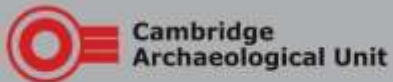


# Of Other Spaces

## *Excavations at Northstowe*

Dr Oscar Aldred MCIfA FSA Scot  
ora20@cam.ac.uk



# What this talk is about

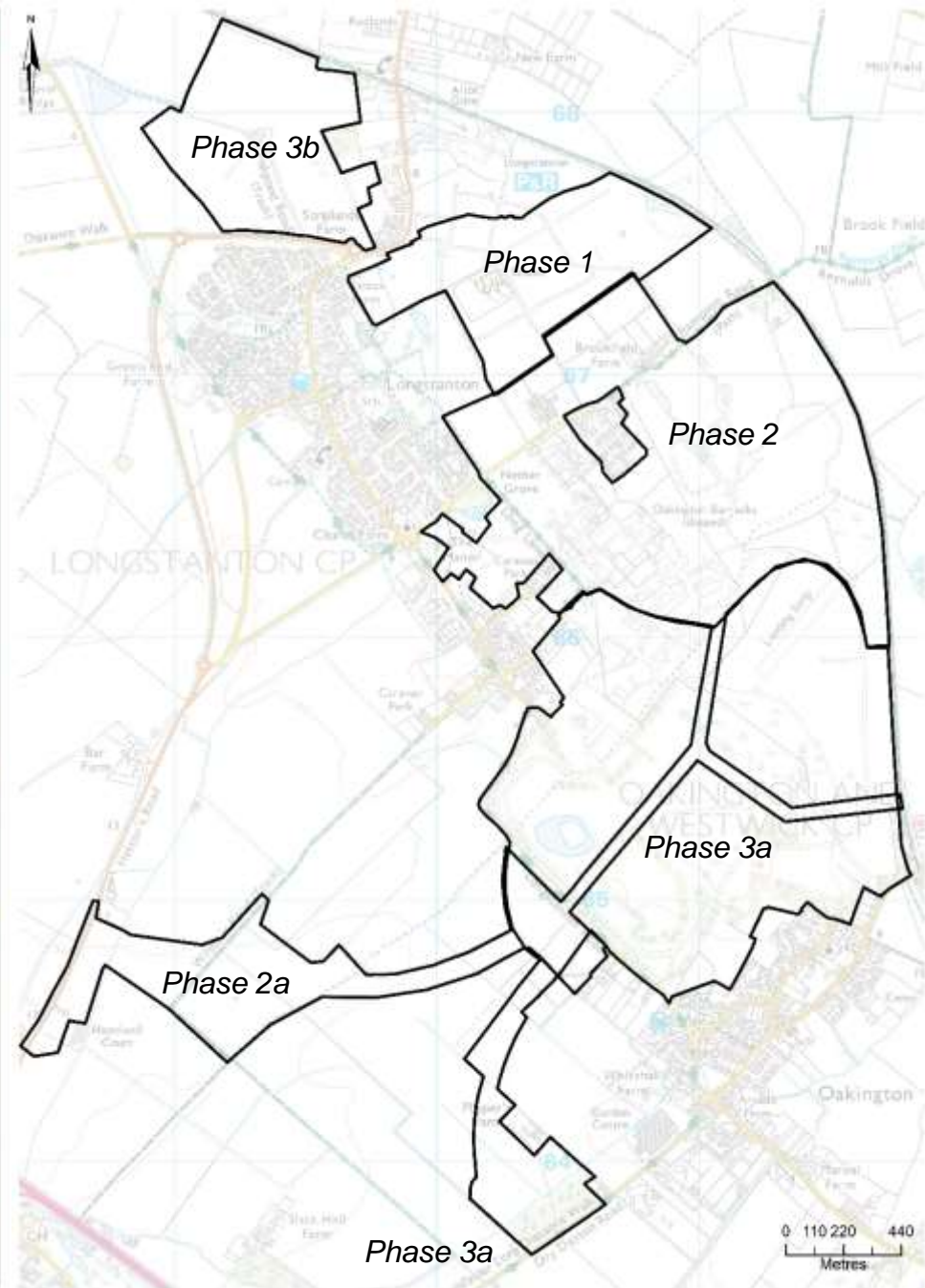
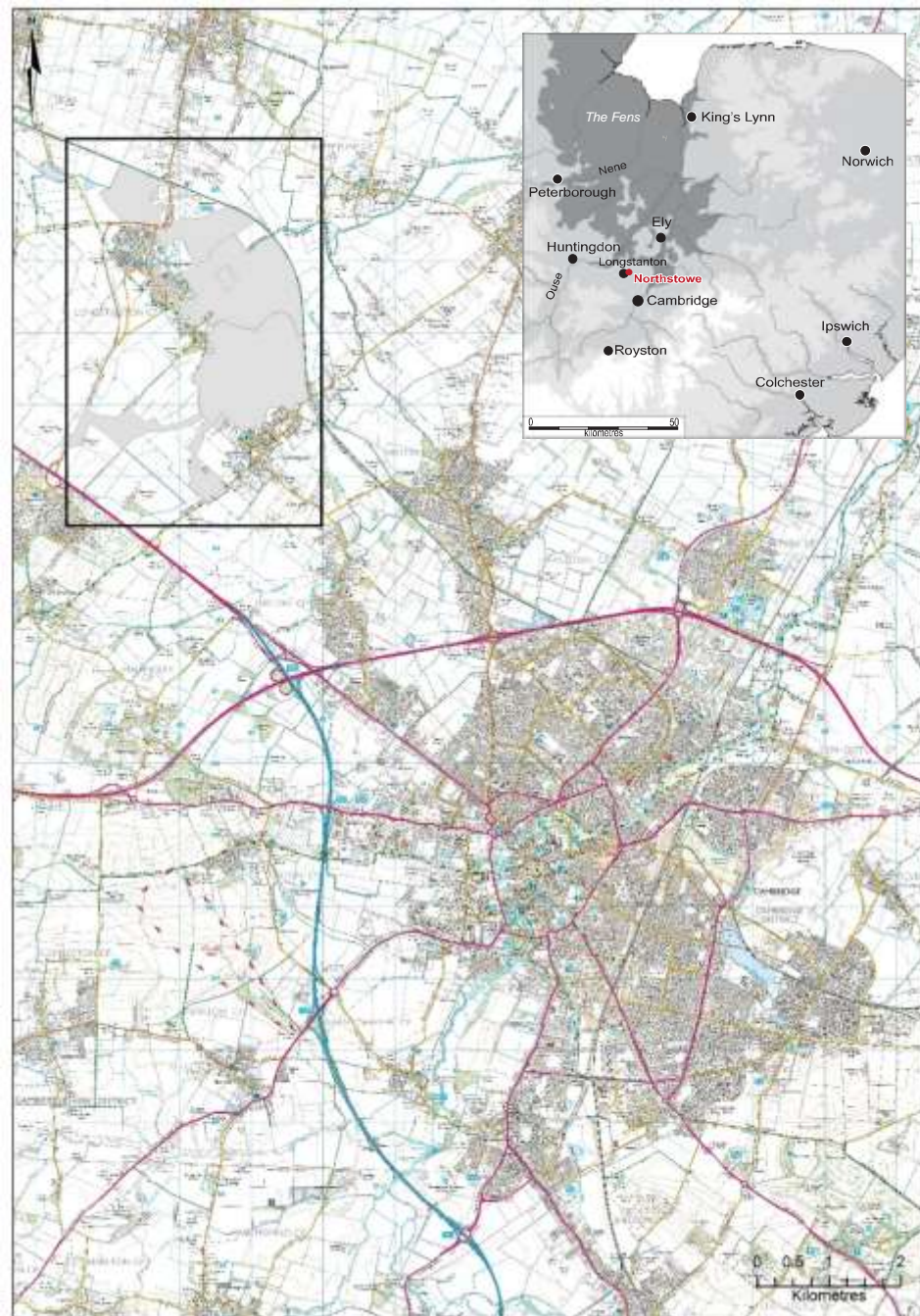
- *Present the archaeology from the excavations across Northstowe (since 1990 to 2020 but focused on the 2014-2019 period)*
  - *Principally discuss the Iron Age and Roman 'evidence'*
1. Introduce the Northstowe project & the techniques used
  2. Examine the 'evidence'
  3. Bring together the various strands

Funded by:



Homes England

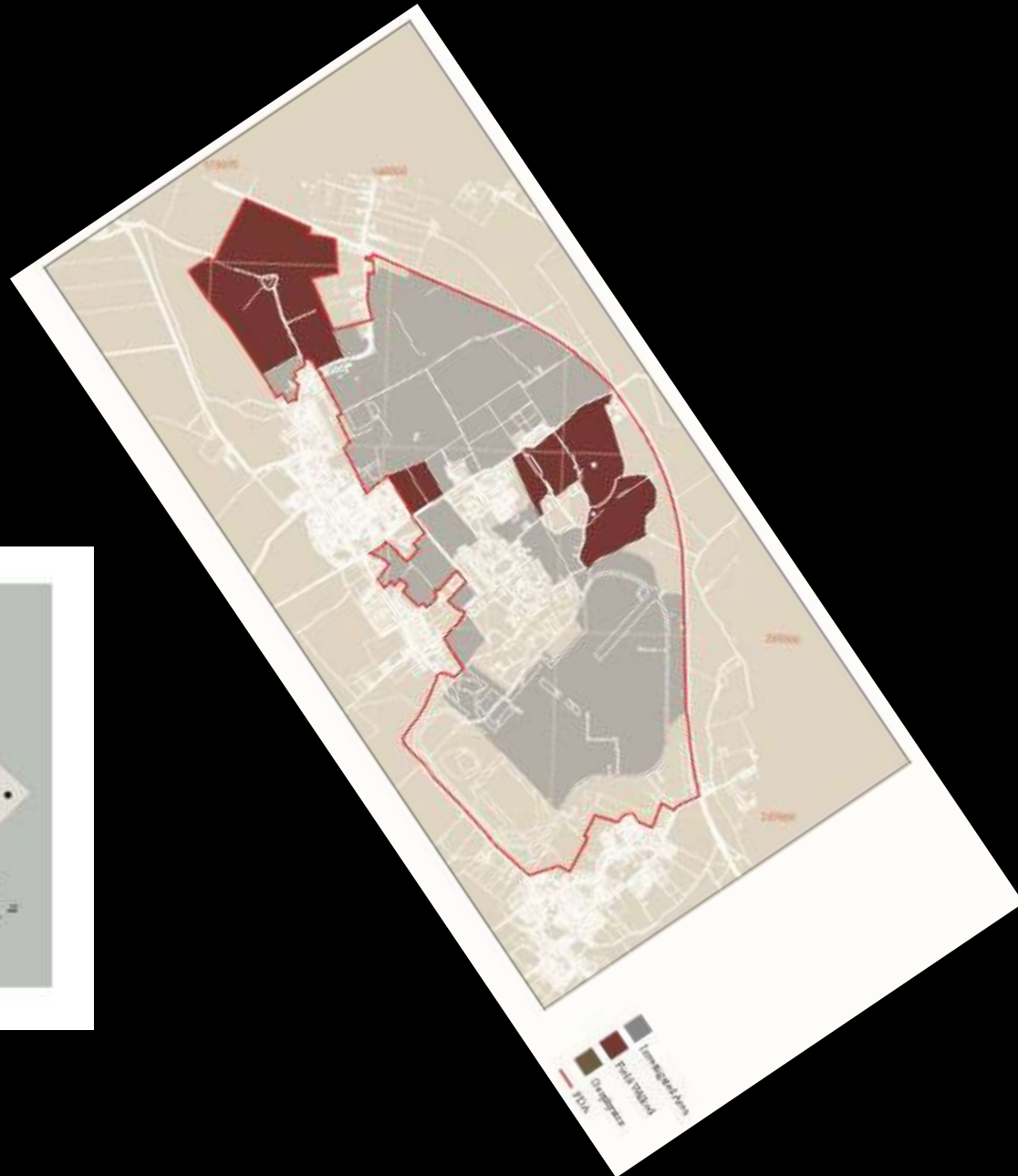
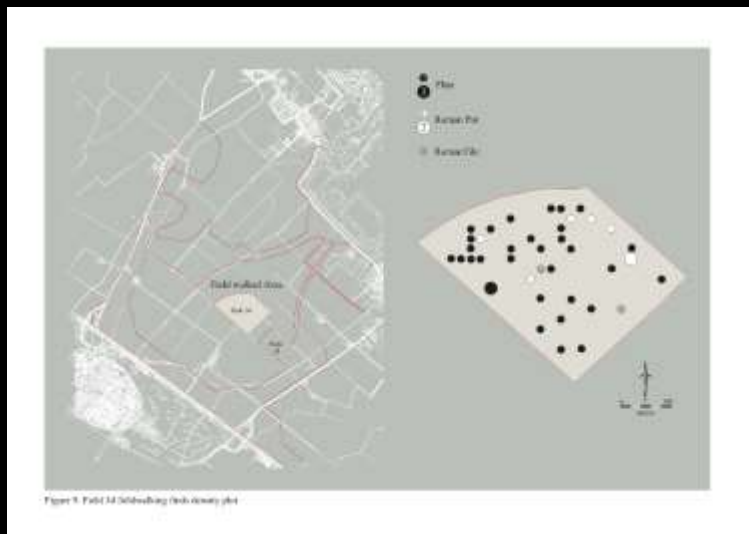














