

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE



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**Former Firmin site, Handford Rd. Ipswich,
(IPS 280),
Record of an Archaeological Evaluation**

97/25

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March 1997

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Summary

The Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team were commissioned by Jackson Projects Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the c. 1 hectare former Firmin site on Handford Road, Ipswich (TM 1530 4455).

The site's high archaeological potential was based on its location central to a number of previously known archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity which have produced finds dating from throughout the Roman period.

The evaluation involved the mechanical excavation of two trial-trenches within the proposed footprints of buildings which would form part of a possible future development on the site. In addition, the monitoring of four test-pits excavated towards the south-western corner of the site was also carried out.

The results of the trial-trenching indicated that the archaeological deposits were remarkably well preserved with little damage caused by the recent semi-industrial activity on the site. The topsoil overburden (measured from the bottom of the existing concrete slab) varied from as little as 0.4 metre up to 0.96 metres. The lowermost 0.2 metres of the topsoil produced the majority of the unstratified finds and was thought to represent a preserved Roman topsoil/occupation layer which had only been subjected to limited later re-working.

The dating of the main archaeological activity on the site appeared to concur with the evidence from the previously known sites and appeared to cover the whole Roman period. A number of features (ditches, pits & post-holes) were identified in the trenches and test-pits. Of these, the majority produced finds of early Roman date while the bulk of the later Roman finds (including eleven coins) were recovered from the preserved topsoil/occupation layer. Although no structural evidence was recorded for Roman buildings (the post-holes were all shallow and produced some medieval and post-medieval finds) the finds included roof tile and hypocaust tile which together suggest substantial buildings in the vicinity.

In addition to the evidence provided by the building materials, the ceramic finds included imports of high quality table-ware which further attest to the relatively high status of the site.

The small quantities of later material (Saxon, medieval and post-medieval) recovered from the trenches almost certainly represent no more than a manuring scatter or stray losses.

1. Introduction

As potential purchasers of the c.1 hectare former Firmin site on Handford Road, Ipswich (TM 1530 4455), Jackson Projects Ltd commissioned Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the site.

The evaluation, taking the form of trial-trenching, concentrated on the footprints of the proposed buildings. These were considered to be the areas where any surviving archaeological deposits would be most under threat by the construction process. In addition the opportunity was taken to monitor the excavation of test-pits, located towards the south-west corner of the site, which were designed to delimit an area of contaminated ground previously identified in that area.

Topographically, the site seemed to be relatively level (c.5 metres OD), although this was due to the concrete slab over the site from its previous factory use. The general underlying trend, however, appeared to be a gentle slope down to a former channel of the River Gipping (now canalised) some 100 metres to the south. The underlying drift geology comprised well drained glacial sands and gravels.

The archaeological potential of the site was considered to be high due to the previously record archaeology from the immediate area (Fig. 2). This included finds recovered in 1985 during metal detecting on the British Telecommunications site (IPS 183, IAS 9609, TM 1545 4455) which adjoins the east side of the evaluation area. These finds included a scatter of Roman pottery, twenty seven Roman coins and medieval metalwork. Roman pottery sherds (principally C1/2 although some C3/4) were also recorded on a building site on the east side of Cullingham Road in 1989 (IAS 9610, TM 15225 4446). In addition a further quantity of Roman (C1-late C2) pottery was recovered from a housing development adjacent to The Three Jolly Sailors Public House on the opposite side of Handford Road (IPS 245, IAS 7712, TM 1533 4462). It is clear from the distribution of these finds that they must represent a settlement covering some considerable area and that the former Firmin site occupies a position central to these previously recorded find spots. Furthermore, an unusual aspect of the site is highlighted by the finds dating in that they appear to represent activity throughout the Roman period and span at least four centuries.

The sites and monuments record number IPS 280 was allocated to the site which also has the code IAS 9612 within the more locally based Ipswich records.

The field work was carried on 26th and 27th of March, 1997 by members of the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service with funding provided by Jackson Projects Ltd. The evaluation was carried out adhering to a brief and specification produced by the Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

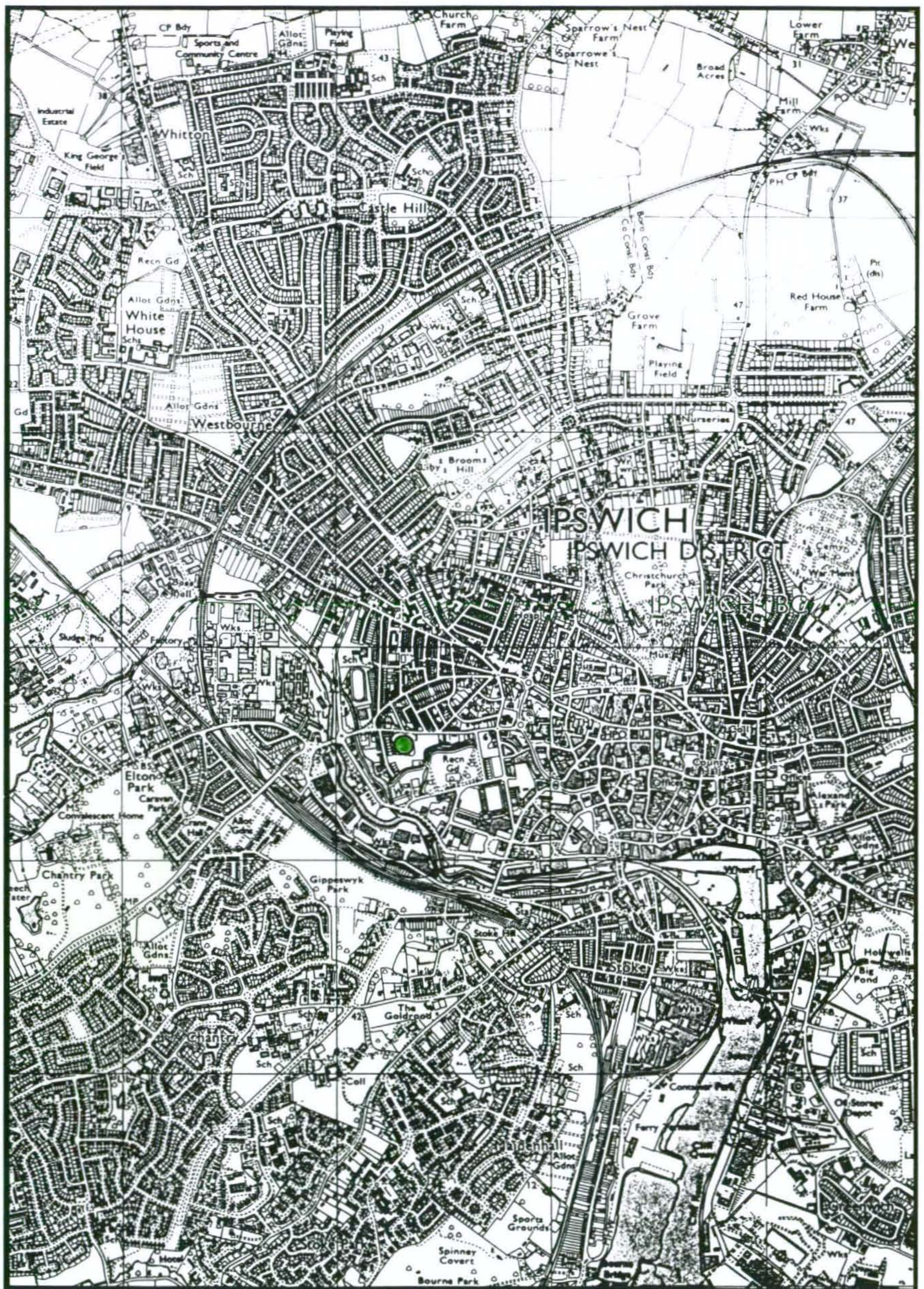


Fig.1 1:25,000 scale O.S. map extract showing the location of the site

2. Methodology

2.1 Trial-trenching

Two north to south orientated trial-trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to give a good clean cut. The trenches were positioned within the footprints of the proposed buildings to be located towards the northern end of the site. Prior to their excavation the existing concrete slab was fragmented using a breaker attachment on the JCB.

Locations of the trenches were plotted on a 1:1250 scale map by triangulation from the existing site boundaries (Fig. 2).

The upcast topsoil was examined visually for artefactual evidence and was subjected, along with the exposed surface of the trenches, to a metal detector search.

The surface of the trenches were cleaned manually to help define the incised features. All features identified were allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system (Appendix I) under the allocated Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) code IPS 280 (IAS 9612). Features which were not obviously of modern date were partially excavated to try and recover dating evidence and to deduce their form and function.

