NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report of an Evaluation at Gaymer Close, Banham 1993 24627.

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

EVALUATION REPORT

Gaymer Close Banham

by

Sarah Percival

(Project Manager)

Finds Report by Lucy Talbot and Sarah Percival

Illustrations by Piers Wallace

November 1993

CONTENTS

List of Figures

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Methodology
- 3.0 Background Information
- 4.0 Results of Excavation
- 5.0 The Finds
- 6.0 Conclusion

Acknowledgements

Appendix A Archaeological Brief

Appendix B Method Statement

Appendix C Finds from the evaluation excavation

Appendix D Finds recovered during the construction of Gaymer Close in 1988

List of Figures

- 1. Map of Norfolk showing the location of Banham.
- 2. Map showing the location of Trench 1 and test-pits with-in the Evaluation Area and find-spots from the 1988 investigations.
- 3. Plan of Trench 1.
- 4. North-facing section of Trench 1.
- 5. South-facing section of ditch [108] and south-facing section of pit [118].
- 6. Plan of test pits T3, T4, T5, and T13.

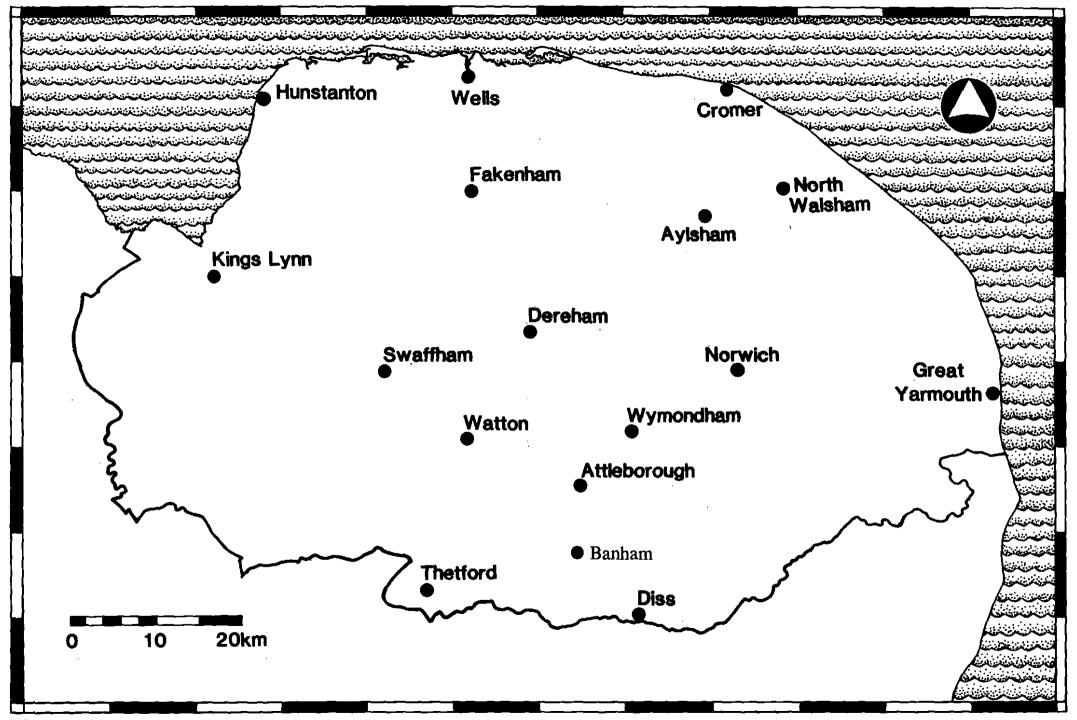


Fig. 1

Location
Grid reference
Dates of fieldwork
S.M.R. number

Gaymer Close Banham TM 0671 8838 25th October 1993 - 12th November 1993 24627 BAN

Summary

A trench $32 \times 1.5m$ and twelve test pits $2 \times 2m$ were excavated initially by machine, followed by hand excavation. The excavations revealed ditches and pits of Roman date and a number of naturally formed peri-glacial features.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In October and November 1993 the Norfolk Archaeological Unit undertook a two week evaluation excavation on the site of proposed housing development by Breckland District Council off Gaymer Close, Banham (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Breckland District Council and was undertaken within the context of an Archaeological Brief issued by the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Section (Appendix A) and an Archaeological Method Statement prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (Appendix B).
- 1.3 The site consisted of an area of rough pasture some 4,250 square metres beside Gaymer Close off Wayland Way to the north of the village of Banham (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The underlying geological natural subsoil consisted of glacial clays interspersed with lenses of sand.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 Background research was undertaken using secondary material and sources available in the County Sites and Monuments Record. A summary of the results is given below (paragraph 3) and the full results are included in Appendix D.
- 2.2 A trench approximately 33m by 1.5m was excavated by machine adjacent to the northern boundary of the field (Fig.2). The trench was positioned to be as close as possible to known finds spots (Fig.3). The overburden was removed to a depth of 800mm and the exposed features were then excavated by hand.
- 2.3 Twelve test pits 2m by 2m square were excavated by machine to investigate the remainder of the field (Fig.2). The pits were excavated on a grid spaced approximately 20m apart. The topsoil was removed and any features revealed after hand cleanung were then excavated.
- 2.4 The topsoil removed from the trench and the test pits was examined with a metal detector.

