ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
WHITE HOUSE MILL HILL
CAPEL ST MARY
SUFFOLK

Grid reference: TM 084 383

Planning Application No: B/13/01434/FUL
HER no: CSM 041
Oasis No.: 187677

Prepared for
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Contents

Summary

This report is for archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the erection of two new dwellings with garages. The project has been carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Matthew Brudenell of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 13th of March 2014.

Three trenches totalling 50m in length by 1.80m in width were positioned to cover the footprint of the development.

The truncated remains of a building foundation wall was revealed in two of the trenches, interpreted as the Roman villa, thought to be in this location. Along with the building foundation walls a number of associated features were also found including a compacted rubble surface considered to be a floor, post holes and an Iron Age ditch (butt-end), which contained Late Iron Age and Belgic ware pottery. Among the other finds from the associated features were a small quantity of good quality painted wall plaster confirming the high status of the Roman building and a large quantity of roofing tile some of which confirmed the existence of a hypocaust system possibly from a bath house in the vicinity.

1. Introduction

An application has been made by the client Robert Hunt for the construction of two new dwellings on land at the White House Mill Hill Capel St Mary Suffolk.

The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. The *Local Plan Policy B22*, while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary. This is also the requirement of the Deposit Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Policy 7, June 1998). As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Suffolk Records Office Ipswich and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record office was consulted. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Suffolk HER and an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/project oasis.

2. Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Reference: TM 084 383

1.1 ***Geology***: The local geology is of London Clay, overlain by drift deposits of Till The soils at the site are mainly of the *Tendring* association. These are described by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW, 1983) as being deep, with often stoneless, coarse loamy soils with some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse and fine loamy over clayey soils (BGS 1990).

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Figure 1. Location of Capel St Mary and Site

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The development affects an area of high archaeological potential, as defined by information held by the county Historic Environment Record (HER No. CSM 002), with Roman cremations recorded to the east and Prehistoric finds imme4diately north (CSM 10 and CSM 13). This is potentially a very rich archaeological site. (SCC Brief)

Mesolithic (c.12,000 – 4,300 BC) and Neolithic (c.4300 – 2100 BC)

3.2 Mesolithic sites are rare in the area of Capel, but finds occur throughout the county (Glazebrook 1997, 9). Among these are Sproughton, and Barham, c. 8.3 km and c. 14.2 km, respectively, all to the north- east of Capel St. Mary. However, a scatter of worked and burnt flints were found locally, the earliest of these possibly dating to the Mesolithic period (Abbott 1996, 4).

3.3 The Neolithic, when considering the wider landscape context, is poorly represented at Capel St. Mary, but at c. 9 km to the west s a causewayed enclosure at Freston could be a tribal centre, which may have also served as a religious site (Dymond & Martin 1999, 36).

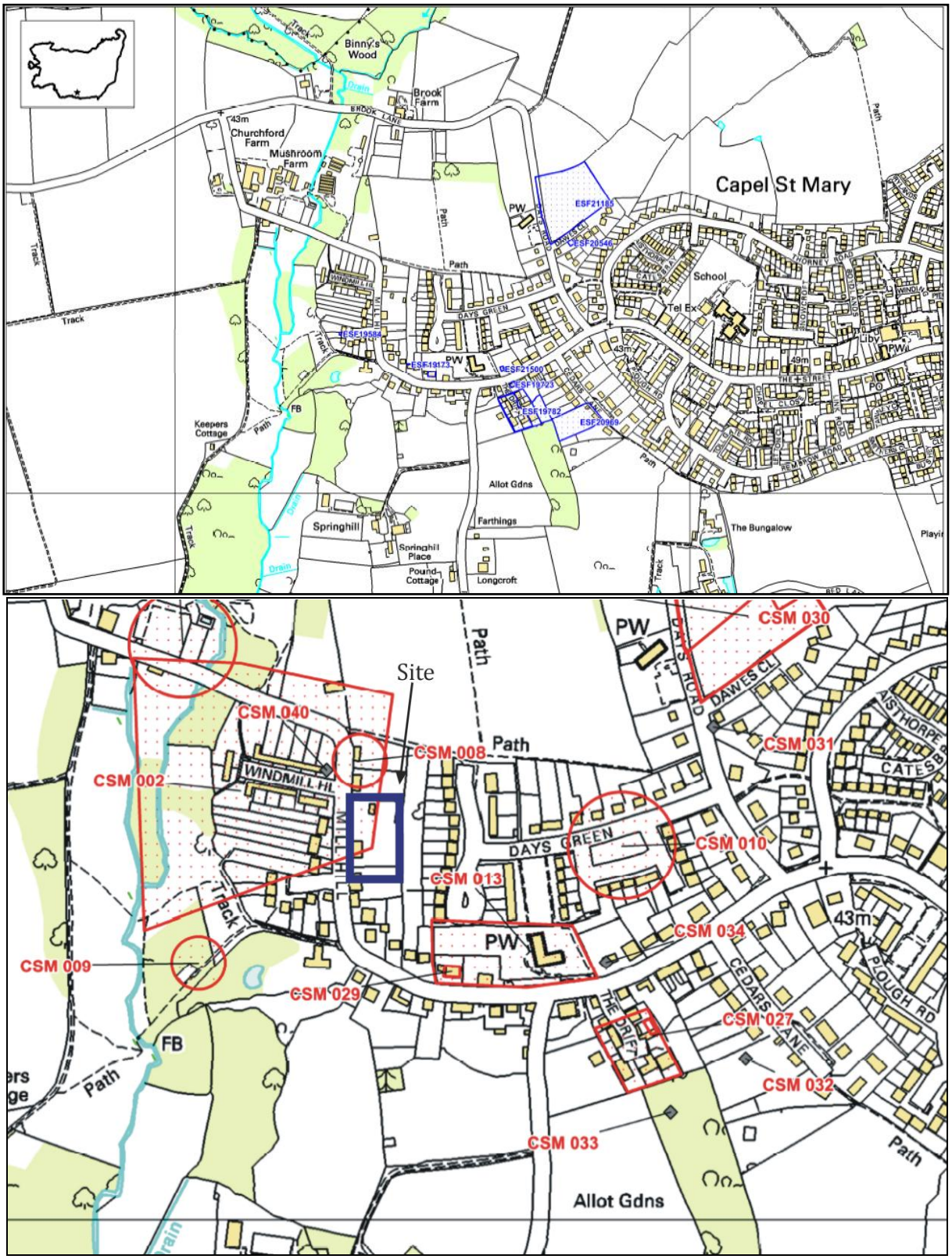

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Figure .2 Historic Environment Record Maps showing the interventions above and monuments below

Bronze Age (c.2500 – c.800 BC)
3.4 Finds from this period, appears to have been focused towards the coast, between the rivers Orwell and Deben (Dymond & Martin 1999, 39). Known distribution patterns tend to favour the lighter soils of the county where settlement and farms are more likely than of the heavier soils found at Capel St. Mary, (Dymond & Martin 1999, 38).

3.5 Pottery fragments from three collared urns were found by Stanley West, unstratified, on a building site and dated from c. 1,700 – 1,300 BC; provide the only evidence for Bronze Age activity within the area under study (CSM 002 – MSF17).

Iron Age (c.800 BC - AD 43)
3.6 Is included in section 3.9 under interventions.

Roman (AD 43 - 410)
3.7The site lies approximately 1km north-west of the Pye Road, the Roman road from London to Colchester and then on to Caistor-by-Norwich (CSM 014). At around 6 km south-west, on this road lies another Roman settlement, at Higham, at c. 5 km to the west of Capel lies another substantial building, similar to that found at Capel St. Mary.

3.8 To the immediate west of the study area, a concentrated area of Roman activity has been discovered, thought to be the site of a wealthy Roman period villa. A coin of Gallienus (260-268 AD) was found (CSM 008) to the immediate north of the study area; a Roman small post-built structure (CSM 030) was located c. 300m north-east within a contemporary field system (excavation ref: ESF 21185). Tiles and kiln debris are known at c. 300m south-west of the study area; cremations of the Roman period were found during the construction of a new meeting hall north of the church of St Mary (CSM 013) at 300m south-east of the study area.

