sites around Longstanton.

Feature 705 contained 25 sherds, weighing 396g, all of which were coarsewares, including six shell-tempered sherds. Two beaded bowls were recovered, along with one jar rim, with the rest of the sherds being non-diagnostic. The pottery from this feature dates 2nd-3rd century AD.

Site XXV

Four sherds of Roman pottery weighing 7g were recovered from trenches around this site, all of which were non-diagnostic sandy greywares which could only be dated Romano-British.

Site XXVI

Site XXVI yielded 18 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 250g. Eight sherds were recovered from Feature 790, Trench 258, all of which were coarse sandy wares. Feature 773 contained three sherds, including one rim sherd from a thin walled, beaded rim jar, dating mid 1st-2nd century AD. One sandy greyware sherd was also found in Feature 778. The remaining six sherds were stray finds within this area, including one large rim sherd from a sandy greyware jar dating 2nd-4th century AD.

Fabric	No. of sherds	Wt (g)	Fabric	No. of sherds	Wt (g)
Black slipped ware	1	7	Micaceous fine oxidised	2	13
Buff sandy ware-fine	5	31	Micaceous sandy greyware	1	11
Central Gaulish Samian	6	41	Nene Valley grey ware	9	78
Coarse oxidised sandy ware	62	648	Nene Valley colour coat	47	338
Eastern Gaulish Samian	1	1	Nene Valley whiteware	2	286
Fine micaceous sandy greyware	3	16	Oxford imitation Samian	1	75
Fine oxidised sandy	25	173	Oxfordshire red slipped	2	79
Fine sandy greyware	9	255	Oxidised sandy ware	5	110
Grog tempered ware	3	42	Sandy grey ware	841	6576
Hadham oxidised ware	8	72	Shell tempered	130	1202
Late Baetican amphora	1	65	White wares	2	9
Late Colchester colour coat	3	8	**TOTAL**	**1169**	**10136**

Table 7: Showing vessel fabrics from Site XXVI

Site XXVII

A total of 1169 sherds of Roman pottery (10136g) were recovered from 30 different features around this site. The vast majority were from within Field 18, consisting of 903 sherds weighing 9763g (*c.*77%).

Trench 211

Feature 753 yielded 146 sherds weighing 1215g from five different contexts. The vast majority of sherds were sandy greyware sherds (131 in total), including 31 from a single, medium sized necked jar, dating 2nd-3rd century AD. There were also 12 other jars represented in this feature, as well as two beaded bowls. Other fabrics present in this group included three shell-tempered sherds, three grog-tempered sherds and two Nene Valley wares, along with one Central Gaulish Samian sherd. The bulk of the pottery from this feature dates 2nd-3rd century AD.

Feature 786 contained 93 sherds weighing 1191g from two different contexts. There were 21 shell-tempered sherds, several of which had heavy sooting on the exteriors. The majority of sherds were sandy greywares, including three jars, one straight-sided shallow dish and one beaded bowl, dating 2nd-4th century AD. There were also seven Nene Valley sherds, two of which were from a castor box and one from a beaded, flanged bowl, dating 3rd-4th century AD. This feature also contained one Oxfordshire imitation Samian Dr45 dating 3rd-4th century AD, thereby making this one of the latest dating features on the site.

Feature 749 contained a total of 33 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 182g from two different contexts. This included two Nene Valley colour-coated vessels, a beaded, flanged bowl dating 3rd-4th century AD, and one beaded rim jar/beaker dating mid 2nd-4th century AD. There was a slight difference in date between the material from the two different contexts, with the pottery from the lower [2133] being 2nd-3rd century AD in date, while a date of 3rd-4th century AD was given to fill [2134].

A total of 63 sherds weighing 1593g were recovered from Feature 766. The pottery ranged in date from the 2nd-4th century AD and included one Nene Valley whiteware mortaria. There were also several different jars represented, one of which was a complete sandy greyware rim from a narrow mouth jar, dating 2nd-3rd century AD.

63 sherds were also recovered from Feature 769. However, in this case the total weight and therefore the mean weight was significantly lower, with a total weight of 545g and a mean weight of 8.7g compared to 25.3g for Feature 766. An examination of the mean weights from all of the sites shows that it is the pottery from Feature 766 which stands out as being particularly high.

Trench 214

111 sherds, weighing 1168g were recovered from Feature 747. This included 11 Nene Valley sherds, both colour-coated and greywares, dating mid 2nd-4th century AD. There were also six fine, oxidised sandy wares, one of which was a complete rim from a ring mouth flagon, dating 2nd-3rd century AD. Other vessel forms recorded included several jars of varying size and two straight-sided shallow dishes, which also range in date from 2nd-3rd century AD.

Trench 217

72 sherds of Roman pottery were found in Feature 756, weighing 333g. 32 of the sherds were shell tempered wares, which represented at least two different jars. There were also two fine micaceous wares, including one rim sherd from a cornice rim beaker. This feature has a date of 2nd-3rd century AD.

Feature 702 contained 24 sherds weighing 323g, 18 of which were shell-tempered wares, representing at least two different jars. Other identifiable vessel forms consisted of one sandy greyware jar and one fine, oxidised sandy bowl. The pottery from this feature is 2nd-4th century AD in date.

One sherd from a Late Baetican amphora was found in Feature 755, which contained a total of 28 sherds weighing 311g. There were also four different sandy greyware jar rims, as well as one shell-tempered jar rim, all of which date 2nd-4th century AD.

Several fineware sherds were recovered from features within Trench 217. Feature 780, for example, contained two Hadham oxidised wares (3rd-4th century AD) and one Eastern Gaulish Samian sherd (3rd century AD). Two further Hadham oxidised wares were recovered from Feature 788, including one rim from a pinched-mouth flagon dating 3rd-4th century AD. There were also two Nene Valley colour-coated flanged bowls, which are mid 2nd-4th century AD in date.

Trench 237

Feature 742 contained 264 sherds and was earlier with a mid 1st-2nd century AD, although the evidence from this feature may be slightly misleading since 263 of the sherds were from a single vessel. The vessel in question was a small, sandy greyware jar with a flat-topped beaded rim. The remaining sherd was also a rim sherd from a sandy greyware sherd from a small jar/beaker.

Vessel Form	No. of Sherds	Wt (g)	Vessel Form	No. of Sherds	Wt (g)
Amphora	1	65	Imitation Dragendorff 45	1	75
Beaker	2	19	Jar	335	2599
Body	709	4727	Jar/Beaker	50	288
Beaded bowl	8	207	Jar/flagon	1	8
Beaded, flanged bowl	5	110	Mortaria	5	520
Castor box lid	3	77	Plain rim dish/bowl	1	4
Decorated body sherd	25	885	Straight sided dog dish	5	87
Dragendorff 18/31	3	24	Flat base	12	295
Flagon	3	146	**TOTAL**	**1169**	**10136**

Table 8: Showing vessel forms from site XXVII

Field 23

Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this field, weighing 45g. This included one Nene Valley colour-coated sherd, from Feature 1962, Trench 382, dating mid 2nd-4th century AD. The remaining two sherds consisted of non-diagnostic sandy greyware sherds which could only be dated Romano-British.

Roman pottery was recovered from five of the different sites identified at Longstanton, although the level of activity is variable between the sites. Three of the sites (IX, XXV and XXX), contained only very small quantities of Roman pottery, suggesting that they were not a primary focus of activity, or at least that the excavated features were on the periphery of the main settlement areas.

The remaining two sites (XII and XXVII) contained much larger quantities of Roman pottery, implying that these areas were more heavily utilized during the Roman period. These sites also contained relatively large quantities of Iron Age pottery (*ibid.*), showing that the sites were in occupation during both the Iron Age and the Roman period. However, there was a lack of any definite Early Roman pottery from either of these sites, suggesting occupation was not continuous.

The pottery from each site is comparable with one another in terms of the fabrics and forms represented, which is a reflection on the similar date ranges of the sites. However, it also shows that the sites which were in use at the same time had access to the same sources of pottery, which is not unexpected. During the 2nd-3rd century AD when the two main sites appear to have peaked, there were a range of local and non-local wares, which were dominated by coarsewares, most probably made locally, although the exact sources are as yet unknown. There are, however, fewer of the 'known' local wares (including coarsewares); Horningsea grey wares for example, were represented by only 24 sherds, most of which came from a single vessel. This is a much smaller quantity than may be expected since the Horningsea kilns are one of the biggest suppliers of coarsewares in southern Cambridgeshire (Lucas 1999). Explanations for this may be because there was not the supply network in place, or that at Longstanton there was an alternative supplier.

The most common fine wares represented were Nene Valley wares, although these can count as local wares because they were produced around Peterborough, located approximately 25 miles from Longstanton. Other finewares and imports were scarce within the assemblages, reflecting only 3% of the total assemblage by count and 5% by weight.

All of the pottery assemblages represent domestic assemblages with a variety of jars, bowls and dishes, as well as more specialised vessel types such as mortaria and amphora. Overall, the Roman pottery reflects a series of moderately poor, domestic settlements, most of which were occupied during the same period (2nd-3rd century AD in particular). Site XII shows evidence of being occupied throughout the Roman period, although the levels of activity as reflected in the pottery are variable. The similarities shown between the assemblages from different sites demonstrates that in terms of wealth and status they were all similar. However, the varying quantities of material imply different levels of activity. The pottery recovered from the 2004 evaluation is also comparable with the material excavated in 2003 (Evans & Mackay 2004), as are other sites in Cambridgeshire such as Clay Farm (Evans & Mackay 2005), which showed a similar series of small farmstead based settlements. However, although the dates of occupation and the relative wealth and status are similar, there are subtle differences in the types of pottery, specifically the local coarsewares, which support a view that the supply of ceramics to the sites around Longstanton was not entirely the same as that to the sites to the south of this area.

Roman Tile (Katie Anderson)

A total of 102 pieces of Roman tile, weighing 7697g were recovered from 12 different features from Sites XII and XXVII. All of the tile was examined and details of fabric, form and date were recorded.

All of the material came from site XXVII, with the exception of three small, undiagnostic pieces (13g) which were recovered from Site XII, Feature 704. Within Site XXVII a total of 12 different features contained Roman tile, with three large pieces (1823g) coming from the surface of Trench 214 and another (86g) from the surface of Trench 211.

Feature 747 contained a total of 24 pieces of tile weighing 1922g, including two large floor tiles, both with light sooting on the exterior. There were also six pieces of tegula, including one large piece (407g) which had evidence of burning on the surfaces. The remaining pieces of tile were all relatively small and thus form could not be identified.

Feature 753 contained five pieces of Roman tile, weighing 672g. This consisted of three different tegula, one large flue tile (441g) with combing on the exterior and one unknown piece.

Nine pieces of tile were recovered from Feature 786, weighing a total of 1708g. This included three pieces from a shell-tempered imbrex tile (455g). There were also two different flue tiles and two tegula from one large tile weighing 724g, which were also burnt. Two large pieces of tile were collected from the surface of Trench 214, consisting of two large tegula, weighing 806g and 755g respectively.

Five small and abraded pieces of brick (50g) were recovered from three different features on Site XXVII (Features 705, 788 and 791), which can only be dated Romano-British.

Form	No.	Wt (g)
Floor Tile	2	973
Flue Tile	26	1309
Imbrex	5	893
Tegula	21	4124
Unknown	48	398
TOTAL	**102**	**7697**

Table 9: Showing tile types for all sites

The quantity of tile recovered from the sites is relatively small, given that there were at least six different sites with evidence of Roman activity. The vast majority of the tile came from Site XXVII, suggesting that there would have been a building(s) somewhere on the site. The presence of all four of the main tile types (tegula, imbrex, flue and floor tiles) supports this view. Flue tiles and tegula were the most commonly occurring from Site XXVII. A number of different fabric types were identified (see Table 10), with coarse sandy fabrics dominating.

Fabric	No.	Wt (g)
Coarse sandy	59	3193
Fine sandy	5	311
Flint tempered	1	70
Coarse sandy, occasional flint	7	1581
Coarse sandy, occasional red iron ore	25	1721
Shell tempered	5	821
TOTAL	**102**	**7697**

Table 10: Showing fabric types for all sites

Dating of the tile is problematic, since many of the key features for identifying chronological differences were absent (flanges for example). However the combing seen on a number of the imbrex pieces suggests a mid-late Roman date (2^{nd}-4^{th} century AD). This view is supported by the presence of Roman pottery of the same date, in a number of the features which also contained tile (See Anderson above).

Site XXVII displayed the largest quantity of tile from any of the sites, although it is still a relatively small quantity. It is however, in keeping with the quantity recovered from the excavations at Longstanton Airfield (see Anderson below), which showed a similar assemblage in terms of the forms represented and the date of the material.

The lack of any tile from any of the other sites, with the exception of the three pieces from Site XII, implies that there were no buildings/structures on these sites, as if there were then a presence of tile would be expected.

Burnt Clay (Katie Anderson)

A total of 55 pieces of Burnt clay weighing 223g, were recovered from 16 different features, with all but one piece coming from Site XXVII (the remaining piece was from XII). All of the material was examined and details of fabric and form, if possible, were recorded.

The assemblage consisted of very small and abraded pieces, with a mean weight of only 4g. There were no identifiable forms within the assemblage and only two pieces displayed any evidence of use. This consisted of one piece with a large groove on the surface (Feature 704, Trench 200, Site XII) and one relatively large piece with a surface (Feature 750, Trench 300, Site XXIX).

Due to the level of abrasion shown by most pieces of clay, dating was problematic. Fabrics were partly useful for dating, although the generic types did limit this. Sand tempered wares dominated, varying from moderately fine to coarse sand, along with several calcareous sherds, many of which are probably Roman in date, although a more specific date is not possible. However, the presence of Roman pottery in the same features supports this view.

Overall, the assemblage of burnt clay is fairly insignificant, with no recognisable forms, partly as a result of abrasion, but also because many of the pieces may never have had a function, instead simply being pieces of clay which were unintentionally burnt.

Metalwork (Andrew Hall and Matthew Brudenell)

Field 13

During the evaluation, all features exposed were scanned with a metal detector, with two Iron Age copper alloy brooches detected at the extreme southern end within Trench 203. These finds were numbered and their position plotted onto the base plans. In addition, the spoil heaps of separated subsoil and topsoil adjacent to the trenches

were flattened by machine and detected. Spoil from the hand excavation of features was also scanned. This methodology was adopted to aid the recovery of small metallic finds such as coins and other datable material culture. It was also important to retrieve the finds as quickly as possible, before the site attracted the unwanted attentions of clandestine detectorists. At this stage in the report production, the brooches, mount and coins are awaiting cleaning.

Trench 203

1. <659> Copper alloy brooch fragment, consisting of upper portion of Colchester Derivative type fibula with decorated bow with notched zig-zag, and separate eight coil spring and pin. These two-piece variants date from the second half of the 1st century AD. Parallels have been found during excavation at Baldock, Herts (Stead & Rigby 1989: 114).

2. <660> Copper alloy brooch fragment. Upper section of Langton Down type fibula. Similar to examples from Skeleton Green (Mackreth in Partridge 1981, Fig 71: 45), and Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1989: 116). The bow is decorated with vertical reeding and the spring encased. Dated to *c.*40-60 AD.

With the large number of features revealed by aerial photographic and geophysical survey and the 2004/05 evaluation programmes, the recovery of only two pieces of metalwork from these two fields is low. Nonetheless, the brooches attest to continued occupation in the mid to later 1st century AD.

Field 18

During the evaluation, all features exposed were scanned with a metal detector. Three trenches within Field 18 yielded numerous finds of the Romano-British period. These finds were numbered and their position plotted onto the base plans. In addition, the spoil heaps of separated subsoil and topsoil adjacent to the trenches were flattened by machine and detected. Spoil from the hand excavation of features was also scanned. This methodology was adopted to aid the recovery of small metallic finds such as coins and other datable material culture. It was also important to retrieve the finds as quickly as possible, before the site attracted the unwanted attentions of clandestine detectorists. To allow comparison of the results, the methodology corresponds with that used on other sites within the vicinity such as the Striplands Roman site (Brudenell in Evans and Mackay 2004).

At this stage in the report production, the coins are awaiting cleaning and identification, therefore only tentative dating attribution has been provided. The following iron objects all require x-ray to confirm identification.

Trench 211

1. <634> F.786 Copper alloy coin early to mid 4th century 14mm diameter. Retrieved from excavation spoil.

2. <635> F.769 Fragment of twisted (three strand) copper alloy bracelet or armlet 3rd/4th century AD. Retrieved by hand excavation.

3. <637> Small copper alloy coin of the late 3rd/4th century, 10mm diameter. Subsoil.

4 <638> Copper alloy coin of the 3rd/4th century, diameter 16mm. Heavily corroded. Retrieved from subsoil.

5. <639> Copper alloy coin of the 3rd/4th century, diameter 20mm. Retrieved from subsoil spoil heap.

6. <640> Sheet copper alloy vessel fragment with folded rim. This 30mm x 40mm sheet fragment may originate from a much larger bowl or bucket or may alternately represent a repair patch from such a vessel. Traces of possible decoration, requires cleaning and/or x-ray. Retrieved from the top of context [1723]

7. <641> A cast copper alloy mount or fitting width 68mm, of Romano British date (fig. 35: 3). The mount incorporates an openwork design with facing s-shaped "broken back scrolls" or Celtic trumpet / *trompetenmuster* motif. The surrounding border with notched decoration to the edges is pierced at each corner by four 4mm diameter holes, presumably for attachment. The central bar incorporates two claw-like projections which form an almost enclosed strap guide. The artefact is incomplete with a possible ring projecting from the base. No direct parallels have been found, but similar mounts of this size with such openwork decoration are often associated with the Roman military (Bishop and Coulston 1993:132) and dated to the 3rd or 4th century AD. The majority of the mounts are used to decorate horse harnesses or other leather strap work such as baldrics, and were therefore mounted on leather. The incorporation of a strap guide is certainly suggestive of such a function. The plain unfinished and undecorated reverse suggests it was not meant to be seen and corroborates the "mount" attribution. Further work is required to attempt to confirm the function, military attribution, and to find parallels. Retrieved from the top of layer [1723] at a depth of 20cm.

8. <652> (from F.791 within Trench extension 226) A cast bronze Colchester Derivative type brooch 44mm in length, heavily worn but possibly with zigzag decoration along the bow (fig. 35: 1). Similar to examples from Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986: 114/5). The pin and spring are manufactured separately from the bow section and in this case are missing. Dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. Retrieved from the upper fill of F.791.

9. <656> Copper alloy coin of 3rd/4th century AD. 15mm diameter. Possibly barbarous radiate. Retrieved from upper fill of an unexcavated feature

The following Iron objects all require x-ray to confirm accurate identification. The majority were retrieved through hand excavation or from the metal detecting of the upper fills of features

10. <661> [1711] F.782 Group of three iron nails.

11. <662> [1723] F.786. Group of at least two iron nails.

12. <663> [1725] F.753. Two iron nails.

13. <664> [1727] F.786. Three nail fragments.

14. <669> [2131] F.748. Two short iron nails.

15. <672> [2142] Iron nail shank.

16. <673> [1724] Group of three iron nails.

17 <674> [2149] F.755. Iron object 120mm in length. Possibly a large nail / peg or key. Tapering to a flattened transverse point.

18. <676> [2171] F.766. Two iron nails.

19. <677> [2171] F.766. Iron strip 70mm x 25mm.

20. <678> [2181] F.769. Group of 15 small iron nails or tacks. Probably hob nails. These clearly represent a discarded shoe or sandal (caleus or solea) or part of the sole.

21. <684> Single nail retrieved from subsoil.

22. <685> Large iron nail of rectangular section with flat rectangular head, 100mm in length. Retrieved from subsoil.

23. <686> Two iron nails retrieved from subsoil spoil heap.

24. <693> Lead steelyard weight of spherical shape with iron suspension rod. Weight 62g, 25mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

25. <692> Undiagnostic blob of lead casting waste. From subsoil spoil heap.

Trench 214

26. <642> Copper alloy coin of 4th century AD, 19mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

27. <643> Copper alloy coin of 4th century AD, 14mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

28. <644> Copper alloy coin of the 3rd/4th century AD, 15mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

29. <645> Small copper alloy coin of the 3rd/4th century, 12mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

30. <646> Copper alloy fibula brooch of late 1st/2nd century AD. Of dolphin type 52mm length (fig. 35: 2). Pin and spring missing (Hattatt 2000). Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

31. <647> Cast copper alloy bracelet or armlet, complete with tapering terminals. Plain, undecorated. Crummy suggests that the majority of copper alloy bracelets or armlets date to 3rd or 4th century (Crummy 1988). Several similar examples come from Vicar's Farm in West Cambridge and were associated with inhumations (Evans and Lucas forthcoming).

32. <653> Copper alloy coin 20mm in diameter. 3rd/4th century AD. Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

33. <654> Copper alloy coin 15mm in diameter. Commemorative issue of Constantine I, AD 330. Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

34. <655> Copper alloy coin 17mm in diameter, 4th century AD. Retrieved from upper feature fill.

35. <667> [2126] Iron nail.

36. <668> [2126] F.747. Iron stylus or tool (possibly a modelling tool or broken knife blade) 115mm in length. Square section shank with pointed end. The opposing end is flared out and flattened. Similar to styli type 1a/2a in Manning's typology (Manning 1985).

37. <687> Large nail with square section and round flat head. Length 52mm. Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

38. <688> Iron nail. Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

39. <694> Fragment of lead sheet, folded. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

40. <695> Undiagnostic fragment of lead or pewter. Recovered from surface of unexcavated feature.

41. <696> Undiagnostic fragment of lead or pewter. Recovered from surface of unexcavated feature.

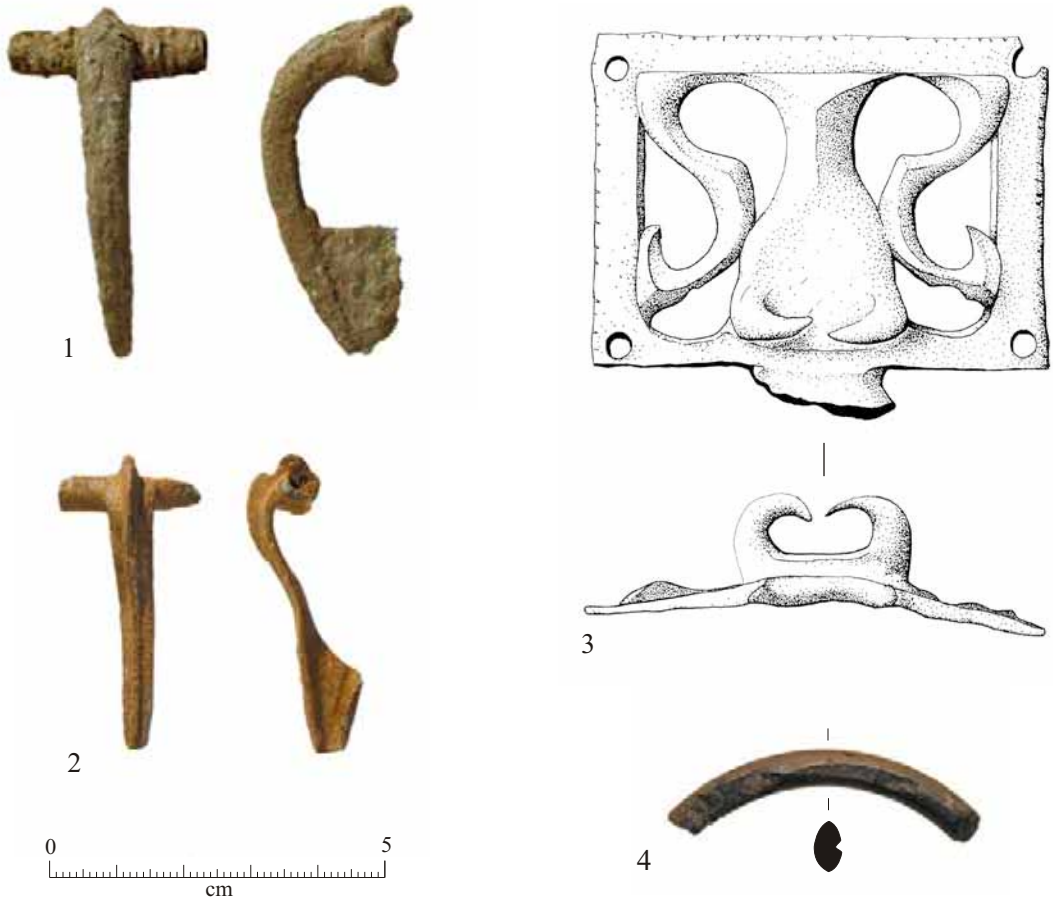


Figure 35. Selected finds for Site XXVII, ‘villa’ site

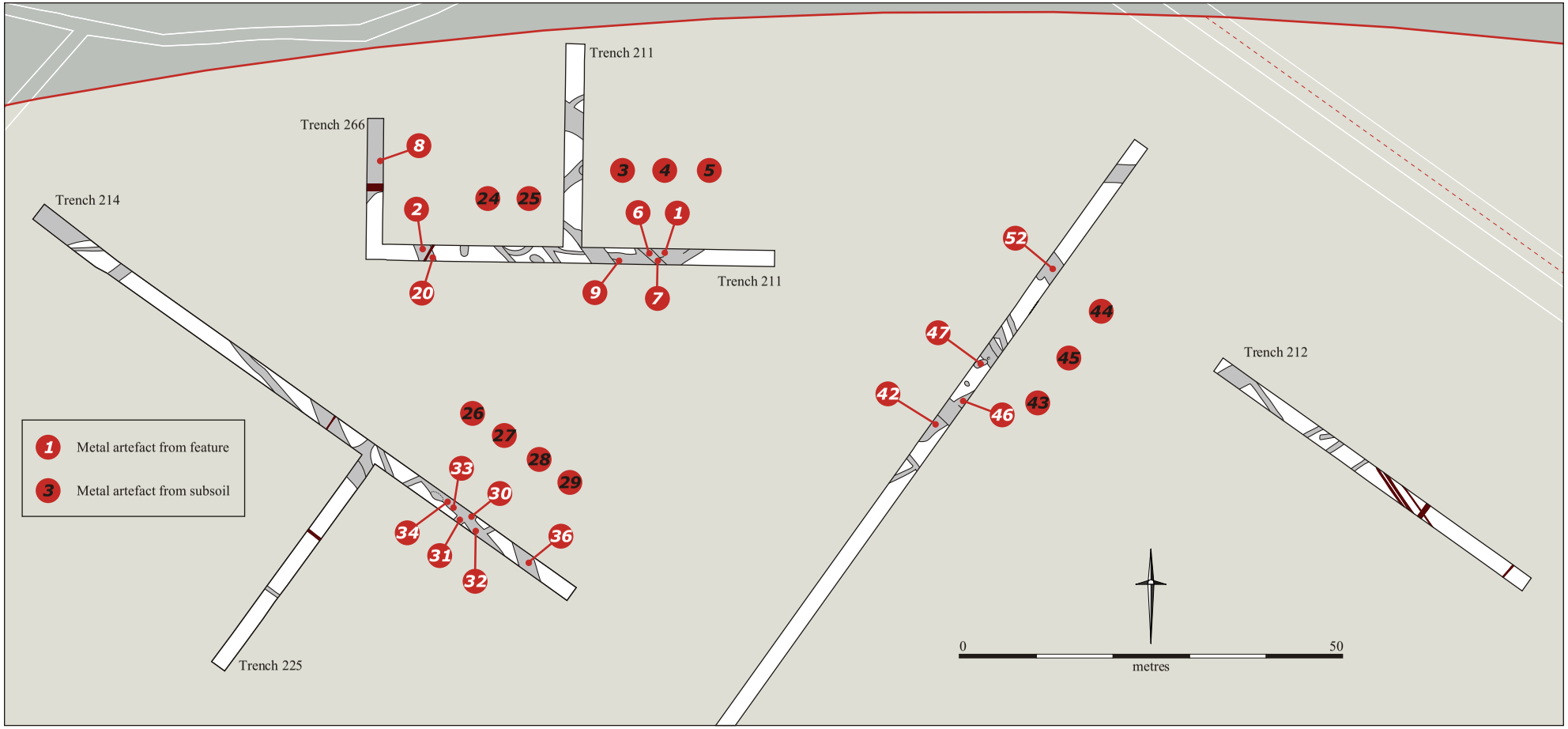


Figure 36. Locations of metal artefacts from Field 18

Trench 217

42. <648>. Small copper alloy coin of the 4th century AD. 13mm diameter. Retrieved from upper fill of feature F.788.