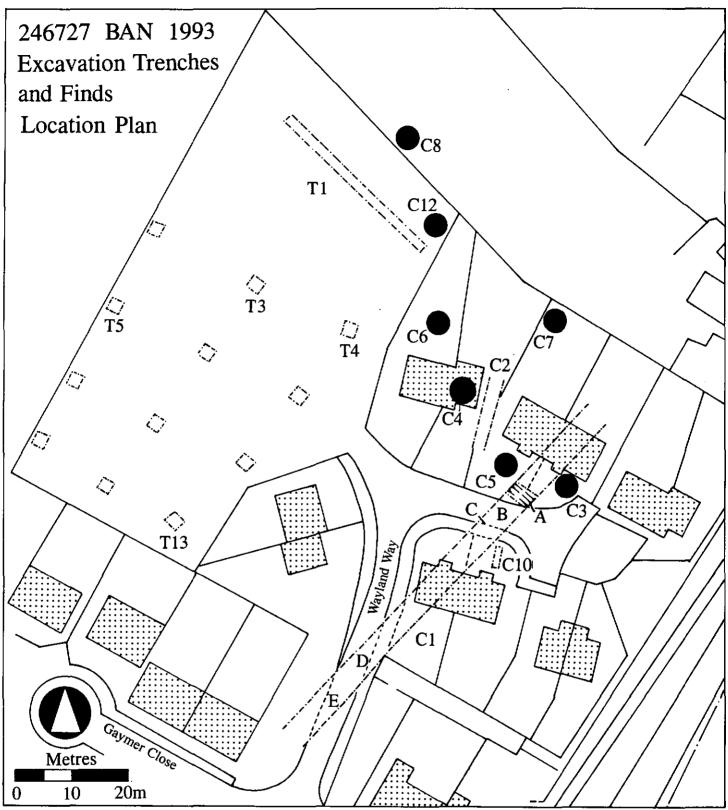


Fig. 2

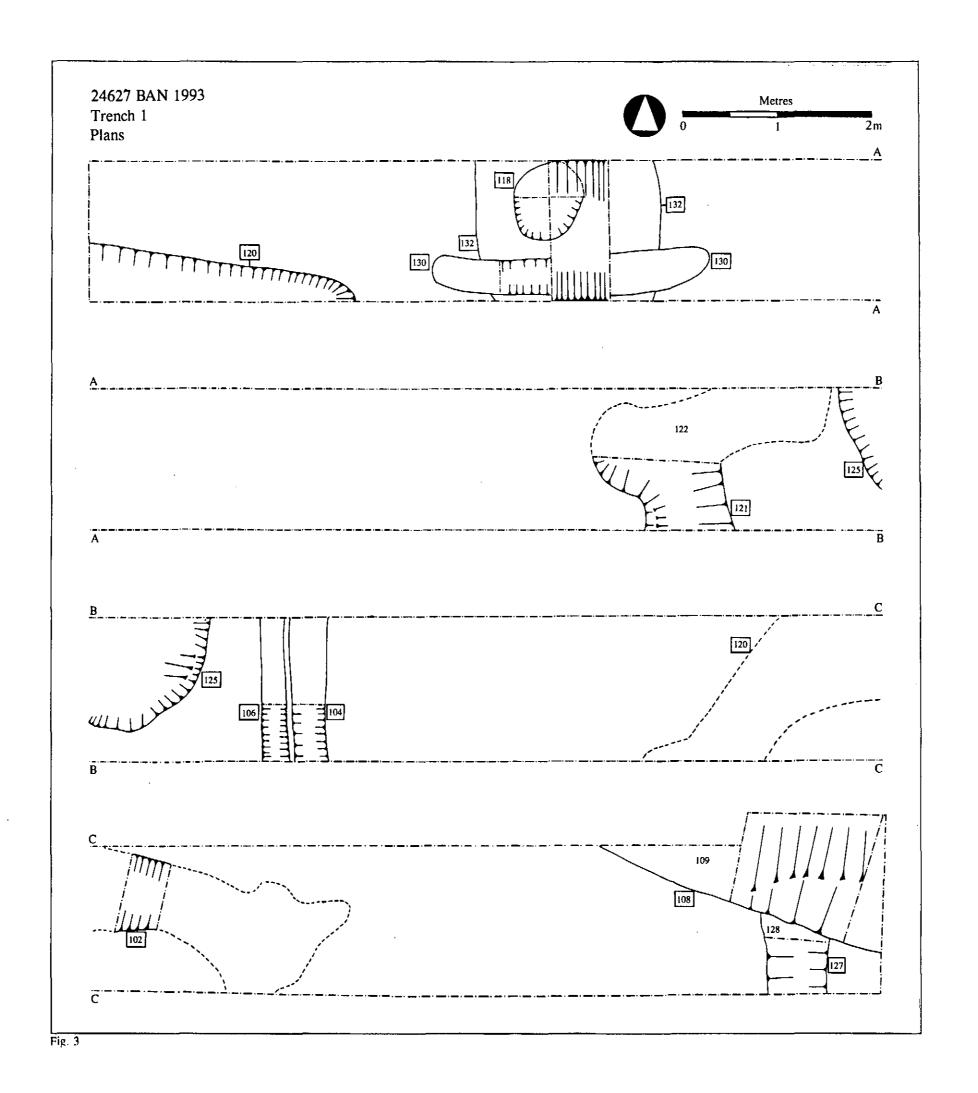
3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 The site under investigation consisted of an area of 4,250 square metres currently under pasture. The surface of the field was very irregular and had been used as a storage area for machinery and materials when the adjacent housing estate was constructed in 1988. The field had been under plough within living memory.
- 3.2 During the construction of Gaymer Close and Wayland Way in 1988 a significant quantity of Roman tile, pottery and coins was recovered from service trenches and test pits excavated on the site of the present houses (Fig.2). The finds and finds spots are described in Appendix D. The nature of the material recovered suggested the presence of a substantial Roman building close by (D.Gurney pers comm). Further tile, oyster shell and mortar fragments were recovered from a meadow immediately to the north of the present excavation (Fig.2), c8, Appendix D. The finds were located just below the turf at a depth of 30cm.