*Magnetometer geophysical survey across the main parts of the development area (2004-2007 & 2019-2020)*



Figure 34. Test pit location (red indicates truncation)

*Figure 1.6. Distribution of metal detected finds - subsoil and 'archaeological' level.*



*Phase 1 metal detecting finds – non-ferrous (subsoil & then archaeological 'level')*





Roman spoon

Roman pot hook



Roman stag head

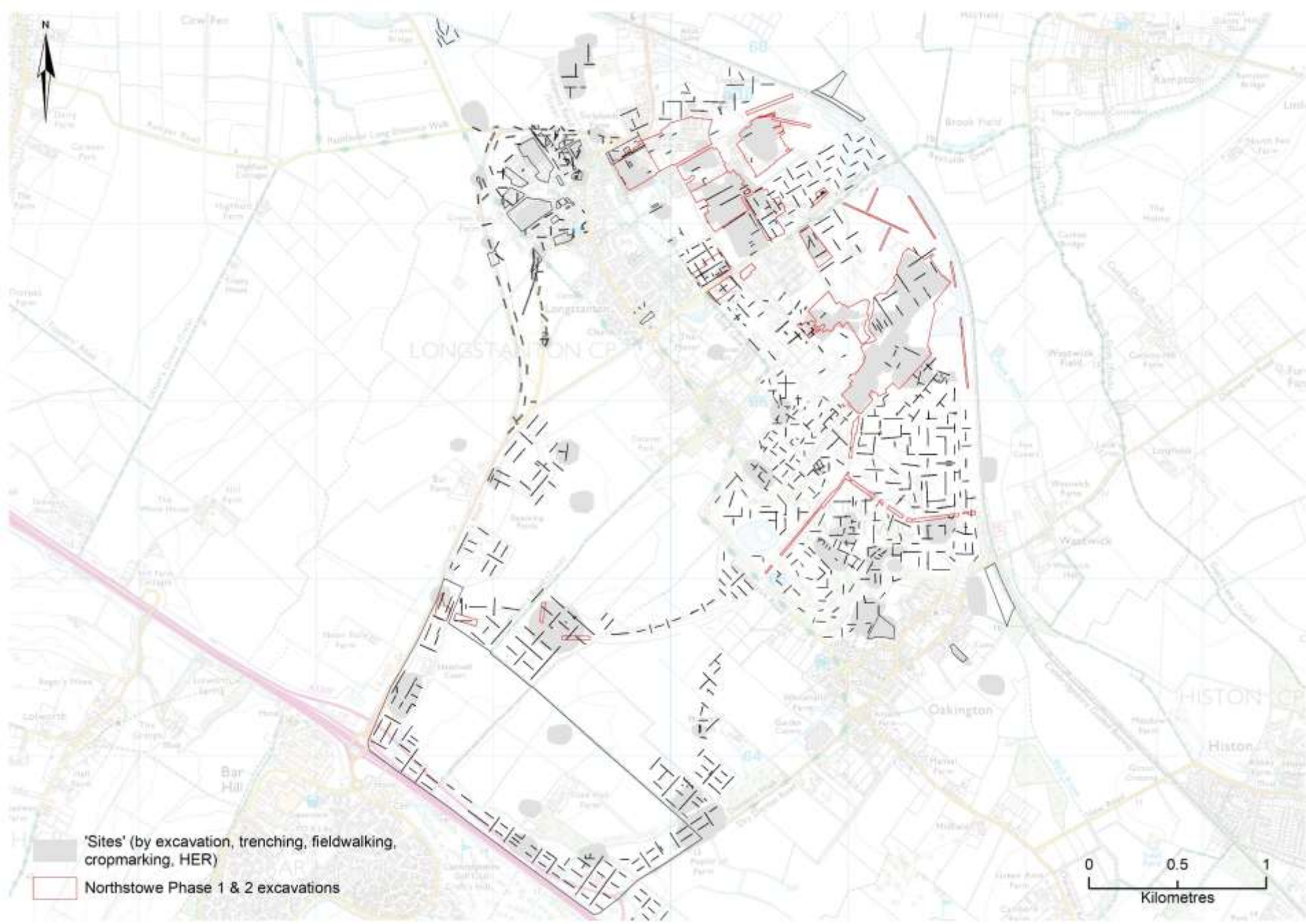


Roman wheel brooch c. 100-200AD



Roman steelyard





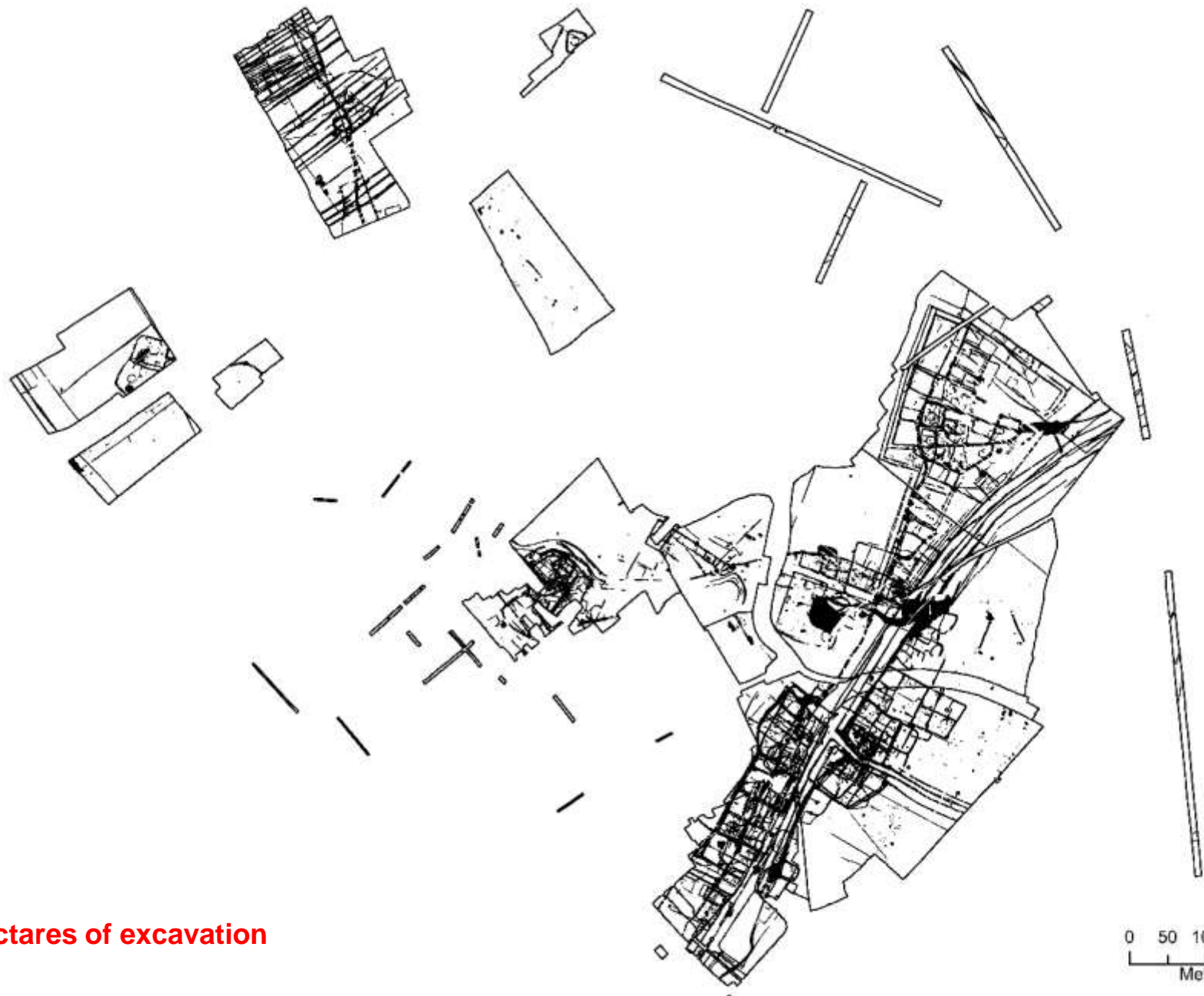
*Archaeological investigations in the Northstowe environs (1990-2020) largely by CAU but also BUFU and others.*



