

Archaeological Test Pitting and Watching Brief CB1 Development, Cambridge



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with contributions from

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July 2006/ Report No. 736

ECB 2159

Summary

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief of hand-dug geotechnical holes was carried out on the site of the CB1 development. The only archaeological features observed were probably Roman quarry pits adjacent to Hills Road. The project enabled the continued mapping of areas of archaeological survival and zones of truncation begun during a previous phase of watching brief.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation survey and watching brief was carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) during May 2006, on the site of the proposed CB1 redevelopment. The test pit survey lay on the western side of the railway, both north and south of the station, and west as far as Tenison Road, with the majority located on the former Rank Hovis mill site centred on NGR 546030E 257140N (Figure 1). The watching brief of borehole, cone penetration and window sample pits predominantly focused on land alongside the railway, the other areas having previously been monitored (Mackay 2005). All work followed the Project Specification (Standring 2006).

The underlying geology is composed of Third Terrace gravel deposits overlying Lower Chalk. The site lies at an approximate height of 17m OD.

Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background of the site and surrounding area have been fully documented in a desktop assessment (Dickens, Evans and Webley 2004), and only a brief summary is given here.

No prehistoric material has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. Roman archaeology is better attested to in the area, with a major road, the Via Devana running parallel to the western edge of the site along the line of Hills Road, and earthworks noted on the far side of the railway line, supposed to be Roman in date (Walker 1910). Roman features have also been uncovered on two sites off Brooklands Avenue. A large, possibly Roman, gravel quarry was uncovered near the junction of Hills Road and Cherry Hinton Road (Mackay 2001b). Undated features (which included a large ditch) were also noted during development immediately north of the Focus plot to the rear of Tenison Road (A. Baggs pers. com.; see Dickens et al. 2004). Medieval material from the area is sparse; minor amounts of 14th century pottery from the Cattle Market plus remnant ridge-and-furrow under Brooklands Avenue provide a picture of general agricultural activity. The post-medieval record is obviously dominated by the railway and the mill.

More recent work within the study area (Mackay 2005), and on the track side between the Railway Station and the Hills Road bridge (Webb and Dickens 2005) failed to produce any archaeological material. Evaluation of the Laing Triangle site to the west of the study area (Foundation 2004) found quarry pitting that was assumed to be medieval based on the surface finds recovered. Other features were interpreted as field boundaries and were post-medieval in date.

Methodology

The evaluation involved the opening of fourteen 2m square machine-excavated trenches in order to avoid services and preserve utilised hard surfaces, as well as to minimise the inconvenience to current tenants (Figure 2). Where these were more than 1.20m deep, the sections were recorded from the surface. Six-bucket samples of

