Report 1195

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nau archaeology

An Archaeological Excavation at Ford Place Nursing Home, Thetford, Norfolk

HER 40576

Prepared for
Ian H Bix and Associates
on behalf of
Barchester Healthcare

Giles Emery

June 2009

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NAU ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CHECKLIST		
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Location:	Ford Place Nursing Home, Thetford
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TL 8739 8264
HER No.:	40576
SM No.:	21427
Client:	Barchester Healthcare
Dates of Fieldwork:	14–26 July 2004

Summary

During 2004 an archaeological excavation was carried out at Ford Place Nursing Home, Thetford. Evidence of Iron Age activity was discovered in the form of a several pits and a 'structured' deposit within a linear feature which comprised a partial head burial, numerous sherds of pottery, butchered animal bone and the wing bones from a falcon. Radiocarbon dating of carbonised grain recovered from this deposit gave a date of 352–53 cal BC.

Elements of the 18th-century garden belonging to James Mingay K.C. (1752–1812), the town's former mayor, were also revealed, along with two chalk-built culverts which served his property. Two medieval waste pits and a single ditch or gully were also encountered.

This report presents the results of the excavation and includes all specialist reports with artefactual and environmental data. A synthesis of the results which focuses specifically on the evidence for Iron Age activity will be included in a forthcoming East Anglian Archaeology monograph provisionally entitled 'The Iron Age of Norfolk'*.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

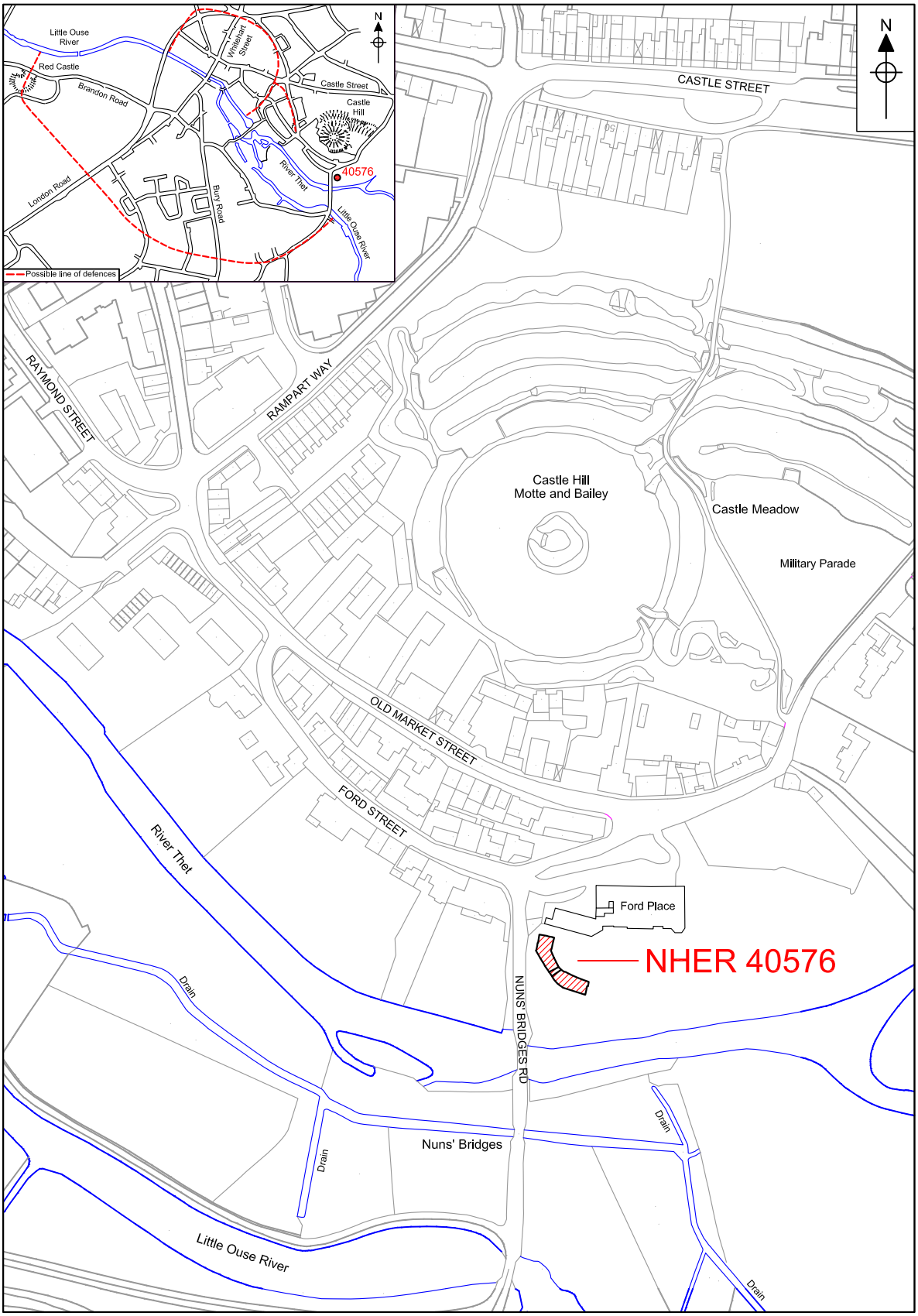
During July 2004 Norfolk Archaeological Unit (now NAU Archaeology) undertook an archaeological excavation in advance of a planned extension to the south-western wing of a nursing home at Ford Place, Thetford, Norfolk (Fig. 1). The excavation took the form of a single trench (*c.*260m²) equating to the footprint of the development.

The project was commissioned by Ian H Bix and Associates on their clients' behalf and was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: A R J Hutcheson 2002) and a Method Statement prepared by NAU (Ref: JB/1460) and.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The nursing home and its grounds lie within Scheduled Monument 21427, which incorporates an Iron Age enclosure, the Norman castle motte and its eastern bailey (Fig. 1).



0 200 m

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500
Inset scale 1:25,000

The site was located to the rear of the south-western corner of the existing building, a 19th-century manor house with rear gardens that slope down to the banks of the River Thet. The trench was located on this slope which fell from 12.82m OD to 11.73m OD. The area was cleared of several mature trees and shrubs prior to the excavation.

All deposits overlaid Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period with rare pockets of sand notable for the occurrence of tabular flint fragments (Funnell 2005).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site was located close to the Icknield Way, an ancient route which crossed the Little Ouse and Thet rivers by a long, discontinuous ford. Today this spot is marked by the several arches of Nuns Bridges. The trackway may have formed a communication link between Wiltshire and Norfolk as early as the Bronze Age.

The construction of the hillfort during the Iron Age was probably associated with the establishment of Icenian control over the district, it being likely that Thetford lay close to the Icenian centre of power (Crosby 1986, 7). This enclosure, which was subsequently remodelled by the construction of the castle, was substantial and dominated one of three fords across the Little Ouse, close to its confluence with the River Thet and at the river's highest navigable point (Bates 1994). The enclosure appears to be sited to control the bridgehead and dates from the Middle to Late Iron Age (500 BC–AD 43).

Evidence for Roman occupation has been found to the north-east of the river and at Fison Way, to the north of the present town, a site occupied from the Late Iron Age to the 4th century AD (Gregory 1991).

Early and Middle Saxon settlement has been recorded south of the river at sites adjacent to Brandon Road (Dallas 1993). In the 9th century the town expanded from its south-western nucleus along the south bank of the river in the area of the central fording place. Fortification of the settlement on the southern bank (and possibly also on the northern bank) occurred around the early 10th century. Throughout the 10th and much of the 11th centuries Thetford developed into a major Anglo-Danish town so that by Domesday, population estimates placed it amongst the six most important towns in England (Andrews 1995, 11).

A castle was built at Thetford, almost certainly in the period 1067–9, simultaneously with the first castle at Norwich. It comprised a huge artificial motte and ditch erected within the oval ramparts of the Iron Age hillfort with little regard for previous topography. In 1173 the castle was dismantled, in a slighting of the castle most likely associated with the rebellion of Henry and Richard against their father Henry II (Crosby 1986, 26). There was no occupation of the castle site after the 12th century.

During the 12th century the focus of occupation in the town appears to have shifted to the northern bank of the river, coinciding with a gradual abandonment of the southern settlement. Although a few religious houses survived, most of the southern area reverted to agricultural or pastoral use (Andrews 1995). A general pattern of urban decline continued through the later medieval and post-medieval periods until redevelopment for housing took place in the mid-20th century as part of the London County Council overspill programme.

The church of the Austin friars, St Augustine's, was situated to the east of the present nursing home. The boundaries of the Austin friary, dating to between 1387 and 1558, are not known but it is likely that excavations by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1985 were situated within the grounds of the church of St Augustine (Davies *et al*. 1992). These excavations discovered Iron Age features which included a human cremation and several pits, one of which contained fragmentary human remains (Gregory 1992b).

The house at Ford Place is a mid-19th-century mansion with its own grounds. An earlier house stood on the same site in 1789. This large house stood on the road to Nuns Bridge with a main facade that faced this road and had a central bay on the north side, fronting an open space which was known as the 'Old Market Place'. By 1807 the grounds were considerably extended over common land and to the east across the former site of the Augustine friary. South of the river the land was managed to provide a vista from the house. In the late 19th century the grounds were altered in another phase of redevelopment.

A number of both plain and carved stone fragments lie amongst the gardens. Some are 14th- or 15th-century in style but others date from the 12th or 13th centuries. These stones are probably a general collection from the town rather than from the adjacent friary site (Edwin Rose, pers. comm.).

Archaeological work in advance of the western extension of the nursing home was carried out by RPS Clouston in December 1998 (Connell 1999). This work revealed a sequence of post-medieval make-up deposits sealing some medieval layers and two 10th- to 11th-century ditches aligned north–south and east–west.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The trench was marked out by the client prior to excavation. Initial excavation was carried out using a mechanical 360° excavator operated under constant archaeological supervision until archaeological deposits were located. The reinforced concrete slab of a former shed which lay across the area of excavation was broken out with a mechanical breaker and all large tree stumps were carefully machined out once their intrusion into subsoil deposits was assessed.

Archaeological features cut into the natural chalk were encountered at 1.2m. All deposits below the machined overburden levels were excavated by hand. Numerous defunct 19th-century ceramic pipes were revealed during the machining and modern services were discovered in the north of the trench. A 2m wide baulk was left at the mid-point of the trench to retain a modern foul water pipe, effectively dividing the trench into two parts (Figs 2 and 3).

