

Rochester Road Soak-away

RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

Client:
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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October 2015

ERL 236

Archaeological Excavation Report v0.3
SACIC Report No. 2015/005
Author: Rob Brooks
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Contents

Summary

Drawing Conventions

1. Introduction	1
2. The Excavation	1
2.1 Site location	1
2.2 Geology and topography	1
2.3 Archaeological and historical background	2
3. Methodology	6
4. Results	8
4.1 Introduction	8
4.2 Phase 1 – geological and prehistoric layers	9
Basal geological layers	9
Later prehistoric layers	9
4.3 Phase 2 – early Roman	12
Buried soil layer	12
Early pits and a posthole	12
4.4 Phase 3 – mid 2nd-3rd century	17
Introduction	17
Ditch groups 0144 and 0171	17
4.5 Phase 4 – mid-late 3rd century	21
Introduction	21
Ditch groups 0170 and 0175	21
Ditch group 0172	21
4.6 Phase 5 – late 3rd- 4th century	24
Introduction	24

	Ditch group 0168	24
	Ditch group 0140	24
	Ditch groups 0169 and 0174	25
	Pit 0011 and ditch group 0173	26
	Pits 0058 and 0103	27
	Feature 0107	27
4.7	Phase 6 – late 4th-5th/6th century	30
	Introduction	30
	Ditch groups 0128, 0142 and slot group 0165	30
4.8	Phase 7 – Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon and later	33
	Layer 0001 (0041/0092/0164) and windblown sand 0176	33
5.	The finds and environmental evidence	36
5.1	Introduction	36
5.2	Pottery	36
	Introduction	36
	Prehistoric pottery	37
	Roman pottery	37
	Saxon pottery	40
	Discussion	40
5.3	Flint	40
	Methodology	40
	The assemblage	41
	Flint by context	43
	Discussion	43
5.4	Heat-altered stone	43
5.5	Quernstone	44
5.6	Other finds	45

	Ceramic building material (CBM)	45
	Fired clay	46
	Slag	46
	Shell	46
5.7	Small finds and metal objects	46
	Introduction	46
	Coins	46
	Metal objects	47
5.8	Faunal remains	47
	Introduction	47
	Method	48
	Results	49
	Taphonomy	50
	Ageing and sex	51
	Discussion	52
	Conclusion	53
5.9	Plant macrofossils and other remains	54
	Introduction and methods	54
	Quantification	55
	Results	55
	Discussion	57
	Conclusions and recommendations for further work	57
6.	Finds and environmental evidence discussion	57
7.	Discussion	59
8.	Conclusions	63
9.	Archive deposition	65
10.	Acknowledgements	65

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map with HER entries	4
Figure 2. Site plan with feature outlines	5
Figure 3. Phase 2 early Roman features	16
Figure 4. Phase 3 mid 2nd-3rd century features	19
Figure 5. Phase 4 mid-late 3rd century features	23
Figure 6. Phase 5 late 3rd-4th century features	29
Figure 7. Phase 6 late 4th-early 5th century features	32
Figure 8. Selected sections	34
Figure 9. Selected sections	35

List of Tables

Table 1. Bulk finds	36
Table 2. Prehistoric pottery by fabric	37
Table 3. Roman pottery by fabric	38
Table 4. Saxon pottery by fabric	40
Table 5. Flint by type	41
Table 6. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by date, feature type and weight	49
Table 7. Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count	50
Table 8. Size of the animal bone assemblage	51
Table 9. The ageing data after the tooth wear evidence and eruption by feature type and date	52
Table 10. Plant macrofossils and other remains	56

List of Plates

Plate 1. Site after machine stripping, prior to removal of layer 0001	7
Plate 2. Site after excavation	7
Plate 3. Section 7 – layers 0167, 0166, 0105, 0106 and 0129, Roman ditches and layer 0001, underlying the windblown sand deposit	11
Plate 4. Section 7 – pit 0046, with ditch 0033 to the right	11
Plate 5. Ditch 0157, cutting early pits 0151 and 0157	20
Plate 6. Shovel marks in the base of ditch 0157	20
Plate 7. Cut 0100 of slot 0165, with windblown sand and rabbit burrows in section	31

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1. Abridged project design, method statement and risk assessment
- Appendix 2. Context list
- Appendix 3. Matrix
- Appendix 4. OASIS form
- Appendix 5. Bulk finds catalogue
- Appendix 6. Pottery catalogue
- Appendix 7. Struck flint catalogue
- Appendix 8. Roman coins catalogue
- Appendix 9. Faunal remains catalogue

Summary

A small area was opened up for excavation prior to the installation of a new soak-away in the area of the water works, on RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. Previous archaeological works in the area have uncovered a range of prehistoric remains, but of greater significance have been the extensive Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation deposits. On site the archaeological levels were generally well preserved, despite frequent disturbance from rabbit burrowing.











Underlying layers of modern material, as well as a windblown sand deposit (that has been recorded elsewhere on the Airbase) was a layer of occupation soil that appeared to have formed throughout the Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon periods and possibly into the Middle Saxon period. This overlaid four phases of Roman ditches, a possible beam slot/palisade fence and scattered small pits, as well as the earliest Roman phase of dense pits and a posthole. The earliest archaeological context was a later prehistoric layer.

Finds from the site included Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic and later prehistoric flint work, Iron Age, Roman, Early Anglo-Saxon and Middle Saxon pottery, Roman ceramic building material, quern stone fragments, coins and an iron nail, as well as fired clay, slag and an iron pintle (the latter being of possible post-medieval or modern date).












The geological profile of the site, as well as its low elevation and position next to Caudle Head indicated that it was wet and this continues to the present day.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out prior to the installation of a soak-away on land immediately south of the sewage works and north of Rochester Road on RAF Lakenheath, in the parish of Eriswell, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The site was investigated due to its position within a well-established later prehistoric, Roman and Saxon archaeological landscape. The construction works were also due to completely destroy any remains across the site to a depth of c.2m below current ground level. Archaeological remains have previously been identified during other sewage works excavations and elsewhere across the airbase.

The work was carried out to a Written Scheme of Investigation by Jo Caruth (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team/Suffolk Archaeology CIC – Appendix 1) under the supervision of Jude Plouviez (SCCAS Conservation Team). Defence Infrastructure Organisation funded the work that was carried out on the 10th-20th November, 2014. Volker Fitzpatrick organised the mechanical groundworks and helped to coordinate the archaeological timetable.

2. The Excavation

2.1 Site location

The site was located in an area of former hard-standing, on the southern edge of the water works that service RAF Lakenheath, at grid reference TL 72881 80767 (Fig. 1). 140m to the north-east is Caudle Head Mere, whilst the Gate 2 base entrance is located 880m to the east-south-east.

2.2 Geology and topography

There is no recorded superficial geology of the immediate area, but the bedrock geology consists of formations of Holywell Nodular and New Pit chalk. Immediately west of the site are superficial deposits of peat and Croxton sand and gravel, and to the east are Cover sand deposits (BGS, 2015). On site the geology presented itself as superficial deposits of pale greyish-yellow, mid yellow and mid to dark orange sand, with occasional chalk inclusions. The site was fairly flat and low-lying, positioned close to the edge of the fens to the west. The existing concrete slab ground level was recorded as

6.73m above the Ordnance Datum (OD), whilst levels on superficial sand geology varied from c.6.15m-c.6.3m above the OD.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

Eriswell and the neighbouring parishes of Lakenheath and Wangford are renowned for possessing a rich, multi-period archaeological landscape. RAF Lakenheath itself has a particularly concentrated archaeological horizon that continues from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval period.

Notable prehistoric sites listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) include two Bronze Age barrows to the south at ERL 148 and 203. Late Iron Age and early Roman agricultural activity was identified on sites at ERL 089, 120, 130 and 147. The fen edge throughout Suffolk and Cambridgeshire is also recorded as an area of intense Iron Age settlement.

The hub of Roman settlement is located in the general area of this excavation (e.g. LKH 146, 191 and 194, and ERL 098), focussing on the site of the Caudle head spring, where a buried watercourse surfaces, before draining westward into the Fens. Excavations to the south at NATO Place (ERL 212), Kennedy Street (ERL 112) and Thunderbird Way also found evidence of Roman occupation whilst a possible early Roman shrine was recorded on land between Exeter Crescent and Brandon Street (ERL 214). Other Roman sites positioned south of the site also mark intensive settlement, as well as scattered burials (e.g. ERL 086, 135 and 141).

Three large Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been excavated to the south at ERL 046, 104 and 114. Anglo-Saxon evidence has been found to the south of these at ERL 154 and further south still at ERL 203 where several inhumations were cut into the Bronze Age monument. Closer to the site, Saxon features have been recorded, including sunken featured buildings (SFBs) approximately 350m to the north-east.

Medieval occupation for Eriswell is focused around the church of St Peter (ERL 011) to the west of the development area (Beverton, 2012). A recent find of a single medieval silver coin during excavation 450m to the north-east represents one of the only high medieval finds from the whole of the base (LKH 365), although a significant part of RAF

Lakenheath was taken up by three or four medieval rabbit warrens that continued to be at least partially in use until 1940.

Previous excavations have been carried out in the Water Works compound, including that of ERL 225, excavated in 2012 by Tester (2013):

'An excavation area of c.270m² was excavated [approximately 40m north of the current site] in 2012 ... This uncovered accumulated deposits with peat at the bottom and top of occupation soils dating from the Late Bronze Age to post Roman period. A complex stratified sequence included the probable ritual deposit of a horse's head, and a 1st century Roman cremation burial. At least seven phases of Roman activity consist of probable enclosures, or drove way ditches and fence lines interspersed with dumps of occupation soil. Two individual features stand out: a Roman cremation, which is stratigraphically early in the Roman occupation, and the first to be found on the Airbase, and the 'ritual' burial of a horse head (three placed horse heads in a pit from site LKH 190 have been dated to the Iron Age). The site appears to be on the margins of occupation, due to the watercourse, wet environment and sloping ground ... This site displays a complex, vertical, stratigraphic sequence ... The macrofossil assessment has identified crop plants such as oats, barley, rye and wheat; many of which have been charred suggesting processing, possibly for malting.'

A north to south aligned Roman inhumation (with its head to the south) was also recorded 10m north of the current excavation (ERL 023 Excavation – Fig. 1), in a small excavation that also produced Mesolithic and later flint work:

'alongside intense and sustained late Iron Age to Early Anglo-Saxon occupation, with the majority of features originating during the three and a half centuries of the Roman occupation ... The features were nearly all ditches or fences and probably built to delineate property and contain livestock ... one of the most intriguing aspects of the site is the single adult burial [which alongside others recorded nearby indicate that] burials may be encountered widely dispersed throughout the settlement' (Tester, 1993).

Another Roman inhumation burial, found with a series of coffin nails was excavated in a drain trench 67m to the south-west of the excavation (ERL 228). A radiocarbon date obtained from the skeleton suggested an early 1st to early 3rd century date and this was again aligned north to south, although on this occasion the body was positioned with the skull at the north end of the cut (Brooks, 2013). Further to the north, other Roman burials have also been recorded, with at least three late Roman examples at the Outdoor Recreation Centre (LKH 191), as well as at the Industrial Maintenance Workshop (LKH 146) where a particularly rare cosmetic grinder was also recovered.