The trial-trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 (see Fig. 3 for 1:100 scale reductions) with the excavated sections drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Figs 4 & 5) and related to Ordnance Datum by levelling from a temporary benchmark located on the curb of Handford Road. Further levels were taken on the surface of the naturally occurring sandy gravel at each end of the two evaluation trenches (Fig. 3).

Finds were processed (washed and marked) before quantification, identification and spot-dating were carried out by Sue Anderson (general finds), Judith Plouviez (metal finds and coins) and Cathy Tester (ceramic finds) (Appendix II).

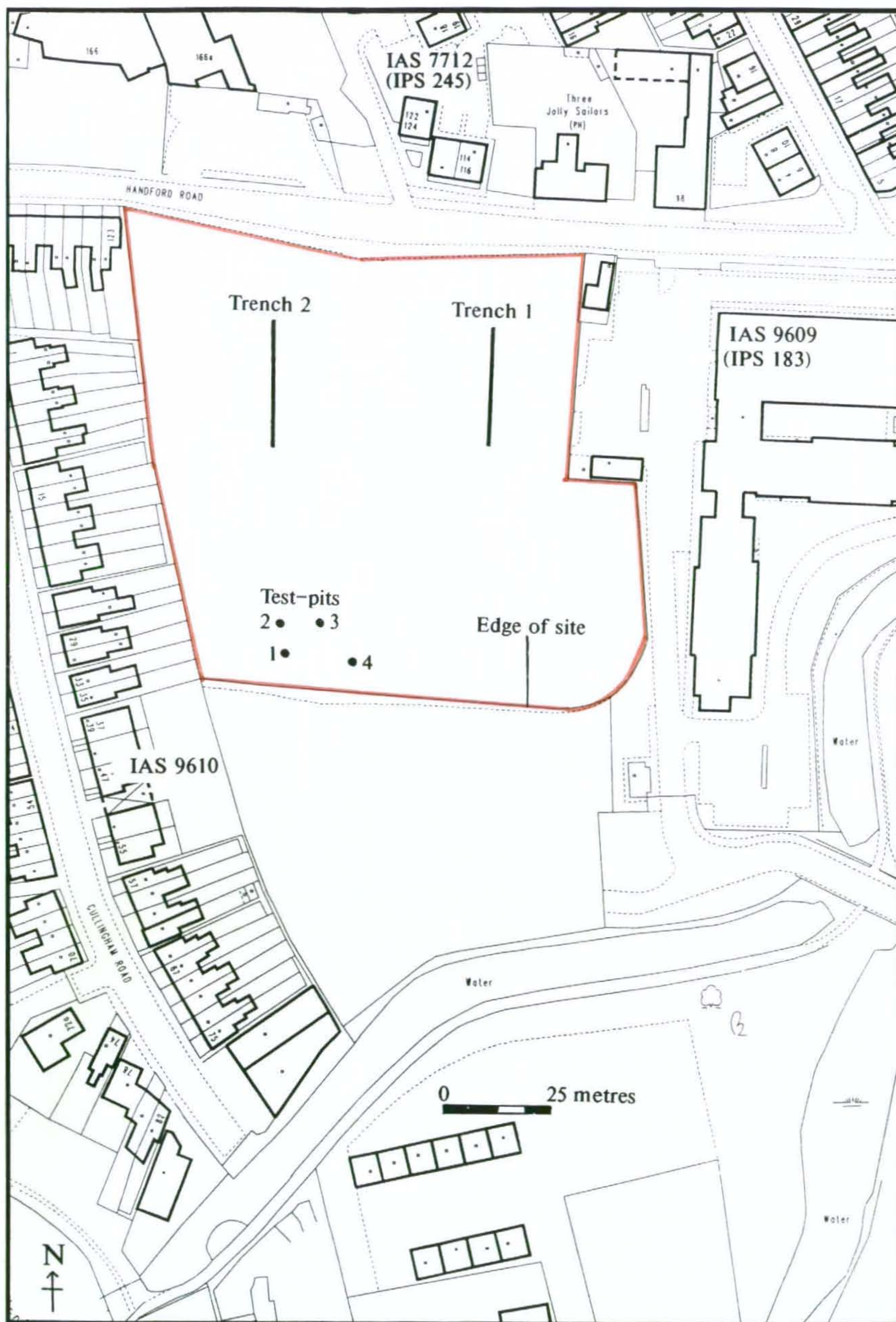
In addition a full photographic record was made, both colour slides and monochrome prints, forming part of the site archive which will be held by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

2.2 Test-pitting

A series of test-pits were excavated, using a JCB mechanical excavator, towards the south-west corner of the site. The aim of the test-pitting was to ascertain the extent of ground contamination previously identified in that area. These excavations provided the opportunity, albeit of a limited nature, to evaluate the nature and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits in that part of the site.

The test-pits were monitored by Tom Loader of the Suffolk County Council's Archaeological service Field Projects Team.

The location of the pits was recorded on a 1:1250 scale O.S. map extract (Fig. 2) while their sides were recorded as 1:50 scale sections/measured sketches (Fig. 6).



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Fig.2 1:1250 scale O.S. map extract showing the location of the trial-trenches & test-pits, also includes previously known archaeology

Finds recovered from the upcast spoil were retained for dating purposes and, where possible, were attributed to discrete features. 'Observed phenomena' numbers, within the same continuous system used for the trial-trenches under the SMR code IPS 280, were allocated to individual features.

3. Results

3.1 Trial-trenching

Trench 1: (1.5 metres x 27.5 metres, 40.75 square metres) Trench 1 was orientated from north to south in the north-eastern quarter of the site (Fig. 2). The removal of the c.0.2 metres thick concrete slab revealed remarkably undisturbed topsoil for the whole length of the trench with the only intrusions appearing to be three drain runs. The topsoil itself was found to be 0.7 metres in depth, at the northern end of the trench, increasing to 0.96 metres at the southern end. This topsoil comprised brown silty sand which appeared to lighten towards the bottom and its interface with the underlying sandy gravel subsoil. Many of the unstratified Roman finds (2) from Trench 1 were recovered from the lowermost c.0.2 metres of the topsoil layer which, at that level, almost certainly represents a preserved soil. The evidence provided by the finds spot-dating suggests that this is a late Roman occupation layer which may have suffered a limited degree of re-working at a later date.

The unstratified bulk finds (2) included a significant quantity of Roman pottery, mainly grey coarsewares, although sherds of Much Hadham ware, Oxford ware, Red coarseware, shell tempered ware, Mayen ware and amphorae were also recovered. In addition, there were single sherds of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware and medieval coarseware. Other bulk finds included animal bone, fired clay, building materials, metal working slag, lava quern, worked flints and burnt flints. A number of metal small finds were also recovered (all with the aid of a metal detector) including nine Roman coins, eight of which date to the 4th century (100, 108, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119 & 120) and one of 3rd century date (102). Other metal finds included a medieval buckle (101), a late 1st or early 2nd century brooch (103) and an undated copper alloy ring (111).

Thirteen features were identified during the manual cleaning of the trench surface, six ditches (4, 7, 9, 11, 14 & 43), three post-holes (16, 18 & 20), one pit (41), a shallow depression (45) and two recent drains (22 & 24) (Figs 3 & 4). All of the features, with the exception of the two modern drains, appeared to be sealed below the preserved soil layer although the finds spot-dating did occasionally contradict this.

Ditch 4 was 1.6 metres wide with a depth of 0.8 metres, orientated from the north-east to south-west across the north end of the trench and had a distinct angled profile with a flat bottom. The two principle fill layers (5 & 6) comprised grey and brown silty sands. Stratigraphically ditch 4 appeared to cut the shallower ditch 7. The finds recovered from the excavated section included sherds of Roman grey coarseware, animal bone and tile.