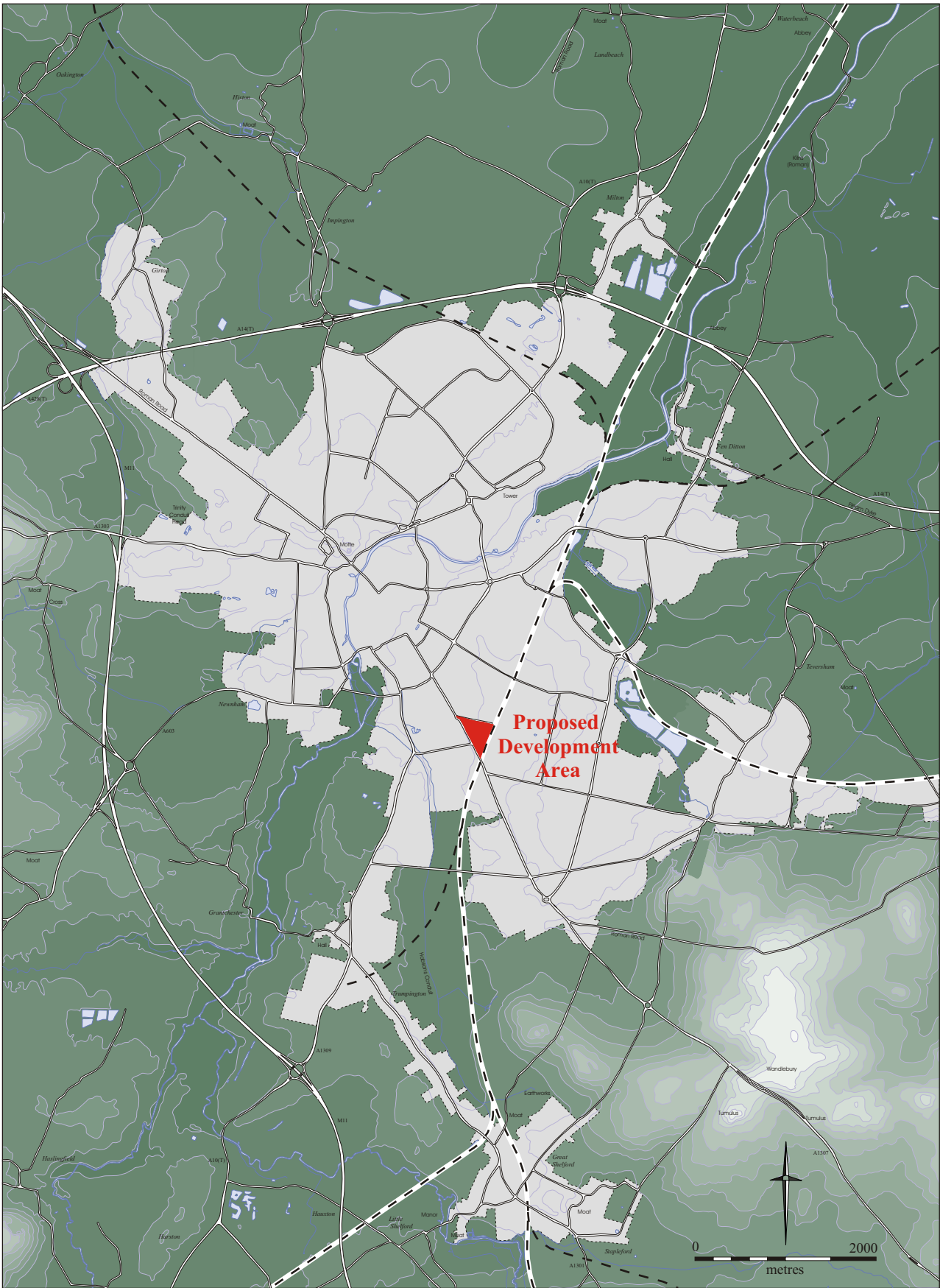


Figure 1 Location of PDA within the City of Cambridge

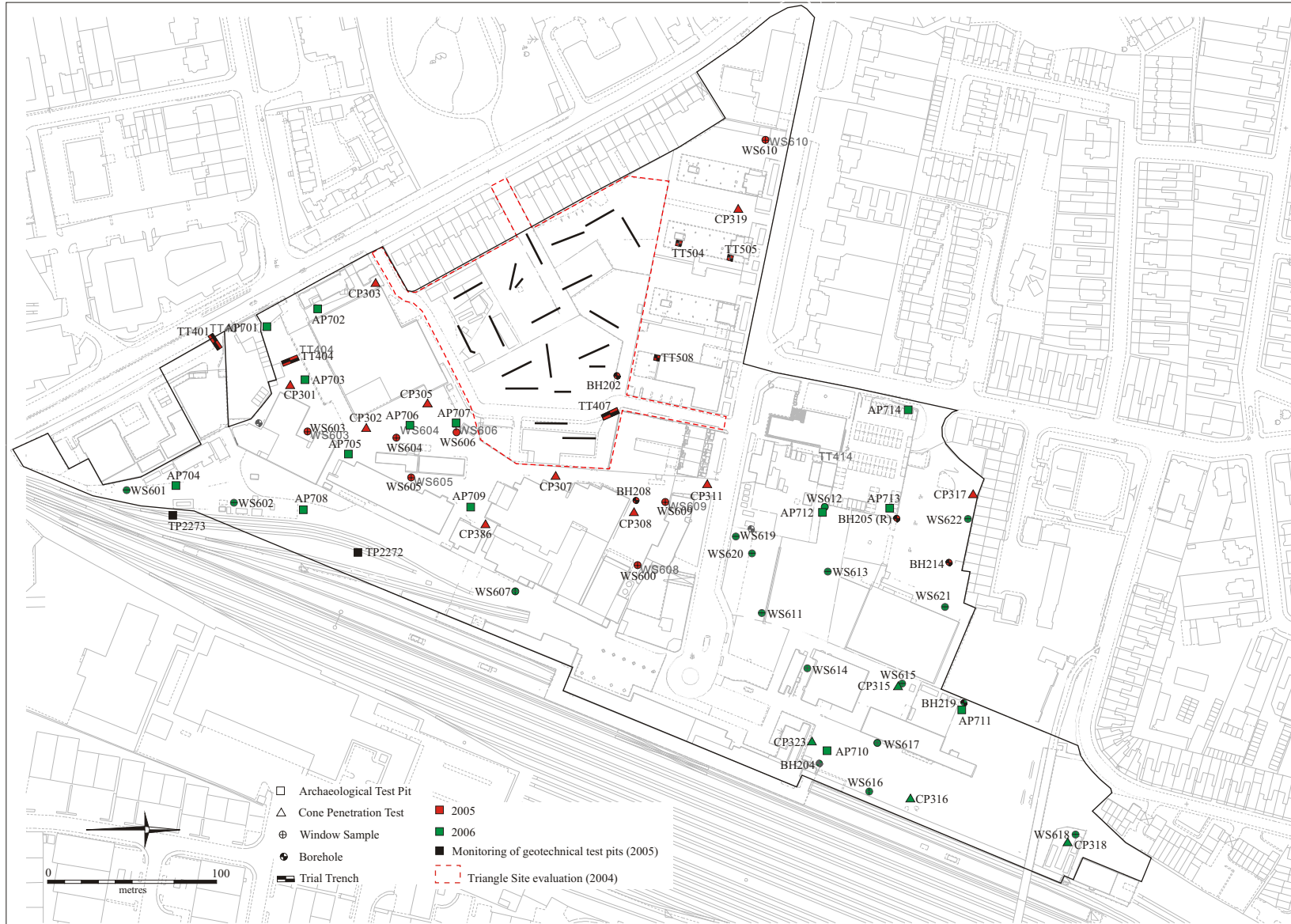


Figure 2 Location of Test Pits and Monitoring Points

the subsoil (where present) were hand-sorted for artefacts and spoil heaps were also scanned.