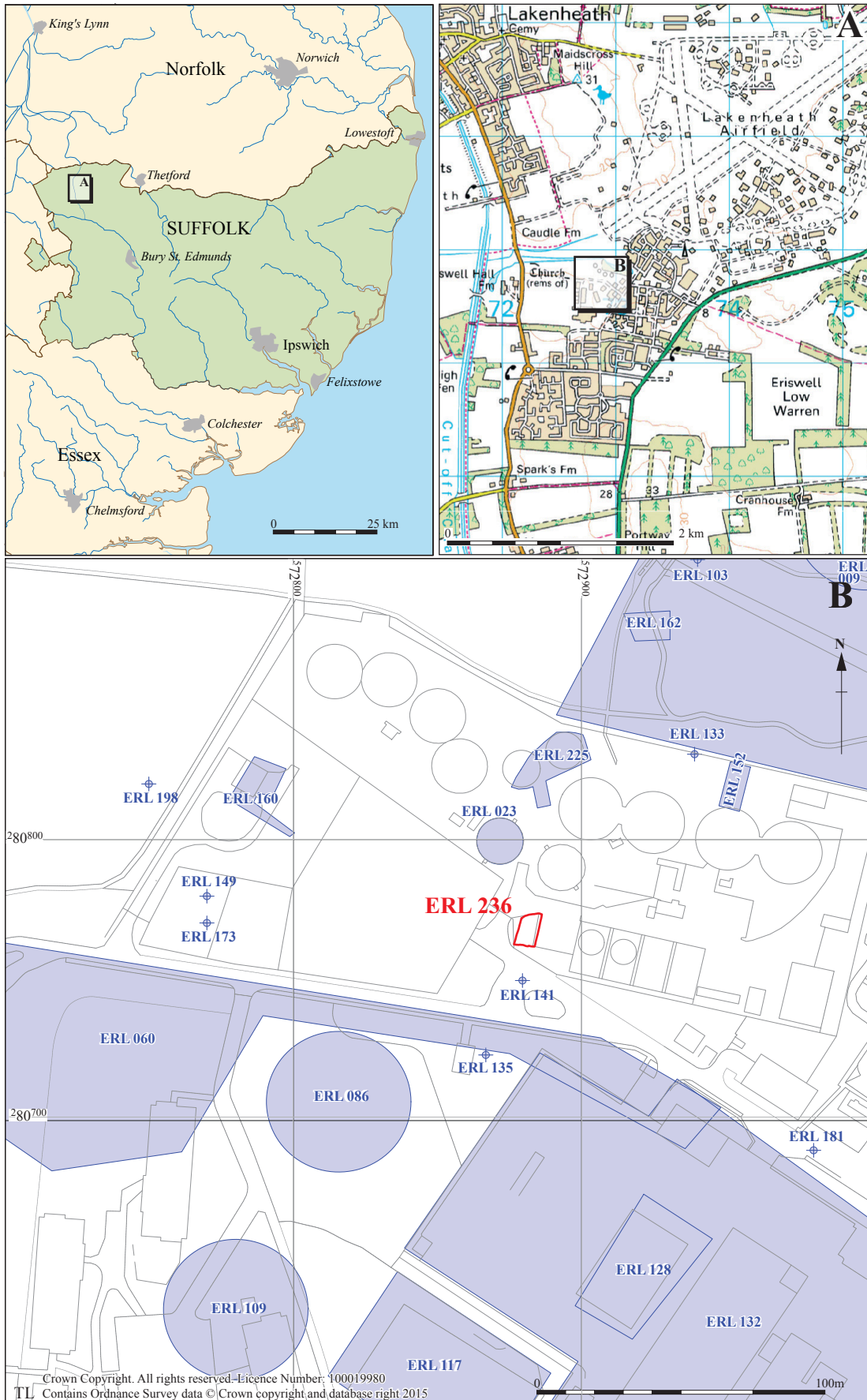


Figure 1. Location map with HER entries

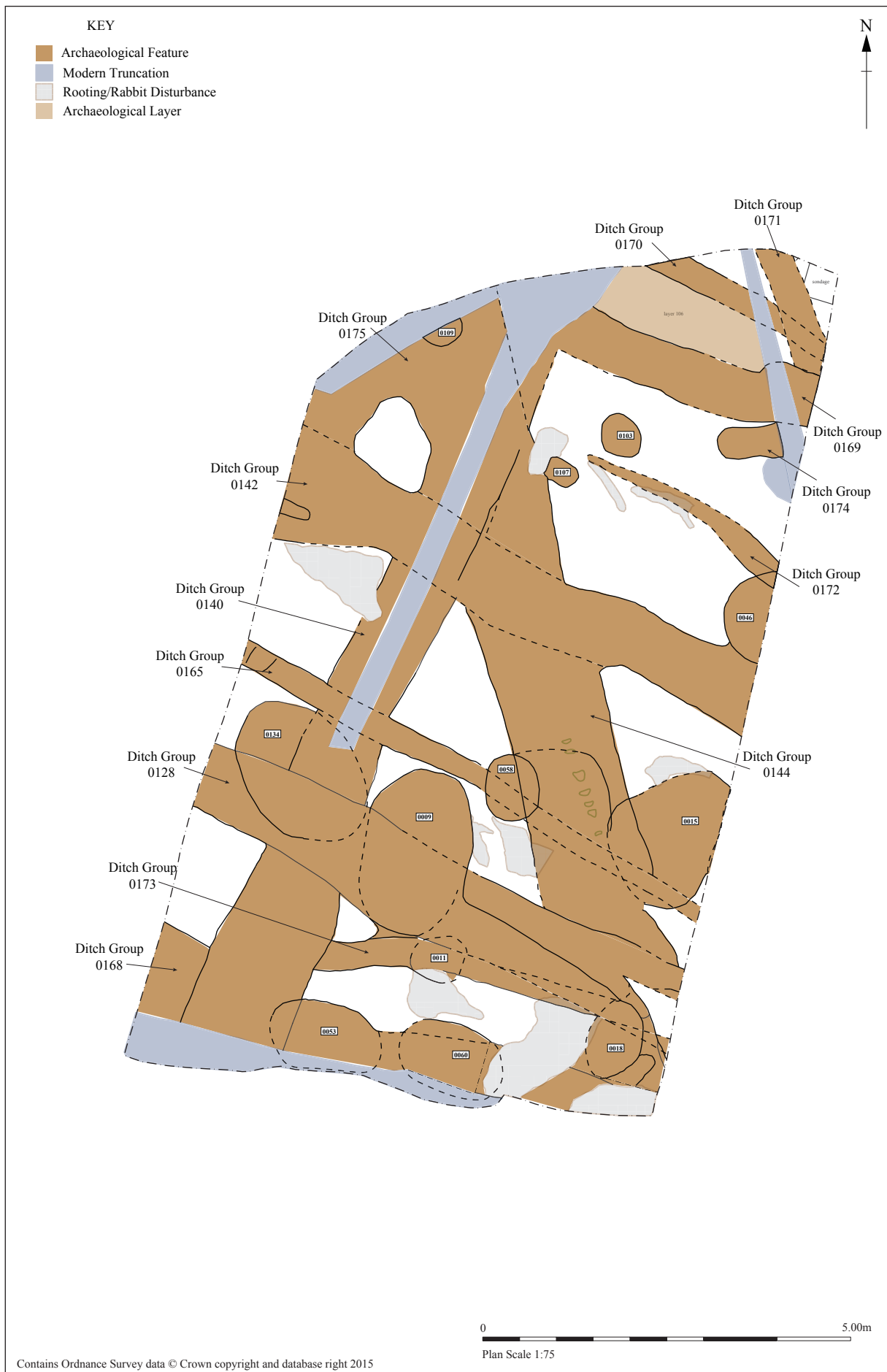


Figure 2. Site plan with feature outlines

3. Methodology

After the removal of the concrete slab and any underlying aggregate, the site was excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket, with the work being constantly monitored and directed by an experienced archaeologist. Very limited quantities of topsoil were removed, to expose a deposit of windblown sand that overlaid, and was heavily mixed with layer 0001. Some of this material was also removed by machine. All of the upcast spoil was monitored for finds and metal-detected (as was the rest of the site). At this point further reduction of the levels was carried out by hand in order to collect finds from layer 0001, entailing the removal of 0.15m-0.3m of this deposit. The excavation area was to be entirely taken up by the installation of the soak-away and measured 12.7m x 7.3m (Fig. 2).

When the site stripping was finished, soil profiles were cleaned and recorded in conjunction with the digging and recording of the cut features. All of the ditches were excavated, with 30%-90% sampled, whilst all pits and postholes were 50%-100% excavated. After the ditches were excavated sufficiently to investigate any relationships and to provide a reasonable sample (at least 20% in all cases), many were further excavated in order to ensure that there were no burials present within the bases and to collect further finds. These extra excavations were planned, but they were only fully recorded in section on the occasions when they revealed new features or relationships. As such any finds from them are recorded under a specific finds number (marked on the site plan), but not under fill numbers. Seven environmental bulk samples were taken from a variety of pits, ditches and a layer. A number of features were sieved (with a 10mm mesh), including ditches, pits and postholes. Colour digital photographs were taken of the contexts and the site, including overhead shots. A 1:20 plan of the excavation was hand drawn and geo-referenced using an RTK GPS, with sections drawn at 1:20. A single continuous numbering system was used to record all contexts (records 0001-0176 – Appendix 2), alongside a matrix (Appendix 3).

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code ERL 236. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-194141 – Appendix 4) and on approval of the report a digital copy will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The archive is to be deposited in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code ERL 236.



Plate 1. Site after machine stripping, prior to removal of layer 0001 (facing south-south-west)



Plate 2. Site after excavation (facing north-north-east, 1m and 2m scales)

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

Stripping of the site was initially carried out by machine, which removed 0.3m-0.4m of concrete slabs, associated aggregate and topsoil. Windblown sand layer 0176 was then excavated, which was mixed with the uppermost horizon of layer 0001. At this depth it became clear that layer 0001 was spread across much of the site, regularly disturbed by rabbit warrens (which were largely backfilled with the windblown layer – Pl. 1). Although the rabbit warrens were widespread, they were in general easy to define due to their fill and they also rarely penetrated much beyond layer 0001. As such, they are not thought to have greatly interfered with finds distribution. Subsequently, layer 0001 was reduced by hand excavation by another c.0.15m-0.3m in order to reveal the uppermost levels of the underlying features and to collect finds from the layer. At this point a series of ditch group (DG) systems became visible, as well as a number of possible pits and other features (Pl. 2). In total, seven phases were identified across the site (represented in Figures 2-9) and these include:

- Phase 1 – geological and later prehistoric
- Phase 2 – early Roman
- Phase 3 – mid 2nd-3rd century
- Phase 4 – mid-late 3rd century
- Phase 5 – late 3rd-4th century
- Phase 6 – late 4th-early 5th century
- Phase 7 – Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon

Somewhat unusually for an intensively reworked Roman fen edge site dug into sand, this excavation produced a number of very well defined stratigraphic relationships across the area. This in places has led to a series of clearly phased features. However, the small area being investigated, tied in with the levels of bioturbation meant that in some instances it was not feasible to phase features clearly as they either did not have relationship intersections, had been disturbed, or did not produce significant levels of finds. Some of the references to ditch alignments herein are abbreviated for brevity. For example, north-north-west to south-south-east is shown as NNW to SSE.

4.2 Phase 1 – geological and prehistoric layers

Basal geological layers

Natural layers 0167 and 0166

The stratigraphically earliest deposit uncovered on the site was layer 0167; recorded as pale orangish-yellow sand with common small flints that was >0.09m thick (partially excavated in section 7 – Pl. 3). This was overlaid by a layer of mid to dark orange sand with common small flints, recorded as deposit 0166 (up to 0.13m deep). Although it appeared to be distinct to layer 0167, it was interpreted as probably being the same material that had been stained by movement of naturally-occurring iron deposits (introduced by groundwater throughflow and leaching from soil horizons above). These observations tend to indicate that the area was previously wet. This is quite likely given the location close to Caudle Head in an area already shown to have been wet by the excavation at ERL 225, which was also at a similar elevation (Fig. 1). The site had also been chosen as the location for a soak-away due to its low-lying position in the landscape.

Later prehistoric layers

Layers 0105 and 0106

Overlying the earlier deposits was layer 0105, which was mottled dark greyish-brown firm heavily mineralised sand. It had fairly consistent iron staining throughout (thought to give the deposit its distinct colour and texture) and a diffuse horizon with the deposits below. Unusually this layer also produced frequent heated flints throughout, which were particularly dense in an area c.0.65m south of the north-eastern corner of the site (see section 7 – Fig. 8). Approximately 30% of these flints were kept (weighing 1105g) and more were recovered from the processing of Sample 4 (1335g). The sample also produced moderate levels of charcoal (0mm-5mm), but no other remains.

Layer 0106 was made up of very pale yellowish-grey friable sand, with a clear if somewhat irregular horizon with layer 0105, which it overlaid. This layer was up to 0.12m deep, produced no finds or notable levels of inclusions and was interpreted as an aeolian or alluvial deposit. Both layers 0105 and 0106 were recorded extending some

distance south along the eastern bank of the site in section 7, but were ultimately truncated by later features making their true extents unclear.

Layers 0105 and 0106 were both thought to be naturally derived, with deposit 0105 having been exposed prior to the formation of layer 0106. The lower deposit appeared fairly sterile, despite the presence of heated flints, and charcoal in the sample. As such the interpretation was that rather than being the remainder of for example an eluviated topsoil deposit it may have been the exposed floodplain surface of a wetland area (given its position close to Caudle Head), with the heated flint dumped there as a result of nearby later prehistoric human activity.



Plate 3. Section 7 – layers 0167, 0166, 0105, 0106 and 0129, Roman ditches and layer 0001, underlying the windblown sand deposit (1m and 2m scales, facing south-east)



Plate 4. Section 7 – pit 0046, with ditch 0033 to the right (lower scale is 1m, upper scale has 0.5m increments, facing east-south-east)

4.3 Phase 2 – early Roman

Buried soil layer

Layer 0129

Layer 0129 overlaid layer 0106. It was interpreted as a buried topsoil horizon and was made up of dark grey/black silty-sand, which was only recorded in the north-east corner of the site within section 7. It contained occasional chalk flecks and iron staining, and was mottled with pale yellowish-grey sand in places. Roman DG 0171 cut layer 0129, and it was clearly a distinct deposit from layer 0001/0041. At most it was up to 0.17m deep and produced no finds, although it was not initially excavated as a separate context from layer 0001/0041, which may explain this absence.

Early pits and a posthole

A series of eight pits (0009, 0015, 0018, 0046, 0060, 0070, 0134 and 0151 – Pls. 4-6) and a single large posthole (0109) were recorded in this phase. All of the cuts were earlier in the stratigraphic sequence than the ditch groups and in all cases the pits had steep sides and were flat bottomed. A number also contained particularly pale fills that meant they were hard to define, with many being discovered only after the excavation of later, overlying features.

Pit 0009

Pit 0009 was located close to the centre of the site and formed a large north to south aligned oval in plan, measuring c.2m x c.1.5m x 0.7m deep. In profile the cut had steeply sloping sides, that curved sharply to the almost flat base and it contained a fill of pale yellowish-brown friable silty-sand that produced no finds and was recorded as 0010. The pit was cut by ditch 0009 (DG 0128), which is thought to be Early Anglo-Saxon.

Pits 0015/0155 and 0151 and posthole 0109

Pits 0015 and 0151 and posthole 0109 were all cut by Phase 3 DG 0144 (cuts 0016 and 0157). Emerging from the eastern baulk of the site was pit 0015, which formed an irregular sub-oval shape in plan, aligned south-west to north-east and measuring c.1.94m x >1.52m x 0.57m deep. In profile it had nearly vertical sides that met the flat

base at a sharp angle. The pit contained four fills, including dark grey basal sandy-silt 0020. This was overlaid by light greyish-orange loose sand deposit 0021 that in turn was underneath a light grey loose sand layer recorded as 0022, which produced two sherds of early Roman and Roman pottery (20g) and three sherds of possible Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (32g), as well as eight pieces of worked flint, one heated flint and ten fragments of animal bone. It was partially further excavated and recorded as pit 0155, where it contained one mixed fill of orange, grey and brown sand and no further finds. As pit 0155 it was cut by Phase 3 DG 0144.

Immediately south-west of pit 0015/0155 was pit 0151, which appeared to form a sub-circular cut in plan. In profile it had 75° slightly concave sides that curved rapidly to the almost flat/slightly concave base (Pl. 5). Three fills were recorded in the cut. Basal fill 0152 was pale yellow loose sand, with very occasional small flints, overlaid by fill 0153 that was pale to mid brownish-grey sand with some iron staining and patches of small flints. Fill 0153 was sampled in Sample 7 and produced one worked flint and a piece of animal bone, alongside charred grains, charcoal and small mammal and/or bird bone fragments. The top fill, 0154 was mixed pale yellow and pale grey-brown iron stained loose sand and contained one sherd (3g) of prehistoric pottery.

Posthole 0109 was located in the north-west corner of the site and was assumed to be circular in plan, although it was not fully exposed due to its position next to a power cable and the limit of excavation. It measured >0.46m x >0.25m x 1.36m deep and had near-vertical, straight sides, with a curving break of slope to the concave base. Its two fills (0110 and 0111) contained no pottery and were recorded as very dark brownish-grey silty-sand, with rare chalk flecks, overlaid by mid yellowish-brown sand. Other finds from fill 0111 consisted of one worked flint and one animal bone.

Pit 0018

At the south-eastern corner of the site, pit 0018 was recorded in plan with a rounded eastern edge, but its western, southern and northern edges were almost entirely truncated by later features and rabbit warrens. The surviving profile had 65°-90° slightly concave sides, with a curving break of slope to the flat base. Four fills were recorded in the pit (0028-0031) and these consisted of light greyish-yellow, dark grey and greyish-orange sand and silty-sand with only occasional small stone inclusions, one sherd of

possible Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (9g) and two worked flints from tertiary fill 0030. The pit was cut by ditch cut 0017 that may have been part of Phase 5 DG 0173.

Pit 0046

Pit 0046 emerged from the eastern baulk of the site and had a rounded western edge in plan. The sides sloped at 80° and were slightly concave, with a curving break of slope to the almost flat and wide base (Pl. 4). It measured >1.22m x >0.6m x 0.59m deep and contained three fills with layer 0001/0041 slumping into the top of the feature. The upper and middle fills (0042 and 0045) were made up of pale and mid-dark grey iron stained sand, with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and small stones, along with three sherds (5g) of prehistoric, early Roman and Roman pottery, fired clay, animal bone and heated flint. The basal fill, 0102, contained no finds and was made up of a series of lenses of orange sand, and pale or mid grey silty-sand, with a single lens of dark grey/black silty-sand at the base and sporadic iron staining throughout. Sample 3 from fill 0102 contained barley, other grains, tree/shrub remains, weeds, charcoal, small mammal and/or bird bones and charred bone fragments. Cutting the pit was Phase 6 DG 0142 (cut 0033), which contained Iron Age, prehistoric/Early Anglo-Saxon and Roman pottery.

Pit 0060

Near the southern edge of the site and largely truncated by ditch 0061 (DG 0168) and a pipe trench was pit 0060. Initially it was uncertain if this was a pit or a ditch, as it was so heavily truncated, but its profile and fills were very similar to other pits in this phase. Its northern side was the only area that survived and this had a vertical to under-cutting angle, which curved rapidly to the flat base and it measured >1.16m x >0.22m x 0.68m deep. The basal fill, 0062 was mixed dark grey and orange silt and sand with one sherd of possible Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (18g) and one worked flint. Overlying this was fill 0063, which appeared to be naturally derived and consisted of orangish-yellow loose sand with no finds. Phase 5 DG 0168 cut the pit (as cut 0061) and produced both Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Pits 0070 and 0134

Pit 0070 was located near the south-west corner of the site. Like pit 0060 it was quite heavily truncated by later ditch 0050 and was even initially interpreted as an earlier

channel of the ditch. Its shape in plan was unclear, but it had a curving eastern edge and in profile had very steep sides that in places were undercutting. The base was largely flat. No finds were retrieved from the pit and it contained only one fill, 0071, which was mixed grey, yellow and orange loose sand, with areas of redeposited/slumped natural. North-west of pit 0070, another heavily truncated pit was recorded as cut 0134, measuring 1.68m x >1.34m x 0.58m deep. The surviving sections of the pit suggested an irregular oval or circular shape in plan and in profile it had vertical sides that curved sharply at the base, which was flat. Four fills were recorded in the pit (0135-0138) and these consisted of brownish-yellow, brownish-grey, greyish-yellow and yellowish-grey sand or silty-sand, sometimes with occasional chalk flecks and no finds. Both of these pit cuts were truncated by DG 0140 (cuts 0050 and 0145), which in total contained one sherd of prehistoric and forty-three sherds of Roman pottery.