Medieval (1066 – 1500 AD)
3.9 There are early references to 'Capeles' that can be found in taxation records dating to 1254 and 1291 (Eckwell 1960, 86). But there are few records to demonstrate the extent of medieval evidence for Capel, but with a total of 8 listed medieval buildings within the study area, this shows that Capel St Mary was a considerable settlement during this period.

3.10 A spot find of a bronze purse mount (CSM 002 – MSF19) has been recorded immediately to the west of the study area.

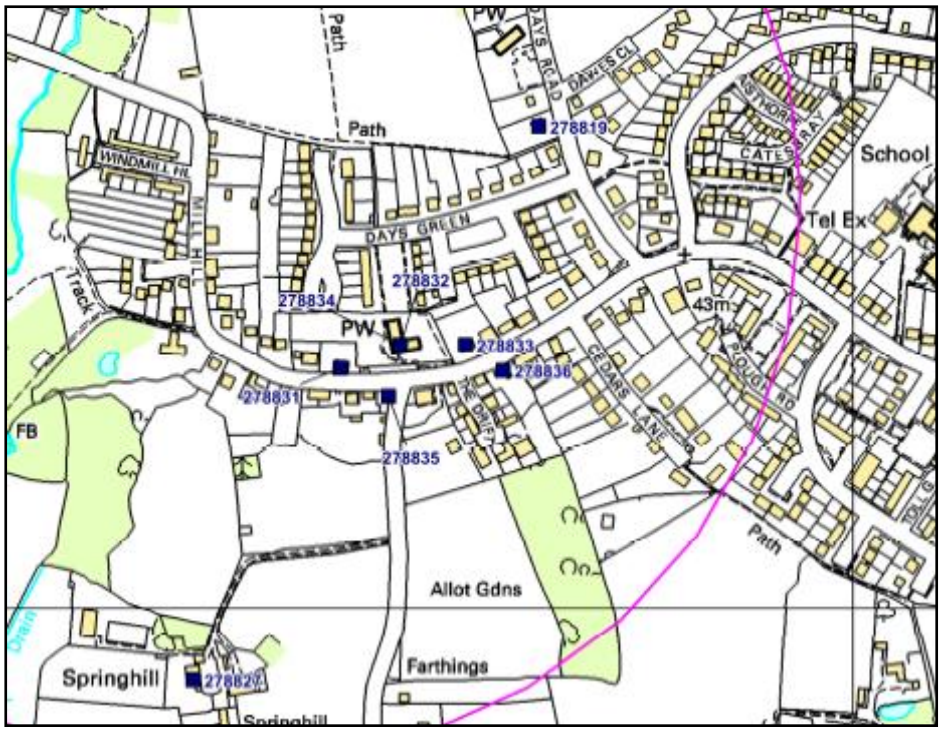

Figure. 3. Listed Buildings Locations

Interventions

3.11 An evaluation conducted in 2006 uncovered a field system of Roman date; the recovered sherds of pottery and tile failed, however, to provide close dating evidence (CSM Misc 3). An evaluation in 2008-2009 (ESF 21185) revealed Iron Age activity concentrated in the north of the site .and subsequent excavations by CAT in 2010 were carried out on land c. 250m north-east of the current study site (ESF 21285), which has revealed a Bronze Age settlement; Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch and pits with round houses and considerable Iron age activity in the form of gulleys and ditches, cremation, later evidence were medieval ditches and oven, post-medieval features, etc. At Cedars Lane, no archaeology was found by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in 2011 (ESF 20969). In 2011 a small evaluation did not locate any archaeology (ESF21090). In 2012 monitoring of foundation trenches for a side and rear extension to a timber framed house of 15th/16th date close to the parish church revealed extensive evidence for Post medieval quarrying and no evidence for any earlier activity (ESF 25100). In 2010, evaluation trenching of a single house plot close to a large multi-period site, failed to reveal any archaeological features or finds (ESF 20546). During 2005, in The Street, Monitoring of strip foundations for the construction of a single dwelling revealed no archaeological finds or features. Previous terracing was evident and it seemed likely that any archaeological deposits had been truncated (ESF 19723). In 2006 at the Driftway, a small evaluation revealed evidence for prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval use of the site. A prehistoric system of ditches were likely to be of Later Bronze / Iron Age date and were on a separate alignment from those of the Roman period. (ESF19782); subsequent monitoring at the same site revealed up to eight separate ditches, all on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, were identified. One of the ditches contained Roman pottery and all are parallel to other ditches identified during the evaluation and dated to the Roman period (ESF 198780).

4. Cartographic Information

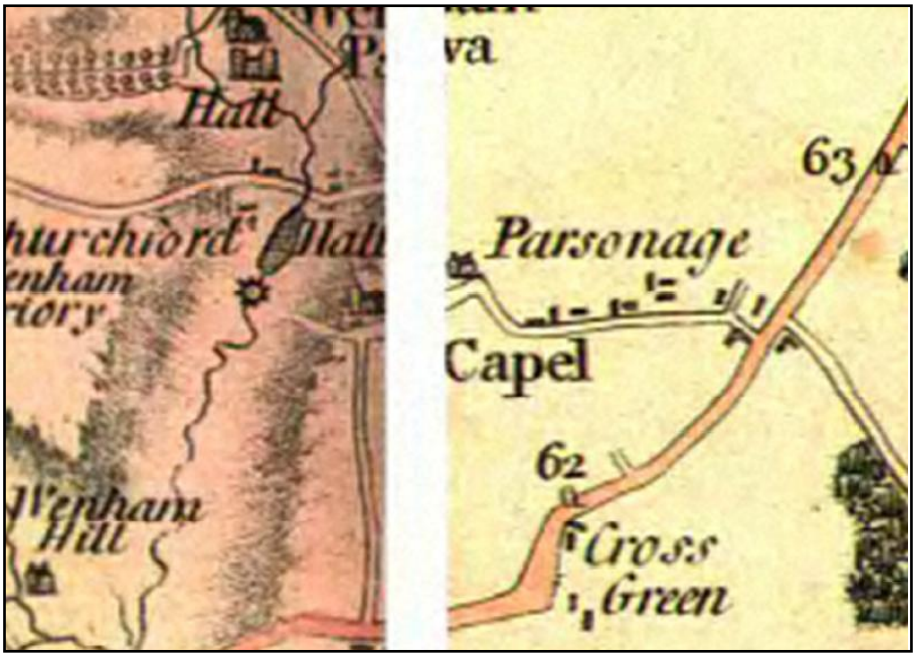

Figure 4. Hodskinson's map of Capel St Mary, 1783

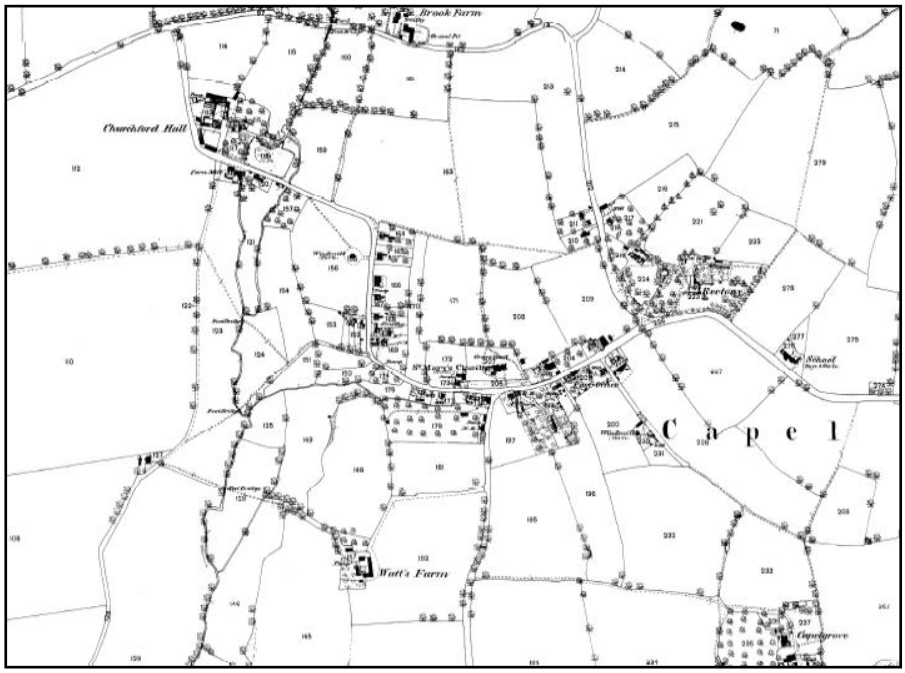

Figure 5. 1st ed. O S map of Capel St Mary

5. Results

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Figure 6. Block plan of site with trench locations