Ditch 7 was 1 metre wide with a depth of 0.3 metres, orientated from the north-west to south-east across the northern end of the trench and had a rounded profile. The fill (8)

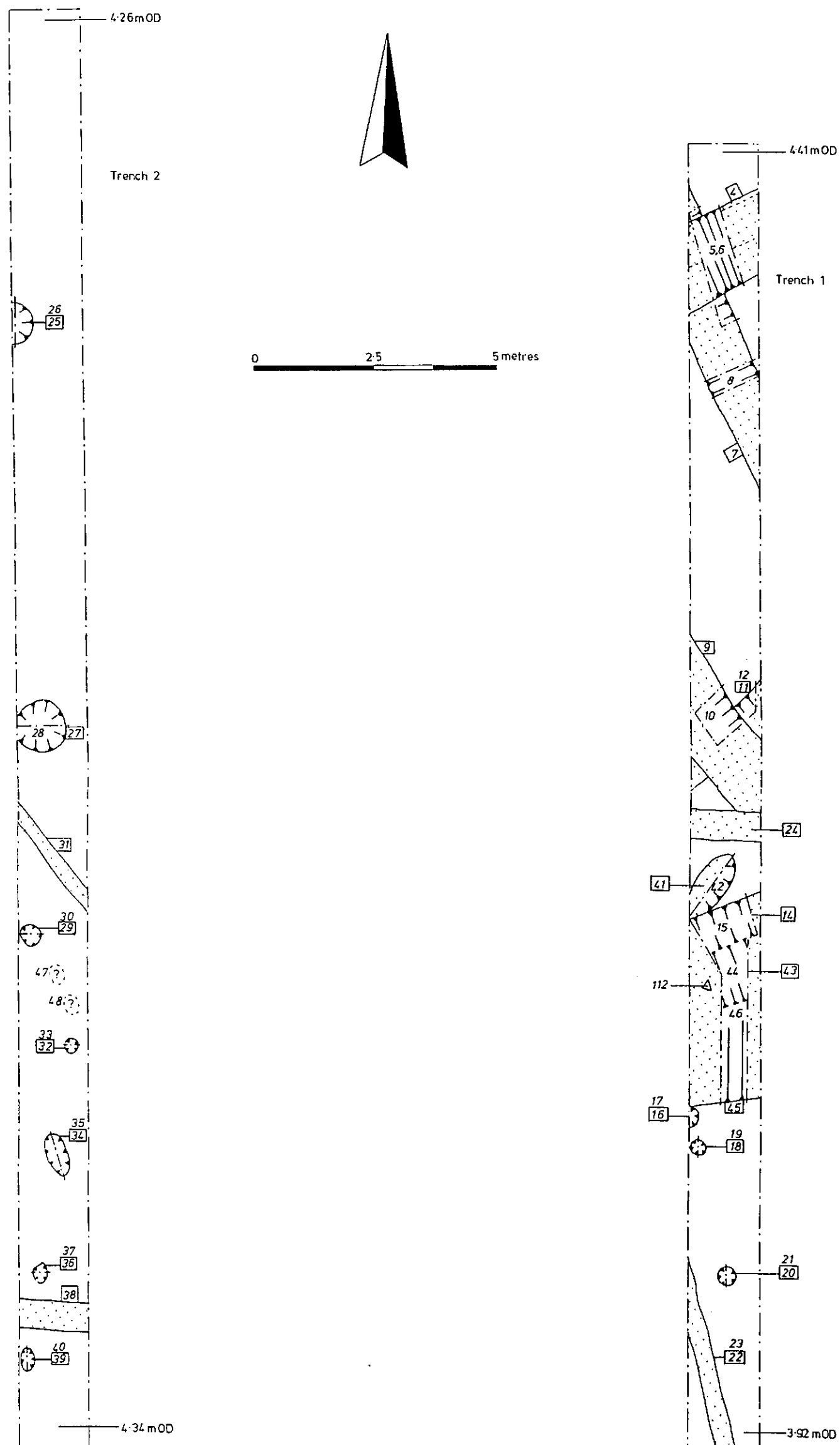


Fig.3 1:100 scale plans of Trench 1 & Trench 2

comprised grey silty sand. Stratigraphically ditch 7 was cut by ditch 4. However, the only find recovered from the excavated section was a large fragment of post-medieval brick which contradicts the stratigraphic evidence (ditch 4 cutting ditch 7) which itself appeared to be sound. It seems likely, therefore, that the brick fragment was intrusive.

Ditch 9 was 1.3 metres wide with a depth of only 0.25 metres, orientated from the north-west to south-east across the trench some 12 metres from its northern end. The fill (10) comprised dark brown sand. Stratigraphically ditch 9 appeared to cut ditch 11. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section included a high proportion of Roman greywares with the remainder made up of samian ware, Red colour coated ware, White coarseware, Red coarseware and amphorae. Other bulk finds included animal bone, building materials, metalworking slag, oyster shell, and burnt flint. Four small finds were also recovered, three iron nails (109, 110 & 118) and a sandstone hone (121).

Ditch 11 was c. 1 metres wide with a depth of only 0.2 metres, orientated from the north-east to south-west across the trench approximately 12 metres from its northern end. The fill (12) comprised mid-brown sand. Stratigraphically ditch 11 seemed to be cut by ditch 9. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section comprised Roman greywares and a single vegetable tempered sherd. Other bulk finds included a significant amount of metalworking slag and small quantities of animal bone, fired clay, oyster shell and burnt flints.

Ditch 14 was 0.8 metres wide with a depth of 0.34 metres, orientated from the north-east to south-west across the trench some 16 metres from its northern end and had a somewhat angled profile. The fill (15) comprised homogenous brown silty sand. Stratigraphically ditch 14 appeared to cut pit 41 and had an indeterminate relationship with the parallel ditch 43 immediately to the south. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section were limited to Roman grey wares and a single sherd of white coarseware. The only other finds were small quantities of animal bone, oyster shell and burnt flint.

Ditch 43 was c. 1.4 metres wide with a depth of 0.4 metres, orientated from the north-east to south-west across the trench immediately south of ditch 14 with which it had an indeterminate relationship. The fill (44) comprised homogenous brown silty sand. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section included Roman grey wares, red coarseware, white coarsewares and samian ware with other bulk finds limited to small quantities of animal bone, oyster shell, worked flint and burnt flint. A single small find, a fragment of lead waste (112) was located by metal detector within the ditch fill. The fill of ditch 43 also seemed to be continuous with that of the shallow depression (45) immediately to the south.

Post-holes 16, 18 and 20 were all similar in character, seemed to be arranged in a line and were almost certainly related either as part of an insubstantial building structure or, more likely, representing the line of a fence.

Post-hole 16 was circular, 0.4 metres in diameter with a depth of 0.2 metres and a fill (17) comprising grey and brown sand with some yellow clay. Stratigraphically post-

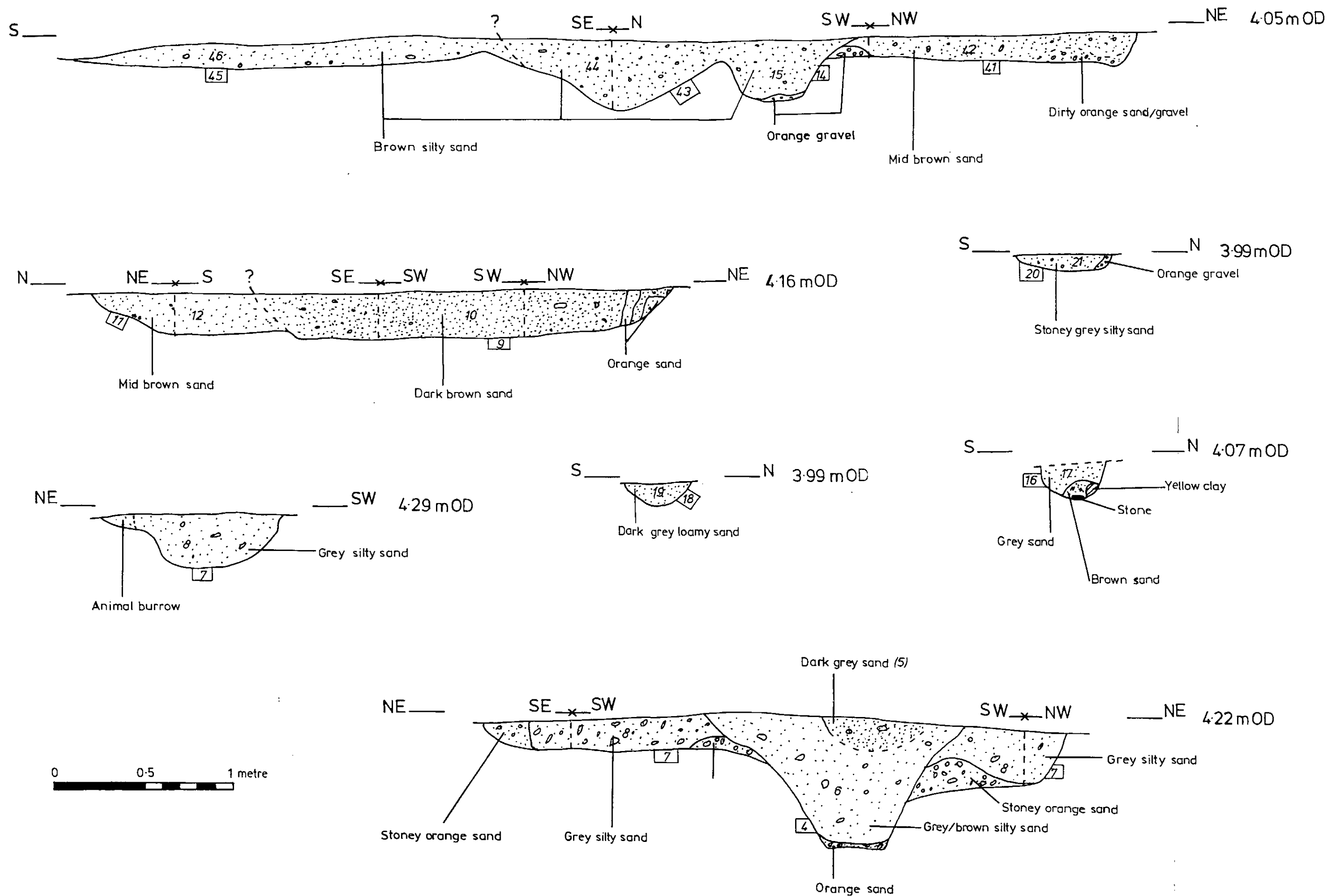


Fig.4 1:20 scale section drawings of the features excavated in Trench 1

hole 16 cut the southern edge of depression 45. The only find recovered from the excavated section was a single sherd of samian ware.