43. <649> Copper alloy coin of the 4th century AD. 21mm diameter. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

44. <650> Copper alloy, round, dome headed stud with short shank. 23mm diameter. Undecorated. Recovered from subsoil spoil heap.

45. <651> Copper alloy coin of the 4th century AD. Heavily degraded edge. Retrieved from subsoil spoil heap.

46. <657> Copper alloy coin of the 4th century AD. Constantine I, commerorative issue, AD 330. Romulus and Remus on reverse. Diameter 16mm. Recovered from fill of F.788.

47. <658> Heavily corroded copper alloy coin of the 3rd/4th century AD. Diameter 16mm. Recovered from fill of F.756.

48. <665> [1732] F.788. Iron nail.

49. <666> [2011] F.702. Iron nail.

50. <667> [2151] F.756. Iron nail.

51. <689> Iron nail. Recovered from upper fill of unexcavated feature.

52. <690> Complete iron Hipposandal, measuring 165mm in length and 120mm in height (fig. 35: 5). The complete loop at the front extends up from two side wings which continue down to a flat sole. At the heel, the sole terminates in a down-turned hook. This example corresponds with the Manning type 2. The reader is directed towards Manning for a full discussion of the function and various forms of hipposandal (Manning 1985). In summary, they appear to have been used as protective shoes for lame horses, or as temporary shoes for unshod animals (*ibid*). Similar examples are from the King Harry site at Verulaneum (Stead and Rigby 1989), and from Colchester (Crummy 1988). Manning suggests that this variety of shoe was in use from the 2nd century through to the 4th century AD (Manning 1985). Recovered from upper fill of F.787.

This is clearly an important assemblage of Romano-British metalwork with a sizeable group of finds recovered from a small area of sample trenching (fig. 36). A total of 52 individual finds (or groups of nails) from approximately 225m of trenching demonstrates a high density of artefacts within a tight site core. This density can be compared to that at Striplands Farm Roman site and other recently evaluated sites, due to the adoption of a set standardised methodology. The Striplands evaluation yielded 106 artefacts from 485m of trenching indicating a similar, if slightly less dense distribution (Evans and Mackay 2004).

In general, the finds reflect the distribution of features within the site core with no discernable concentrations or groupings. Although the recovery of six artefacts from a single unexcavated feature in Trench 214 should alert us to the possibility that these represent the dumping of artefact-rich midden material. However, of interest is the vertical distribution of finds within three separate horizons; the fills of features, the subsoil and the topsoil. This again is comparable with the data from Striplands (*ibid*).

	Field 18	Striplands
Topsoil	0%	17%
Subsoil	28%	22%
Features	72%	61%

This clearly demonstrates that material from this site has been incorporated into the subsoil but is not entering into the topsoil horizon. This is likely to be due to recent agricultural processes and other post depositional factors. However, it does highlight that, on the limited evidence from these two comparable sites, approximately 30% of the metal finds end up within these upper mixed horizons, incorporating finds from the truncated upper fills of features, and horizontal layers such as floors and external surfaces. This has clear implications for dealing with such sites in the future, specifically in dealing with / sampling these topsoil and subsoil assemblages.

The dating of the finds is also of interest, with an early presence evidenced by the presence of the two 1st/early 2nd century brooches. However, coins from the 4th century dominate the datable assemblage. The ceramic evidence spans the 2nd through to the 4th century, so it is possible that the earlier brooches may have remained in use for some time, perhaps several generations before their loss. The date range of both small finds and ceramics suggests activity at the site spanned several centuries with perhaps a floruit during the later Roman period. Attempting to address the significance of the assemblage as a whole is difficult, again due to the small sample size. However, two finds associated with horses stand out; the hippo-sandal (52) and the possible harness mount (7). The latter may also have an association with the Roman military. In addition, the coins, weight (24), and possible stylus (36), all imply commercial and or administrative activity. The large number of iron nails is also indicative of wooden structures within the immediate vicinity.

Further work on the finds is required, notably the precise identification of the coins, and x-rays of the ironwork.

Miscellaneous Finds (Grahame Appleby)

Fields 1B & 13

1. *Trench 195* <085> Quernstone fragment, weighing 866g, burnt on side recovered from F.699, dated by association with Romano-British pottery of the mid 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

2. *Trench 200* <088> Pudding stone quernstone fragment, weighing 1580g, recovered from F.700. Dated to the mid 2nd-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

Field 7

3. <618> Coarse-whetstone fragment 65mm long, 17mm wide; weight 60g. Unstratified, from field surface. A longitudinal break is present on its longest side. The edge of this break is bevelled on one side, suggesting this may have broken due to over use/honing. A large, deep slightly 'V'-shaped groove is present on one side, with two shallower 'V'-shaped grooves on the opposing side. Undated.

4. *Trench 211* <041>. Perforated/drilled oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis)* upper (right) valve fragment; weight 12g. Recovered from upper sealing layer [1723]. Romano-British in date. Pierced shells were recovered from Romano-British contexts during excavations at Stonea Grange, Cambs (Jackson & Potter 1996), where the excavators suggested these were either suspended on cords as a form of decoration or, alternatively, used for temporary roof repairs!

5. *Trench 211* <593> Fragment of shale bracelet 48mm long (approximate complete internal diameter *c.*55mm) (fig. 35: 4), with an internal grove, weighing 2g. Found in F.755, a boundary ditch terminal, containing Roman-British pottery, amphora fragments and oyster shell. Dated to the mid to late Roman period. Other examples are known from Colchester, Essex (Crummy 1983), and from Haddenham, Cambs (Evens & Hodder 2005).

6. *Trench 217* <088> Lava quern fragment, weighing 253g, recovered from F.756. Dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

Faunal Remains (Chris Swaysland)

A quantity of animal bones numbering 3190 fragments and weighing 38703 grams was recovered from five sites, Sites XII, XIV, XXVI, XXVII and XXIX, along the proposed infrastructure route. The condition of the assemblage was in general reasonable though on many specimens surface detail did not survive.

The animal and bird bones were identified using the reference collection of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and the Grahame Clark Laboratory for Zooarchaeology, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. The assemblage was quantified using a modified version of the methodology of Serjeantson (1996), a 'zonal' approach. Results are presented by NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) only. With the exception of horncores and cranial sutures, no attempt has been made to distinguish between the remains of sheep and goat; these bones are recorded as sheep/goat. Information on gnawing, butchery and pathology was recorded where present. Butchery was recorded by type (i.e. chop, knife cut, sawn), location and orientation (using standard anatomical terms and orientation). Pathological conditions were described and prevalence was recorded. The age at death of the major domestic animals was analysed using Halstead (1985) for cattle, Payne (1973) for sheep/goat and Hambleton (1999) for pigs.

The assemblage was recovered from a series of evaluation trenches that covered a wide expanse of land; within this area a number of different sites were identified. The assemblage has been quantified in terms of these sites and the different phases of activity within these sites. One isolated feature (F.737) that was not placed into a site has been considered separately. The vast majority of sites are dated to the late Iron Age or to the Romano-British period.

Field 19 - F.737

F. 737 is dated to the Saxon period. This feature was found in isolation so was not given a site designation. A small number of animal bones were recovered, predominantly sheep/goat. Of most interest was at least eight goat horncores from a minimum of four individuals. The isolated situation of this deposit makes it difficult to assess its significance; however, the presence of goat rather than sheep is interesting and the number of horncores suggests some kind of small-scale horn processing activity.

Site XII

The assemblage from Site XII was dated to either the later Iron Age or the Romano-British period. Identifiable animal bone was recovered from 4 features dated to the later Iron Age (F.711, F.718, F.724 and F.732) and from 17 contexts in eight features and one layer dated to the Romano-British period (Layer F.1996, F.700, F.705, F.706, F.708, F.714, F.720, F.730, F.735).

Species	Late Iron Age NISP	Romano-British NISP
Cattle	6	23
Sheep/goat	20	10
Pig	0	3
Horse	3	4
Medium sized mammal	9	5
Large sized mammal	3	27

Table 11: Site XII, species proportions late Iron Age and Romano-British.

The assemblages from both phases of activity are small; however, they do conform to more widely observed trends. The later Iron Age assemblage shows more sheep/goat than cattle and the Romano-British assemblage shows more cattle than sheep/goat.

Pig is a small component of the Romano-British assemblage but is absent from the later Iron Age assemblage.

Site XIV

The assemblage from Site XIV was recovered from two features, F.658 and F.665, both dated to the Late Iron Age period. A total of 15 identifiable fragments were recovered. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (Table 12) however the small size of the assemblage precludes further analysis of species proportions. A complete horse metacarpal (LL 20.7) was recovered from F.658. This corresponds to a withers height of 132.7m or 13.1 hands, a typical height for a Romano-British horse (Rackham 2004).

Species	Romano-British NISP
Cattle	10
Sheep/goat	2
Horse	1
Large sized mammal	2

Table 12: site XIV: species representation

Site XXVI

Three identifiable specimens were recovered from Site XXVI. Feature F.739 was dated to the later Iron Age and yielded a fragmentary sheep metacarpal. Feature F.790 was dated to the Romano-British period and yielded one cattle metacarpal fragment and one pig humerus fragment.

Site XXVII

A total of 115 identifiable specimens were recovered from 19 features and one occupation layer dated to the Romano-British period (Table 13).The assemblage is dominated by cattle and sheep/goat. Pig is represented by two bones, horse by 12 bones. Wild species are represented by three fox bones and one mandible of a mustelid, most probably a polecat (*Mustela putorius*).

Species	R-B
Cattle	42
Sheep/goat	38
Pig	2
Horse	12
Fox	3
Mustelid	1
Medium sized mammal	2
Large sized mammal	16

Table 13: Site XXVII species proportions.

A sheep/goat mandible from F.753 had pronounced exotosis in the area of the 2nd molar resulting from an infection. This may have caused the loss of the tooth, hampering the animals feeding ability and ultimately causing death. A cattle maxillary 3rd molar from F.787 exhibited an unusual wear pattern. The medial end of the tooth shows normal wear; however, the distal end is much less worn. Such a wear pattern can only have been caused by the loss or non-development of the opposing tooth in the mandible and may have impeded feeding. A mandibular tooth showing similar uneven wear was also recovered from F.747.

Site XXIX

Two features (F.750 and F.751) containing four identifiable animal bone specimens were recovered from Site XXIX, both features were dated to the later Iron Age. Ditch F.750 contained a complete cattle skull, though it was in a very fragmentary condition. Wear on the mandibular teeth indicates that the animal was senile when it died.

Table 14 shows the species proportions of the late Iron Age phases of activity at Sites XII and XIV but also at the nearby airfield Sites XV and XVIII (Swaysland 2006). The table indicates that overall, sheep/goat followed by cattle are the dominant species. There were insufficient ageable mandibles to attempt to reconstruct husbandry practises however the presence of unfused longbones of both sheep/goat and cattle indicate that the sites occupants had access to breeding populations.

Species	Site XII	Site XIV	Site XV	Site XVIII	Total	Total %
Cattle	6	10	2	14	32	35.6
Sheep/goat	20	2	2	10	34	37.8
Horse	3	1	2	1	7	7.8
Dog	0	0	0	1	1	1.1
Med.-sized mammal	9	0	1	1	11	12.2
Large-sized mammal	3	2	0	0	5	5.5

Table 14: Late Iron Age species proportions

Table 15 shows the species proportions in the Romano-British phases of activity at Sites XII and XXVII but also at the nearby airfield Sites IX, XV and XVIII (Swaysland 2006). Overall cattle followed by sheep/goat are the predominant species. Too few ageable cattle mandibles were recovered to attempt to reconstruct husbandry practices. The sheep/goat mandibles formed a larger dataset. Figure 37 (below) shows a bimodal distribution. This can be interpreted as evidence of a meat economy, the peak at stage D is surplus male animals culled when approaching peak

size/weight. The peak at stage G is the breeding stock and killed off when no longer productive.

Species	Site IX	Site XII	Site XV	Site XVIII	Site XXVII	Total	Total %
Cattle	14	23	9	39	42	127	36.4
Sheep/goat	1	10	14	26	38	89	25.5
Pig	0	3	0	1	2	6	1.7
Horse	2	4	3	10	12	31	8.9
Dog	0	0	1	3	0	4	1.1
Fox	0	0	0	0	3	3	<1
Chicken	0	0	0	1	0	1	<1
Swan	0	0	1	0	0	1	<1
Mustelid	0	0	0	1	0	1	<1
Med.- sized mammal	1	5	2	6	2	16	4.6
Large-sized mammal	6	27	7	14	16	70	20.1

Table 15: Romano-British species proportions

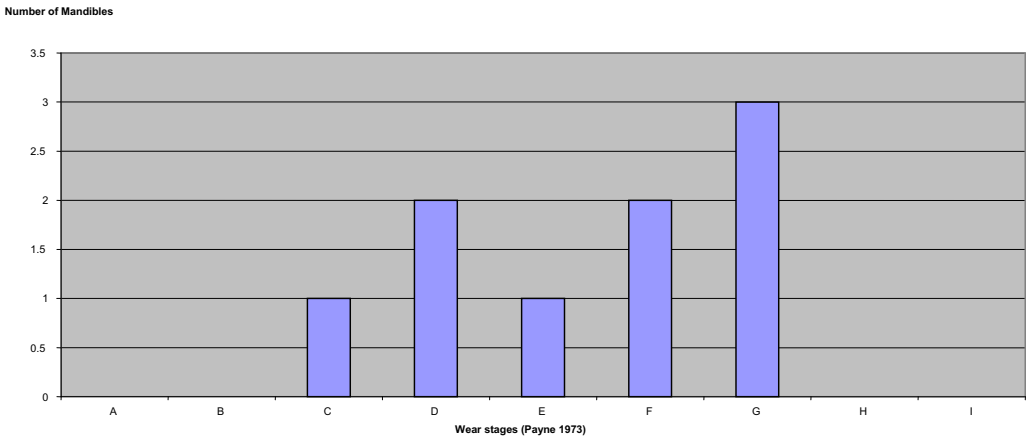


Figure 37: Distribution of sheep/goat tooth-wear

Collectively late Iron Age and Romano-British samples demonstrate a number of differences, most notably the proportions of the major species. This pattern of more sheep/goat in the Iron Age and more cattle in the Romano-British period conforms to widely observed trends.

The Romano-British assemblage also differs from the late Iron Age assemblage in having a greater level of species diversity: pig, chicken and swan are represented, albeit in small amounts in the Romano-British material but are absent from the later Iron Age. Pig and swan would undoubtedly have been available to the Iron Age population so their absence may be due to the smaller Iron Age sample size however it could represent cultural or social differences. Chickens were present in Iron Age Britain but their prevalence greatly increases in the Roman period.

In conclusion, the faunal remains from the sites at Longstanton fit within a known framework; some sites do deviate from the norm however the sample sizes are too small for the results to be considered with confidence.

Environmental Samples (Anne de Vareilles)

The thirteen bulk soil samples collected from six sites, Sites XII, XIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII and XXX, along the infrastructure route were examined using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 300µm mesh and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant remains, molluscs and charcoal.

Sorting and identification of macro-remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for plants and Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All environmental remains are listed in full in Tables 16 and 17.

The preservation in all of these samples is by charring. The overall condition of the plant remains is good, especially in those samples where cereals and wild plant seeds have been identified to species level. The non-identified wild plant seeds (indet wild plant seeds) are all very small and damaged from charring and/or post-depositional processes such as abrasion. The samples rich in cereal grains also tend to have more carbonised undifferentiated storage plant tissue, which suggests that the latter probably represent badly preserved cereal grains.

Site XII

Romano-British Ditch, F.699 [1996]

One wheat or barley grain (*Triticum/Hordeum*), one indeterminate cereal fragment and one wheat glume base (*Triticum* sp.) make up the cereal component. One indeterminate wild plant seed was noted. Apart from containing wheat and possibly barley, this sample was rich in *Planorbis leucostama*: a snail species that lives in wet conditions but can survive being dried out on occasion. The ditch was either always damp or seasonally wet.

Ditch, Possibly Romano-British, F.721 [2067]

This sample revealed two likely spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*); one likely emmer wheat (*T.* cf. *dicoccum*); five spelt or emmer (*T. spelta/dicoccum*); three wheat grains; four wheat or barley grains, and indeterminate cereal fragments representing seven cereal grains. Two wheat glume bases make up the cereal chaff. The wild plant seed category is composed of one large grass seed (Poaceae) and seven other small seeds: three goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), two oraches (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*) and one indeterminate wild plant seed.

Late Romano-British Ditch, F.708 [2027]

One likely spelt grain and one glume base; two spelt or emmer grains and one glume base, and one wheat or barley grain were found. One large grass seed and four small wild plant seeds were noted (one goosefoot and three unidentified).

Site XIV

Iron Age Ditch, F.665 [1618]

Very little charcoal and only two wild plant seeds were recovered: one small seeded dock (*Rumex conglomeratus/obtusifolius/sanguineus*) and one stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*).

Site XXV

Late Bronze Age Ditch, F.804 [2212]

Few pieces of charcoal and one cereal fragment were retrieved.

Site XXVI

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Ditch, F.739 [2110]

This sample is by far the richest in charcoal. The cereal component comprises of twenty-six hulled barley grains (*Hordeum Vulgare sensu lato*), two of which are tail grains; two likely naked barley grains (*H. vulgare* var. *nudum*); two spelt or emmer wheat grains; fifteen wheat or barley grains, and twenty-four cereal fragments that represent a minimum of fourteen grains. One hulled wheat rachis internode was noted. The wild plant seed fraction is made up of two common meadow-rue (*Thalictrum* cf. *flavum* – usually found in waterlogged samples); one and a half small vetches or peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*)(of the same size as those found in the Romano-British pit F. 756); one medium sized grass seed; seven small grass seeds, and two small indeterminate seeds. A large grass stem node, likely to be form the lower section of a grass, and a bud were also found.

Medieval/Post-Medieval Ditch, F.736 [2103]

Only a very small quantity of charcoal and a few modern goosefoot seeds were counted from this sample.

Site XXVII

Romano-British Ditch, F.747 [2126]

Two spelt or emmer grains, four wheat or barley grains, and four cereal fragments representing a minimum of two grains were found. One wheat glume base was noted. Also found were one cleavers (*Galium aparine*), two large grass seeds and one small indeterminate wild plant seed.

Romano-British Pit, F.756 [2151]

Although preservation is good considering the presence of glume bases and many small wild plant seeds, the number of cereal fragments and undifferentiated storage plant tissue is high and the cereal chaff is badly damaged. The only certain barley grain is hulled. Another ten grains were identified as wheat or barley. Wheat is more common: three likely spelt grains and one glume base; three spelt or emmer grains and one glume base, and five grains and ten glume bases of unspecific wheat were recorded. There were twenty cereal fragments, representing a minimum of seven grains. A hazel-nut shell fragment, seven medium-sized vetches or peas (representing a minimum of five pulses), and five and a half small vetches or peas may have been gathered. Seeds of the grass family include three likely oat grains, twenty-three large grass seed fragments (minimum of five grains), twelve medium grass seed fragments (minimum of eight grains), and five small grass seeds. the remaining wild plant seeds comprise of two small goosefoots; one small seed from the Pink family (Caryophyllaceae); one knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*); four small seeded docks; four stinking chamomile; one sedge seed (*Carex* sp.), and eight indeterminate small seeds.

Romano-British Ditch, F.782 [1711]

Two wheat or barley grains, one large grass seed and one indeterminate small seed were recovered.

Romano-British Dark Layer, [1723]

The cereal component consists of three spelt or emmer grains; three wheat grains; two wheat or barley grains; six cereal fragments (minimum six grains), and three unspecific wheat glume bases. One tiny poppy seed (*Papaver* sp.); four small seeded dock; four stinking chamomile; one large, three medium and one small grass seeds, and five non-identified small seeds were also found.

Site XXX

Iron Age Ditch, F.655 [1560]

The only charred plant remains were a few charcoal pieces and one wild plant seed.

Iron Age Pit, F.657 [1564]

No charred seeds or grains were recovered.

Whilst F.804 had a very poor sample, F. 739 contains quite a distinctive Late Bronze Age plant macro-remain assemblage. The gradual cessation of the cultivation of naked barley in the Bronze Age (Greig 1991) seems to be evident in this sample, where hulled barley is the dominant crop, followed by emmer and/or spelt. Some vetches were grown in the Bronze Age (*ibid.*); though due to the very small size of the vetches or peas present in F.739, it is likely that these were either part of the crop weed flora or were gathered. The wild plant seeds could all be crop weeds, but may also be light kindle gathered for the fire. The apparent lack of chaff may reflect preferential preservation since the other surviving wild plant seeds are all bigger, if not denser, than cereal chaff (Boardman & Jones 1990). It is therefore difficult to suggest whether the assemblage represents crop processing waste or accidental grain loss during cooking and eating activities. The large straw node and the barley tail grains suggest that barley straw was harvested along with the ears. Common meadow-rue grows on marshy meadows and along-side streams, and its presence points to the wet environment of the fens.

Whereas the three Iron Age samples from this site are all very poor, the sample from the Iron Age enclosure ditch F.500 from the previous Longstanton excavation (Simmons 2004), and other Iron Age samples from Striplands Farm (de Vareilles 2005) all revealed good assemblages of wheat and barley occurring in similar quantities.

The Romano-British samples from Sites XII and XXVI differ more in quality than quantity. Barley is clearly rare, and there is no obvious dominant wheat type, with spelt, emmer and possibly other types occurring in similarly low numbers. Wheat chaff is present in all but two of the samples, and is always less frequent than grain. Samples from F.756 and the layer [1723] both have more wild plant seeds than cereal grain and more wheat chaff than the other samples, which suggests F.756 and layer [1723] represent crop processing waste. Legumes were both grown and imported into Roman Britain (*cf.* Greig 1991, Jones 1978). The large vetches or peas in F.756 (about the size of a modern lentil) could not be identified to species level and so one can not know whether they were exotic or locally grown. They do, however, offer a glimpse into the diversification of crops from the Iron Age to the Romano-British period. The hazel-nut shell fragment also indicates the continuation of wild plant foods. A hazel-nut shell fragment was also found in the Romano-British ditch F.285 (Simmons 2004). The three possible oat grains are likely to have been crop contaminants.

Stinking chamomile is quite common in samples from site XXVI. It grows on heavy, clay rich soils and indicates the use of damper, heavier soils. The other wild plant seeds in the Romano-British samples grow on better drained soils and open ground, i.e. the better fields on which to plant ones cereals. The presence of stinking chamomile could suggests an expansion of agricultural land use to the heavier soils (Jones 1978).

Note: the large grass seeds are almost as long as the wheat and barley grains, though they are about half the width. The large *Vicia/Lathyrus* are about the size of a modern lentil. The small *Vicia/Lathyrus* are about 2mm long x 1mm wide.

Table 16: Mollusca and Charred Plant Remains from Fields 4B, 8, 13 and 1B

Site		XXV		XXX	XXX		XII	XII	XII
Field		8		4B	4B		13	13	1B
Sample number		**<85>**		**<65>**	**<66>**		**<3>**	**<2>**	**<1>**
Context		[2212]		[1560]	[1564]		[1996]	[2067]	[2027]
Feature		804		655	657		699	721	708
Feature type		Ditch		Ditch	Pit		Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		LBA		IA	IA		RB	RB?	Late RB
Sample volume - litres		16		10. 5	10		5	8. 5	7. 5
Flot fraction examined		1/1		1/1	1/1		1/1	1/1	1/1
Cereals									
Triticum cf. *spelta*	Possible spelt wheat grain							2	1
T. cf. *dicoccum*	Possible Emmer wheat grain							1	
T. spelta/dicoccum	Spelt/Emmer grain							5	2
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain							3	
Triticum/Hordeum	Wheat/Barley grain						1	4	1
Indet cereal fragment		1					1	(7)	
T. spelta glume base	Spelt glume base								1
T. dicoccum glume base	Spelt/Emmer glume base								1
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base						1		
Triticum sp. spikelet fork	Wheat spikelet fork							1	
Wild plant seeds									
Small *Chenopodium* sp.	Small Goosefoots							3	1
Atriplex patula/prostrata	Oraches							2	
Large *Poaceae fragment*	Large grass seed							1	1
Indet wild plant seed				1			1	1	3
Parenchyma tissue fragments	Undifferentiated storage plant tissue	-						+	-
Charcoal fragments									
>4 mm		-						+	
2-4 mm		-						+	+
<2mm		++		+	+		+	+++	++
Vitrified				-					
Mollusca	Habitat								
Lymnaea truncatula	Marshy shallow waters				++		-		-
Planorbis leucostama	Ponds, ditches, resists drying conditions				+		+++		
Succinea sp.	Damp, marshy areas						+	-	
Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella	Damp areas - moss, rotting leaves, turf							-	-
Vertigo pygmaea/antivertigo	Various				-			+	
Vallonia costata	Dry areas, eg. dry grass						-		++
Vallonia sp.		-		-	++		+	-	++
Ceciloides acicula	Blind burrowing snail			+	++			+	
Cepaea nemoralis	Woods, hedges, on downs								-
Trichia sp.	Various						+	++	++
Vitrea crystalline/contracta	Damp areas – marshes, woods, under leaves								+
Aegopinella sp.	Damp, shady areas								+

Table 17: Charred Plant Remains from Fields 7, 16, 17 and 18

Site		XIV		XXVI	XXVI		XXVII	XXVII	XXVII	XXVII
Field		7		16	17		18	18	18	18
Sample number		**<67>**		**<80>**	**<81>**		**<82>**	**<84>**	**<83>**	**<105>**
Context		[1618]		[2110]	[2103]		[2126]	[2151]	[1711]	[1723]
Feature		665		739	736		747	756	782	
Feature type		Ditch		Ditch	Ditch		Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Layer
Phase/Date		IA		LBA/EIA	Med/Post -Med		RB	RB	RB	RB
Sample volume - litres		7		7	8		10	10	10	15
Flot fraction examined		1/1		1/1	1/1		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	Hulled Barley grain			24				1		
H. vulgare sl. tail grain	Hulled Barley tail grain			2						
H.vulgare var. *nudum*	Possibly naked Barley			2						
Triticum cf. *spelta*	Possible spelt grain							3		
T. spelta/dicoccum	Spelt/Emmer wheat grain			2			2	3		3
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain							5		3
Triticum/Hordeum	Wheat/Barley grain			15			4	10	2	2
Indet cereal fragment				24 (14)			4 (2)	20 (7)		(6)
T. spelta glume base	Spelt glume base							1		
T. spelta/dicoccum glume base	Spelt/Emmer glume base							1		
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base						1	10		3
Hulled wheat rachis internode	Hulled wheat ear stem fragment			1						
Wild plant seeds										
Thalictrum cf. *flavum*	Common Meadow-rue			2						
Papaver sp.	Poppies									1
Corylus avellana	Hazel-nut shell fragment							1		
Small *Chenopodium* sp.	Small Goosefoots				++ M			2		
Small *Caryophyllaceae*	Small seed of Pink family							1		
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass							1		
R. conglomeratus/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock	1						4		4
Large *Vicia / Lathyrus*	Vetches / Peas							7 frags		
Small *Vicia / Lathyrus*	Vetches / Peas			1. 5				5. 5		
Gallium aparine	Cleavers						1			
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile	1						4		4
large *trilete Carex* sp.	Sedge							1		
cf. *Avena* sp.	Possible oat grain							3		
Large *Poaceae fragment*	Large grass seed						2	23 (5)	1	1
Medium *Poaceae* frag.	Medium grass seed			1				12 (8)		3
Small *Poaceae* (whole)	Small grass seed			7				5		1
Indet wild plant seed				2			1	8	1	5
Large Poaceae node	Grass stem node			1						
Plant Bud				1						
Parenchyma tissue fragments	Undifferentiated storage plant tissue			++			+	++	-	++
Charcoal >4 mm				+++				+	-	
2-4 mm				+++			+	+	-	+
<2mm		+		+++	+		++	+++	++	++
Vitrified				-	-			+	-	-

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M=modern, (n) shows the number of embryos

Section Three - *Airfield Investigations*

During the first season the airfield had only been subject to 'superficial surveys'. The arable fields throughout its northwestern quarter (collectively designated as Field P) were fieldwalked. This generally proved disappointing, and the plots showed only slightly higher values of Roman pottery and worked flint within the easternmost field of that area (Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 14). Most of the remainder of the airfield, essentially within the area of its perimeter road (though excluding the former Army training grounds of its southern quarter) was subject to large-scale geophysical survey (magnetometry; ibid: Part 15). Undertaken along sample transects, larger areas were subsequently thus investigated when potential sites were detected. As a result of this three sites were identified:

XVI - A discrete 'organic-type'/compounded enclosures, thought probably to be of Iron Age attribution.