**28 hectares of excavation**

*Phase 1 (All features)*



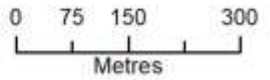


**44 hectares of excavation**

*Phases 2a & 2b (All features)*



**Total of 72 hectares of excavation**



*Phases 1 & 2 (All features but not medieval/post medieval furrows)*

# Material culture quantities

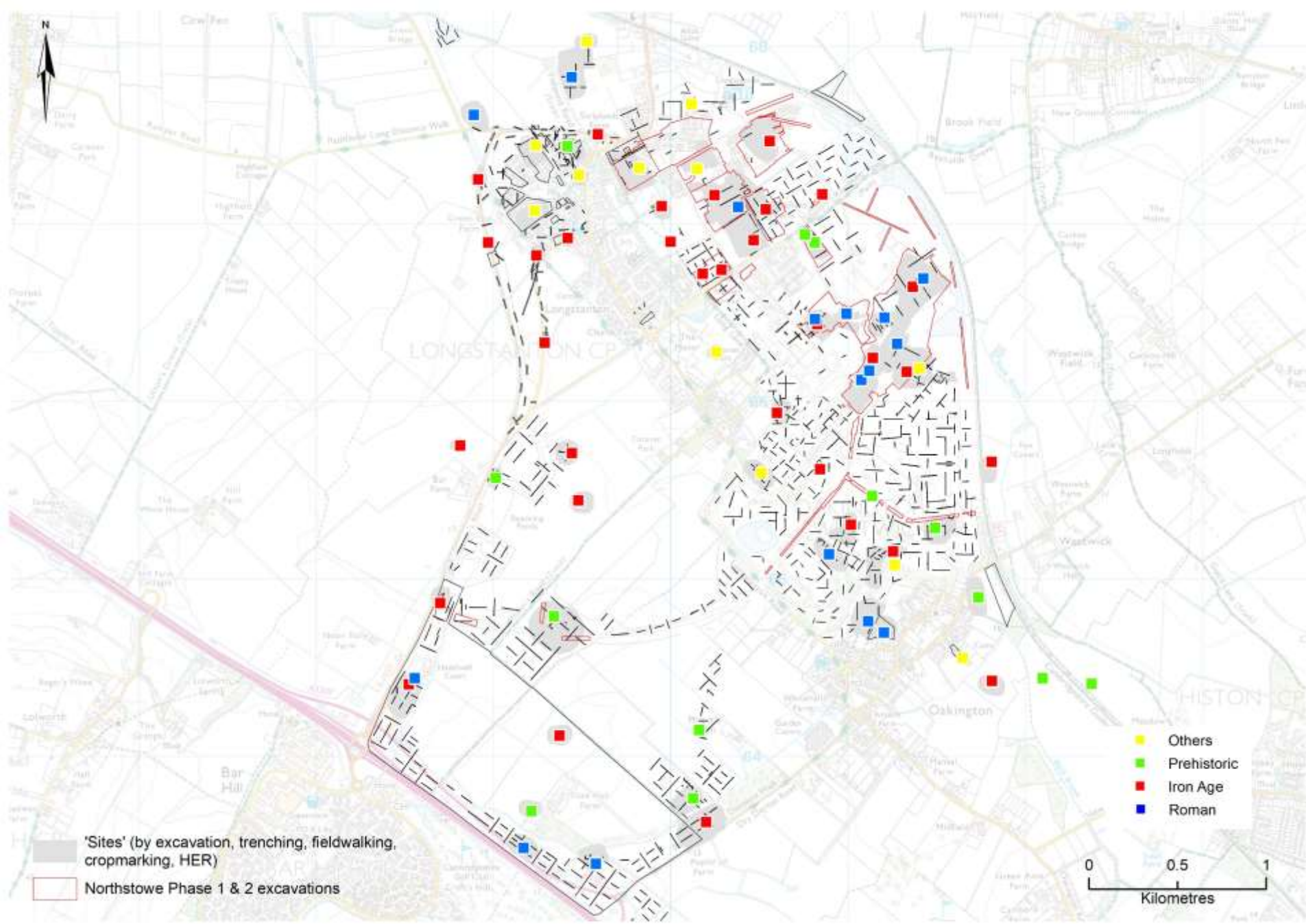
Area	Pottery		Worked & Burnt Clay		Animal Bone		Worked Stone		Metal Objects	
	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)
<b>C</b>	584	7,847	843	5,096	4,806	65,806	48	972	51	1,717
<b>E</b>	1,769	18,172	371	4,308	6,448	93,674	5	437	202	1,179
<b>F</b>	60	249	8	30	14	140	0	0	0	0
<b>J</b>	212	3,309	32	751	2,206	56,053	707	8,618	72	1,218
<b>K</b>	5,809	54,403	698	4,705	10,038	74,783	5	11,050	50	629
<b>M</b>	14,124	273,526	1,245	15,258	23,861	483,049	291	105,079	2,198	25,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,558</b>	<b>357,506</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>30,148</b>	<b>47,373</b>	<b>773,505</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>126,156</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>30,497</b>

Phase 1 - selected artefacts. In total **94,255** objects, weighing **1,837,109g**, or **1.8** tonnes.



Area	Pottery		Worked & Burnt Clay		Animal Bone		Worked Stone		Metal Objects	
	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)
<b>AA1</b>	15488	308407	3294	32637	19740	360751	492	99494	2417	24374
<b>AA2/AA2E</b>	42383	436738	2235	23866	53335	497807	1156	175224	6395	86945
<b>AA3/4/AA3N</b>	16828	266549	1070	12845	24942	302229	372	61612	637	4547
<b>AA6</b>	4356	79896	123	3849	3420	59279	13	3636	58	381
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,055</b>	<b>1,091,590</b>	<b>6,722</b>	<b>73,197</b>	<b>101,437</b>	<b>1,220,066</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>339,966</b>	<b>9,507</b>	<b>116,247</b>

Phase 2a - selected artefacts. In total **465,116** objects, weighing **4,819,776g**, or **4.8** tonnes.

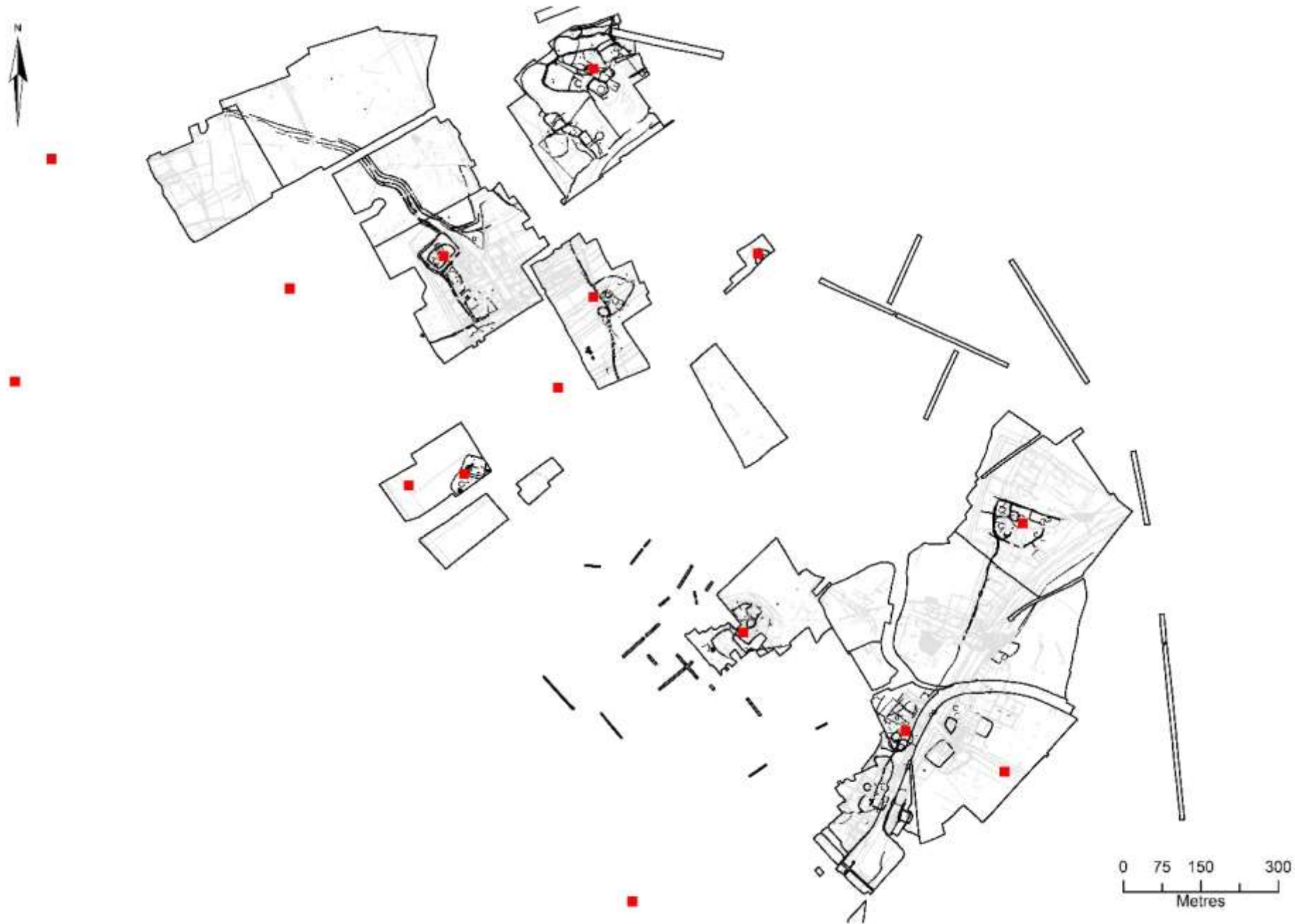


*Archaeological investigations in the Northstowe environs (1990-2020) largely by CAU but also BUFU and others.*

# This talk

- Three conventional periods stand-out. But I only have time to talk about:
  - Iron Age
    - Colonization phase
    - Building of connected communities
  - Roman
    - Nucleation of settlements and communities
    - Increased sophistication in use of space
  - *5th to 7th century CE (post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon)*

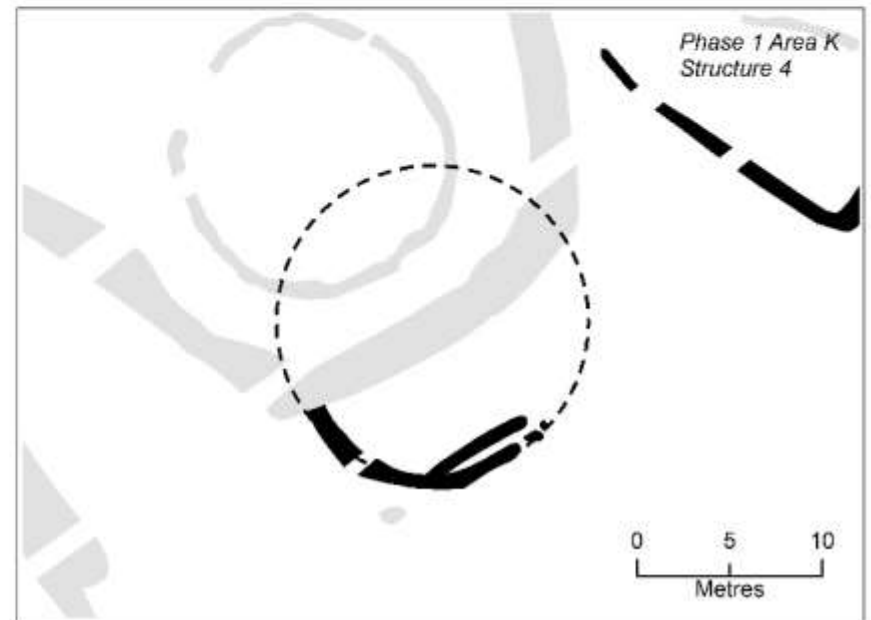
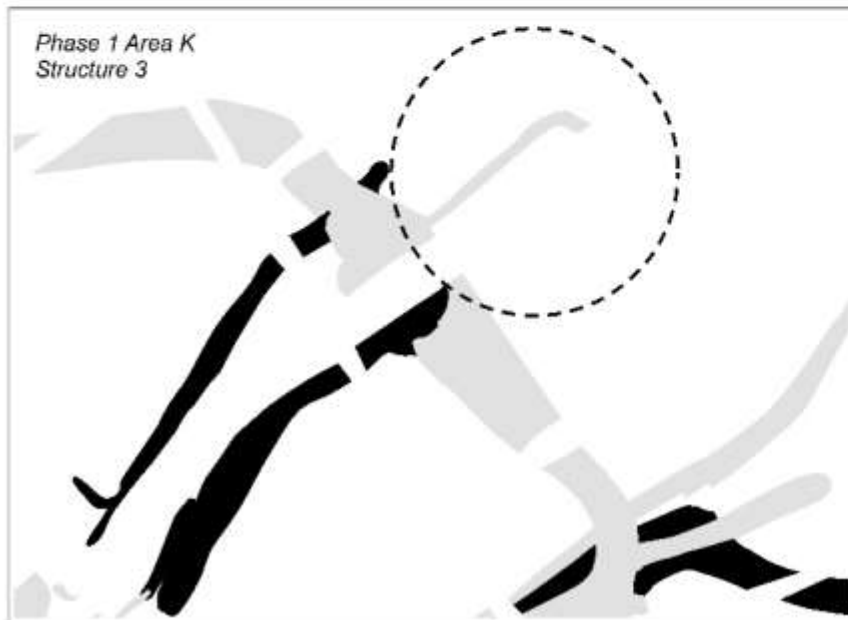
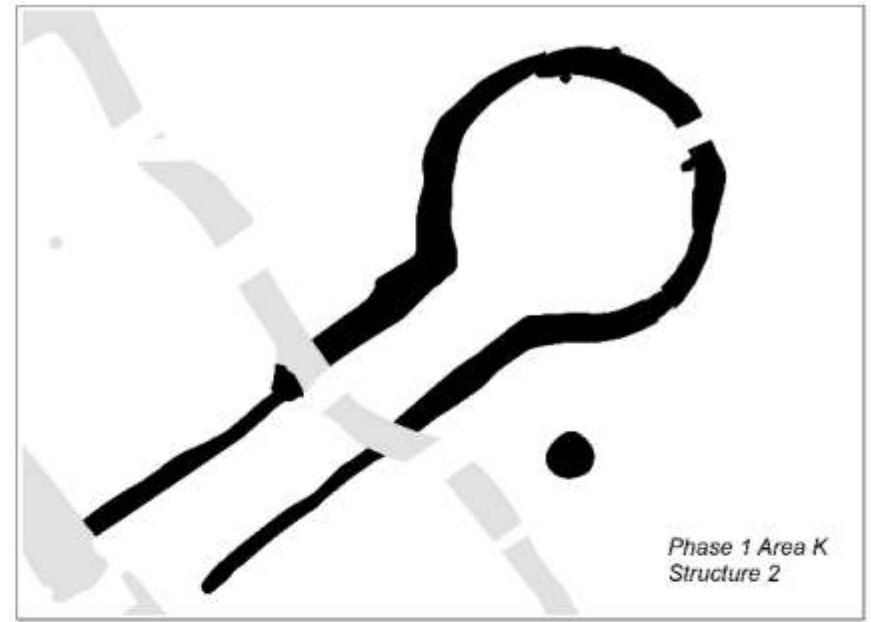
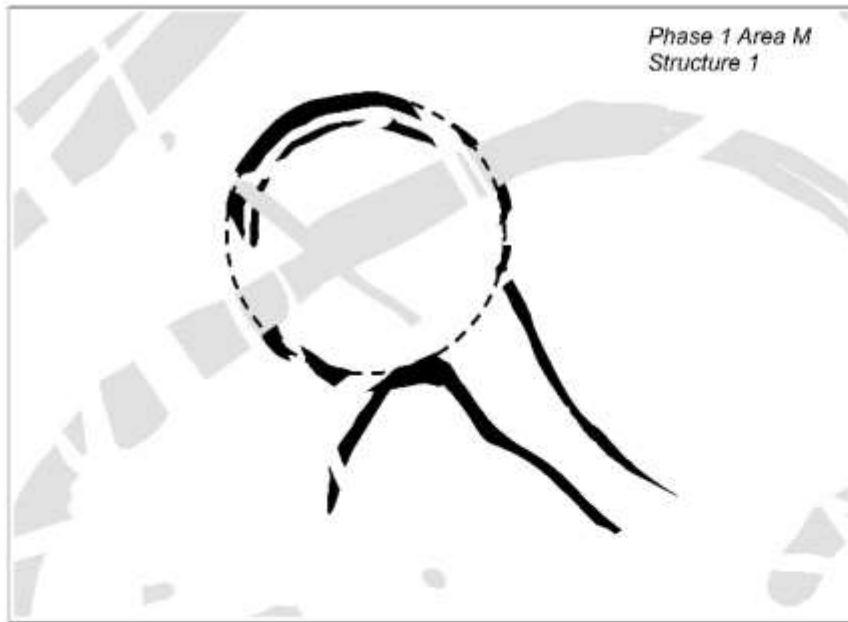