Post-hole 18 was circular, 0.4 metres in diameter with a depth of only 0.14 metres and a fill (19) comprising dark grey loamy sand. No finds recovered from the excavated fill.

Post-hole 20 was circular, 0.5 metres in diameter with a depth of only 0.1 metres and a fill (21) comprising stony, grey silty sand. The only find recovered from the excavated fill was a single sherd of Late Medieval Transitional ware.

Pit 41 was oval, measuring 1.6 metres from the north-east to south-west and 0.5 metres from the north-west to south-east with a maximum depth of only 0.2 metres. The fill (42) comprised homogenous orange sand and gravel. Stratigraphically pit 41 appeared to be cut by the northern side of ditch 14. The finds recovered from the excavated section were limited to a single worked flint and a burnt flint fragment.

Depression 45 had a maximum depth of 0.18 metres and was located immediately south of ditch 45 with which it had an indeterminate relationship. The fill (46) comprised homogenous brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from the excavated section. This feature may be no more than a slight deepening of the topsoil, although it could be related to ditch 45 and represent trample or some other form of activity occurring beside the ditch.

Drain 22 was 0.4 metres wide and orientated from the north-west to south-east across the southern end of the trench and heading towards a manhole immediately to the south. The depth of the feature below the surface of the naturally occurring subsoil was not ascertained as it remained unexcavated.

Drain 24 was 0.7 metres wide, lined with concrete and crossed the trench in a east to west direction some 14 metres from its northern end. This feature was wholly contained within the topsoil layer and only recorded as it was left intact.

Trench 2: (1.5 metres x 30 metres, 45 square metres) Trench 2 was orientated from north to south in the north-western quarter of the site (Fig. 2). As in Trench 1 the removal of the c.0.2 metres thick concrete slab revealed remarkably undisturbed topsoil for the whole length of the trench with the only intrusions limited to a drain run and a narrow pipe trench. The topsoil itself was found to be 0.4 metres in depth, at the northern end of the trench, increasing to 0.5 metres at the southern end. The topsoil comprised brown silty sand which appeared to lighten towards the bottom and its interface with the underlying sandy gravel subsoil. The majority of the unstratified finds (3) from this trench were recovered from the lowermost c.0.2 metres of the topsoil layer which, as in Trench 1, probably represents a preserved, Roman topsoil or occupation layer which has suffered a degree of later re-working.

The unstratified ceramic finds (3) included Roman grey wares, Much Hadham wares and post-medieval flower pot. Other bulk finds included animal bone, building material, and a single worked flint. A number of metal small finds were also

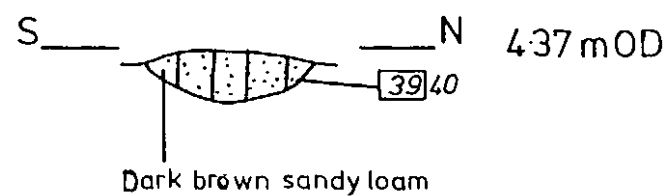
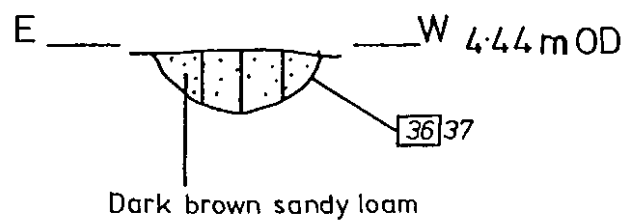
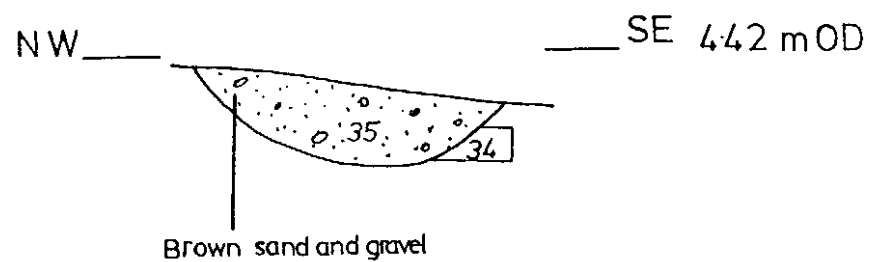
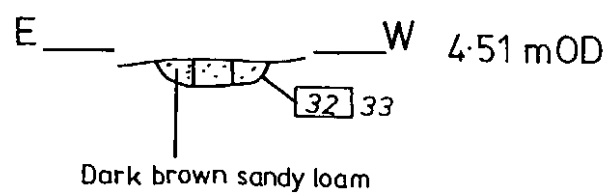
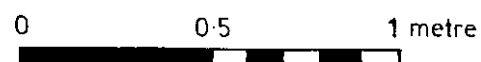
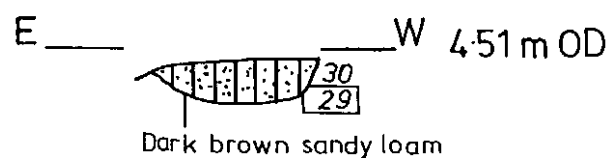
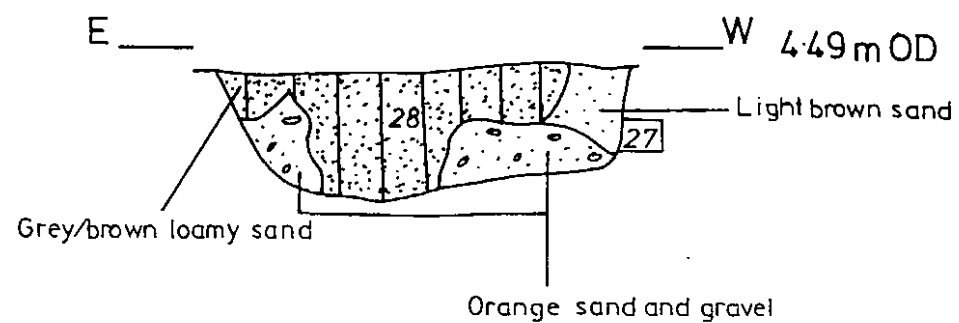
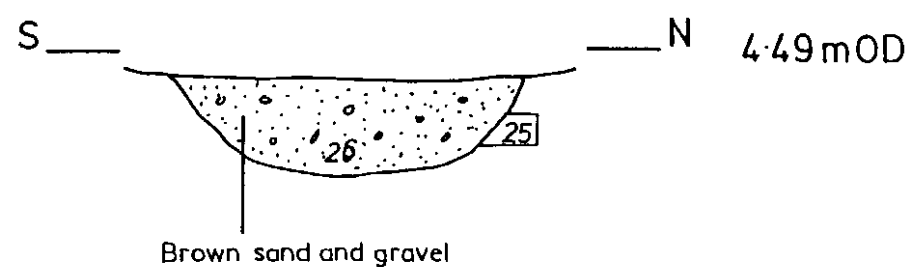


Fig.5 1:20 scale section drawings of the features excavated in Trench 2

recovered (using a metal detector) including two 4th century Roman coins (104 & 105), a copper alloy mount (107) in the shape of a leaf (undated but probably not Roman) and an undateable copper alloy sheet fragment (106).

Eleven features were identified during the manual cleaning of the trench surface, three pits (25, 27 & 34), six post-holes (29, 32, 36, 39, 47 & 48), a drain run (38) and a pipe trench (31) (Fig.s 3 & 5). All of the features, with the exception of the modern drain and pipe trench, appeared to be sealed below the preserved soil layer although as in Trench 1 the finds spot-dating occasionally contradicted this.