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection. Bulk finds were recorded by context number. A single identification number was issued for all Small Finds as part of the post-excavation work.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU pro forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

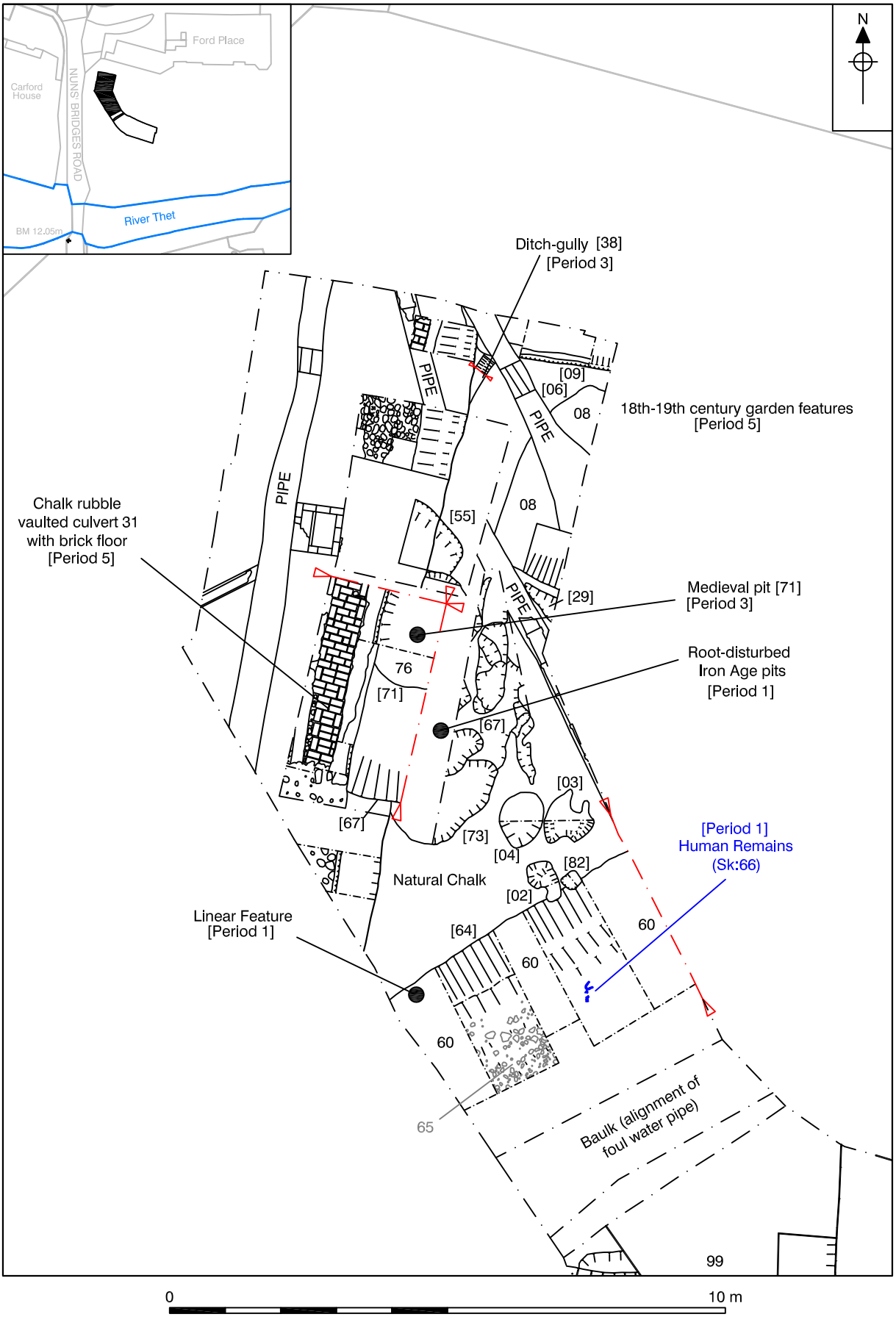


Figure 2. Northern half of Trench. Scale 1:100 (inset location window 1:2000)

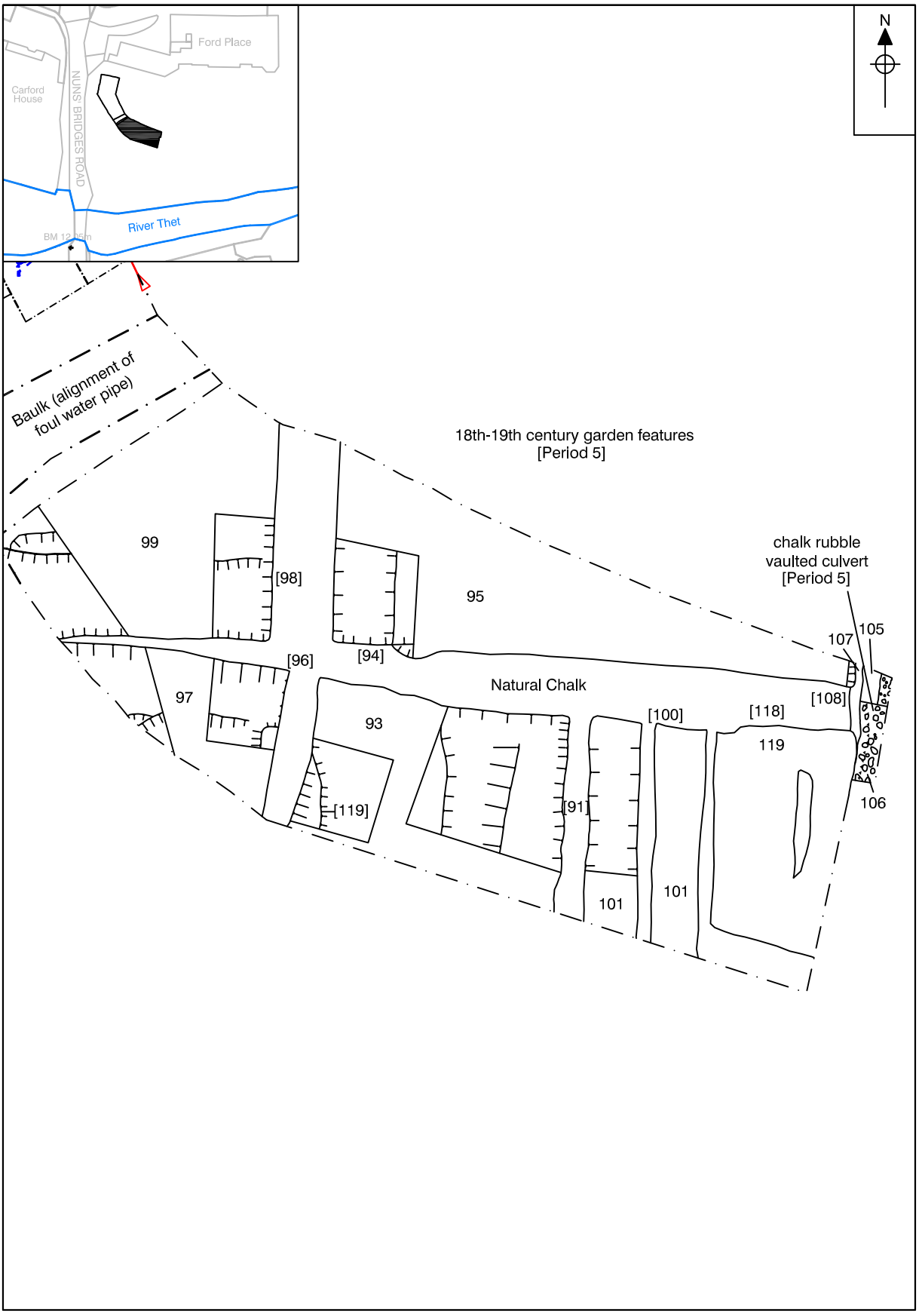


Figure 3. Southern half of Trench. Scale 1:100 (inset location window 1:2000)

Initial post-excavation work checked the drawn and written record and prepared the data for assessment (Emery 2005). Artefacts were cleaned, marked and catalogued. Pottery was spot-dated to aid the stratigraphic assessment. A comprehensive stratigraphic matrix was created using AutoCad. Plans were digitised using AutoCad and a photographic archive was compiled.

5.0 FACTUAL ARCHIVE

The following table presents the material that forms the subject of this archive and consists of documentary and artefactual material generated from the excavation:

CATEGORY	TOTAL
Contexts	126
Scale Drawings	31
Index Book	1
Colour Slides	39
Black and White Photos	65

Table 1. Paper archive.

The finds material from the site is presented in a series of specialist reports with accompanying tables and basic quantitative information located in the appendices section of this report. The following table presents the finds that form the artefactual assemblage:

CATEGORY	QUANTITY	WEIGHT
Small Finds	16	-
Ceramic Building Material	126	15.241
Faunal Remains	422	6.976
Iron Age Pottery	67	0.717
Non-prehistoric Pottery	71	0.916
Flint	18	-
Fired Clay	1	0.004
Clay Tobacco Pipe	16	0.068
Metalworking Debris	4	
Iron Nails	10	-
Glass - bottle	1	-
Shell	-	0.266
Human Skeletal Remains	-	0.140

Table 2. Finds assemblage.

Six main periods of activity were identified from the artefactual assemblage:

PERIOD	PERIOD	DATE RANGE
1	Middle to Late Iron Age	500 BC to AD 43
2	Early Saxon	5th–7th century
3	Medieval	11th–15th century
4	Early Post-medieval	Post-1500s
5	Late Post-medieval	18th–19th century
6	Modern	19th–20th century

Table 3. Site periods.