*Iron Age 'sites' – Middle to Late Iron Age/LPRIA – tendency to enclosure – 'sites' 300/400m apart*

# Iron Age (Middle to Late)

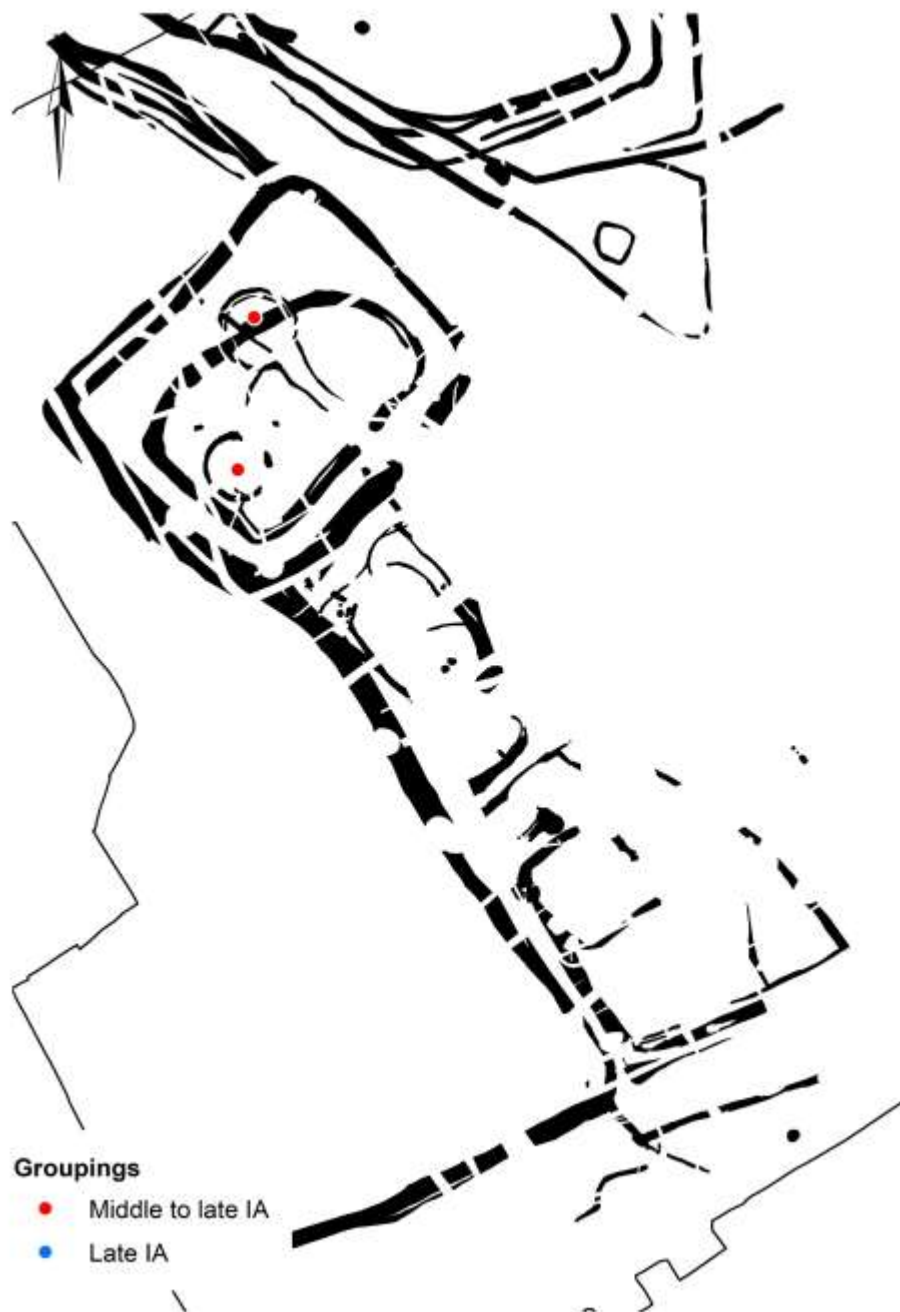




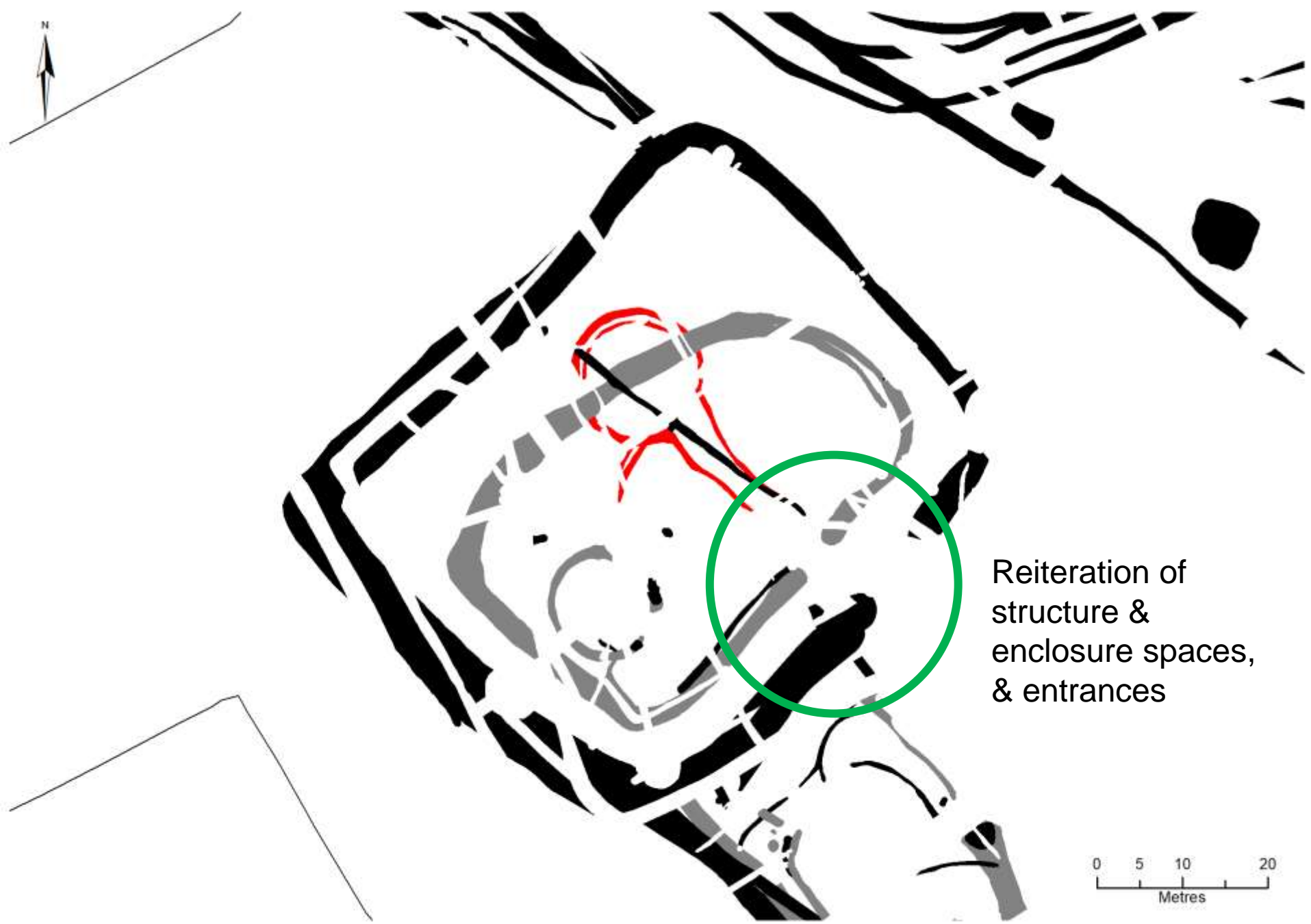


*Phase 2 – complex partitioned enclosure with multiple structures and phases (Structures 12 , 18, 23, 24, 25 ...)*