The watching brief involved monitoring a number of pits hand-excavated in advance of cone penetration tests, boreholes and window samples. Most of these were narrow, square holes approximately 0.35m wide and 1.20m deep. This was generally just large enough to observe and record the sequence of layers, and to determine whether the ground level had been truncated or preserved (i.e. whether the level at which archaeology would survive had been disturbed or not). For each hole monitored, a schematic section was recorded with layers individually described, and the upcast sorted through for finds.

The machine-excavated test pits resulted in the exposure of approximately 67 square metres of ground.

Results

Archaeological Test Pits

AP701

This pit was located on the western edge of the mill site, c. 20m to the east of Hills Road, with base dimensions of 3.20m x 2.50m, and up to 1.30m deep. This was extended from the original 2m x 2m pit, in order to further expose the features uncovered, and a step was also excavated in addition to the base dimensions.

Two features were exposed, F.1 and F.2, both probable quarry pits, containing a relatively sterile, pale grey-brown sandy clay-silt (see Figure 3). F.1 contained a small fragment of Roman pot and a similar sized piece of burnt clay, and F.2 contained four worked flints. The environmental assemblage was very poor, with a small quantity of undiagnostic cereal grain (see Vareilles below). The pits were up to 0.70m deep from the base of the trench.

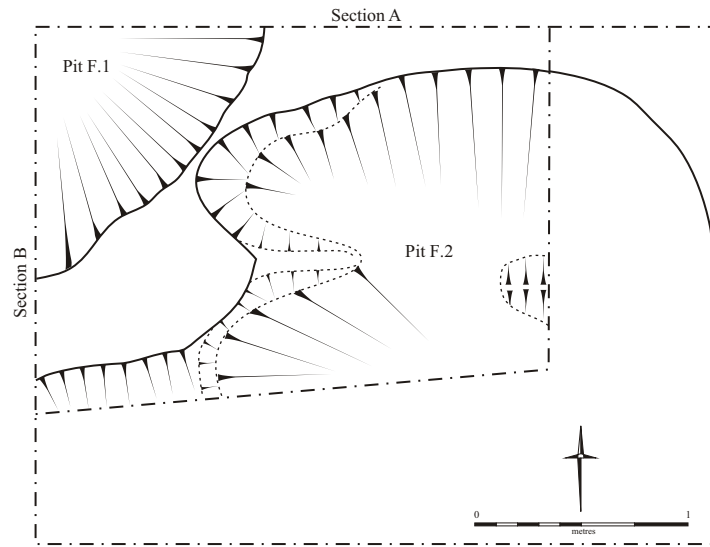
The sequence of overburden consisted of:

- 0.10m tarmac
- 0.16m bedding stone
- 0.12m crushed tarmac
- 0.14m black ashy silt
- 0.20m dirty dark brown sandy clay-silt topsoil
- 0.50m brown-orange gravelly clay-sand subsoil
- natural gravel

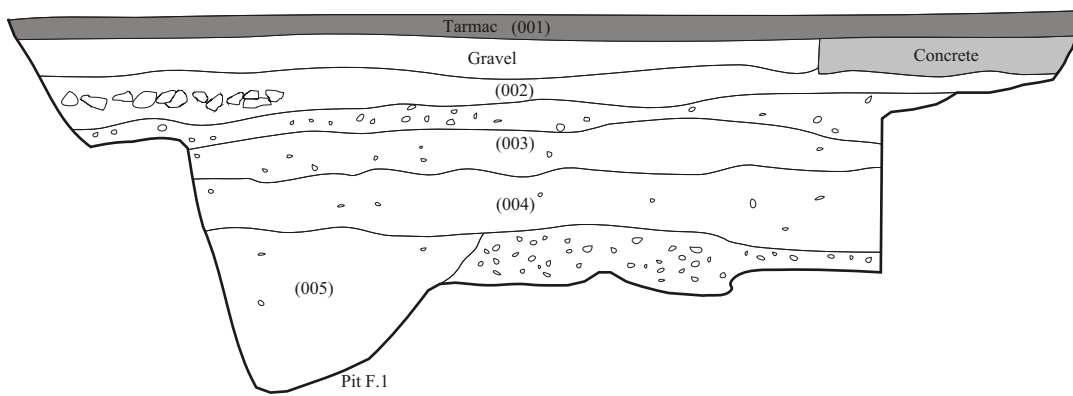
AP702

This pit was located on the western edge of the mill site, c. 20m to the east of Hills Road, with base dimensions of 1.60m x 1.50m, and 1.10m deep. Apart from service cuts, which surrounded and impacted upon the pit (although not to the level of the