Pit 25 was located 7 metres from the northern end of the trench, appeared to be circular with a diameter of 0.8 metres, a depth of 0.3 metres and a fill (26) comprising homogenous brown sand and gravel. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

Pit 27 was located 15 metres from the northern end of the trench, was circular in shape with a diameter of 1.1 metres and a depth of 0.3 metres. The fill (28) comprised mainly of grey/brown loamy sand with some orange sand and gravel. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavated section were limited to a sherd of shell tempered ware, another of Oxford ware and a single handmade, burnished, possibly Early Saxon sherd. Other bulk finds included Roman building materials, animal bone and a fragment of lava quern.

Pit 34 was located 6 metres north of the southern end of the trench, was oval in shape, measuring 0.8 metres from north to south and 0.5 metres from east to west with a depth of 0.2 metres and a fill (35) comprising homogenous brown sand and gravel. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

The six post-holes, all recorded towards the southern end of the trench, were similar in character and may have been related as part of a single structure, although this was difficult to ascertain within the confines of the trench.

Post-hole 29 was circular, 0.4 metres in diameter with a depth of 0.1 metres and a fill (30) comprising homogenous dark brown sandy loam. The finds recovered from the excavated section included a single sherd of possible medieval coarseware and fragment of tile.

Post-hole 32 was circular, 0.3 metres in diameter with a depth of 0.1 metres and a homogenous fill (33) comprising dark brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

Post-hole 36 was circular, 0.4 metres in diameter with a depth of 0.18 metres and a fill (37) comprising dark brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

Post-hole 39 was circular, 0.5 metres in diameter with a depth of 0.14 metres and a fill (40) comprising dark brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

Post-holes 47 and 48 were very shallow and, consequently, were completely removed by the mechanical excavator during the excavation of the trench. However, it was possible to record their location on the plan. No finds were recovered from these features.

Drain 38 was orientated from east to west, crossing the trench c.3 metres from its southern end, and was 0.6 metres wide with an indeterminate depth.

Pipe trench 31 was orientated from the north-west to south-east, crossing the trench at c.13 metres from its southern end, and was 0.4 metres wide with an indeterminate depth.

3.2 Test-pitting

Four test-pits were excavated, all measuring approximately 3 metres by 1 metre (Figs 2 & 6).

Test-Pit 1: This pit was located towards the south-west corner of the site. The section shows a 0.7 metre thickness of black loam topsoil lying on a further 0.35 metres of gravely loam, the latter possibly representing the buried Roman topsoil identified in the trial-trenches to the north. A single feature, a possible pit (49), approximately 0.5 metres in depth, was identified in the south side of the test-pit. The only find recovered from the clean sandy fill (50) was a sherd from a large Roman storage vessel.

Test-Pit 2: Located c.7 metres to the north of Test-pit 1. The section shows a 0.75 metre depth of homogenous sandy loam topsoil which continued down into the only identified feature (52), a pit, some 0.3 metres deep, in the eastern side of the test-pit. The only finds recovered from Test-pit 2 were from the topsoil (51) above pit 52 and comprised three sherds of Roman grey ware and a further unidentified sherd.

Test-Pit 3: Located c.10 metres to the east of Test-pit 1. The section shows 0.35 metres of fragmented tarmac and other debris lying on 0.45 metres of brown gravely loam topsoil. No features were identified in Test-pit 3 and no finds were recovered from the topsoil.

Test-Pit 4: Located c.12 metres to the south-east of Test-pit 3. The section shows a 0.25 metre thick concrete slab lying on 0.6 metres of homogenous brown sandy loam topsoil which continued down into the only identified feature (54), a possible ditch, 2 metres wide and 0.5 metres deep, running from east to west across the test-pit.

The evidence from the test-pits proved that archaeological deposits were present in that area of the site and were unaffected by the ground contamination which appeared to be in the underlying naturally occurring sands and gravels.

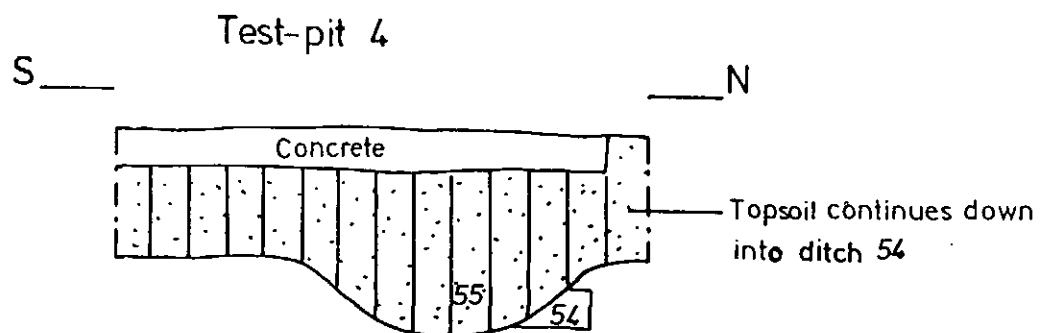
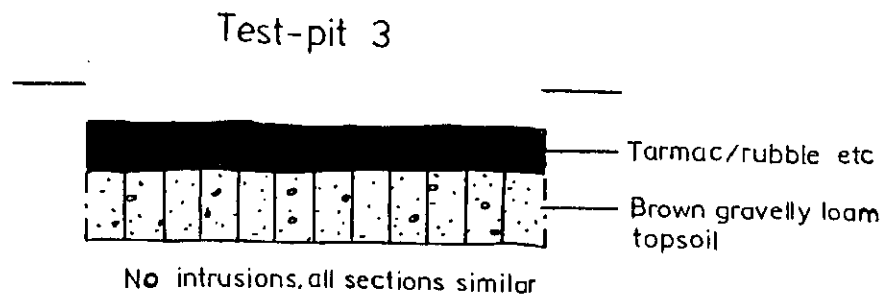
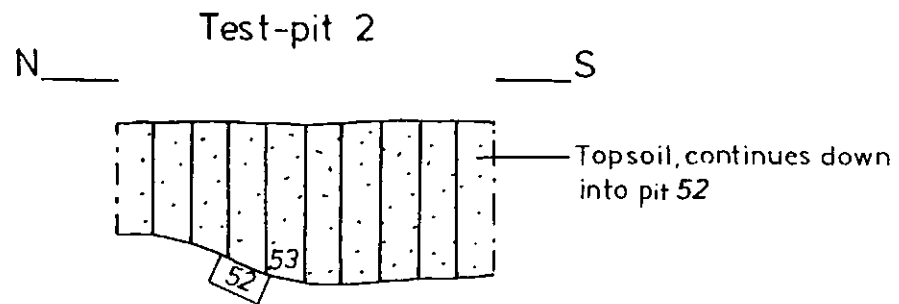
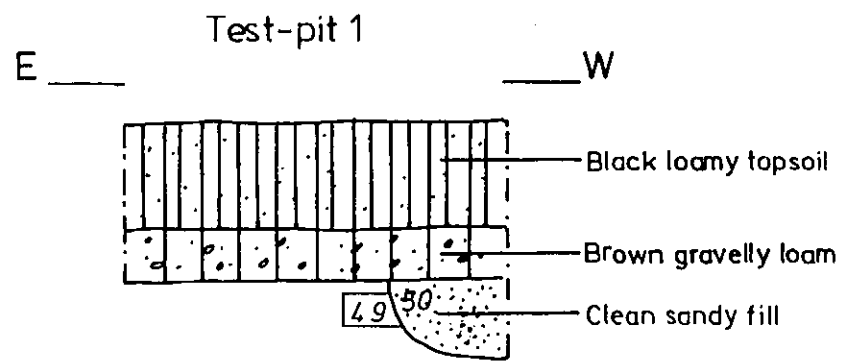


Fig.6 1:50 scale section drawings of the sides of test-pits 1, 2, 3 & 4

4. The Finds

4.1 Introduction

A summary of finds quantities from this site is presented in the table below. A full list of finds is included in Appendix II.

Table 1 Finds Quantifications Summary

Find type	No.	Wt/kg
Pottery	258	5.411
Animal bone	27	0.916
CBM	45	5.806
Fired clay	4	0.066
Slag	37	2.784
Shell	63	1.589
Lava quern	2	0.183
Worked flint	6	0.138
Burnt flint	21	0.467

There were also 22 small finds of copper alloy, iron, lead and stone.

Finds have been divided into categories by function, following Margeson (1994) and others. Most small finds were from unstratified contexts.

Pottery was identified by Cathy Tester, metal finds and coins by Jude Plouviez, and the remainder by Sue Anderson.

4.2 The pottery

A full list of pottery by context is included in Appendix II.

Wares

The Roman pottery from Handford Road includes:

Local and regional grey wares – including micaceous wares which are most likely from kilns at Wattisfield, and other grey wares of unknown origin but presumably local.