XVIII - A very major rectilinear settlement complex, lying inside the airfield's northwestern perimeter track and clearly continuing both north and westward, that was thought to be of Roman date.

XV - A bivallate circular enclosure of probable Iron Age date overlain by a network of settlement-relate features that may have been associated with Site XVIII.

As regards to whether the settlement features were continuous between the latter two, it is relevant that the geophysical survey revealed an area of 'noisy disturbance' between them, and that obviously settlement-related cropmarks arc north around this swathe and all but conjoin them (fig. 41). It should also be noted that the original aerial photographic survey also showed a series of rectilinear cropmarks in the field southwest of the approach track through Field P.

Given this background, the goals of the of 2005 fieldwork within this area were twofold. First, there was site-specific trenching to test the three geophysically found sites (and also the disturbed swathe between Sites XV and XVIII). Secondly, to undertake a general area-wide trenching programme throughout the collective Field P area (fig. 38). Anticipating the northward extension of Site XVIII, the trenching was to be intensive across the easternmost field of this area. It was fortunate that we were able to complete the latter as, midway through the remainder of Field P, a series of large WWII bombs were discovered. The resultant ordnance disposal procedures that were then officially enacted meant that we could not complete the trenching with the north-westernmost field of this area.

As might be expected, the airfield has few noticeable contours, but although the land is naturally flat, some artificial levelling has taken place. The approximate height of the groundsurface across the airfield ranges between 6m and 10m OD. The underlying geology was 3rd and 4th Terrace Deposits with outcropping Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1981). The north-eastern corner of the airfield is bounded by a disused railway line on the eastern side, Rampton Drift on the northern edge, and Oakington Barracks (now the Immigration Reception Centre) to the west.

Figure 38. Field J and Field P trench plan

Part 7) **Field P** (2 & 3)

Seven trenches (336-442) were excavated in the mid-western field of this grouping (P2), totalling 547m in length. Those along the southern and eastern edges of the field (Trenches 336, 337, 339 & 342) were comprehensively sterile. Trenches 338, 340 and 341 contained ditches, and a few small pits, but several of these features may have been post-Medieval, as in the adjacent trenches in Field P3, immediately to the southwest (fig. 39). It should be noted that, lying beside where the bombs were discovered, we were unable to test-excavate a number of trenches here as intensively if normal conditions had been otherwise.

Seven trenches (343-349) were excavated across the latter area, totalling 440m in length. Only Trench 349 at the southern end contained no features. Of the remaining trenches, Trenches 344 and 345 were excavated as a sample for the field, and lay across the only cropmarks recorded in this area. However, of the excavated features, several proved to be post-Medieval, and others likely to be so, in addition to one being possibly prehistoric. The cropmarks did not, though, relate to any recognizable archaeological features and, therefore, are not held to be 'real'. The only possibly pre-post-Medieval artefacts recovered were fragments of bone from each of **F.897** and **F.898** in Trench 344, and a sherd of earlier Bronze Age Collared Urn pottery from **F.893** in Trench 345. The regularity of the northwest-southeast ditches in Trenches 347 and 348 would also suggest a Medieval or post-Medieval agricultural origin. This still leaves a number of features unattributed. Given the pale fills of some, a prehistoric date would though be in keeping with their character. The pitting in Trench 343, as well as the postholes/pits **F.895** and **F.896**, **F.1104** and **F.1106** in Trench 344, and **F.890**, **F.891** and **F.901** in Trench 345 could all be prehistoric (fig. 40). However, due to the haste in which we had to complete this area, this cannot as yet be proven.

Trench 336

Trench 336 was 76m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.53m. No archaeology was uncovered in this trench.

Trench 337

Trench 337 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.42m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.67m. No archaeology was recovered.

Trench 338

Trench 338 was 74m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.28m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.54m. Six ditches were exposed on varying alignments, although three, **F.1069**, **F.1070** and

F.1071, lay on a parallel northeast-southwest line. No features in this trench were excavated.

F.1066 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a brown sandy silt. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1067 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill an orange-brown silt. Width 1.30m. Not excavated.

F.1068 Ditch, ENE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey silty clay. Width 2.15m. Not excavated.

F.1069 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown sandy silt. Width 0.65m. Not excavated.

F.1070 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 1.80m. Not excavated.

F.1071 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown sandy silt. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

Trench 339

Trench 339 was 76m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.37m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.63m. No archaeology was uncovered in this trench.

Trench 340

Trench 340 was 74m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.14m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.50m. Three parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches were exposed, and one possible pit. No features were excavated.

F.1062 Pit. Fill a pale brown-grey silty clay. Indistinct edges. Diameter 0.75m. Not excavated.

F.1063 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a brown silty clay. Potential furrow. Width 2.30m. Not excavated.

F.1064 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid orange-brown silty clay. Width 1.30m. Not excavated.

F.1065 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a brown clay-silt. Width 2.20m. Not excavated.

Trench 341

Trench 341 was 102m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.21m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.45m. The northeastern half of the trench was completely sterile. The southwestern half contained one northwest-southeast aligned ditch and two possible small pits. No features were excavated.

F.1052 Pit. Fill a mid brown-grey silt-clay. Sub circular, 0.75m x 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1053 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill an orange-brown silt-clay. Width 1.75m. Not excavated.

F.1054 Pit. Fill a dark brown/black charcoal-rich silt. Sub circular, diameter 0.35m. Not excavated.

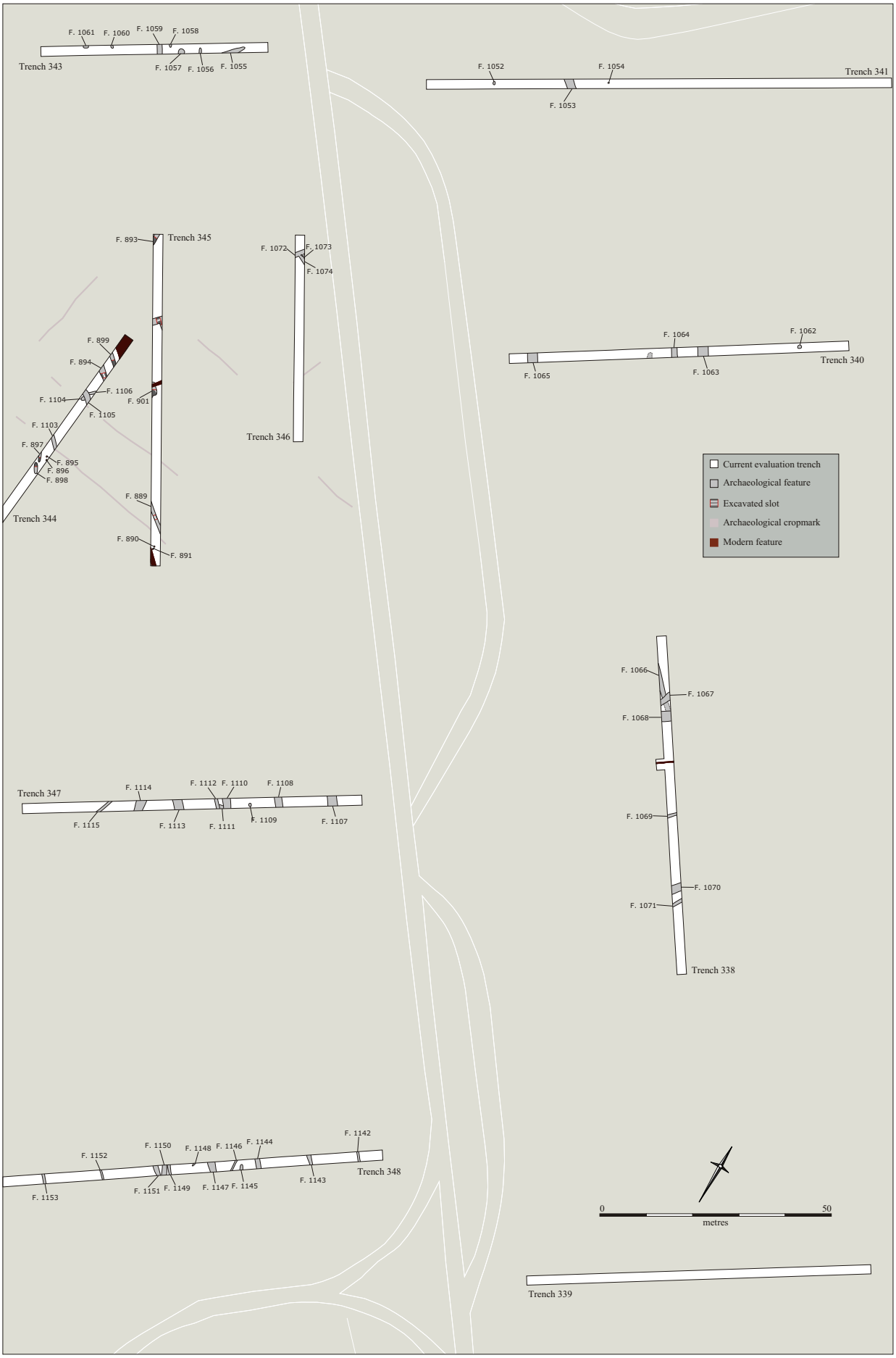


Figure 39. Fields P2 and P3, trenches with exposed archaeology and modern features

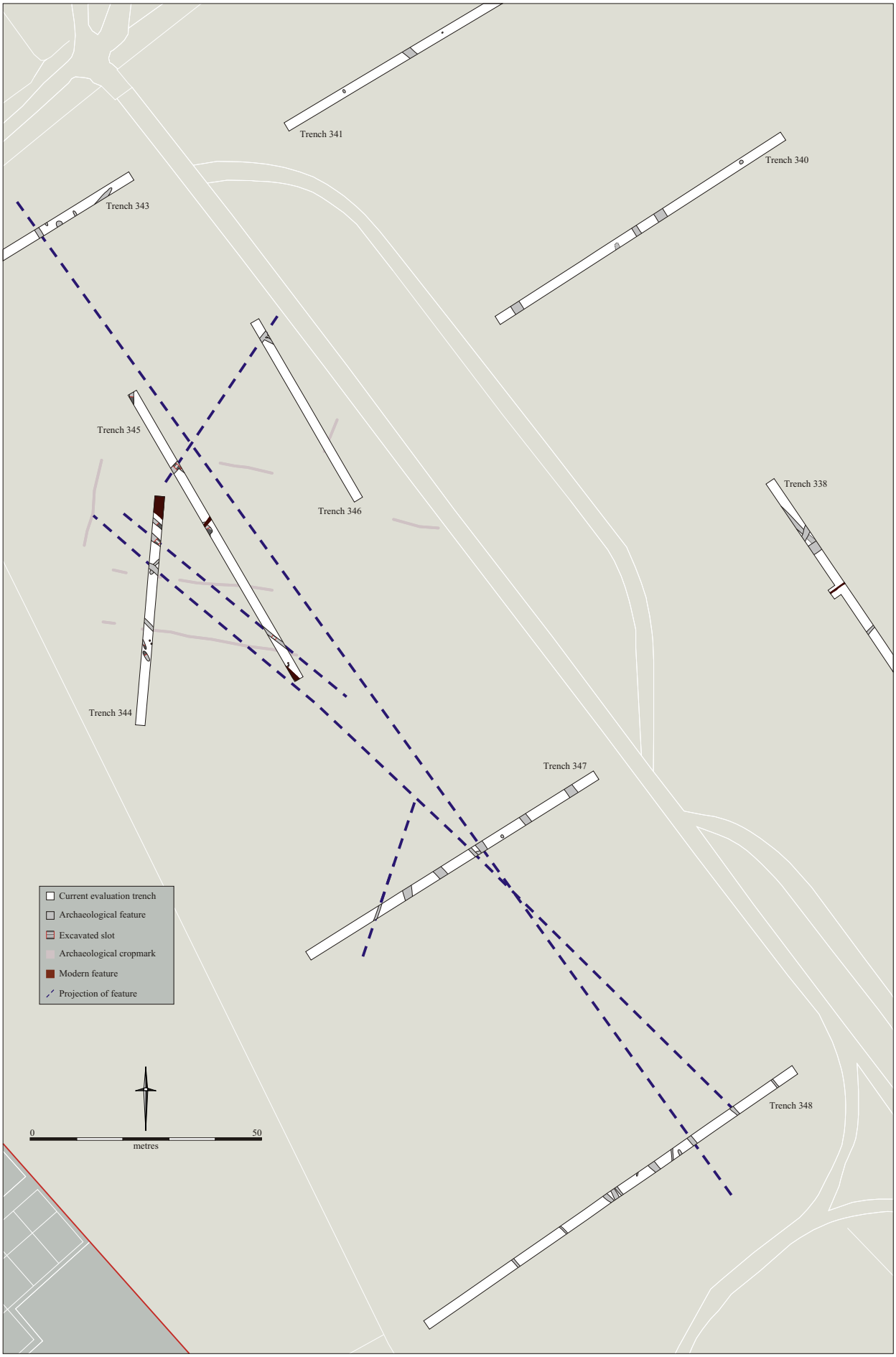


Figure 40. Field P3, excavated features and projected alignments

Trench 342

Trench 342 was 95m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.19m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.26m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.45m. No archaeology was recovered in this trench.

Trench 343

Trench 343 was 50m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.32m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.55m. Two ditches were exposed, **F.1059** on a northwest-southeast alignment, and butt-ending **F.1055** on a northeast-southwest line. Five possible pits were also exposed. No features were excavated.

F.1055 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Butt-ends within trench. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1056 Pit/ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Butt-ends within trench. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1057 Pit. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Circular, only partially exposed, diameter 1.30m. Not excavated.

F.1058 Pit. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Elongated, only partially exposed, width 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1059 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Width 1.10m. Not excavated.

F.1060 Pit. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Sub circular, width 0.50m Not excavated.

F.1061 Pit. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Elongated, only partially exposed in trench, length 1.15m. Not excavated.

Trench 344

Trench 344 was 50m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.31m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.54m. This trench contained six ditches and four pits or postholes, in addition to a post-Medieval ditch or furrow at the northern end. Four of the ditches (**F.894**, **F.899**, **F.1103** and **F.1105**) followed the same northwest-southeast alignment as the post-Medieval feature, and F.894 contained post-Medieval glass. Possible segmented ditch or elongated pits **F.897** and **F.898** contained only a small amount of bone and were potentially much older, as were postholes **F.895** and **F.896**. The remaining features, a possible pit and small ditch, **F.1104** and **F.1106** respectively, both unexcavated, yielded no finds.

F.894 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2504], cut [2505]. Fill a pale to mid brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.23m, depth 0.45m, with a wide 'V'-shaped profile. Post-Medieval.

F.895 Posthole. Fill [2506], cut [2507]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Diameter 0.25m, depth 0.18m, circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.896 Posthole. Fill [2508], cut [2509]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Diameter 0.27m, depth 0.20m, circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.897 Ditch, NNW-SSE alignment. Fill [2510], cut [2511]. Fill a pale to mid grey orange sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.32m, depth 0.17m, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.898 Pit. Fill [2512], cut [2513]. Fill a pale grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.62m, depth 0.18m, elongated, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.899 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2514], cut [2515]. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. Width 0.70m, depth 0.19m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.1103 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.75m. Not excavated.

F.1104 Pit. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Elongated and not entirely exposed. Width 0.90m. Not excavated.

F.1105 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 1.10m. Not excavated.

F.1106 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

Trench 345

Trench 345 was 73m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.29m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.52m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.71m. Excluding four post-Medieval drainage features, two ditches, one small gully, and two discrete features were uncovered, all of which were excavated. Only ditch **F.893** contained any finds, consisting of a single sherd of earlier Bronze Age pottery. On the basis of alignment, ditch **F.889** was potentially post-Medieval.

F.889 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2492], cut [2493]. Fill a pale grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel. Width 0.94m, depth 0.16m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.890 Posthole. Fill [2494], cut [2495]. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. 0.32m x 0.25m, depth 0.10m, sub circular, with shallow, wide 'V'-shaped profile.

F.891 Gully, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2496], cut [2497]. Fill a grey sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.30m, depth 0.23m, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.893 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2502], cut [2503]. Fill a pale brown-grey sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 0.99m, depth 0.25m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.901 Pit. Fill [2525], cut [2526]. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel. Length 3.30m, depth 0.66m, only partially exposed, with a flat-based profile.

Trench 346

Trench 346 was 45m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.27m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.41m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.68m. Three small, intercutting ditches were uncovered. A post-Medieval date is assumed for all three.

F.1072 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1073 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1074 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.75m. Not excavated.

Trench 347

Trench 347 was 74m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.29m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.33m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.59m. Seven ditches were exposed, five of which (**F.1107**, **F.1108**, **F.1110**, **F.1112** and **F.1113**) lay on a northwest-southeast alignment. These approximately line up with similarly spaced features in Trench 348, and are potentially Medieval furrow bases. One small pit, **F.1109**, and a partially exposed larger pit, **F.1111**, were also exposed. No features were excavated.

F.1107 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1108 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 1.55m. Not excavated.

F.1109 Pit. Fill a mid grey silt. Circular, diameter 0.55m. Not excavated.

F.1110 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid dark brown sandy silt. Width 1.70m. Not excavated.

F.1111 Pit. Fill a mid grey sandy silt. Only partially exposed. Not excavated.

F.1112 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 0.75m. Not excavated.

F.1113 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown sandy silt. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1114 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1115 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

Trench 348

Trench 348 was 98m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.23m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.36m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.58m. Twelve ditches were exposed, eight of which lie on a northwest-southeast alignment. Several of these (**F.1142**, **F.1143**, **F.1144** and **F.1147**) approximately line up with similarly spaced features in Trench 347, and are potentially Medieval furrow bases. No features were excavated.

F.1142 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid grey sandy silt. Width 0.45m. Not excavated.

F.1143 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey sandy silt. Width 0.85m. Not excavated.

F.1144 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1145 Ditch, NNW-SSE alignment, and butts within trench. Fill a pale grey sandy silt. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.1146 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.35m. Not excavated.

F.1147 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt. Width 1.45m. Not excavated.

F.1148 Ditch, N-S alignment, and butts within trench. Fill a dark grey charcoal-rich silt. Width 0.25m. Not excavated.

F.1149 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.55m. Not excavated.

F.1150 Ditch, NNW-SSE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 1.10m. Not excavated.

F.1151 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 1.10m. Not excavated.

F.1152 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.35m. Not excavated.

F.1153 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

Trench 349

Trench 349 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.38m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.62m. No archaeology was uncovered in this trench.

Discussion

A significant number of features were exposed within the trenches across the southern half of this area. All of them occurring on two alignments, the vast majority of these would seem to be post-Medieval 'linears' and, as mentioned, the cropmark system plotted in this area would not seem to be real. This being said, minor settlement-type features were apparent in some of the trenches. Yet when, for example, these were excavated in Trench 344, only small pieces of bone were forthcoming. Otherwise, the only diagnostic artefact recovered was a single sherd of earlier Bronze Age pottery from the ditch at the western end of Trench 345 (F.893), but even these may have been residual.

Admittedly, due to the haste introduced to our work schedule here upon the discovery of the bombs nearby, we did not carefully test as many features as might have been done otherwise had the circumstances been different, and this gives an inherent ambiguity to the results. Therefore, weighed in the balance, while there is perhaps some indication of early 'activity' here, it is not felt sufficient to warrant a designation as a 'site' as such.

Part 8) **Sites XV and XVIII**

This outlines the investigation of the two main sites, known through geophysical survey (and, locally, cropmarks), within the airfield's northwestern quarter. Aside from Site XVIII, the second portion includes the results of Trench 356 within the disturbed swathe that separates the two sites (fig. 41).

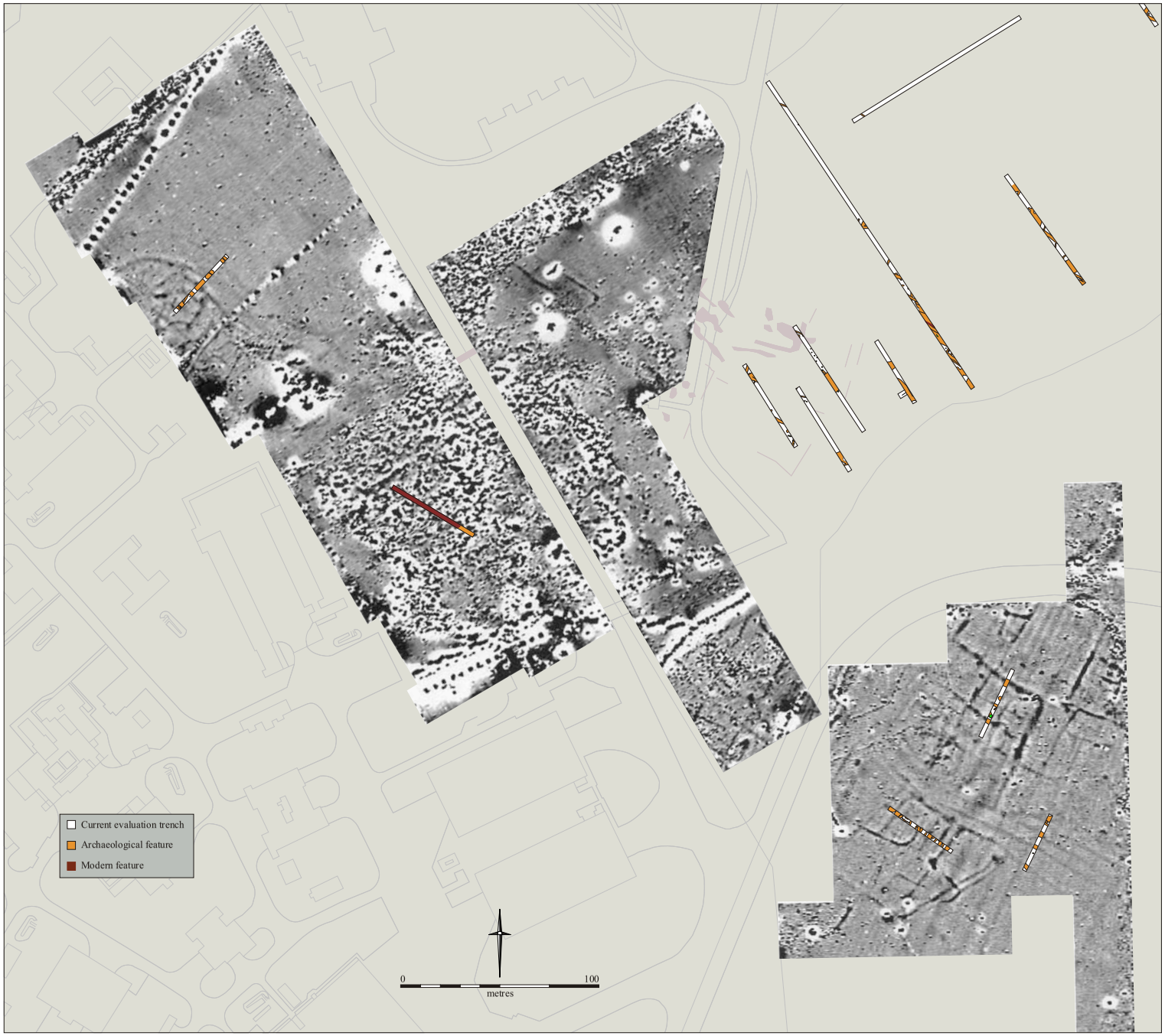


Figure 41. Site XVIII and XV, trenches against geophysics plot

Figure 42. Site XV, Field P, interpretation of geophysical survey and exposed archaeology

Site XV

Trench 357 was situated to test the geophysical anomalies designated as Site XV (Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 15). Laying partially under the compound of the Immigration Reception Centre, and further restricted by both above and below ground power cables, a trench was placed to cross the main semi-circular enclosure (fig. 42). The geophysics suggested that more than one ditch was defining the main enclosure, and that possible faint parallels lay further out, both of which the trenching demonstrated. The curved nature of the enclosure initially suggested an Iron Age date, and both Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery in it may point towards an Iron Age origin, with its recut containing only Roman pot. However, many other features were also exposed within this trench, and all but one seemed to be of Roman date (2^{nd}-3^{rd} centuries). It would therefore, seem to mark a dense settlement of that period, and which was probably continuous with Site XVIII to the east.

Trench 357

Trench 357 was 39m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.13m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.48m. Eight ditches were uncovered, six lying on a northwest-southeast alignment, only **F.934** (north-northeast-south-southwest) and **F.941** (east-west) following different lines. Posthole **F.936**, was the only fully exposed discrete feature, and contained a small amount of Late Iron Age pottery. A sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from large ditch **F.944**. Although the recut of this feature, **F.943** (fig. 51: 3), contained a large quantity of Roman pottery, an initial pre-Roman date for F.944 is possible. Most features contained Roman pottery of the 2^{nd} to 4^{th} centuries. Post-Medieval feature **F.939** was not bottomed at a sondage depth of 1.75m, and was presumably a quarry, although airfield-related activity could not be ruled-out.

F.934 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill [2621], cut [2622]. Fill a mid brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.70m, depth 0.34m, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.935 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2623-2625], cut [2626]. Fill a dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 2.17m, depth 1.20m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.936 Pit/posthole. Fill [2627], cut [2628]. Fill a grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal. Diameter 0.33m, depth 0.13m, circular, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.937 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2629], cut [2630]. Fill a dark grey sticky, sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.40m, depth 0.57m, with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F.938 Ditch/elongated pit? Fills [2632-2636], cut [2637]. Alternate layers of dark and mid grey-brown sandy silt over slumping with moderate gravel. Width 1.32m, depth 1.12m, only partially exposed, with an undercutting bell-shaped profile. Potentially a pit cut into the butt-end of a ditch.

F.939 Quarry? Fill/cut [2638]. Large post-Medieval feature, filled with dark brown topsoil material, small box excavated to a depth of 1.75m, not bottomed. Near-vertical edges.

F.940 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2639], cut [2640]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 0.87m, depth 0.49m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.941 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [2641], cut [2642]. Fill a mid dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 0.77m, depth 0.39m, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile. Cuts F.940.

F.942 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2643-2652], cut [2653]. Fill layers of dark brown and grey-brown clay-silt with moderate gravel and charcoal. Width 2.85m, depth 1.60m, with a 'U'-shaped profile; curved edge on southern side.