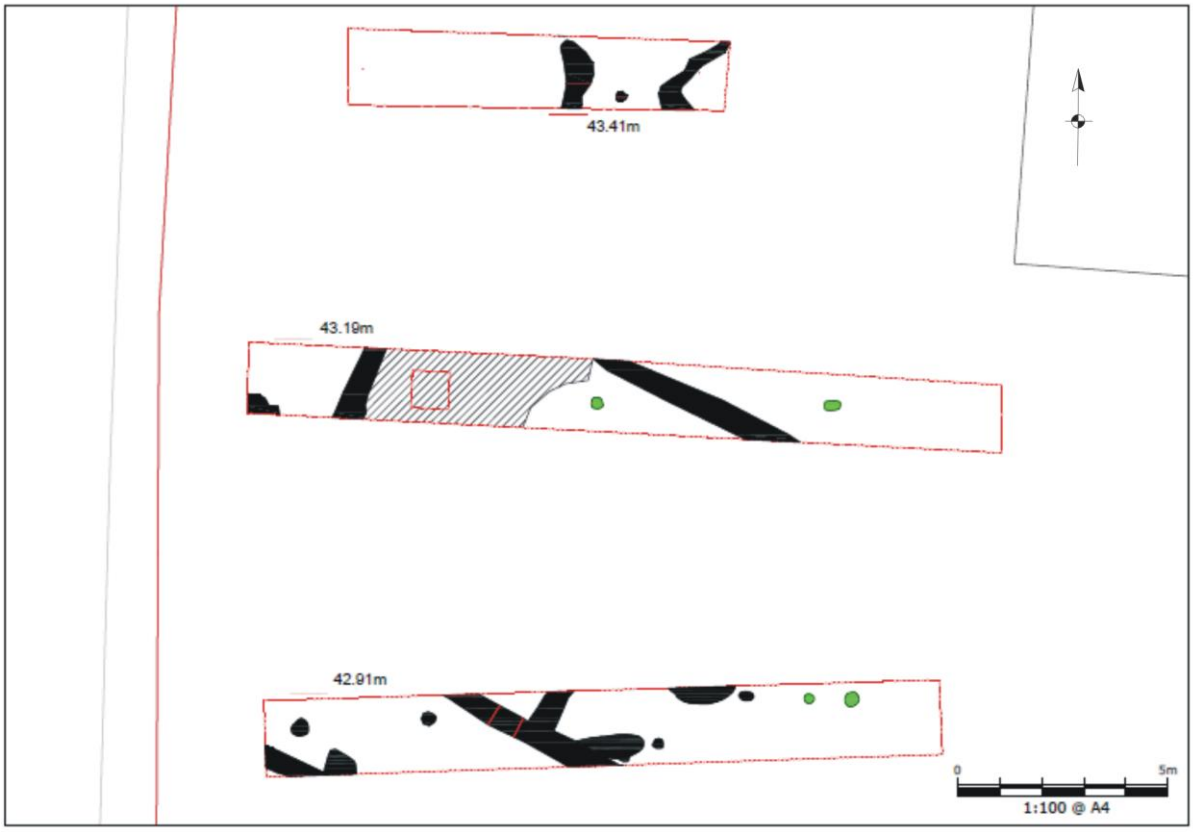

Figure 7. Trench Locations showing features in black, modern features in green

5.1 Fieldwork

A plan of all three trenches was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10 and 1:20.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

Levels were taken using a GPS machine.

5.2 The Evaluation Trenches

5.21 Trench 1

Trench 1, orientated east-west and located in the north of the site was 9.4 m long by 1.8 m width by 0.85m depth, comprising a top soil (1000) at 0.44m depth and a subsoil (1001), 0.41m depth and was opened to reveal three features: [1013] was a linear type feature which then curved at right angles at its southern point, was 0.35m at the maximum point wide and 0.18m deep at the deepest point and consisted of a sandy silt with rare pea-grit gravel with a dark brown soil with reddish-brown clay lenses, which revealed no finds. The second feature encountered was [1005], 0.90m width by 0.20m depth, possibly a linear feature with a central a bulbous area, being part of the same feature and not a different cut, which contained some questionable Roman tile. A post hole [1007] was revealed located between the two features mentioned above, was 0.29m wide by 0.18m depth; no evidence of a post-pipe and consisted of compacted brown sandy silt with occasional flint nodules with no finds.

5.22 Trench 2

Trench 2, orientated east-west, in the centre of the site was 20.75m long by 1.8m width by 0.72m depth, comprising a top soil (1000) at 0.32m depth, a subsoil (1001) at 0.32m depth. Features include two heavily truncated wall construction cuts with no bonding or course-work [1009] on a north-east to south-west alignment, returning along the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment projecting a corner at c. 6m beyond the former wall cut mentioned. The depth was not investigated at this point (see Tr 3), the width of the wall cuts was c. 0.75m. Abutting the wall cut to the western extent of the foundation wall was a compacted layer (1010) containing compacted flint with fragments of mortar and plaster of a pinkish colour with possible *Opus-signinum* (cement); finds included a *Samian*-ware sherd and one other sherd of Roman fabric. A section was cut through this layer to ascertain its depth, which was c. 020m and consisted mainly of cobbled flint (S. 4). In the western corner of the trench were two intercutting pits [1028, 1030]. Pit [1030], 0.40m wide by 0.17m deep cut pit [1028], 0.60m wide by 0.20m depth, both contained similar fills of compacted dark brown silty sand with common large flint cobbles (S. 7). A post hole found was modern.

5.23 Trench 3

Trench 3, orientated east-west, and located in the south was 18.50m long by 1.80m wide by 0.60m deep with a top soil (1000) of 0.40m deep and a subsoil of 0.20m (1001) deep. The features encountered included further wall construction cuts on the same alignment to those in trench 2 [1019, 1025, and 1026]. A one metre slot was cut into the wall construction trench [1017] revealing a very compacted cobbled orangey-brown sandy-silt matrix (1016), 0.70m wide by 0.16m deep; no finds were found within the fill. An abutting perpendicular wall connected [1025] was not investigated.

A butt end of a ditch [1022] was revealed in the north wall of trench 3 of 1.80m width by 0.35m depth, extending into the baulk. The fill (1021) was brown silty sand with one large burnt sand stone found at the base of the ditch, measuring 0.30m by 0.20m.

Finds included some carinated (ribbed) black burnished-ware pottery from the Iron Age date, dated predominantly to the mid 1st century BC and a Roman jar base dated from the early to the mid first century AD or conquest period, animal bone and oyster shells and Roman roof tile, which was probably residual; this feature represents the first phase of occupation on the site.

In the western corner of the trench, further features were discovered including a post hole [1015], which cut a further feature [1019]. The post hole was 0.44m deep by 0.96 wide, was concave to east but cut vertically to the west (S. 5); the earlier feature [1019] appeared to be a further wall cut, only partially visible containing a flint and sandy silt matrix around possible flint cobbles that appeared to be laid on edge at a depth of 0.18m. An alignment of post holes located within the trench were of modern date.