AP 701



W Section A - South facing E



S Section B - East facing N

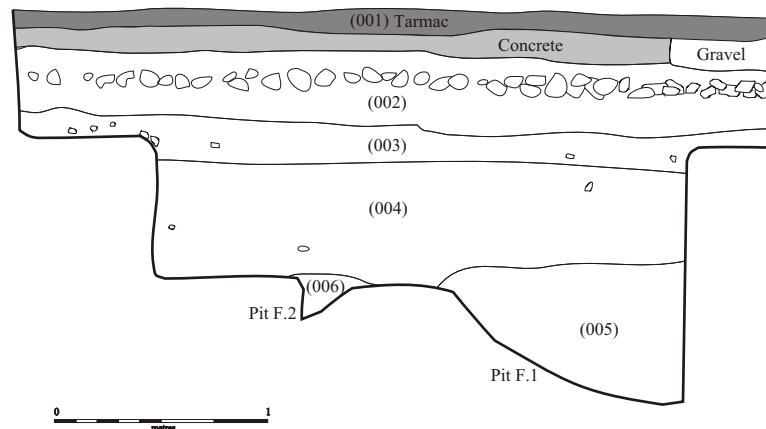


Figure 3 Plan and Sections of Roman Gravel Pits F1 and F2 - AP701

natural gravel), a full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.10m tarmac
- 0.15m bedding stone
- 0.20m compacted ashy topsoil; coal, brick and shell flecks
- 0.20m mid brown sandy clay-silt – old agricultural soil; shell flecks
- 0.45m brown-orange gravelly, silty sand subsoil
- natural gravel

AP703

This pit was located in the southwestern part of the mill site, with base dimensions of 2.20m x 1.80m, and 1.17m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.11m tarmac
- 0.31m sand and crushed tarmac
- 0.35m topsoil
- 0.40m brown-orange gravelly clay-sand subsoil
- natural gravel

AP704

This pit was located in the southern corner of the study area, adjacent to the railway line, with base dimensions of 2.30m x 2.30m, and 1.00m deep, although half of the square was further machined to 1.60m deep to test the gravels. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.30m black, ashy topsoil
- 0.45m compacted orange-brown clay-sand subsoil
- 0.80m gravel
- natural gravel

AP705

This pit was located in the central area of the mill site, with base dimensions of 2.20m x 1.60m, and 1.50m deep. This pit was much disturbed by service cuts, and contained a massive metal beam on the eastern edge which was not removed. A partially surviving subsoil was encountered at c. 0.60m depth, and the first natural gravel at c. 1.20m. The hole was excavated to a clean gravel base at 1.50m. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.21m reinforced concrete
- 0.80m rubble and service cuts, patchy subsoil
- natural gravel

AP706

This pit was located in the central part of the mill site, with base dimensions of 2.00m x 1.70m, and 1.10m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.25m reinforced concrete
- 0.08m bedding sand
- 0.22m crushed tarmac and ash
- 0.19m topsoil; brick and shell flecks
- 0.36m brown-orange gravelly clay-sand subsoil
- natural sand and marl

AP707

This pit was located in the central part of the mill site, with base dimensions of 2.60m x 2.00m, and up to 1.30m deep. The fill was largely composed of mixed brick rubble, although a partial subsoil survived c. 0.70m to 1.10m below the surface, much impacted on by the rubble layer. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.22m reinforced concrete
- 0.13m sand and stone bedding
- 0.70m+ mixed brick rubble
- natural sand and marl

AP708

This pit was located in the southern part of the study area, adjacent to the railway line, with final base dimensions of 4.30m x 2.00m, and 0.71m deep to the natural. Initially excavated as a 2.00m x 2.00m square and over 1.00m deep into the clean gravel, this exposed the edge of a shallow 19th century well on its western side, and a small possible ditch in the north-facing section section. An extension of the pit southwards uncovered a good deal of modern disturbance. This also showed that the putative ditch was a natural feature. The soil sequence varied with the depth of modern disturbance. Thus although the original pit was excavated to over 1.00m, the natural gravel was encountered for the most part at c. 0.70m depth. No archaeology was observed, and only two chronologically non-diagnostic flint flakes were recovered (see Beadsmoore in Appendix). The sequence consisted of:

- 0.32m ash and clinker
- 0.29m compacted dirty redeposited gravel; brick fragments
- 0.10m severely compacted mid brown clay-sand; coal fragments
- natural gravel

AP709

This pit was located in the central part of the mill site, with base dimensions of 2.00m x 2.00m, and up to 0.86m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact, and the subsoil

appeared to be divided into two layers. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.20m reinforced concrete
- 0.13m bricks, roughly laid on end
- 0.09m compacted topsoil remnant
- 0.28m orange-brown silty clay-sand subsoil; charcoal flecks
- 0.16m brown-orange gravelly sand subsoil
- natural gravel

AP710

This pit was located in the northern half of the study area in the Railway Station car park, with base dimensions of 2.50m x 2.30m, and 1.30m deep. The fill was entirely composed of 19th/20th century material and services, and natural gravel was exposed on its eastern side. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.10m tarmac
- 0.15m brick, roughly laid
- 0.15m concrete slabs and brick rubble
- 0.90m rubble-rich dirty topsoil with numerous service pipes
- natural sand and gravel