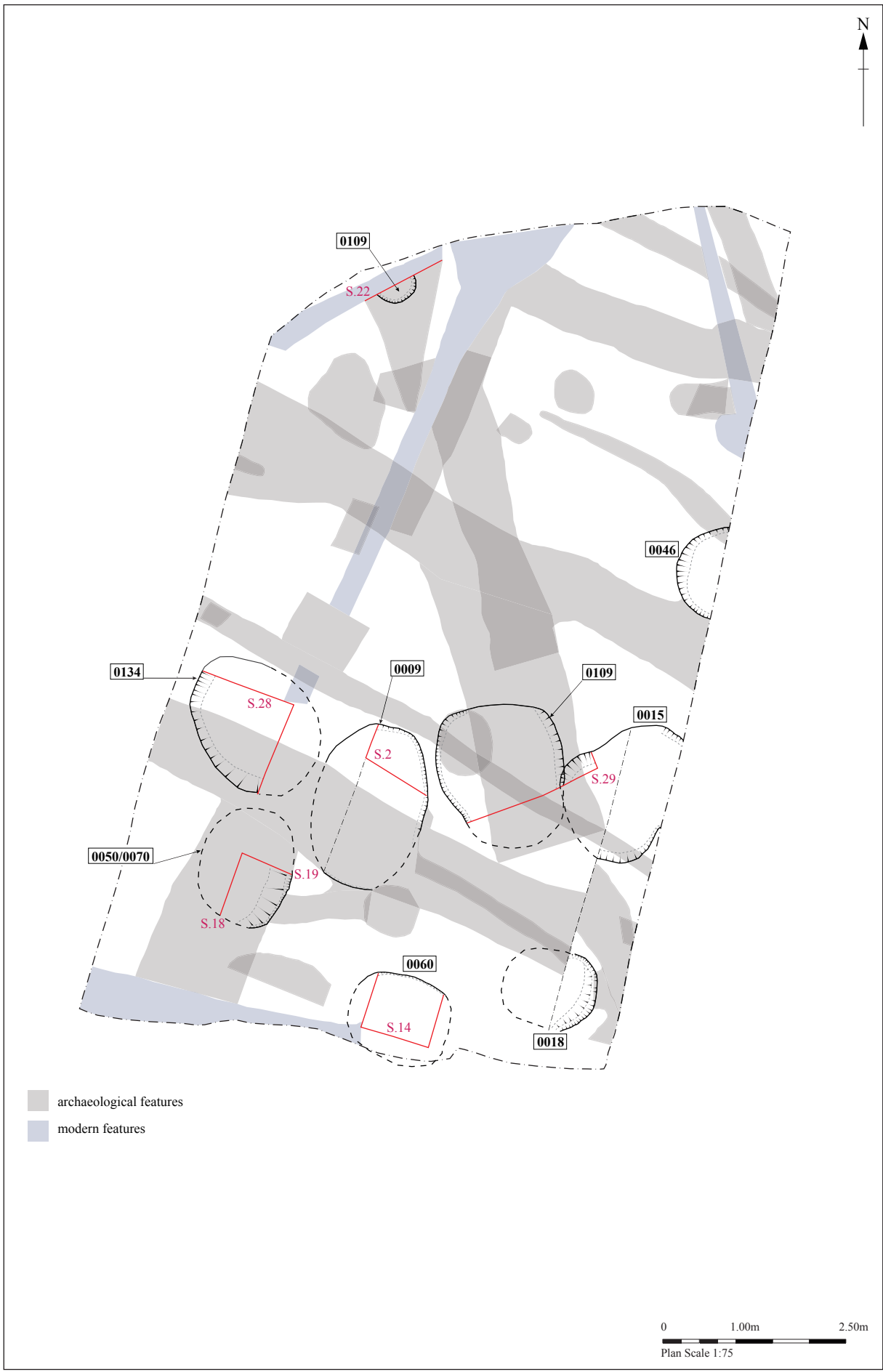


Figure 3. Phase 2 early Roman features

4.4 Phase 3 – mid 2nd-3rd century

Introduction

This phase sees the first ditches across the site, aligned NNW-SSE. Such ditches are found widely across the airbase, functioning as property boundaries, stock enclosures and drainage features and are typical of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation in the area. The two ditches recognised as part of this phase are aligned differently to those of the later phases, which is part of a wider pattern/change in activity recognised across the airbase (Jo Caruth, pers. comm.). The larger ditch in particular is indicative of a significant boundary of some sort and clearly truncated three of the pits from Phase 2.

Ditch groups 0144 and 0171

Running on a NNW to SSE alignment was DG 0144, excavated in cuts 0016, 0035, 0084, 0090, 0112 and 0157 (Pl. 5), with finds collected from rapid excavation of the feature recorded as 0143. This was the largest ditch on site in terms of its width and depth and was quite consistently recorded as having c.45° straight sides that broke to near vertical edges near the base of the feature. These steep sides in turn curved to form a concave base (creating the form of ditch sometimes referred to as an ‘ankle breaker’). In size it varied from 0.9m to 1.62m wide x up to 0.9m deep and the recorded cuts contained between two and four fills, consisting of pale to mid grey-brown silty-sand or sandy silt and dark to very dark grey-brown silty-sand. Occasional chalk and charcoal flecks were recorded in places throughout the ditch, though not comprehensively and there was sporadic iron staining of the fills. At the base of cut 0157 a number of regular marks (believed to be tool impressions from the initial excavation of the feature) were recorded at intervals of <0.1m to 0.15m apart (Pl. 6). The ditch was cut by all of the other ditches it encountered, placing it stratigraphically earlier in the sequence and it was also cut by pit 0058, although it cut pits 0018 and 0151 (Pl. 5). In total, two sherds of Iron Age pottery (32g), nine sherds (62g) of Roman, sixty-seven sherds (1978g) of mid 2nd century+ and one mid-late 3rd century sherd (62g) were recovered from the ditch group, along with one sherd of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (3g). Other finds included ten worked flints, one heated flint, twenty-one pieces of animal bone and one fragment of slag, while Sample 6 produced barley, wheat and other cereal remains, charcoal, amphibian bones, fish bones and charred bone fragments.

Running on the same alignment as DG 0144, but only recorded in the far north-eastern corner of the site was a small ditch group recorded as 0171 and cut 0082. In profile it had 40°-45° degree concave sides that curved to the thin, concave base and it measured c.0.9m x 0.39m deep and contained mid to dark grey silty-sand, with iron staining and occasional chalk and stone inclusions. This fill was recorded as 0083 and contained two sherds (11g) of Roman pottery. Other finds included one worked flint, one heated flint and four pieces of animal bone. This ditch was cut by DG 0170 and was included in this phase partially because of this relationship but largely because of its shared alignment with DG 0144.

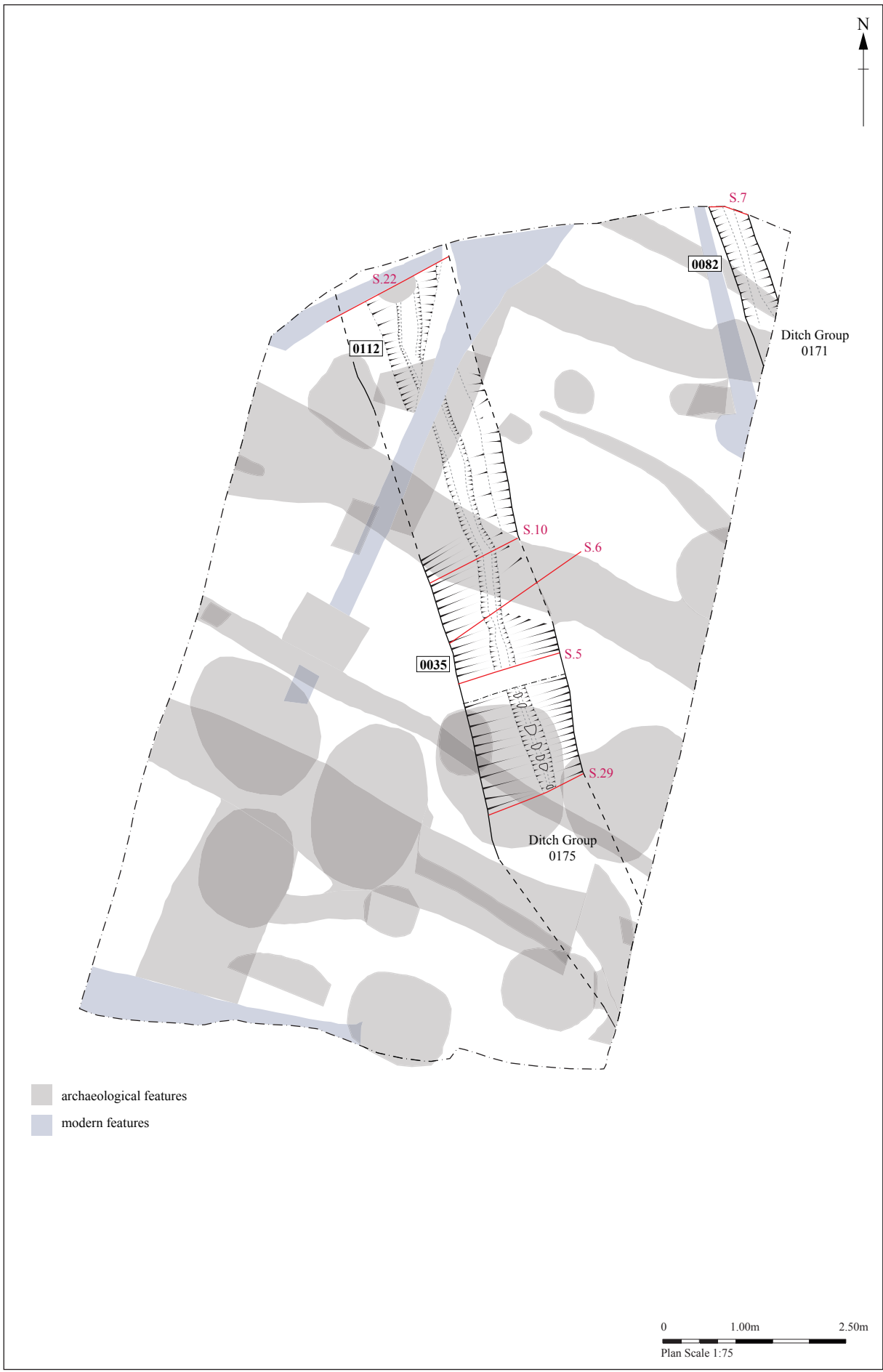


Figure 4. Phase 3 mid 2nd-3rd century features.



Plate 5. Ditch 0157, cutting early pits 0151 (right) and 0155 (1m scale, facing south-south-east)



Plate 6. Shovel marks in the base of ditch 0157 (1m scale)

4.5 Phase 4 – mid-late 3rd century

Introduction

The ditches in this phase appear to mark out a series of possible field enclosures. The overall alignment of the features has changed significantly from that of Phase 3, which is a trend witnessed across the airbase.

Ditch groups 0170 and 0175

Ditch group 0170 was located running ESE to WNW at the northern end of the site and was excavated as cuts 0118 and 0130. It had 40° to steeply sloping sides and a concave base and was filled with mid grey to dark grey/black silt and sandy-silt, with occasional small stones and chalk flecks and iron staining, recorded as 0119 and 0131. It measured 0.3m across and was 0.18m to 0.4m deep, although this deeper measurement was uncertain. A single sherd of prehistoric or Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (6g) was recovered from fill 0119. Other finds consisted of one worked flint and four animal bones. The ditch was cut by 4th century DG 0169, but itself cut Phase 3 DG 0171.

Ditch group 0175 was only excavated in cut 0086 in the north-west corner of the site, running north-east to south-west at approximately 90° to DG 0170 and measured 0.25m wide x 0.4m deep. In profile it had gently sloping sides and a concave base and contained fill 0087; dark brownish-grey silty-sand, with one sherd of Roman (9g), one sherd of mid 3rd/4th century (9g), two sherds of prehistoric or Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (7g) and three pieces of animal bone. The ditch was heavily rabbit disturbed in places and subsequently difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area, however it appeared to cut DG 0144 and was in turn cut by DG 0140. This feature is included in this phase as it appears to run at a right angle to DG 0170, thus possibly forming a field system/ cornering boundary.

Ditch group 0172

A shallow and irregular ditch, excavated as cut 0148 ran on a roughly east to west alignment from the eastern limit of excavation, where it appeared to cut pit 0046 although it was not very clearly defined. The profile had 45°-55° irregular sides and a

thin, concave base, measuring c.0.37m wide x c.0.1m deep. Fill 0149 was mid to dark grey-brown silty-sand, with rare chalk flecks and small stones and no finds. It was unclear during excavation whether this was an actual feature or the remnants of a rabbit burrow, but it was similarly aligned to DG 0170.



Figure 5. Phase 4 mid-late 3rd century features

4.6 Phase 5 – late 3rd- 4th century

Introduction

There is a marked increase of features in this phase, compared to those that have gone before. A greater number of ditches, following similar alignments to Phase 4 and presumably representing the same types of activity, are accompanied by a number of small pits.

Ditch group 0168

Ditch 0168 ran WNW-ESE and was located along, and obscured by the very southern limit of excavation. It was also quite heavily truncated by a modern cable trench that ran the length of the feature. It was excavated as cuts 0053 and 0061, where only the northern profile was visible, displaying a moderate to steep slope and a concave or in places irregular base, measuring >0.5m wide x up to 0.54m deep. In cut 0053 the ditch was cut by north to south aligned ditch 0050 (DG 0140). The fills varied from pale yellow and orange to dark grey basal fills and lenses, to dark orangish-brown and greyish-orange upper fills, with occasional small stone inclusion and six sherds of Roman pottery (46g) and five sherds of possibly Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (8g). The ditch also produced two radiate coins dated as AD 269-274 (SF 1004) and AD 275-285 (SF 1005), a piece of gritstone (from a rotary quern), seventeen animal bones and three worked flints. The ditch was included within this group due to its similar alignment to DGs 0169 and 0174. Also it cut the pits in Phase 2 and its alignment did not fully correspond with the ditches in Phase 4 and it was more substantial than these features. The fills were also reminiscent of some of the Phase 5 ditches. However, it was cut by DG 0140 from this phase and may on balance have been part of an early sub-phase of Phase 5, with DG 0140 marking a later modification to the ditch system.

Ditch group 0140

Ditch group 0140 ran the full length of the site on a NNE to SSW alignment and was excavated in cuts 0003, 0048, 0050, 0073, 0088, 0123 and 0145 and was recorded as having 70° to near vertical sides and a flat/slightly concave to fully concave base. The ditch was recorded as >0.3m-1.02m wide x 0.35m-1m deep and finds collected from rapid excavation of the feature were recorded as 0139. In general the various cuts were

recorded as having only a single fill of mid to dark grey-brown mixes of silty-sand, with occasional natural inclusions. On occasion mid yellow or orange grey-brown fills were recorded as well. In cut 0050 four fills were originally recorded as being part of the ditch, although in hindsight it is more probable that 0051, 0052 and 0068 were the fills of pit 0070, with only fill 0069 originating from ditch 0050. Fill 0069 was mixed pale-mid grey and orange-yellow sand with no finds. In total however, the ditch produced one sherd of prehistoric pottery (12g), two sherds of early Roman (54g), twenty sherds of Roman (177g), two sherds of late 1st-mid 2nd century (30g), and ten sherds of mid 2nd century to late 3rd/4th century pottery (195g), alongside twenty-five pieces of animal bone and two worked flints.

Ditch groups 0169 and 0174

Near the northern end of the site, ditch group 0169 ran on an east to west alignment and was excavated in cuts 0079, 0116, 0121 and 0132, measuring >0.38m-0.8m wide x 0.26m-0.74m deep. The profile had sides recorded as very steep, between 70°-80° with a convex to concave form and a concave base. At the eastern site edge the ditch was excavated as cuts 0079 and 0132, with the latter being interpreted as an earlier cut and a terminus that was then recut and extended into cuts 0079 and 0116. A further possible recut of the ditch was recorded as cut 0121. One or two fills were recorded in each cut, consisting of pale to dark grey or brown-grey sand-silt mixes. Some of the basal fills were striated and in general the fills were often iron stained, giving them a greenish-brown cess-like appearance. There were occasional chalk flecks and small stones throughout. In total, six sherds of Roman pottery (30g) and five sherds of late 3rd-4th century pottery (249g) were recovered from three fills (0080, 0081 and 0120). Other finds recovered from the ditch comprise three worked flints, two heated flints, twenty-four pieces of animal bones and one oyster shell. Sample 5 from cut 0079, fill 0080, produced barley, wheat and other cereal remains, alongside charcoal, amphibian bones and small bird and/or mammal bones. DG 0169 cut DG 0170 and was sealed by layer 0001/0041.