5.24 Sections and Plans

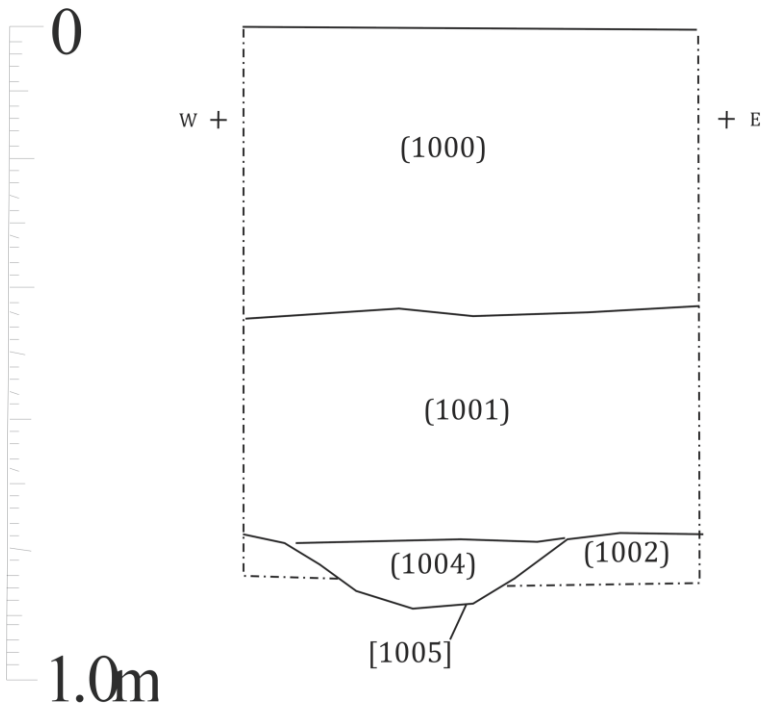

Figure 8. Trench 1, section 1

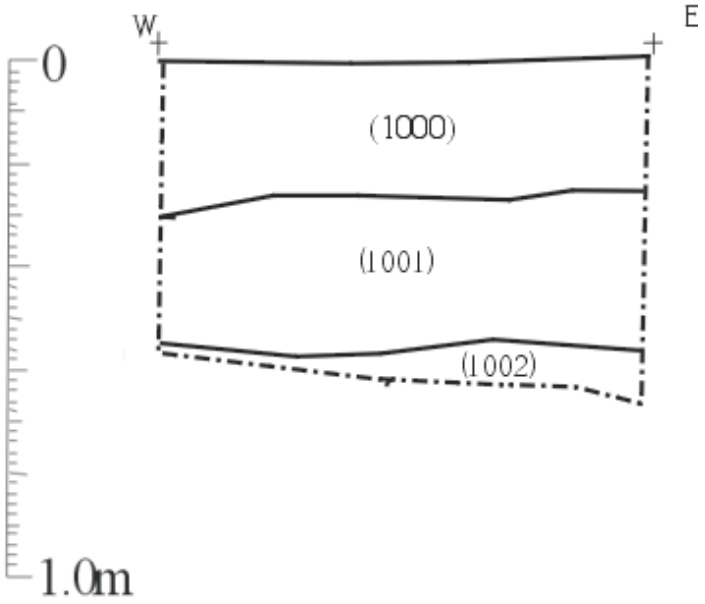

Figure 9. Trench 2, sample section (S.9)

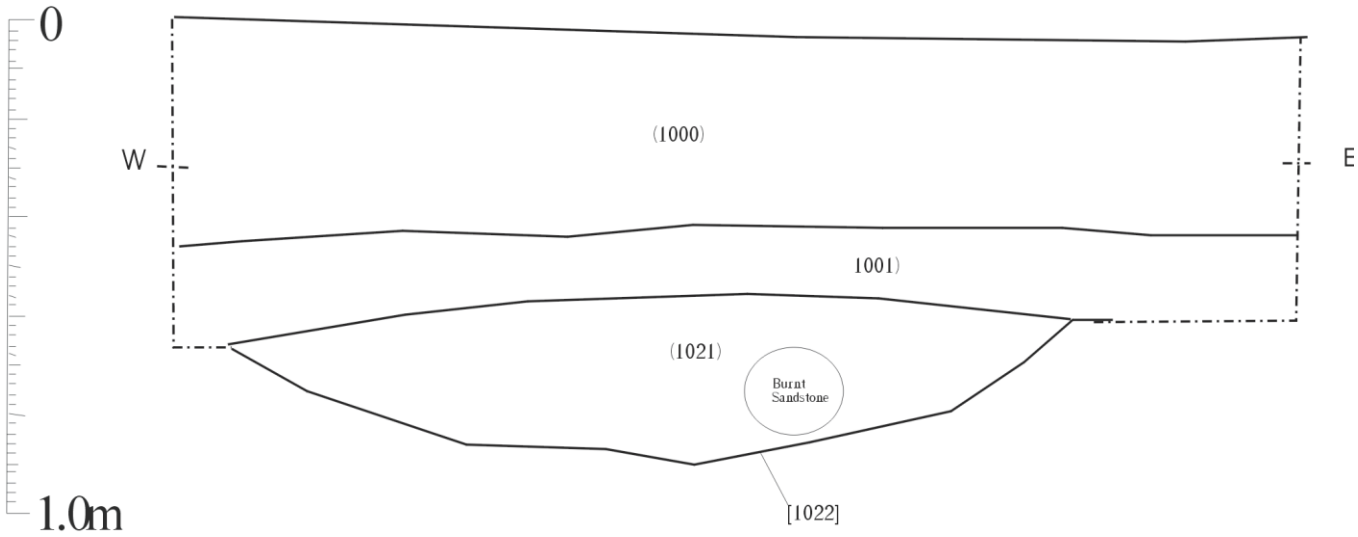

Figure 10. Trench 3, section. 6, butt- end of ditch [1022]

Figure 11. Trench 3, section. 8, through wall foundation

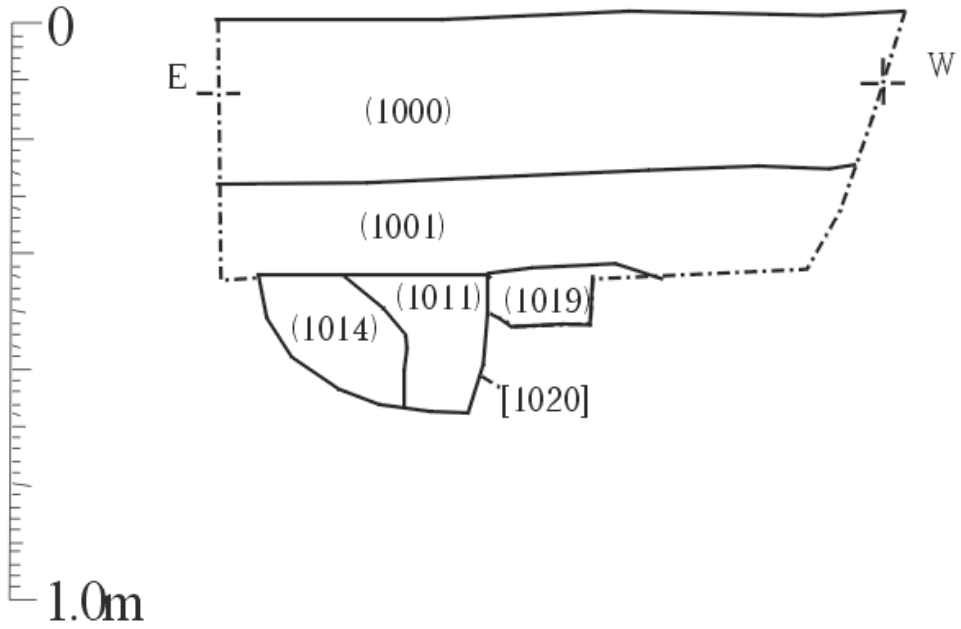

Figure 12. Section 5. Post hole [1020] cutting wall [1019]

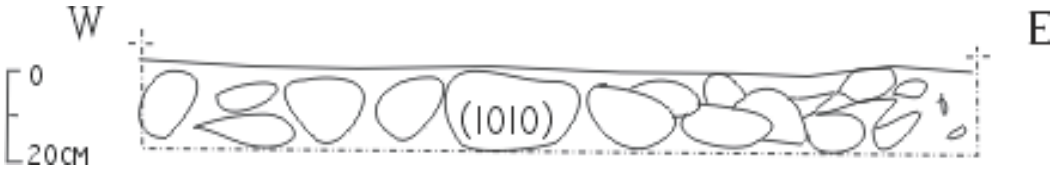

Figure 13. Section. 4, through floor layer (1010)