AP711

This pit was located in the northern half of the study area in the Railway Station car park, with base dimensions of 2.30m x 2.00m, and 2.25m deep. The fill was entirely composed of compacted, ashy 19th/20th century material to a depth of 1.25m, beyond which was natural gravel disturbed by service cuts. A layer of parallel railway sleepers c. 0.70m apart was encountered at 1.15m, partly overlain by a concrete beam. Given the northwest-southeast alignment of individual sleepers running in a northeast-southwest direction, this could represent the remains of one of the railway sidings which serviced the goods yards, examples of which appear on early to mid 20th century maps. The southeastern pit section was composed of a brick wall, and a brick surface lay 0.25m below the present surface on that side – presumably a platform edge within the goods yard. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 1.10m black ash and clinker, heavily compacted, with gravel lenses and concrete slabs
- 0.15m railway sleepers c. 0.70m apart
- 1.00m natural gravel cut by services and foundation for wall/platform
- natural gravel

AP712

This pit was located in the northern half of the study area in the Railway Station car park, with base dimensions of 2.20m x 1.90m, and 1.40m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

0.20m topsoil
0.20m compacted, gravelly, dirty mid brown clay-sand
0.25m compacted ash
0.15m compacted topsoil
0.50m brown-orange gravelly sand subsoil
natural sand and gravel

AP713

This pit was located in the northern half of the study area in the car park of Great Eastern House, with base dimensions of 2.00m x 1.70m, and 0.95m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

0.10m tarmac
0.15m bedding material
0.10m compacted ash
0.20m compacted black, dirty topsoil, silt-clay; brick, shell and coal fragments
0.40m brown-orange gravelly sand subsoil
natural gravel

AP714

This pit was located in the northern half of the study area in the car park of Great Eastern House, with base dimensions of 2.20m x 2.10m, and 1.10m deep. A full soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed, and no artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

0.09m tarmac
0.18m bedding material
0.17m compacted white chalk-marl
0.25m topsoil, dark brown sandy clay-silt
0.42m brown-orange gravelly sand subsoil
natural marly sand and gravel

Window Samples, Cone Penetration and Borehole Pits

WS601

Window Sample 601 lay in the southern corner of the study area. Depth 1.29m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

0.05m turf
0.20m dark grey/black silty sand and ash
0.15m ash and clinker
0.21m mid brown clay-sand subsoil
0.68m natural yellow sand and gravel

WS602

Window Sample 601 lay in the southern corner of the study area, adjacent to the railway line. Depth 1.08m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.02m tarmac
- 0.05m hardcore
- 0.17m black ashy silt
- 0.15m fine clean sand
- 0.25m mid brown silt sand
- 0.44m natural sand

WS607

Window Sample 607 lay on the eastern side of the study area, adjacent to the railway line. Depth 1.15m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.03m tarmac
- 0.30m black ashy silt
- 0.60m mid orange-brown clay-silt subsoil
- 0.22m natural sand and gravel

WS611

Window Sample 611 lay in the north-central part of the study area. Depth 1.10m. The lower soil sequence appeared to survive intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.05m tarmac
- 0.20m dark grey-brown ash
- 0.05m dark brown clay-silt
- 0.40m mid grey-brown sandy clay; subsoil?
- 0.40m mid yellow-brown sandy clay; natural?

WS613

Window Sample 613 lay in the north-central part of the study area. Depth 1.08m. The lower soil sequence appeared to survive intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.05m tarmac
- 0.08m grey clay-silt
- 0.35m black ashy silt
- 0.60m mid yellow-brown clay-silt; subsoil?

WS614a

Window Sample 614a lay in the north-central part of the study area. Depth 1.00m. Natural geology was not reached, and it is not known if the natural gravels were truncated. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.05m tarmac
- 0.13m crushed tarmac bedding
- 0.18m brick rubble
- ==ceramic pipe==
- 0.64m dirty mixed topsoil; 19th century pottery
- ==ceramic pipe==

WS614b

Window Sample 614b lay in the north-central part of the study area, to south of 614a. Depth 1.23m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.25m tarmac and rubble
- 0.25m topsoil
- 0.43m dark yellow clay-sand subsoil
- 0.30m natural sand

WS615

Window Sample 615 lay in the northeastern portion of the study area. Depth 1.10m. The lower soil sequence appeared to survive intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.23m crushed tarmac
- 0.27m ash
- 0.60m clean brown-orange sand; subsoil?
- natural gravel

WS616a

Window Sample 616a lay in the northeastern portion of the study area, abandoned due to concrete. Depth 0.48m. It is not known if the natural gravels were truncated. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.08m tarmac
- 0.40m black silty ash
- concrete

WS617

Window Sample 617 lay in the northeastern portion of the study area. Depth 0.64m. Deeper excavation was impossible due to rubble. It is not known if the natural gravels were truncated. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.64m brick rubble capped by tarmac

WS618

Window Sample 618 lay in the northeastern corner of the study area, abandoned due to hitting a layer of concrete. Depth 1.00m. It is not known if the natural gravels were truncated. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.06m hardcore
- 0.56m ash
- 0.38m mid yellow clay-silt
- concrete

WS619

Window Sample 619 lay in the north-central portion of the study area. Depth 1.15m. The lower soil sequence appeared to survive intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.10m gravel and black silty sand
- 0.10m black silty sand
- 0.10m dark brown silty sand
- 0.70m mid brown clay-silt; subsoil?
- 0.15m fine pale yellow sand; natural?