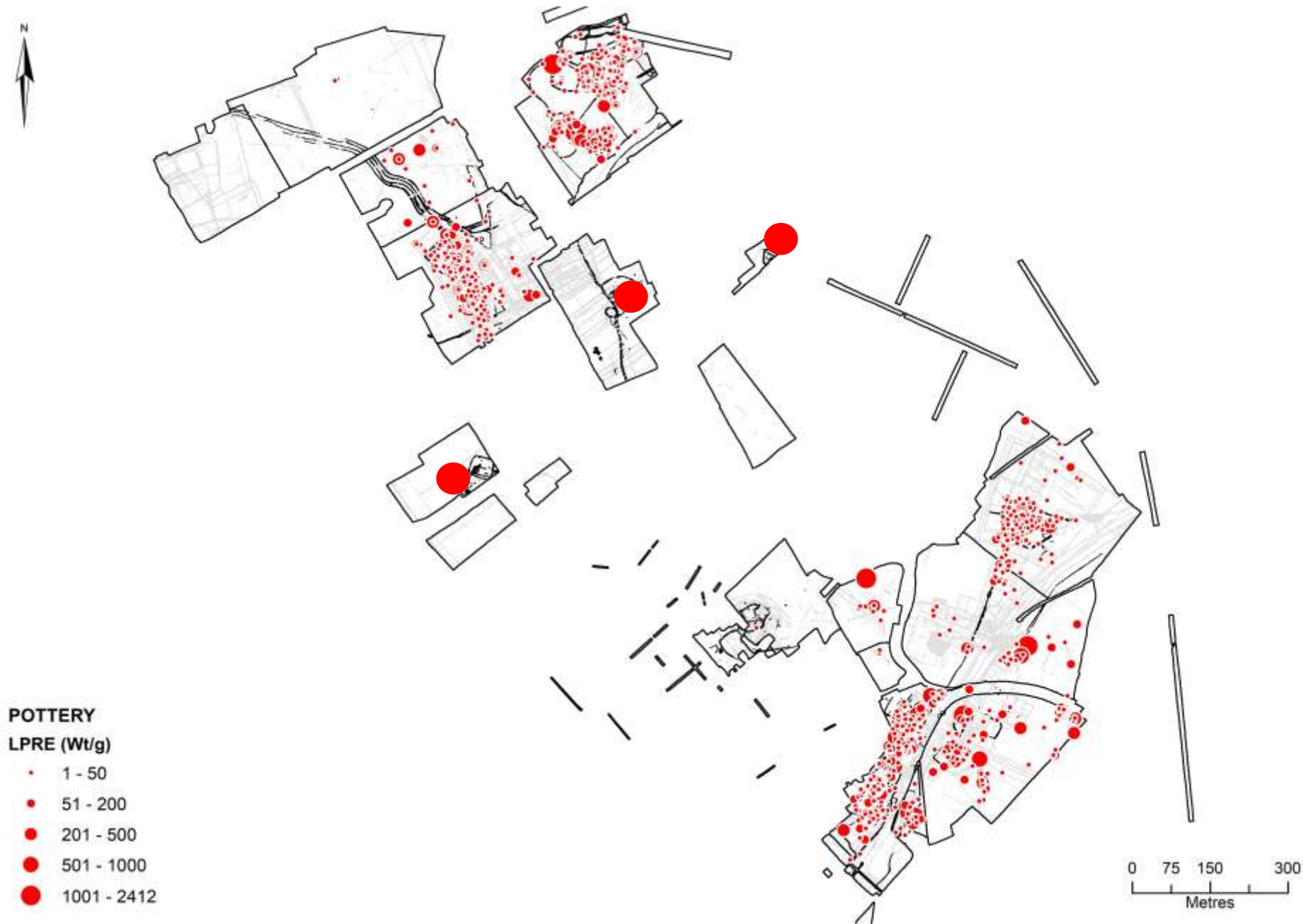




*Phase 1 - Relationship between structures and enclosures across the Iron Age period*



*And here specifically from the MIA (red) through the later to LIA (grey) and the LIA to Early Roman (black)*



*Iron Age features – Middle to Late Iron Age/LPRIA Structures (and Pottery)*

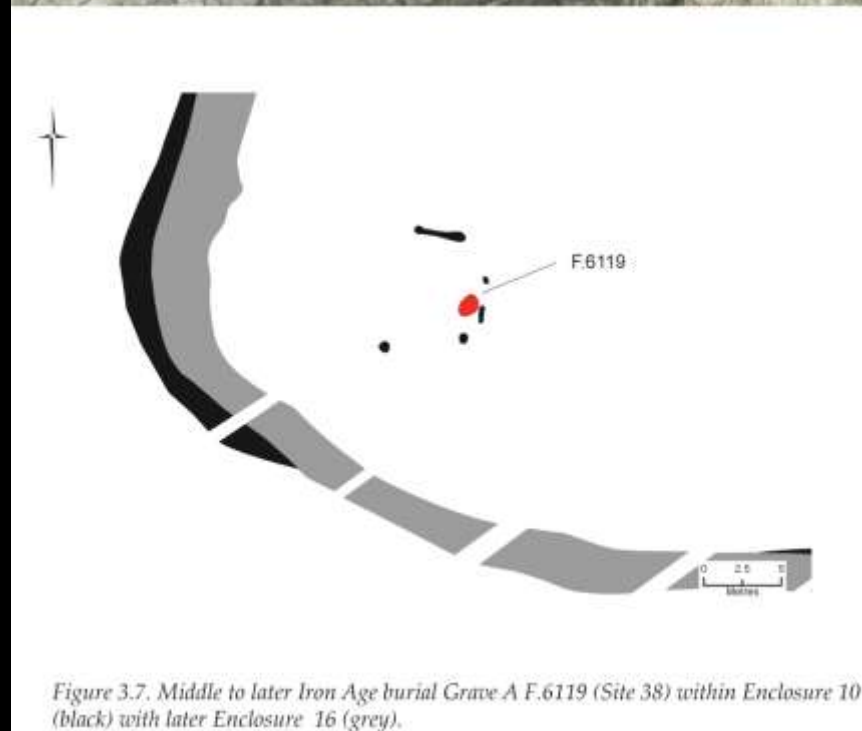
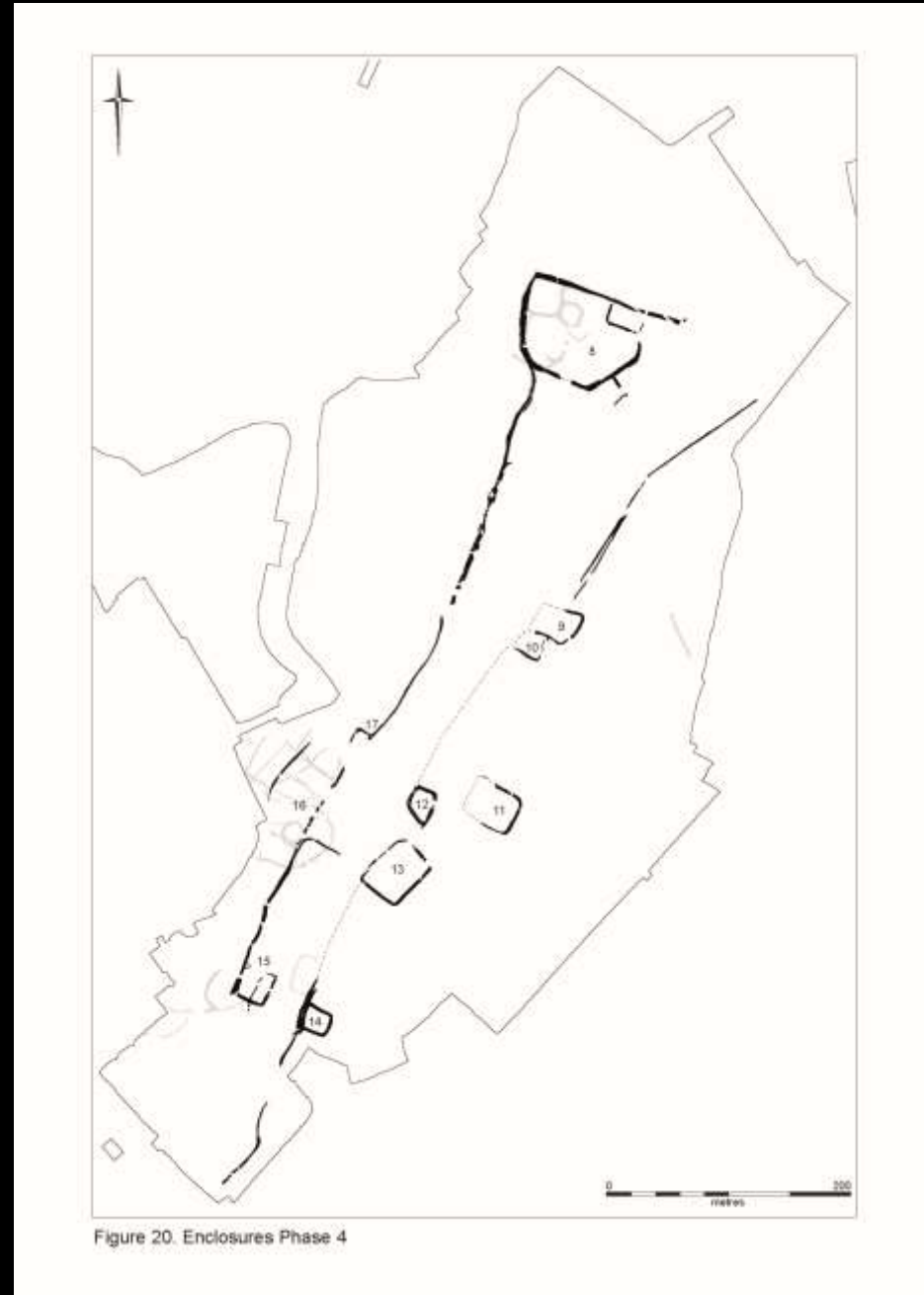
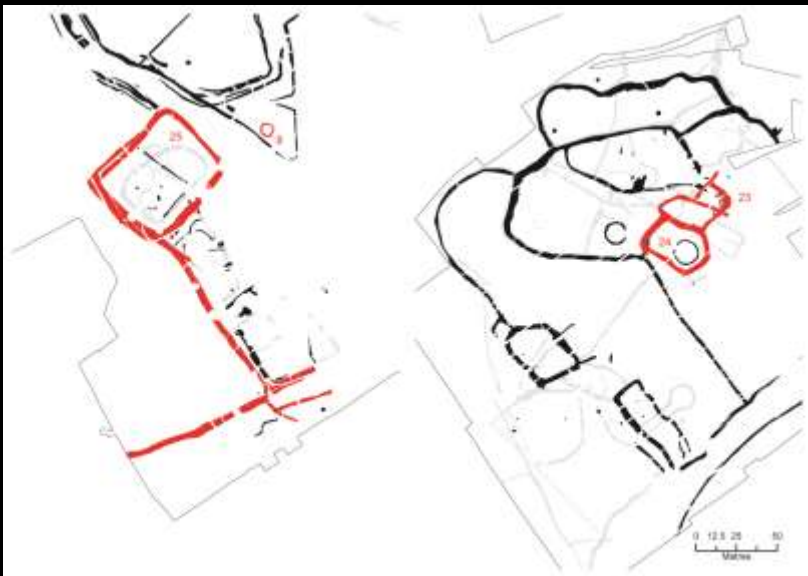


Figure 3.7. Middle to later Iron Age burial Grave A F.6119 (Site 38) within Enclosure 10 (black) with later Enclosure 16 (grey).