4.0 Results of Fieldwork

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 The topsoil was stripped from the trench revealing a number of features within the underlying natural subsoil. The upper portions of these features had been truncated by ploughing leaving only the bases undisturbed. The features were excavated in half section and any artifacts recovered.
- 4.1.2 Three features in Trench 1, [121] [132] and [102] were identified as natural. The fills of these features were homogeneous silts and clays with flecks of charcoal (Fig.4). They appeared to have been the result of peri glacial frost action.
- 4.1.3 At the eastern end of the trench a deep ditch [108] (Fig.3) was identified running northeast to south-west which appeared to be of Roman date. The ditch was approximately 1m deep with a 'v' shaped base. The complete profile of the ditch was not exposed as it lay outside the limit of the excavation. The ditch appeared to have been filled by a mixture of natural and cultural processes. Bands of silty sand and clay formed by natural weathering were interspersed with layers of charcoal-rich silt which seem to have been the result of deliberate backfilling (Fig.5). Three sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of Roman tile were found in the backfill.
- 4.1.4 Ditch [108] cut through an earlier feature [127] (Fig.3) which was also identified as the remains of a ditch. Ditch [127] ran north-to-south and was heavily truncated with a slightly concave base. The ditch appeared to have been filled by natural weathering and contained no dating evidence.
- 4.1.5 Ditches [106] and [104] ran parallel in a north-to-south orientation. The ditches were both heavily truncated and may represent the base of a single ditch which had been recut. A sherd of Oxidised ware and a fragment of tile were recovered from [104]. The fills of the ditches were indistinguishable and consisted of silty clay with occasional flints and flecks of charcoal.
- 4.1.6 Feature [125] situated to the west of ditch [108] was identified as a circular pit with steep sides and a flat base. The fill was homogeneous silty sand and appeared to have been deposited in a single episode. The pit contained a single fragment of Roman tile which was heavily burnt, a tessera and flecks of charcoal suggesting that the fill was cultural in origin.
- 4.1.7 Clustered at the western end of the trench was a collection of features which all contained Roman material. Circular pit [118] was rich in charcoal and also produced fragments of copper alloy, an iron nail and a fragment of tegula. The pit was shallow with gently sloping sides and a flat base and was heavily truncated. Although the fill of the pit had



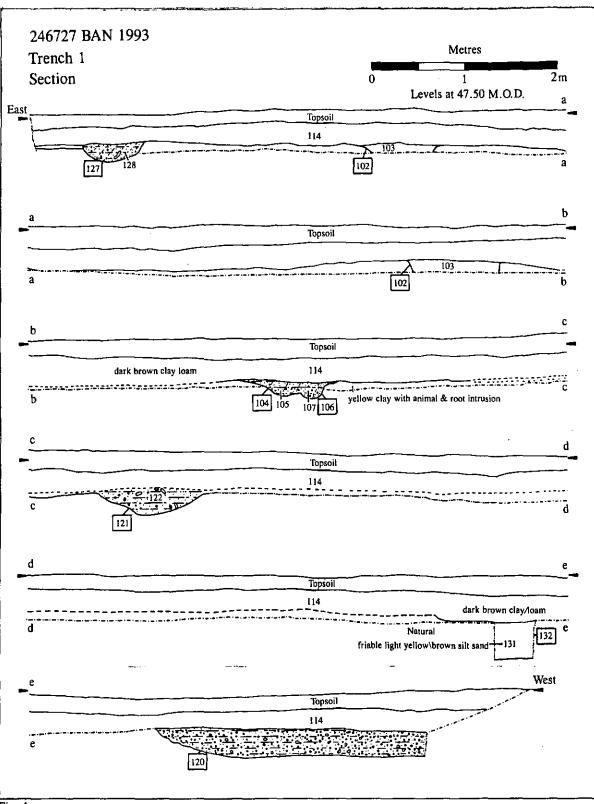


Fig. 4

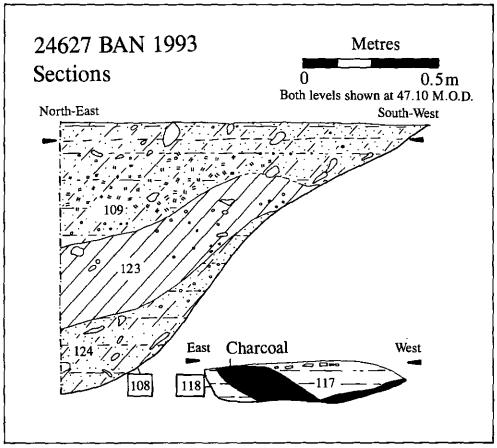
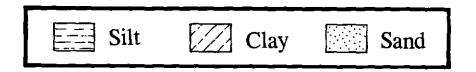


Fig. 5



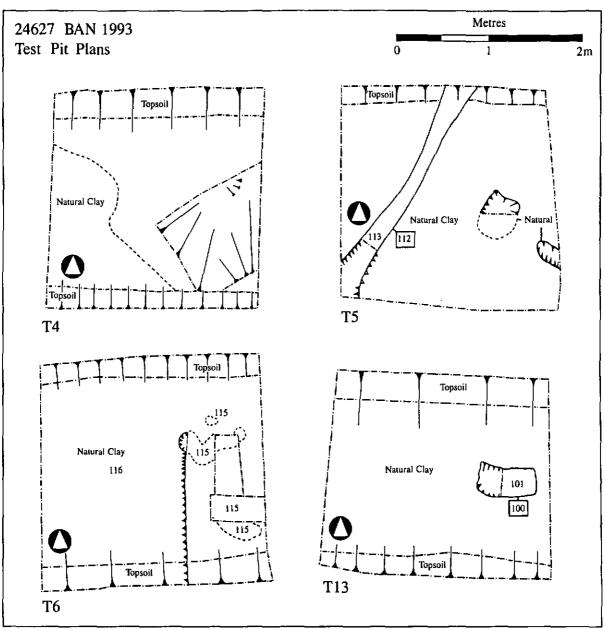


Fig. 6

been burnt, the sides and base had not been subjected to heat suggesting, that the fill had been re-deposited into the pit from elsewhere.