F.943/944 Ditch with recut, NW-SE alignment. F.943 Fills [2654-2660], cut [2661]; F.944 fills [2662-2667], cut [2668]. Large feature with a succession of fills, predominantly broad-banded dark to mid orange-grey-brown sandy clay silts. Overall width 6.00m, depth 1.40m, with a wide, flat-based profile.

F.945 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2669], cut [2670]. Fill a dark brown silt with frequent gravel. Width 1.58m, depth 0.43m, with a shallow irregular profile.

Site XVIII

Totalling 1185m, 14 trenches (325-335 and 350-352) were excavated across the eastern third of the Field P area (P1) to investigate the northern extent/character of Site XVIII (figs. 43 - 46). While no trenches were entirely devoid of archaeological features, dense archaeology was largely confined to the southern two-thirds of the field. Trench 325 contained two widely spaced features, one of which may have been a small cremation pit. The northeastern half of Trench 334 contained a few small, parallel and sterile ditches, and likewise Trench 335, the northeastern half of Trench 326 and the northwestern half of Trench 331 - no more than outliers to any domestic activity, assuming that they were archaeological at all. However, this sharp distinction between expanses of undisturbed natural and dense archaeology does provide a clear boundary for Site XVIII, at least along its northern edge.

While some Iron Age activity is evident (and significantly so in Trench 328; fig. 44), the general date range of the pottery recovered was 1st to 4th centuries A.D., with a tendency towards 2nd to 3rd centuries (see Anderson, below).

Three trenches were dug south of the main Site XVIII trenches and within the pasture grounds inside the airfield's perimeter track. As suspected, the proximity of these trenches to the areas of most dense archaeology in Field P demonstrates that the same site is being observed, and continues further south into the airfield proper. Like the Field P trenches, a wide date range of 1st to 4th century pottery was recovered, with the 2nd to 4th centuries being dominant. Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered, both residually and within features with no later material. Most of the features fit well with the geophysics plot, and the additional features exposed, particularly in Trench 354, hint at the potential complexity and density of features within some of the enclosures.

Trench 356 was specifically sited to investigate the geophysical anomalies between Sites XV and XVIII, which appeared to show as a swathe of extensive pitting or other 'disturbance' (fig. 41). Trench 356 demonstrated this to be so, with deep deposits of generally quite sterile post-Medieval disturbance, probably representing quarrying. Although it cannot be known what, if any, archaeology may have been truncated by such activity, no residual finds were recovered despite a visual scan of the spoil.

Figure 43. Site XVIII, Field P1, the northern-most trenches

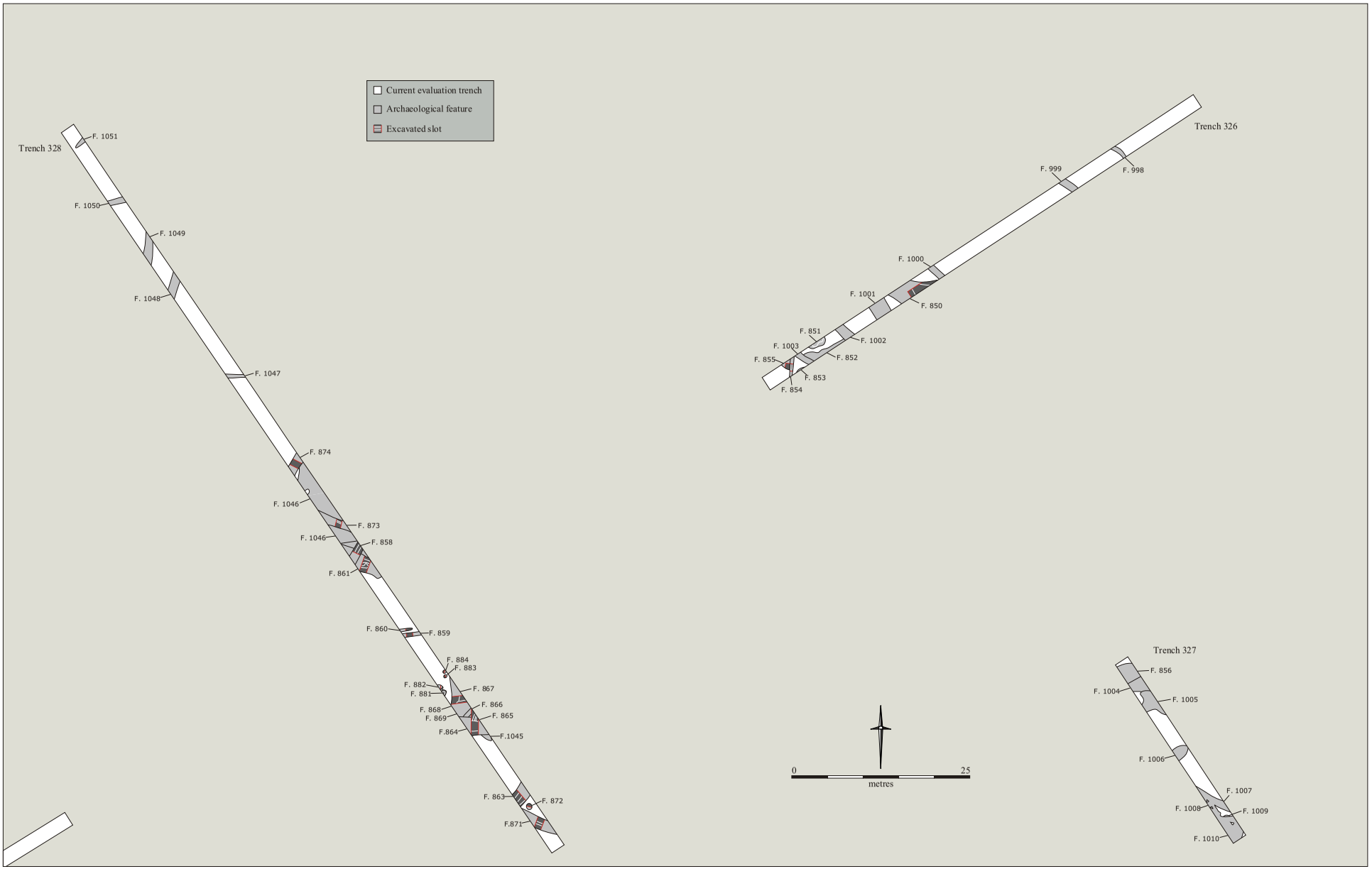


Figure 44. Site XVIII, Field P1, the central trenches

Figure 45. Site XVIII, Field P1, the eastern-most trenches

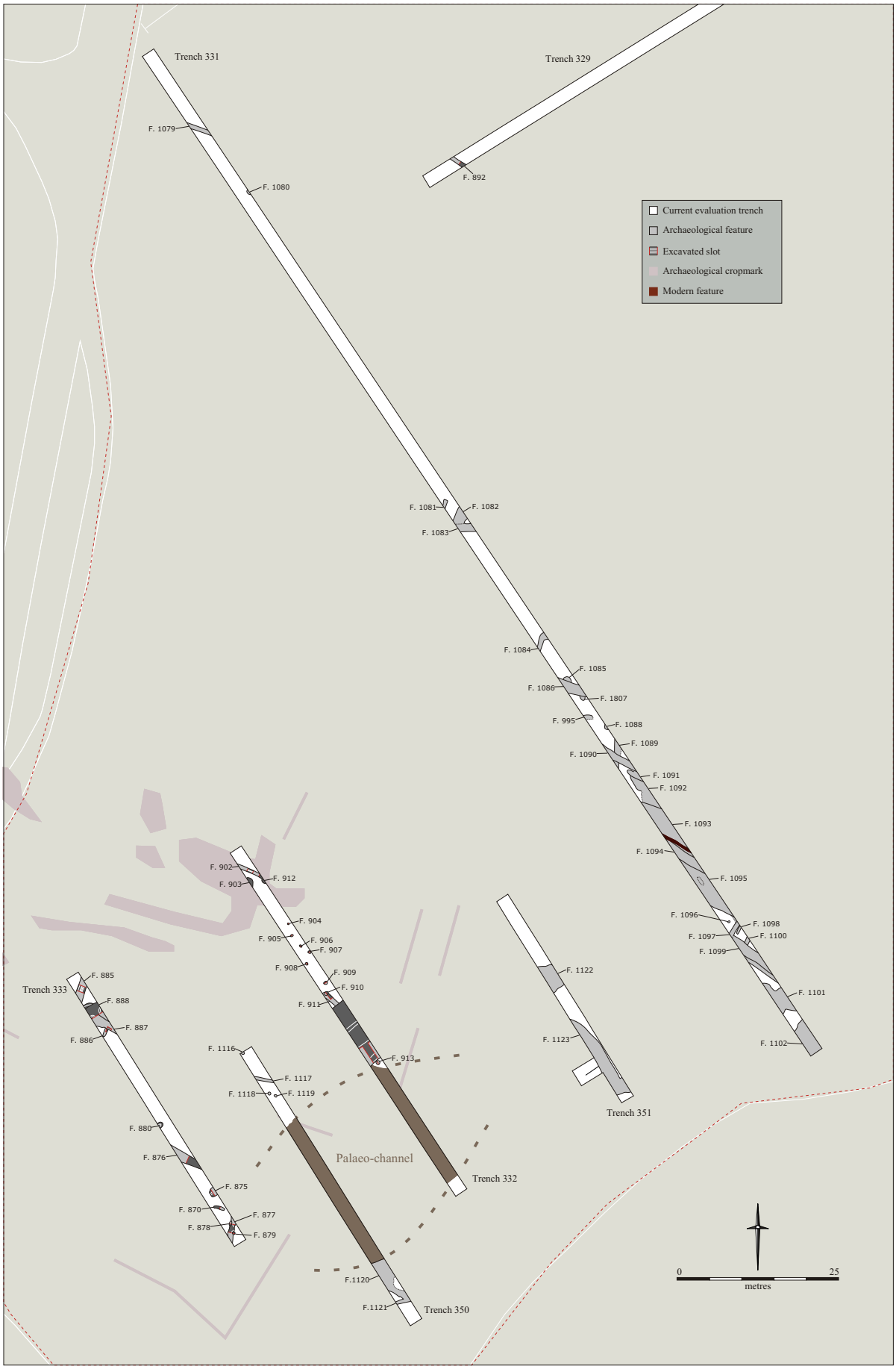


Figure 46. Site XVIII, Field P1, the southern-most trenches, and probable settlement focus

Trench 325

Trench 325 was 73m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.22m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.42m. One slightly curvilinear ditch and one small pit were uncovered. The pit, **F.997**, had a burnt fill with tiny fragments of burnt bone, potentially representing a cremation. Neither was excavated.

F.996 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a pale brown-grey clay. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

F.997 Pit, possible cremation. Fill a black silt with tiny burnt bone fragments. Oval. 60m x 0.40m. Not excavated.

Trench 326

Trench 326 was 73m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.20m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.15m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.35m. A concentration of features occurred in the southwestern half of the trench, and a sample of these were excavated. Seven of the eight ditches exposed lay on an approximate northwest-southeast line. The features produced a pottery assemblage spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD, but predominantly the 2nd to 4th centuries.

F.850 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2405-2407], cut [2408]. Fill a compact grey-brown silt-clay over a pale brown silt-clay. Width 4.00m, depth 0.77m, gently rounded profile.

F.851 Pit. Fill [2403], cut [2404]. Fill a blue-grey silt-clay with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 2.67m, depth 0.15m, only partially exposed, with irregular profile.

F.852 Ditch/Pit? Only partially exposed and not excavated. Fill a mottled grey clay.

F.853 Pit. Only partially exposed, not excavated. Fill a mottled grey clay.

F.854 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2400], cut [2401]. Fill a mid grey-brown soft clay-silt. Width 0.50m, depth 0.21m, with a rounded profile.

F.855 Pit. Fill/cut [2402]. Only partially exposed, and slighted by ditch F.854. Fill a pale grey clay and sand mix – possibly redeposited natural at the base of a pit. Depth 0.17m.

F.998 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey silty clay. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.999 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1000 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey silty clay. Width 0.90m. Not excavated.

F.1001 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a pale brown-grey mottled clay. Width 2.50m. Not excavated.

F.1002 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a dark brown-orange-grey silty clay. Width 1.40m. Not excavated.

F.1003 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 2.90m. Not excavated.

Trench 327

Trench 327 74m long on a northwest-southeast alignment, with an 8.00m break in the centre to avoid cables of unknown origin. The topsoil was up to 0.20m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.16m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.35m. Ten ditches were uncovered, of which nine ran on an approximate northeast-southwest or north-northeast-south-southwest line. Three pits were also uncovered, but none were exposed entirely, and could have been ditch related. No features in this trench were excavated, but a Roman date is assumed.

F.856 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey silty clay. Width 2.90m. Not Excavated.

F.1004 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid grey silty clay. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1005 Pit? Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Amorphous and unclear. Width 3.00m. Not excavated.

F.1006 Pit, /possible ditch butt. Fill a dark brown/black silty clay. Width 1.75m. Not Excavated.

F.1007 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1008 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.50m. Not excavated.

F.1009 Pit. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Only partially exposed. Width 1.00m . Not excavated.

F.1010 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.75m. Not excavated.

F.1011 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.75m. Not excavated.

F.1012 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark brown/black silty clay. Width 1.40m. Not excavated.

F.1013 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.40m. Not excavated.

F.1014 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1015 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.30m. Not excavated.

F.1016 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1017 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

Trench 328

Trench 328 was 124m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.48m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.74m. The northwestern half of the trench contained five minor ditches, **F.1047-1051** inclusive, that lay on a variety of alignments, although F.1047 and F.1050 had alignments similar enough to suggest a common system. The southeastern half of the trench contained a greater density of features. Most of these features were sample excavated, and produced an assemblage of Roman pottery spanning the 1st to 4th centuries A.D. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered residually from some of the Roman features, but also appeared in seemingly primary contexts within **F.859**, **F.863**, **F.871**, and **F.881**, and **F.867/9**, which appeared to be of Conquest date. Gully F.859 probably formed a double ring with **F.860**, and was the one possibly structural element encountered.

F.858 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2411], cut [2412]. Fill a mid grey-brown silty clay, with occasional gravel. Width 1.35m, depth 0.50m, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.859 Gully, E-W alignment. Fill [2413], cut [2414]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.44m, depth 0.15m, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.860 Gully, E-W alignment. Fill [2415], cut [2416]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.35m, depth 0.14m, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.861 Ditch, ESE-WNW alignment, Recut of F.862. Fill [2417], cut [2418]. Fill a mid grey silty clay-sand. Width 1.29m, depth 0.42m, with a bowl-shaped profile with an irregular base.

F.862 Ditch, ESE-WNW alignment. Fill [2419], cut [2420]. Fill an orange-grey sandy clay-silt, with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.85m, depth 0.45m, with a wide bowl-shaped profile.

F.863 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2421-2425], cut [2426]. Fill a very dark grey-brown silty clay overlying thinner, paler layers. Width 2.40m, depth 0.85m, with a rounded V profile.

F.864 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [2427], cut [2428]. Fill a dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 2.50m, depth 0.82m, with a wide bowl-shaped profile.

F.865 Ditch? N-S alignment? Almost entirely cut away by F.864. Fill [2429], cut [2430]. Fill a mid grey-brown silty clay, with occasional gravel. Width 1.72m, depth 0.53m, with a wide V profile.

F.866 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2431], cut [2432]. Fill a dark brown-black silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.88m, depth 0.20m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.867/869 Ditch with probable recut, N-S alignment. Fills [2433, 2438-2440], cuts [2434, 2441]. Fill a mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional gravel and charcoal overlying a similar but heavily orange-mottled fill. Full width not exposed. Exposed width 2.00m, depth 0.70m, with a wide, stepped 'V'-shaped profile.

F.868 Pit? Appears within ditch F.867/869. Fill [2435, 2436], cut [2437]. Fill a dark brown-orange silty clay. Width unknown, excavated to 0.90m deep, but not bottomed due to flooding.

F.871 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill [2444], cut [2445]. Fill a dark brown-orange silty clay. Width 1.70m, depth 0.50m, with a wide flat-based V profile.

F.872 Pit. Fill [2446], cut [2447]. Fill a grey-black clay with occasional gravel. 0.90m x 0.75m, depth 0.25m, sub circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.873 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill [2448], cut [2449]. Fill a dark brown silty sand. Width 1.70m, depth 1.05m, with a flat-based V profile.

F.874 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2450], cut [2451]. Fill a pale brown silty sand. Width 1.45m, depth 0.45m, with a wide rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.881 Pit. Fill [2467, 2468], cut [2469]. Fill a dark grey clay-silt. Width 0.85m, depth 0.47m, only partially exposed, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.882 Pit. Fill [2470], cut [2471]. Fill a grey clay with occasional charcoal. Width 0.30m, depth 0.20m, only partially exposed, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.883 Pit. Fill [2472], cut [2473]. Fill a grey-brown silt-clay. Diameter 0.35m, depth 0.10m, sub circular, with a flat profile.

F.884 Pit. Fill [2474], cut [2475]. Fill a grey-brown silt. Diameter 0.50m, depth 0.11m, sub circular, with a flat profile.

F.1045 Pit. Fill a mid grey-brown silt-clay. Only partially exposed, width 0.75+m Not excavated. Potentially several intercutting ditches and pits. Not excavated.

F.1046 Spread? Large area of fill bounded by ditches F.858 and F.854. Fill a mid brown clay-silt. Width 14.00m. Not excavated.

F.1047 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1048 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark brown silty clay. Width 1.25m. Not excavated.

F.1049 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty sand. Width 1.20m. Not excavated.

F.1050 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty sand. Width 0.85m. Not excavated.

F.1051 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silt-clay. Butt ends within trench. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

Trench 329

Trench 329 was 100m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.56m. Only one feature was exposed, **F.892**, a minor ditch that occurred at the southwestern end. No artefacts were uncovered, and a post-Medieval date cannot be ruled out.

F.892 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2500], cut [2501]. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay, with moderate gravel. Width 0.52m, depth 0.15m, with a shallow rounded profile.

Trench 330

Trench 330 was 68m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.21m deep, and the subsoil/levelling deposit up to 0.98m deep, with an overall trench depth of up to 1.17m (deepest at the southeast end). Much of this levelling was evidently quite recent in date, and consisted of a substantial depth of material, mostly a very gravely silt, and was presumably related to airfield levelling. A relatively dense and even spread of archaeological features was exposed along the length of the trench, with some intercutting features difficult to fully define. Of the eleven ditches uncovered, five followed an approximate northeast-southwest line (**F.1019**, **F.1021**, **F.1022**, **F.1023** and **F.1025**). Only one feature, **F.1020**, was recorded as a potential pit, but was possibly ditch related. No features were excavated within this trench, but a Roman date is assumed.

F.1018 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Not fully exposed. Width 4.00+m. Not excavated.

F.1019 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1020 Pit. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Ill-defined and obscured by F.1021. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1021 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.75m. Not excavated.

F.1022 Ditch, NNE-SSW? alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 5.00m. Not excavated.

F.1023 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1024 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.50m. Not excavated.

F.1025 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.60m. Butt-ends within trench. Not excavated.

F.1026 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.1027 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark brown silty clay. Width 7.50m. Not excavated.

F.1028 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1029 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Only partially exposed. Width 2.00+m. Not excavated.

Trench 331

Trench 331 was 188m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.26m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.65m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.81m. The SE half of the trench contained a concentration of archaeological features, all seemingly of Roman date, but not excavated. The ditches followed a predominantly west-northwest-east-southeast or north-northeast-south-southwest alignment, and although some cut relationships were observed between the two, the right-angled positioning of the alignments may suggest a broadly contemporary date. The single inhumation was recorded in situ before backfilling. Although the location of a cemetery may be hinted at, the lack of any other remains in the trench would suggest that this is an isolated burial.

F.995 Grave, truncated adult inhumation aligned E-W. Not excavated.

F.1079 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

F.1080 Pit. Fill a mid grey-brown silt-clay. Only partially exposed, width 1.00m Not excavated.

F.1081 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Terminates within trench. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.1082 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 2.00m. Not excavated.

F.1083 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 1.25m. Not excavated.

F.1084 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment, although seemingly curvilinear. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width up to 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1085 Pit. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Truncated by F.1086, sub circular, width 1.25m. Not excavated.

F.1086 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 1.65m. Not excavated.

F.1087 Pit. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Truncated by F.1086, sub circular, width 0.80m. Not excavated.

Figure 47. F.900, Trench 332, Site XVIII

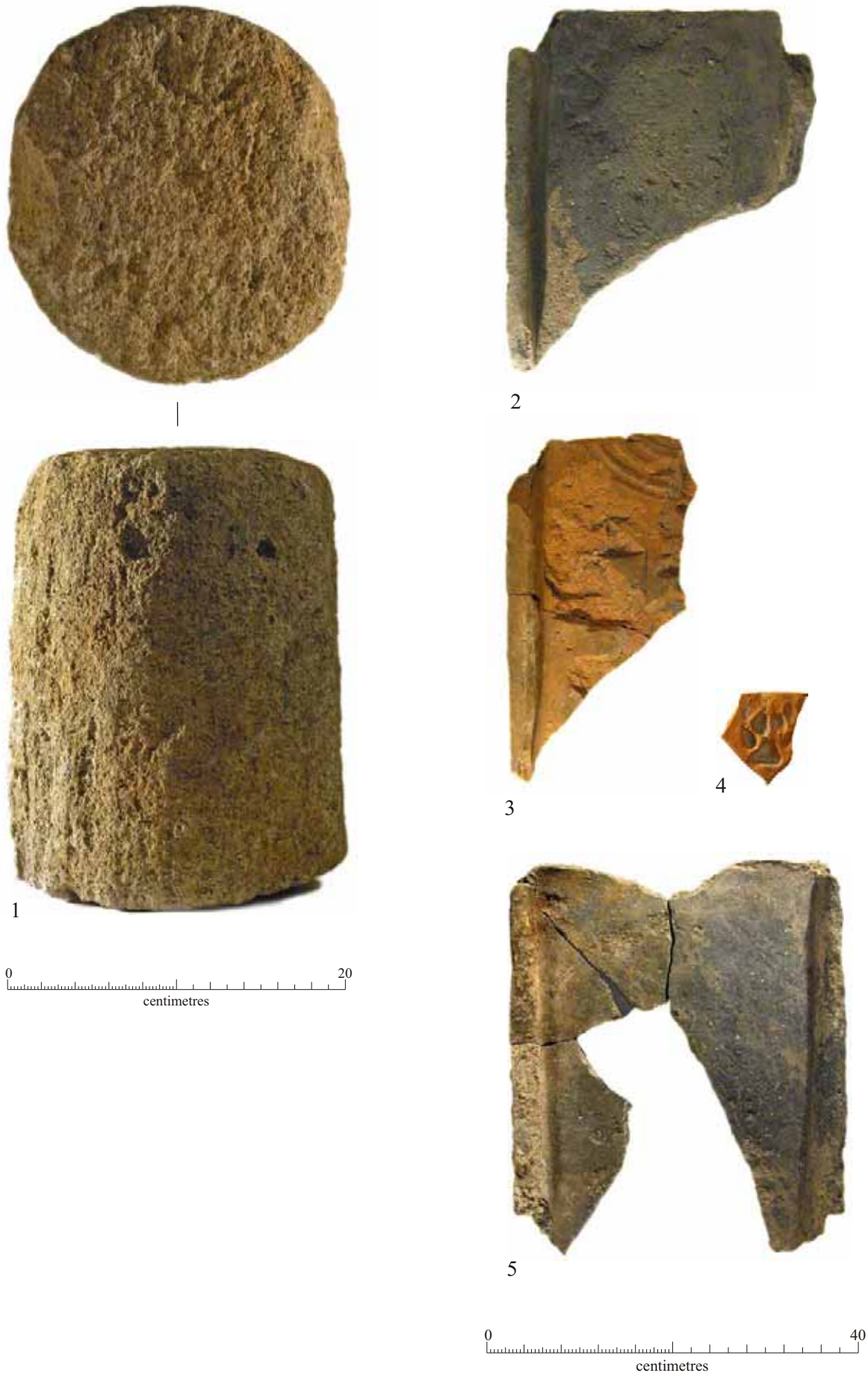


Figure 48. Building materials recovered from F. 900, Site XVIII, Field P

F.1088 Pit. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Only partially exposed, width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1089 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1090 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1091 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Terminates within trench. Width 1.00m. Not excavated.

F.1092 Pit? Uncertain – possibly part of spread/massive ditch F.1093. Not excavated.

F.1093 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Large feature, potentially part of F.1094 beside it. Width 4.50+m. Not excavated.

F.1094 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Potentially part of F.1093 beside it. Width 1.50m. Not excavated.

F.1095 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Large feature, potentially part of F.1094 and F.1093 beside it. Width 4.25m. Not excavated.

F.1096 Pit/posthole. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.25m. Not excavated.

F.1097 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

F.1098 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Terminates within trench, width 0.30m. Not excavated.

F.1099 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a pale to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 4.00m. Not excavated.

F.1100 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.

F.1101 Ditch? Possibly two large pits, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 4.00+m. Not excavated.

F.1102 Ditch, NE-SW? alignment. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay. Width 5.00m+. Only partially exposed. Not excavated.

Trench 332

Trench 332 was 64m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.23m deep, and the subsoil/other deposits up to 0.57m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.74m. The southeastern half of the trench was dominated by a relict palaeochannel, which was machined to a depth of 1.20m (but not bottomed at that depth). The channel was archaeologically sterile, and was not cut by features from above. Only pond/well **F.900** stratigraphically cut the channel, and a geological origin can be assumed. In contrast, F.900 (fig. 47), which was of a comparable depth, contained an assemblage of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery, as well as large, almost complete Roman roof tiles, and a large, cylindrical piece of masonry (fig. 48). Waterlogged wood was also recovered. No continuation of this feature occurred in

the surrounding trenches, and it must represent a discrete feature, albeit on a large scale.

The remaining features in the trench, all of which were excavated, were of limited size and depth and mostly sterile, although, ditches **F. 902** and **F.903** both contained Roman pottery of the 1st to 3rd centuries A.D.

F.900 Well/Pond. Fills [2516-2523], cut [2524]. Fill consists of multiple horizontal layers, predominantly mid to dark brown-grey sandy clay-silts, becoming waterlogged and more organic towards base. Width 11.00m, depth 1.40m, with a flat profile.

F.902 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2527, 2549], cuts [2528, 2550]. Fill a mid orange-brown silty sand, with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.60m, depth 0.19m, with a shallow rounded profile.

F.903 Pit/possible ditch. Fill [2529], cut [2530]. Fill a pale brown silty sand with a charcoal-rich lens. 1.64m x 0.54m, depth 0.29m, only partially exposed, with a wide, rounded profile.

F.904 Posthole. Fill [2531], cut [2532]. Fill a pale brown sand with moderate gravel. Diameter 0.28m, depth 0.12m, circular, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.905 Posthole. Fill [2533], cut [2534]. Fill a mid brown silty sand. 0.50m x 0.40m, depth 0.16m, oval, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.906 Posthole. Fill [2535], cut [2536]. Fill a mid orange-brown silty sand. Diameter 0.42m, depth 0.22m, circular, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.907 Posthole. Fill [2537], cut [2538]. Fill a mid brown silty sand. 0.44m x 0.32m, depth 0.18m, oval, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.908 Posthole. Fill [2539], cut [2540]. Fill a mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel. Diameter 0.38m, depth 0.16m, sub circular, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.909 Pit. Fill [2541], cut [2542]. Fill an orange-brown silty sand. 0.53m x 0.40m, depth 0.17m, oval, with a wide 'U'-shaped profile.

F.910 Pit. Fill [2543], cut [2544]. Fill a grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel. 0.65m x 0.50m, depth 0.36m, sub circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.911 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2545], cut [2546]. Fill a pale grey-brown silty sand, with occasional gravel. Width 0.85m, depth 0.20m, with a flat profile.