Immediately south of DG 0169 was DG 0174, excavated in cut 0077. It was unclear how the two ditch groups related to each other, although they may have been broadly contemporary and related given their close proximity to each other and the similar termination point of cuts 0132 and 0077. The ditch had 45°-50° convex sides that then

broke to 70°-80° straight edges, before breaking again at the slightly concave base. The single fill, 0078 was mottled pale and dark grey silty-sand with iron staining and chalk flecks, and five sherds (48g) of Roman pottery and two sherds (5g) of late 3rd-4th century pottery. Three heated flints and four pieces of animal bone were also recovered. The cut measured >0.41m x >0.43m deep and was somewhat truncated by a modern disturbance. It terminated 1.2m west of the eastern site baulk.

Pit 0011 and ditch group 0173

Pit 0011 formed an irregular, sub-oval shape in plan, aligned east to west and measuring c.0.76m x c.0.68m x 0.64m deep and had heavily disturbed (possibly stepped sides) and a slightly concave base. The pit was located near the southern edge of the site. It was cut by ditch 0007 (DG 0128). The pit contained a single fill of very dark grey-brown silty-sand, recorded as 0012 and produced no finds except for a millstone grit fragment from a rotary quern (SF 1001). Cut 0011 was separated from the Phase 2 pits due to its smaller dimensions and distinctive dark fill, which did not appear to be as heavily eluviated as the fills of the earlier pits. It was cut by features in Phase 6, but it was unclear how it related to DG 0173 due to disturbance in the area. As a result of this and because there is some doubt as to how or if DG 0173 is part of Phase 5, pit 0011 has been included in this phase due to the presence of other relatively similar small pits at the northern end of the site.

Ditch group 0173 was only clearly identified in a small area near the south-west corner of the site as cuts 0013 and 0066, aligned roughly east to west. It may have also been present in the eastern baulk as cut 0017, but this would require it to curve somewhat to the south. Although interpreted on site as cutting ditch 0007 (DG 0128), this is unlikely. Referring to section 3, it appears that what was originally interpreted as ditch 0013 was actually the remnants of an irregular rabbit warren, infilled with windblown sand and that the ditch was not clearly visible in this section, where DG 0128 appears to be the latest stratigraphic feature (which contained Roman, mid to late Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon to Mid Saxon pottery). If cut 0017 is included within ditch group 0173, it cuts ditch group 0144 (which produced Iron Age pottery, a range of Roman pottery and one sherd of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery). Where recorded as cut 0066 the ditch had 40°-50° concave sides and a concave base and measured 0.36m x 0.12m deep. This ditch produced no pottery, but in cut 0017/fill 0027 there was one piece of animal bone and a

fragment of post-Roman CBM (that is thought to be intrusive). An iron pintle (a pin that pivots in a hinge) was recovered from fill 0014 of cut 0013 (SF 1002). This is believed to be post-medieval or modern (although Saxon and earlier versions were used in door hinges, rudders and ploughs) and is therefore thought to be intrusive, given the pottery from the rest of the ditch, as well as the general background dating of the area and the presence of frequent rabbit disturbance across the site.

Pits 0058 and 0103

A small pit, positioned roughly in the centre of the site was recorded as cut 0058. It was uncovered after excavation of DG 0165, which truncated the pit, although in turn it cut DG 0144. In plan the pit was oval, aligned roughly north to south, with concave sides and a flattish base, measuring 0.85m x 0.65m x 0.12m deep. It was filled with mid brownish-grey sandy-silt with oyster shell and common chalk fragments. The fill was sieved and sampled, and produced three sherds (15g) of Roman pottery, three sherds (19g) of late 3rd-4th century pottery and two sherds of 4th century pottery (230g), along with a fragment of fired clay, one worked flint, five pieces of animal bone and one oyster shell. Sample 1 contained barley, wheat and other cereal remains, alongside amphibian bones.

An isolated, small circular/oval-shaped pit cut, aligned east to west was positioned near the northern end of the site and recorded as cut 0103, with fill 0104. In profile it had shallow to moderately steep sides, breaking gradually to the flat base and the pit was filled with dark grey-brown sandy-silt, with common chalk flecks, occasional small pebbles and no finds. The cut measured 0.65m x 0.56m x 0.1m deep. Although the feature was stratigraphically isolated and produced no finds, it has been associated with this phase due to the similarity of its fill to pit 0058.

Feature 0107

Feature 0107 was a small possible feature, although it was unclear if it was a pit/posthole, the remnants of a ditch terminus or an area of rabbit disturbance, infilled with layer 0001. It was a somewhat irregular linear cut in plan, aligned east to west, though it was heavily disturbed. The sides of the cut were irregular and nearly vertical in places, with a sharp break of slope to the flat/slightly concave base. There was no clear

relationship with DG 0144 due to the levels of disturbance. It measured >0.46m x 0.32m x up to 0.18m deep and was filled with dark grey-black sandy-silt with very occasional chalk flecks and small stones, one sherd (2g) of early Roman pottery and an iron nail. The feature is included in Phase 5 due to its close proximity to another small pit; cut 0103.

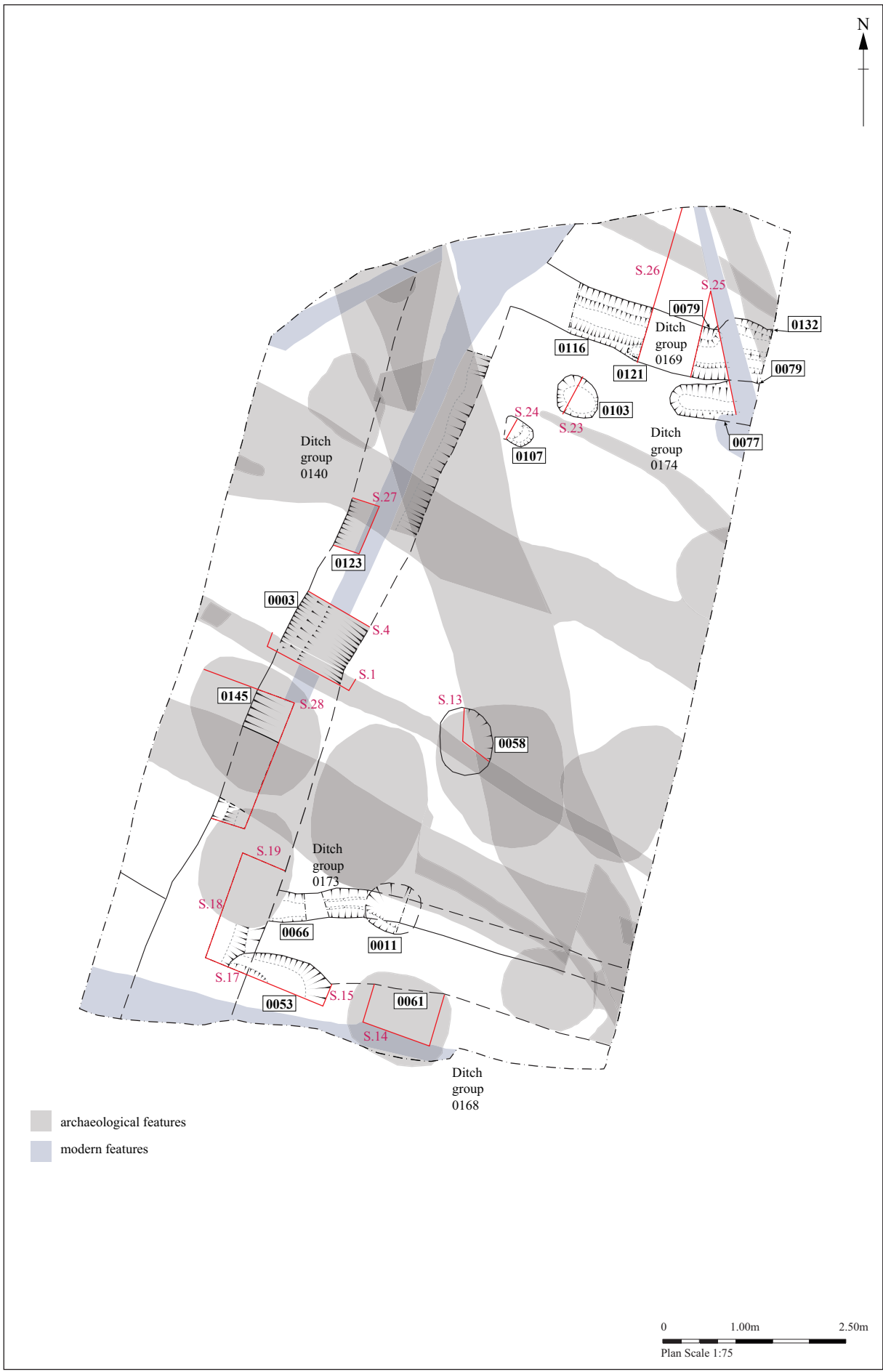


Figure 6. Phase 5 late 3rd-4th century features

4.7 Phase 6 – late 4th-5th/6th century

Introduction

Two ditches and a ditch/slot were recorded in this phase, which marks either the end of the Roman occupation, or the Early Anglo-Saxon period. There is potential for these features to be Early Anglo-Saxon, having accumulated higher proportions of Roman finds as there is often a lower recovery rate of artefacts of Saxon provenance. The features were all aligned WNW to ESE and recorded as 0128, 0142 and 0165. The two larger ditches were recorded as DGs 0128 and 0142, whilst DG/slot 0165 ran between them. Each of these features cut any other ditches or pits that they encountered and the alignment of all three DGs differed slightly from the earlier phases.

Ditch groups 0128, 0142 and slot group 0165

DG 0128 was excavated in cuts 0007, 0019 and 0075 and had 45°-75° sloping concave to convex edges, with a flat/irregular to concave base, measuring up to 1m wide x >0.3m-0.6m deep. Finds collected from rapid excavation of the feature were recorded as 0072, 0127 and 0162. The fills (0008, 0032 and 0076) were a mixture of yellowish-brown, greyish-brownish-orange and dark brownish-grey silty-sand with occasional stones and chalk flecks. In total eight sherds (57g) of Roman pottery were collected from the ditch, alongside six sherds of mid 2nd century to late 3rd/4th century pottery (97g) and four sherds (28g) of Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon pottery, with five sherds of prehistoric or Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (72g). Other finds include a piece of puddingstone, probably from a Roman quern, as well as a piece of ceramic building material (CBM), four pieces of animal bone, one worked flint and one heated flint.

DG 0142 was excavated in cuts 0033, 0034, 0038 and 0125, measured >0.35m to 0.8m wide x 0.12m to 0.5m deep and contained one to two fills in each cut, with the upper fill recorded as dark brown-grey silty-sand and the basal fills as striated lenses of yellowish-grey, orange and pale grey silty-sand. Pottery from the ditch group consisted of one sherd of Iron Age pottery (8g) and one sherd of prehistoric or Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (4g), eleven sherds of Roman pottery (104g) and thirteen sherds of mid 2nd-late 3rd/4th century pottery (554g). Ten pieces of animal bone and one worked flint were also recovered.

Ditch group/slot 0165 formed a distinct and smaller cut from ditch groups 0128 and 0142, although its alignment and position within the stratigraphy suggests that they are associated. This feature may mark an earlier or later sub-phase of Phase 6, hence mirroring the alignments of the DGs 0128 and 0142. The cut had near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring between 0.28m and 0.35m x 0.18m-0.3m deep, and was recorded in cuts 0005, 0047, 0056 and 0100, with mid to dark grey/black and dark brownish-grey silty-sand fills, with occasional chalk flecks and small stones. This feature's distinct cut was interpreted as indicating a structural purpose, perhaps a beam slot, although no other structural features were recorded in this phase. The ditch was approximately 95% excavated, but only produced six sherds (30g) of Roman pottery and one sherd (181g) of mid 2nd century+ pottery. Three pieces of animal bone, two pieces of fired clay and heated flint were also excavated. Sample 2 from cut 0100, fill 0101 contained wheat, amphibian bones and small bird and/or mammal bones. The fill in this ditch/slot was distinctly dark and as such it clearly cut any other features that it encountered.



Plate 7. Cut 0100 of slot 0165, with windblown sand and rabbit burrows in section (1m scale, facing west-north-west)

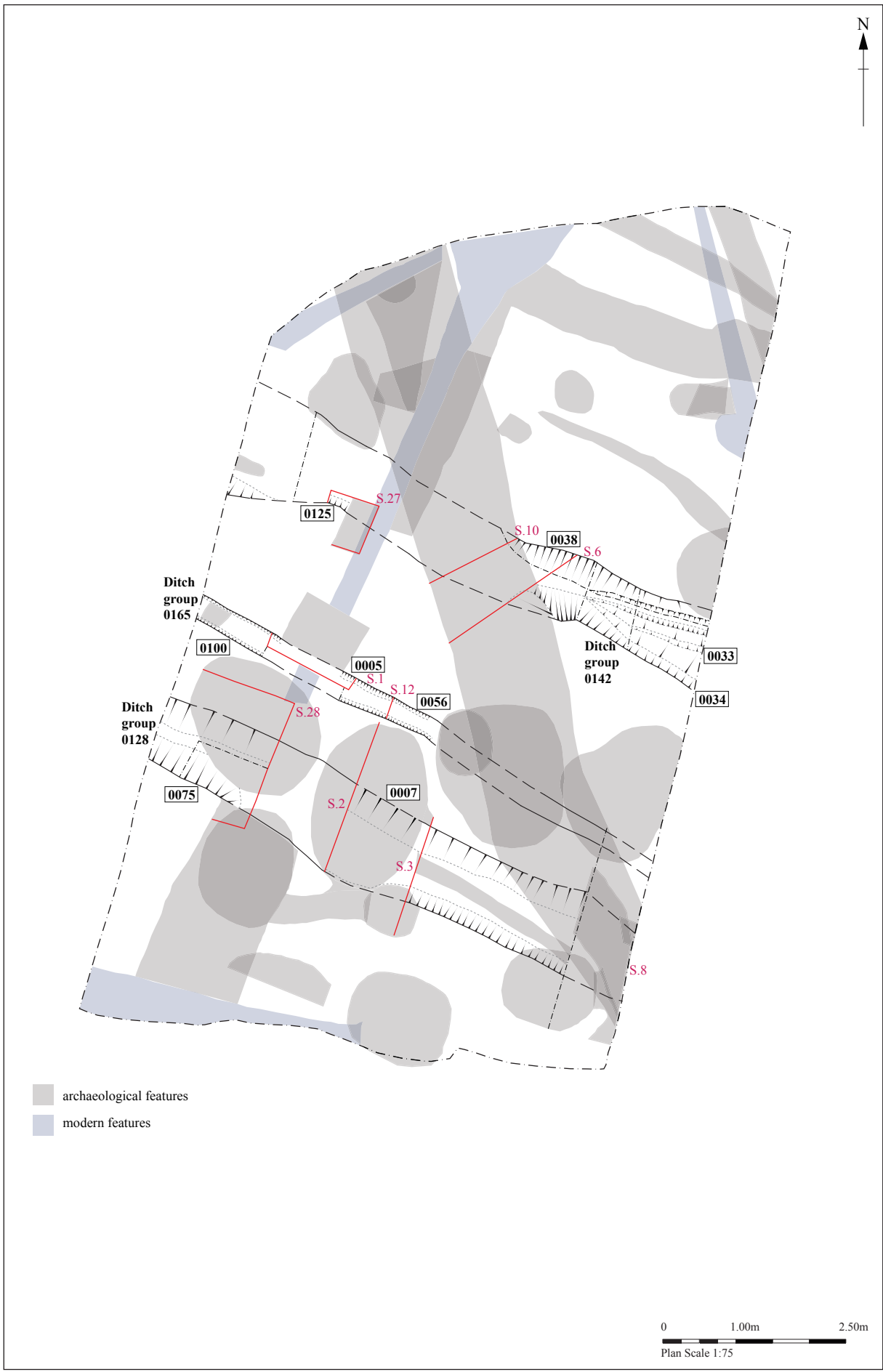


Figure 7. Phase 6 late 4th-early 5th century features

4.8 Phase 7 – Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon and later

Layer 0001 (0041/0092/0164) and windblown sand 0176

Overlying the whole site was a deposit of dark brownish-grey silty-sand, with occasional chalk flecks that was recorded under several numbers and appeared to be similar to the humic buried soil layers recorded on ERL 225. The layer was 0.15m to 0.3m+ thick and it was often mixed with, and impossible to distinguish from the upper fills of features. In fact, layer 0001 appeared in some cases to form the uppermost fill of the cuts, having infilled/slumped into the remaining depressions that they left. It was interpreted on site as an occupation soil formed partially during the Roman occupation, although its depth and the finds retrieved suggested that it still continued to build up after this point. It was clear that the material was heavily disturbed by rabbit warrens, which had also penetrated through to the underlying features. Where recorded as layer 0001, twenty-seven sherds of Roman pottery (287g), one sherd of late 1st to mid 2nd century pottery (12g), fifteen sherds of mid 2nd century+ and 2nd-3rd century pottery (735g), seven sherds of late 3rd-4th century pottery (131g), thirteen sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (140g) and one sherd of Middle Saxon pottery (14g) were collected. Other material from this layer included a radiate coin, dated to AD 271-274 from 0164 (SF 1006) and two pieces of animal bone from 0041.