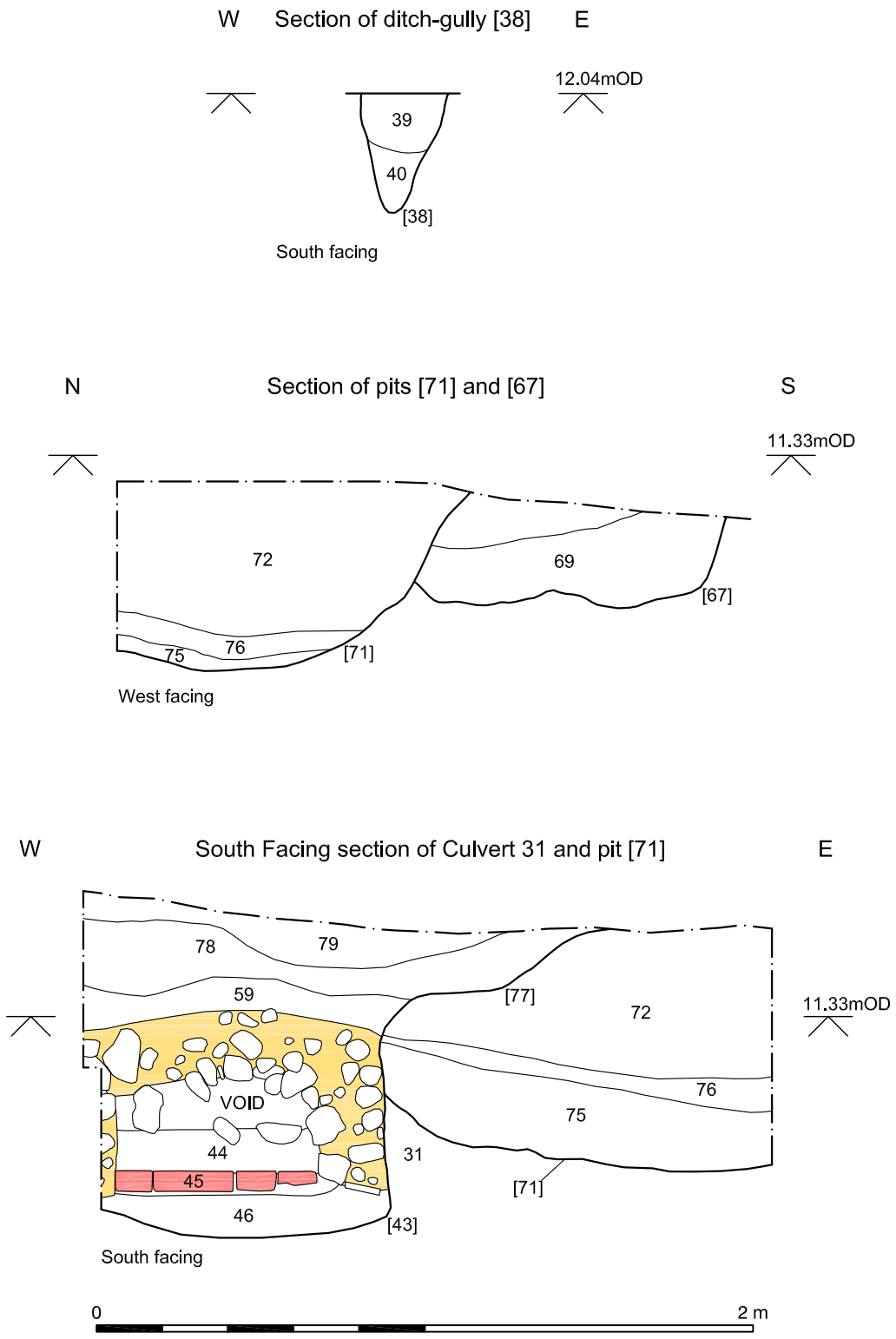


Figure 4. Sections (various). Scale 1:20

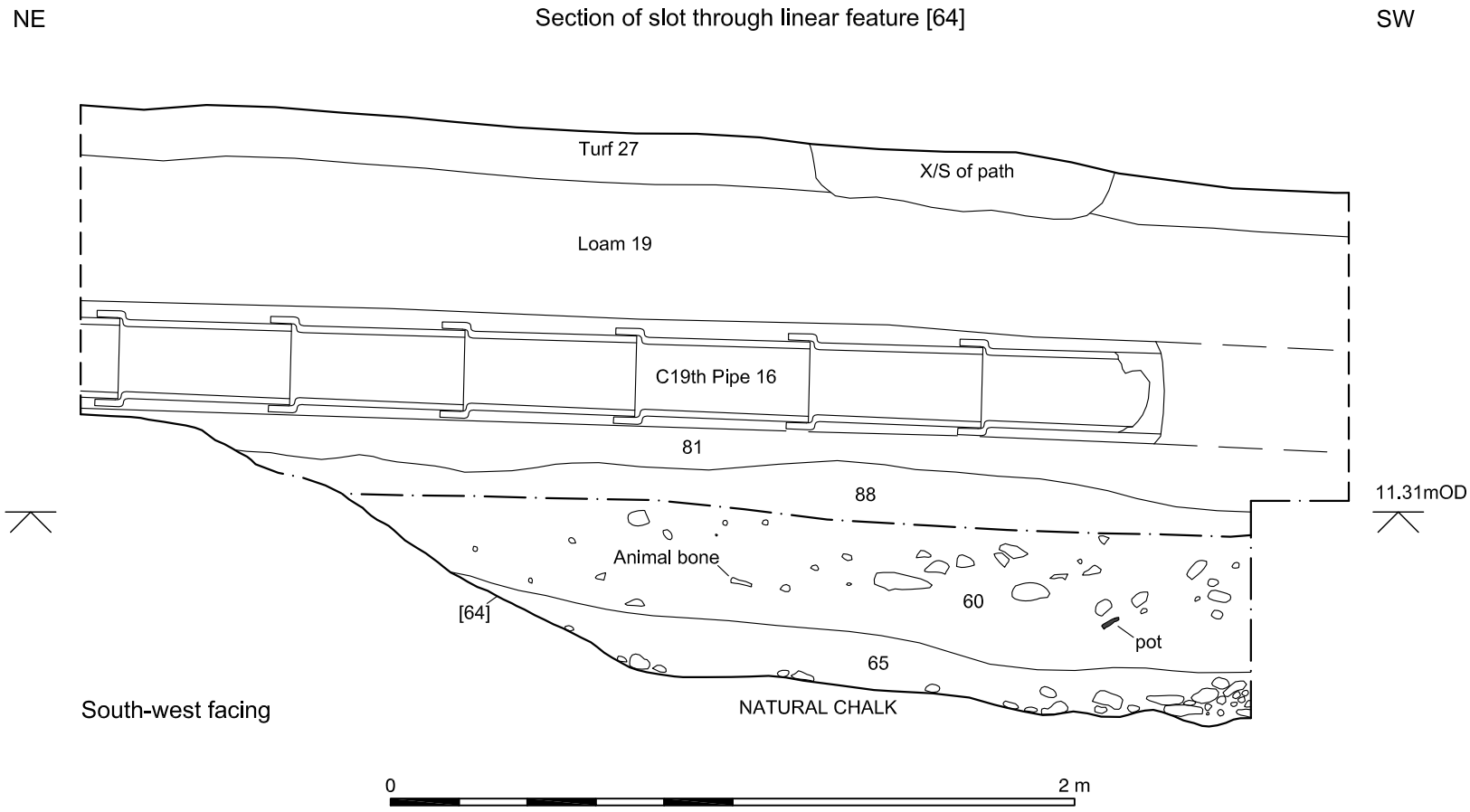


Figure 5. Section of feature [64]. Scale 1:20

6.0 RESULTS

NB: In the text contexts numbers referred to in round brackets are deposits whilst square brackets indicate cut features and open numbers in italics refer to built features.

6.1 Period 1: Middle to Late Iron Age (500 BC to AD 43)

6.1.1 Linear Iron Age Feature

The main evidence of Iron Age activity was represented by a linear feature, aligned north-east to south-west [64]. This feature truncated the natural chalk to a depth of 0.55m and had a fairly flat base with a sloping edge of 30°. The southern edge was obscured by a baulk left to retain a modern service. Human skeletal remains in the form of a human mandible and semi-articulated cervical vertebrae (SK66) were discovered in the base of the feature. These 'neck' vertebrae were located in a very shallow scoop in the natural chalk and sealed by a stony layer (65) above which lay the main sandy loam fill of the feature (60).

Plate 1. Iron Age feature [64].

Forty-two Iron Age pottery sherds and a single clay loom weight fragment (SF 5) were recovered from this fill, all of which have been spot-dated to the 3rd–1st centuries BC (Fig. 6). Environmental samples from this same deposit revealed the presence of carbonised cereal grains and common weed seeds. One of these grains was radiocarbon-dated to cal 162–98 BC (WK 15817). A human skull fragment was also recovered, along with 213 fragments of animal bone, including many domestic species, as well as some fragments of more unusual species which include worked red deer antler, boar tusks and wing bones of a Peregrine falcon. This combination of a partial inhumation and more unusual faunal remains is highly suggestive of ritual deposition in the form of a structured deposit.

6.1.2 Iron Age Pits

Three Iron Age pits lay 2.5m to the north of the linear feature. Two of these were truncated by a medieval waste pit [71] and the edges of the pits were all heavily disturbed by archaic root action (Fig. 4). Two sherds of Iron Age pottery, some butchered animal bone and a likely 'hogs back' knife blade fragment (SF7),

comparable to a type dated to the early Roman period, were recovered from pit [55]. The second pit [67] contained chalk-flecked mid-brown sandy loam deposits from which the jaw of a mature horse was recovered. This pit was associated and possibly truncated by a third pit of a similar nature [73].

6.2 Period 2: Early Saxon (5th–7th century)

No features of this period were identified although a pottery sherd of this date was found residually, mixed into later soil horizons.

6.3 Period 3: Medieval (11th–15th century)

A large waste pit [71] truncated the earlier Iron Age pits (Fig. 4). Fragments of butchered and charred animal ribs and eleven sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from its dark brown sandy loam fills. The pottery consists of a range of local coarsewares and shell-tempered wares, of which one diagnostic rim sherd is typologically of 11th- to 13th-century date.

A shallow oval pit located nearby contained a mid-brown clay-silt from which a small fragment from a highly decorated Grimston ware face-jug of a 13th- to 15th-century date was recovered.

At the northern end of the excavation trench a V-shaped ditch/gully [38] survived to a depth of 0.36m (Fig. 4). It contained a sterile silty-sand and was truncated by post-medieval pits. Similar features associated with ditches of a 10th–11th-century date were observed directly north of this area by RPS Clouston during archaeological work in advance of the western extension of the nursing home (Connell 1999).

6.4 Period 4: Early Post-medieval (1500s)

No features of this period were identified, although residual pottery, with spot dates ranging from the 15th–17th centuries, were collected from the soils of late post-medieval garden features.

6.5 Period 5: Late Post-medieval (18th–19th century)

6.5.1 Chalk Vaulted Culverts

Two substantial north–south aligned culverts were revealed. Both were constructed of chalk rubble blocks and occasional flint cobbles (*31* and *106*). Culvert *31* was 1m wide and mostly intact, although the roof had collapsed in places (Fig. 4). It was floored with hand-made bricks. The walls were 0.22m thick, bonded with a sandy mortar and tightly constructed into a square-profiled trench excavated into the natural chalk. The roof of the culvert was slightly vaulted, with smaller chalk blocks and fragments bonded with a much harder mortar. The construction cut was backfilled over the culvert roof with thin tips of sandy loam and crushed chalk and mortar from which a few fragments of post-medieval brick and tile were recovered. A fragment of abraded Staffordshire ware dating from 1650–1800 suggests the date range of this backfill.

Plate 2. Vaulted Culvert *31*.

Plate 3. Excavated Culvert *31* showing partly collapsed roof.

6.5.2 Horticultural Features

Several large garden features were discovered in the southern half of the excavation (Fig. 3). These flat-based features were laid out in a formal pattern of square blocks, with some linear beds. They contained silty loams and clays and some of the features exhibited layers of redeposited chalk. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from over half of the features.

Three horticultural features were also discovered at the northern end of the trench. These had steep sides and flat bases and the larger two both had a stiff clay lining. All three contained post-medieval brick and tile fragments.

A compact rubble-flecked soil ranging from 0.3m to 0.8m deep sealed the garden features. A few fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit, including Staffordshire Slipware dating from 1650 to 1800. Overlaying this deposit across the whole site was a build up of grey loam of 0.4m depth.

Plate 4. Former post-medieval garden features.

7.0 THE FINDS

7.1 Iron Age Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Sixty-seven sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered with a combined weight of 0.717kg. These hand-made quartz-sand-tempered fabrics are indistinguishable from those used during the Early Saxon period and both have been found during previous excavations in Thetford. Identification of the Ford Place sherds is based on the presence of characteristic flat-ended rim forms and multiple impressed dot decoration, which are not generally found within the Early Saxon repertoire.

Analysis of the sherds identified four fabrics in two fabric groups (Table 4). The first most common group contains predominantly quartz-sand. The second has burnt flint inclusions. Previous excavations at Ford Place and at Thetford Castle also produced small assemblages of Iron Age pottery in similar fabrics (Gregory 1992a, 14). It is clear that quartz-sand-tempered fabrics were predominant.

The assemblage contains two sherds with flint inclusions. Flint temper is common within many Iron Age assemblages and continued to be used well into the middle Iron Age (Percival 1999, 247).

Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt(kg)
F1	Common small angular flint pieces	2	0.012
Q1	Common, small rounded clear quartz grains; moderate small quartzite speckles. Dense, hard fired.	22	0.324
Q3	Common, small rounded clear quartz grains. Dense hard fired.	14	0.191
Q4	Common, small rounded clear quartz grains, some organic. Dense, hard fired.	21	0.199
Total		59	0.726

Table 4. Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by fabric type.

Rim sherds from nine vessels were recovered. No full profiles were found and it is therefore uncertain whether the rims were from jar or bowl forms. Rims with both rounded and flat rim endings are present and a range of vessel sizes is represent including smaller jar/bowls with delicate rims and medium size round shouldered vessels. Base sherds from three vessels were found, one a simple base (P7), one from a base with an protruding lip or step (P8) and one from a small vessel with upright profile forming a 90° angle between the base and body of the vessel (P6). The former are common amongst Iron Age assemblages whilst the latter is more unusual and of questionable date.

Approximately 40% of the sherds have burnishing to the exterior and four exhibit surface decoration. One sherd is both burnished and decorated with a double incised band on the interior of the rim (P4). This embellishment would have been visible when the vessel was in use suggesting a vessel with an open form. Three sherds have shallow impressed dots in a random pattern all over the surface (examples of sherds with similar decoration were found at the Launditch (Percival 1999, fig. 20, 12). Two sherds have a roughened or wiped surface, a treatment also found amongst the Launditch assemblage (Percival 1999, fig. 20, 8) and on the pottery previously found at Ford Place (Gregory 1992b, fig. 25, 6).

Over 78% of the assemblage was recovered from the fills of linear feature [64]. This includes all of the decorated sherds, seven of the nine rim sherds and four of the five base sherds. Such a high percentage of diagnostic material associated with human bone may suggest that this is a ‘structured’ deposit. Pits [29] and [55] both produced small and undiagnostic assemblages of one and two sherds respectively. Six sherds were residual within garden features and one sherd was found within root disturbance.