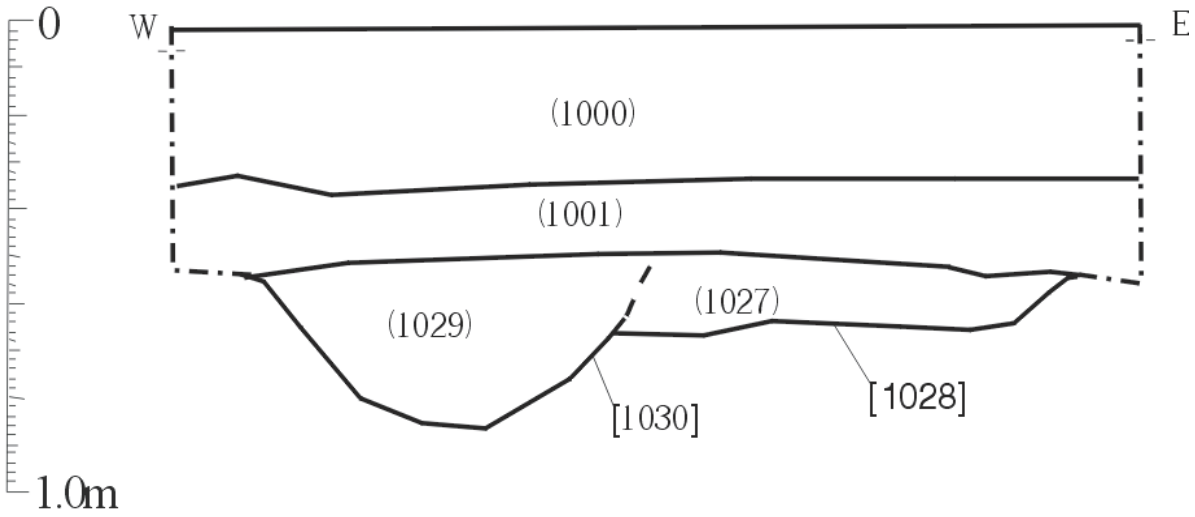

Figure 14. Section 7 of intercutting pits

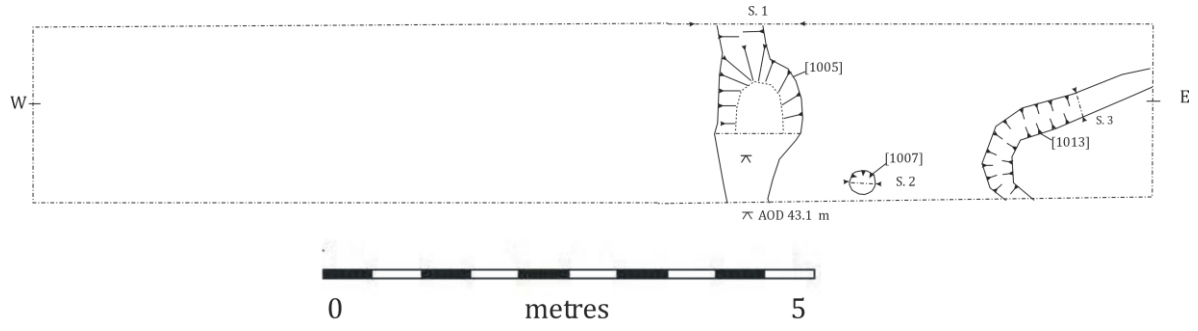

Figure 13. Plan of Trench 1

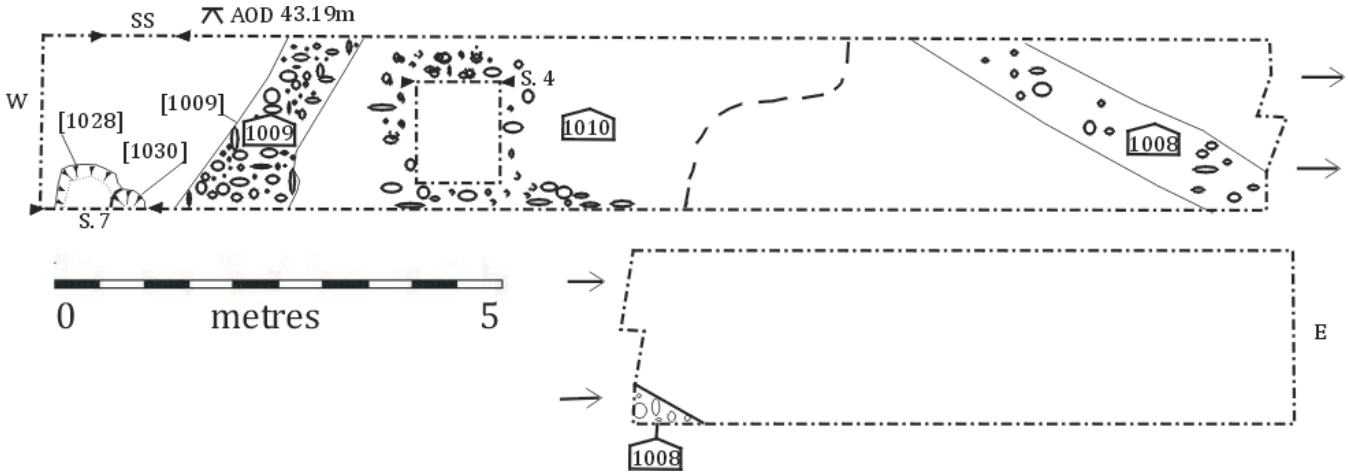

Figure 14. Plan of Trench 2

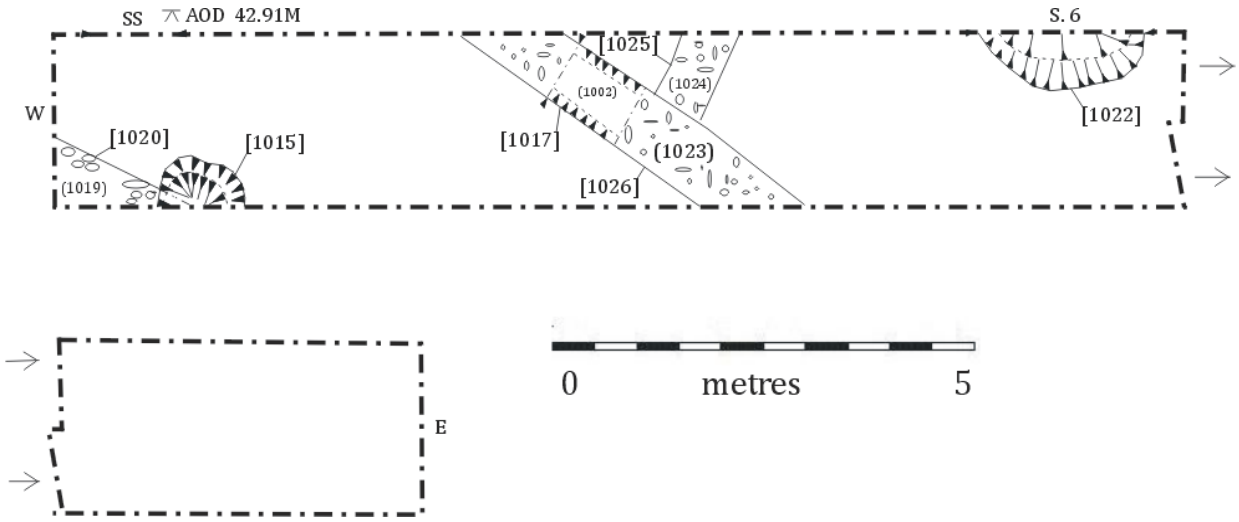

Figure 15. Plan of Trench 3

Table 1. Context List

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find Types /comments
(1000)	Layer	Topsoil; maximum depth: 0.40m	Garden soil	
(1001)	Layer	Subsoil; brown sandy silt with common sub-angular- rounded gravel with cbm to a depth of 0.36m	Old agricultural soil	Common cbm in the form of Roman roofing material
(1002)	Layer	Natural drift geology	Patterned ground of white fine sand and orange silty gravel patches	
(1003)	Not used			
(1004)	Fill	Fill of [1005]; brown sandy silt with common sub-angular gravel; 0.20m depth, width 0.85m	Very blotchy in appearance- could be an eves gulley	Tile and flint
[1005]	Cut	Mid-grey brown, silty soil, friable; depth, 0.20m; width, 0.42m, but widens to 0.85m	Possibly an eves gulley, but rather too wide at this point for this kind of feature	
(1006)	Fill	Of posthole; depth, 0.18m; width, 0.29m	Not datable disuse	No finds
[1007]	Cut	Of posthole; ; depth, 0.18m; width, 0.29m	Not datable	Discrete feature
(1008)	Structure	Cobble and angular flint with no mortar or coursework; length 2.20m, depth not recorded, width 0.75m	Wall foundation for Roman building	No finds
1009	Cut	Wall foundation; length 2.20m, depth not recorded, width 0.75m	Construction cut for wall of Roman building	
1010	Layer	Compacted flint with possible mortar and plaster and tile; length 4.80m, depth 0.20m, width 1.80m	Possibly floor of villa	Pottery sherds including Samian
(1011)	Fill	Dark greyish-brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt; 0.35m wide? Continued into baulk; depth 0.50m	Post-pipe fill of post hole [1015]	Painted wall plaster
1012	Fill	Light brown sandy silt with rare small gravel grits with darker lenses	Disuse of feature or natural layer	No finds
[1013]	Cut	Linear feature-possibly natural; 3.50m in length by 0.35m width by 0.18m depth	Dog-leg feature or possibly a natural layer	
(1014)	Fill	Clayey-sandy silt with common rounded stones gravel, mostly reddish-brown with grey lenses; width extends into baulk, depth 0.45m with stones to base	Disuse of post hole with post packing at base of later phase to construction of villa	Painted wall plaster
[1015]	Cut	Of post hole; width uncertain, extends into baulk (see S. 9), depth 0.45m	Post hole of later phase to villa, possibly later construction or modification to building	
(1016)	Fill	Orangey-brown silty gravel with stones, cobbles, mostly sub-angular, depth 0.17 by 0.75m width by 1m long section	Heavily compacted fill of a wall foundation	No finds

Context Table 1 contd.

[1017]	**Cut**	**Linear construction cut; 0.73m width by 0.20m depth of 1m section**	**Foundation wall of Roman building**	
(1018)	**Not used**			
(1019)	**Fill**	**Orangey grey-brown gravel and chalk; 0.18m deep by 0.38m width exposed, extends into baulk**	**Compacted gravel and stones suggests wall construction**	**No finds**
[1020]	**Cut**	**Cut of wall? 0.75 width by 1m long, too little exposed to id, extends into trench/baulk**	**Possible cut for wall construction of Roman building, not enough exposed to establish full identity**	**Rare tile fragments**
(1021)	**Fill**	**Brown silty sand with one large burnt sandstone of 0.30m by 0.20m; width 1.80m, depth 0.30m including some shells**	**Of ditch extending into baulk**	**Mid 1st c. AD pottery IA /early RB types**
[1022]	**Cut**	**Of butt end of ditch extending into baulk; width 1.80m, depth 0.30m**	**Butt end of IA ditch with a single ``odd`` large burnt sandstone in base**	**Refuse pit or a ritual fire/deposit?**
[1023]	**Structure**	**Orangey-brown silty gravel with stones, cobbles, mostly sub-angular, depth 0.18m by 3.50m long**	**Heavily compacted fill of a wall foundation**	**No finds**