- 4.1.8 Adjacent to pit [118] a linear feature [130] was identified. The feature appeared to be the remains of a ditch running east-to-west across the site and partly destroyed by ploughing. The ditch contained three sherds of pottery, one Grey ware and two Oxidised ware and a single tessera.
- 4.1.9 At the extreme west of the trench a feature, [120], was identified running into the sides of the trench. The size and profile of the feature were not established as these lay beyond the limits of the excavation. The feature had straight sides and a flat base and was filled with a loosely packed mixture of flint boulders, chalk blocks, fragments of tegulae, box-tile, flue-tile, imbrices and tesserae bound in sandy silt (Fig.4).
- 4.1.10 All the features were overlain by topsoil to a depth of c.800mm (Fig.4). The topsoil consisted of a layer of dark, compacted silt loam which was rich in organic material and was probably deposited as a result of ploughing. Twenty-six fragments of Roman ceramic tile were collected from the topsoil after the trench was stripped, (these are listed in Appendix C). The tile fragments were probably incorporated in the soil by the action of the plough.

4.2 The Test Pits

- 4.2.1 No features were observed in test pits T2, T3, T7, T8, T9, T10, T11 or T12.
- 4.2.2 Test pit T4 contained a large pit-like feature [111] (Fig.6). On further investigation it became clear that [111] was a natural feature, probably the result of periglacial frost action. The pit contained struck flints.
- 4.2.3 T5 contained a linear feature [112] with straight sides and a flat bottom, this was interpreted as a truncated gully. The gully contained a sherd of flint gritted pottery, possibly prehistoric, and a fragment of tile. The feature was too slight to be attributed a definite period.
- 4.2.4 Upon initial excavation, Test pit T6 revealed a number of irregular patches of chalk-speckled clay (115). Further investigation confirmed that these were non-cultural (Fig.6).
- 4.2.5 Test pit T13 contained a shallow feature [100] (Fig.6). This had a flat base and irregular edges and was interpreted as the remains of a pit which had been heavily truncated. Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

5.0 The Finds

5.1 Pottery

- 5.1.1 51 sherds weighing 0.274g were recovered from the site. Of these 16 sherds weighing 0.077kg were found in stratified contexts and 35 weighing 0.197kg were collected from top soil. The majority of the pottery was abraded and exhibitied ancient fractures. A small quantity of prehistoric pottery was recovered, but the majority of the material was Roman. Two sherds of post Medieval pottery was also found.
- 5.1.2 Two sherds of coarse, flint gritted fabric were found in the topsoil of Trench 1 and T10. These sherds were probably of Iron Age date.
- 5.1.3 The Roman assemblage consisted of locally produced coarse wares, including Grey wares, Oxidised wares and Reduced wares. Fine wares were represented by one sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware and five sherds of Samian ware. The Samian ware included one

South Gaulish rim and three East Gaulish shreds of which one was a foot-ring base. One sherd was unprovenanced. It is unusual to find such a large proportion of Samian (15%) within an assemblage of this size (D. Gurney pers comm.

- 5.1.4 The Roman assemblage was too small to provide sufficient dating evidence (David Gurney pers comm). No diagnostic forms were found. The only datable evidence is the Samian can be given a date of no later than the end of the second century AD. The single sherd of colour-coated ware found in T13 can be dated to the third century. It is therefore impossible to provide a precise date for the assemblage. The lack of pottery reflects the small number of features discovered. The small quantity of pottery is remarkable in view of the large amount of material found in 1988; this suggests that any occupation may have been concentrated to the north and east of the area of excavation.
- 5.1.5 Two sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware were found in unstratified contexts. This is consistent with the distribution of material within the plough-soil.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material

- 5.2.1 A wide range of building materials was recovered from the site. These included fragments of tile, *tegulae* and *imbrices* as well as 6 fragments of flue tile, 2 fragments of boxtile and a number of *tesserae*. A total of one hundred and ninety-nine fragments of of building material weighing 7.090kg was found. Of these eighty-nine were from stratified contexts and the remainder was from the topsoil.
- 5.2.2 The majority of the fragments were abraded. A notable exception was the *tesserae* which were consistently found in a better condition. Three of the *tegulae* fragments came from a single tile, which appears to have been burnt before it was broken.
- 5.2.3 Two fragments of box-tile were found, one of these had the remains of a circular vent on one surface. Both fragments displayed characteristic combed keying.
- 5.2.4 One fragment of floor tile bore the impression of an animal paw, possibly that of a dog.
- 5.2.5 The presence of building material, including tesserae, suggests that a domestic building of some status may have stood nearby. The building seems to have lain outside the limits of the evaluation area, possibly to the north-east where a number of pilae from the heating system of a building were found in situ.

5.3 Stone

5.3.1 Many fragments of chalk were noted in the fill of feature [120]. These may have used as building material.

5.4 Flint by Peter Robbins

- 5.4.1 Seventy eight pieces of flint were recovered. Of these forty-six were from stratified contexts including 13 from natural feature [111] which produced the largest group. The remaining thirty-two pieces were from the ploughsoil.
- 5.4.2 The flints were mostly undiagnostic. There were several small blades and long flakes with some light patination. These may be attributed to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic. The majority of the assemblage exhibited fresh fractures. A single, triangular flake recovered from the fill of feature [120] appeared to have been struck using a pointed hammer suggesting that it may have been produced by flint trimming for building purposes.