This pottery appears to be very similar to the assemblages recovered from the 1985–86 excavations at Ford Place and the 1960s excavations at Thetford Castle, both considered by the late Tony Gregory to date to three or four centuries within the middle Iron Age (Gregory 1992a, 15). The strong parallels between the present assemblage and that from Beeston with Bittering along the line of the Launditch (NHER 13023), allowed the date to be narrowed down slightly to perhaps the 3rd–1st centuries BC (Percival 1999, 248). A radiocarbon date of 185 BC (± 32: WK15817) was achieved for the fill from the linear feature [64] which confirms this initial spot date and produces a more specific early to mid-2nd Century BC time frame for this particular assemblage.

Fig	Fabric	Description	Source
P1	Q4	Flat top rim with external lip	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P2	Q1	Flat topped rim with short everted neck	Fill 63 of Linear 64.
P3	Q4	Rounded short rim with everted neck	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P4	Q3	Simple rounded rim	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P5	Q1	Upright flat topped rim	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P6	Q1	90° base angle	Fill 95 of Garden Feature 94.
P7	Q3	Simple base angle	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P8	Q1	Stepped base	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P9	Q1	Multiple impressed dots	Fill 60 of Linear 64.
P10	Q3	Rough wiped	Fill 60 of Linear 64.

Table 5. Catalogue of illustrated Iron Age pottery sherds.

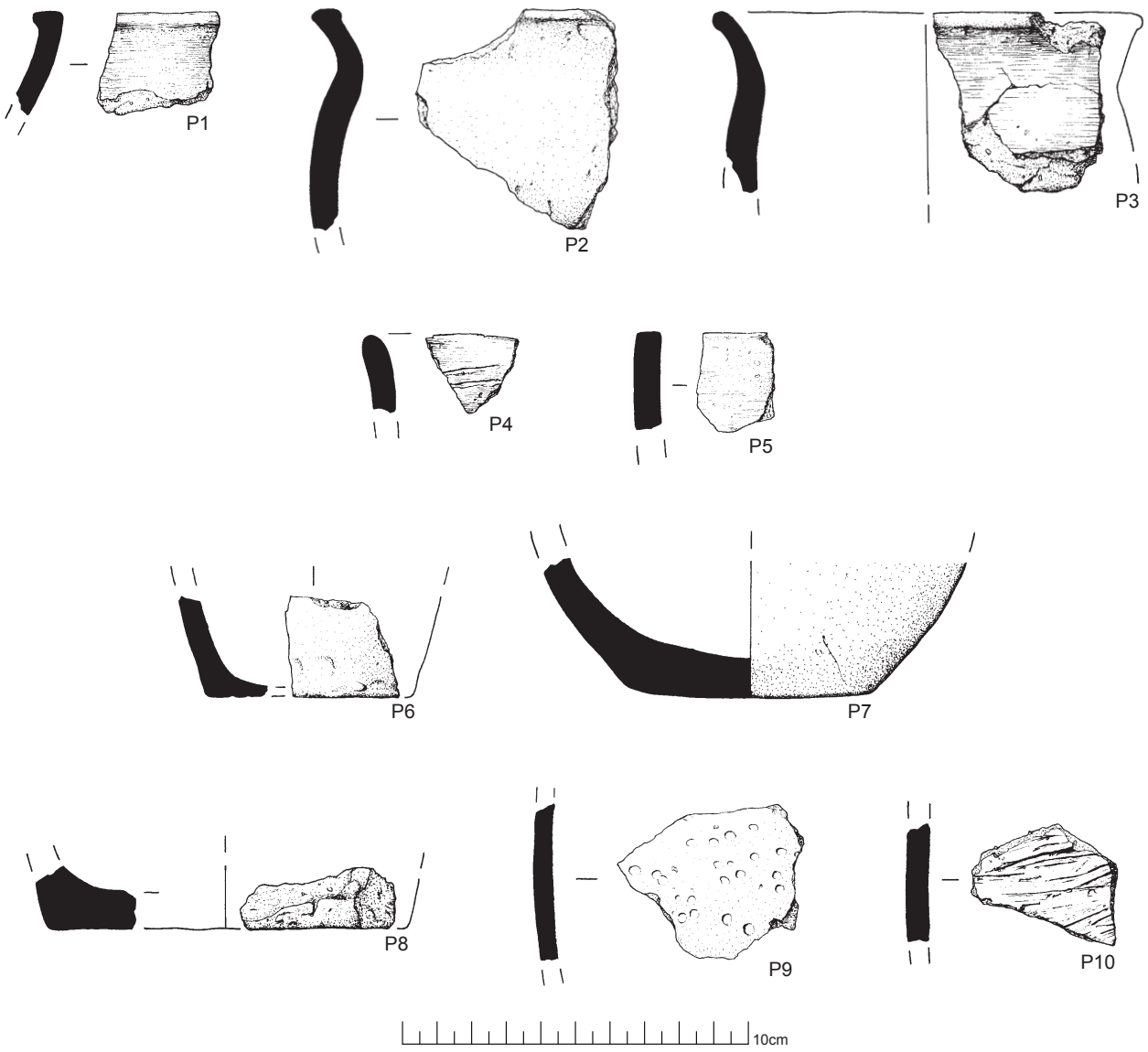


Figure 6. Iron Age pottery. Scale 1:2

7.2 Non-prehistoric Pottery

By Richenda Goffin

A total of 71 fragments of non-prehistoric pottery with a combined weight of 0.916kg was recovered during the excavation (Appendix 4). The pottery is mainly medieval and post-medieval. The ceramics were quantified by recording the number of sherds present in each context, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and condition were noted, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was recorded on pro forma sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form.

The fabric codes used are based mainly on those identified by Jennings (1981), and supplemented by additional codes compiled by Sue Anderson.

7.2.1 Early Saxon

A small fragment of Early Saxon pottery, weighing 0.004kg, was found as a residual find. This assemblage is made in a sandy fabric with occasional organic inclusions. Although ceramics with these characteristics were produced in both the Iron Age and the Early Saxon periods, these sherds have been identified as Early Saxon by their form.

7.2.2 Medieval

Twenty-six fragments of medieval pottery, weighing 0.273kg, were recorded. Several fragments of residual medieval pottery were recovered from a variety of garden features in the southern half of the site. These include sherds of Grimston ware, a fragment of Stamford white ware, a fragment of copper-glazed Developed Stamford and fragments of Local medieval unglazed ware dating from the 11th–14th centuries.

A small fragment from a highly decorated Grimston ware face-jug was recovered from the fill of pit [04]. A much greater quantity of medieval ware was recovered from waste pit [71]. This consisted of a range of local coarsewares and shell-tempered wares. A single cooking vessel or jar rim present in this fill has a simple everted shape which is typologically of 11th- to 13th-century date, rather than later. A single rim fragment of a possibly unglazed Grimston, also of an 11th- to 13th-century date, was recovered as an intrusive find from the main fill of Iron Age feature [64].

7.2.3 Post-medieval

Forty-four fragments of post-medieval pottery, weighing 0.605kg, were recovered from buried garden features at the south of the site. These include fragments of Glazed red earthenwares dating from the late 16th and 17th centuries and fragments of late medieval and transitional wares dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. Probable English stoneware and Glazed red earthenwares, dating from between the 16th and 18th centuries, and more pottery of a 17th- to 18th-century date, including blue and white tin-glazed earthenware, were also recovered from these features.

7.3 Small Finds

By John Davies, Julia Huddle, Sarah Percival and Julie Curl

Sixteen small finds were recovered, the majority from post-medieval deposits (Appendix 5). These consist of worked stone, a hearth lining fragment, lead window came, an iron key, a machine-made copper alloy thimble, metalworking debris, a mount and button and several unclassified objects. Some of the material is discussed in more detail here.

7.3.1 Iron Age Finds

7.3.1.1 Knife Blade (SF 7)

An incomplete knife blade was recovered from pit fill (55), which also contained Iron Age pottery (Fig. 7). The blade is made of iron, triangular in shape, and represents the tip of the implement. Its shape is very similar to one from Fison Way, Thetford, from the ditch of an enclosure dated to the early Roman period (Gregory 1991, 136, fig. 120, no. 3), identified as a Manning (1985) Type 19 tanged knife with hogs-back blade. It is also possible that this could have been part of a pair of hand shears, although the single tanged knife form is most likely.

7.3.1.2 Loom Weight (SF 5)

The loom weight fragment recovered from Iron Age feature [64] has three smoothed surfaces forming a rounded corner and is pierced through one face (Fig. 8). The fabric is well fired and fairly dense and contains large pieces of flint and smaller quartz pebbles in a sandy matrix. Brick-shaped or pyramidal loom weights, such as the example here, have been found at several Iron Age sites in East Anglia and were used throughout the first millennium BC until the latest pre-Roman Iron Age (Percival 2000, 115). This loom weight is fairly small and made of dense fine fabric similar to the 5th–3rd century BC example found at Valley Belt, Trowse (Percival 2000, 179). Textile manufacturing equipment such as spindle whorls and loom weights are often found in ‘ritual’ deposits in Iron Age contexts (Hill 1995, 108).

7.3.1.3 Worked Red Deer Antler (SF 3 and 6)

Two pieces of red deer antler were recovered from the fill of feature [64]. One is a fragment of antler tine with shallow depressions towards the tip, each one polished and smooth. The other piece, which is chopped, retains part of the skull and must have been removed from a dead animal in the field or have been brought to the site still attached to the carcass. Notably, sawn red deer antler waste was also found in association with Iron Age pottery from the principal fill of the outer ditch at Thetford Castle (Gregory 1992c, 16). The two pieces recovered at Ford Place provide additional evidence for antler-working on or near the site during the Iron Age period, although the presence of a few shallow depressions on the antler tine fragment, each smooth and with a polished appearance, is perhaps indicative of use rather than waste. End-products of Iron Age antler-working may have included handles, toggles, ‘weaving combs’ and rings (Huddle 1996, 270).

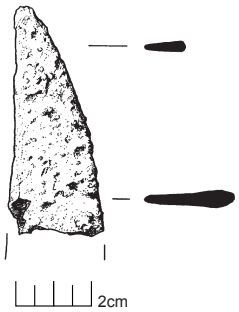


Figure 7. SF7, Iron Age ?hogs-back blade fragment. Scale 1:2

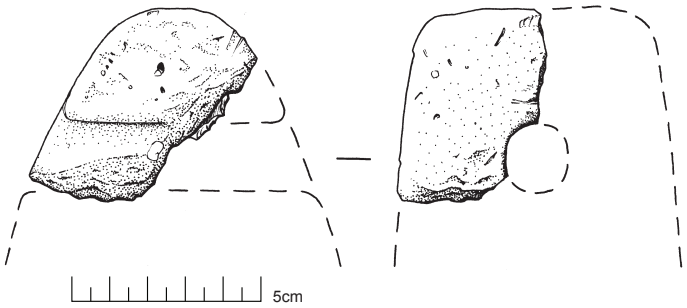


Figure 8. SF5, Iron Age loomweight fragment. Scale 1:2

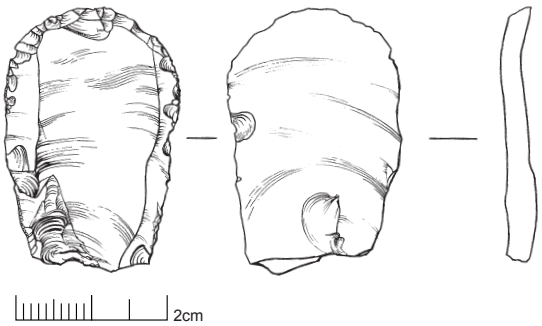


Figure 9. Flint 'horseshoe-shaped' scraper Scale 1:1

7.3.2 Medieval Finds

7.3.2.1 Worked Stone (SF 16)

This fragment of chalk Ashlar has wide-spaced diagonal tooling marks and this feature, coupled with the small size of the blocks, is indicative of an early medieval origin (Neil Moss pers. comm.). The blocks were recovered from the fabric of a post-medieval culvert and may have been locally quarried, with the closest such source being the Augustine friary to the east. However, as the friary was not established until the 14th century it is possible that the stone had previously been recycled or came from a different source within the town.