(1024)	**Structure**	**Orangey-brown silty gravel with stones, cobbles, mostly sub-angular**		**No finds**
[1025]	**Cut**	**Cut of wall? 0.75 width by 0.75m long, too little exposed to id, extends into trench/baulk**	**Wall construction cut; 0.75m width, junction of [1026] wall**	
[1026]	**Cut**	**Linear cut for wall construction; 3.50m long by 0.75m width**	**Wall foundation for Roman building**	
(1027)	**Fill**	**Compacted dark brown silty sand with common large flint cobbles; 0.60m width by 0.20m depth**	**Disuse of pit**	**Pottery and tile**
[1028]	**Cut**	**Of pit; 0.60m width by 0.20m depth**	**Small shallow refuse pit cut by pit [1030]**	
(1029)	**Fill**	**Compacted, dark greyish-brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt; 0.40m wide by 0.17 depth Continued into baulk; depth 0.50m**	**Disuse**	**No finds**
[1030]	**Cut**	**Pit; 0.40m wide by 0.17 depth Continued into baulk; depth 0.50m**	**Refuse pit? cutting pit [1028]**	

6. The Finds and Environmental Evidence

The Late Iron Age/Roman pottery
By Cathy Tester

6.1 Introduction

Seventeen sherds of wheel made Late Iron Age/Roman pottery weighing 238g were collected from seven contexts – one pit a butt-end of a ditch, a post-pipe, a wall and three unstratified, surface or subsoil contexts. Almost all were found with Roman CBM. The pottery was quantified by count, weight, fabric and form by context and is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 2. LIA/Roman pottery by context

Context	Feature	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Notes	Date
1001	subsoil	GX	1	31	Jar base type 1 (cut wire) battered	Rom
1010	surface	BSW	1	4	Poss. Rim from dish type 6.18 (200mm dia)	MC2-MC3
		SATR	1	3	Dr 33 cup ,wall sherd	LC2-MC3
1011	post-pipe	BSW	1	7	Wall/floor junc. dish (B1) oxy core	MC2+
		GX	1	1	Small body sherd	Rom
1019	wall	GROG	1	26	Jar body sherd	ERom
		RX	1	1	poss. Glob beaker sherd	ERom
1021	pit	BSW	2	9	Body sherd, with 'Romanising' fabric	MC1
		GROG	1	9	Jar base type 3	1-60AD
		GROG	1	18	Storage Jar sherd, (same vessel as unstrat spoil	E/MC1
		GROG	1	10	Jar neck & shoulder w 3 grooved cordons	MC1
		GROG	1	13	Sherd from upper half of carinated jar , w grooved wide cordon	MC1
		GX	1	32	Base type 2 possibly trimmed & re-used (c. 60mm diam)	Rom
1027	pit	BSW	1	28	Battered body sherd w oxidised core	M/LC1
		RX	1	3	body sherd	Rom?
Unstrat	spoil	GROG	1	43	Storage jar sherd (same vessel as 1021)	E/MC1

6.2 The pottery supply

Five LIA-Roman fabrics or fabric groups were identified which include an imported fineware and local or regional coarsewares. The only fineware, a single sherd of East Gaulish Samian from Trier (SATR), is from a Dr 33 cup which belongs to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century (1010).

Four coarseware fabric groups of unknown but presumed local or regional origin were identified: Black-surfaced wares (BSW), both 'early and later, Belgic Grog-tempered wares (GROG), Miscellaneous Sandy greywares (GX) and Miscellaneous red coarsewares (RX). Although none of the sherds are particularly diagnostic, the grog-tempered fabrics and early black-surfaced wares belong to the late Iron Age or early Roman period, the early, middle or late 1st century AD. Fabric GX is regarded as 'fully-romanised' but the two jar bases present could only be broadly dated as Roman. The latest datable pieces are the two 'later' BSW dishes from post pipe 1011 and the surface of Test pit 1 (1010) which are 2nd century or later.

Apart from ditch 1021, each context contained only one or two sherds as shown in Table 1. Pit 1021 produced a fairly cohesive group of seven sherds (91g) which included pieces from large storage jars, cordoned, carinated jars and sherds with 'romanising' fabrics containing grog and burnt organic material. The overall date for the pottery from this context could be the mid 1st century, either side of the Conquest.