Overlying layer 0001 was a deposit of pale orangish-brown windblown sand with occasional small stones, recorded as 0176. It was unclear exactly when this deposit had formed, although it obviously post-dated the late Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon formation of layer 0001. There were frequent rabbit warrens dug throughout the layer, but various measurements placed it as varying from 0.02m to c.0.3m deep. No finds were retrieved from the material, which appeared to be largely sterile. This layer has been recorded elsewhere on the airbase and more widely, being a known Breckland phenomenon, resulting from environmental degradation, probably due to overgrazing of the area by livestock.

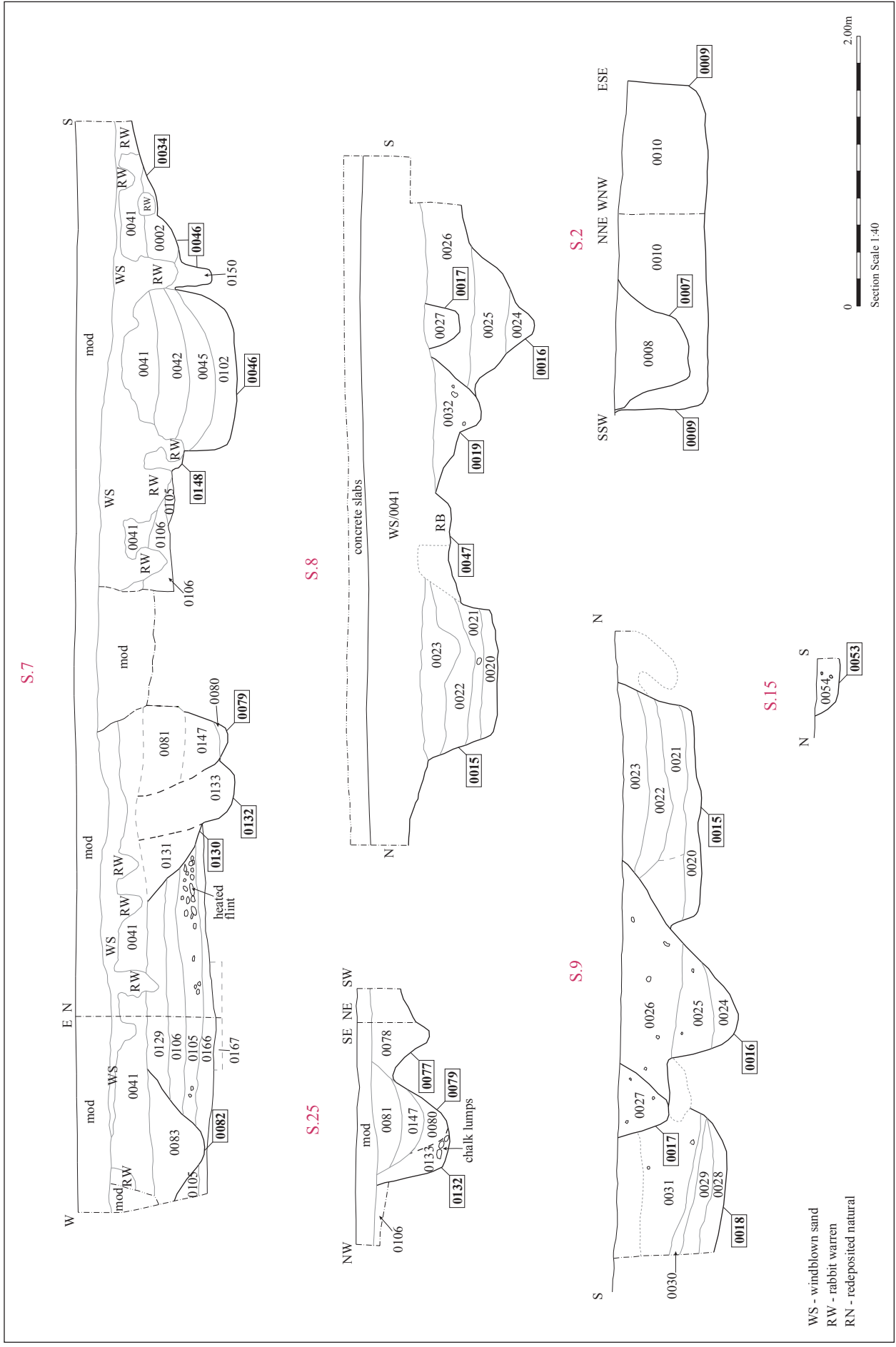


Figure 8. Selected sections

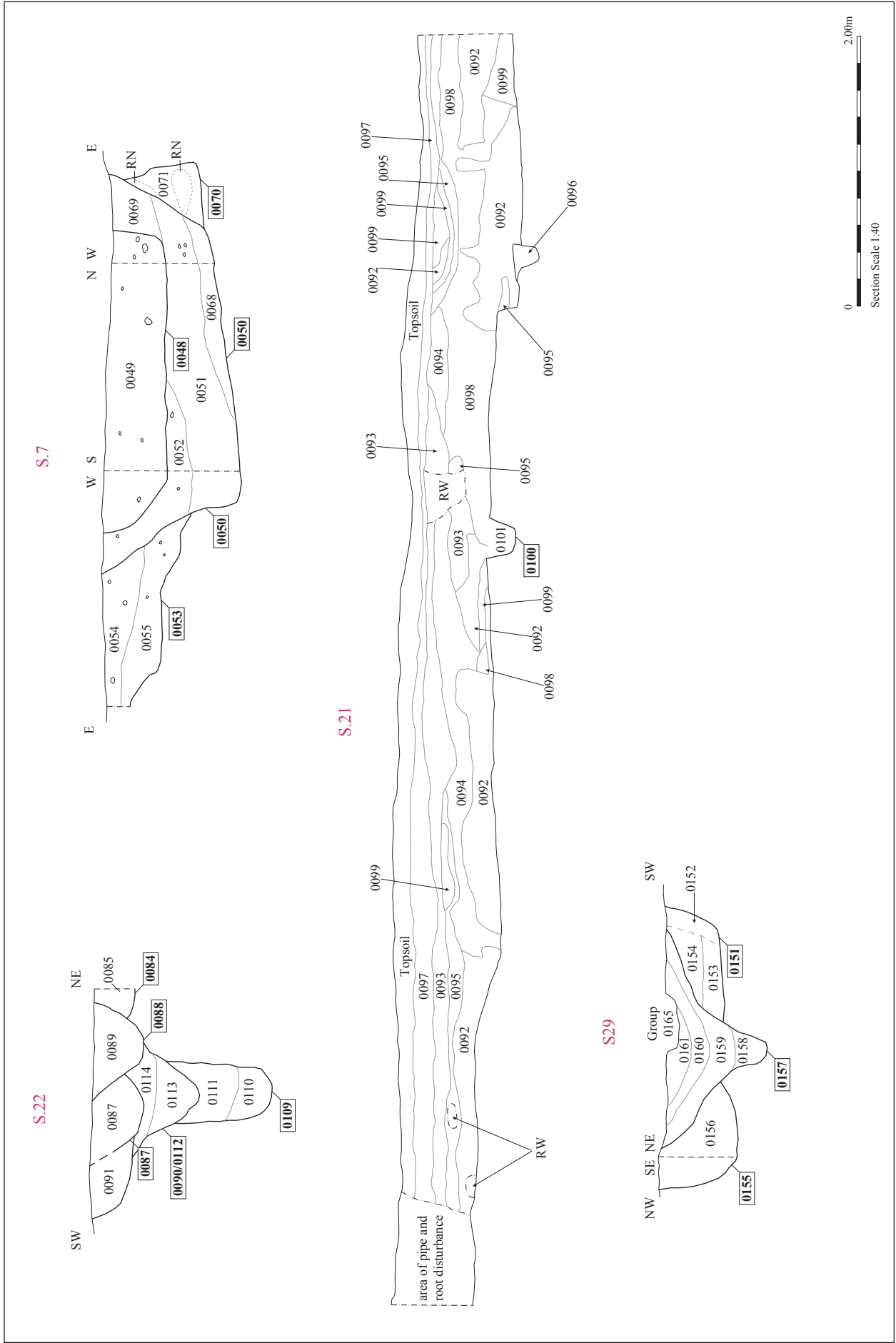


Figure 9. Selected sections

5. The finds and environmental evidence

Stephen Benfield

5.1 Introduction

Bulk finds of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon date were recovered during the excavation. The types and quantities of the bulk finds are listed in Table 1. In addition there are a small number of metal finds consisting of coins which were recorded individually as small finds (SF) and a few iron objects (other than nails) which are reported separately. The quantities of finds are listed by context in Appendix 5.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	351	6114
Ceramic building material (CBM)	4	477
Fired clay	6	22
Flint	46	898
Heat-altered (burnt) stone	111	2643
Slag	1	74
Animal bone	423	6500
Oyster shell	2	17

Table 1. Bulk finds

5.2 Pottery

Stephen Benfield with Cathy Tester

Introduction

Pottery of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date was recovered from the excavation. All of the quantification was undertaken by Cathy Tester. The pottery is listed and described by context in Appendix 6.

It should be noted that among the assemblage are sherds of both hand-made prehistoric and hand-made Saxon pottery. The fabrics and techniques used in the manufacture of some of the pottery in these two periods produces very similar results making the definite identification of plain body sherds as either prehistoric or Saxon very uncertain. Where small quantities of pottery are associated with features and are the only dating evidence, this makes dating difficult. However, only a few of the handmade sherds were not confidently dated.

Prehistoric pottery

A small quantity of prehistoric pottery was recovered. In total this amounts to six sherds with a combined weight of 57g. The fabric quantities are listed in Table 2.

Fabric name	Fabric	No.	Wt/g
Hand-made Flint-tempered	HMF	4	45
Hand-made (probably prehistoric)	HM	2	12
Total		6	57

Table 2. Prehistoric pottery by fabric

The pottery identified as prehistoric consists of small sherds recovered as single finds from six contexts (0002, 0042, 0049, 0085, 0114 and 0154). Most of the sherds can be shown to be residual as they are associated with later dated finds, although contexts 0114 and 0154 contained no closely dated later finds.

The dating of the pottery relies on the fabrics and two diagnostic rim sherds decorated with finger-tip impressions. Four of the sherds are flint-tempered; the other two are not closely defined other than as hand-made (HM), but can be broadly classified as sand-tempered. However, the presence of hand-made Saxon pottery from the site makes the close identification and dating of these two sherds somewhat uncertain (see Saxon Pottery below).

The body sherds of flint-tempered pottery are not easily closely dated within the prehistoric period, but the flint-tempered pottery includes two decorated rim sherds (0002 and 0085) which date to the Iron Age (c.8th century -1st century BC). Overall, the more closely dated sherds, including sand-tempered sherds of probable later Iron Age date, suggests the prehistoric pottery can be seen as a small assemblage dating to the Iron Age or which is primarily of Iron Age date.

Roman pottery

Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 270 sherds of Roman pottery with a combined weight of 5,407g and EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) of 10.18. The pottery was recorded following the Suffolk (Pakenham) Roman pottery fabric and form series

(unpublished). Where appropriate and for ease of reference Cam (Camulodunum) form numbers (Hawkes and Hull 1947, and Hull 1958) have been used in the text with the Suffolk number given in brackets following. Horningsea pot forms refer to Evans (1991). The fabric quantities are listed in Table 3.

Fabric name	Fabric	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt	EVE
Regional fine wares						
West Stow fine reduced wares	WSF	5	1.8	86	1.6	
Local and regionally traded coarsewares						
Black-surface wares	BSW	31	11.5	267	4.9	0.34
Miscellaneous buff wares	BUF	1	0.4	16	0.3	
Grey micaceous wares (black surfaced)	GMB	17	6.2	203	3.7	0.14
Grey micaceous wares (grey surfaced)	GMG	20	7.4	168	3.1	0.29
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	60	22.2	482	8.9	0.78
Horningsea grey wares	HOG	101	37.4	3391	62.7	8.10
Horningsea grey wares (black surface)	HOGB	4	1.5	250	4.6	
Nene Valley white ware mortaria	NVWM	1	0.4	48	0.8	0.05
Miscellaneous red coarse wares	RX	1	0.4	18	0.3	
Sub total		236	87.4	4843	89.3	9.7
Late Roman regional specialist wares						
Hadham red wares	HAX	6	2.2	86	1.6	
Late shell-tempered ware	LSH	14	5.2	97	1.8	
Oxford red colour-coated wares	OXRC	1	0.4	5	0.1	
Nene Valley colour-coated wares	NVC	8	2.9	290	5.3	0.48
Sub total		29	10.7	478	8.8	
Total		270	99.9	5407	99.7	10.18

Table 3. Roman pottery by fabric

Discussion

The majority of the assemblage dates to the mid Roman and late Roman period. All of the pottery consists of sherds from vessels of local and regional production. Apart from a small sherd from West Stow (WSF) there are no recognised finewares dating before the mid-late 3rd century and there is no imported pottery among the assemblage.

However, while possibly representing pottery in use in this area of the site, the moderate size of the assemblage should be born in mind in relation to the wider Roman supply to the area which might include a wider range of pottery.

The earliest closely dated pottery is current during the period of the late 1st-mid 2nd century. There are several sherds from beakers of form Cam 122-123 (3.8) decorated with barbotine dot panels (GMG and GX) which date to this period. Also a sherd of West Stow fine ware (WSF) can be dated to mid/late 1st-mid 2nd century.

A significant proportion of the pottery which can be dated to the mid Roman period (2nd-3rd century) consists of sherds from storage jars/large storage jars which are products of the Horningsea industry, located 8km to the north-east of Cambridge (Evans, 1991). Recorded form types are the large jar Evans form 1 and medium jars form 26-29. The two Horningsea fabrics (HOG and HOGB) make up approximately 39% of the total Roman assemblage by sherd count, 67% by weight and 79% by EVE; almost all being Fabric HOG. The nature of the relatively large pots in this fabric means that they can easily appear a more significant part of an assemblage by weight than other, smaller pots. However, the sherd numbers and EVE recorded indicate that these storage jars have a significant presence in the assemblage and a number of pots appear to be represented.

Other pottery which can be closely dated to the mid Roman period includes bead rim bowls of form Cam 37 (6.19) in Black-surface wares (BSW) and Grey coarsewares (GX). These two fabrics form a significant proportion of the pottery, but with the Grey coarsewares almost twice as common as the Black-surface wares. It is likely that some of the micaceous coarsewares (GMB and GMG), most strongly associated with the pottery industry centred on Wattisfield (Suffolk), also belong to this period.