F.912 Pit. Fill [2547], cut [2548]. Fill a mid grey-brown silty sand. Diameter 1.03m, depth 0.34m, sub circular, only partially exposed, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.913 Pit. Fill [2551], cut [2552]. Fill a black sandy silt. Diameter 0.60m, depth 0.15m, sub circular, with a shallow, flat profile.

Trench 333

Trench 333 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.22m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.52m. This trench contained seven pits and postholes, and four ditches. Two ditches lay on a northeast-southwest alignment (**F.877** and **F.885**) and two on a northwest-southeast alignment (**F.876** and **F.887**), the 90º difference perhaps suggesting a broadly similar date. A tiny quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from **F.878**, but large

pit/quarry **F.888** contained 236g of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, and a residual sherd came from **F.886** nearby.

F.870 Pit. Fills [2442, 2456], cut [2443]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt, with a dark brown/black centre. 1.70m x 0.41m, depth 0.18m, elongated, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.875 Pit. Fill [2452], cut [2453]. Fill a grey sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.83m, depth 0.13m, only partially exposed, with irregular profile. Potentially natural.

F.876 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fill [2454], cut [2455]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.96m, depth 0.13m, with a shallow, flat profile.

F.877 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill [2457], cut [2458]. Fill a yellow-brown silty sand with moderate gravel. Width 0.90m, depth 0.14m, with a shallow flat profile.

F.878 Pit. Fill [2459, 2460], cut [2461]. Fill a dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel. Width 0.40m, depth 0.20m, with a rounded profile. Cuts into top of F.877.

F.879 Posthole. Fill [2462], cut [2463]. Fill a dark yellow-brown silty clay with occasional gravel. Width 0.48m, depth 0.16m, with a shallow, rounded profile. Cuts into the top of F.877.

F.880 Pit, possible ditch terminus, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2464, 2465], cut [2466]. Fill an orange-brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.85m, depth 0.21m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.885 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fills [2476, 2477], cut [2478]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.35m, depth 0.44m, with a rounded profile.

F.886 Pit? Fills [2479, 2483], cut [2480]. Fill a mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.59m, depth 0.17m, only partially exposed, elongated, with flat profile.

F.887 Ditch, WNW-ESE alignment. Fills [2481, 2484], cuts [2482, 2485]. Fill a yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.25m, depth 0.14m, with a shallow, flat profile.

F.888 Pit? Fills [2486-2490], cut [2491]. Fill a mid to pale grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 3.00+m, depth 1.15m, only partially exposed, with a rounded profile, cut by F.887.

Trench 334

Trench 334 was 185m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.24m deep, and the subsoil/other deposits up to 0.77m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.98m. The north-eastern half of the trench contained four minor ditches on a northwest-southeast line (**F.857**, **F.1031**, **F.1032** and **F.1033**), and a small, partially exposed pit (**F.1030**), all undated, and only F.857 being excavated. The southeastern half contained ten ditches on various alignments, but with northwest-southeast dominating, only **F.1034**, **F.1036** and **F.1037** genuinely deviating. One partially exposed pit, **F.1035**, was also uncovered. No features in the southern half were excavated.

F.857 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2409], cut [2410]. Fill a mid brown clay-silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.05m, depth 0.17m, with a wide, narrow profile.

F.1030 Pit. Fill a dark brown silty clay. Only partially exposed. Width 1.20m. Not excavated.

F.1031 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.1032 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 0.35m. Not excavated.

F.1033 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silty clay. Width 1.10m. Not excavated.

F.1034 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty sand. Width 0.80m. Not excavated.

F.1035 Pit. Fill a mid brown silt-clay. Sub circular, only partially exposed, width 1.40m. Not excavated.

F.1036 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a dark brown-grey silty sand. Width 2.60m. Not excavated.

F.1037 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a mid brown-orange silt-clay. Butt-ends within trench. Width 1.25m. Not excavated.

F.1038 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 1.15m. Not excavated.

F.1039 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 0.55m. Not excavated.

F.1040 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 1.30m. Not excavated.

F.1041 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 0.80m. Not excavated.

F.1042 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a dark brown silty clay. Width 0.95m. Not excavated.

F.1043 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 1.20m. Not excavated.

F.1044 Ditch, NNW-SSE alignment. Fill a mid brown-grey silty clay. Width 1.75m. Not excavated.

Trench 335

Trench 335 was 49m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.35m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.60m. Three narrow ditches on a northeast-southwest line and one butt-ending ditch on a northwest-southeast line were uncovered. No features were excavated.

F.1075 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1076 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a brown sandy clay-silt. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1077 Ditch, NNE-SSW alignment. Fill a brown sandy clay-silt. Width 1.20m. Not excavated.

F.1078 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a brown sandy clay-silt. Butt-ends within trench. Width 1.05m. Not excavated.

Trench 350

Trench 350 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.22m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.58m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.80m. The central part of the trench contained the same large natural feature that was exposed in Trench 332, with a width of 26m. No features could be seen cutting into the top of this feature, except at the southeastern end, where ditch **F.1120** cut away its

edge. Other features consisted of two very narrow ditches (**F.1117** and **F.1121**) and three small pits or postholes (**F.1116**, **F.1119**, **F.1120**). No features were excavated.

F.1116 Pit. Fill a brown-grey silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1117 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill a brown-grey silt-clay. Width 0.45m. Not excavated.

F.1118 Pit. Fill a brown-grey silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1119 Pit. Fill a brown-grey silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.40m. Not excavated.

F.1120 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a brown silt-clay. Width up to 7.00m, but not entirely clear. Not excavated.

F.1121 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a brown silt-clay. Width 0.50m. Not excavated.

Trench 351

Trench 351 was 37m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.65m. Two large ditches were exposed in this trench, **F.1122** aligned northeast-southwest, and **F.1123**, which appeared to be curvilinear, with a sharp turn. No features were excavated.

F.1122 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark grey clay. Width 4.75m. Not excavated.

F.1123 Ditch, NW-SE alignment, but appears to turn 90º. Fill a mid brown-grey silt-clay. Width 1.75m. Not excavated.

Trench 352

Trench 352 was 50m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.25m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.20m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.45m. A concentration of archaeological features was exposed, most dense in the southeastern half, and represented a mix of large and small ditches and pits. The features uncovered appeared to be fairly amorphous in plan, although this was exacerbated by much intercutting between features, and the trench flooding immediately post-machining, making further definition impossible. No features were excavated in this trench.

F.1125 Pit/posthole. Fill a dark brown silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.35m. Not excavated.

F.1126 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a grey-brown sandy silt-clay. Width 1.00m, with irregular edges. Not excavated.

F.1127 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a very dark brown sandy silt-clay. Width 1.20m. Not excavated.

F.1128 Ditch, NNW-SSE alignment. Fill a pale grey-brown silt-clay. Width 0.75m. Not excavated.

F.1129 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a blue-grey silt-clay. Width 0.45m. Not excavated.

F.1130 Pit. Fill a pale grey-brown silt-clay. Sub circular, diameter 0.60m. Not excavated.

F.1131 Pit. Fill a pale grey-brown silt-clay. Elongated, not fully exposed, width 0.55m. Not excavated.

F.1132 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a dark grey silt-clay. Width 2.30m. Not excavated.

F.1133 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill a dark grey silt-clay. Width 7.00m. Not excavated.

F.1134 Pit. Fill a pale grey-brown silt-clay. Elongated, not fully exposed, width 0.65m. Not excavated.

F.1135 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silt-clay. Width 2.25m. Irregular edges, probably with other features against edge. Not excavated.

F.1136 Ditch?. Amorphous, and only partially exposed. Fill a grey-brown silt-clay. Not excavated.

F.1137 Pit/posthole. Fill a dark grey silt-clay. Circular, diameter 0.30m. Not excavated.

F.1138 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill a mid brown silt-clay. Width 2.30m. Not excavated.

F.1139 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill a mid brown silt-clay. Width unknown. Only partially exposed. Not excavated.

Trench 353

Trench 353 was 32m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.45m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.31m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.60m. Five ditches were exposed, four of which were on a northwest-southeast alignment (fig. 49). The only feature deviating from this alignment, **F.966**, was assumed to be a ditch, but was ambiguous, with poorly defined edges and base, possibly representing a large pit. Three small pits or postholes were also uncovered (**F.957**, **F.958** and **F.965**). The general date of the pottery recovered was of relatively non-diagnostic Roman material of the 1st to 4th centuries, although some residual Late Iron Age material was also recovered.

F.956 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2707], cut [2708]. Fill a mid brown-grey sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal. Width 2.02m, depth 0.26m, with a wide, shallow profile.

F.957 Posthole. Fill [2709], cut [2710]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. 0.30m x 0.26m, depth 0.14m, circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.958 Posthole. Fill [2711], cut [2712]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. 0.31m x 0.30m, depth 0.13m, circular, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.962 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2728, 2729, 2731-2733], cut [2730, 2734]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 2.60m, depth 0.94m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile, with a 'V'-shaped recut.

F.963 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2735-2738], cut [2739]. Fill a mid to dark sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 2.60m, depth 0.94m, with an irregular 'V'-shaped profile.

F.964 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2740], cut [2741]. Fill a mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.30m, depth 0.32m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.965 Pit. Fill [2742], cut [2743]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.90m, depth 0.15m, only partially exposed, with shallow, rounded profile.

Figure 49. Site XVIII, Field P1, Trenches 353-355

F.966 Ditch? E-W alignment? Large pit? Fill [2744-2751, 2753], cut [2752]. Multiple layers, mainly composed of mid and dark brown sandy clay-silt, with large deposits of redeposited natural towards base of section. Width 3.00+m, depth 0.80m, with an irregular profile. Although natural deposits were reached at the base, these were possibly redeposited.

Trench 354

Trench 354 was 39m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.35m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.30m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.60m. Sixteen ditches and gullies, and four pits were exposed, which represented a dense concentration of archaeology in a relatively short trench. Eleven of the ditches followed a northeast-southwest line, the exceptions being **F.914** (east-northeast-south-southwest), **F.915** (north-south), **F.917** (northwest-southeast), **F.927** (north-south) and **F.930** (northwest-southeast) (fig. 49). Most of the ditches were of small or moderate size, and even the larger ditches (**F.918**, **F.932**) were not deep relative to their width. The only pit of note was **F.933**, partially exposed at the northwestern end, potentially many metres in diameter and excavated at the edge to over 1.10m in depth. Roman pottery from this feature (2346g) dated to the mid 2nd century A.D., although the trench as a whole produced pottery of the 2nd-4th centuries.

F.914 Ditch, ENE-WSW alignment. Fill [2553-2556], cut [2557]. Alternate layers of dark brown clay-silt and blue-grey clay. Width 0.60m, depth 0.54m, with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F.915 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2558], cut [2559]. Fill a dark black-brown clay-silt with frequent gravel. Width 1.24m, depth 0.35m, with a bowl-shaped profile.

F.916 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2560-2562], cut [2563]. Fill a dark brown overlying paler grey-brown sandy silts with occasional gravel. Width 1.90m, depth 0.59m, with a wide 'V'-shaped profile.

F.917 Gully, NW-SE alignment . Fill [2564], cut [2565]. Fill a blue-grey silt-clay with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 0.44m, depth 0.10m, narrow with a bulbous, pit-like terminus, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.918 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2566, 2567], cut [2568]. Fill a dark brown sandy silt. Width 2.22m, depth 0.86m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.919 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2569], cut [2570]. Fill a dark brown mottled orange sandy silt. Width 0.93m, depth 0.74m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.920 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2571-2575], cut [2576]. Fill a dark brown overlying mid brown clay-silts. Width 2.20m, depth 0.73m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile.

F.921 Pit. Fill [2577, 2581], cut [2578]. Fill a dark brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. 0.75m x 0.70m, depth 0.10m, oval, with a flat profile. Cut into the top of F.922.

F.922 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2579], cut [2580]. Fill a dark brown, orange-mottled sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.48m, depth 0.30m, with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile.

F.923 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2582], cut [2583]. Fill a mid brown sandy silt, potentially Post-Medieval. Width 0.62m, depth 0.26m, with an irregular profile.

F.924 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2584, 2586, 2587], cuts [2585, 2588]. Fill a mid grey-brown clay-silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.00m, depth 0.49m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile, and small recut. Butt-ends within trench.

F.925 Pit. Fill [2589], cut [2590]. Fill a grey-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.53m, depth 0.30m, only partially exposed, with a flat profile.

F.926 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2593], cut [2594]. Fill a pale brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel. Width 1.70m, depth 0.96m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.927 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2595], cut [2596]. Fill a dark brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.86m, depth 0.32m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.928 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Presumably a recut of F.926. Fill [2591], cut [2592]. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.32m, depth 0.27m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.929 Pit. Fill [2597], cut [2598]. Fill a brown, orange-mottled sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 2.60m, depth 0.23m, only partially exposed, with an irregular profile.

F.930 Gully, NW-SE alignment, end of probable ring gully. Fill [2599], cut [2600]. Fill a dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.30m, depth 0.10m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, truncated by F.931.

F.931 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2601-2603], cut [2604]. Fill a dark brown-grey sticky silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.20m, depth 0.55m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile. Butt-ends within trench.

F.932 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2605, 2606, 2608-2610], cuts [2607, 2611]. Fill a dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 2.50m, depth 0.40m, with a wide, flat-based profile and recut.

F.933 Pit. Fill [2613-2619], cut [2620]. Multi layered fill of pale to dark brown sandy silts with moderate gravel and charcoal. Width 3.50+m, depth 1.13m, only partially exposed, with a rounded profile.

Trench 355

Trench 355 was 38m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.40m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.25m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.64m. Four ditches and five pits were exposed, all of the ditches following a northwest-southeast alignment (fig. 49). Pit **F.947** contained six sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Roman pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries A.D. was recovered from ditches **F.946** and **F.948**, and from pits **F.950**, **F.953** and **F.954**.

F.946 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2671, 2673-2675], cut [2672, 2676]. Fill a dark grey-black sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal, overlying pale to mid brown-grey sandy silt. Width 2.15m, depth 0.78m, with a stepped, flat-base 'V'-shaped profile.

F.947 Pit. Fill [2677], cut [2678]. Fill a dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 2.00m, depth 0.35m, only partially exposed, with an irregular profile.

F.948 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2679-2685], cut [2686]. Multiple layers, a mixture of dark and mid brown-grey sandy silts. Width 4.00m, depth 1.05m, with a wide, flat-based 'V'-shaped profile.

F.949 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2687], cut [2688]. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy clay-silt with moderate gravel. Width 1.30m, depth 0.10m, with a shallow, irregular profile, severely truncated, therefore edges confuse probable alignment.

F.950 Pit. Fills [2689, 2690], cut [2691]. Fill a very dark brown-grey silty clay with moderate gravel and charcoal, overlying gravel slumping. 1.70m x 1.30m, depth 0.38m, oval, with a shallow, rounded profile. Cuts into the top of F.949.

F.951 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2692, 2693], cut [2694]. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.16m, depth 0.57m, with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F.953 Pit. Fill [2701], cut [2702]. Fill a dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.50m, depth 0.40m, oval, 'U'-shaped profile.

F.954 Pit. Fill [2703], cut [2704]. Fill a dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.80m, depth 0.34m, oval, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

F.955 Pit. Fill [2705], cut [2706]. Fill a dark grey-brown with occasional gravel. Width 0.35m, depth 0.29m, oval, with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Trench 356

Trench 356 was 48m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.33m deep, and the levelling up to 0.83m deep, with an overall trench depth of 1.16m. Four sections of the trench were machine-excavated to natural before being backfilled. Natural gravel appeared at a depth of between 1.80m and 2.00m, along with the rapid percolation of groundwater. The uppermost deposits, to the level of the base of the trench, tended to contain mid 20th century material. The deposits beyond 1.00m in depth generally consisted of sterile redeposited gravels with an occasional find of red brick. This presumably related to 19th century quarrying. A 1940s/1950s period dump of rubbish appeared in the southeastern end of the trench. Although this was not excavated, a sample of material was recovered from the machine spoil, mostly consisting of Bakelite electrical fittings.

F.1140 Rubbish dump, 20th century RAF, presumably wartime/1940's. Fill very dirty and ashy, consisting of a high percentage of rubbish. Not excavated.

Discussion

The results from Trench 357 could support the notion that the curvilinear enclosure visible there on geophysical plots and specifically designated as Site XV, was indeed of later Iron Age date. This appears, however, to be recut - whether as a circle or as part of a straight/rectilinear system is unknown - and, with 159 sherds of Romano-British pottery recovered, the many features within this trench (including unknown ones both within and beyond the 'circle' on the geophysical plot) certainly attests to this as an area of dense Roman settlement. In all likelihood, this is probably continuous with Site XVIII to the east, its spread being 'interrupted' by the intervening quarry-dump swathe tested in Trench 356. Part 8).

Given the comparable range/date of artefacts recovered and shared characteristic/orientation of features in both the main Field P exposure of Site XVIII and in the three separate trenches that tested its southward extension within the airfield proper, there seems little doubt that these represent one vast settlement complex. If continuous with Site XV, it actually seems to almost have had a 'U'-shaped plan, as no features really occurred over the northwestern half of Trench 331

or in Trench 329 beside it; thereby implying a distributional 'hole' when compared to the feature density of its field P core-zone. Given the fall-off of features along the length of the trenches on the northeastern side of the field, in that direction the limits of the settlement can be approximately established as falling midway along Trench 326 and Trench 334 (and a probably running north of Trench 327). Although certainty is not possible, the ditches exposed northeast of this line (and including those throughout Trench 335) would all probably have been associated with its fieldsystem, rather than occupation as such (see also Part 3 above concerning early aerial photographic cover of this area).

Whatever its exact configuration, extending over some 24ha, this seems an absolutely vast settlement and it covers, for example, more than three times the area of Site XIX. Its unusual shape, given its great size, could actually relate to the fact that its fabric may not have been 'uniform', but may have involved multiple foci/functions. Nevertheless, attesting to the overall density of its settlement, more than 950 2nd-4th century sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the Site XVIII investigations. Unfortunately, due to the threat of munitions, we were unable to metal-detect the spoil. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the settlement's status when compared, for example, to Site XXVII from which such an array of fine metalwork (and coins) was recovered. However, including near-complete tiles and part of a column shaft, the quality, size and quantity of the building materials recovered from the deep waterlogged feature within Trench 332 (F.900) would suggest that at least a part-masonry building of 'significance' stood close to it, perhaps either another villa or one with an official civic function.

The occurrence of the great waterlogged feature in Trench 332 is not easily explained, nor are what seemed to be the palaeochannel-type deposits it cut into on its southern side and which seem to extend west into Trench 350 (but no further in that direction; nor east in Trench 351). Our understanding of the archaeology of this obviously crucial part of the site was neither abetted by the pressure of the ordnance disposal schedule nor the occurrence of a deep culvert which runs along the southern end of the trenches at this point. Of course, the latter may suggest that a brook or stream once flowed through this area and it was, in fact, considered that, as shown on Figure 9 aerial photograph (see Part 3 above), this former watercourse might relate to the dark line which flanks the distinct, light-coloured 'sub-square' on this image. Alternatively, all this might represent no more than an area of deep Roman quarrying and, if so, F.900 might be the equivalent, for example, of the great waterlogged quarrying hollow excavated at Stonea (Jackson & Potter 1996).

Two further points, however, also warrant notice. First is the possibility that the whitened 'square' visible on the aerial photographs actually relates to the imprint of the building from which the F.900 building materials originally derived. Second is that as shown in Figure 50, the predominant orientation of this settlement is on the customary northwest-southeast alignment (and its axial return). On that illustration only a few of the myriad of its ditches on that orientation have been projected. This being done simply to express its 'grid', including the 'long' possible projection of Axis 'A' (the south-westward projection of F.1077 from Trench 335). Yet, it should also be recognised that another orientation, closer to cardinal east-west), can also be

distinguishes along the southern side of Field P (1). This can traced in the line of F.900 in Trench 332 and then F.1122 in Trench 351; further northeast this could continue as F.1027 (Trench 330) and in F.1133 (Trench 352), and in the most northeasterly trench (327) finds indirect continuation in it series of small ditches present there. What this latter alignment relates to is entirely unknown, and speculation could range from, at least in part, an early watercourse to later, Medieval boundaries. With so many questions unanswered, it is indeed fortunate that this portion of the airfield is now being surveyed by magnetometry; with it lies the promise that a more thorough understanding of this site's obvious complexities will soon be possible.

Given the scale of this Roman site, it is not surprising that Site XVIII also encompasses areas of earlier, prehistoric settlement. Possibly generally correlating with the slightly higher numbers of worked flint found in the fieldwalking across the southern end of this field (see Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 14), the recovery of some twenty sherds of later Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery from pit F.888 in Trench 333 - occurring with no definite later material - could possibly attest to a locale of activity of that date (in residual status, other sherds of that type were found in Trench 328; see Brudenell below). Given this, it may be relevant that a number of small postholes were exposed nearby in Trenches 332 and 350. Undated, and while such vague attribution can only be, at best, highly tentative, experience of the region's archaeology shows that such features are more characteristic of later Bronze Age, rather than Roman, settlement.

144 sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this area, with a fifth being wheel-turned and, therefore, distinctively 'Late'. Although amid the great density of the site's features as a whole, no distinct enclosure of the period could be identified, this material was largely restricted to the southern quarter of Trench 328 (an Iron Age sherd was also found, in residual status, nearby in Trench 326). Whilst occurring more widely in Trench 328 residually in later contexts, Features 859, 863, 869, 871 and 881 (and possibly 867) would all seem to date to that time. Occurring in higher densities of upwards of 10-34 sherds by metre-segment ditch-length excavated, this would certainly attest to a dense settlement of the period.

Although appearing in much lower numbers, later Iron Age pottery was also recovered from two of the trenches dug within the airfield perimeter zone to the south (353 & 355). With six sherds of that date (including three wheelmade) in pit F.947, there can be little doubt that it dates from that time. Otherwise, pit F.965 may also be Iron Age, whereas the material of that date in ditch F.963 is probably residual. Obviously too little trenching occurred in that area of the site to determine whether this represents the margins of a more extensive (and dense) settlement of that period, or only a minor settlement of that date. Separated by some 430m, it certainly would not seem to relate to the Trench 328 settlement to the north.

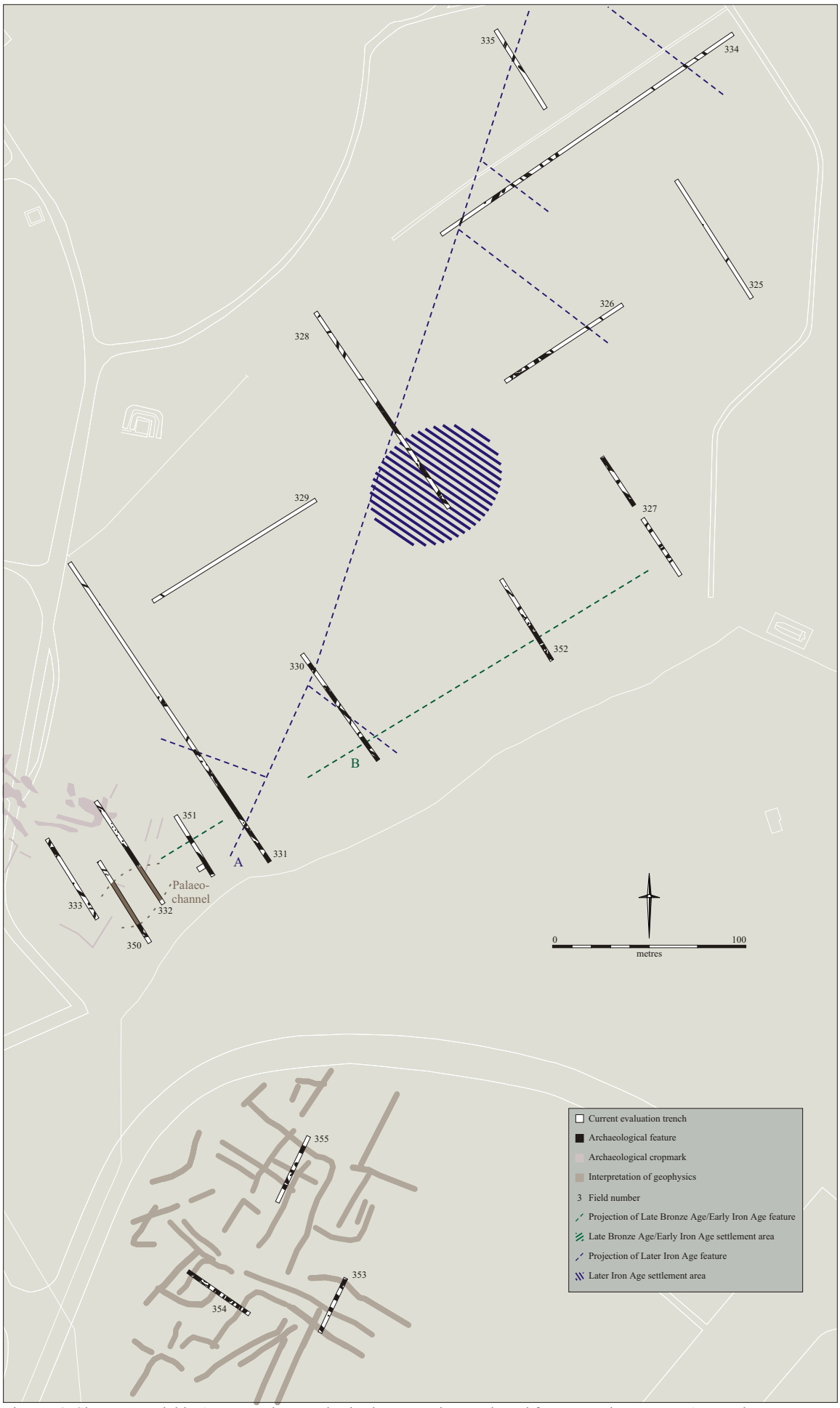


Figure 50. Site XVIII, Field P1, cropmarks, geophysics interpretation, projected features and Later Iron Age settlement area

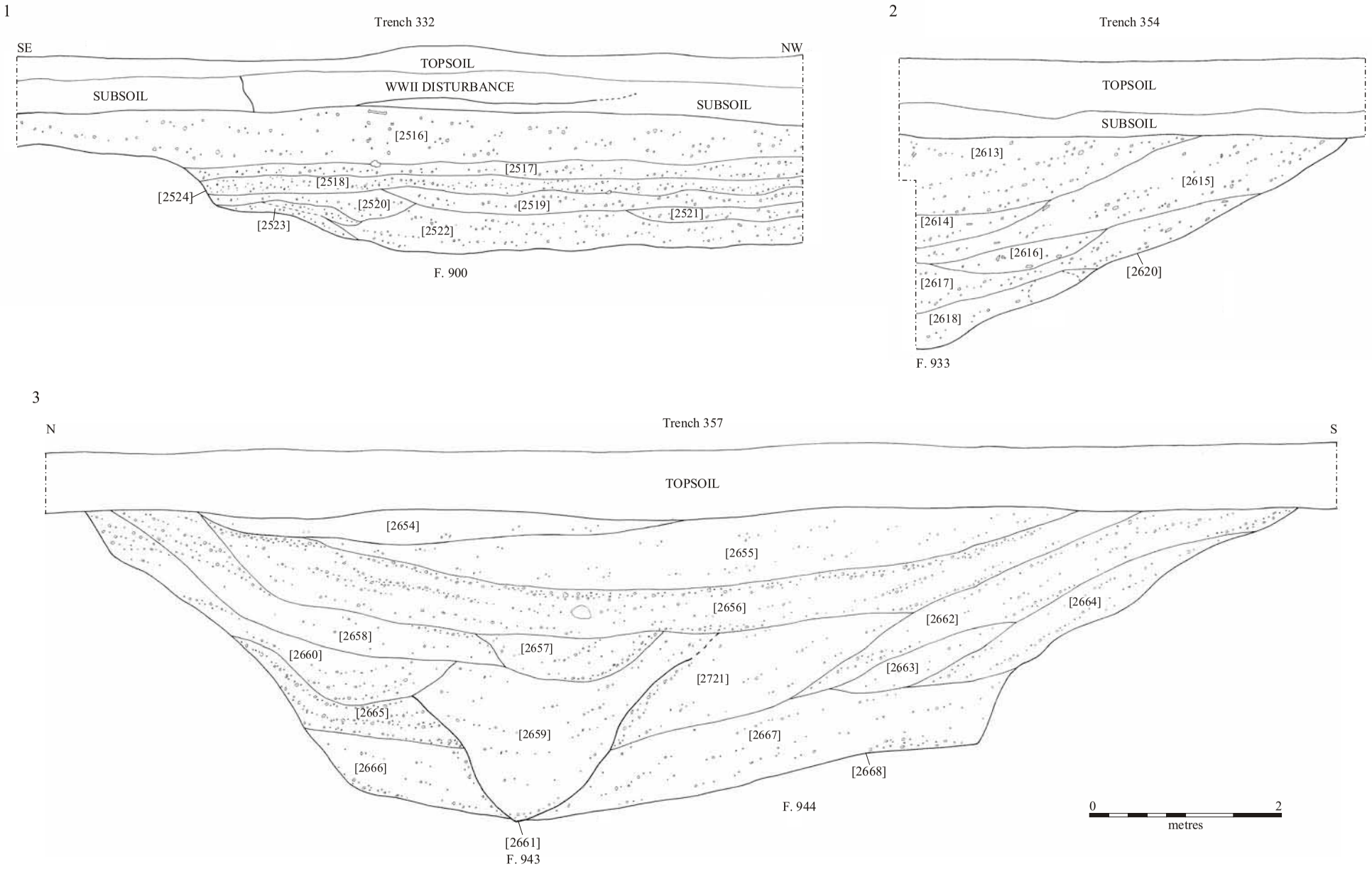


Figure 51. Sections of selected features in Field P1

Part 9) **Site XVI**

Trench 358, in the southern portion of the airfield, was placed to test Site XVI, a small cluster of adjoining enclosures (fig. 52), plotted geophysically, and thought to be of Iron Age date (Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 15). Although this site was located on pasture, there was some restriction on the placing of trenches due to the presence of trees. However, it was possible to test one of the main enclosure ditches, as well as the interior and exterior of the enclosure. The interior of the enclosure contained at least one ditch, which was not recognizable geophysically; whereas externally a large area of 'disturbance' was encountered, which was, at least in part, hinted at by the geophysics.