WS620

Window Sample 620 lay in the north-central portion of the study area. Depth 1.13m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.06m tarmac
- 0.26m dark grey black ashy silt
- 0.45m mid grey clay-silt
- 0.30m mid orange brown clay-silt subsoil

WS621

Window Sample 621 lay on the northern edge of the study area. Depth 1.30m. Natural gravel was not reached. The lower sequences were ambiguous, being potentially redeposited. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.20m concrete
- 0.10m dark grey-black ash bedding
- 0.60m grey-brown silt with clinker and brick
- 0.60m yellow-brown clay-silt; brick fragments?; redeposited subsoil?

WS622

Window Sample 622 lay on the northern edge of the study area. Depth 1.08m. Natural gravel was not reached. The lower sequences were ambiguous, being potentially redeposited. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.10m concrete
- 0.15m limestone rubble bedding
- 0.40m dark grey-brown topsoil
- 0.15m clean yellow sand and gravel
- 0.28m dark grey-brown clay-sand

CP315a

Cone penetration pit 315a lay in the northeastern corner of the study area. Depth 0.65m. The hole was abandoned due to hitting buried concrete. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.05m loose brown silt and broken tarmac
- 0.10m concrete
- 0.10m black ashy silt
- 0.40m mid grey-brown clay-sand; brick fragments
concrete surface

CP315b

Cone penetration pit 315b lay in the northeastern corner of the study area. Depth 1.12m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.07m pale brown clay-silt
- 0.40m black ashy silt
- 0.60m mid red-brown clay-sand subsoil
- 0.05m natural sand

CP316

Cone penetration pit 316 lay in the northeastern corner of the study area. Depth 1.11m. Hole abandoned due to concrete surface – a potential cellar?. It is likely that the natural gravels here have been truncated. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.07m tarmac
- 0.36m black ashy silt
- 0.06m brick surface
- 0.30m concrete
- 0.32m mid grey-brown ashy silt; brick fragments
brick and concrete surface

CP316 extension

Cone penetration pit 316 extension lay in the northeastern corner of the study area, in the same location as CP316, but opened up as a machine dug 2m x 1.5m square, which was crossed by concrete beams. Depth 1.20m. Natural gravel was not exposed, and it is likely that some truncation has taken place. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.07m tarmac
- 0.36m black ashy silt
- 0.06m brick
- 0.36m concrete
- 0.32m brick and concrete
- 0.20m concrete

CP318

Cone penetration pit 318 lay in the northeastern corner of the study area. Depth 1.20m. Natural gravel was not exposed, and it is likely that some truncation has taken place. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.08m crushed granite hardcore
- 0.15m mid grey-brown ashy sand
- 0.07m black ash and clinker
- 0.05m white clay-marl
- 0.70m mid greenish grey clay sand; wood
- 0.15m reddish brown clay-silt

CP323

Cone penetration pit 323 lay on the northeastern edge of the study area. Depth 1.07m. The lower soil sequence appeared to survive intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.07m concrete
- 0.20m sand bedding
- 0.15m mid grey-brown clay-silt; brick and coal; old topsoil?
- 0.65m mid orange-brown clay-sand subsoil
- natural sand?

BH204

Borehole pit 204 lay on the northeastern edge of the study area. Depth 1.15m. Probable natural sand was reached, although some truncation appears to have taken place. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.10m tarmac
- 0.25m black ashy silt
- 0.80m building remnants; brick floor, a wall and footing, and infill
- natural sand?

BH219

Borehole pit 219 lay in the northeastern corner of the study area. Depth 0.95m. The lower soil sequence survived intact. No archaeology was observed or artefacts recovered. The sequence consisted of:

- 0.40m dark brown/black ashy silt
- 0.10m mid brown clay-sand subsoil
- 0.45m clean yellow sand; natural