- 5.5 Copper alloy
- 5.5.1 Seven fragments of copper alloy were recovered, but none was recognizable as an object.
- 5.6 Iron work
- 5.6.1 Twenty-eight pieces of iron were found by excavation and metal detecting. The finds were all modern or undatable scrap.
- 5.7 Lead
- 5.7.1 Three pieces of unrecognizable lead scrap were found.
- 5.8 Glass
- 5.8.1 A single fragment of blue-green glass of possible Roman date was recovered from (101) T13.
- 5.9 The Animal Bone
- 5.9.1 16 fragments of animal bone weighing 243g were recovered from four contexts. The fragments were small and in poor condition. The surfaces of the bones were eroded and had become brittle and "chalky".
- 5.9.2 The assemblage consisted of domestic species including cow metacarpal and jaw fragments, sheep/ goat pelvis fragments and a pig tooth.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The natural features [102], [121], [132], (Fig.3), [111], [112], (116), (115) and [100], (Fig.6) were probably formed as the result of peri glacial frost action.
- 6.2 The trenches and tests pits were located to investigate the whole of the evaluation area, a sample of 2%. Most features were in Trench 1 suggesting that the focus of activity was to the north of the site.
- 6.3 Trench 1 produced evidence of activity taking place on the site in the Roman period. Pit [118] (Fig.5) contained charcoal and copper-alloy flecks suggesting that the fill may have been a waste product from industrial activity. The nature and location of this activity is uncertain but may have taken place close by.
- 6.4 Ditches [104], [106], (Fig.4) [108] (Fig.6) and [127] all appear to be of Roman date. Ditch [108] is similar in nature to c2 observed during the construction of Gaymer Close (see Appendix D). The purpose and relative chronology of the ditches could not be resolved within the constraints of the excavation. The ditches may have served as boundary markers.
- 6.5 The presence of a Roman building within the evaluation area seems unlikely. Although fragments of building material were recovered from the topsoil, pits and ditches during the excavation, no structural evidence was uncovered. This is surprising as substantial quantities of pilae, some of which appeared to be in situ were found to the north and east of the evaluation area (Fig.3). This implies that any building would have lain to the north-east of the evaluation

area. This is also suggested by the alignment of ditches [108] and [127] which may mark the boundaries of Roman occupation. The *pilae* stacks found in 1988 and the fragments of *tesserae* uncovered by the evaluation suggest that the putative building was for domestic use and may have been of fairly high status.

6.6 No artefactual evidence was found to suggest any post-Roman activity on the site. The plough-soil observed in the trench and test-pits and the distribution of artefacts within the topsoil indicated that the area was used for agricultural purposes.

Acknowledgements

The Norfolk Archaeological Unit wishes to thank Breckland District Council for their cooperation with this project. The ceramic finds were identified by David Gurney and the flint by Peter Robbins and the animal bone by Trevor Ashwin. The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot. The illustrations were prepared by Piers Wallace. On site excavation was carried out by Richard P. Holbery and Melanie J. Stone.

BANHAM - LAND OFF GAYMER CLOSE

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Breckland District Council PLANNING APPLICATION NO: -

SMR SITE 24627 L.A.S. REF 327

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

This site, the development potential of which is being considered, is located in an area of great archaeological interest and potential importance, immediately adjacent to very important Roman remains probably indicating the site of a Roman villa. If development plans including archaeology are to be drawn up, these should include the results of an evaluation in line with <u>Planning Policy Guidance</u> 16 so that the extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits can be assessed, and an informed decision made on their future.

Background

During the construction of Gaymer Close in 1988, large numbers of features and artefacts were recovered, suggesting that a substantial Roman building, probably a villa with or without a bath-house is located in this area. Substantial ditches were found, and animal bones, Roman roof tile fragments, pottery and oyster shells were all abundant. Some of the pottery sherds suggest that there may be a Roman kiln in the vicinity. The site has also produced more than fifty Roman coins, along with brooches and other metalwork. In one part of the site stacks of tiles indicate the probable position of part of a hypocaust system.

Roman coins have been reported along the hedge line which forms the north-east boundary of the site, and a small test excavation just over the boundary in the field to the north-east revealed a dense mass of Roman roof tile, mixed in with mortar and oyster shells.

The evidence suggests that Gaymer Close is located over the site of a Roman villa, and that archaeological remains associated with this if not part of the villa building itself (or related structures in masonry or of timber construction) are likely to extend into the area being considered for development.

The objectives of the evaluation should be to make an assessment of the extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological features, deposits and finds on the site of proposed development, with minimal intervention. It is recommended that a small trial trench be mechanically

excavated in the north-east corner of the site (adjacent to Site 24627 contexts 8 and 12), and that a number of small test-pits be excavated mechanically elsewhere on the site to assess the depth, preservation and extent of archaeological deposits.

Brief

The Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement should:-

- 1. Provide a clear statement of the project's aims and objectives.
- 2. Present a strategy to assess the artefact content of the topsoil by fieldwalking, metal-detecting or other surveys.
- 3. Include a scale plan showing the proposed locations and extent of any survey and trenches.
- 4. Indicate how topsoil in those areas will be excavated (i.e. by hand or by machine) and if hand-excavated control areas are proposed.
- 5. Indicate what levels of sampling are anticipated in the excavation of various types of contexts which may be encountered e.g. buried soils, structures, pits, postholes, ditches. Minimal intervention into subsoil features is recommended.
- 6. Include details of:
 - i) projected duration on site
 - ii) numbers of staff involved and structure of team
 - iii) details of the appropriate knowledge, experience and skills of the project team.
- 7. Indicate how as much information as possible will be collected on the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological deposits within the application site. Proposed data collection methods must be described.
- 8. Indicate that all archaeological contexts and artefacts exposed or examined will be adequately surveyed, sampled, cleaned, planned, excavated and preserved by record on appropriate context, finds and sample sheets, by the production of plans, sections and elevations, and by black and white and colour photographic record. Describe the proposed recording strategy.
- 9. Provide a provisional programme outlining postevaluation analysis, specifying what staff and time resources have been provisionally allocated to the project. This programme may be subject to review when the excavation results are assessed.
- 10. Indicate what opportunities are proposed for project monitoring within the project's stages of:i) on-site evaluation

ii) assessment

timetable submitted.

- iii) analysis and report preparation
- iv) completion of archive, deposition of archive and finds and dissemination of results so that monitoring officer(s) are able to examine and discuss work in progress to ensure that all work is being carried out to appropriate professional standards.

 Proposed monitoring points should be specified in any
- 11. Include an estimate of the time and resources required for the completion of the project archive and for the production of an Evaluation Report.
- 12. Show what provision has been made for the identification of artefacts, including specialist reports if appropriate.

 Include a list of specialist consultants who might be required to advise or report on finds or other aspects of the investigation.