## IA-Roman 'transition'

- 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE & CE – Phase 1 (left - red), Phase 2 (right - black)
- An emerging story
- A take-up or resistance to Roman culture
- An opportunity to study a community that was in the process of adapting
- When did 'adoption' of Gallic or Roman culture begin and when is it wholly incorporated into daily life?
- A distinctive Romano-British culture



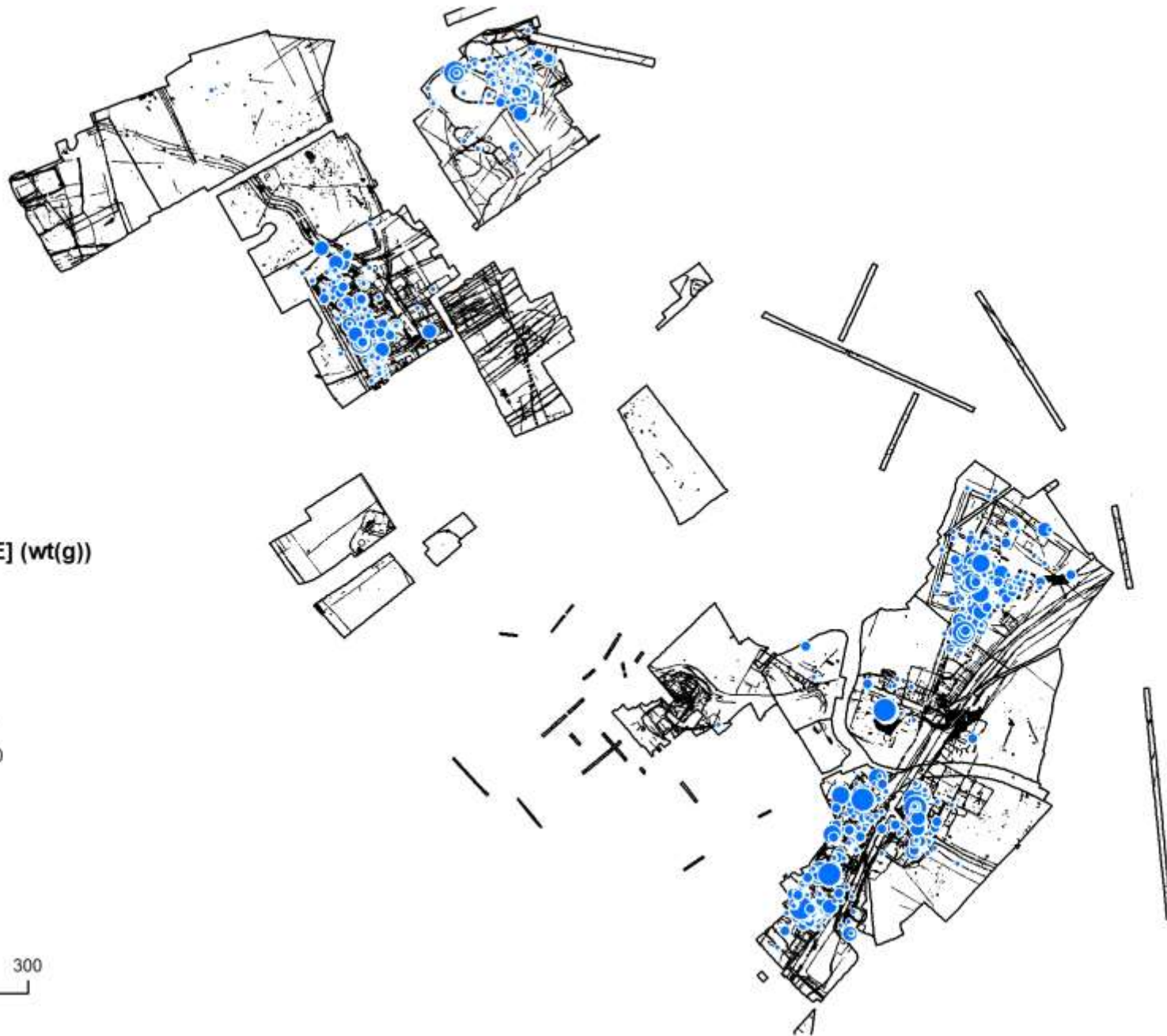
**Pottery [LPRE] (wt(g))**

**TRANSITION**

- 1 - 50
- 51 - 200
- 201 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 6000



0 75 150 300  
Metres





# Roman (Early to Late)

*At the 'crossroads' – Phase 2a, AA1 looking west (Rog Palmer Jan 2017) – dispersed pattern in the IA shifting into a more consolidated settlement pattern with larger settlements & IA abandonment – consumption/production – what kinds of settlements?*





*Phase 1 – Roman features – dense – trackway – plot division – space distinctiveness – small cultivation*



*Phase 2 – All Roman features – trackways – plots – quarters - roadside settlement - polyfocal settlement ‘village’*

Figure 5.5. Early Roman enclosures.



*Phase 1 – Early Roman establishment – central trackway – distinctive plot development*

Figure 5.8. Middle Roman enclosures.



*Phase 1 – Middle Roman plot definition (public & private spaces) – expansion – southern extent?*



Figure 5.12. Late Roman enclosures - including Northstowe Phase 2b (Area DD).