Trench 358

Trench 358 was 24m long on a north-south alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.50m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.16m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.60m. Three ditches were exposed, all following an east-west alignment. One small pit was uncovered, **F.1124**, and another that was only partially exposed, **F.1154**. The northern half of the trench was taken up by a large feature of uncertain type, **F.961**. Approximately 8m in width, and 1.70m deep, with a fill mostly composed of redeposited gravel and pale brown silt-clay. The feature was unconvincing as a ditch, and may be the edge of a wide well or watering-hole. However, as hinted by the geophysical survey it could, alternatively be the side of a northwest-southeast oriented ditch line (see *Discussion* below). Eight pieces of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from F.961, along with bone, burnt stone and burnt clay. Ditches **F.952** and **F.959** also contained Late Iron Age pottery. No Roman material was recovered.

F.952 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [2695-2698], cut [2699]. Fill a dark brown clay-silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.60m, depth 0.98m, 'V'-shaped profile with a deep central slot.

F.959 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [2713-2717], cut [2718]. Fill – layers of pale brown and orange-brown silt clay capped by a dark brown clay-silt. Width 3.10m, depth 1.25m, with a 'V'-shaped profile.

F.960 Ditch, E-W alignment. Fill [2719], cut [2720]. Fill a dark brown-orange silty clay with occasional gravel. Width 0.60m, depth 0.30m, with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile; truncated by F.959.

F.961 Pit/Ditch? Very large cut feature. Fills [2722-2726], cut [2727]. Multi-layered fill of very gravely silt-clays, dipping towards the east. Width exposed in trench c.8.00m, and depth 1.70m, but true dimensions probably larger. Gently sloping profile.

F.1124 Pit. Fill a dark brown silt-clay. 0.75m x 0.50m. Not excavated.

F.1154 Pit? Fill/cut [2700]. Fill a dark brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Only partially exposed, depth 0.07m. Very shallow, flat profile.

Figure 52. Site XVI, Field P, Trench 38 with interpretation of geophysics

Discussion

With 16 sherds of Iron Age pottery recovered, the results from Trench 358 certainly confirmed the Iron Age attribution of the Site XVI cropmark enclosure that was proposed within the 2004 report. What was, however, also demonstrated is that this clearly is not just a matter of there being a single 'organic-type'/compounded enclosure. This is discussed above in relationship to the 'new' aerial photographic evidence (see Part 3), and also the geophysical survey hints of it. As shown in the first volume (Evans & Mackay 2004: fig. 68), a southwest-northeast oriented linear anomaly seems to run just north of the enclosure and appears to have a return arm extending south-eastward to the enclosure itself. The latter may, in fact, have equated with the very large and ill-defined feature (F.961) that ran north from the main enclosure; ditch F.952, found within the enclosure's interior, moreover runs parallel within the linear anomaly to the north. Given this, greater scrutiny of the geophysical plot suggests the existence of a more extensive rectilinear ditch system within this area and which presumably superseded the 'organic' compound cluster. Based on the immediate dating evidence, both phases would seem to be of later Iron Age attribution. This does not, however, rule out the possibility that the larger settlement complex might elsewhere include a Romano-British component.

Specialist Studies

Flint (Emma Beadsmoore)

A total of nine flints were recovered from trenches within the airfield from Sites XV and XVIII (83g); three unburnt and worked (7g) and six (76g) unworked but burnt. The flints are listed by feature and type in Table 18. The majority of the material is chronologically non-diagnostic unworked burnt chunks. The only chronologically diagnostic flint was a residual Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic secondary flake recovered from a later ditch F.956, Site XVIII.

		Type				
Site	**Feature/context**	chunk	primary flake	tertiary flake	unworked burnt chunks	**Sub totals**
XVIII	F.863 [2421]	1				1
	F.864 [2427]				1	1
	F.867 [2433]				1	1
	F.927 [2595]				1	1
	F.946 [2671]				1	1
	F.947 [2677]				2	2
	F.956 [2707]			1		1
XV	F.943 [2655]		1			1
	Totals	1	1	1	6	9

Table 18 – Airfield flint types and quantities by Site

Prehistoric Pottery (Matthew Brudenell)

An assemblage comprising 163 sherds weighing 3711g was recovered from three separate 'sites' identified within the airfield (Table 19). In general the condition of the material was fair to good, the majority of the assemblage comprising small to medium sized sherds (<8cm in size). By count, 19% of the assemblage was scored, and 9.2% was burnished. The mean sherd weight is moderately high at 12.3g.

The assemblage consists largely of handmade sherds of Later Iron Age date (c.400/300 BC-50 AD). These are typified by a narrow range of mainly open, ovoid and globular profiled vessels, with weakly defined 'slack-shoulders'. Vessels of this date are usually made in dense sand or shell fabrics, and have occasional finger-tip/finger-nail impressions along the rim-top. The Longstanton area lies close to boundary between two different traditions of handmade Later Iron Age pottery, with shelly Scored Wares dominating the region to the north and northwest, as at Over, Earith and Haddenham (Hill & Braddock forthcoming), while sandy plainware characterises southern Cambridgeshire (Hill & Horne 2003). Four identified sites at Longstanton produced pottery of Late Iron Age date (c.50 BC-50 AD), belonging to the 'Belgic' or Aylesford-Swarling tradition. For the most part these vessels are wheel-turned, though handmade forms in the 'Belgic' style were also produced. These new ways of potting continued alongside the production of handmade Later Iron Age vessels, both 'traditions' persisting into the immediate post-Conquest period (c.50AD). This creates the possibility that Iron Age and early Roman ceramics could be contemporary. In features where both occurred the stratigraphic position of sherds was taken into account before determining whether or not the Iron Age sherds were residual or contemporary. Also present in the assemblage was a small LBA/EIA component characterised by flint-tempered sherds, and broadly dated c.1100-400 BC.

Site	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	No. burnished	No. scored	% LBA /EIA	% handmade Later IA tradition	% handmade LIA/'Belgic'	% wheelmade LIA/'Belgic'
XVIII	144	3514	9	26	7.4	71.5	-	21.1
XVI	16	169	6	4	10.7	65	24.3	-
XV	3	28	-	1	-	100	-	-

Table 19: Site assemblages (% by weight).

Sherds were assigned to one of five broad fabrics groups based on the principle inclusions present. This follows the scheme already used in the analysis of Site XII pottery in an earlier phase of evaluation. Fabrics are discussed on a site by site basis only where it was felt that a large enough sample had been obtained to warrant analysis. For the purposes of this report assemblages are discussed on a site by sites basis. Detailed information on the quantity of both handmade and wheel-made Iron Age pottery is provided.

Site XVIII

The Site XVII assemblage comprised 144 sherds weighing 3514g. Material was recovered from 15 features across Trenches 326, 328, 333, 353 and 355. Unlike the assemblage from Site XII, shell-tempered fabrics dominated (53.9%), followed by quartz-tempered fabrics (32.2%), those with shell

and quartz (8.9%), flint (3.2%), and finally those containing grog (1.7%). The bulk of the material comprised handmade sherds of the Later Iron Age tradition, although one fifth of the assemblage was wheel-turned.

A much smaller component belonged to the LBA/EIA; typified by flint-tempered sherds, with the occasional sand and grog tempered pieces. Most of this early material was found in F.888, Trench 333, although other residual sherds were recovered across features in Trench 328.

Trench 326

A single later prehistoric pot sherd (2g) was recovered from F.857. The sherd appears to be handmade, and based on the sandy fabric, is probably Later Iron Age in date. The sherd was recovered from a feature containing Roman pottery, and could therefore be residual.

Trench 353

Two features in Trench 353 yielded Iron Age pottery. F.963 contained three sherds (31g) of LIA wheel-turned pottery, including the beaded rim of a burnished vessel c.10cm in diameter. These sherds are most likely residual, being present in a feature with later Roman pottery (see Anderson, below). A single scored sherd (4g) of Later Iron Age date was recovered from F.965.

Trench 355

A single feature in Trench 355 yielded Iron Age pottery. Six sherds weighing 386g were recovered from F.947. Three of the sherds (21g) belonged to handmade Later Iron Age vessels, the remaining three deriving from a large wheel-turned LIA storage vessel. Together the assemblage probably post-dates c.50 BC.

Trench 328

Features 862, 864 and 865 contained residual handmade Later Iron Age material and LIA wheel-made pottery, mixed amongst ceramics of the mid-late Roman period (*ibid.*). Two wheel-turned sherds (134g) belonging to a large storage/cooking jar with wavy decoration were recovered from F.862, together with two (5g) LBA/EIA sherds. F.864 yielded 15 sherds (266g), only one of which was wheel-turned (5g) with rilled decoration. The remaining sherds were handmade, nine of them scored. F. 865 contained a single residual handmade sherd (6g) dating to the Later Iron Age.

Three features in Trench 328 contained exclusively handmade Iron Age pottery. F.881 contained 17 sherds (1493) of Later Iron Age pottery, 89% of which belonged to a large, scored, shell-tempered jar (Hill and Horne 2003; Type E), with a rim diameter of c.18cm. 34 sherds weighing 373g were recovered from F.863, including the slightly flared rim of an ovoid vessel (Hill & Horn 2003: Type D), and three (34g) residual LBA/EIA sherds. Furthermore, F.859 yielded 9 sherds (253g) of Later Iron Age handmade pottery, including the rim of a globular bowl (Hill & Horn 2003: Type L), and a rim sherd with finger-nail impressions and a scored neck.

Three features contained deposits of mixed Early Roman and Iron Age ceramics. F.867 contained 10 sherds (60g) of handmade Later Iron Age pottery, and a single residual grog and flint tempered LBA/EIA sherd (15g). F.868 contained a single sherd of handmade Later Iron Age pottery (8g), whilst F.869 yielded 15 sherds (128g). In the latter feature, 11 sherds (92g) were wheel-turned; one with a cordon, two rilled. It is possible that all Iron Age and Roman pottery in features F.867-869 are contemporary, particularly those containing LIA wheel-turned sherds. This would suggest at date immediately after the Roman Conquest, c.50 AD. Roman and LIA material was also recovered together from F.873. The Roman sherd cannot be closely dated, and so it is unclear whether the Iron Age material is residual or contemporary. This feature contained a single (15g) LIA sherd, and a single residual (<1g) LBA/EIA sherd. A further feature in Trench 328 contained LIA pottery. F.871 yielded three sherds (81g) of LIA wheel-turned pottery; two of which were combed, the other rilled.

Trench 333

Two features in Trench 333 contained sherds with fabrics typifying LBA/EIA ceramics. 20 sherds (236g) were recovered from F.888, including a rounded-direct rim, an internally-bevelled rim, and a shoulder fragment with finger-tip impressions. A single LBA/EIA sherd (3g) was recovered from F.886, though this could be residual.

Site XVI

The Site XVI assemblage comprised 16 sherds weighing 169g. Pottery was recovered from three features in Trench 358.

Ditch F.961 yielded eight sherds weighing 110g. In the terminal fill [2722], six LIA handmade sherds (41g) in the Aylesford-Swarling tradition were recovered. The sherds belonged to two different cordoned vessels (Hill and Horn 2003: Type R), one with a slightly beaded rim. In the two fills immediately below, two scored handmade sherds (69g) were recovered. Scoring suggests a Later Iron Age date, though one sherd (18g) was flint gritted, and may well be a residual LBA/EIA sherd. Taken together the stratification of material suggests the ditch was dug prior to c.50 BC, with LIA pottery becoming incorporated in the terminal fills of this feature.

Five Later Iron Age sherds (40g) were recovered from F.959, with a further two (15g) from F.952. A single sherd from F.959 was scored. The remaining sherd (4g) from Trench 358 was recovered from an 'occupation layer' or spread to the south of ditch F.952. The sherd is handmade and probably Later Iron Age in date.

Site XV

Three sherds weighing 28g were recovered from Site XV. The sherds were retrieved from two features in Trench 357, all of which were handmade in the Later Iron Age tradition. F.944 yielded a single plain sherd (14g), whilst two sherds (14g) were recovered from context F.936, one of which was scored.

Together, the site assemblages from Longstanton form a small but informative collection, with the potential to further elucidate local chronological developments and issues of Iron Age community identity. The quantity and distribution of later prehistoric pottery suggests this was an extensively occupied landscape from the 4th century BC onwards. In total, Iron Age activity is present on three of the sites identified within the airfield. The majority of the pottery dates to the later Iron Age, although a significant LIA wheel-turned component is present on one site, Site XVI, together with a much smaller LBA/EIA presence.

Evidence for intensive LBA/EIA activity is scarce, although a 'background' of residual flint-tempered sherds was noted on Site XVIII. A definitive LBA/EIA focus is not indicated by the ceramics, although F.888 in Site XVIII may belong to a wider settlement swathe. Three Later Iron Age settlements are identified on the basis of the pottery. In terms of the wider Later Iron Age pottery distribution, Longstanton lies near the 'ceramic boundary zone' between communities in the Fenland which mainly used shell-tempered Scored Wares during the Later Iron Age, and that in south Cambridgeshire which used sandy Plain Wares. The character of assemblages recovered in previous evaluation phases at Longstanton suggests the material has closer affinities to the latter. Results from the current phase largely support this claim, although the Site XIV and XVIII assemblages had a high proportion of shell-tempered wares and scoring. At Site XIV, the high level of scoring is distorted by fragments of

a single scored vessel in pit F.653, and should therefore be discounted. However, at Site XVIII 18.1% of sherds were scored, including a variety of different vessels. This figure is just below levels normally expected in Scored Ware assemblages on sites further to the northwest, i.e. c.20-30% (Hill and Braddock forthcoming). This may suggest that communities with different ceramic affiliations were living in close proximity at Longstanton; a pattern matched in the Upper Delphs (Hill and Braddock forthcoming). How fixed or fluid the boundaries between these communities were is a matter of interest, and calls into question concepts of identity in this transitional ceramic zone.

Four of sites with Later Iron Age ceramics also produced LIA wheeled-turned/'Belgic' style pottery. In the period post-dating c.50BC, communities in this area continued to make and use handmade Later Iron Age wares alongside the newly introduced LIA wheel-turned pottery. At Longstanton, most contexts yielding wheel-tuned LIA material also contained larger quantities of handmade Later Iron Age pottery. This pattern is typical of areas north of Cambridge, in the Fens, Peterborough, and further a field, in Norfolk and northern Suffolk (Hill 2002, 158). New wheel-turned forms were adopted within existing patterns of ceramic use, which continued to be practiced up until the period immediately post-dating the Roman conquest (c.50AD). In this region the proportion of wheel-turned to handmade vessels appears to be much lower than that encountered in the south of Cambridgeshire, although few attempts have been made to quantify the data (although see Evans *et al*. 2004). Sites XII and XVIII have 12.5% and 21.1% wheel-tuned sherds respectively; figures within the range calculated for sites around the Fen edge (Evans, Knight & Webley forthcoming). Obviously, the sample sizes from Longstanton are too small for any firm conclusions to be drawn, and in this respect no comment has been made on the levels of wheel-tuned pottery at Sites XXVI and XVI (both having under 100 sherds). However, the sites have the potential to further understand the process of adopting wheel-tuned forms and their social impact in an area just beyond the main Aylesford-Swarling distribution.

Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

A total of 743 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 12063g, were recovered from two sites, Sites XV and XVII, within the airfield.

Field	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Mean Wt(g)	EVE
XV	159	2212	13.9	5.27
XVIII	566	9601	17	12.41
TOTAL	**743**	**12063**	**44.8**	**17.78**

Table 20: Showing the quantities of Roman pottery by Site

Site XV

Site XV yielded 159 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 2212g, from a total of nine different features, all of which were from Trench 357. Feature 943 contained the largest quantity of material, consisting of 73 sherds, 1220g, from five contexts. The pottery from this feature is dominated by sandy

greywares, with the only exceptions being one shell-tempered sherd and one Nene Valley greyware sherd from a straight-sided shallow dish. A small variety of vessel forms were represented, including eight jars, two beaded bowls and one beaded flanged bowl. There was no distinct difference in date between the five contexts, with several containing both early and later Roman material. This therefore suggests much of the material had been redeposited and that the feature had been filled within a relatively short period of time.

Feature 935 contained 27 sherds, weighing 115g. These included three Nene Valley colour coats and one fine, oxidised sandy sherd from a small everted rim jar. The pottery from this feature was also of a mixed date, although the majority are 2nd-3rd century AD in date.

A total of 21 sherds, weighing 115g were recovered from Feature 939, including one Oxfordshire red-slipped flanged bowl, dating 3rd-4th century AD. Within this feature there was also one small Southern Gaulish Samian sherd. This is another feature with pottery of mixed dates, suggesting redeposition of the earlier material.

Two further Southern Gaulish Samian sherds were found in Feature 944, including one sherd from a Dr27, which had resin remains on one edge. This shows that an effort had been made to repair this vessel in the past, suggesting it was probably viewed as 'special'. Within this feature there were several other Early Roman sherds as well as several Late Iron Age sherds (see Brudenell, above), which highlights the possibility that this feature was originally Iron Age in date and had continued to be used into the Roman period.

Site XVIII

A total of 566 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 9601g were recovered from 46 different features and an occupation layer on Site XVIII.

Trench 328

56 sherds were collected from Feature 864, weighing 807g. A variety of fabrics were present in this group, including five Nene Valley colour coats, two imitation Samian sherds, one Hadham oxidised ware, one Oxfordshire red-slipped ware and one Central Gaulish Samian sherd. Vessel forms included one Nene Valley beaded, flanged bowl (3rd-4th AD) and one funnel-necked beaker with a plain rim (mid 2nd-3rd AD). The majority of sherds were small and abraded and therefore very few vessel forms could be identified. The pottery was of a mixed date with most sherds dating 2nd-3rd century AD and a few exceptions dating 3rd-4th century AD. There were also several residual Iron Age sherds within this feature.

Feature 867 contained ten sherds of Roman pottery weighing 69g. This feature stands out because all of the sherds were early Roman in date, more specifically Pre-Flavian (AD 43-68). This included one rim sherd from and everted rim jar and one from a plain rimmed dish/bowl. Within this feature there were also several Middle Iron Age pottery sherds (*ibid.*), which suggests that this feature was in use in the Late Iron Age and continued to be used into the early Roman period.

Trench 354

Feature 933 yielded 79 sherds weighing 2346g from two contexts. This included two Central Gaulish Samian sherds, one of which was from a Dr18 dating *c.* AD 120-150. There were also 24 sherds from a Horningsea greyware storage jar, which were relatively large and unabraded, dating to the 2nd century AD. Other vessel forms identified included one small globular beaker and a small globular jar, both of which date 2nd-4th century AD.

49 sherds of Roman pottery (665g) were recovered from the Occupation Layer. This included ten Hadham oxidised body sherds, six Nene Valley colour-coated wares (one straight-sided shallow dish and one beaded rim beaker) and one Oxfordshire imitation Dr45. The pottery from this layer ranged in date from the 2nd-4th century AD with several Late Roman examples (3rd-4th century AD).

Trench 355

Feature 948 contained 39 sherds in total, weighing 1133g which range in date from the 2nd-4th century AD. This included two Central Gaulish Samian sherds from a Dr33, although not refitting and are from two different contexts, are probably from the same vessel. There were also three identifiable Nene Valley colour-coated vessels, consisting of one hooked-rim mortaria, one straight sided shallow dish and one cornice rim beaker. All three of these vessels date mid 2nd-3rd century AD. A further whiteware mortaria was also found in this feature dating 2nd-3rd century AD.

A total of 49 sherds weighing 531g were recovered from Feature 946. There were eight Nene Valley colour-coated sherds including one straight-sided shallow dish, dating mid 2nd-3rd century AD. One Pakenham colour coat dating 2nd-4th century was also present, although the vessel form could not be identified. There were also 12 shell-tempered sherds including one large necked jar and one medium sized jar.

One Late Baetican amphora sherd was recovered from the spoil in Trench 326, dating 2nd-3rd century AD.

Sites XV and XVIII contained relatively large quantities of Roman pottery, implying that they played a significant role during the Roman period. There was a relative high quantity of Iron Age pottery recovered from both of these sites (*ibid.*), showing that a number of these sites were in occupation during both the Iron Age and the Roman period. One Feature from Site XVIII had one feature containing a 'true' Early Roman assemblage (Pre-Flavian). Sites XV and XXVII both included pottery which was mid 1st-2nd century AD and thus could be considered to be Early Roman, although they are not definite 'Early' groups with a possibility that there was a break between Iron Age and Roman activity.

The similarity in the dates of occupation for all of the sites is reflected in the pottery evidence, with all three assemblages containing comparable pottery in terms of form and fabric, although the quantities of material differ. Both of the main sites appear to have had a peak between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD and the pottery was dominated by coarsewares, most probably made locally, although the exact sources are as yet unknown. The most common fine wares represented were Nene Valley wares, although these can count as local wares because they were produced around Peterborough, located approximately 25 miles from Longstanton. Other finewares and imports were scarce within the assemblages, reflecting only 3% of the total assemblage by count and 5% by weight.

Overall, the Roman pottery reflects a series of moderately poor, domestic settlements, most of which were occupied during the same period (2nd-3rd century AD in particular). Sites XII and XVIII, show evidence of being occupied throughout the Roman period, although the levels of activity as reflected in the pottery are variable. The similarities shown between the assemblages from different sites demonstrates that in terms of wealth and status they were all similar. However, the varying quantities of material imply different levels of activity. The pottery recovered from the 2004 evaluation is also comparable with the material excavated in 2003 (Evans & Mackay 2004), as are other sites in Cambridgeshire such as Clay Farm (Evans & Mackay 2005), which showed a similar series of small farmstead based settlements. However, although the dates of occupation and the relative wealth and status are similar, there are subtle differences in the types of pottery, specifically the local coarsewares, which support a view that the supply of ceramics to the sites around Longstanton was not entirely the same as that to the sites to the south of this area.

Roman Tile (Katie Anderson)

A total of 38 pieces of Roman tile (16,242g) were collected from the airfield excavations, from 12 different features, with the majority from Site XVIII (fig. 48: 2-4) and the remainder from Site XV. All of the tile was examined and details of fabric and form were recorded, along with any other information deemed important.

Fabric	**No.**	**Wt (g)**
Coarse sandy	17	3365
Fine sandy	3	356
Flint and shell	1	2349
Shell	17	10172
TOTAL	38	16242

Table 21: Showing all tile by fabric

Form	**No.**	**Wt (g)**
Floor tile	1	158
Imbrex	8	922
Tegula	20	14955
Unknown	9	207
TOTAL	38	16242

Table 22: Showing all tile by form

Site XVIII

Site XVIII contained the majority of the tile, with 33 pieces weighing 15758g, thus giving a relatively high mean weight of 478g. Feature 900, Trench 332 contained the largest quantity of material from the site, consisting of 23 pieces and weighing 14915g. This included four pieces from a shell-tempered large tegula (3630g) which had a 50mm flange and was 260mm wide. Two coarse sandy ware pieces came from another large tegula, weighing 11835g, with a flange measuring 4mm Two further tegula tiles, with the flange still in-tact were recovered from this feature, consisting of one very large shell tempered piece weighing 4000g with a flange of 52mm and measuring 295mm wide and at least 360mm in length. There was also one shell and flint tempered piece (2349g) which had a flange that measured 45mm.

Two further tegula were recovered from Feature 927, consisting of one shell tempered piece and one coarse sandy piece with a flange measuring 40mm. Feature 932 contained one tegula, weighing 208g.

Feature 851 contained a relatively small piece of tegula, weighing 190g. however, this piece is of particular interest because it has a complete dog paw print on the surface.

Two shell-tempered imbrex tiles were recovered from Feature 885 (150g) and three small, non-diagnostic pieces were found in Feature 864 (2g). Feature 888 yielded one small piece of tile, weighing only 10g, thus a form could not be identified.

Four small, abraded pieces of brick were also recovered from Feature 939.

Site XV

Five pieces of tile (484g) were recovered from three different features on Site XV. Feature 934 contained one tegula, weighing 155g and with a 40mm flange. Two pieces were collected from Feature 935, consisting of one shell-tempered tegula and one coarse-sandy floor tile.

Three of the main tile forms were collected, with only flue tiles missing from the repertoire. Tegula were the most commonly occurring type representing 53% of the total by count and 92% by weight. The high weight percentage was due to the very large size of a number of the roof tiles. This in itself is very interesting as it has implications on the type of building, since it would require strong supports to hold such large roof tiles.

Four main fabric groups were identified (see Table 21), with coarse sandy and shell-tempered pieces being the most frequently occurring. The fabrics can be paralleled with material collected from the other Longstanton excavations (See Anderson above), suggesting a similar source.

The date of the tile is 2nd-4th century AD, which is supported by the Roman pottery which was found in a number of the same features.

The small quantity recovered from Site XV implies that there was not necessarily a building on this site, and the small size of the pieces suggests that they were probably redeposited.

The tile recovered from the excavations indicates that there was a building in the vicinity of Site XVIII. The majority of pieces were found in Feature 900 and many of these were large and unabraded, suggesting that the tile had not moved far from its original location and had been deposited relatively soon after being discarded.

Burnt Clay (Katie Anderson)

133 pieces of Burnt clay, weighing 1013g were recovered from 22 features in Site XVIII. All of the material was examined and details of fabric and form, where possible were recorded.