 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards, and adherence to the Institute of Field Archaeologists <u>Guidelines</u> for Finds Work is strongly recommended.
- 13. Show what provision will be made for inclusion of the results of the project in the County SMR.
- 14. Indicate that all Site and Context numbering used will be compatible with the Norfolk SMR.
- 15. Show what provision has been made for conservation.
- 16. Show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site.
- 17. Provide a summary of agreements reached with:
 - i) the landowner
 - ii) an appropriate museum over the donation and deposition of cultural material and project records in a permanently accessible form and in an acceptable form.

Account must be taken of any reasonable requirements the museum may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

In this instance, deposition with the Norfolk Museums Service is appropriate.

The finds and archive should usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project.

18. Indicate that provision has been made for the microfilming of the excavation archive by the RCHME.

The Evaluation Report

 Style and format of the Evaluation Report may be determined by the archaeological contractor.

- 2. A plan at an appropriate scale showing trench layout and features must be included.
- 3. For each trench, the Evaluation Report should include comprehensive details of features and finds, their state of preservation and interpretation.
- 4. The Evaluation Report should include an assessment of the finds, and should present an overview of the quality and potential of the finds assemblage.
- 5. A scale plan of actual and where possible predicted archaeological deposits should be included.
- 6. A copy of the Evaluation Report will be supplied to the Norfolk SMR within six months of the completion of the project on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).
- 7. The Evaluation Report should not give an opinion on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate.

The Norfolk Museums Service Landscape Archaeology Section will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The archaeological contractor will give the Landscape Archaeology Section not less than two week's written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward any 'Detailed Project Specification' or 'Method Statement' to the Norfolk Museums Service Landscape Archaeology Section for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

Any subsequent variation to the Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement must be agreed with the Landscape Archaeology Section prior to its implementation.

David Gurney Principal Landscape Archaeologist 22 March 1993

Landscape Archaeology Section Norfolk Museums Service Union House Gressenhall Dereham Norfolk NR20 4DR

Tel: (0362) 861187 Fax: (0362) 860951

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

BANHAM LAND OFF GAYMER CLOSE

Planning Authority: Breckland District Council

SMR Site: 24627 LAS Ref: 327

NAU Ref: MS/Eval/93/27

METHOD STATEMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 1. The evaluation of this area, which has been identified as archaeologically sensitive for the Roman period, is intended to provide details of the extent, depth, date and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits. Trial trenching and test pitting will be undertaken to establish whether larger scale work is necessary in order to understand fully the nature and extent of any settlement patterns prior to development works.
- 2. Metal-detecting will be undertaken on the topsoil as it is removed. Prior metal-detecting is not considered to be appropriate given the existing nature of the land as pasture.
- 3. Scale plan attached (Fig. 1) indicates the location of the area to be surveyed. Exact trench location will be determined on site but it is proposed that a trench will be excavated in the north-east corner of the site (adjacent to Site 24627 contexts 8 and 12) with test pits elsewhere as recommended in the Archaeological Brief.
- 4. The trial trenches will be excavated initially by machine with hand excavation being undertaken if buried stratigraphy is encountered and on features and deposits within the subsoil. Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to establish the nature and date of archaeological contexts but, should complex or dense stratigraphy be encountered, further work will be limited to establishing the state and quality of preservation.
- 5. Detailed strategies for levels of sampling of buried soils, structures, pits, post-holes and ditches will be determined on site. Percentage sampling will apply in order to minimise impact and establish as rapidly as possible the state and quality of preservation (see Para. 4 above).
- 6. i) The topsoil removal, trench excavation and test pitting of

the site is intended to last a maximum of 2 weeks.

- ii) The staff structure will consist of: A Project Manager A Finds Assistant/Experienced excavator An Experienced Excavator
- iii) The Project Manager will have experience of interpreting rural settlements and knowledge of sampling strategies. The Finds Assistant will be supported by the NAU Finds Officer (a Project Manager grade). All members of staff will have experience of NAU recording and surveying procedures.
- 7. Data collection and minimum recording to obtain as much information as possible will include:

distribution map of all metal-detected finds; detailed recording of all visible archaeological features; linear features will be sectioned to determine form and relationships; pits will be half-sectioned; late post-medieval and modern features will be dealt with summarily.

- 8. The site will be located within the Ordnance Survey grid using appropriate technology. Recording of features and deposits will be undertaken with the aid of proformas (examples deposited in F.A.D. library at Gressenhall). Finds, both hand-collected and sieved, will be processed and recorded during the course of the excavation as far as possible to enable speedy assessment of the material. Overall plans were be made at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings as appropriate. All sections of small features will be recorded at 1:10, others at 1:20 depending on detail considered necessary. Photographs will be taken for the following reasons:
 - a) to record archaeological relationships
 - b) to record the specific nature of archaeological features
 - c) to record spatial relationships
 - d) to record regular progress of the excavation.
- 9. The proposed programme consists of the following:
 - a) excavation 2 weeks
 - b) archive 2 days
 - c) assessment 2 weeks
- 10. The NAU has a policy of following the procedures outlined in the HBMC publication <u>Management of Archaeological Projects</u> (1991). Monitoring opportunities will therefore be in line with procedures and are suggested as follows: those
 - a) at the end of the first week of excavation b) at the end of the first week of assessment

 - c) upon deposition of the archive

- 11. Resources will be allocated to enable completion of the archive, the production of a report and the deposition of the archive.
- 12. Provision will be made for specialist reports (subject to the agreement of the named individuals) as follows:
 - a) flints (John Wymer/Peter Robins)
 - b) Roman coins (John Davies)
 - c) Saxon and medieval small finds (Sue Margeson)
 - d) Roman, Saxon & medieval pottery (Irena Lentowicz)
 - e) soils/micromorphology (Richard Macphail/C. French)
 - f) environmental (Peter Murphy)

A small contingency sum will be set aside for any further reports which become necessary. All work on finds is co-ordinated by the NAU Finds Officer. The NAU has a policy of adhering to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' <u>Guidelines</u> for <u>Finds</u> <u>Work</u>.