Fine wares – Red colour-coated fine wares possibly from Colchester, colour-coated fine wares from Oxfordshire and Much Hadham in Hertfordshire.

Imports – Samian from Central Gaul and East Gaul, Amphora from South Spain and one lid-seated Mayen ware jar from the Eifel mountains region of Germany.

Dates

The dates range from the 1st to the late 4th century:

1st century – Belgic fabrics which can come from before or after the conquest, late 1st century cordoned jars and cups.

2nd century – Samian imported from Trajanic kilns at Les Martres-de-Veyre in Central Gaul and Hadrianic to Antonine kilns at Lezoux.

Red colour-coated fine ware with roughcast decoration, possibly from Colchester.

Globular beakers in grey ware fabrics and dishes dating from the mid 2nd century onwards.

3rd century – represented by Samian imported from East Gaulish kilns at Rheinzabern and dated to the mid 3rd century.

Some grey ware forms that continue from the mid 2nd century.

4th century – late 3rd or 4th century fineware from Much Hadham.

Shell-tempered fabrics from South or East Midland sources.

Oxfordshire colour coated wares (mid-4th century onwards).

Mayen Ware with a mid to late 4th century date.

The evidence from the pottery suggests continuous occupation from the 1st to the late 4th century.

A few sherds of later pottery, including one possible Early Saxon burnished smooth ware fragment (28), Ipswich Ware (2) and possible medieval fabrics (2, 21, 30) were also identified.

4.3 Coins

All coins were from unstratified topsoil layers. They are ordered by date in the following catalogue.

Roman

1. Ae. Ant. Ob. GALLIENVS AVG. Rev. illeg. Corroded. SF 102, Context 2. 260-268AD.
2. Ae. Ae4. Ob. Const. Rev. GE2. Worn. SF 108, Context 2. 330-335AD.
3. Ae. Ae3. Ob. Const. Rev. GE2. Worn. SF 114, Context 2. 330-335AD.
4. Ae. Ae3. Ob. Urbs Roma. Rev. W&T. Very worn. SF 116, Context 2. 330-337AD.
5. Ae. Ae3. Ob. Const.IVNNC. Rev. GE1. Worn. SF 100, Context 2. 335-337AD.
6. Ae. Ae3. Ob. HoC illeg. Rev. GE1(?) Corroded. SF 105, Context 3. 335-341AD.
7. Ae. Ae3. Ob. HoC. Rev. GE1. Mint mark M/+RSU. Worn. SF 119, Context 2. 337-341AD.
8. Ae. Ae3. Ob. HoC. Rev. 2 V. Mint mark ??-CON. Worn. SF 115, Context 2. 343-348AD.
9. Ae. Ae3. Ob. Val. Rev. GR. Mint mark OIFII. Worn, corroded. SF 117, Context 2. 364-378AD.
10. Ae. Ae3. Ob. Valens. Rev. GR. Worn, corroded. SF 120, Context 2. 364-378AD.
11. Ae. Ae4. Ob. DN THEODO/... Thcodosius. Rev. wreath VOT/X/MVLT/XX. Mint mark ?ANA. Worn. SF 104, Context 3. 383AD. Parallel LRBC II, 2741

Post-medieval

12. Ae. Halfpenny. Ob. draped bust r. George III. Rev. Britannia l. V. worn. SF 113, Context 2. 1799.

4.4 Dress accessories

13. Ae. Brooch. Headstud type, broken pin. Hinged, cast chair loop, cast headstud (with central dot; ?enamelled ring), traces of enamel (pale) in lozenges on bow. Flat-ended foot. SF 103, Context 2. Unstratified. L. 1st c./2nd c. Parallel Snape (1993, 15) group 3.1Di.
14. Ae. Buckle. Oval frame, small. SF 101, Context 2. Medieval.

4.5 Miscellaneous fittings

15. Ae. Mount? Thick leaf, veins in relief on one face, incised on other. Possibly a furniture fitting. SF 107, Context 3. Unstratified. Probably not Roman?
16. Ae. Ring. Circular section plain ring, internal diameter 24mm. SF 111, Context 2. Unstratified. Undateable (but probably Roman or post-medieval?).

17. Ac. Sheet fragment, one rivet hole(?). SF 106, Context 3. Unstratified.

4.6 Miscellaneous tools

Grinding tools

One sharpening stone was found.

18. Stone. Hone. ?Sandstone hone with a number of sharpening areas. SF 121, Context 10.

Fragments of lava quern were collected from 2 and 28. The latter was a small trapezoid piece which appeared to have been deliberately shaped.

4.7 Metalworking debris

Lead

19. Pb. Fragment of lead. SF 112, Context 44.

Ferrous metalworking

A total of 37 pieces of slag was recovered. This figure includes some fragments of hearth lining. The material from 10, twenty fragments, may represent smithing debris as it contains hearth lining clay and hearth bottom slag.

4.8 Objects associated with buildings

Ceramic building materials

A total of 43 fragments of tile, one post-medieval brick and one post-medieval ?chimney pot rim was collected. The majority of tile was Roman, generally flange *Tegulae* or large thick tiles (*Pedalis* or *Bipedalis*?), although there were at least four fragments of late medieval or early post-medieval peg tiles. One fragment was combed and may have been part of a box-flue tile. Although this is a small group, the presence of flange tile is indicative of a tile-roofed Roman building in the vicinity, and the possible box-flue tile suggests that it had at least one hypocaust system.

Fired clay

A few fragments of very chalky daub were collected (2 and 12).

Ironwork

Fragments of three nails were found, all in ditch 10 (SF Nos. 109, 110, 118).

4.9 Flint

Twenty-one fragments of heated flint, and six worked flints (including two cores) were found.

4.10 Biological evidence

Animal bone

Very little animal bone was found, only 27 fragments weighing 916g. The majority of fragments were of Bovids, but there were also some Equid and ovicaprid bones.

Shell

Sixty-three shells were collected, of which all were oyster except one mussel. The largest group was from ditch 9.

4.11 Summary and discussion

The majority of finds were probably of Roman date. The pottery suggests continuous occupation from the 1st to the 4th centuries. Unfortunately, most of the small finds were unstratified, but the large group of coins comprised a number of late Roman types including a relatively uncommon Theodosian (380's) example. Although most of the features on the site are probably of 1st-2nd century date, the majority of the later pottery was found in unstratified layers, perhaps suggesting an occupation layer of late Roman date. This is indicated by the presence of Oxford, Mayen and shelly wares, coupled with the coin evidence. Sites of the second half of the 4th and into the 5th centuries are relatively unusual in East Suffolk, and comparable in Ipswich only to Castle Hill villa.

The site was probably of moderate-high status on the basis of the imports. The ceramic building material evidence suggests that a relatively important building, with roof tiles, a hypocaust and perhaps whitewashed daub walls, stood somewhere in the near vicinity. There is also some evidence for ferrous metalworking activity on or near the site.

The few fragments of medieval pottery and other post-Roman finds are not indicative of intensive activity on the site in these periods, and probably represent manuring or casual losses, although the single early Saxon sherd in pit 28 is worthy of note in the context of the very late Roman activity.

4.12 References

- LRBC II, 1978 Carson, Hill and Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage* Vol. II.
Margeson, S., 1994 *Norwich Households*, East Anglian Archaeology 58.
Snape, M.E., 1993 *Roman Brooches from North Britain*, BAR 235.

5. Archaeological Interpretation

It is impossible to produce a meaningful archaeological interpretation from the limited information provided by the trial-trenches. However, the results of the evaluation do indicate that the site was occupied, or at least subject to some form of activity, throughout the Roman period, a conclusion which concurs with the previously recorded archaeological evidence from the immediate area.

Generally, the early Roman finds were recovered from the features identified in the trenches while the later Roman finds (including all the coinage) were recovered from a narrow band at the base of the topsoil. This layer has been interpreted as a preserved Roman soil or occupation layer.

The finds themselves indicate a moderate degree of affluence with the presence of fine table-wares (mostly imported) while the building materials suggest tiled roofs and a possible under floor heating system (hypocaust) in the vicinity. Although none of the

recorded features provided definite structural evidence for Roman buildings (all the post-holes were small with some later finds) the relatively large quantity of finds recovered from the very limited excavations indicates that the focus of occupation was nearby. The ditches appear to have been used for the disposal of both domestic and industrial waste, the evidence for the latter provided by the significant quantities of metalworking slag.

6. Conclusions & Potential for Further Archaeological Works

The results of both the trial-trenching and monitoring of the test-pitting show clearly the high archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation itself was not designed to investigate the whole of the proposed development area, but when combined with the evidence gleaned from the test-pits it seems fairly certain that, although the concentration of features may vary, archaeological deposits survive over the entire area.