The assemblage consisted of mainly small and abraded pieces of clay, although there were a number of medium sized pieces. Two possible pieces of briquetage were identified, consisting of one long-bar shaped piece from Feature 992, which was flint tempered, measuring 11cm in length, although this is not the complete length. The second piece was found in Feature 865, which was also bar-shaped , with a coarse sandy fabric, with occasional calcareous inclusions.

There were no other identifiable forms, although there were several pieces (e.g. from Features 946 and 961) which had surfaces, implying that they had been used for a specific purpose rather than being the result of accidental burning. However, the exact function(s) is unclear since the pieces in question are so small.

The clay fabrics were dominated by sandy wares, although these varied from moderately fine to coarse sandy clay. There were also several pieces with calcareous temper along with a small number of flint tempered pieces (F.933 and 992).

Dating of the burnt clay is problematic, since so few pieces are diagnostic. However, the presence of burnt clay within features of known date, along with fabric information, suggests most pieces were Roman in date, although some may be prehistoric. Overall, although a relatively large number of pieces were recovered, very few were diagnostic. This implies many may have been accidentally fired. The two possible pieces of briquetage suggest that some 'industrial' types of activity were taking place, although on a very small scale.

Metalwork (Andrew Hall and Grahame Appleby)

A total of 21 artefacts were recovered from sites within the airfield. Metal detecting of trenches and features within the airfield was not possible due to the significant probability of encountering unexploded ordnance and small arms munitions. Of these finds, 15 are made of iron, six of copper alloy and the remaining three of lead. The majority are from the Late Iron Age/Romano-British sites situated in the northern central area of the airfield, designated Sites XV and XVIII.

14 iron objects, six copper alloy objects and two lead objects were recovered from six trenches, with 17 objects recovered from Site XVIII and three from Site XV. The Iron objects all require x-ray to confirm identification. The majority of objects were retrieved through hand excavation.

Site XVIII

Trench 326

3. <679> [2400] F.854. Group of nine heavily corroded iron objects, seven identified a nails and two fragments from an iron blade.

Trench 328

4. <697> [2433] F.867. Undiagnostic lead or pewter fragment. Semi-circular in shape with apparent longitudinal break. Weight 11g.

Trench 335

5. <683> [2703] F.954. Iron object, 31mm in length. Possibly a nail or rivet with square shank and squared head, clenched terminal.

Trench 350

6. <713> Tapering 'spike' Mk II bayonet scabbard, with suspension stud and internal securing spring. In use between 1937 and the later 1950s, these were issued to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces and were suspended from a canvas 'frog' attached to a utility belt (Appleby pers comm..).

Trench 354

8. <636> [2553] F.914. Group of four thin re-fitting round-sectioned copper alloy fragments. Possibly from a pin.

9. <698> [2612] Layer. Long narrow flat iron strip bent approximately one third along its length; approximate straightened length is 70mm.

Trench 355

10. <682> [2689] F.950. Single iron nail 58mm long, with square shank.

11. <691> [2679] F.948. Undiagnostic lead or pewter blob or scrap, with small piecing at one end. Weight 2g.

Site XV

Trench 357

12. <680> [2655] F.943. Heavily corroded thin iron strip 106mm long. Possible large nail or pin recovered from a feature with mid 1st to 3rd century Roman pottery.

13. <681> [2638] F.939. Heavily corroded short flattened square-sectioned nail with point clenched, found with mid 1st to 3rd century Roman pottery.

14. <700> [2667] or [2659]. Plain copper alloy ring 20mm in diameter. Found in spoil heap adjacent to F.943 and F.944.

The assemblage from the airfield is unremarkable and reflects the known archaeological and historic background of Longstanton. The small quantity of metal objects recovered from the three sites investigated in airfield prevent. any meaningful distribution patterns or conclusions to be drawn. Only one object can be securely dated, the bayonet scabbard from Site XVIII. The low density of finds from these sites may reflect a low density of activity in the area during the later Iron Age and early to mid Roman period.

Miscellaneous Finds (Grahame Appleby)

Site XVIII

1. *Trench 326* <272> Small piece of iron slag, weighing 5g, recovered from F.918. Dated to 2nd-3rd century A by association with Romano-British pottery.

2. *Trench 326* <324> Abraded lava quern fragment, weighing 19g, recovered from F.854. Dated to the 1st-2nd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

3. *Trench 332* <701> Tapering slightly ovoid dressed stone with flat ends. 220mm wide by 270mm long, weighing 20kg (fig. 48: 1). Recovered from feature F.900, identified as Romano-British by association with pottery and tegulae (see Anderson above). Probably Roman; function unknown although possibly a milestone or counterweight made from re-used column fragment.

4. *Trench 332* <709> Several wooden fragments including a round wooden fragment with un-worked bark, four fragments of stake, including one fragment with iron nails/staples, and one piece of bark fragment; all recovered from F.900. Undated.

5. *Trench 354* <400> Lump of iron slag, weighing 513g, recovered from F.918. Dated to 2nd-3rd century A by association with Romano-British pottery.

Site XV

6. *Trench 357* <480> Quernstone fragment, burnt on one side, weighing 423g, recovered from F.944. Dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

7. *Trench 357* <484> Quernstone fragment, burnt on one side, weighing 639g, recovered from F.944. Dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

8. *Trench 357* <537> Quernstone fragment, burnt on one side, weighing 348g, recovered from F.944. Dated to the 1st-2nd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

9. *Trench 357* <599> Burnt quernstone fragment and three separate burnt quern fragments with a total weight of 3288g, recovered from F.943. Dated to the 1st-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

The Faunal Remains (Chris Swaysland)

A quantity of animal bones numbering 1294 fragments and weighing 21464 grams was recovered from two sites within the airfield, Sites XV and XVIII. The condition of the assemblage was in general reasonable though on many specimens surface detail did not survive.

The animal and bird bones were identified using same methodology outlined above in Section 2 (see Swaysland, above).

The assemblage was recovered from a series of evaluation trenches from which two sites were identified; these were given the designation Site XV and Site XVIII. The assemblage has been quantified in terms of these sites and the different phases of activity within these sites. The vast majority of sites are dated to the late Iron Age or to the Romano-British period though some contexts appear to date from the conquest period.

Site XV

Site XV is dated to the Late Iron Age, the conquest period and the Romano-British period, there are also a number of features that are undated.

Both the late Iron Age assemblage and the Romano-British assemblage from Site XV are small (Table 23). The Romano-British assemblage is unusual in having a greater proportion of sheep/goat than cattle. Higher proportions of sheep/goat than cattle are generally considered to be more characteristic of Iron Age assemblages than Roman ones. This might be explained by ditch F.944; this feature contained pottery dated to the late Iron Age period and the Romano-British period, it is suggested (see Anderson, above) that this feature was in use in the Late Iron Age and continued to be used into the early Roman period. Thus the site seems to have been continually occupied from the late Iron Age into the Romano-British period; the inhabitants continued in the late Iron Age style of food traditions.

Minor species are represented by a red deer antler from F.944 and a swan bone from F.943 a ditch dated to the Romano-British period. The swan bone is a complete carpo-metacarpus (*Cygnus* sp.). Very small cut marks on the shaft of the bone suggest that this bird may have been eaten.

F.941, an undated ditch terminal contained a sheep/goat metatarsal that was complete except for the unfused distal epiphysis; sections of the bone show polishing and light grooving perpendicular to the shaft. The wear is restricted to the straight section of the shaft of the bone; the heaviest wear is located immediately before the distal end starts to flare out. The wear may have been caused by some kind cord wrapped around the bone.

Species	Late Iron Age NISP	LIA/ R-B (F.944) NISP	Romano-British NISP	Undated NISP
Cattle	2	5	9	9
Sheep/goat	2	2	14	7
Horse	2	2	3	3
Dog	0	0	1	0
Red deer	0	1	0	0
Swan	0	0	1	0
Medium sized mammal	1	0	2	1
Large sized mammal	0	1	7	6

Table 23: species proportions by phase Site XV

Site XVIII

Late Iron Age - A total of 31 identifiable fragments were recovered from six features (F.857, F.863, F.871, F.881, F.947 and F.963). The assemblage shows cattle and sheep/goat occurring in similar proportions (Table 24); the small size of the assemblage precludes further analysis.

Conquest - A total of 12 identifiable fragments were recovered from three features (F.867, F.868 and F.869) all from Trench 328 (Table 24). These date to the late Iron Age and the early Roman period, suggesting a date immediately after the Roman conquest c.50 AD (cf. Brudenell above).

Romano-British - A total of 100 identifiable fragments were recovered from four features (F.864, F.933, F.946 and F.948) and an occupation layer [2612]. The assemblage is dominated by cattle and to a lesser extent sheep/goat. Pig is represented by one bone. Dog is represented by three bones and chicken by one bone (Table 24). Two cattle metatarsals show broadening of the distal epiphyses this is considered to be as a result of use of the animals for pulling the plough (Bartosiewicz *et al*. 1997). Horse bone constitute 10% of the assemblage and included a complete metatarsal (LL 27.1cm) this corresponds to horse with a withers height of 1.44m or 14.2 hands, this is a large height for a Romano-British horse, Rackham (2004) quotes a maximum height of 13.75 hands for horses from Roman London.

Unphased - A total of 149 identifiable specimens were recovered from 32 features including F.861; this contained the remains of the front legs, ribs and vertebrae of a semi-articulated neonatal puppy.

Species	LIA	Conquest	R-B	Unphased
Cattle	14	3	39	49
Sheep/goat	10	4	26	28
Pig	0	0	1	1
Horse	1	1	10	6
Dog	1	0	3	34*
Fox	0	3	0	0
Chicken	0	0	1	0
Medium sized mammal	4	1	6	5
Large sized mammal	4	0	14	23

Table 24: Site XVIII species proportion by phase * one semi-articulated puppy

Table 25 shows the species proportions of the late Iron Age phases of activity at Sites XV and XVIII and also the nearby Site XII (see Swaysland above). It indicates that overall, sheep/goat followed by cattle are the dominant species. There were insufficient ageable mandibles to attempt to reconstruct husbandry practises however the presence of unfused longbones of both sheep/goat and cattle indicate that the sites occupants had access to breeding populations.

Species	Site XII	Site XV	Site XVIII	Total	Total %
Cattle	6	2	14	22	29.3
Sheep/goat	20	2	10	32	42.7
Horse	3	2	1	6	8.0
Dog	0	0	1	1	1.3
Medium sized mammal	9	1	1	11	14.7
Large sized mammal	3	0	0	3	4.0

Table 25 Late Iron Age species proportions

Table 26 shows the species proportions in the Romano-British phases of activity at Sites XV and XVIII but also nearby Sites IX, XII, XIV and XXVII (Swaysland in prep.). Overall cattle followed by sheep/goat are the predominant species. Too few ageable cattle mandibles were recovered to attempt to reconstruct husbandry practices. The sheep/goat mandibles formed a larger dataset. Figure 53 (below) shows a bimodal distribution. This can be interpreted as evidence of a meat economy, the peak at stage D is surplus male animals culled when approaching peak size/weight. The peak at stage G is the breeding stock and killed off when no longer productive.

Species	Site IX	Site XII	Site XIV	Site XV	Site XVIII	Site XXVII	Total	Total %
Cattle	14	23	10	9	39	42	137	37.7
Sheep/goat	1	10	2	14	26	38	91	25.1
Pig	0	3	0	0	1	2	6	1.7
Horse	2	4	1	3	10	12	32	8.8
Dog	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	1.1
Fox	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	<1
Chicken	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	<1
Swan	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	<1
Mustelid	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Medium sized mammal	1	5	0	2	6	2	16	4.4
Large sized mammal	6	27	2	7	14	16	72	19.8

Table 26: Romano-British species proportions

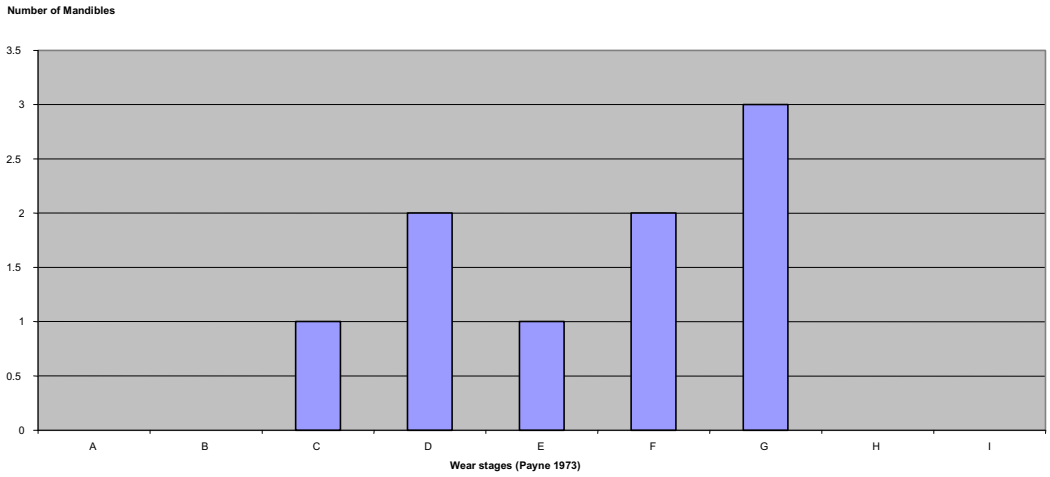


Fig 53: Romano-British sheep/goat mandibular wear data

Collectively late Iron Age and Romano-British samples demonstrate a number of differences, most notably the proportions of the major species. This pattern of more sheep/goat in the Iron Age and more cattle in the Romano-British period conforms to widely observed trends.

The Romano-British assemblage also differs from the late Iron Age assemblage in having a greater level of species diversity: pig, chicken and swan are represented, albeit in small amounts in the Romano-British material but are absent from the late Iron Age. Pig and swan would undoubtedly have been available to the Iron Age population so their absence may be due to the smaller Iron Age sample size however it could represent cultural or social differences. Chickens were present in Iron Age Britain but their prevalence greatly increases in the Roman period.

The faunal remains from the sites at Longstanton fit within a known framework; some sites do deviate from the norm however the sample sizes are too small for the results to be considered with confidence.

No further work is considered necessary on this material however if further excavation is to take place onsite, a 'problem orientated' approach should be taken to the retrieval and subsequent analysis of faunal remains. An assemblage that is derived from a strategy to target particular features for more intensive excavation would be better suited to answering specific questions than an assemblage that is derived from a large number of loosely dated features of disparate character. It is suggested that ditch F.944 (Site XV) could be suitable; it appears to have been in use from the late Iron Age into the Romano-British period. Careful excavation may be able to discriminate late Iron Age deposits from Romano-British deposits and thus an investigation of the influence of the Roman invasion on native foodways may be possible.

Environmental Samples (Anne de Vareilles)

Six bulk soil samples were collected from three sites within the airfield, Sites XV, XVI and XVIII. Five were examined using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 300µm mesh and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant remains, molluscs and charcoal. As the remaining sample was waterlogged it was processed using a 300µm sieve in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge.

Sorting and identification of macro-remains follow the same methodology outlined in Section 2 (see de Vareilles, above).

The preservation of these samples is by charring and waterlogging. Sample 97 from F.948, whose plant remains are predominantly charred, also revealed quite a few waterlogged seeds, suggesting that its fill [2685], Site XVIII, was once waterlogged. The overall condition of the plant remains is good; cereal grains are not too distorted and the more fragile chaff was present in three samples. The samples richer in cereal grains were the only ones to have carbonised undifferentiated storage plant tissue, which suggests that the latter are badly preserved cereal grains. The waterlogged seeds are still clearly identifiable which shows that context [2522], Site XVIII, has not been disturbed by biological or physical action. Molluscs are rare.

Site XV
Iron Age/Romano-British Ditch, F.944 [2659]
One wheat glume base and one medium grass seed were found.

Site XVI
Iron Age Ditch, F.959 [2717]
This 3litre sample only contained a little charcoal.

Site XVIII
Romano-British Ditch, F.920 [2574]
One possible spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*) and one wheat or barley grain (*Triticum/Hordeum*) were found. Ten wheat (*Triticum* sp.) glume bases and one hulled wheat rachis internode were also counted. Seven of the nine wild plant seeds recovered are small, the others are a large[1] and medium grass seed.

Romano-British Pit, F.933 [2616]
This sample is the only charred one where more cereal grains than chaff were noted: one barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare sl.*), one possible spelt, two unspecific wheat grains but only one spelt glume base. One medium and one small grass seed were seen.

Romano-British Ditch, F.948 [2685]
The cereal component is made up of ten hulled wheat rachis internodes, forty-nine wheat glume bases of which eighteen are certainly spelt, and two wheat or barley grains. The wild plant seeds include a minimum of five grass seeds, a small seeded dock (*Rumex conglomeratus/obtusifolius/sanguineus*), a small goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and a buttercup seed (*Ranunculus* sp.). As well as charred some waterlogged wild plant seeds were present, namely elder (*Sambucus nigra*), mint (*Mentha* sp.), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and common chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

[1] Large grass seeds are as long as the cereal grains but about half as wide.

Waterlogged Sample - Romano-British Well/Pond, F. 900 [2522]
Other than the waterlogged seeds a little charcoal is present. The most common plant species were elder, followed by crowfoot (*Ranunculus* Subgen. BATRACHIUM), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), common chickweed, water-cress (*Rorripa nasturtium aquatica*), and deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*). Another twelve species were represented by ten or less seeds (see Table 28).

Though low in total cereal grains, the F.933 sample shows a typical Romano-British agricultural assemblage of barley and spelt, along with possible other wheat types (Greig 1991). The dominance of cereal grains over chaff and wild plant seeds probably point towards accidental charring during cooking activities.

The quantity of wild plant seeds and cereal chaff from F.920 and F.948 compared to grains suggest that both samples represent crop processing waste, especially as the most common wild plant seeds come from grasses, probably crop 'weeds'. From the waterlogged wild plant seeds in ditch F.948 one can see that the feature was once, or perhaps seasonally, waterlogged. The combination of elder, common chickweed and henbane point towards rough, disturbed soil rich in nitrates. It may be that the ditch was a boundary of a cultivated field were wild plants were left to grow on the edges. The field may also have been kept for grazing. Without the preservation of a more representative array of seeds, the significance of those surviving is not always clear. The presence of *Planorbis corneus* (fresh water snail) in ditch F.920 suggest that this ditch may also once have been waterlogged.

The wild plant seeds from F.900 suggest a wet environment surrounded by nutrient rich disturbed ground. *P. corneus* usually live in quite large habitats with a regular influx of fresh water; the feature seems to have had an outside (as opposed to ground water) source of fresh water. Unfortunately, the precise use of the feature remains unclear.

Table 27: Mollusca and Charred Plant remains from the airfield sites

Site		XVI	XV	XVIII	XVIII	XVIII
Sample number		**<98>**	**<103>**	**<99>**	**<102>**	**<97>**
Context		[2717]	[2659]	[2574]	[2616]	[2685]
Feature		959	944	920	933	948
Feature type		Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch
Phase/Date		IA	IA/RB	RB	RB	RB
Sample volume - litres		3	5. 5	5. 5	2	5
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Cereals						
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	Barley grain				1	
Triticum cf. *spelta*	Possible spelt grain			1	1	
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain				2	
Triticum/Hordeum	Wheat/Barley grain			1		2
Indet cereal fragment						
T. spelta glume base	Spelt glume base				1	18
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base		1	10		21
T. sp. spikelet fork	Wheat spikelet fork					5
Hulled wheat rachis internode	Hulled wheat ear stem fragment			1		10
Wild plant seeds						
Ranunculus Subgen. *BATRACHIUM*	Crowfoot					
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercups					1
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle			- WL		
Small *Chenopodium* sp.	Small Goosefoots					1
R. conglomeratus/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock					1
large *trilete Carex* sp.	Sedge					
Large Poaceae fragment	Large grass seed			1		4 (3)
Medium Poaceae frag.	Medium grass seed		1	1	1	3 (2)
Small Poaceae (whole)	Small grass seed			5	1	
Indet wild plant seed				2		1
Poaceae node	Grass stem node					2
Parenchyma tissue fragments	Undifferentiated storage plant tissue			+	+	+
Charcoal frags.						
>4 mm			-		+	-
2-4 mm		-			-	-
<2mm		+	+	++	+++	++
Vitrified			-	-		
Mollusca	Habitat					
Planorbis corneus	Moving or still hard water rich in veg.			+		
Succinea sp.	Damp to wet locations			-		
Vertigo pygmaea/antivertigo	Various			-		
Vallonia sp.						
Vallonia costata	In dry grass and leaves			+		
Ceciloides acicula	Blind burrowing snail				-	
Trichia sp.	Various			+		

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; WL = waterlogged, (n) shows the number of embryos
Note: the waterlogged plant remains of sample <97> are shown in Table 28.

Table 28 Mollusca and Waterlogged Plant Remains from the airfield sites

Site			XVIII	XVIII
Sample number			*<95>*	**<97>**
Context			[2522]	[2685]
Feature			900	948
Feature type			Well/Pond	Ditch
Phase/Date			RB	RB
Sample volume - Litres			0. 5	5
Flot fraction examined			1/1	1/1
	Common name	Habitat		
Ranunculus Subgen. *BATRACHIUM*	Crowfoot	On mud and in shallow water	++	
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercups		-	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	Many,including woodland, fens, cultivated ground and manured soil	++	
Small *Chenopodium* sp.	Small Goosefoots		-	-
Atriplex patula/prostrata	Oraches	Cultivated and waste ground	+	
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Cultivated and waste ground	++	+
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrass		-	
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock seeds in tepals	Grassy or bare damp soil, namely by ponds	-	
R. conglomeratus/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock			+
Rorripa nasturtium-aquaticum	Water-cress	In and by streams, ditches, marches	++	
Apiaceae type	Carrot family		-	
Apium sp.	Marshworts		+	
Atropa belladonna	Deadly Nightshade	Cultivated and waste ground, woods, scrub	++	
Hyoscyamus niger	Henbane	Rough and waste ground, especially manured by rabbits or cattle		+
Mentha sp.	Mint		+	++
Sambucus nigra	Elder	Hedges, woods, rough ground, especially on manured soil	+++	++
Cardus/Cirsium.	Thistles		+	
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile	Cultivated and waste ground	+	
Zannichellia palustris	Horned Pondweed	Rivers, streams, ditches and ponds	-	
large *trilete Carex* sp.	Sedge		-	-
Indet Bud			-	
Charcoal fragments				
2-4mm			-	
<2mm			+	
Mollusca				
Planorbis corneus		Moving or still hard water rich in vegetation	+	
Planorbis planorbis		Hard water in small habitats – ponds, ditches	-	

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 - 50 items, '+++' > 50 items; M? = possibly modern.
Note: the charred plant remains from sample <97> are shown in Table 27

Section Four - *Site XIX/IX* (Part 10/Field J)

Field J lay just outside the perimeter of the airfield on its northern edge (fig. 38). The trenches crossed the cropmarks designated Sites IX and XIX, which also continued northwards onto the golf course (fig. 54). It should be noted that, falling within an area of market gardens, the location of the trenches was severely restricted due to greenhouses and planting beds. Although some archaeology was encountered, it was clear that the trenches lay on the periphery of the Roman settlement. Considering the close proximity of the archaeologically rich trench excavated on the Golf Course in 2004 (Trench 78; Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 9), the almost complete absence of Roman archaeology in Trench 359 is all the more striking. The general paucity of dateable Roman finds across Field J was also notable, but this sudden fall-off of both features and artefacts was in keeping with the results from the previous evaluation in the adjacent field to the east. However, the main cropmarks crossed by the trenches were recognizable archaeologically, with a few additional features coming to light. The large area of disturbance on the southeastern edge of Field J could only be tested on its extreme edge, and a post-Medieval date is assumed but not clearly demonstrated. Beyond the recognition of post-Medieval features, little phasing was possible. The Roman pottery recovered was of 1st to 3rd century date, and was found in the main northwest-southeast ditches, presumably delineating a drove or trackway.

Trench 359

Trench 359 was 87m long on a northwest-southeast alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.36m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.50m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.83m. Eleven linears were exposed in this trench, along with three probable small pits (**F.971**, **F.972** and **F.973**), that appeared on the base of **F.974**, but these were shallow and sterile. However, ten of these linear features were likely to be Medieval or post-Medieval furrows. Although only **F.968** and **F.977** contained Medieval/post-Medieval pottery, the alignment and nature of the features matches exactly with the ridge and furrow identified in the adjacent field during past evaluation work (Evans & Mackay 2004). The only linear to deviate from the general alignment and character was **F.967**, which contained only bone and oyster shell.

F.967 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2754], cut [2755]. Fill a dark brown-grey clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 2.90m, depth 0.34m, with a wide saucer-shaped profile.

F.968 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2756-7], cut [2758]. Fill a grey silty clay with occasional gravel. Width 2.70m, depth 0.25m, with a shallow, wide shaped profile.

F.969 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2759-2761], cut [2762]. Fill a grey silty clay overlying yellow clay and gravel weathering. Width 2.20m, depth 0.35m, with a wide, flat profile.

F.970 Pit. Fill [2767], cut [2768]. Fill a pale grey-orange clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.05m, depth 0.11m, only partially exposed, with a very shallow, rounded profile.

F.971 Pit. Fill [2763], cut [2764]. Fill a dark grey silt-clay, with occasional gravel. 0.60m x 0.30m, depth 0.05m, oval, with a shallow, flat profile.

F.972 Pit. Fill [2765], cut [2766]. Fill a pale grey silt-clay with frequent gravel. Width 1.20m, depth 0.15m, only partially exposed, with a shallow, rounded profile.

Figure 54. Sites IX and XIX, Field J

F. 990

F. 991

Figure 55. F. 990 and F. 991, Trench 362, Site IX

F.973 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2773-2775], cut [2776]. Fill a dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional gravel.. Width 3.35m, depth 0.40m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.974 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2771], cut [2772]. Fill a pale brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 3.00m, depth 0.20m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.975 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2769], cut [2770]. Fill a pale brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 3.00m, depth 0.10m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.976 Ditch/probable furrow, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2777], cut [2778]. Fill a pale brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 2.20m, depth 0.18m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.977 Ditch/possible furrow, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2779], cut [2780]. Fill a mid grey clay with occasional gravel. Width 1.36m, depth 0.19m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.979 Ditch/possible furrow, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2784], cut [2785]. Fill a mid grey clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 1.55m, depth 0.23m, with a shallow, rounded profile.

F.1141 Furrow, NE-SW alignment. Width 2.20m, depth 0.20m. Narrow slot only excavated to confirm identification.

Trench 360

Trench 360 was 53m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.50m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.77m. Three ditches were revealed, although **F.992** at the south-western end was a double-ditch cut. Narrow ditch **F.980** was very truncated, and cut over the top of F.992. The only pottery recovered was an assemblage of 1st-3rd century Roman pot from F.992. Ditch **F.978** appeared to continue the line of a cropmark immediately to the south-east.

F.978 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2781, 2782], cut [2783]. Fill a mid grey-brown-olive sandy silt with frequent gravel. Width 3.44m, depth 0.71m, with a wide, stepped profile.

F.980 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fill [2786], cut [2787]. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.77m, depth 0.11m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.992 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2822, 2823], cut [2824]. Fill a mid grey silty clay with frequent gravel. Width 4.50m, depth 0.50m, with a shallow, rounded, double-ditch profile.

Trench 361

Trench 361 was 20m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.50m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.80m. Five ditches were exposed in this trench. The three ditches in the centre of the trench, **F.986** and double ditch **F.987/8**, match up fairly well with the northwest-southeast pair of cropmark ditches that cross the line of the trench, and F.987 contained mid 1st to 3rd century pottery. A roughly parallel ditch crossed each end of the trench; no dating evidence was forthcoming from that in the west, while from F.989 in the east, four very small pieces of prehistoric pottery were recovered.