Discussion

The only archaeology encountered across the entire site occurred in Archaeological Test Pit 1 (701). The pit was extended in the hope of clarifying the nature of the features, and succeeded in showing them to be pits rather than the parallel ditches that they initially resembled. Considering their proximity and similarity in both form and fill, these features were clearly contemporary, and both were sealed by the undisturbed subsoil. Pit F.1 contained only a small sherd of probably early Roman pottery. Pit F.2 contained only worked flints, and despite the general paucity of worked flint from the site, these pieces were almost certainly residual. The absence of any later material would suggest a Roman date for the features. Lying in such close proximity to the assumed line of the Roman Road, the *Via Devana*, and cut into gravel, the assumption must be that these were roadside gravel quarries for the maintenance of the road. Such activity has been observed on a much larger scale near the junction of Hills Road and Cherry Hinton Road c.400m to the southeast (Mackay 2001b), but this interpretation was also based on a tiny quantity of Roman pot and an absence of later finds. Taken together, however, these features represent widespread, shallow, pre-modern gravel extraction in an otherwise seemingly uninhabited area, adjacent to a major Roman thoroughfare. Although no modern observation of the *Via Devana* has been made, despite several archaeological trenches crossing its assumed route (Mackay 2001a; 2001c; Evans, Mackay and Webley 2004), it seems possible that beyond the immediate environs of Roman Cambridge, the road was never a substantial feature in terms of its physical make-up. It would be difficult to account for the archaeological absence of a feature presumed to be composed of rammed chalk and gravel, mounded into an impressive *agger* (camber) some ten metres in width, lying between parallel flanking ditches. Instead, on flat well-drained soil, and with no settlement requiring exact boundaries to be fixed, a broad spread of compacted gravel may have sufficed, and its route may now only be evident by its associated quarries.

A further six test pits (AP702, AP703, AP705, AP706, AP707, AP709) were located within the mill site targeting the yard area that monitoring in 2005 identified a relatively undisturbed soil sequence. Within all but one of these a full soil sequence survived intact overlying gravel, and there was no evidence for any truncation (of the gravel). It appears that the original yard surfaces associated with the mill were laid straight onto agricultural soil in the 19th century. However, all sampling sites were carefully sited to avoid the many services associated with the former industrial use, and it must be presumed that a level of disturbance will have occurred from service

trenches. The surviving soil sequences did appear to be deeper along the south and south-western edges of the site.

This second phase of fieldwork, consisting of watching brief combined with the excavation of specifically archaeological test pits, has enabled a much wider mapping of potential survival truncation zones, as well as the location of areas of potential archaeological survival (see Figure 4). These results have reinforced the findings of previous fieldwork, but have also shown a narrow zone of truncation (AP 710) running north-northeast from the Station Road roundabout, within the Station car park. This was an expected result, given the proximity of the railway and the previous use of the land as engine sheds and yards crossed by lines of track (as shown in detail on the OS first series mapping of 1886). Perhaps more surprising is that this truncation is relatively localised, and pits only slightly to the east of the car park show a largely un-truncated sequence within the area of former railway yards. There was also a seeming lack of truncation within pits AP 704 and AP 708 immediately alongside the railway line just to the southeast of the station. An analysis of historic mapping shows that these have remained as open marshalling yards for a long period of time.

The stratigraphies within Test pits AP711, AP712, AP713 and AP714 has confirmed original observations that at least some of the land east of Tenison Road is well preserved, sealed by a series of yard surfaces associated with the marshalling yards that extended up from the main station buildings. A detailed plan of the LNER facilities drawn in 1946 show embankments within the marshalling yard (rather than down-cuttings), so most likely imported material supplemented by layers of ash and clinker from the engines themselves has been used to seal the older land surface. There is also a pronounced change in level between AP712 and Tension Road, suggesting that the road in itself must lie in a hollow truncating the natural gravels.

Whilst the increased exposure of the sub-surface deposits combined with the general archaeological sterility does inevitably hint at a relatively “quiet” archaeological landscape, caution must of course be exercised in drawing such conclusions on what remains a relatively small exposure of a former land surface. However, perhaps the least ambiguous evidence to be obtained about the archaeological landscape is the almost complete absence of artefacts. Considering that all spoil from the hand-dug test pits was visually scanned, and often sorted by trowel, and that six bucket samples were hand-sorted on every archaeological test pit, the paucity of finds is quite striking. Even the Roman quarry pits were essentially empty, yielding only one tiny artefact of contemporary date, environmental remains indicative of an agrarian landscape and a few flints which suggest nothing beyond a “background noise” of prehistoric activity.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Brian Irving of Ashwell Cbl Ltd, and Lucy Heaney of Mott Macdonald who coordinated the project. Robin Standring was the CAU project manager. The author was assisted on site by Martin Oakes, Tonko Rajkovaca and Simon Timberlake. Marcus Abbott surveyed the site, and Andy Hall and Vicky Herring produced the graphics.