7.4 Flint

By Sarah Bates

Sixteen struck flints and two fragments of burnt flint were recovered (Appendix 6). The cortex is without exception a light grey, slightly 'chalky' type and probably indicates the use of broken nodules rather than weathered gravel as a raw material. Much of the flint is relatively 'fresh' and quite sharp and most are unmodified flakes. A small blade and another blade-like piece are also present. The only retouched piece is a small neat 'horseshoe'- shaped scraper, a residual find from Iron Age context (65), which is quite thin and has neat retouch around its distal part (Fig. 9). The presence of a number of thin soft hammer struck flakes and the neatly formed scraper suggest a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. The flint seems to be residual material originating from early activity in the area.

The nature of the flint suggests that it is likely to be residual material originating from Neolithic or Early Bronze Age activity. The use of similar nodular/tabular flint as a raw material may be significant in this respect (opposed to use of more randomly chosen lumps of abraded gravel, which might be taken as indicating a later date) although it might reflect the ready availability of such material.

7.5 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Lucy Talbot

The site produced 126 fragments, weighing 15.241kg, of medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material and two complete, late medieval/early post-medieval bricks (Appendix 7). The assemblage was counted and weighed.

A single fragment of medieval unglazed plain roof tile, weighing 0.053kg, was recovered. Two complete medieval/early post-medieval bricks were collected and weighed. They are retained as samples from the brick floor of a culvert 31 and the complete dimensions are noted in the archive. Both examples are of a purple estuarine clay fabric with vegetable temper, sanded bases and sunken margins.

The majority of the assemblage was post-medieval and comprises 123 fragments, weighing 10.145kg, of brick, plain roof tile, pantile, ridge tile, floor tile and paving brick. The floor tile fragments are plain unglazed examples and like the paving bricks are of a pink to pale orange, fine sandy fabric. The brick, roof tile, ridge tile and pantile are of a medium to course sandy fabric and range in colour from yellow to dark orange. The pantile group has examples of both glazed and unglazed pieces.

A single piece of undiagnostic fired clay, weighing 0.004kg, was collected from pit fill (62).

7.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By John Ames

The site produced sixteen pieces of 18th–19th-century clay tobacco pipe. One heel from a garden feature is stamped with the initials [IC]. Four pipe-makers with these initials are recorded in Norwich from *c*.1715 to 1851 (Atkin 1985).

7.7 Metalworking Debris

By Giles Emery

Four pieces of undiagnostic iron slag with a combined weight of 0.067kg were collected from the site as residual finds from post-medieval deposits (17) and (114). A piece of hearth lining was recovered which may be associated with copper working. A fragment of crucible found during previous excavations at Ford Place implies that copper-working had been taking place close to the site, probably in the 12th–15th centuries (Budd 1992, 27).

7.8 Glass

A single fragment of post-medieval wine bottle was retrieved from the soil fill of buried garden feature [99].

7.9 Human Skeletal Remains

By Francesca Boghi

The human remains derived from Iron Age feature [64]. They comprised seven cervical vertebrae (six in articulation), a mandible and a small fragment of occipital bone from an associated context. The bone was in good condition, though fragmented post-mortem. The remains, which were analysed according to the criteria set by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), were those of a minimum of one individual, possibly an adult male. The presence of part of a head and neck in partial articulation indicates a primary burial, rather than a secondary casual or intentional interment. Seemingly casual inhumations in disused pits or field ditches are common in Iron Age Britain (Taylor 2001, 65).

Human Skeletal Remains	
Inventory	1–7 Cervical vertebrae, 1 mandible, 1 fragment of occipital bone.
MNI	1 adult
Age	Adult (>20 years) from the dental development.
Sex	Possibly male from the morphology of the mental eminence (score 5)
Pathologies	Barely discernible lipping of the vertebral bodies in cervical 2–7 associated to pinpoint porosity.
Dentition	1st, 2nd and 3rd right mandibular molars and 1st and 2nd mandibular molars present and in occlusion. One root of 2nd right premolar present. All other mandibular teeth missing with no alveolar resorption i.e. lost post-mortem.
Dental Pathology	Moderate amount of calculus (calcified plaque) on the lingual side of left 1st and 2nd mandibular molars.

Table 6. Analysis of the Human Skeletal Remains

7.10 Animal Bone

By Julie Curl

This assemblage consists of 422 pieces (weighing 6.976kg) from a variety of pits, construction fills, garden features and an Iron Age feature (Appendix 9). Over 57% of the assemblage was produced from contexts dated to the Iron Age.

All of the bone was scanned for basic information primarily to determine species, ages and elements present. Bones were also examined for butchering or other modifications, gnawing and pathologies. Bones were quantified; total counts were noted for each context and the total for each species in the individual contexts was also recorded, along with the total weight for each context. All information was recorded on faunal remains recording sheets.

7.10.1 Iron Age Linear Feature

The three contexts which produced the most faunal material (3.971 kg) were all fills of one Iron Age linear feature [64], which also contained human remains. The majority was derived from the butchered remains of sheep/goat, cattle and pigs. Sheep/goat were over twice as common as the other two species. The remains included both primary and secondary butchering and food waste, which suggests that the animals were processed on-site. The animals varied from juveniles to mature individuals indicating a broad utilisation (e.g. traction, wool production and milking). Pathology on one cattle metapodial does suggest a more mature animal under physical strain, perhaps traction. Neonatal bones of sheep/goat were present, indicative of on-site breeding. Some of the pig remains may be wild boar rather than domestic stock and one very large tusk suggests a large mature male boar. Wild animals are also represented by the presence of the red deer antler fragments (SF 3 and 6). One piece (SF3) exhibits visible chop marks is from the base, near the skull; the other is a broken antler tine (SF6) with some evidence of chopping or shaving (see above).

The most interesting bones in the assemblage are those from the wings of a peregrine falcon, which comprise a humerus and two ulnas. The size of these bones suggests a male falcon.

It is possible that the falcon had been used for falconry as this pastime dates back to prehistoric times, as does the keeping of birds of prey for the practical hunting of food. Boars' tusks are sometimes found with human burials dating back to the Bronze Age, and are occasionally made into pendants. As with the falcon, it is possible that the tusk was a deliberate inclusion in the deposit. The large quantity of butchering and food waste may be evidence of waste from feasting, often associated with early human burials. No scavenger activity such as gnawing was noted on any of the bone, suggesting that the bone was buried fairly rapidly. An ageing equid mandible was recovered from the fill of a pit [69], thought to be Iron Age. The presence of horse mandibles in Iron Age pits is not unique although there is some speculation as to whether their presence represents special deposition rather than simply the disposal of rubbish (Hill 1995).

7.10.2 Post-Iron Age Remains

The remainder of the assemblage was mostly derived from post-medieval garden features, pits and construction cuts. Much of the later assemblage consists of the primary and secondary butchered remains of cattle and sheep/goat and pig.

Butchering evidence included skinning of cattle (116), preparation of carcass for the primary butchering phase, production of joints of meat and removal of meat from the bone. Chopped horncores from sheep were recorded from deposits (9), (54), (97) and (99), and two chopped cattle horncores were also found in (99). It is likely that these horncores were chopped for removal prior to working but, given the later date of these garden features, it is probable that they were redeposited. Local evidence of 10th- to 11th-century bone/horn-working was recovered from an occupation layer observed in a watching brief carried out by RPS Clouston in advance of the western extension of the nursing home in 1999 (Connell 1999).

A young adult rabbit was found from (114), as were sparse remains of a large fish and a probable juvenile chicken or pheasant. A further butchered chicken/ pheasant was produced (99) and a goose wing bone (97). All of the bone was in good condition. Some burning was noted on the occasional fragment from several contexts ((58), (72) and (114)).

7.11 Shell

Oyster and Mussel shell, weighing (0.226kg), was collected as residual food waste from the post-medieval garden features and late post-medieval pit.

8.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossils were collected and analysed from three samples taken from the Iron Age feature [64]. Charcoal fragments, carbonised cereal grains/chaff (oat, barley and wheat of mostly the spelt variety) and seeds of common weed seeds (Brome, fat hen, dock, vetch/vetchling) were recovered at varying densities from all three samples. Residues from the combustion of organic remains (including puffed and distorted cereal grains) were also present. The assemblages are typical of those seen from dumps and refuse deposits of other Late Iron Age sites in the eastern region and almost certainly derived from cereal processing waste.

Three environmental samples were collected, all of which were submitted for further assessment. The samples were taken as bulk samples for flotation and residue analysis. The rationale for selection and methodology employed for study are based on *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 2002). The aim of the assessment was to extract and evaluate the plant macrofossil assemblage and recover any artefacts/ecofacts present for detailed analysis.

Environmental Sample Material	
Sample 1	A silty-sand from directly below the articulated human skeletal remains (66).
Sample 2	The main sandy-loam fill of the linear Iron Age feature [64].
Sample 3	The stony basal fill of [64] which sealed the articulated human skeletal remains (66).

Table 7. Environmental samples.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16. Identifications of the plant macrofossils and other remains were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous and woody roots and seeds were present throughout. The non-floating residues were

collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for any further specialist analysis.

The plant material and other materials have been tabulated in Appendix 10, nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997)

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weed seeds were recovered at varying densities from all three samples. Preservation was moderately good, although some grains were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of high temperatures during combustion.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recovered, with both barley and wheat being moderately common. Of the wheat grains, elongated 'drop-form' types typical of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) were predominant, although occasional rounded hexaploid type grains were also present in Sample 2. Double-keeled spelt wheat glume bases were recorded from Samples 2 and 3, and a single possible asymmetrical lateral grain of six-row barley (*H. vulgare*) was also noted in Sample 3.

Rare seeds of common weed species were present in Samples 2 and 3. Taxa noted included brome (*Bromus* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp.). A single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was present in Sample 3. Charcoal fragments were common in all three samples, but other plant macrofossils were very rare.

Other material types were only present in Samples 2 and 3. The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Other materials were rare but included bone fragments (most notably in Sample 3), ferrous globules and pieces of vitrified material.

The assemblages from Samples 2 and 3 are typical of those seen from other Late Iron Age sites in the eastern region, and both are almost certainly derived from cereal processing waste, containing grains, chaff and weed seeds. Such material is commonly seen in dumps and other refuse deposits, although it is unclear why it is associated with human skeletal remains in this instance.

9.0 RADIOCARBON DATING

By Alan Hogg and Fiona Petchey

Carbonised grain from fill (60) of the Iron Age feature [64] was submitted to the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, University of Waikato, New Zealand. A suitable grain was dated using AMS methods to produce a date range of 2135±32 BP (WK15817). This is based on the Libby half-life of 5568 years with correction for isotopic fractionation applied (Appendix 11).