- 13. A copy of the report will be sent to the County SMR together with an AM107 form. This will include a reference to the archive and the intended place of deposition of the archive.
- 14. Note will be taken of any contexts already used by the SMR. All further numbering of the site and individual contexts will be compatible with the Norfolk SMR.
- 15. Conservation will be undertaken within the Conservation Department at Norwich Castle Museum. The NAU maintains liaison with the Department and allocates resources to conservation within each of its budgets according to a formula agreed with the Conservation Department. This ensures that all necessary conservation will be undertaken using the facilities available at Norwich Castle Museum. Any additional conservation costs necessitated by the use of specialist facilities elsewhere is also covered by the available budget.
- 16. An assessment to establish an environmental sampling procedure will undertaken in consultation with the Environmental Archaeologist at the the Centre of East Anglian Studies at the University of East Anglia. Resourcing of environmental work is provided by formula in a similar way to that outlined for conservation (Paragraph 15).
- 17. The NAU will be undertaking work on behalf of Breckland District Council. It is proposed that details of access, timing, funding and backfilling will be determined between the NAU and the Council or his appointed agent. Further agreement with the Council as landowner will seek donation of the finds to the Norfolk Museums Service. Donation and deposition of such cultural material and the archive will be to the Norfolk Museums Service,

to the standards of the Service at the time of deposition.

18. The excavation archive will be prepared in such a form that it can be microfilmed by the RCHME.

An Evaluation Report will be produced within the guidelines stipulated in the Archaeological Brief. Copyright will be retained by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

Brian S. Ayers Principal Field Archaeologist 9th July, 1993

Appendix C The Finds

Context	Material	Comments
T1 114 Iron Age	Pottery	flint-gritted ware x1
Roman		Samian x 4 (East Gaulish x 2; South Gaulish x 1 rim) Grey ware x 7 Reduced ware x 2 Oxidised ware x 1
post medieval		GRE x 1
	Building Material Roman	tegula x 6 flue-tile x 3 imbrices x 7 box-tile x 1 tesserae x 8 tile x 59
	Flint	flake x 1 core tablet x 1
	Animal bone	x 1 unidentified
T2 114	Pottery	Flint-gritted x 1
	Flint	scraper x 1 flakes x 2
T3 114	Building Material	Tile fragments x 9 some possible tesserae
	Flint	core fragments x 2 flakes x 4
T4 114	Pottery	Grey ware x 3 GRE x 1
	Building Material	tile fragments x 9
T5 114	Pottery	Oxidised ware x 2
	Building Material	tile fragment x 1
	Flint	flake x 1
T9 114	Flint	flakes x 2

Context	Material	Comments
T10 114	Pottery	Flint-gritted (Iron Age) x 1 Grey ware x 1 Oxidised x 1
	Building Material	tile fragments x 2 (Roman) modern wall tile x 1
	Flint	flake x 1
T11 114	Flint	flakes x 5
T12 114	Pottery	Reduced ware x 1
	Building Material	tile x 1
	Flint	flakes x 5 shatter piece x 1
T13 114	Pottery	Oxidised ware x 1 Nene Valley Colour Coat x 1
	Building Material	tile fragments x 3
TP10	Flint	flakes x 2
T13 101	Glass	x 1
	Flint	core fragment x 1 flake x 1
T1 105	Pottery	Grey ware x 1
	Building Material	tile fragment x 1
T1 107	Pottery	Grey Ware x 1
	Building Material	tessara x 1
T1 109	Pottery	Samian x 1 (East Gaulish foot-ring base) Grey ware x 2
	Building Material	tile fragment x 1
	Flint	flakes x 3 pot-boiler x 1
	Animal Bone	. x8

Context	Material	Comments
T1 110	Pottery	Oxidised ware x 1
	Flint	flakes x 11 blade x 1 pot-boiler x 1
T1 113	Pottery	Flint-gritted x 2
	Building Material	tile fragment x 1
	Flint	flakes and fragments x 9
114	Pottery	Samian x 1 Grey ware x 4
	Brick/ tile	tile fragment x 1
117	Brick/ tile	tegula fragment x 1
	Cu alloy	slag lump
	Fe	nail (Roman) x 1
119	Pottery	Grey ware x 2
	Building Material	tegula x 1; box tile x 1; flu tile x 3; imbrex x 2 (possible tesserae); tesserae x 6
126	Building Material	tile x 1 (heavily burnt); tesserae x 1
129	Pottery	Grey ware x 1 Oxidised ware x 3
	Building Material	tesserae x 1

Appendix D Finds recovered during the construction of Gaymer Close in 1988

All information has been copied from the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Records.

Gaymer Close, Banham

Housing development by Breckland DC, contractors R.G. Carter, Dereham. Site reported to NCM on 9.6.88 by Mr A.E. Savery, Chapel House, Mill Road, Banham, enquiry no. 13501.

Site visited 16.8.88. Virtually all earth moving and trenching completed. A few very old sections still available for inspection.

- c1. A large ditch, running north-east to south-west. Contractors claim this seen in all footings on the line shown on the plan (Fig.3). At A on plan large machine-dug hole dug by contractors for DG exposed ditch with fairly homogeneous grey-brown loamy clay fill cut into boulder clay. Many tile fragments in upper fill, and large dump of animal bones at base. Bones appear to be from one animal, bos, perhaps complete. One other bone, unidentified as yet, also recovered from the same area. Ditch here approximately 2m wide and 1m deep. At B (see plan), Mr Savery reports "2 circles, about 4ft diameter, with tile, burnt bone and large chalk lumps". Nothing visible here at visit. At C (Fig.3) in old section, 40cm topsoil over a layer 20cm thick and c 1.50m wide of brown loamy clay with flint nodules, abundant tile fragments and abundant small chalk lumps and flecks; probably the upper fill of the ditch. At D and E, old sections show evidence of a possible ditch. Mr Savery reports that most of finds came from this area.
- c2. A large ditch with black fill cutting the boulder clay reported by contractors. Said to be 3m wide and 2m deep. Backfilled area; nothing now visible.