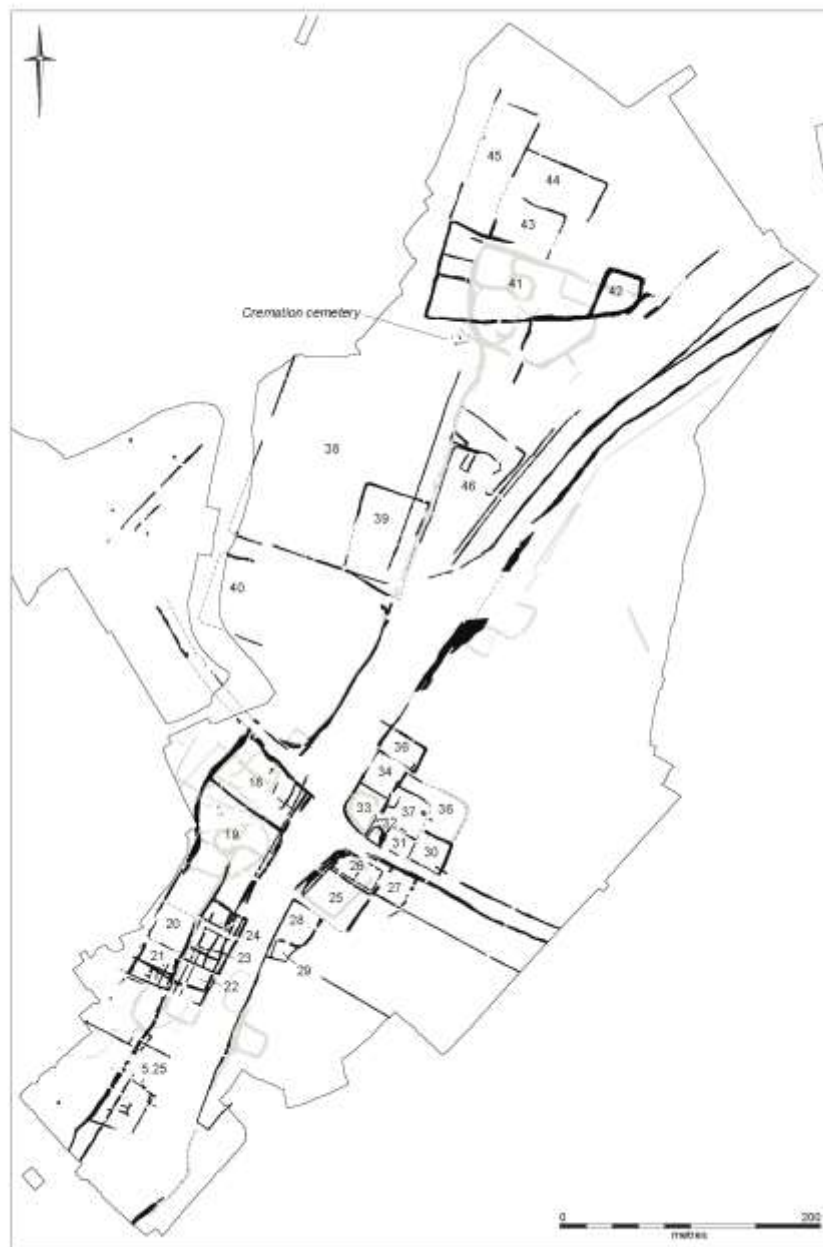


Figure 21. Enclosures Phase 5

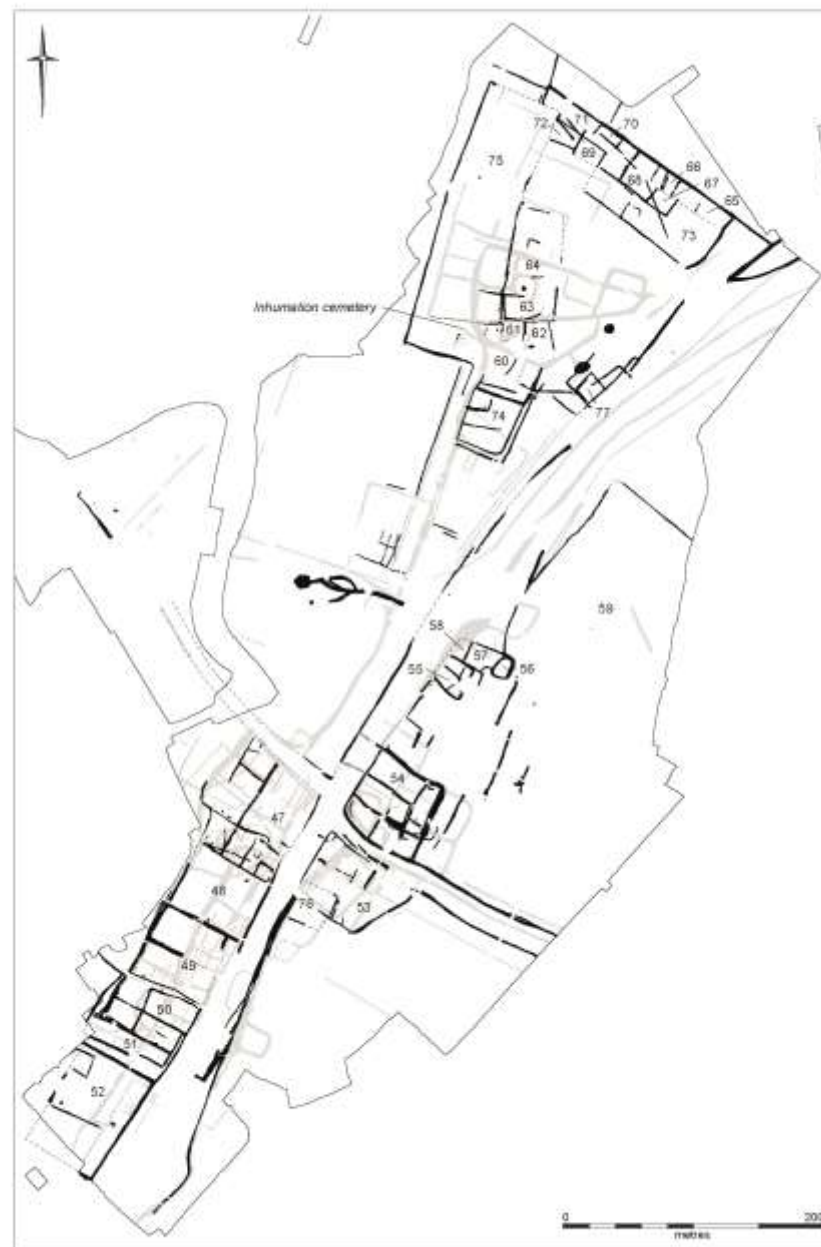


Figure 22. Enclosures Phase 6



Figure 23. Enclosures Phase 7

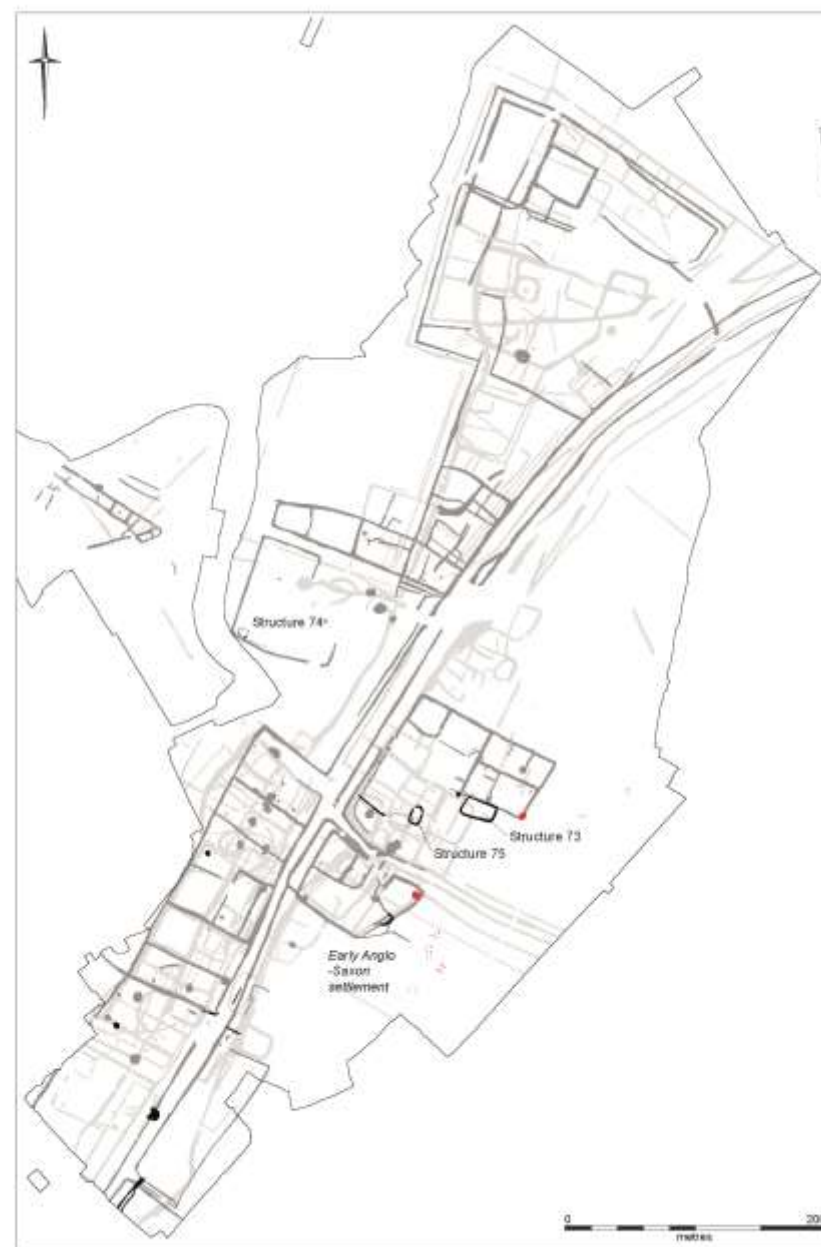


Figure 24. 'Enclosures' or possible 'plot' areas classed as 'Structures' Phase 8 (with Phase 7 [dark grey] and Phase 9 [red])

Figure 5.3. Early to Middle Roman structures (e.g. 11) & 'ghost' structures (hatched e.g. G1).





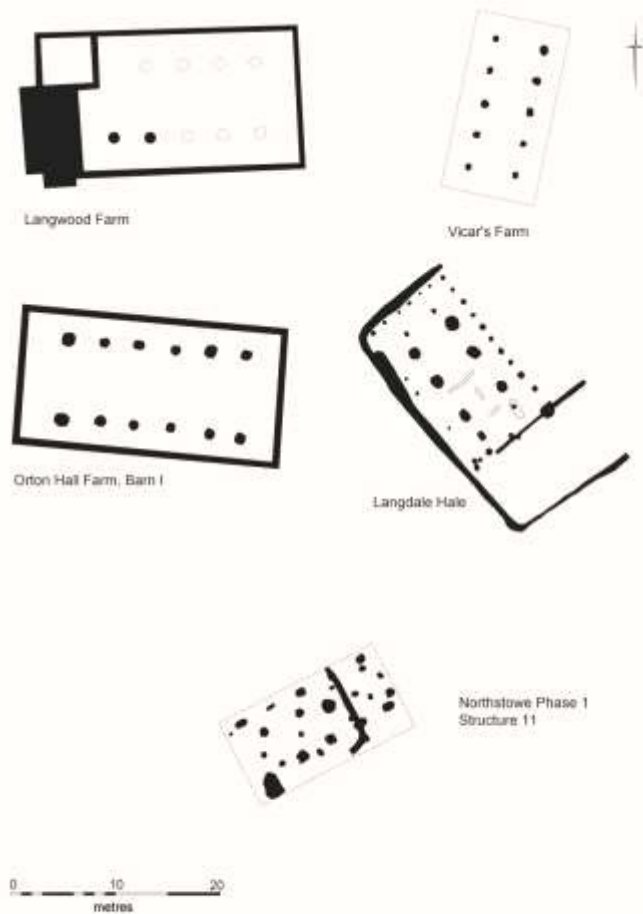


Figure 5.7. Structure 11 compared with other 'aisled' barn structures (after Evans & Lucas 2020: 348, Figure 6.2).





*Phase 2 – Roman period structures (including 'Iron Age' cultural continuity into the Roman period)*



*Two shrines under excavation – one Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (circular) and the other 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century (square)*





*AA3 – The outline of a Roman building, set within a household plot, overlying an Iron Age boundary system.*





*Building stone (red), CBM (blue) & painted plaster (green)*



Pottery (wt(g))

ROMAN

- 1-50
- 51-200
- 201-500
- 501-1000
- 1000 +

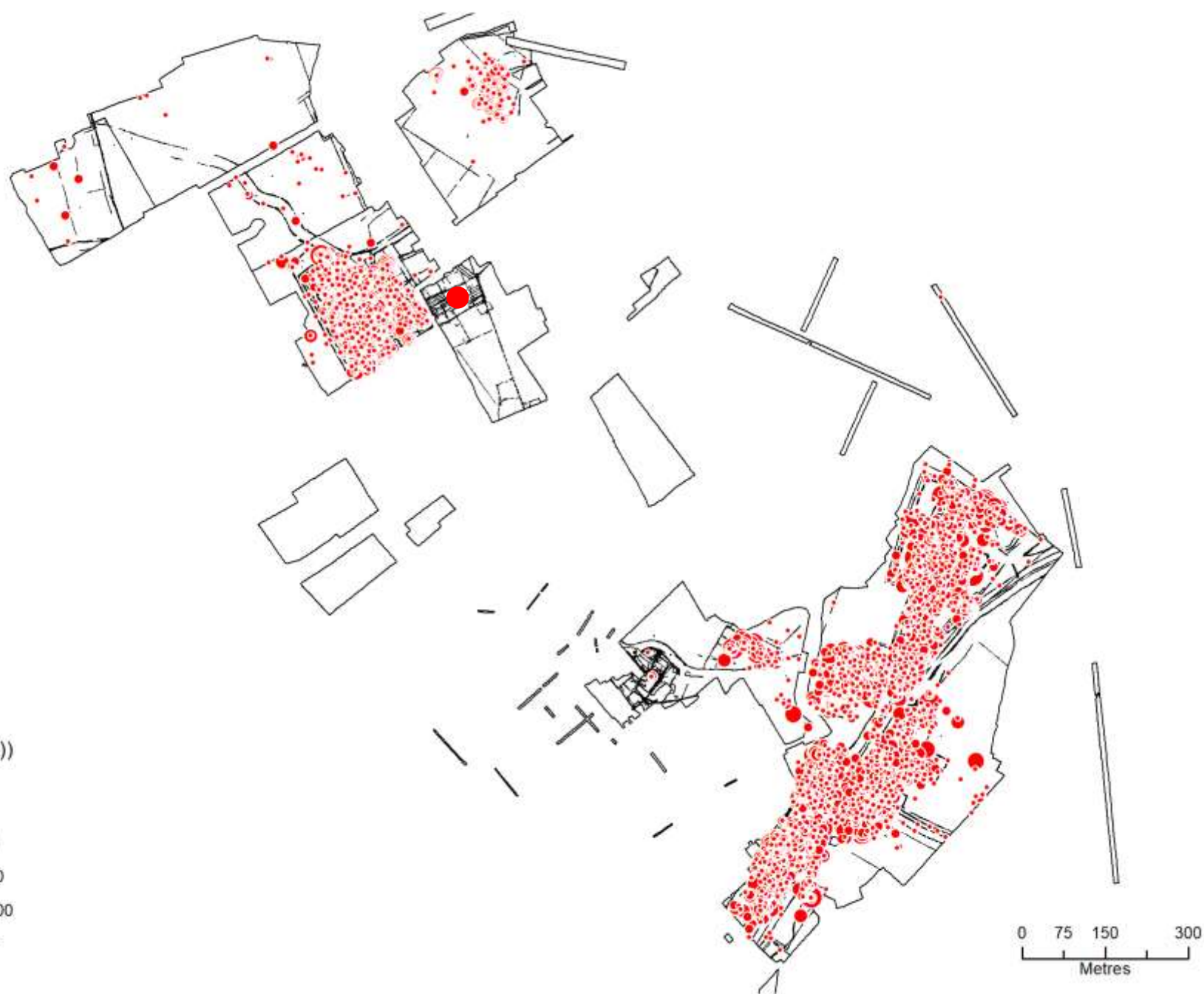








Figure 53c. Roman pottery with Chi-Rho symbols (top left clockwise: <7461> F.2086, <3472> F.2087, <1314> F.1382, <2205> F.1652)





*A perturbed face - Roman Flagon spout – personalizes the Roman period*





*Roman period burials – different locations (cemeteries, isolated, along western boundaries)*



*An assortment of burial practices – with objects, cremations, decapitations, possible 'family' plots*





Water management – the excavation of one of the possible two Roman cisterns







*Worked wooden object – probably part of a bed or sofa (Roman equivalent) – found in the cistern*



















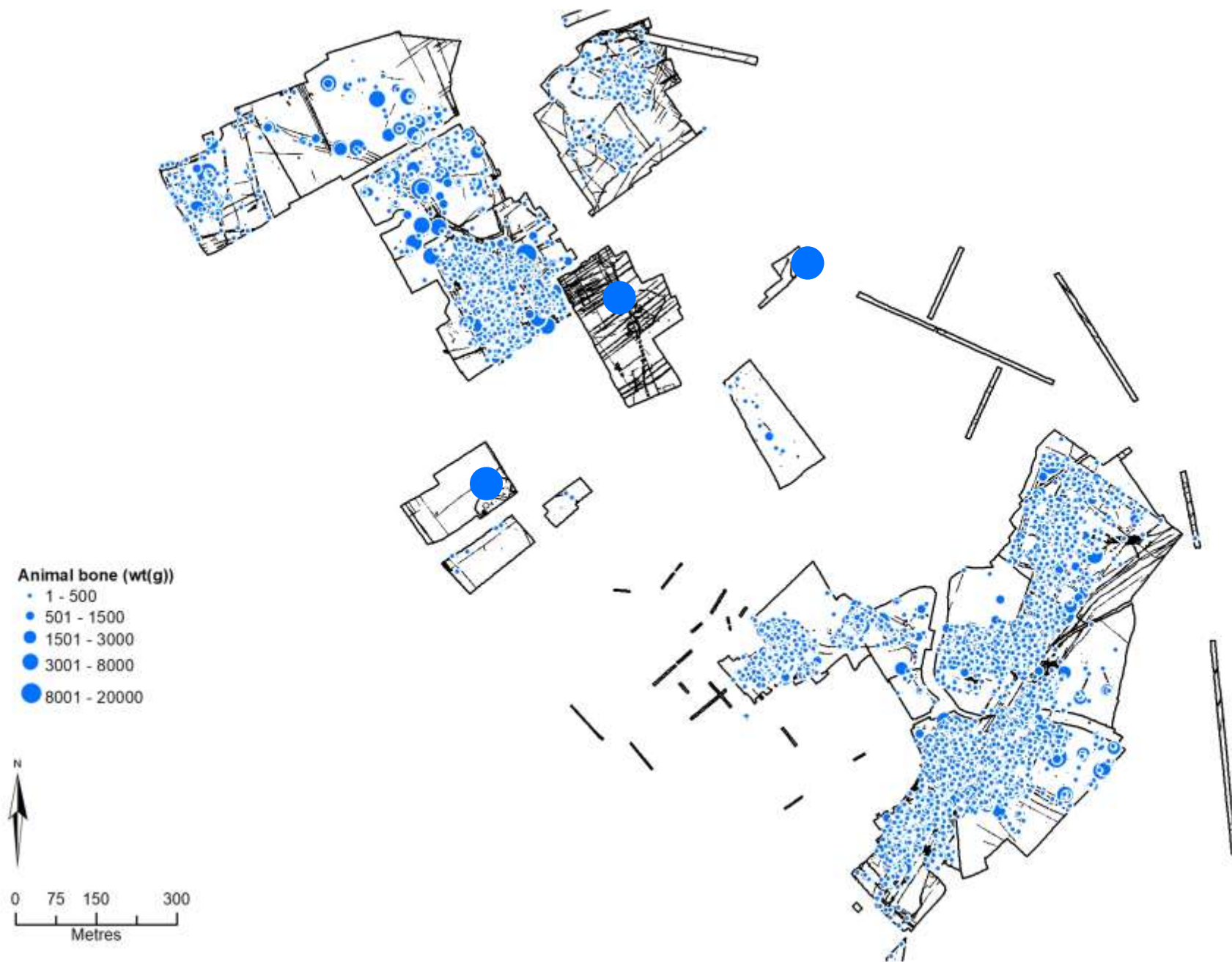








*Horse burial and a partially in situ human burial in the NW apex of the settlement*