The quality of archaeological preservation is good with only limited truncation by modern features. The presence of the preserved topsoil/occupation layer and the insubstantial post-holes in the trial-trenches suggest that the potential for the survival of shallow lying structural evidence for buildings (floor surfaces, walls, hearths etc.) on the site is high. It is also clear that the archaeological deposits are very vulnerable to damage from development. There is only 0.4 metres of topsoil cover in some areas (Trench 2) and the lowermost 0.2 metres represents the Roman occupation layer, which appears to contain the bulk of certain types of artefact, such as coins.

A further consideration which must be taken into account when assessing the potential of the site is the presence of 4th or even 5th century activity which is rare in Suffolk and locally only comparable with the Castle Hill villa. A relationship between these two cannot be ruled out with the Handford Road site representing outlying activity within the bounds of a large estate overseen by the villa itself.

The nature of any further programme of archaeological works would depend wholly on the construction methods used in the proposed development. If preservation *in situ* of the bulk of the archaeological deposits were possible then the archaeological works may be limited to the monitoring of groundworks. However, if the detailed planning application indicated that the damage to the archaeology was likely to be more serious then the programme of archaeological works would be increased accordingly and total excavation of the threatened areas may be considered necessary.

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

APPENDIX I IPS 280, Context List & Descriptions

OE	CONTEXT	LOCATION	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	CUTS2	CUTBY	CUTBY	POTDATE	MODIDATE
1	1	Whole site	Finds	Unstratified finds from whole site						
2	1	Trench 1	Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 1						
3	1	Trench 2	Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 2						
4	4	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	NW-SE orientated ditch	7					
5	4	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Dark grey sandy central fill of 4					Roman	Roman
6	4	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Brown silty sand outer fill of 4					Roman	Roman
7	7	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	N-S orientated ditch			4			
8	7	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Brown silty sand fill of 7					C.18+	Roman?
9	9	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	NW-SE orientated ditch	11					
10	9	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Grey silty/sandy loam fill of 9					L.C2+	L.C2+
11	11	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	NE-SW orientated ditch			9			
12	11	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Brown silty sand fill of 10					M.C2+	M.C2+
13	2	Trench 1	Finds	Mixed finds from surface of ditches 14 & 43					C4	C4
14	14	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	NE-SW orientated ditch, r.ship with 43 unclear	41					
15	14	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Orange/brown silty sand fill of 14					L.C1-E.C2	L.C1-E.C2
16	16	Trench 1	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole	45					
17	16	Trench 1	P-hole(fill)	Brown silty sand with some clay lumps, fill of 16					C125-150	E.-M.C2
18	18	Trench 1	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
19	17	Trench 1	P-hole(fill)	Grey silty sand fill of 18						
20	20	Trench 1	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
21	20	Trench 1	P-hole(fill)	Grey silty sand fill of 20					C15-C16	
22	22	Trench 1	Drain(cut)	Linear drain trench						Modern
23	22	Trench 1	Drain(fill)	Black loam fill of 22						Modern
24	24	Trench 1	Drain(cut)	Concrete conduit for drain pipe						Modern
25	25	Trench 2	Pit(cut)	Shallow pit						
26	25	Trench 2	Pit(fill)	Brown silty sand fill of 25						
27	27	Trench 2	Pit(cut)	Shallow circular pit						
28	27	Trench 2	Pit(fill)	Grey sandy loam fill of 27					C4	Roman
29	29	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
30	29	Trench 2	P-hole(fill)	Black loam fill of 29					L.C12-C14	C15-C17
31	31	Trench 2	Pipe	Modern steel pipe c.4cm diam.						Modern
32	32	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
33	32	Trench 2	P-hole(fill)	Black loam fill of 32						
34	34	Trench 2	Pit(cut)	Shallow oval pit						
35	34	Trench 2	Pit(fill)	Brown silty sand fill of 34						
36	36	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
37	36	Trench 2	P-hole(fill)	Black loam fill of 36						
38	38	Trench 2	Drain(cut)	Modern drain trench						

APPENDIX I IPS 280, Context List & Descriptions

OP	CONTEXT	LOCATION	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	CUTS2	CUTBY	CUTBY	POTDATE	MODIDATE
39	39	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Shallow circular p-hole						
40	39	Trench 2	P-hole(fill)	Black loam fill of 39						
41	41	Trench 1	Pit(cut)	Shallow oval pit			14			
42	41	Trench 1	Pit(fill)	Brown silty sand fill of 41						
43	43	Trench 1	Ditch(cut)	NE-SW orientated ditch, r.ship with 14 unclear						
44	43	Trench 1	Ditch(fill)	Orange/brown silty sand fill of 43					C165-200	M.-L.C2
45	45	Trench 1	Depression(cut)	Shallow depression S. of ditch 43, poss. trample			16			
46	45	Trench 1	Depression(fill)	Orange/brown silty sand fill of 45						
47	47	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Possible p-hole, very shallow, removed by JCB						
48	48	Trench 2	P-hole(cut)	Possible p-hole, very shallow, removed by JCB						
49	49	Test-pit 1	Pit(cut)	Pit seen in Test-pit 1						
50	49	Test-pit 1	Pit(fill)	Clean brown sand fill of 49					Roman	Roman
51	1	Test-pit 2	Finds	U/S finds from topsoil in Test-pit 2					Roman	Roman
52	52	Test-pit 2	Pit(cut)	Shallow pit in Test-pit 2						
53	52	Test-pit 2	Pit(fill)	Fill of pit 52						
54	54	Test-pit 4	Ditch(cut)	Shallow E-W orientated ditch in Test-pit 4						
55	54	Test-pit 4	Ditch(fill)	Fill of ditch 54						
100	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae Coin						
101	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae Buckle						
102	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
103	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae Brooch (enamelled)						
104	3	Trench 2	Small find	Ae coin						
105	3	Trench 2	Small find	Ae coin						
106	3	Trench 2	Small find	Folded Ae strip						
107	3	Trench 2	Small find	Pb? leaf						
108	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
109	10	Trench 1	Small find	Fe nail						
110	10	Trench 1	Small find	Fe nail						
111	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae ring						
112	44	Trench 1	Small find	Pb waste						
113	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
114	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
115	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
116	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
117	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
118	10	Trench 1	Small find	Fe nail						
119	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
120	2	Trench 1	Small find	Ae coin						
121	10	Trench 1	Small find	Stone hone						

APPENDIX II A General Finds Quantities

[illegible][illegible]

APPENDIX II.B Pottery Spot-Dates

	OP	FABRIC	SHERD	FORM	NUM	COMMENT	DATE
1	0002	Mayen	rim	Alzei 27	2	lid- seated jar.	Mid-LC4
2	0002	MH	base		1	pedestal base	LC3/C4
3	0002	SG	rim	4	1		C4
4	0002	OX	base	bowl	1	floor and footing	C4
5	0002	AA	bs	amphora	4	single vessel.	Rom
6	0002	RX	rim	6.18	1		MC2+
7	0002	GM	rim	6.18	1		MC2+
8	0002	GM	rim	6.19.2	1		MC2+
9	0002	GM	rim	6.19.4	1	two grooves, profile	MC2+
10	0002	GM	base	jar	1	carinated base	
11	0002	GM	base	6	1		MC2+
12	0002	GM	bs		4		
13	0002	GX	bs		22		
14	0002	GX	bs		7	burnished	
15	0002	GX	rim	2	1	bottle	C2/C3
16	0002	GX	bs	2	1	shoulder with lattice band	C2/C3
17	0002	GX	bs	3.10.1	2	two separate vessels	MC2+
18	0002	GX	base	3.10.2	1	large sherd, 100% base	MC2+
19	0002	GX	bs	3.10	1		MC2+
20	0002	GX	rim	3.11	1	cavetto rim	MC2+
21	0002	GX	bs	3.12	2	folded	MC2/C3
22	0002	GX	rim	4	1		
23	0002	GX	base	jar	2	(base 3) two separate vessels	
24	0002	GX	base	jar	1		
25	0002	GX	base	jar	1	(base 2)	
26	0002	GX	base	jar	1	hollow pedestal base	
27	0002	GX	base	6	1		
28	0002	GX	bs	6	2		
29	0002	GX	base	6	1	burnished overall	
30	0002	GX	rim	6.18	1		MC2+
31	0002	GX	rim	6.19.1	1	with rills external wall	MC2+
32	0002	GX	rim	6.19.4	1	red core	MC2+
33	0002	GX	rim	6.19.4	1	with voids	MC2+
34	0002	GX	rim	6.19.4	1	black, burnished	MC2+
35	0002	GX	rim	jar	1		
36	0002	GX	rim	4	1	sandy fab (lots of the GX is coarse sandy fabric seen from other IPS sites)	
37	0002	GX	rim	4	1	square rim	
38	0002	GX	rim	4.6.2	1	the sandy fabric	
39	0002	GX	bs	4.6.2	1	shoulder sherd	
40	0002	GX	rim	4.2	1	split rim, stabbed dec	
41	0002	GX	bs	4.14	3	with grog	not early
42	0002	GX	bs		1	very white fabric & grey surface - NV grey ware?	C3/C4
43	0002	MCW	base		1	medieval grey ware	Med
44	0002	GX	bs		1	this is probably Ipswich ware	Mid-Saxon
45	0003	PMRW	rim		1	large garden type vessel?	P-Med
46	0003	PMRW	rim		1	large garden type vessel?	P-Med
47	0003	GX	rim	6.15	1	flanged bowl	C3/C4
48	0003	GX	rim	6.19.4	2	two separate vessels	MC2+
49	0003	GX	rim	jar	1		
50	0003	GX	rim	6.19.4	1	(the coarse sandy fabric)	MC2+
51	0003	MH	base	1 or 2	1	footring base	LC3/C4
52	0003	MH	base	jar	1		LC3/C4
53	0003	HM	bs	jar	1	"Belgic fabric" combed	C1
54	0005	GX	bs	6	2	single vessel	MC2+