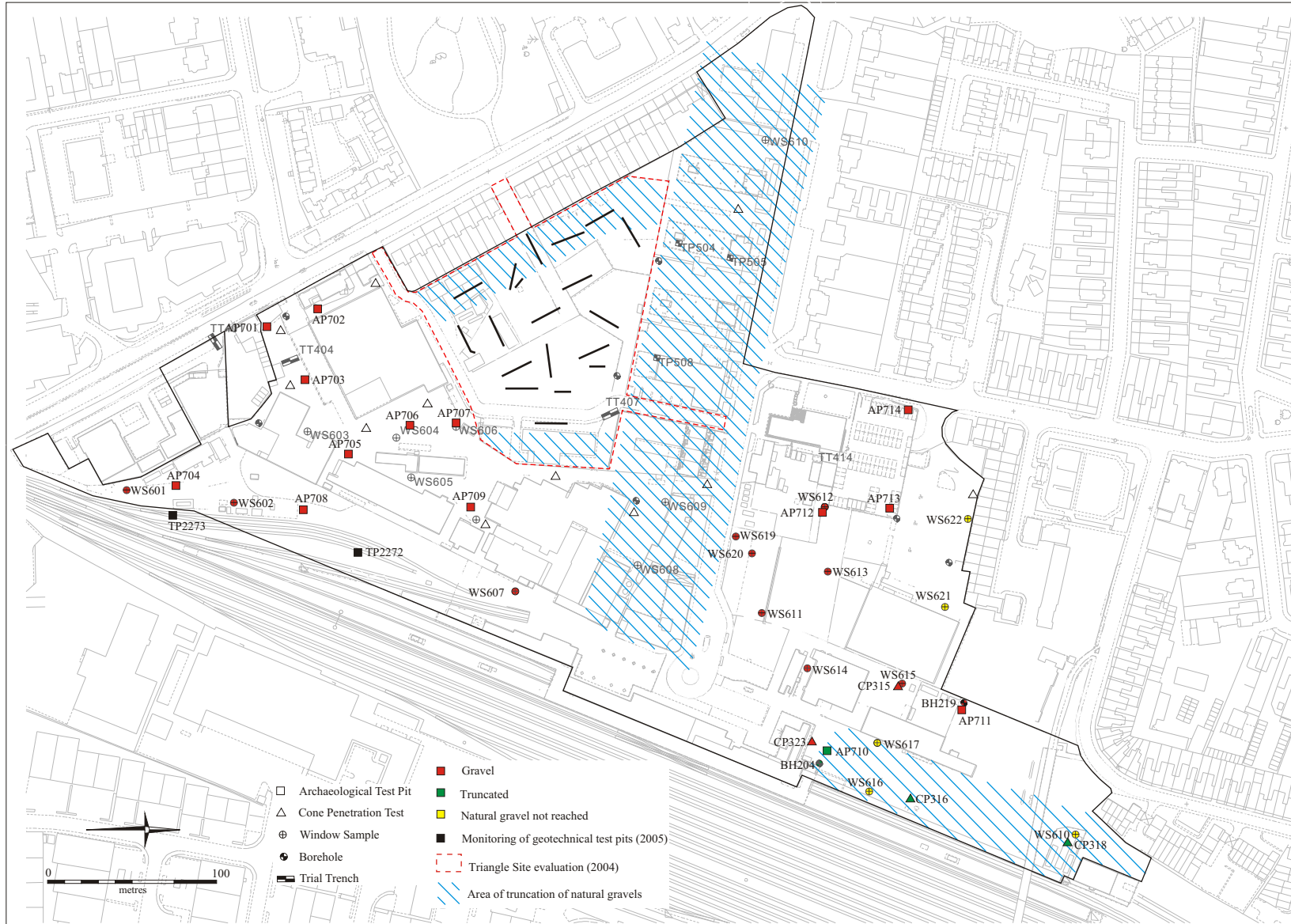


Figure 4 Truncation

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Specialist Reports

Roman Pottery (Katie Anderson)

Two refitting sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 3g were recovered from F.1 (005). The pottery is from a coarse, sandy greyware vessel, which was probably made locally and dates mid 1st-2nd century AD. A vessel form could not be identified.

Lithics (Emma Beadsmoore)

Two of the test pits yielded a total of six flakes, listed by type and test pit in Table 1. Test Pit AP 708 yielded two chronologically non-diagnostic flakes from the subsoil, whilst a Roman quarry pit exposed in Test Pit AP 701 yielded four residual flints; a blade and a flake were Neolithic, whereas a second flake and a chip were chronologically non-diagnostic.

Context	Type				Totals
	chip	secondary flake	tertiary flake	tertiary blade	
AP 708 surface		1	1		2
AP 701 F. 2 [006]	1	1	1	1	4
Sub totals	1	2	2	1	6

Table 1 – Flint from the Test pits

Environmental Samples (Anne de Vareilles)

Both existing features (F.1 and F.2 in Test Pit AP 701) were sampled. These were processed 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 and residues were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant remains, molluscs and any artefacts. Sorting and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). All environmental remains are listed in full in Table 2.

Both flots are very small and contain only a little charcoal, a poor cereal assemblage not particular to any archaeological period, and some very heavily burnt parenchyma. The cereal grains are badly puffed and distorted which shows that they too have been burnt at high temperatures and/or for prolonged periods of time (Boardman and Jones 1990). The unidentifiable parenchyma is probably also of cereals.

Sample number		<1>	<2>
Context		[5]	[6]
Feature		1	2
Feature type		Pit	Pit
Phase/Date		R.B.	R.B.
Sample volume - litres		6	12
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1
Cereals			
<i>Triticum aestivum sensu lato.</i>	Free-threshing wheat grain	1	
<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i>	Wheat / Barley grain		2
Indeterminate cereal			1
Parenchyma fragments	Undifferentiated plant storage tissue	+++	++
Charcoal			
>4mm		-	-
2-4mm		+	-
<2mm		+	-
Vitrified		+	+

Table 2

Archaeobotanical Remains from AP701

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 – 50 items, '+++> 50 items