Pottery products from the late Roman industries make up between approximately 11% (sherd count) and 9% (weight) of the whole assemblage. These can be sourced (by fabric) to the Nene Valley (Cambridgeshire), Hadham (Hertfordshire) and Oxford kilns. Of these the relatively more local (Nene Valley and Hadham) appear more significant in terms of supply. The potential dominance of local supply might be reinforced by the Late shell-tempered wares (LSH) which probably originate in the Bedfordshire area and which make up a significant proportion of the late Roman wares. Forms identified in late Roman wares are the flanged bowl Cam 305 (6.17) and Dr 38 (type) bowl, also the Nene Valley jar form 75 (Howe et al 1980) (all NVC) and Cam 39 (6.19) (HAX). The Nene Valley wares (NVC) might date from the mid 3rd century onwards, but most of the Late Roman pottery can be broadly dated to the late 3rd-4th century and the Oxford red colour-coated ware (OXRC) is likely to date to after the mid 4th century.

Some of the coarseware pottery is likely to date to the late Roman period, although the only late vessel form identified in coarseware is Cam 305 (6.17) (GMB) which is current in the late 3rd-4th century.

Saxon pottery

In total there are seventy-five sherds of Saxon pottery with a combined weight of 650g. Most of this consists of hand-made wares, with one sherd of (Gritty) Ipswich ware. The fabric quantities are listed in Table 4.

Fabric name	Fabric	No.	Wt/g
Hand-made (Saxon)	HM	70	586
Hand-made sand-tempered	HMS	1	18
Hand-made sand/organic-temper	HMSO	3	32
Gritty Ipswich ware	GIPS	1	14
Total		75	650

Table 4. Saxon pottery by fabric

Discussion

Most of the hand-made pottery (HM) lacks any significant organic-temper and can probably be described as sand-tempered (HMS); although only one sherd is recorded as such. Overall this type of pottery can be broadly dated to the period of the 5th-7th century (CAR 7, 24-29). The hand-made pottery with organic-temper (HMSO) may have a slightly later currency and organic-tempered pottery is known to overlap with Middle Saxon Ipswich wares, dated to the period c.AD 720-850 (Blinkhorn, 2012, 8). There is one sherd of Gritty Ipswich ware (GIPS) from the site (0001).

Sherds of hand-made pottery identified as Early-Middle Saxon come from several contexts (0001, 0008, 0022, 0026, 0030, 0059, 0062, 0065, 0072), while a small number of other sherds are considered possibly to be Saxon rather than prehistoric (0076, 0087, 0119 and 0141). While the Early-Middle Saxon pottery is not closely dated within that broad date range, the single Ipswich ware sherd suggests that activity in the Saxon period extended until at least the early-mid 8th century.

5.3 Flint

Sarah Bates

Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an ACCESS database table. The material was classified by category and type (see archive) with numbers of

pieces and numbers of complete, corticated and patinated pieces being recorded and other technological or typological characteristics and condition being recorded or commented upon. The flint and archive are curated by Suffolk Archaeology CIC.

The assemblage

Forty-one pieces of struck or shattered flint were recovered from the site. The material is summarised by type in Table 5 and listed by context in Appendix 7 with a full catalogue included as part of the archive. The flint is mid to (mostly) very dark grey (almost black). Cortex, where present, is mostly cream or dirty cream-coloured and of varying thicknesses. A few pieces have previously weathered or patinated surfaces.

Type	Number
Core fragment	1
Tested piece	1
Struck fragment	3
Shatter	2
Hammerstone	2
Flake	13
Blade-like flake	2
Spall	3
Chip	1
Retouched flake/scrapper	1
Retouched blade	2
Retouched flake	2
Retouched fragment	2
Utilised flake	4
Utilised blade	1
Building fragment	1
Total	41

Table 5. Flint by type

A thick fragment from layer 0001 has one scar from flake removals partly surviving on one surface which is patinated bluish white and is slightly abraded and glossy. The patina suggests a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date is likely and the position of some cortex on another surface suggests the fragment is from a core rather than a flaked tool. Another fragment, from the same layer (occupation soil 0001), has part of an irregular platform edge and is from a core or tested fragment. Its hard hammer struck nature and sharp unpatinated condition suggest a later prehistoric date is likely. Three irregular struck fragments and two quite small shattered fragments are also present.

Two hammerstones were found. There is part of a probably sub-spherical quite small hammerstone from the fill 0062 of pit 0060 which is battered and pitted over most of its

surviving original surface fill. There are two or three flake scars which might represent its former use as a core but may have resulted during its use as a hammer. Another slightly larger and more irregular hammerstone from the top fill 0161 of ditch 0157 also has battered and pitted surfaces most of which are cortical.

Thirteen unmodified flakes are present. These are mostly small and irregular in nature and almost all of them are sharp and unpatinated. One small relatively neat regular flake from fill 0022 of pit 0015 is hard hammer struck but has possible slight abrasion of its platform edge which suggests attention to the core during knapping. There is no other clear evidence for the preparation of the platforms of the cores from which the flakes were struck. One very small possible flake from fill 0124 of ditch 0123 is heavily patinated and abraded but it may be of thermal origin. Two flakes are classified as 'blade-like' (0043 (unstratified) and fill 0044 of ditch 0035). Both of them are long flakes but with some dorsal flake scars from other directions. They probably came from flake cores of regular nature rather than representing deliberate blade production. Three spalls and a small chip are also present.

One thick flake from fill 0120 of ditch 0016 has its broken distal part crudely retouched, its right side is cortical and this acted as backing for the left edge which is slightly utilised. The piece was used as a combination scraper/cutting tool.

A small quite neat blade from fill 0089 of Roman ditch/gully 0088 is slightly retouched along one side and has slight platform edge abrasion. Another retouched small blade-like piece from fill 0030 of pit 0018 is more irregular in nature. A small blade-like flake from the top fill 0161 of ditch 0157 which has slight platform edge abrasion is utilised along one lateral edge. Other modified pieces are almost all irregular and slightly retouched or utilised flakes. Two small fragments of likely thermal origin are also retouched (from layer 0001, and fill 0026 of ditch 0016).

One fragment of flint also from layer 0001 appears to have mortar adhering to a surface and is probably a building fragment.

Flint by context

A single very small undiagnostic flake was found in the fill of pit 0151 which contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery.

Almost all of the flint was found in excavated features or in layer 0001, which also contained pottery of Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon date, or in ditches which probably dated to the same periods.

Discussion

Most of the flint was found residually in deposits which dated to the Roman or later period. The material represents activity well known to have occurred in the vicinity during the prehistoric period.

There are very few closely dateable pieces from the present site; a fragment from a probable core seems likely to be of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date and one or two small blade type pieces might also date to that period. Most of the flint, however, is unpatinated, quite sharp and of a hard hammer struck irregular nature which is likely to be of later Neolithic or later date.

The material can be compared to that from other sites in the vicinity (Bates, in prep) – particularly from ERL 225 where some flint of similar nature was recovered (much of it also from Roman contexts although later Bronze Age deposits also existed there - Tester, 2013). It is noted that the material from ERL 225 included several pieces which were more clearly of earlier Neolithic or earlier date, and material of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date has been recovered from several other sites in the vicinity of Caudle Head Mere (Bates, in prep.). There seems to be a relative lack of earlier flint from the present site.

5.4 Heat-altered stone

In total 111 pieces of heat-altered (burnt) stone with a combined weight of 2,643g were recovered during the excavation. Most is recorded as burnt flint but heat-altered stones were present in fill 0025 of ditch 0016, 0139 (ditch group 0140) and fill 0141 of later Roman ditch 0142. Almost all of the burnt flint came from one layer (0105) from which

ninety-three pieces weighing 1,105g were recovered by hand excavation and a further 1,335g was recovered during processing bulk samples, making a total weight of 2,440g. This is the only clearly significant concentration of this material from the excavation. There is a small group of six pieces from one other context (0102) but these are small with a combined weight of just 20g. Pieces from other contexts were recovered as single finds.

While stones may be incidentally altered by heat associated with fires and ovens, quantities of heat-altered stones (commonly flint) are usually associated with prehistoric (Neolithic-Iron Age) activity and occupation. The stones would have been used as an indirect method of the transfer of heat (from a fire) to water, usually assumed to be associated with cooking (pot-boiler stones) which appears likely in many instances; but possibly also for brewing or even for sweat-lodges which have both been proposed as possibilities where there are very large concentrations of burnt stones.

The large concentration of burnt flints in the early buried soil layer 0105 suggests very strongly that these are of prehistoric date and although they cannot be closely dated, this indicates a period of occupation on the site during the later prehistoric period.

5.5 Quernstone

There are two pieces of quernstone and one small piece of conglomerate stone, which probably derives from a quern.

The two definite quernstone fragments are both in a coarse sandstone, probably Millstone grit from the Pennine hills and are from a rotary quern(s) (from fill 0012 of pit 0011 and fill 0054 of ditch 0053). Both can be dated to the Roman period. One of the pieces (0012) was recorded as a small find (SF 1001). This fragment has a band of closely spaced, concentric radial grooves set just back from the edge on the upper surface. Similar tooling can be seen on Roman querns/millstones from Orton Hall Farm (Mackreth, 1996, fig. 79). The very low curvature on the surviving section of the external edge, while not easily measurable in terms of the stone diameter, suggests a large stone, possibly larger than for a simple hand rotated or oscillated quern. The trade in flat Millstone grit querns appears to have begun during the 2nd century and they were traded in large numbers during the later Roman period (Buckley, 2014).

(0012) SF 1001 Piece from the edge of the upper stone of a coarse sandstone (millstone grit) rotary quern. Abraded vertical tooling on the edge face and three closely spaced, concentric radial grooves set back from the edge on the upper surface. Damaged grinding surface, Weight 677g, thickness 40mm. Roman.

(0054) Abraded piece from the centre of the upper stone of a coarse sandstone (Millstone grit) rotary quern. Part of central opening surviving, grinding surface worn smooth. Weight 490g, thickness 30-33mm. Roman.

The small piece of puddingstone from fill 0080 of ditch 0079 was recovered during processing of a bulk sample (Sample 5). Assuming it derives from a quern it probably dates to the Late Iron Age-early Roman period of the early 1st century-mid 2nd century (Major, 2004).

(0080) Small (8g), irregular piece of Puddingstone (conglomerate), no worked surfaces, probably broken from a quern of Late Iron Age-early Roman date (c. early 1st century-mid 2nd century AD).

5.6 Other finds

A number of finds types (CBM, fired clay, and oyster shell) were recovered in very small quantities. These are discussed below.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

A total of four small pieces of CBM were recorded, recovered from three contexts (layer 0001, fill 0027 of ditch 0017 and 0127, finds recovered from DG 0128). The total weight is 475g. All are in red sandy fabrics. Two fragments from 0001 appear to be Roman.

One piece (176g) is associated with a small quantity of finds dated to the Roman period (0127) but its appearance suggests that it might also be part of an early post-medieval brick. The fragment from 0027 also appears to be medieval or post-medieval as there are traces of a glaze on the surface.

Fired clay

There are three small pieces of fired clay (total weight 14g) which were recovered from two contexts (fill 0059 of pit 0058 and ditch 0168). All are undiagnostic irregular pieces in sandy buff and red fabrics.

Slag

A single small piece of porous, grey coloured slag (74g) was recovered from fill 0025 of ditch 0016. The piece suggests it is the product of a light industrial process, but is otherwise not closely identified.

Shell

Single pieces of oyster shell were recovered from fill 0059 of pit 0058 and fill 0081 of ditch 0079.

5.7 Small finds and metal objects

Introduction

A small number of metal objects were recorded individually as small finds (SF). These consist of three Roman, 3rd century copper alloy coins, and two iron objects. Three nails were identified amongst the bulk material.

Coins

Identifications by Andrew Brown

Three Roman copper alloy coins were recovered from the excavation. All are radiates dating to the period of the late 3rd century. Two come from fill 0065 of ditch 0061 and the other is from layer 0164.

SF 1004 (0065) Ae radiate, possibly Victorinus or Tetricus I (contemporary copy?), Obv. Illegible / Radiate and draped bust right, Rev. Illegible / Victory left holding wreath and palm? Dated AD 269-274 (Reece period 13).

SF 1005 (0065) Ae radiate, barbarous copy, Obv.]III[/ Radiate and draped(?) bust right, Rev.]INO / Female figure standing left, uncertain object (crescent) in left hand. Dated AD 275-285 (Reece period 14).

SF1006 (0164) Ae radiate of Tetricus I, Obv.]TRICVS[/ Radiate and draped bust right, Rev. Illegible / Uncertain standing (female?) figure left. Dated AD 271-274 (Reece period 13).

Metal objects

A small iron nail from fill 0101 of ditch 0100 appears probably to be a Roman hobnail.

SF 1007 (0101) (recovered from Bulk Sample 2) Iron nail (1.6g). Small, with a pyramidal head, tip (point) of the shaft missing. Overall length 17mm. Probably a hobnail. Recovered from Sample 2. Dated Roman.

In addition two iron construction nails were recovered during the excavation. One (5g) was found in fill 0108 of a possible beam slot 0107, the other (12g) was from ditch 0168. A bent shaft piece which is also probably a nail was recovered during processing of a bulk sample (Sample 2) from fill 0059 of pit 0058.

The other iron object is a pintle (hinge pivot) which was recovered from the fill 0014 of ditch 0013. This was the only artefact recovered from the ditch.

SF 1002 (0014) Iron pintle (hinge pivot). Rectangular, tapering, pointed body (spike), bent round at a right angle at the pointed end (length 170mm). Other end, rounded (solid) shaft (upper part broken/corroded away) set at a right-angle to the spike (height 70mm). Some limited corrosion to the spike, rounded shaft/bar quite corroded.

Pintles (hinge pivots) appear to be common in the medieval period and later rather than the Roman period. This object is possibly post-medieval or modern.

5.8 Faunal remains

Laszlo Lichtenstein

Introduction

A total of 423 animal bone elements and fragments was collected from a range of features and occupation layers during the excavation, weighing 6.500kg. The bone was mainly hand-collected but some were recovered from sieved environmental samples.

The report is presented by overall view of the site due to the mixed dating evidence of the features. An abbreviated catalogue of the animal bone assemblage in context order is shown in Appendix 9, and the full catalogue is available on an MS Excel spreadsheet in the archive. A list of abbreviations used in the Appendix is included.

Method

Following cleaning and drying, all fragments of animal bone were recorded. All fragments from the contexts were analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods following guidelines set out by English Heritage (2014). The total number of individual species elements (NISP) is 423.

The animal bone was identified using comparative material from other Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service sites and the author's vertebrate reference collection, along with further guidelines from Sisson and Grossman (1953), Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Fehér (1990) and Hillson (1992). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, the criteria set out by Boessneck (1969) was used to separate the two species. They were otherwise classified as sheep/goat. Ageing data, epiphyseal fusion and tooth wear evidence were categorised according to Bull and Payne (1982), Grant (1982), Hillson (2005) Schmid (1972) and Silver (1969), with the identification of juveniles after Schmid (1972) and Amorosi (1989).

All the animal remains were counted and weighed and, where possible, identified to species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, zone, fusion, cut/animal teeth marks, age and sex.

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large terrestrial mammal: cow, horse, large deer sized; medium terrestrial mammal: sheep/goat, pig, small deer sized; small terrestrial mammal: dog, fox, hare sized; very small terrestrial mammal: mouse, vole sized). The presence of large-very small vertebrae and ribs were recorded for each context, although, aside the first two cervical vertebrae, these were not counted or identified to species. Measurements were taken according to von den Driesch (1976), using digital callipers with an accuracy of 0.01 mm.

For the calculation of the number of identified fragments of animals per species (NISP), all identifiable fragments were counted. The weight of bone fragments has been recorded in order to give an idea of their size, and to facilitate an alternative means of quantification.

All teeth and a restricted suite of parts of the postcranial skeleton were recorded and used in counts. All bone fragments were recorded. Percentages in brackets refer to fragment count totals rather than weights.