Calibration of this date against the InCal 04 curve using OxCal 4.1 provides a date of 352–53 cal BC at 95.4% probability (Fig. 10).[1]

[1] https://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/

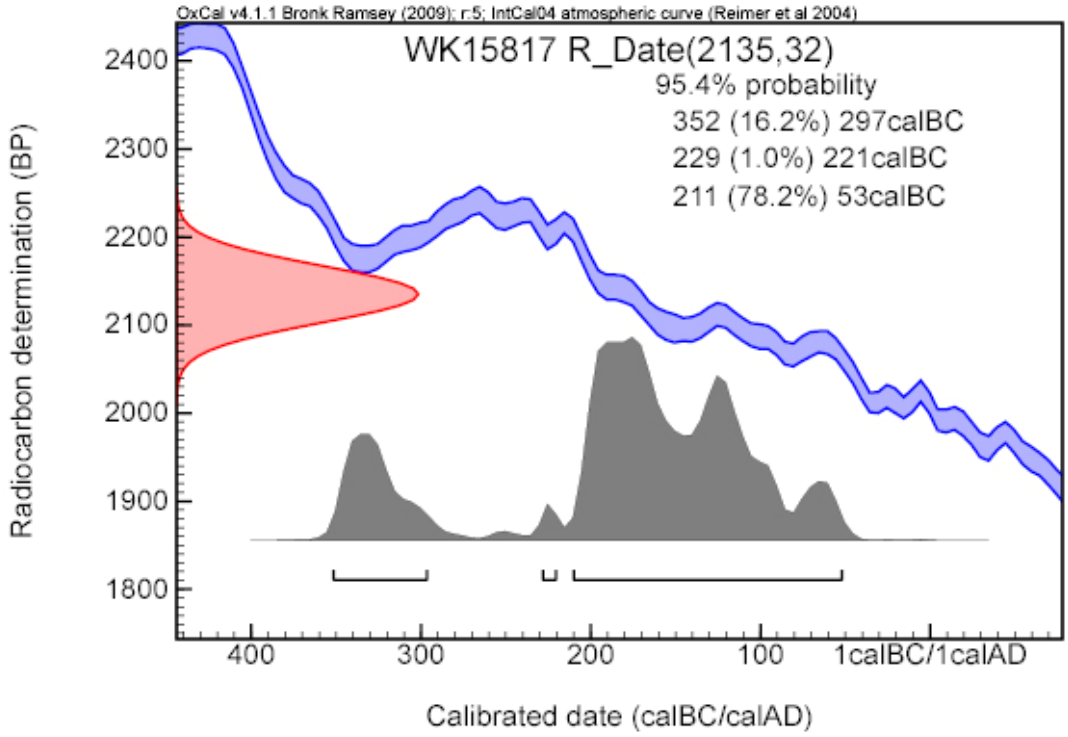


Figure 10. Radiocarbon date calibration curve.

10.0 CONCLUSIONS

A plan produced in 1789 by J. Parker shows the original 18th-century house and its ancillary buildings at the corner of the road to Nuns Bridge and what was to become Castle Lane. This property belonged to James Mingay K.C. (1752–1812), an eminent lawyer and for many years amongst the most prominent men in England. He was born in Thetford and was elected Mayor of the town three times. The area of the excavation lay to the south of this former building, marked on the 1789 plan as 'Lawn and Shrubbery'. Excavation in the southern half of the trench revealed a grid of horticultural features which appear to represent part of these initial 18th-century gardens. This formal geometrical layout is typical of large town houses of the late Georgian period (Glazebrook 1997, 71). The extant buried culverts would have run directly from this house down to the river, the western one serving the main house and the easterly the stable and yard. A map of 1807 by G.B. Burrell shows that the original house had been demolished and replaced by a house further to the east belonging to George Beauchamp Esq. The area of the site was remodelled at this time to accommodate the main drive and courtyard and a probable stable block in the south-west corner of the plot. This later house evolved into the present mansion after it was successively altered during the 19th century.

The medieval features uncovered on the site extend the limit of known medieval activity further to the south than previously encountered by RPS Clouston in 1999 (Connell 1999). The density of medieval features was, however, much slighter than found previously.

In Norfolk there is a general conservatism in pottery manufacture and use during the Iron Age, with hand-made sand and shell-tempered forms continuing into the 1st century AD and the Roman period, and thereby limiting pottery as a dating tool

(Bryant 1997). Radiocarbon dating of a single carbonised grain from the deposit which contained the majority of this Iron Age assemblage produced a date of 352–53 cal BC; this solitary sample must be treated with some caution due to the possibility of residuality. However, the results do appear to confirm a 2nd century BC date for the associated pottery from and grant a reasonable time frame for the deposition activity. This date range may prove useful as a comparison for other sites where similar Iron Age pottery types have been identified.

The presence of human remains within pits and ditches, apparently associated with domestic rubbish, is well attested within Iron Age sites and is often considered to be associated with ritual or ‘structured’ deposits (Hill 1995, 106). In this particular case an articulated neck and jaw appear to have been purposefully placed at the base of a shallow linear feature. The remains were then sealed by stones before the addition of a fairly rapid infill containing pottery fragments and butchered animal bone, perhaps speculative evidence of feasting. The true from and extent of the feature remains uncertain, although the observed evidence suggests a fairly wide and shallow flat-based feature, rather than a simple boundary ditch. Perhaps this is a tantalising glimpse of a more significant feature of a more than functional nature. The Iron Age pits from which the hogs-back knife and the horse jaw were recovered may also have some significance beyond the mundane, since horse jaws and bones are also interpreted as 'special animal deposits', a significance which survives in Celtic mythology (Moore-Colyer 1994, 10–13).

The likely deliberate inclusion of falcon wings, boar’s tusks, worked red deer antler and a clay loom weight fragment in this deposit also highlight the significance of this deposition sequence. Loom weights are often found in ‘ritual’ deposits in Iron Age contexts (Hill 1995, 108) and the occurrence of 'special animals' in association with human remains enhances the suggestion of a ritual dimension to the activity. Non-domestic animals contribute only a very small proportion of the bone recovered from later prehistoric sites and, particularly for bird bones, symbolic and ritual motives behind their deposition have been suggested (Hill 1995, 29).

Further examples of possible ritual behaviour in the locale of Thetford, also identified by the presence of probable structured deposits, include the discovery of a small pit containing a near complete jar surrounded by a group of around 40 crudely-struck flint flakes at the Co-op Site on Guildhall Street in 1989 (NHER 25296) and excavations off Norwich Road, Kilverstone (NHER 34489) ahead of housing development at the north-eastern limits of Thetford. Here, a sub-rectangular pit with a flat base was excavated which contained pottery sherds, burnt flint, sheep bone, a human skull fragment and a sawn red deer antler – possibly with clay-moulded modification.

A notably similar partial inhumation to that discovered at Ford Place was excavated at Burgh, Suffolk, where the skull of a young man covered by stones was revealed in the base of a large pit which also contained dog and raven bones (Davies 1999, 59–60). This deposit was interpreted as being late Iron Age and was located on marshy ground close by the small River Lark where the defensive ditches of an Iron Age enclosure appeared to utilise the marshland to complete the circuit. This theme is echoed at Ford Place where the Iron Age defensive

enclosure appears to have made use of the meander in the loop in the River Thet for its defences on its southern and eastern sides (Davies 1992, 1).

Human remains of a Middle Iron Age date have previously been discovered within the grounds at Ford Place, to the east of the nursing home (Davies et al. 1992). The fragmentary remains of a young adult were found in the base of a pit associated with a concentration of Iron Age pottery and an uncontained human cremation were also discovered. In addition three human skull fragments of a young adult were collected residually. Such deposits may also have been deliberately located at this marginal divide. It can be postulated that such activity played a symbolic role in marking the natural boundary between the defensive enclosure, the river and the outside world.

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Radiocarbon dating was carried out by Alan Hogg and Fiona Petchey of the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, University of Waikato.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
01	Natural	Natural Chalk Geology	Cretaceous
02	Deposit	Root Action	Modern
03	Deposit	Root Action	Modern
04	Cut	Pit	Medieval
05	Deposit	Fill of [04]	Medieval
06	Cut	Pit	Late post-medieval
07	Deposit	Fill of [06]	Late post-medieval
08	Deposit	Fill of [06]	Late post-medieval
09	Cut	Large clay lined pit	Late post-medieval
10	Cut	Modern Foul Pipe Trench	Modern
11	Deposit	Fill of [10]	Modern
12	Cut	Modern Foul Pipe Trench	Modern
13	Deposit	Fill of [12]	Modern
14	Masonry	Brick Culvert/Drain Access	Modern
15	Cut	Pipe Trench	Modern
16	Deposit	Fill of [15]	Modern
17	Deposit	Fill of [33]	Late post-medieval
18	Deposit	Garden Turf	Modern
19	Deposit	Loam	Modern
20	Deposit	Make up	Late post-medieval
21	Deposit	Chalk rubble fill of [09]	Late post-medieval
22	Deposit	Chalk rubble fill of [09]	Late post-medieval
23	Deposit	Clay lining of pit [09]	Late post-medieval
24	Deposit	Fill of [09]	Late post-medieval
25	Deposit	Fill of [09]	Late post-medieval
26	Deposit	Chalk rubble fill of [09]	Late post-medieval
27	Deposit	Concrete slabs of garden path	Modern
28	Deposit	Soil	Late post-medieval
29	Cut	Triangular corner of a pit	Late post-medieval
30	Deposit	Fill of [29]	Late post-medieval
31	Masonry	North to south aligned linear culvert	Late post-medieval
32	Deposit	Fill of [31]	Late post-medieval
33	Cut	Same a [47]	Late post-medieval
34	Deposit	Fill of [33]	Late post-medieval
35	Deposit	Fill of [42]	Late post-medieval
36	Deposit	Fill of [42]	Late post-medieval
37	Deposit	Fill of [33]	Late post-medieval
38	Cut	Ditch/Gully	Medieval
39	Deposit	Fill of [38]	Medieval
40	Deposit	Fill of [38]	Medieval
41	Deposit	Fill of [33]	Late post-medieval
42	Cut	Fill of [33]	Late post-medieval
43	Cut	Construction cut for [31]	Late post-medieval
44	Deposit	Silty deposit overlaying [45]	Late post-medieval

Context	Category	Description	Period
45	Deposit	Brick floor of culvert [31]	Late post-medieval
46	Deposit	Silty clay deposit below [45]	Late post-medieval
47	Cut	Construction cut associated with [31]	Late post-medieval
48	Deposit	Fill of [47]	Late post-medieval
49	Deposit	Fill of [47]	Late post-medieval
50	Deposit	Fill of [47]	Late post-medieval
51	Deposit	Fill of [47]	Late post-medieval
52	Deposit	Fill of [47]	Late post-medieval
53	Cut	Ephemeral garden feature	Late post-medieval
54	Deposit	Fill of [53]	Late post-medieval
55	Cut	Pit	Iron Age
56	Deposit	Fill of [55]	Iron Age
57	Cut	Same as [72]	Medieval
58	Deposit	Same as [71]	Medieval
59	Deposit	Silting above [31] contained by [43]	Late post-medieval
60	Deposit	Fill of [64]	Iron Age
61	Cut	Pit	Late post-medieval
62	Deposit	Fill of [61]	Late post-medieval
63	Deposit	Fill of [84]	Iron Age
64	Cut	Linear Feature	Iron Age
65	Deposit	Basal fill of [64]	Iron Age
66	HSR	Human remains (articulated below [65])	Iron Age
67	Cut	Pit	Iron Age
68	Deposit	Fill of [67]	Iron Age
69	Deposit	Fill of [67]	Iron Age
70	Deposit	Fill of [67]	Iron Age
71	Cut	Pit	Medieval
72	Deposit	Fill of [71]	Medieval
73	Cut	Pit	Iron Age
74	Deposit	Fill of [73]	Iron Age
75	Deposit	Fill of [71]	Medieval
76	Deposit	Fill of [71]	Medieval
77	Cut	Same as [47]	Late post-medieval
78	Deposit	Same as [49]	Late post-medieval
79	Deposit	Same as [50]	Late post-medieval
80	Deposit	Same as [52]	Late post-medieval
81	Deposit	Make-up	Late post-medieval
82	Cut	Square post-hole	Late post-medieval
83	Deposit	Fill of [82]	Late post-medieval
84	Cut	Same as [64]	Iron Age
85	Deposit	Same as [65]	Iron Age
86	Cut	Pit	Iron Age
87	Deposit	Fill of [86]	Iron Age
88	Deposit	Finds from surface clean of [60]	Iron Age
89	Deposit	Silty sand directly below SK 66	Iron Age
90	Cut	Possible ephemeral cut associated with SK 66	Iron Age