6.3 Post-Roman pottery

By Sue Anderson

Seven sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from five contexts, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Post-Roman pottery

Context	Fabric	No	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
1000/1002	LPME	2	37	plant pot body sherds	19-20th C
1001	REFW	2	17	2 transfer-printed bowl rims	19-20th C
1010	MCW	1	9	oxidised medium sandy body sherd	12-14th C
1011	EMWSS	1	4	v. soft, could be earlier?	11-13th C
1016	REFW	1	3	undecorated body sherd	19-20th C

Two fragments were probably of medieval date, both body sherds. A sandy and sparse shelly sherd (EMWSS), possibly early medieval but in a soft fabric which may be earlier, came from 1011. A body sherd of medium sandy coarseware (MCW) came from 1010.

Five sherds were of recent date and comprised two pieces of plant pot (LPME), two transfer-printed bowl rims and one undecorated body sherd of refined factory-made whitewares (REFW).

Ceramic building material

By Sue Anderson

6.4 Introduction

One hundred and twenty-one fragments (15052g) of CBM were recovered from ten contexts during the evaluation (Appendix 1), the majority (50 pieces) from topsoil 1000/1001. Table 3 shows the quantities by type and form. One small piece of lime mortar (10g) was also recovered from wall 1019.

Table 4. Quantities of CBM by form

Period	Type	Form	Code	No	Wt (g)
Roman	Roofing	Flanged tegula	FLT	11	2313
		Imbrex	IMB	31	3538
	Hypocaust	Box flue tile	BOX	4	1371
	Unknown	Roman tile	RBT	51	4144
Medieval	Roofing	Plain roof tile: med	RTM	1	18
Post-medieval	Roofing	Pantile?	PAN?	1	48
	Walling	Late brick	LB	4	3486
Unknown	Unknown	Unidentified	UN	18	134
Total				121	15052

6.5 Methodology

The CBM was quantified by context, fabric and type, using fragment count and weight in grams. Fabrics are based on coarseness of sand within the matrix and major inclusions, but for smaller fragments this may mean classification simply on the basis of the sand content. Roman forms were identified with the aid of Brodribb (1987). The presence of burning, combing, finger marks, mortar and other surface treatments was recorded. Tile thicknesses were measured and for flanged tegulae, the form of flange was noted and its width and external height were measured. Data was input into an MS Access database, and a full catalogue forms part of the archive.

6.6 Fabrics

Table 5 shows the basic fabric types identified in this assemblage, and the quantities of CBM fragments for each by form.

Table 5. CBM fabric descriptions and quantities (fragment count)

Fabric	Code	FLT	IMB	BOX	RBT	RTM	PAN?	LB
fine sandy, no obvious inclusions	fs	7	6		12		1	
fine sandy with clay pellets	fscp	4	19	4	22			
fine sandy with very fine calcareous inclusions	fsc				1			
medium sandy, no obvious inclusions	ms				16	1		
medium sandy with clay pellets	mscp		6					
medium sandy with flint and ferrous inclusions	msffe							1
medium sandy with flint	msf							1
medium sandy with grog	msg							2

Both fine and medium sandy fabrics were present in this group, with fine sandy types being more frequent. Fine sandy tiles are generally common in Roman assemblages across the county, but all of these fabric groups have been identified on other sites in the region. The majority of Roman tiles from this site were in two main fabrics and may represent only one or two phases of construction.

6.7 Roman tiles

Forty-six of the 97 Roman tile fragments could be identified to type, of which 42 were roof fragments, i.e. flanged tegulae (FLT) and imbrices (IMB). The imbrices were 12–18mm thick. Several pieces were corner fragments and six fragments from 1000/1002 appeared to be from the narrow end of a splayed-profile tile. The tegula fragments were between 15-25mm thick. Three had surviving flanges with sub-rectangular and convex profiles. One piece had a curving finger mark 'signature'.

Four fragments of two hypocaust tiles (BOX) were also present. One abraded fragment had curving combed keying made with a comb with wide teeth. The other had diagonal lattice knife-cut keying; it measured 21mm thick, 147mm wide and more than 245mm long. It is possible that this fragment was a half-box rather than a full box tile. The knife-scoring suggests an early Roman date for the piece.

Of the fragments identified simply as Roman tile (RBT), thicknesses of fifteen varied between 15–53mm. Thirteen fragments less than 25mm thick are most likely to be roofing tile fragments. One of these had a finger mark 'signature', and some had knife-trimmed bases, both frequently – though not exclusively – seen on flanged tegulae. The other two were 38mm and 53mm thick and could be wall or floor bricks. Many of the small unidentified fragments from surface finds 1010 may also be Roman tile.

Several of the pieces of Roman tile collected from topsoil 1000/1002 were joining fragments representing quite large parts of individual tiles, perhaps suggesting that they had not moved very far from their original point of deposition.

Other large fragments were recovered as unstratified and surface finds (1001, 1010). Smaller pieces were collected from post-pipe fill 1011, walls 1016 and 1019, ditch butt-end 1021, and pit fills 1027 and 1029, but at least some of this material was probably residual as later finds were recovered in 1011 and 1016.

6.8 Post-Roman CBM

One small, abraded fragment of roof tile in a medium sandy fabric was probably a piece of medieval roof tile (RTM). It was recovered from topsoil 1000/1002.

An edge fragment from a roof tile in a fine sandy machine made fabric is recorded as pantile but could be a piece of ridge tile. It was an unstratified find (1001).

Four fragments of late brick were recovered as unstratified finds 1001. They were all thick bricks (64-71mm) and two were complete in width (100-107mm). They were handmade in typical local fabrics and are probably of 19th-century date.

6.9 Discussion

The CBM assemblage is dominated by Roman material, as would be expected given the nature of the site. Most of the fragments are pieces of roofing tile in typical forms and a limited range of fabrics. A few pieces may have been wall/floor bricks, and there are hypocaust fragments which may indicate the presence of a bathhouse. At least one tile can be dated to the early part of the Roman period, which fits in with the dating evidence from the pottery assemblage (C. Tester pers comm).

6.10 Roman painted wall plaster

By Richenda Goffin

6.11 Introduction

Small quantities of Roman painted wall plaster were recovered from the fill 1011 of a post-pipe and the fill 1014 of a posthole, both in Trench 3. More fragments were also found from the processing of environmental samples from 1011.

6.12 The assemblage

Fourteen fragments of plaster weighing 117g were found in the postpipe fill 1011, together with a fragment of unfaced mortar (15g). All the wall plaster has the same type of mortar, which has an off-white sandy matrix at least 9mm in depth with moderate quartz and flint inclusions. There are no backing marks on the reverse of the fragments, and the mortar probably formed the second layer of the arriccio, or sequence of mortar layers upon which the final fine plaster layer (the intonaco) was laid.

Eight fragments are painted with a black background. Some fragments are worn and show some signs of red ochre pigment underneath the black pigment. Brushmarks are visible on some of the fragments, and two joining pieces are worn leaving behind in a linear shape, suggesting that originally there may have been a stripe there in a contrasting colour. Four other fragments with the same fabric have a plain red ochre background, with a smooth polished surface suggesting that the original wall scheme was of a reasonable quality. A small fragment of plain white and plain yellow plaster was also present.

Four further fragments of plain black were found in posthole fill 1014 weighing 9g, together with a fragment of opus signinum.

6.13 Discussion

Too few fragments survive to be able to describe the decorative scheme, but certain suggestions can be made, based on the standardisation of many simple Roman wall plaster schemes in Britain. The mortar sequence indicates that the plaster fragments came from a single wall, or possibly more than one wall which shared the type of mortars making up the arriccio.

No linking fragments are present, but it seems likely that the surviving pieces come from a middle zone of a wall decoration, above the lowest register or dado. The polished red ochre fragments probably form elements from a one or a series of red panels, which may have been further decorated with other polychrome decorations such as yellow stripes. The frequency of the plain black plaster may suggest that the red panels and possible other coloured bands were framed vertically by wide black bands or intervals, which could also have been further decorated. This combination of red panels framed with black elements is particularly common in the late first to second century in the Roman north-western provinces (Ling 1985, 22, Davey and Ling 1981 33).