Results

The main part of the assemblage was recovered from intercutting features, mainly ditches with generally mixed dating evidence from the prehistoric to the Early Anglo-Saxon period (Table 6).

Finds spot date	Feature type (weights in grammes)					Total weight (g)
	Ditches	Pits	Posthole	Layer	Finds group	
Prehistoric		435				435
Prehistoric/Mid 2nd c-L3rd-4th c	731					731
Prehistoric/Early Anglo-Saxon	26					26
Iron Age	302					302
Iron Age/Roman	18					18
Early Roman		81				81
Early Roman/ Roman	106					106
Late 1st- mid 2nd C	15	51				66
Mid 2nd C+	621				517	1138
Mid 2nd-Mid 3rd C	91					91
Mid 2nd C+, pre or Early Anglo-Saxon	68					68
Mid 2nd C+ (some M/L3rd C	12					12
Late 3rd/4th C	350					350
Mid 3rd/4th C + pre or Early Anglo-Saxon	95					95
Roman	735	15				750
Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon?	111	353				464
Early Anglo-Saxon?	421	11				432
?Undated	25	7		22		54
Undated	37	1	1		1242	1281
Total weight (g) by feature type	3764	954	1	22	1759	6500

Table 6. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by date, feature type and weight (including teeth) including undated contexts and finds

Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures, 266 specimens (62.9% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of the anatomy, representing six mammal species: Bos/cattle; Equus/horse; Sus/pig; Ovicaprid/sheep or goat;

Oryctolagus/rabbit and Mus/mouse species (Table 7). Avian, fish and amphibian species are also present in the assemblage.

Species/taxa	Count	Percentage
Bos taurus L. (Linne 1758)	137	32.4%
Equus caballus L. (Linne 1758)	20	4.7%
Sus scrofa domesticus B. (Brisson 1762)	8	1.9%
Ovis aries L. (Linne 1758)	10	2.3%
Ovicaprid	55	13.1%
Oryctolagus cuniculus	13	3.1%
Avian	3	0.8%
Mus	4	1.0%
Fish	3	0.8%
Herpetofauna	13	3.1%
Ltm	71	16.7%
Mtm	15	3.6%
Stm	11	2.2%
Vstm	5	1.2%
Indeterminate	55	13.1%
Total	423	100%

Table 7. Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count (including teeth)

Taphonomy

The bones were generally in good condition, the fragmentation was moderate (Table 8), with the majority (65.8%) being less than 50mm in size. Some of the bone surface was abraded and rooting was observed. The surface erosion exhibited by these bones suggests that they may have been exposed for some time before burial.

Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded, including gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones. More than 40 % showed signs of fresh breaks.

3.2% of the assemblage had been affected by butchery. Chopping marks and knife cuts were observed on cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone fragments from all periods as evidence of carcass dismemberment. Multiple chopping marks were seen on a cattle

mandible and sheep skull fragment (finds 0043). These bones are associated with Roman finds (mid 2nd C+). A cattle femur was consistently split to extract marrow (from ditch fill 0087 – mid 3rd/4th C + prehistoric or Early Anglo-Saxon).

The canid gnawing was of relatively low frequency (2.1% of the total NISP). Multiple tooth marks were noted on the main domesticated bone fragments from all periods.

Evidence of burning was only seen on five bone fragments, which is a very low frequency (1.1%) suggesting that this was not a preferred method of waste disposal. Evidence of burning was noted on large and small terrestrial mammal diaphysis fragments of long bone from the following contexts: fill 0045 of pit 0046 (Roman) and fill 0081 of ditch 0079 (Late 3rd/4th C).

Pathological conditions were found in four cases. Fill 0049 of ditch 0048 (Pre, mid 2nd C- L3rd/4th C) produced a pelvis fragment of cattle, suggesting signs of exostoses. Pathological changes were observed on cattle femurs – fill 0089 of ditch 0088 (early Roman, Roman) and on cattle metapodium bone – fill 0026 of ditch 0016 (Early Anglo-Saxon). A horse phalanx also showed signs of exostoses – fill 0120 of ditch 0116 (Roman).

Only one complete long bone was recorded (layer 0001) because the proximal and the distal ends were damaged but some measurements were taken. No evidence for bone-working was noted.

Size (mm)	Count	Percentage
<20	159	40.5%
20-50	132	33.8%
50-100	70	17.9%
100-150	22	5.6%
150-200	2	0.5%
200-250	3	0.7%
250-300	4	1.0%
Total	392	100%

Table 8. Size of the animal bone assemblage (excluding teeth)

Ageing and sex

Ageing data was available from tooth wear evidence and bone fusion (Table 9).

A horse mandible with worn down molars indicated a 13-15 years old adult/mature beast in 0043 (unstratified finds, mid 2nd C+). Due to the missing permanent canine this horse was identified as a female. Tooth wear evidence of a cattle mandible, (fill 0049 of ditch 0048, Prehistoric/Mid 2nd C-L3rd-4th c) indicates an adult animal of at least 3 years old. Tooth wear evidence from a sheep/goat mandible was indicative of a 1-2 years old adult individual in ditch 0139 of ditch 0140 (Mid 2nd C+). Fill 0059 of pit 0058 (Early Anglo-Saxon) produced a non-fused sheep/goat humerus. These bones indicate a new born individual.

Context	Feature type	Species	Years	Sex	Date
0043	finds	horse	Adult/mature 13-15 years	Female	Mid 2nd C+
0049	ditch	cattle	Adult (MWS F, >36 months)	-	Prehistoric/Mid 2nd c-L3rd-4th c
0058	pit	sheep/goat	neonatal	-	Early Anglo-Saxon?
0139	Ditch finds	sheep/goat	Adult (MWS D, 1-2 years)	-	Mid 2nd C+

Table 9. The ageing data after the tooth wear evidence and eruption by feature type and date

Fill 0026 of ditch 0016 contained a measurable cattle metatarsus (GL: 193.5mm, Bp: 43.9mm, Bp/GL*100:22.69). Using Nobis's index, it was found to be a cow, with an estimated shoulder height of c. 103.2 cm. This individual was a small-sized beast.

Context 0001 contained a measurable horse metacarpus (GL: 241mm). Using Kiesewalter's index the estimated shoulder height is c.151.76 cm. This individual was a medium/medium-large size beast. Unfortunately this context is not securely dated.

Discussion

The state of preservation for bone on site was generally good, whilst the fragmentation was moderate. 62.9% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (32.4%) and sheep/goat (15.4%); these were the most numerous taxon at the site from all period, followed by lower numbers of horse (4.7%) and pig (1.9%).

Cattle were the most important species in terms of food, represented by the much greater carcass weight in all periods in human history. There are anatomical similarities

between sheep and goat bones, however the ovicaprid remains almost certainly came from sheep. This species was mostly present on the settlement.

Cattle pathologies indicative of use of animals for traction include a pelvis fragment with exostoses (Bartosiewicz, et. al., 1997). This fragment, along with some worn down cattle teeth, was recovered from the same context (0049), probably representing one beast. This animal, presumably used for traction, lived to a very old age.

The horse teeth and bones were part of adult/mature animals. The horse bones from the later, possibly early medieval contexts were those of an adult individual. None of the horse bones have any evidence of butchery and it seems all of the horse bones were part of working animals which had reached maturity.

The presence of rabbit remains were 3.1% and avian bones 0.8%. A large proportion of the rabbit bones was recovered from the fill 0139 of pit 0140 (Mid 2nd C+). The high concentration of the delicate bones with no indication of butchery, burning or gnawing marks suggests that these were not a result of domestic waste disposal or eaten by dogs, cats or pig before being buried. Cut marks were absent from these bones. The rabbits are likely to be intrusive (the rabbit burrows to great depths) and these animals could be present as natural fatalities.

The body part concentrations of the herpetofauna and rodents are high (Table 7). The high proportion of their presence reflects the environmental sampling strategy of the site.

The presence of canid gnawing on the main domesticates bones was observed in a few cases. This suggests that they were left accessible to dogs before being buried. This is an indicator that dogs were present on the site despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage from this period (Table 7).

Conclusion

It is difficult to interpret the settlement's economy and animal husbandry practises due to the small scale of the archaeological excavation and the wide range of phases

represented on site (from the late prehistoric to the Saxon periods); however the results provide some insights into the domestic and economic activities at specific periods.

In the analysed faunal assemblage all parts of the main food animals (cattle, sheep, pig, and domestic fowl) were recovered, indicating that these animals were slaughtered, butchered and consumed by the population on the site in all phases. There is also evidence for the exploitation of wild game species (fish, and possibly wild fowl).

The majority of bone was recognised as a discarded food debris from stages of meat preparation and consumption such as butchering and domestic waste. This indicates that dietary requirements were met by a wide resource base, reliant on meat supplied by farmyard stock and with evidence of exploitation of wild faunal resources, which have been available in the land surrounding the site.

Abbreviations used in text:

Avian - Bird

LTM – Large terrestrial mammal

MTM – Medium terrestrial mammal

Mus - Mouse

STM – Small terrestrial mammal

VSTM – Very small terrestrial mammal

5.9 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

Introduction and methods

Seven bulk samples were taken from archaeological features during an excavation prior to the construction of a soakaway at Rochester Road. The samples were all processed in order to assess the preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/wash over and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are

noted on Table 10. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace, 1997).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry, the residues were also scanned with a hand held magnet in order to retrieve any magnetic material present. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded quantitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance:

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Table 10 shows a breakdown of the plant macrofossils present as well as small animal bones.

The preservation of the plant macrofossil present was through charring and is generally fair to poor. Some of the charred grains remained whole and were identifiable to species, but more commonly grains were friable, puffed and fragmented making identification difficult to impossible.

Modern contaminants in the form of fibrous rootlets were abundant within the flots and represent the majority of the material in many of them. A small number of modern seeds were also present.

Sample no.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context no.			0059	0101	0102	0105	0080	0144	0153
Cut no.			0058	0100	0046	-	0079	-	0151
Feature type			Pit	Gully	Pit	Layer	Ditch	Ditch	Pit
Sample volume (litres)			40	20	30	20	20	40	40
Volume of flot (ml)			50	100	50	5	50	50	20
Flot scanned			100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Species									
Cereals	Common name	Habitats							
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. Grain charred	Barley	Crop	#		#		##	++	#
<i>Triticum</i> sp. Grain charred	Wheat	Crop	#	#			#	+	+
<i>Cerealia</i> indet / <i>poaceae</i> fragments charred	Cereals	Crop	##		#		##	+	#
Glume bases	Cereals	Crop					#	++	
Spikelet forks	Cereals	Crop						+	
Rachis fragments	Cereals	Crop						#	
Tree/Shrub									
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L. (poss)	Blackthorn (poss.)	Hedge, scrub and woods				#			
<i>Betula</i> L.	Birch	Woods, mostly acid soils, heathland							
Weeds	Common name	Habitats							
<i>Polygonaceae</i> sp.	Knotweeds	Mostly acid grasslands and heathlands				#			
Other plant macrofossils									
Charcoal 0-5mm					++	++	++	+	+
Charcoal 5-10mm					+		+		+
Modern roots/seeds (contaminants)			+	+++	+	+			
Other remains									
Amphibian bones			++	+			+	++	
Small mammal and bird bone fragments?				+	+		+		++
Fish bones?								+	
Charred bone fragments					+			+	

Table 10. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Discussion

Small quantities of charred cereals were present in most of the samples and consisted mainly of Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), much of which looks hulled, and Wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Many of the grains are very friable and fragmentary, for most this is likely as a result of being exposed to high temperatures. Sample 5, fill 0080 from ditch 0079 (Phase 5 – late 3rd-4th century), contained glume base fragments and Sample 6 from ditch group 0144 (Phase 3 – mid 2nd-3rd century) contained glume base fragments, spikelet forks and rachis fragments; the rachis fragments appear to be from Barley. These chaff elements are indicative of the pounding stage of cereal processing. After threshing or storage, the cereals are roasted (or parched) and pounded in order to release the grains from their spikelet. It is likely that this activity took place within the vicinity and the waste chaff, which could also have been used as fuel in a domestic hearth or oven, was deliberately disposed of within the archaeological deposits. A single charred thorn most likely from a Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa* L.) was identified within the wood charcoal in Sample 3, fill 0102 from pit 0046 and may represent wood used for fuel.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the material from the samples was fair to poor in terms of identifiable material. The cereal grains recovered were charred and in most cases fragmented, but some remained on the whole identifiable to an archaeobotanist. All of the samples produced small quantities of wood charcoal but this was highly comminuted and on the whole of little value in terms of identification or radiocarbon dating. However charred cereal grains may be useful in this respect if they are present within any contexts that remain undated.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material, as on the whole they have little to offer to the results of the investigation other than the fact that cereal processing was taking place on site, most likely on a small domestic scale.

6. Finds and environmental evidence discussion

A small quantity of prehistoric finds (pottery and worked flints) was recovered as residual material in later dated features. Much of this material is not closely dated but it indicates limited activity possibly in the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, more certainly in the

later prehistoric period of the Late Neolithic-Bronze Age and in the Iron Age. The flint assemblage includes a few pieces which might date to the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic while the majority is relatively undiagnostic and is probably of Late Neolithic date or later (Bronze Age-Iron Age). The dating of some of the prehistoric pottery is complicated by the presence of hand-made Saxon pottery, which on occasion is difficult to separate from the prehistoric material. However, a number of the pottery sherds can be broadly dated to the Iron Age period. A deposit of heat-altered (burnt) flints in a layer probably also results from prehistoric activity on the site.

In terms of the finds recovered, the Roman material marks the most intense period of archaeological activity on the site. The quantity of material reflects Roman settlement on or adjacent to the site. The more closely dated pottery indicates that significant Roman activity here began toward the end of the 1st or early in the 2nd century and continued into the late Roman period, probably at least into the later 4th century. The majority of the pottery supply to the site appears to be heavily influenced by relatively local producers, notably the Horningsea kilns (just northeast of Cambridge). Imported and regional fine wares are not present among the assemblage until products from the late Roman industries begin to appear on the site from the mid-late 3rd century onwards, a time when these industries begin to come to the fore in regional pottery supply in Britain. While not closely dated other than as late 3rd-4th century, the presence of a piece of Oxford colour-coated ware could indicate that activity here can be dated well into the later 4th or early 5th century.

Although the pottery assemblage is not large, the absence of finewares and absence or low incidence of other Romanised vessel types (mortaria, flagons, amphorae) suggests a relatively modest Romano-British rather than a significantly Romanised occupation. There is also a general lack of metal small finds and the rate of coin loss is low, possibly reflecting usage. Just three late 3rd century copper alloy coins were recovered, two belonging to Reece Period 13 (when coin loss on many Roman sites in East Anglia is very high – Plouviez, 2004), and one to Period 14. It is noted that the distinction between these two periods in coin histograms is often unreliable (Plouviez, 2004, 83). Levels of ceramic building material are also low, suggesting that any buildings in the immediate area did not incorporate any great quantities of tiles or brick in their construction.

One piece of quernstone (almost certainly of Pennine Millstone grit) appears to be from a large stone; larger than a domestic hand quern and possibly indicating a specialist mill close by.

A significant amount of hand-made Saxon pottery broadly dating to the 5th-7th century is present among the finds assemblage. The quantity of pottery from the Saxon period is substantially less than that for the Roman, but given the lower quantity of circulating and surviving material culture from the Saxon period the quantity of pottery still indicates settlement on or close to the site. Potentially Early Anglo-Saxon pottery is present in contexts with late Roman (Hadham oxidised ware) pottery (0008 and 0072), although one context (0072) also contains a sherd of Middle Saxon gritty Ipswich ware. The presence of the Ipswich ware sherd indicates that the Saxon activity here extended into the early-mid 8th century.

There is little among the finds assemblage to indicate any significant activity on or around the site following the Middle Saxon period. However an iron pintle (hinge pivot) from ditch 0013 (0014) and which is the only find from this feature, appears likely to date to the medieval period or may be of post-medieval/modern date.