F.983 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2793], cut [2794]. Fill an orange-brown firm silty clay with occasional gravel. Width 0.75m, depth 0.11m, with a shallow, flat profile.

F.984 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2795, 2796], cut [2797]. Fill a pale grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 2.05m, depth 0.54m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.987 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2808, 2809], cut [2810]. Fill a grey-brown clay-silt overlying grey clay, with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal. Width 2.03m, depth 0.49m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.988 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2811], cut [2812]. Fill a grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.21m, depth 0.31m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.989 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2813], cut [2814]. Fill a grey-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel and charcoal. Width 1.91m, depth 0.25m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

Trench 362

Trench 362 was 22m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.53m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.83m. This trench contained four features, F.983 being the narrow ditch excavated in Trench 361, double-ditch **F.991**, large feature, presumably a ditch, **F.900**, and possible pit/quarry **F.994**. A large quantity of bone was recovered from F.900, but no pottery was found in any of the features.

F.990 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fills [2817-2821], cut [2815]. Mostly composed of dark grey and dark grey/black clay-silt, with smaller weathering layers. Width 5.00m, depth 1.20m, with a wide bowl-shaped profile.

F.991 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2816], cut [2831]. Fill a mid grey clay-silt. Width 2.20m, depth 0.70m, with a shallow double-ditch profile.

F.994 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2826-2828], cut [2432]. Fill a mid brown/grey sandy silt overlying a thin organic basal layer with frequent gravel. Only partially exposed. Width 2.00+m exposed, depth 0.69m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

Trench 363

Trench 363 was 44m long on a northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil was up to 0.30m deep, and the subsoil up to 0.40m deep, with an overall trench depth of 0.62m. Five features were revealed in this trench, although the dominance of **F.981** within the trench made recognition of other features difficult. Ditch F.981 itself was post-Medieval, running just askew of the alignment of the trench, and masking much of the of the surface. Ditches **F.982** and **F.993** were both cut by F.981, and both followed a roughly north-south line, F.993 aligning with a cropmark identified as a drove/trackway ditch. Ditch F.986 crossed the trench at 90º to F.981, and was also cut by it. The deeper deposits identified at the northeastern end of the trench, **F.985**, remain undefined, but correspond with a large area of sub-surface disturbance on the cropmark plot. A single piece of Early Saxon pottery was recovered from F.985 (Lucy pers comm.), though this was much abraded and potentially residual.

F.981 Ditch, NE-SW alignment. Fills [2788, 2804, 2806], cuts [2789, 2805, 2807]. Fill a dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional gravel. Full width never exposed. Width 1.50m, depth 0.34m, with a shallow rounded profile.

F.982 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2790], cut [2791]. Fill a mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional gravel. Width 1.06m, depth 0.20m, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile.

F.985 Quarry? Pit?. Fill [2798-2800], cut [2801]. Fill a compact orange-grey-brown clay silt with regular gravel stripes. Only partially exposed. Depth 0.56m, with a flat base.

F.986 Ditch, NW-SE alignment. Fill [2802], cut [2803]. Fill a mid grey clay-silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.97m, depth 0.30m, with a rounded bowl-shaped profile.

F.993 Ditch, N-S alignment. Fill [2825], cut [2830]. Fill a mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel. Width 0.46m, depth 0.31m, with a deep bowl-shaped profile.

Discussion

The existence of a specifically Iron Age/prehistoric component within this part of the larger Site XIX complex (the sub-site designated as IX) was entirely based on the layout of its cropmarks and that the potential circular enclosure plotted south of Trench 360 and east of Trench 361 might pre-date the main Romano-British settlement. Whilst a few sherds of generically prehistoric pottery were found in F.989 in the latter trench, that seems to have been residual and - due to the restriction upon the location of our trenches - the current evaluation failed to establish (or disprove) the existence of this earlier phase.

As remarked upon above, this portion of the greater Site XIX complex would very much seem to mark its southern margin and the find density was relatively low (only 25 sherds and no coins recovered; see Anderson and Hall & Appleby, below). The immediate area evidently did not see substantive settlement and the fall-off of occupation features between the 2004 trench along the field's northern hedge boundary (78) and Trench 359 seems remarkable.

There would seem to be a good general correspondence with the trench-exposed features and cropmarks; the southern side of the settlement's main trackway being represented by F.984/988 and F. 990/F.991 (fig. 55) in Trenches 361 and 362 respectively (from where it perhaps arced south-westward as F.993 in Trench 363), and its northern side seen in Trench 360 as F.992.

Otherwise, the 1st-3rd century date of the Roman pottery would accord well with the material of the previous seasons. The recovery of single sherd of Saxon pottery in F.985 (Trench 363) does no more that raise the possibility of a post-Roman presence in this area at that time.

Specialist Studies

Prehistoric Pottery (Matthew Brudenell)

An assemblage comprising four quartz-tempered sherds, weighing 1g was recovered (Table 29). In general the condition of the material was in poor condition and undiagnostic beyond being described as *prehistoric*.

Site	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	No. burnished	No. scored	% LBA /EIA	% handmade Later IA tradition	% handmade LIA/'Belgic'	% wheelmade LIA/'Belgic'
IX	4	1	-	-	?	?	?	?

Table 29: Site assemblages (% by weight).

Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

A total of 25 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 424g, were recovered from three different features. The majority of sherds were recovered from Feature 992 in Trench 360, consisting of 22 sherds weighing 399g. 21 of these came from a single vessel, a medium sized sandy greyware jar, dating mid 1st-3rd century AD.

Feature 981, Trench 363, contained two sherds (14g), both of which were non-diagnostic sandy greywares, which could only be dated Romano-British. The final sherd was recovered from Feature 987, Trench 361, another non-diagnostic sandy greyware sherd which was mid 1st-3rd century AD in date.

Overall, the quantity of pottery recovered from Site XIX/IX was relatively small, which is not unexpected since the features appear to be on the periphery of the area of activity. Previous excavations on a more centralised part of the site in 2004 (Evans & Mackay 2004), yielded a much more significant quantity of material consisting of 424 sherds weighing 6133g , thus highlighting that the 2005 evaluations were on the edges of the main settlement.

Metalwork (Andrew Hall and Grahame Appleby)

Two metal objects were recovered through the metal detecting of exposed features in Field J. One copper alloy and one lead object were recovered from Trench 363, Field J. The copper alloy object is a Medieval buckle fragment dating from the 14th to 15th centuries AD. The lead object is a conical/cone-shaped weight, possibly used for weighting nets.

Trench 363

1. <699> Small cast copper alloy buckle fragment. Buckle plate and pin missing. Decorated/ridged frame. Of 14th – 15th century date. Parallels are published in Egan and Pritchard (1991) and Margeson (1993). Length 28mm width 25mm. Recovered from the surface of F.981. Metal detected.

2. <705> Possible net lead weight, pierced conical/cone-shaped. Of probable post-Medieval date. 25mm in diameter at base, approximately 10mm diameter at narrowest point and 10mm in height with a 4mm lumen. Weight 28g. Recovered from surface of F.981.

Miscellaneous Find (Grahame Appleby)

1. *Trench 363* <574> Five quernstone fragments of, four of lava quern, weighing 200g, recovered from F.981. Dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD by association with Romano-British pottery.

Faunal Remains **(**Chris Swaysland)

A quantity of animal bones numbering 294 fragments and weighing 2990 grams was recovered from a series of evaluation trenches. The condition of the assemblage was in general reasonable though on many specimens surface detail did not survive. The animal and bird bones were identified using same methodology outlined above in Section 2 (see Swaysland, above).

Identifiable animal bone was recovered from 12 features (Table 30). Four of these features (F.981, F.987, F.992 and F.943) were dated by pottery to the Romano-British period. It is assumed that other features are probably Romano-British.

Species	R-B	Probable R-B	Total
Cattle	2	12	14
Sheep/goat	1	0	1
Horse	2	0	2
Medium sized mammal	0	1	1
Large sized mammal	5	1	6

Table 30: Site XIX/IX species proportions

A total of 24 identifiable fragments were recovered. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (Table 31) however the small size of the assemblage precludes further analysis.

Species	Site XIX/IX	Site XII	Site XIV	Site XV	Site XVIII	Site XXVII	Total	Total %
Cattle	14	23	10	9	39	42	137	37.7
Sheep/goat	1	10	2	14	26	38	91	25.1
Pig	0	3	0	0	1	2	6	1.7
Horse	2	4	1	3	10	12	32	8.8
Dog	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	1.1
Fox	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	<1
Chicken	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	<1
Swan	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	<1
Mustelid	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Medium sized mammal	1	5	0	2	6	2	16	4.4
Large sized mammal	6	27	2	7	14	16	72	19.8

Table 31: Romano-British species proportions Longstanton area

While the assemblage from Site XIX/IX is small, it can however, be placed within the context of continuing work within the Longstanton area. The above Table (31) shows the species proportions in the Romano-British phases of activity at sites in the Longstanton area (Swaysland in prep.). Overall, cattle followed by sheep/goat are the predominant species; this differs from Late Iron Age activity in the area which shows a greater proportion of sheep/goat in relation to cattle (*ibid.*).

Environmental Samples (Anne de Vareilles)

Two bulk soil samples were collected from Field J, Site XIX/IX. One was examined using an Ankara-type flotation machine. Sorting and identification of macro and waterlogged remains follow the same methodology outlined in Sections 2 and 3 (see de Vareilles, above). All environmental remains are listed in full in Tables 32 and 33.

The preservation of these samples is by charring and waterlogging. Sample <101> from F.978 contained some charred plant remains as well as a few waterlogged seeds, suggesting that its fill [2782] may once have been waterlogged. The waterlogged seeds in context [2820] are still clearly identifiable which suggests that it has not been disturbed by biological or physical action. Molluscs are rare.

Romano-British Ditch, F.978 [2782]
Apart form a little charcoal, less than ten waterlogged seeds were recovered (see Table 32)

Waterlogged Sample - Romano-British Ditch, F.990 [2820]
Crowfoot and pondweeds (*Potamogeton* sp.) occurred in similar quantities, and were the most common species in this sample, followed by small seeded dock and horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*). Another fourteen species were represented by ten or less seeds (see Table 33). A common fumitory, possibly modern, was also present.

The wild plant seeds from the latter sample suggest a wet environment surrounded by nutrient rich disturbed ground. It would appear that the ditch contained a low, permanent layer of water, possibly flowing, and was surrounded by disturbed, open ground.

Tables 32 and 33: Mollusca and Plant Remains from Longstanton, Site XIX/IX

Table 32: Charred Sample

Site		IX
Sample number		**<101>**
Context		[2782]
Feature		978
Feature type		Ditch
Phase/Date		RB
Sample volume - litres		8
Flot fraction examined		1/1
Wild plant seeds		
Ranunculus Subgen. *BATRACHIUM*	Crowfoot	+ WL
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercups	- WL
large *trilete Carex* sp.	Sedge	- WL
Charcoal frags.		
2-4 mm		-
<2mm		+

Table 33: Waterlogged Sample

Site			IX
Sample number			**<100>**
Context			[2820]
Feature			990
Feature type			Basal of ditch
Phase/Date			
Sample volume - Litres			3
Flot fraction examined			1/2
	Common name	Habitat	
Ranunculus Subgen. *BATRACHIUM*	Crowfoot	On mud and in shallow water	+++
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercups		+
Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory	Cultivated and waste ground	- M?
Urtica urens	Small Nettle	Cultivated and waste ground	+
Atriplex patula/prostrata	Oraches	Cultivated and waste ground	+
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Cultivated and waste ground	+
Polygonum rurivagum	Cornfield Knotgrass	Arable and cultivated ground	-
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrass		-
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock seeds in tepals	Grassy or bare damp soil, namely by ponds	+
R. conglomeratus/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock		++
Apium sp.	Marshworts		+
Hyoscyamus niger	Henbane	Rough and waste ground, especially manured by rabbits or cattle	+
Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort	Fens, wet fields, by lakes and rivers	-
Mentha sp.	Mint		+
Cardus/Cirsium.	Thistles		+
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	Cultivated and waste ground	-
Potamogeton sp.	Pondweed	Ponds, lakes, rivers, ditches	+++
Zannichellia palustris	Horned Pondweed	Rivers, streams, ditches and ponds	++
Indet seed			-
Mollusca			
Planorbis corneus		Moving or still hard water rich in vegetation	+
Succinea sp.		Damp to wet locations	+

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 - 50 items, '+++' > 50 items

DISCUSSION

Building upon the results of the first, 2004 evaluation season, the 2005 fieldwork has greatly enlarged the scope of the Longstanton investigations. Seeing the discovery of two major settlements, Sites XXVII and XXIX (and also Sites XXV, XXVI, XXVIII, XXX & XXXI) - particularly the former's potential villa complex by the junction of A14 and Dry Drayton Road - what has been singularly important has been the scale of the work within the southward infrastructure corridor zone, as this has involved a different range of geologies than the land around the village and airfield proper. Of the latter area, equally significant has been the detailing of the extensive Site XVIII complex. This has involved both the realisation of its enormous scale (and that it includes at least one fine, part-masonry building) and, too, the sheer number of later prehistoric sites that fell within its eventual bounds.

Anticipating still further fieldwork for the current programme (both within the airfield and the corridor zone) that will surely generate further sites, it would inappropriate to discuss here at length issues concerning period-based settlement densities, and that must await the final evaluation report. Instead, this discussion will simply overview this year's findings and explore some of the potential 'grander scale' implications of its results.

Prehistoric - Pre-Iron Age Usage

Consistent with the first year's findings, given the scale of the fieldwork remarkably little struck flint was recovered during the fieldwork programme. In this regard it is surely relevant that, aside from the sherd of Collared Urn pottery from Trench 345 (Field P2), the only pre-later 2nd millennium BC site found in the 2005 season (XXVIII) is a flint scatter of later Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. Lying on Greensand just west of the line of Oakington Brook (Field 21), this clearly resonates with Cotswold's original Site I scatter near Slate Hall Farm, and which is broadly of the same date. This suggests that the watercourse then served as a corridor into what surely then would have been a heavily wooded landscape and have provided a permanent source of water in this river-inland/distance hinterland locale.

As was typified in the 2005 excavations of the later Bronze Age settlement at Striplands Farm (Patten & Evans 2005; Evans & Mackay 2004) Sites V, XXI & XXII), it was effectively the invention of deep pit-well waterholes during that period that allowed for off-river lands to be permanently settled. In this context, and in contrast to the investigations within adjacent river valleys and the fen-edge (e.g. Evans & Knight 2000; Evans & Hodder 2006), the marked paucity of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity within the Longstanton environs is certainly striking.

In the course of this season's fieldwork two main later Bronze/Early Iron Age sites were discovered: the XXV boundary (Field 8) and the XXX pit group (Field 24); though part of the Site XXX 'open' settlement cluster may also be of this attribution and it is also suspected that a settlement of this date falls within the southern end of the Field P portion of Site XVIII (Trenches 332, 333 & 350). As outlined above (see Part 8 *Discussion*), the fieldsystem found in Field 23 (and which based on the

geophysical results appears to extend into Field 21) may, in whole or part, also be of this date. However, based on the principles of 'Occam's Razor', it has tentatively been assigned to Romano-British times, perhaps relating to the settlement cluster that is known to lie in the field immediately southeast of Site XXIX (the Polar Farm cropmark group) or, alternatively, to another hitherto undiscovered settlement located up on the higher ground west and/or southwest of Fields 21/23 (the Slate Hall North group).

Iron Age/Roman

Given the sheer number of later Iron Age sites now known within the Longstanton environs, it will increasingly become an issue which settlements of the period are actually contemporary. Although one should be wary of over-interpreting from evaluation-derived data alone - excavated as open-area sites, greater variability will invariably be encountered - it is nevertheless relevant to consider which of this year's sites produced distinctly 'Late' wheelmade wares and, in turn, which subsequently saw Roman occupation. No wheelmade wares were forthcoming from Sites XIV, XV, XVI and XXIX, and, of these, only Site XV went on to have later, Roman occupation. Producing only three Iron Age sherds, the latter site's assemblages (*cf*. the 147 & 123 sherds from Sites XIV and XXIX respectively) may not necessarily be representative of its totality, as further excavation there might well lead to the recovery of wheelmade forms. Whereas one equally suspects that, if indeed part of a larger settlement stretching into the fields on the other side of the Dry Drayton Road, that elsewhere in the 'greater' Site XXIX complex Roman material might also be found. Be this as it may, it is surely relevant that those Iron Age sites whose assemblages included wheel-turned material - Sites XII (12.5%; 136 sherds in total), XXVI (68%; only 8 sherds total) and XVIII (21%; 144 sherd total) - all also saw Roman usage. The latter two sites also saw distinctly Early Roman material (as did also Site XV). Such 1st century AD pottery was not identified at Site XII. Yet given the complementary layout of its Iron Age/Roman systems and the occurrence of Conquest period/later 1st century AD brooches, there can be little doubt that all three of these sites saw continuity of settlement.

Although only occurring at the level of propensity, as opposed to a hard-and-fast rule, there may be some degree of interrelationship between enclosure form and pottery types expressed here. The Sites XIV and XVI compounds do seem to be relatively 'simple' organic-type enclosures (though an element of 'complication' is suspected within the latter), and neither produced wheelmade wares. Rather, where we find such pottery seems instead to be in association with more rectilinear and less heavily ditch-bounded settlements (on the 45^0 northwest-southeast orientation that was to become common to the area's Roman sites). This is certainly true of Sites XXVI and the Iron Age settlement in Field P, Site XVIII, and further afield would, for example, be comparable to the sequences at the Greenhouse Farm or the Addenbrooke's Hutchison sites in Cambridge (Gibson & Lucas 2000; Evans *et al*. 2004). Where in the Longstanton landscape this tendency seems to differ is with Site XXIX, as it seems to generally have a rectilinear-type plan but where no wheelmade wares were forthcoming. (Based on its limited trench exposure, the Site XII sequence is obviously far too complicated to satisfactorily unravel its wheel-/handmade Iron Age components with any degree of certainty.)

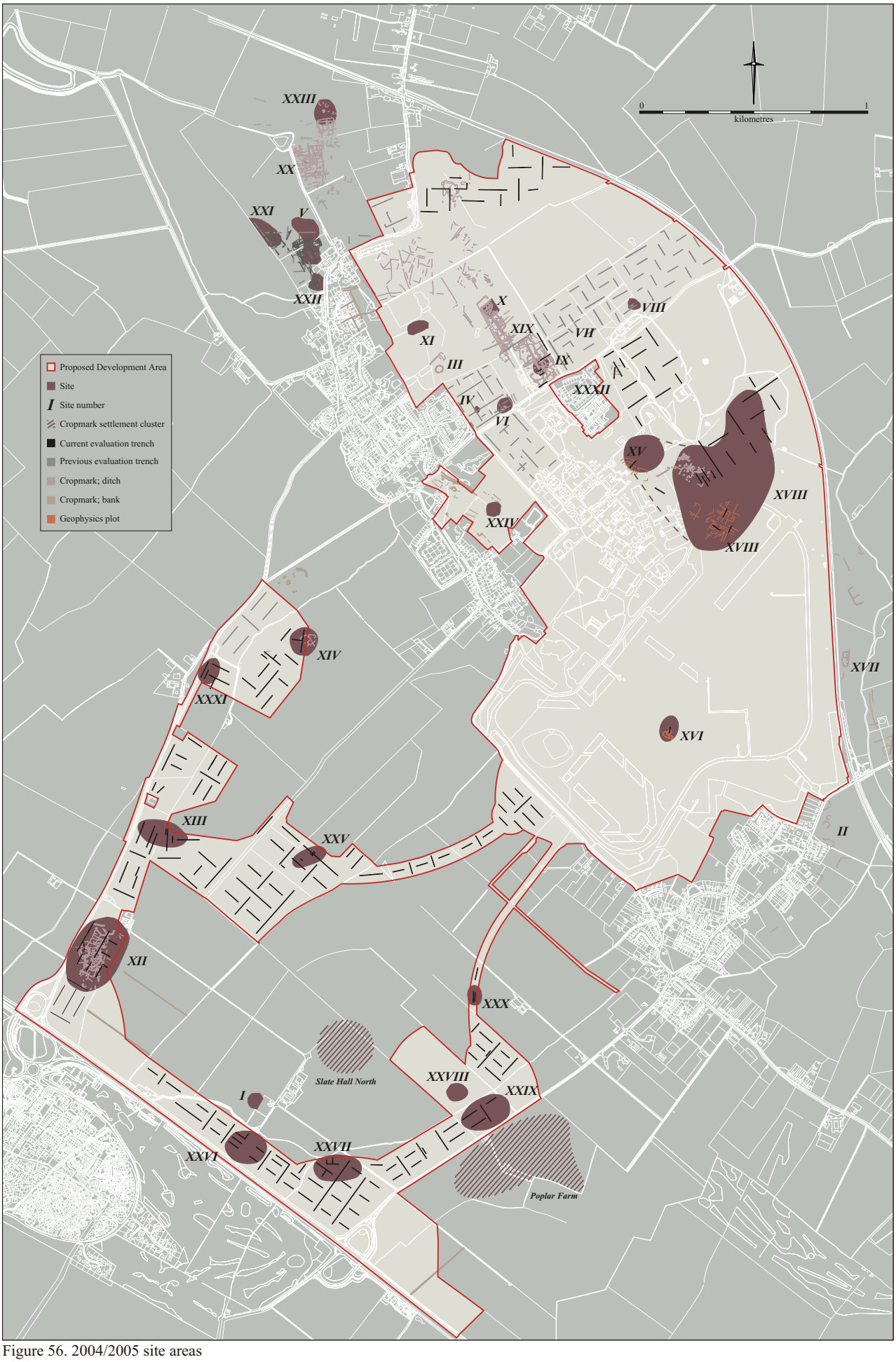


Figure 56. 2004/2005 site areas

Based on analogy to Wardy Hill (Evans 2003), the bivallate enclosure at Site XII would, at least superficially, seems the best candidate for a local 'seat of power' (however minor) during the later Iron Age. In this regard it is potentially relevant that while there may have been Iron Age/Roman continuity at that site, its Roman phases do not seem particularly distinguished. In other words, any inferred elevated status it might have had in a local settlement hierarchy does not obviously seem to have continued into Roman times. Rather, from the mid 2nd century onwards, it is the Site XXVII villa - essentially a 'new' Roman foundation - that attests to hierarchy in the local countryside (or, if otherwise, a mansio or posting station, an 'official' civic function).

The discovery of the Site XXVII villa is of major significance. This is both true for its intrinsic contribution to the study of Roman Britain in general and also how the immediate landscape of the period is conceptualised. Longstanton and 'between-river' claylands north of Cambridge are often envisaged as falling within the fen hinterland. This would seem to complement the known distribution of villas. Markedly absent throughout this area, first Stukeley and later Potter and others have seen the lack of private elite residences in the Roman fenlands as a hallmark of the fact that the region was then managed as an Imperial Estate (see Lucas 2000 for map and overview). It is clearly no longer fashionable to want to distinguish such expressions of 'power' in landscape studies (as opposed to emphasizing the long-term stasis of local communities). Nevertheless, in recent years other probable villa sites have been identified within this larger area at both Fen Drayton (Wait 1992) and Langdale Hale, Earith (Regan 2003). Leaving aside the validity or otherwise of the Fenland Imperial Estate model, if nothing else the recovery of this villa within Longstanton's environs - as indeed also such a great density of Roman settlement generally - indicates that these fertile, between-river clays should not be viewed as some form of fen-related marginal lands, but a 'typical' or 'developed' swathe of *fully Romanized countryside*.

While 'displaced' with no evidence recovered suggesting its structure's location or plan, the recovery of high quality building material within the Site XVIII complex on the airfield would also suggest that a building 'of quality' also stood there. This raises the possibility of it being still another villa (i.e. by their landscape-interval, the 'next'). However, given the sheer scale of this settlement, the density of its features and the fact that it might involve multiple foci/functions (see Part 8 *Discussion* above), it seems unlikely that it represents any kind of 'pristine' villa estate; extending over some 24ha, the site is more that the size of Roman Cambridge (11.3ha as walled). Although pending area-excavation (and otherwise the forthcoming geophysical results from this area) any such argument can only be speculative, it may be more plausible to see the Site XVIII structure as potentially having an civic administrative role. Certainly the notion that Site XVIII included a 'special' function - in other words, is something other than just a farming community - is given greater credence by the proximity of Site XIX. Albeit only approximately a third the size of Site XV/XVIII, at 7.3ha this is still a very major Roman settlement and, with only a c. 400m interval between the two sites, it difficult to envisage both being 'typical' multi-household farming communities. That role may have been fulfilled by Site XIX (and possibly elsewhere also Sites XX and XII), with Site XV/XVIII (and XXVII) being 'something else'.

As has been discussed, within the area of the southern infrastructure corridor no direct evidence was found to support the view that the route of the A14 corresponds with the Roman road linking Cambridge and Godmanchester. Whilst the main orientation of Site XII Roman settlement would be close to that of its putative line, further east the alignment of Sites XXVI and XXVII lies well off of it, and which is also common to the later Roman ditch system at Site XII. (See also Part 3 above concerning the cropmark trackway visible in the fields east of the Dry Drayton road and which seems to arc south-westwards across the 'grain' of this route.) Given the evidence of these investigations, there would seem to be two possibilities for the road's route. Firstly, either it runs under the A14 or south of it; secondly, it actually corresponds to the potential east-west through-track in Site XII. If the latter, then the road's route could not have been straight and it must have arced or zigzagged across the landscape.

Given these arguments and, also, the fraught experience of trying to identify the long-distance routes of Roman roads elsewhere in the region, it could actually be the case that they were generally only ditch-flanked where they either passed through or bordered settlements. Site XII would offer a salient case in point, as the ditched north-south trackway that seems to mark the eastern limits of its Roman settlement could not be traced within the trenches north or south of that site proper. If so, then this may also give insight into the unusual character of the plan of Site XIX, as the layout of these two sites does show some degree of affinity. Whilst perhaps also involving a substantial embankment system, does the triple-ditch circuit along the northwestern aspect of Site XIX also mark the line of a bordering road/trackway? Of course, if this was to be valid, what then of the status of the very wide 'way' investigated in Field J that seems to lie along that site's west-central axis?

Saxon and Medieval and Modern

Aside from the generic traces of ridge-and-furrow agriculture (and a few 'later' metalwork items; e.g. Site XVIII), little evidence of post-Roman occupation was recovered in the course of the 2005 programme. This would otherwise be restricted to the fragment of the Saxon-style bone comb in F.737 within Field 19 and the one sherd in a Saxon fabric from Field J. Attesting to little more than subsequent 'presence', except in the provision of negative evidence the recovery of such low levels of material does particularly further the understanding of the area's post-Roman settlement patterns.

This being said, the recovery and controlled detonation of the WWII bombs in Field P as a direct outcome of the fieldwork programme, graphically demonstrates the lingering 'impact' of the recent past in the local landscape. In this context it is worth mentioning that at the time of writing, Tony Johnson and the Oxford Archaeotechnics team are now completing the magnetometry survey throughout the entire area of the airfield, infilling the 2004 transects (Evans & Mackay 2004: Part 15) and extending its coverage throughout the base's northwestern quarter. The resultant plot promises to be a remarkable document, one that will attest to 'multiple landscapes'. Not only will it extend the mapping of known sites and their attendant fieldsystems (e.g. XVIII & XVI), and surely new discoveries will also be made, but also greatly detail the airfield's infrastructure (e.g. service trenches, lighting stands, munitions dumps and,

probably also bomb craters). In addition, and as is already apparent on the 2004 plots, the very presence of the airfield (otherwise halting the impact of agricultural dissection since the time of the War) ensures that these surveys will also include still another level - the ghosted patterns of ridge-and-furrow - and, thereby, provide uniquely nuanced insights into the operation of Medieval agriculture.

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