APPENDIX II.B Pottery Spot-Dates

	OP	FABRIC	SHERD	FORM	NUM	COMMENT	DATE
55	0010	SA	bs	Drag 37	1	dec bowl in East Gaulish Rheinzaubern fabric	LC2-MC3
56	0010	RC	bs	3.3	1	roughcast	C2
57	0010	RC	bs	3	1	roughcast	C2
58	0010	WX	base	7	1	probably East Anglian, flint and quartz grits	
59	0010	AA	bs	Amph	2		Rom
60	0010	GM	bs		10		
61	0010	GM	bs	3.7	4	single vessel with comb-stabbed dec. (same vessel in 0012)	MC2
62	0010	GM	bs	3.10.1	1		MC2+
63	0010	GM	base	6	1	floor sherd	C2
64	0010	GM	bs	3	1	fine burnished vertical lines	
65	0010	GM	rim	3	1		
66	0010	GX	bs		37	Rom	
67	0010	GX	bs	5.2	2	two separate vessels	LC1-EC2
68	0010	GX	bs		1	bottle? w band of burnished lines on shoulder	C2/C3
69	0010	GX	base	jar	1	(base 2)	
70	0010	GX	base	jar	1	(base 1)	
71	0010	GX	bs	3.10.1	1	vertical burnished lines	MC2+
72	0010	GX	bs		5	burnished	
73	0010	GX	bs	jar	2	single vessel with burnished lines dec	
74	0010	GX	rim	bowl	2		C2+
75	0010	GX	rim	4	2	rolled rims, two separate vessels	
76	0010	GX	rim	4	2	two separate vessels	LC2/C3
77	0010	GX	rim	8.1	1	lid	
78	0010	GX	bs	jar	1	vertical burnished lines	MC2+
79	0010	GX	base	bowl	1	overall burnished, orange core	
80	0010	GX	base	jar	1	(base 3)	
81	0010	GX	rim	6.3	1	unusual rim form	
82	0010	GX	rim	5	1	cordoned jar	LC1-EC2
83	0010	GX	bs	4.14	2	with grog but not early	
84	0010	RX	bs		3		
85	0010	RX	base	flagon?	1		
86	0010	WX	bs	flagon	2		
87	0010	GG	bs		1		
88	0012	GM	bs	3.7	1	Same vessel as 0010. comb-stabbed dec	MC2
89	0012	GM	rim	6.18	1	lattice dec	MC2+
90	0012	GM	base	jar	2	(base 2)	
91	0012	GM	bs		4		
92	0012	GM	bs	jar	1	acute lattice dec	C2+
93	0012	VEG	bs		1		C1/C2
94	0013	SA	rim	Drag.27	1	Les Martres-de-Veyre fabric	Trajanic
95	0013	GG	rim	4.2	1	large storage vessel	C1
96	0013	GX	bs	3	1	globular beaker	MC2
97	0013	GX	bs	5.1	2	cordoned vessel	LC1/EC2
98	0013	GX	bs	5.1	1	cordoned vessel	LC1/EC2
99	0013	GX	bs		16		
100	0013	OX	rim	6.14	1	flanged bowl with white paint dec on flange	C4
101	0015	WX	bs	6.9	1		LC1/EC2
102	0015	GX	rim	5.1	3		LC1/EC2
103	0015	GX	bs	5	1	grooved cordon	LC1/EC2
104	0015	GX	bs	5	2		
105	0017	SA	rim	Drag.18/31	1	Central Gaulish fabric	Had-E Ant

APPENDIX II.B Pottery Spot-Dates

	OP	FABRIC	SHERD	FORM	NUM	COMMENT	DATE
106	0021	LMT?	bs		1		C15/16?
107	0028	OX	flange	6.14	1	white painted dec on flange	C4
108	0028	SG	base	jar	1		C4
109	0028	HM	bs		1	is it handmade?	E Sax or IA?
110	0030	MCW?	bs		1		LC12-C14
111	0044	SA	profile	Drag.37	1	mould-stamp of Do(v)eccus, Central Gaulish, rivet holes for mending	165-200
112	0044	SA	rim	Drag.37	2	Central Gaulish fabric	Had-Ant
113	0044	RX	handle	1	1	flagon	
114	0044	WX	bs	1	1	flagon	
115	0044	GM	bs	3.8	1		MC2
116	0044	GX	base	jar	1	(base 2)	
117	0044	GM	base	jar	1	(base 3)	
118	0044	GX	bs	jar	5	single vessel	
119	0044	GX	bs	5	1	cordoned jar	LC1/EC2
120	0044	GX	bs		2		
121	0050	GX	rim	4.2	1	large storage vessel with hooky rim, grog & voids , not early	ro,
122	0051	GX	bs		3		
123	0051	UNK	bs		1	soft fine textured, black core and pink surfaced.	

APPENDIX II.C Small Finds Catalogue

	OPNO	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	CATEGORY	FINDTYPE	NUMBER	DESCRIPT	PERIOD	DATE	PARALLEL
1	0100	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. Const.IVNNC Rev. GE1. Worn.	RB	335-337	
2	0101	0002	Ae	Dress accessory	Buckle	1	Oval frame, small.	MED		
3	0102	0002	Ae	Coin	Ant	1	Ob. GALLIENVS AVG Rev. illeg. Corroded.	RB	260-268	
4	0103	0002	Ae	Dress accessory	Brooch	1	Headstud type, broken pin. Hinged, cast chair loop, cast headstud (with central dot; ?enamelled ring), traces of enamel (pale) in lozenges on bow. Flat-ended foot.	RB	L. 1st c./2nd c.	Snape (1993, 15) group 3.1Di.
5	0104	0003	Ae	Coin	Ae4	1	Ob. DN THEODO/... Theodosius. Rev. wreath VOT/X/MVLT/XX Mint mark ?ANA. Worn.	RB	383	LRBC II, 2741.
6	0105	0003	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. HoC illeg. Rev. GE1(?) Corroded.	RB	335-341	
7	0106	0003	Ae	Unknown		1	Sheet fragment, one rivet hole (?).			
8	0107	0003	Ae	Misc fitting	Mount?	1	Thick leaf, veins in relief on one face, incised on other. Probably not Roman?	PMED?		
9	0108	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae4	1	Ob. Const. Rev. GE2. Worn.	RB	330-335	
10	0109	0010	Fe	Nail		1	Nail.			
11	0110	0010	Fe	Nail		1	Nail? shaft.			
12	0111	0002	Ae	Misc fitting	Ring	1	Circular section plain ring, int. diam. 24mm. Undateable (but prob. Roman or PMed??).			
13	0112	0044	Pb	Industrial	Waste	1	Fragment of lead.			
14	0113	0002	Ae	Coin	Halfpenny	1	Ob. Draped bust r. George III. Rev. Britannia I. V. worn.	PMED	1799	
15	0114	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. Const. Rev. GE2. Worn.	RB	330-335	
16	0115	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. HoC. Rev. 2 V. Mint mark ??-CON. Worn.	RB	343-348	
17	0116	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. Urbs Roma. Rev. W&T. Very worn.	RB	330-337	
18	0117	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. Val. Rev. GR. Mint mark OIFII Worn, corroded.	RB	364-378	
19	0118	0010	Fe	Nail		1	Nail.			
20	0119	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. HoC Rev. GE1 Mint mark M/RSU Worn.	RB	337-341	
21	0120	0002	Ae	Coin	Ae3	1	Ob. Valens. Rev. GR. Worn, corroded.	RB	364-378	
22	0121	0010	Stone	Grinding tool	Hone	1	?sandstone hone with a number of sharpening areas.			