Context	Category	Description	Period
91	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
92	Deposit	Fill of [91]	Late post-medieval
93	Deposit	Fill of [91]	Late post-medieval
94	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
95	Deposit	Fill of [94]	Late post-medieval
96	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
97	Deposit	Fill of [96]	Late post-medieval
98	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
99	Deposit	Fill of [98]	Late post-medieval
100	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
101	Deposit	Fill of [100]	Late post-medieval
102	Deposit	Fill of [100]	Late post-medieval
103	Deposit	Fill of [100]	Late post-medieval
104	Deposit	Fill of [126]	Modern
105	Masonry	Linear Culvert	Late post-medieval
106	Deposit	Fill of [105]	Late post-medieval
107	Deposit	Fill of [108]	Late post-medieval
108	Cut	Construction cut of [105]	Late post-medieval
109	Deposit	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
110	Deposit	Fill of [109]	Late post-medieval
111	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
112	Deposit	Fill of [111]	Late post-medieval
113	Deposit	Fill of [111]	Late post-medieval
114	Deposit	Fill of [111]	Late post-medieval
115	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
116	Deposit	Fill of [115]	Late post-medieval
117	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
118	Deposit	Fill of [117]	Late post-medieval
119	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
120	Deposit	Fill of [119]	Late post-medieval
121	Deposit	Fill of [119]	Late post-medieval
122	Deposit	Fill of [119]	Late post-medieval
123	Deposit	Fill of [124]	Late post-medieval
124	Cut	Garden Feature	Late post-medieval
125	Masonry	Concrete slab of former shed	Modern
126	Cut	Construction cut for [125]	Modern

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Middle Iron Age (400 to 101 BC)	Inhumation	1
	Linear Feature	1
Iron Age (800 BC to AD 42)	Pit	4
Medieval (AD 1066 to 1539)	Pit	2
	Ditch	1
Post-medieval (AD 1540 to 1900)	Pit	2
	Garden Feature	13
	Culvert	2
	Post-hole	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)
02	Pottery	2	0.005
05	Pottery	1	0.006
07	Animal bone	-	0.074
08	Pottery	1	0.004
	Ceramic building material	1	0.316
	Worked flint	4	-
	Animal bone	-	0.012
17	Iron nail	1	-
	Metalworking debris	3	0.037
19	Pottery	1	0.065
20	Pottery	2	0.029
22	Ceramic building material	4	1.503
30	Pottery	1	0.010
44	Clay tobacco pipe	1	0.004
44	Animal bone	-	0.026
45	Ceramic building material	2	5.045
46	Iron nail	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.002
	Shell	-	0.001
48	Pottery	1	0.006
	Pottery	2	0.040
	Animal bone	-	0.009
50	Ceramic building material	4	0.007
	Iron nails	3	-
	Animal bone	-	0.026
52	Pottery	2	0.007
	Worked flint	1	-
54	Pottery	10	0.109
	Ceramic building material	4	0.131
	Clay tobacco pipe	1	0.004
	Iron nail	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.014
56	Pottery	2	0.017
	Worked flint	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.057
58	Animal bone	-	0.045
59	Clay tobacco pipe	1	0.004
	Iron nail	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.001
60	Pottery	39	0.435
	Ceramic building material	1	0.011
	Burnt flint	2	0.035
	Animal bone	-	2.759
62	Pottery	3	0.021

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)
	Ceramic building material	14	0.358
	Fired clay	1	0.004
	Animal bone	-	0.269
	Shell	-	0.012
63	Pottery	5	0.014
	Animal bone	-	0.600
	?Human skeletal remains	1	-
65	Worked flint	3	-
	Animal bone	-	0.612
69	Animal bone	-	0.514
66	Human skeletal remains	1	-
70	Worked flint	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.043
72	Pottery	15	0.153
	Animal bone	-	0.340
75	Animal bone	-	0.073
80	Pottery	1	0.007
	Ceramic building material	2	0.149
	Iron nail	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.006
81	Ceramic building material	2	0.084
	Clay tobacco pipe	1	0.003
	Animal bone	-	0.011
88	Pottery	9	0.079
	Animal bone	-	0.022
89	Worked flint	1	-
92	Pottery	1	0.005
92	Ceramic building material	4	0.137
	Animal bone	-	0.096
93	Pottery	3	0.017
	Ceramic building material	18	0.467
	Animal bone	-	0.048
95	Pottery	4	0.096
	Ceramic building material	10	0.785
	Clay tobacco pipe	2	0.007
	Animal bone	-	0.032
97	Pottery	2	0.013
	Ceramic building material	11	0.620
	Animal bone	-	0.048
99	Pottery	10	0.119
	Ceramic building material	31	2.222
	Clay tobacco pipe	7	0.034
	Iron nails	2	-
	Bottle glass	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.697
107	Pottery	1	0.001

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)
	Ceramic building material	3	0.724
	Clay tobacco pipe	2	0.010
	Animal bone	-	0.030
110	Pottery	3	0.110
	Ceramic building material	3	0.223
	Worked flint	3	-
	Animal bone	-	0.018
114	Pottery	7	0.153
	Ceramic building material	2	0.255
	Metalworking debris	1	0.030
	Animal bone	-	0.277
	Shell	-	0.095
116	Ceramic building material	1	0.014
	Worked flint	1	-
	Animal bone	-	0.094
	Shell	-	0.019
118	Clay tobacco pipe	1	0.008
120	Ceramic building material	5	0.479
	Animal bone	-	0.006
122	Pottery	3	0.034
	Ceramic building material	1	0.355
	Animal bone	-	0.018
	Shell	-	0.099
123	Pottery	4	0.011
	Pottery	4	0.475
	Animal bone	-	0.119

Appendix 2b: NHER Finds Summary Table

Period	Material	Quantity
Late Prehistoric (4000 BC to 42 AD)	Flint	16
Iron Age (800BC to 42AD)	Pottery	10
	Knife	1
Middle Iron Age (400 to 101BC)	Pottery	57
	Loom Weight	1
	Human Skeletal Remains	-
	Animal Bone	225
Middle Saxon (651 to 850AD)	Pottery	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	26
	Ashlar	1
	Roof Tile	1
	Brick	2
	Animal Bone	47
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pottery	44
	Ceramic Building Material	123
	Clay Tobacco Pipe	16
	Animal Bone	150

Appendix 3: Iron Age Pottery

Context	Type	Quantity	Weight (kg)
2	Body sherd	1	0.003
30	Body sherd	1	0.009
54	Body sherd	1	0.004
	Body sherd	1	0.009
56	Body sherd	1	0.011
	Body sherd	1	0.006
60	Body sherd	1	0.003
	Body sherd	6	0.063
	Body sherd	1	0.007
	Decorated body sherd	3	0.038
	Base	3	0.031
	Body sherd	5	0.034
	Rim	1	0.004
	Decorated body sherd	1	0.010
	Base	10	0.078
	Body sherd	14	0.120
	Rim	1	0.026
62	Body sherd	2	0.020
63	Rim	1	0.037
	Body sherd	3	0.085
	Rim	1	0.019
	Rim	1	0.005
88	Body sherd	1	0.009
	Body sherd	1	0.008
	Body sherd	1	0.006
	Body sherd	1	0.022
	Rim	1	0.002
95	Body sherd	1	0.037
	Base	1	0.011

Appendix 4: Non-prehistoric Pottery

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Qty	Wt(kg)	Date Range
2	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	1	0.002	11th–14th century
5	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.006	13th to15th century
8	Saxon	Body	1	0.004	5th-7th century?
19	Local early post-medieval ware	Body	1	0.065	16th century
20	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	1	0.014	11th–14th century
48	Staffordshire ware	Base	1	0.005	1650 to 1800
52	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	1	0.005	11th–14th century
52	Dutch-type redwares	Body	1	0.002	15th–17th century
54	Glazed red earthenware	Body	3	0.024	16th–18th century
54	Glazed red earthenware?	Base	1	0.023	16th–18th century
54	West Norfolk Bichrome	Body	1	0.007	16th–18th century
54	Grimston ware	Jug	2	0.043	12th–15th century
54	Stamford-type ware	Body	1	0.009	Late 16th–17th century
60	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	1	0.009	11th–14th century
62	Glazed red earthenware	Body	1	0.002	16th–18th century
72	Early medieval shelly ware	Body	2	0.027	11th–14th century
72	Early medieval ware	Body	5	0.048	11th–14th century
72	Local medieval unglazed ware	Cp/jar	1	0.011	11th–13th century
72	Medieval coarseware	Body	2	0.020	11th–14th century
72	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	1	0.014	11th–14th century
72	Miscellaneous shelly ware	Body	1	0.015	11th–14th century
80	Staffordshire slipware	Body	1	0.008	1650 to 1800
92	Staffs white salt-glazed ware	Body	1	0.005	1720 to 1780
93	Glazed red earthenware	Body	3	0.016	16th–18th century
95	West Norfolk Bichrome	Pip	1	0.024	16th–18th century
95	Glazed red earthenware?	Body	1	0.032	16th–18th century
95	Developed Stamford ware	Body	1	0.003	Late 16th–17th century
97	Cologne/Frechen stoneware	Body	1	0.007	16th–18th century
97	Dutch-type redwares?	Body	1	0.006	16th century
99	Glazed red earthenware	Body	4	0.067	16th–18th century
99	Local medieval unglazed ware	Body	3	0.031	11th–14th century
99	Glazed red earthenware	Dish	1	0.007	16th–18th century
99	English stoneware?	Body	1	0.002	17th–18th century
99	Glazed red earthenware	Bowl	1	0.012	16th–18th century
107	Pearlware	Dish?	1	0.002	1770 to 1850
110	Late medieval and transitional ware	Base	2	0.098	15th–16th century
110	Late medieval and transitional ware	Body	1	0.011	15th–16th century
114	Early medieval ware	Body	1	0.007	11th–13th century
114	Grimston ware	Jug	1	0.009	12th–15th century
114	Late medieval and transitional ware	Jar?	3	0.126	15th–16th century
114	Late medieval and transitional ware	Body	2	0.011	15th–16th century
122	Tin-glazed earthenware	Body	1	0.013	16th–18th century
122	Glazed red earthenware	Body	1	0.004	16th–18th century
122	Local early post-medieval ware?	Jug?	1	0.018	17th–18th century

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Qty	Wt(kg)	Date Range
123	Glazed red earthenware	Body	2	0.004	16th–18th century
123	Speckle glazed ware	Body	1	0.002	16th–18th century
123	Glazed red earthenware?	Bowl small	4	0.036	16th–18th century

Appendix 5: Small Finds

SF	Ctxt	Material	Object	Description	Date
01	114	Iron	Plate	Fragment, badly corroded and encrusted	-
02	97	Iron	Artefact	?nail fragment	-
03	60	Antler	Chopped antler	Part of skull and antler pedicle chopped at both ends.	Iron Age
04	62	Fired clay	Hearth lining	A single piece of heath lining weighing 126g was recovered from the fill of garden feature [61].	-
05	63	Fired clay	Loom weight	A fragment of fired clay from a possible loom weight was recovered from the fill of ditch/track [64].	Iron Age
06	60	Antler	Chopped antler	Red deer antler tine, broken at both ends but with three small depressions cut out of sides towards tip, each shallow depression is polished and smooth perhaps indicative of use.	Iron Age
07	56	Iron	Knife	Blade, incomplete comprising straight back which curves down to meet the tip; blade edge slightly concave.	Iron Age/Roman-British
08	54	Copper alloy	Button	Cast discoidal button with bust and legend (not legible) around sides; attachment loop on reverse	Post-medieval
09	62	Copper alloy	Mount	Domed faceted sexfoil mount with two holes for missing rivets, edges irregularly trimmed.	Post-medieval
10	19	Copper alloy	Sheet	Fragment possibly from vessel	-
11	19	Copper alloy	Thimble	Small thimble with moulded rim; sides and top evenly stamped with diamond-shaped dots. Machine made, post-medieval	Post-medieval
12	50	Iron	Key	With kidney-shaped bow, solid stem and broken bit.	Medieval to post-medieval
13	62	Lead	Strip	Folded lead strip, possible offcut	-
14	99	Lead	Came	Small v-shaped fragment with h-shaped profile	-
15	99	Lead	Disc	Sub-circular disc, perhaps waste or pot-mender?	-
16	8	Chalk	Ashlar	Broken at one end, one large face, an end and one side are neatly flattened with diagonal tooling, the other large (originally exposed) face is heavily weathered.	Medieval