*Animal bone*





*Phase 2a Part 1 – environmental samples (bulk samples (red) & tins for pollen analysis (green))*







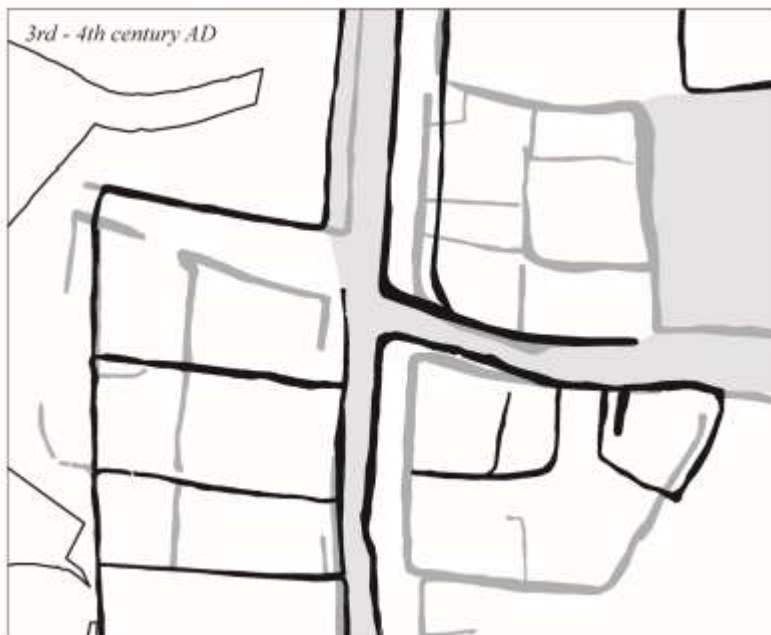
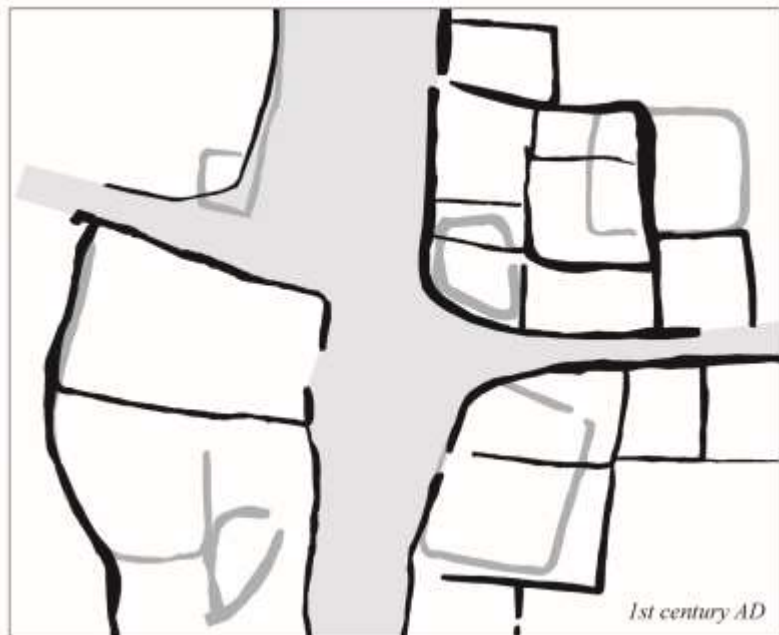
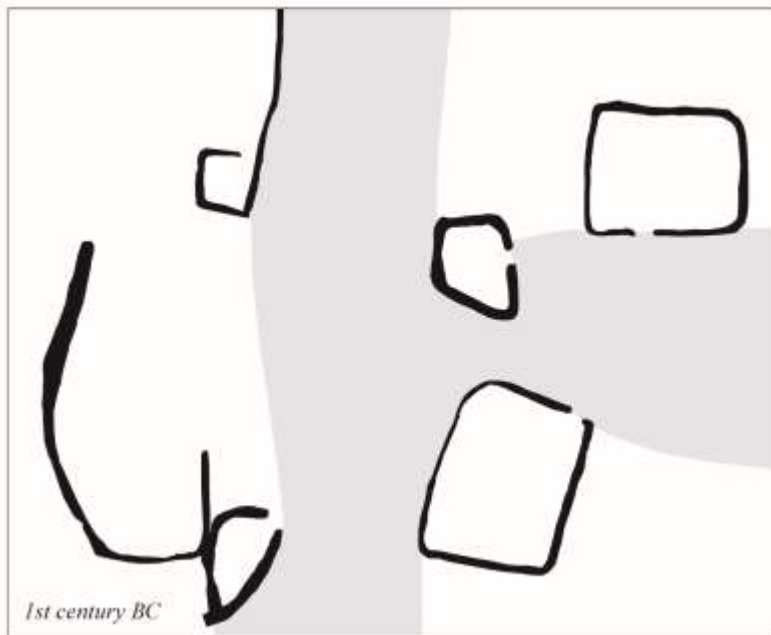
*'Corn' drier – constructed from clay*





Figure 137. Late Iron Age to transition phases, with trackways

- Trackways that connect different parts of the landscape together
- A landscape-scale approach
  - Late-IA – but the ‘spaces’ possibly Middle to later IA
  - Continues into Roman period







# What are the stories?

- *5000 years of occupancy in a single landscape space*
- Place- space-making pre-colonization (MBA/LBA)
- Colonization event(s) (MIA)
- Community establishment (LIA)
- Period of cultural transfer (LIA-ERB 'transition')
- Larger impact & centralizing force (ERB-LRB)
- Change & difference - hybridity (5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- Proto-village enclosing of space (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- Feld systems (med – pmed)
- Airfield/Military/Immigration/New town

# *What drove the occupancy of habitable space during the Iron Age colonization?*

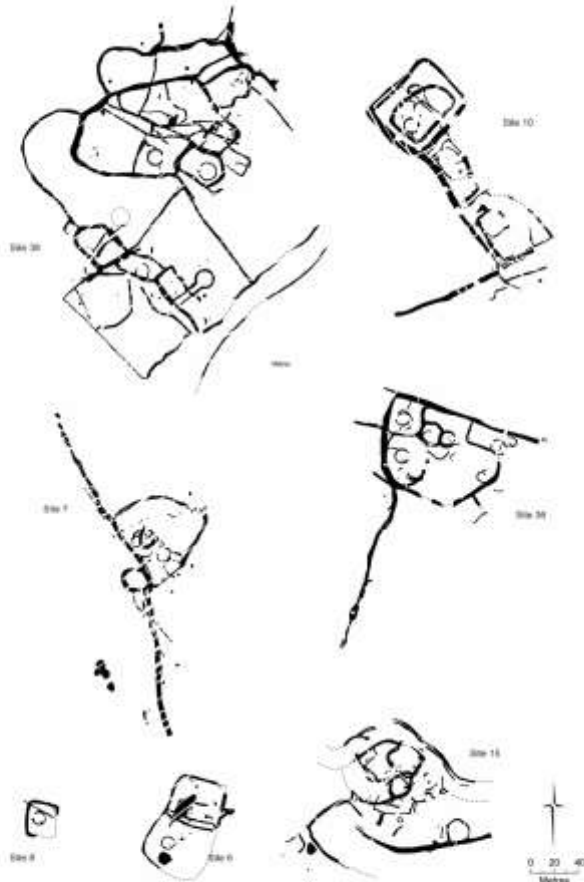
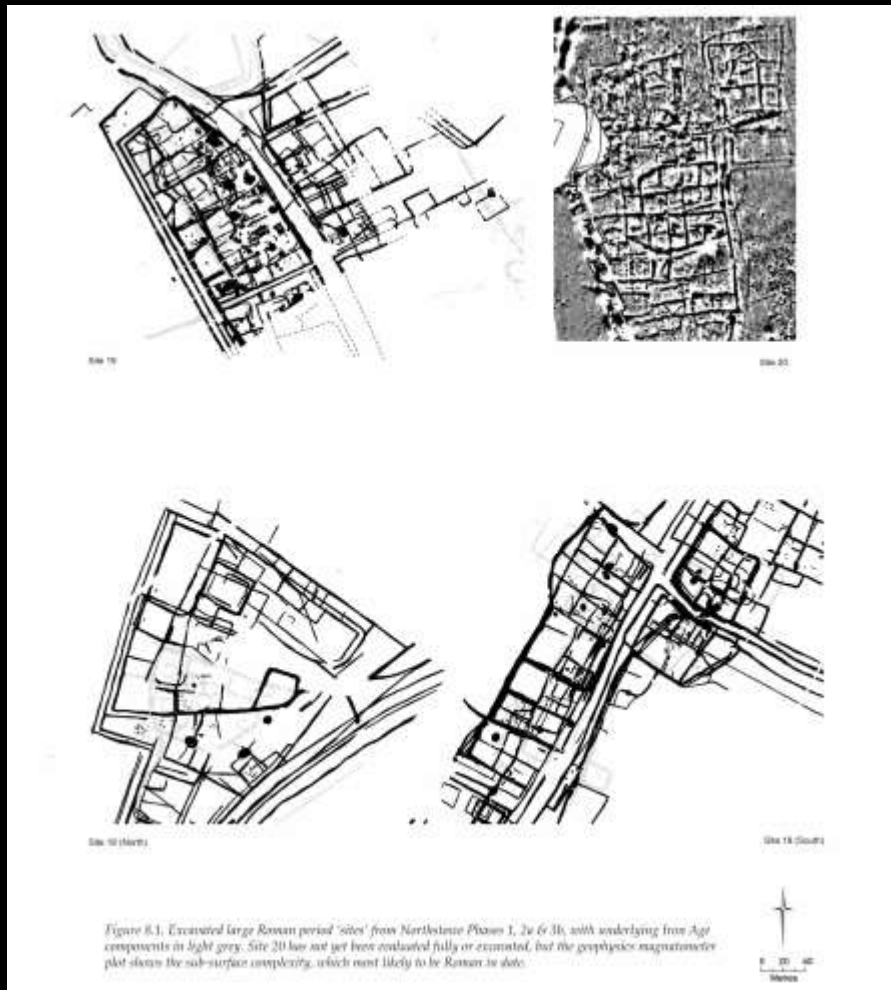


Figure 8.1. Excavated Middle to Late Iron Age 'sites' from Northbourne Phases I, 2a & 2b.

- Geological 'ridgeland'
- Presence of pre-existing features
- Established community structures
- Dispersed to nucleation of communities
- How many events?
- A Middle Iron Age challenge?

# *Iron Age to Roman - what kinds of cultural transfer occurred?*



- Introduction of new material culture
- Land-management
- Burying the dead?
- But some traditions continued (e.g. some house constructions)
- Take-up 'felt' in some areas, while resistance into the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. occurred in others