Comment

The only feature seen on this on building site is the large ditch c1, but a report by the contractors may suggest another (c2). Only animal bone was recovered from the basal fill, but the upper fill contained a single sherd from am mortarium, along with (apparently) abundant Roman roofing tile. Roman tile appears to be present in the uppermost fill of the ditch in several locations across the site. The amount of roofing tile tegulae and imbrices suggests that somewhere in this area there is probably a substantial Roman building. A distorted Grey ware iar rim could be a second, or if it is a waster, there may be a kiln in the vicinity.

Finds

c1 finds from machine dug hole (see A fig) collected by DG.

ditch upper fill

Pottery mortarium x 1 sherd

Fired clay fragment x 1

Building Material tegulae x 7

imbrices x 5 bonding tile x 1

ditch lower fill

Animal Bone large deposit of animal bone smashed through

digger. Sample recovered, suggesting one ?complete bos, with one other unidentified

bone

General collection by Mr Savery (includes material handed to DG and NCM enquiry,

subsequently donated)

Fe key,

nails x 3

unidentifiable objects x 4 handle fragment x 1

Slag lump x 1

Building Material tegulae fragments x 14

imbrices x 6

Stone chalk lump x 1

Glass base x 1

Pottery medieval/ post medieval x 18

amphora x 1 mortarium x 1 colour coated x 3

Samian (South Gaulish) x 2 Grey ware (Waveney Valley) x 67.

Grey ware jar rim a second or waster x 1

C2-C3.

Mr Savery also reports that the site has been metal-detected by someone who he cannot name, and that coins were recovered. He will try and obtain these for us. DG 4 July 1988.

Additional finds by Mr Savery, July 1988

c1 further finds;

at D on plan (Fig.3)

Cu alloy stud with a convex head (Roman)

at E on plan (Fig.3)

pottery (Roman) coin (Roman)

(the two Roman coins from c1 and c3 above have been jumbled i.e not sure which came form which context. One is antoninianus Carausius AD 286-93, other antoninianus of AD 268-73).

c4

Building Material

tile x 7

c5

Cu alloy

scallop shell ampulla (Medieval)

с6

Stone

flints (not worked)

Building Material

tile (Roman)

large pieces of opus signinum

Pottery

(Roman)

c7

Coins

along hedge line; report of coins found

several years ago (those referred to above in

report dated 4th July 1988)

c8 in pasture field to north of development

behind ruined building (see site 20206) owned by Mr Aldridge, small hole dug by Mr Savery exposed at depth of 12" dense mass of broken roof tile (Roman) and mortar with Roman pottery and oyster shell. Probable site of building (or very close to it) so further

excavation discouraged.

plus general collection over site includes;

Fe

awl x1

knife fragment x 1 Post-Medieval button x 1

Ae

sheet with rivet holes strip with rivet hole

Pb

lead scrap

Glass

Post-Medieval glass

opaque green hexagonal bead (Roman)

Pottery

large collection of Roman pottery (200+ sherds), predominantly Grey wares, micaceous as earlier finds, with some shell-tempered, also mortaria x 2, Samian x 4 and an amphora

sherd with handle stub.

Medieval-Post-Medieval pottery is predominantly LMT with some GRE

Late Medieval glazed x 3 Post-Medieval stoneware x 2

c9 old metal-detector finds by R. Oxley, many years pre-1988 and not precisely located.

Post-Medieval:

Ae

wire-headed pin

8-strand chain in five lengths linked by

small studded spheres

C17 buckle

large decorative fitting, secured by 2

screws

small decorative fitting with turquoise

glass pommel

fitting secured by rivets

buckle with moulded decorative loop

Roman:

Coins

16 coins, all very worn and largely

illegible

Claudius as Minerva SC 41-54? Vespasian sest eagle on globe 69-79

?Nerva *dup* 96-98 ?Hadrian *sest* 117-138

illeg. sest 7 illeg. dup 3 illeg. asses AE 4 illeg. C4.

D.A. Gurney 15 September 1988

Site visited 15 November 1988, in response to report from contractors of possible structural remains.

c10 In a machine-dug service trench (Fig.3), the following were recorded (in darkness, by light from a torch and JCB headlamps, as the trench was to be backfilled immediately):-

0 - 60cm topsoil

60 - 170cm mass of broken tiles and chalk lumps

170 - 180cm crushed brick floor

180+ boulder clay

Cleaning of the east side of the trench revealed two stacks of flat tile *pilae*, side by side and aligned north-west to south-east to south-west. The tops of the *pilae* were at a depth of c1m, and they had a minimum height of 40cm. The southern *pila* was of eight flat tiles, c18cm square with a white chalky mortar between. The southern *pila* was of eight flat tiles, c18cm square with a white chalky mortar between. The northern *pila* was only partly exposed, and of eight or more tiles, larger than those of the southern *pila* and probably rectangular (long axis aligned north-west to south-east). A third tile stack was reported by the contractors on the west side of the trench, but this had been machined away.

These appear to be *pilae* of a hypocaust system. The clear orientation of the *pilae* suggest a building aligned north-west to south-east or north-west to south-west. The footings of the building to the south of this trench reached a similar depth, but nothing was noted by the contractors here. To the north, a concentration of finds was noted in earlier work (see context 1, B and C on plan).

c11 Unlocated finds within development area:

Ae buckle (Post-medieval)

Pottery Samian Form 36 rim with trailed leaves

Coins: Carausius antoninianus ?PAX AVG C mint 286-

93

illeg.antoninianus C3 illeg.antoninanus C3

House of Constantine illeg. C4

Miscellaneous pottery, tile etc as earlier finds

Coins: collection of 38 coins, all extremely worn

and / or corroded, the following

identifiable:

Tetricus I antoninianus HILARITAS AVG? 270-3

illeg. antoninianus C3

illeg. antoninianus C3 House of Valentinian GLORIA ROMANORVM

364 - 78

Gratian GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI Aries

367 - 75

illeg. antoninianus

Tetricus I antoninianus

C3

270 - 3

The remainder are all C3 - C4.

The last group of 38 coins are believed to be old metal-detector finds by R. Oxley. All finds returned to Mr E. Savery.