Appendix 6: Flint

Context	Category	Type	Number
8	Worked	Blade	1
8	Worked	Flake	3
52	Worked	Blade-like flake	1
56	Worked	Flake	1
60	Burnt	Fragment	2
60	Worked	Flake	1
65	Worked	Flake	2
65	Worked	Scraper	1
70	Worked	Flake	1
89	Worked	Spall	1
110	Worked	Flake	3
116	Worked	Flake	1

Appendix 7: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Form	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
08	Brick	1	0.316	Post-medieval
22	Brick	1	0.696	Post-medieval
22	Paving brick	1	0.700	Post-medieval
22	Roof tile	2	0.107	Post-medieval
45	Brick sample #1	1	2.527	Late to post-medieval
45	Brick sample #2	1	2.516	Late to post-medieval
48	Brick	1	0.026	Post-medieval
48	Roof tile	1	0.014	Post-medieval
50	Brick	1	0.782	Post-medieval
50	Roof tile	3	0.087	Post-medieval
54	Brick	1	0.080	Post-medieval
54	Roof tile	2	0.045	Post-medieval
54	Pan tile	1	0.006	Post-medieval
60	Roof tile	1	0.011	Post-medieval
62	Brick	5	0.085	Post-medieval
62	Roof tile	9	0.273	Post-medieval
80	Roof tile	1	0.053	Medieval
80	Roof tile	1	0.096	Post-medieval
81	Roof tile	2	0.084	Post-medieval
92	Brick	2	0.087	Post-medieval
92	Roof tile	2	0.050	Post-medieval
93	Brick	2	0.060	Post-medieval
93	Roof tile	15	0.332	Post-medieval
93	Pan tile	1	0.075	Post-medieval
95	Brick	1	0.200	Post-medieval
95	Floor tile	1	0.093	Post-medieval
95	Roof tile	8	0.492	Post-medieval
97	Brick	3	0.402	Post-medieval
97	Roof tile	8	0.218	Post-medieval
99	Brick	7	1.054	Post-medieval
99	Floor tile	1	0.227	Post-medieval
99	Roof tile	18	0.710	Post-medieval
99	Pan tile	5	0.231	Post-medieval
107	Roof tile	3	0.724	Post-medieval
110	Brick	2	0.171	Post-medieval
110	Roof tile	1	0.052	Post-medieval
114	Roof tile	1	0.022	Post-medieval
114	Ridge tile	1	0.233	Post-medieval
116	Roof tile	1	0.014	Post-medieval
120	Brick	2	0.189	Post-medieval
120	Roof tile	3	0.270	Post-medieval
122	Brick	1	0.043	Post-medieval
122	Roof tile	2	0.174	Post-medieval
122	Pan tile	2	0.139	Post-medieval

Context	Form	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
123	Brick	1	0.131	Post-medieval
123	Paving brick	1	0.236	Post-medieval
123	Roof tile	1	0.021	Post-medieval
123	Pan tile	1	0.087	Post-medieval

Appendix 8: Human Skeletal Remains

Context	Description	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Comment
64	Cervical vertebrae	7	0.140	Articulated
	Mandible	1		
	Occipital bone	1		

Appendix 9: Animal Bone

Ctxt	Qty	Wt(kg)	Species	Spp.Qty	Age	Butchery	Comments
8	1	0.012	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Metatarsal
9	7	0.074	Cattle	1	Adult	Chopped	Humerus
			Sheep/goat	1	Juv	Chopped	Small sheep horncore, chopped and possibly used for working
			Mammal	5	Juv	Butchered	Fragments, not identifiable to species
44	3	0.026	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Humerus
			Mammal	2		Butchered	Fragments, not identifiable to species
46	1	0.002	Mammal	1		Chopped	Rib, medium sized mammal
48	2	0.009	Mammal	2		Butchered	Rib fragments
50	2	0.026	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Tibia, possibly goat
			Mammal	1		Chopped	
54	1	0.014	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	?worked	Sheep horncore still with skull frag; chopped near base - for working?
56	3	0.057	Sheep/goat	1	Adult		Molar
			Mammal	2		Butchered	Fragments, not identifiable to species
58	4	0.045	Sheep/goat	2	Juv	Chopped	Tibia and metatarsal
			Mammal	2		Chopped	Scapula fragments, possibly sheep, burnt black
59	1	0.001	Mammal	1	Adult		Tooth
60	138	2.759	Cattle	19	Range	Butchered	Short-horns, humerus, footbones, deformed metatarsal with pathology at proximal end
			Sheep/goat	30	Range	Butchered	Metapodials, jaws (neo-mat), humeri, scapulas, tibias
			Pig	12	Adult	Butchered	Jaws, metapodials, tusk with pathology - extra growth around base of tusk
			Deer	2	Adult	Working	Part of skull and base of antler, tine; both chopped
			Mammal	75	Range	Butchered	Mostly rib, vertebrae and longbone fragments
62	14	0.269	Cattle	1	Adult	Chopped	Radius/ulna
			Sheep/goat	3	Adult	Butchered	Metapodials, tibia
			Pig	1	Sub adult	Chopped	Mandible, third molar not fully erupted
			Mammal	9		Butchered	Fragments, not identifiable to species
63	45	0.600	Sheep/goat	13	Range	Butchered	Metatarsal, scapula, pelvis, humeri, tibias, teeth, calcaeneus

Ctxt	Qty	Wt(kg)	Species	Spp.Qty	Age	Butchery	Comments
			Pig	5	Range	Butchered	Heavily cut atlas, chopped humerus, pelvis and tibia, very large boar tusk
			Falcon	3	Adult		Two ulnas and humerus from a Peregrine Falcon, probably male
			Mammal	27		Butchered	Mostly chopped rib and vertebrae fragments
65	30	0.612	Cattle	2	Adult	Chopped	Humerus and radius/ulna
			Sheep/goat	2	Juv	Chopped	Pelvis and femur
			Pig	1	Adult	Chopped	Metapodial
			Mammal	25		Butchered	Skull, rib and vertebrae fragments
69	7	0.514	Equid	2	Mature		Mandible, teeth well worn and some uneven wear
			Mammal	5			Mandible fragments, probably the equid
70	2	0.043	Equid	1	Mature		Molar, very heavily worn
			Cattle	1	Adult		Proximal phalange
72	36	0.340	Sheep/goat	2	Adult	Butchered	Mandible with third molar in full wear, chopped tibia
			Pig	2	Juv		Metapodial and phalange
			Mammal	32		Butchered	Largely rib fragments, some burning
75	7	0.073	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Radius
			Mammal	6		Butchered	Rib and other fragments
80	1	0.006	Mammal	1			Jaw fragment
81	3	0.011	Sheep/goat	3	Adult	Chopped	Metatarsal, all fragments from same bone
92	5	0.096	Equid	1	Adult		Radius
			Mammal	4		Butchered	
93	4	0.048	Cattle	1	Adult	Chopped	Humerus
			Pig	1			Pre-molar
			Mammal	2			
95	4	0.032	Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Radius
			Mammal	3			
97	7	0.048	Sheep/goat	2	Adult	Chopped	Sheep horncore fragment, chopped metacarpal
			Goose	1	Adult	Cut?	Carpometacarpus
			Mammal	4			
99	57	0.697	Cattle	8	Adult	Worked +	Chopped horncores, metapodial fragments, talus, molar

Ctxt	Qty	Wt(kg)	Species	Spp.Qty	Age	Butchery	Comments
			Sheep/goat	2	Adult	Worked +	Chopped sheep horncore
			Pig	3	Juv	Chopped	Scapula, tibia, jaw frag with new premolars growing through at unusual angle
			Galliforme	1	Adult	Cut	Humerus
			Bird	2			Sternum fragments
			Mammal	25	Adult	Butchered	Mostly rib, vertebrae and longbone fragments
107	2	0.030	Cattle	1	Adult		Horncore fragment
			Mammal	1			Skull fragment, probably cattle
110	3	0.018	Mammal	3		Butchered	
114	25	0.277	Cattle	2	Juv + ad	Chopped	Unfused distal metacarpal, chopped talus
			Sheep/goat	2	Adult		Metacarpal, molar
			?Galliforme	1	Juv		Unfused tarso-metatarsus
			Rabbit	1	Sub ad		Humerus, fusion-line visible
			Fish	2		Cut?	Fragments, not identifiable to species
			Mammal	17		Butchered	And one fragment burnt black
116	9	0.094	Cattle	2	Adult	Cut	Talus with knife cuts, proximal phalange
			Sheep/goat	1	Adult	Chopped	Metacarpal
			Pig	1	Adult	Chopped	Calcaeneus
			Mammal	5		Butchered	
120	2	0.006	Sheep/goat	2	Neo+ad		Neonatal metatarsal, adult molar
122	2	0.018	Mammal	2		Butchered	
123	11	0.119	Cattle	2	Adult		Molars
			Pig	1	Sub adult	Chopped	Femur, fusion-line still visible, sub-adult
			Mammal	9			

Appendix 10: Environmental Evidence

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens

tf = testa fragment pmc = possible modern contaminant

Sample		**1**	**2**	**3**
Context		**89**	**60**	**65**
Cereals	**Common name**			
Avena sp. (grain)	Oat		xcf	
Hordeum sp. (grains)	Barley		xx	x
(rachis node)				x
H. vulgare L. (asymmetrical lateral grain)	Six-row barley			xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)	Wheat	x	xx	xx
(spikelet bases)			x	
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	Spelt wheat		xx	x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	xxx	xx
Herbs				
Bromus sp.	Brome		x	x
Chenopodium album L.	Fat hen		x	
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love	Black bindweed		xtf	
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	Wild radish			xcf
Rumex sp.	Dock		x	
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	Vetch/vetchling		x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel			x
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm		x	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem			x	
Indet.seeds			x	
Other materials				
Black porous 'cokey' material			xx	x
Black tarry material			x	x
Bone			x	xx
Ferrous globule			x	
Metallic residue			xpmc	
Small coal frags.			x	
Vitrified globules			x	x
Sample volume (litres)		**1**	**20**	**24**
Volume of flot (litres)		**<0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**
% flot sorted		**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Appendix 11: Radiocarbon Dating

Report on Radiocarbon Age Determination for Wk- 15817

(AMS measurement by IGNS [NZA-21262])

Submitter	G Emery
Submitter's Code	40576THD, <2>, context 60
Site & Location	Ford Place Nursing Home, Thetford, Norfolk, England. U.K., United Kingdom
Sample Material	1 carbonised grain
Physical Pretreatment	Physical contaminants removed. Washed in ultrasonic bath.
Chemical Pretreatment	Washed in hot 10% HCl, rinsed and treated with hot 1% NaOH. The NaOH insoluble fraction was treated with hot 10% HCl, filtered, rinsed and dried.

$d^{14}C$	-226.3 ± 2.7	‰
$\delta^{13}C$	-23.1 ± 0.2	‰
$D^{14}C$	-233.4 ± 3.1	‰
% Modern	76.7 ± 0.3	%
Result	**2135 ± 32 BP**	

Comments

AG Hogg

29/11/04

- Result is *Conventional Age or % Modern* as per Stuiver and Polach, 1977, Radiocarbon 19, 355-363. This is based on the Libby half-life of 5568 yr with correction for isotopic fractionation applied. This age is normally quoted in publications and must include the appropriate error term and Wk number.
- Quoted errors are 1 standard deviation due to counting statistics multiplied by an experimentally determined Laboratory Error Multiplier of 1 .
- The isotopic fractionation, $\delta^{13}C$, is expressed as ‰ wrt PDB.
- Results are reported as % *Modern* when the conventional age is younger than 200 yr BP.