Plant macrofossils and other remains
by Anna West

6.14 Introduction and methods

Two bulk samples were taken from archaeological features from the archaeological evaluation. The samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful insight into to utilisation of local plant resources and agricultural activity, as well as looking for industrial residues that could provide evidence of any industrial activities taking place on the site.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Once dried the flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant macrofossil remains or artefacts were recorded in Table 5. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace 2010).
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The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total. The non-floating residues were scanned with a magnet to recover any ferrous material that may be present.

6.15 Quantification

For this initial assessment, macro remains such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones were scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories : # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens.

Remains that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance: + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant.

6.16 Results

Table 6. Plant macrofossils and other remains

SS No	Context No	Feature type	Flot Contents
1	1004	Pit	Charcoal ++, Charred Hazel nutshell #, Weed seeds #, Rootlets +, Coal fragments +
2	1011	Post pipe	Charcoal ++, Charred cereal grains #, Rootlets ++, Snails +

Both flots were relatively small at 20ml for Sample 1, (1004) and 80ml for Sample 2, (1011).

The preservation of the macrofossils within the samples is through charring and is generally poor. Wood charcoal fragments were present in both samples but were very fragmented making it unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

Sample 1, fill 1004 from pit [1005] contained a small number of charred Hazel (Corylus sp.) nutshell fragments and a single Bramble (Rubus sp.) seed, which was uncharred and unabraded suggesting that it was intrusive within the archaeological deposit.

Sample 2, fill 1011 from post pipe [1015] contained a small number of Wheat (Triticum sp.) grains and a few cereal caryopses which were too puffed and fragmented to identify at this stage.

6.17 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The material was very sparse and fragmented resembling trampled or windblown material.
It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material from these samples at this stage as they have little information of value to add to the archaeological investigations on this site. If further archaeological interventions are planned it is recommended that bulk samples should be taken from any well dated and well-sealed contexts an order to further investigate the nature of the cereal waste.

7. Interpretation

7.1 Until the evaluation of the site in Mill Street, evidence for a Roman villa located in this vicinity was strongly suggested by material finds evidence from building work immediately to the west of the site (CSM 040) when numerous finds of Roman building material was recorded.

7.2 The excavation of trench 1 yielded little in the way of sealed contexts to support the previous finds evidence recorded in the Suffolk HER, however, large amounts of Roman roofing tile was recovered from the top soil and subsoil layers, which suggested that the villa was in this locality. The finds within the top soil and sub soil (1000, 1001) were interpreted as a demolition spread consisting mainly of flat roof tiles with flanges (Tegulae) and ridge tiles (imbrecis) all of a Roman date, including some Hypocaust box-flu tile also with a distinct combed pattern that is of an early Roman type.

7.3 Trench 2, however, revealed a heavily truncated foundation wall consisting of compacted flint and mortar on a north-east- south-west alignment with a return further along the trench on a north-west - south-east alignment, projecting a corner at short distance north of the trench. Abutting the truncated wall on its western extent and within the interior of the presumed building a layer of compacted rubble with mixed plaster and mortar was discovered (fig. 7). This was interpreted as part of a floor because it did not extend beyond the line of the wall foundation cut (outside of the building). One of two intercutting [1029, 27] pits contained tentative evidence for being late Iron Age - early Roman period, with one pit (the earliest [1027] containing the pottery) and may be contemporary with the building or earlier.

7.4 Trench 3 revealed further heavily truncated foundations walls, in particular they respected the previously mentioned walls in trench 2, on the same alignment and undoubtedly part of the same construction (see fig. 7). A perpendicular foundation wall was recorded and extended beyond the baulk (fig. 7), suggesting an additional room or dividing wall existed here. A discrete feature interpreted as a large pit initially is now known to be a butt-end of a ditch (Iron Age) [1022], was discovered containing Belgic ware ,Late Iron age and early Roman pottery and a large burnt sandstone and was dated to either side of the conquest, which pre-dates the building (pers comm. Matt Adams); the large round, burnt sandstone, having been found at the base of the butt-end ditch may have some ritual significance when it went out of use (closure of the ditch).

7.5 A small section of foundation wall [1019] was cut by a pit [1015] containing painted wall plaster (see Goffin, R, 6.10). The plaster was very fragmentary, with a date range of the 1st-2nd centuries and represents a second phase of activity/building on the site, created post-demolition of the building; the pottery from this context and that of the wall cut are all of a similar date, being early Roman showing that this feature is still quite early in the chronology of this site. If this is the case, then the villa/ building may have been destroyed early on in the Roman period. It is interesting to hypothesise that perhaps the building was destroyed deliberately by the Celtic uprising, during the Boudiccan revolt of 60-61 AD, but is unlikely.

Certainly, there is no evidence from this site for later Roman occupation, extending beyond the early second century, in the form of pottery, coins or small finds, as is common on most Romano-British villa sites. In fact the dearth of finds evidence in the form of small finds and other consumables such as pottery does seem to suggest that this site was not extensively occupied for a long period of time unless it was systematically cleaned, which of course is extremely unlikely.

7.5 What finds we do have does suggests an affluent site from possibly around the mid 1st century AD and a very early one for a villa, which one might assume to be at least post-conquest (43AD-). To hypothesise again though, it could have been built in AD50 or even earlier and destroyed by AD 60, giving it a short lifespan of say only 10 years. Some "Romanised" buildings might have existed in East Anglia before the conquest. We know that by the early-mid first century AD many fine Roman imported goods were being consumed by the indigenous peoples of Britain who, having become accustomed to them, may have aspired to live in grander forms of houses also. What we do know is that the building is earlier than the ditch (pers comm. Matt Adams) and seems to respect the earlier Iron Age ditch as if it were in continued ownership by the landowner who must then be of Celtic origin

8. Discussion

8.1 This evaluation was successful in locating the Roman building or villa thought to exist in this area. The extent of the walls however, and their poor survival, the noticeable lack of finds beyond the 1st c. AD does not give clear evidence for a long established villa here, but perhaps a building short-lived during a time of turmoil between the Britons and the Roman occupiers. It is tantalising to consider that the building uncovered may represent this little known period of our fascinating history.

8.2 The dearth of evidence in general here does lean towards the argument for a short-lived site and building. Much of the wall footings appear to be heavily eroded, perhaps by ploughing action, but the little evidence gained, certainly of high status, within the sample trenches can certainly attest to an early, wealthy Roman or ‘’Romanised building’’ . What was uncovered may only be a small proportion of the site and the building's extent, the remains seen may only represent ancillary buildings, rooms or even courtyard areas.

9. Conclusion

The findings of this evaluation are archaeologically of the highest importance, having discovered the Roman building considered to be in this location. It is without doubt that this site should be considered for further archaeological investigation to enable the results of this evaluation to be further endorsed and to allow for a more complete analysis of the building, its context and the site as a whole.

10. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at: http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html.

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PastScapes http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm

Appendix I: Digital Images

Plate 1. Pre-excavation, general site view, from the east

Plate2. Trench 1 mid-ex, retrieving Roman roof tile from subsoil

Plate 3. Trench 1, post-ex, from the west

Plate 4. Pre-ex of feature [1005] in Tr1

Plate 5. Post-ex of feature [1005], Tr 1

Plate 6. Foundation wall 1008 and surface (floor) (1010)

Plate 7. Posthole [1015] in trench 3 cuttting wall 1019, pre-exc, from the north-east

Plate 8. Posthole [1015] (Tr3) post-exc-small relationshiip cutting wall

Plate 9. Trench 2, section .4 through floor layer (1010)

Plate 10.Tr2 post-ex with wall 1008 and floor (1010) in foreground

Plate 11. Section. 8 through wall [1017]

Plate 12. Post hole [1015] cutting wall [1020]

Plate 13. Ditch butt-end in Tr 3, pre-ex of (1021) with sandstone by scale

Plate 14. Overview of floor (1010 with section 4. Cut into (Tr 2)
From the north

Plate 15. Post ex of Tr3 with wall section in the foreground and butt-end of ditch [1022]in the background with in-situ sandstone

Plate 16. Post-ex of Tr3 (wall[1020] cut by posthole [1015] in foreground)

Plate 17. Intercutting pits [1028, 1030] in TR 2