The finds assemblage reflects the location of the site in an area of intense multi-period archaeological activity, as seen in many other parts of the airbase. The mixed nature of many elements of the finds assemblages from the site are due to the complex stratigraphy of ditches and pits, and the resulting movement and redeposition of many of the finds. As a consequence evidence of activity dating from the prehistoric period through to the Middle Saxon period and possibly later is represented in the cultural material, but it is often mixed.

7. Discussion

Introduction

Excavation of the soak-away site has produced a well-stratified record of the Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation of this part of the airbase, and to a lesser extent of the prehistoric activity in the area as well. The early Roman occupation was somewhat limited, but shows a marked increase from the 2nd-3rd century onwards. It is clear that there was a level of disturbance across some of the site as a result of rabbit burrows,

but these were generally quite clearly defined as they tended to be filled with the relatively pale windblown sand deposits recorded across the site, and usually only affected the uppermost levels of any cut features. The effect on layer 0001 was more dramatic as it was higher up in the sequence, but again the burrows were very distinctive in comparison with this deposit.

Prehistory

The prehistoric evidence for the site is limited to a number of artefacts consisting of struck flints (some possibly Mesolithic or early Neolithic, while the remainder are later prehistoric), with some Iron Age pottery and probably associated heated flint. Material from these phases is known from various parts of the base. As such the finds from this site mainly serve to extend the known areas of prehistoric occupation. A radiocarbon date taken from a peat deposit from the ERL 225 site to the north indicated that this layer was forming in the Iron Age, suggesting that the area of this excavation was also wet during this period (if not enough so to encourage peat growth). Some earlier layers on the site were also interpreted as evidence that the site was wet during the prehistoric period and together this may explain the relatively low levels of pre-Roman material from the site. The presence of the heated flint marks perhaps the most distinctive activity on the site, especially as it was collected from one dense concentration and clearly indicates the presence of occupation in the locality.

Early Roman

The earliest phase of Roman activity, consisting of a cluster of pits is somewhat unusual and more typically recognised as an Iron Age behaviour, as seen at such sites locally as Liberty Village (ERL 147 – Craven, 2012). Although the dating evidence from the pits is limited and includes some possibly Early Anglo-Saxon pottery, the stratigraphy of the features clearly places them early in the sequence. It may also be that the well-known difficulty in differentiating Iron Age and Early Anglo-Saxon pottery has caused confusion with the material here as there is little evidence to suggest the pit fills were disturbed. There are also similarities in the fills to those of the Iron Age pit cluster recorded at Liberty Village, where the majority contained pale sands, whilst on some occasions pits contained multiple and darker fills. On that occasion this was taken to represent natural infilling, as well as purposeful infilling with redeposited material, respectively. However, it is also possible that the changes mark different sub-phases within this period of pit digging. It is unclear exactly what the pits on this site tend to represent, although they

definitely appear to be a continuation of this Iron Age behaviour, further hinting at occupation by a group that was not fully Romanised, as suggested by the mid-late Roman pottery assemblage, which is generally composed of local wares and a lack of the more distinctive Roman vessel types.

A single, large posthole is the only evidence of a Roman structure in this phase. Whilst it is unclear what the posthole was part of, the depth of the cut would suggest that it was something more substantial than, for example a fence line.

Mid-late Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon

The most intensive occupation of the site is marked by the later four phases of Roman (and possibly Early Anglo-Saxon) archaeology as represented mainly by ditches, but also small pits and a possible beam slot. As would be typical of Roman ditch systems in the area, these features tend to suggest a series of drainage ditches, property boundaries, field systems, paddocks and droveways, and a possible palisade fence/beam slot. However, the limited size of the site makes it difficult to say with any certainty as to which. What is clear though is the changing profiles of the ditches, which suggest that the features were dug to fulfil different roles, were re-cut as they infilled, or that they reflect changing water levels/drainage requirements in the vicinity. Somewhat unusually, the well preserved stratigraphy has in general allowed for comprehensive phasing of the ditches and the site as a whole, which might help with dating and analysis of similarly aligned features on other nearby sites.

The number of features and the quantity of different finds clearly show that there was fairly intensive settlement in the area, particularly from the 2nd-3rd century. The pottery in particular indicates this, as do the only coins recovered from the site, the latter being all 3rd century. However, it is still possible that the population was not particularly Romanised or was potentially less wealthy. The low incidence of CBM suggests this, as any nearby structures were clearly not incorporating such material in any great amounts. Similarly the other finds such as the generally local pottery are fairly limited in their range, with few finewares, imports from elsewhere, or other distinctive Roman forms. Whatever the case, the total assemblage, also including animal bone, CBM and low levels of coins, indicates a fairly intensively settled domestic habitation. The environmental remains indicate the presence of a farming community (hence the cereal

grains and animal bones), residing in a partially heathland, partially wetland and somewhat wooded setting (as shown by Blackthorn and knotweed remains, as well as amphibian bones).

The latest Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon (Phase 6) features consisted of two ditches and a possible beam slot, which produced a mix of pottery, animal bone, fired clay, quern fragments and heated flint. Whilst the level of finds is still significant, some of this material is residual and the alteration in the alignments of the cuts is clearly indicative of another change in the utilisation of the area, as may be the presence of the possible beam slot/palisade. Initially this cut was interpreted as a possible Saxon building foundation, but the number of Roman finds from the features in this phase suggests that they may alternatively all be earlier. Two ditches on the ERL 023 site to the north were interpreted as Saxon though, and these were on the same alignment as the features from Phase 6. Whatever the dating of the feature and the precise function of the slot, the presence of the two ditches with the smaller feature between them would tend to indicate two sub-phases of occupation in the overall phase, as their close proximity (all lie within a total 3.5m of each other) suggests that they are not likely to all be fully contemporary. However, their shared alignment shows that there was some continuation and recognition of whichever feature(s) came first. A significant quantity of mid 2nd century+, late 3rd and 4th century, Early Anglo-Saxon and Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from this phase. Some of the earlier material appears to be residual, and in places the somewhat limited amount of Saxon pottery may have made its way into the features as a result of disturbance and the gradual and inadvertent infilling of Roman features during the Saxon period. It is also notable that the features from this phase appear to align fairly closely with the existing edge of the Caudle Head Mere. It is unclear whether this is simply a coincidence, or possibly the reflection of changing water levels resulting in alterations in water management strategy. The possible correlation with the ditches from ERL 023 though, suggests a distinctive change in overall alignments.

Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon

The latest material recorded on the site mainly relates to layer 0001 that appears to have built up throughout much of the Roman period and into the Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon phases (around the early-mid 8th century). Whilst no cut features could be attributed to this later phase, the presence of pottery and other possibly associated

material such as animal bones or fired clay indicates that the site or the general locale was occupied and subsequently became the dumping ground for domestic and other refuse. However, the precise nature and levels of occupation are unclear, given the limited size of the site. On the ERL 225 site (60m to the north) it was noted in the soil micromorphology report that peat was regularly found in this slightly lower lying area. This is obviously evidence that the locale was wet during this period and it may be that Saxon activity in this area was limited in response to this, whilst the Roman occupation perhaps marked a sustained attempt to manage the water levels.

What is of particular interest is the identification of a 'significant amount' of Saxon pottery in this excavation. The nearest record of other Saxon archaeology includes the two ditches and a very small amount of Early Anglo-Saxon to Middle Saxon pottery (as well as a sherd of Ipswich ware) at the ERL 023 site, whilst 135m to the north is the find spot of a Red Deer horn stamp. The cemetery sites are located 310m to the south, a single sherd of Middle Saxon pottery 345m to the south-east, and records of various features (including SFBs) and finds at 360m+ to the north-east. As such this site marks the clearest evidence for Saxon settlement in this particular part of the airbase and on this edge of Caudle Head Mere.

8. Conclusions

Excavation at the water works has revealed a well-preserved sequence of features, finds and other deposits dated to the Mesolithic-early Neolithic, later prehistoric, and early Roman to Middle Saxon periods. The earlier prehistoric material consists of struck flints, indicative of low levels of occupation in the area, although this not clearly defined and such material has been retrieved widely across the airbase and more widely in this area. The later prehistoric finds also suggest limited occupation in the area, with domestic or industrial type activity.

The Roman occupation consists of a number of pits, a posthole and ditches. The ditches probably represent field systems for arable and pastoral farming, as well as drainage, while the pits may hint at a continuation of Iron Age traditions recorded elsewhere on the base. This in conjunction with the finds evidence appears to suggest that the local population were not fully adopting Roman cultural norms, although this is only a limited body of evidence from which to draw such a conclusion. In trying to settle this area of the base the Romano-British occupants may well have been attempting

over a sustained period to manage an increasingly wet fen edge site and the final phase of activity, which appears to differ slightly to the earlier ones, may reflect this. The latest Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon features consist of a possible palisade fence/beam slot and two ditches, marking another change in activity on the site.

The presence of Early Anglo-Saxon and Middle Saxon finds and an associated layer are stronger evidence of more intensive settlement in this particular area of the airbase than has been previously recorded. The number of pottery sherds recovered demonstrates a relatively significant level of occupation, as opposed to at ERL 023 or 225 to the north, where only limited numbers of features and artefacts were recovered.

9. Archive deposition

The paper, finds, environmental and digital archives, including the photographic files are to be deposited with SCCAS Bury St Edmunds on approval of report.

10. Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks, Tim Carter, Laszlo Lichtenstein and Ewan Chipping and directed by Rob Brooks. Tim Carter carried out the metal detection survey, as well as making the overhead photographic records of the site.

Project management was undertaken by Jo Caruth who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds and environmental report was produced by Stephen Benfield, with additional specialist advice provided by Cathy Tester, Sue Anderson, Anna West, Laszlo Lichtenstein, Andrew Brown and Sarah Bates.

The report illustrations were created by Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy and Michael Green and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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**Appendix 1. Abridged project design, method statement
and risk assessment**



**Rochester Road Soak-away, RAF Lakenheath,
Eriswell**

Archaeological Excavation

Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment

**Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
November 2014**

Document Control

Title: Rochester Road Soakaway, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk. Archaeological Excavation Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment.

Date: November 2014

Issued by: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Author: Jo Caruth

Contents

1. Background
2. Project details
3. Archaeological Method Statement
 - 3.1. Pre-fieldwork stage
 - 3.2. Fieldwork stage
 - 3.3. Post-excavation stage
 - 3.4. Project Archive
4. Health and safety/ Staff welfare/ Environmental controls
 - 4.1. Health and safety
 - 4.2. Buried Services/Overhead Powerlines/Ground contamination
 - 4.3. Environmental controls

Figures

1. Excavation areas plan

Appendices

1. SCC Health and Safety Policy
2. Brief and Specification
3. Risk Assessments

1 Background

- Excavation is required to record the archaeological remains at risk of being destroyed by the construction of a soakaway c.6m x 8m in soft ground just off Rochester Road, RAF Lakenheath at the entrance to the Sewage Works.
- The site lies in an area of multi-period activity on the south side of Caudle Head mere. Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement can be found on the north and south sides of the mere and stratified deposits, including inhumation graves have been found in archaeological work in this area carried out under the site codes, ERL 023, ERL 086, ERL 133, ERL 135m ERL 141, ERL 152 and ERL 225.
- The aim of the excavation is to record the archaeological deposits within the site and to assess these alongside evidence from previous works in order to enhance the evidence available for this part of the Base.
- A costing for the project has been prepared by Jo Caruth. The field work will be carried out by members of SCCAS Field Team under the supervision of Rob Brooks.

2 Project details

Site Name	Rochester Road Soakaway, RAF Lakenheath
Site Location/Parish	Eriswell
Grid Reference	TL
Access	Via Norwich Road
Planning No	N/A
HER code	ERL 236
OASIS Ref	TO BE CONFIRMED
SCCAS Job Code	RAFLROR001
Type:	Open area excavation
Area	c.50sqm
Project date/duration	10 th November 5 days

Personnel/Site contact numbers

Bury St Edmunds Team Manager		
Senior Project Officer/Project Manager	Joanna Caruth	01284 741250 or 07764 371411
Findings dept	Richenda Goffin	01284 741233
Fieldwork Team	Bury St Edmunds	
Sub-contractors		
Curatorial officer		
Consultant		
Developer	Vinci Facilities	
Site Agent		
Site landowner	MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation	

Emergency contacts

Local Police	MOD	01638 523784
Local GP	135 High Street, Lakenheath	01842 860400
Location of nearest A&E	West Suffolk Hospital Hardwick Lane, Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 2QZ	01284 713000

Qualified First Aiders	Rob Brooks	

Hire details

Plant:	Provided by Vinci
Toilet Hire	Share Vinci facilities
Tool hire:	N/A

Other Contacts

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
EMS (Jezz Meredith)		01473 583288
H&S (Stuart Boulter)		01473 583290

3 Archaeological method statement

3.1. Pre-fieldwork stage

- The Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service will be given five days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.

3.2. Fieldwork stage

- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led by Rob Brooks (Project Officer). The excavation team will comprise up to 3 experienced excavators from a pool of suitable staff at SCCAS (see below).
- Fieldwork standards will be guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' EAA Occasional Papers 14.
- The excavation area covers c. 50 square metres and will be marked out by Vinci Facilities.
- The site will be excavated using a tracked 360 machine/JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. This will involve the removal of an estimated 0.3m-0.5m of soils until the first archaeological level or subsoil surface is reached. Spoilheaps will be placed where designated by Vinci. Topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required.
- Archaeological deposits and features will be cleaned and sampled by hand excavation as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims and meet the requirements of the conservation archaeologist. Where possible features will be 100% excavated but as a minimum 10% of linear features, 50% of pits and postholes and 100% of structural features will be removed.
- A site plan, which will show all site edges, feature positions and levels will be recorded either by hand or using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Plans and sections of individual features, soil layers etc will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording.
- A photographic record (digital) will be made throughout the excavation.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Metal detector searches will take place throughout the evaluation, of both trenches and spoilheaps, by an experienced SCCAS metal-detectorist. Finds on site will be treated according to 'First Aid For Finds', and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the evaluation policy.
- All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features and any identified peat-filled hollows and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following

this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science, on the need for specialist environmental sampling.

- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, a license for their excavation and removal will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and their guidelines followed. Burials will be recorded *in situ* before being lifted and stored in accordance with standards in IFA Technical Paper 13.

3.3. Post-excavation stage

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- The results of this excavation are likely to relate to research aims identified for the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods, and environmental disciplines as defined in the Regional Research Agenda for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000). Topics that this work is most likely to relate to include:
 - Processes of economic and social change and development during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age-Roman transition.
 - Agricultural production and food production and consumption in the Roman period.
 - The development of the agrarian economy and changes in landscape and land-use across all periods as evidenced in the analysis of palynological sequences and preserved macrofossils.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County Historic Environment Record. All site plans and sections will be inked in to form a permanent archive on archivally stable base material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County HER photographic index.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. For the duration of the project all finds will be stored according to their material requirements, as specified by the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC), in the secure stores of the Archaeological Service at Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich.
- Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with UKIC guidelines and assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to UKIC standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.

Specialist reports will be done in-house or commissioned as necessary to meet the following requirements at assessment level:

- The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with:
 - Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, 1993, *The study of later prehistoric pottery: General policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*, Occasional Paper 1/ 2.
 - Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of post-Roman ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper No 2.
 - Darling, M. J. (ed), 1994, *Guidelines for the archiving of Roman pottery*. Study Group for Roman Pottery.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.
- Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as 'slag').
- The excavation report will contain a stand alone summary and a description of the excavation methodology. It will also contain a clear separation of the objective account of the archaeological evidence from its archaeological interpretation and recommendations to assist the Planning Officer. It will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further work not be required.

3.4. Project archive

- The site archive will be consistent with 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (English Heritage, 1991), Appendix 3 and will meet the requirements detailed in 'Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2010).
- At the completion of the project, all material related to it will be archived in the SCCAS stores at Bury St. Edmunds. Store conditions adhere to Institute for Conservation guidelines.
- Plans and sections will be stored in hanging files, paperwork will be labelled and filed, and all records indexed using the appropriate form. A copy of the project archive index will be stored in the HER, and this will provide access to the main archive. Computerised data is stored on a Suffolk County Council mainframe in Ipswich which is backed up nightly. Any costs levied by SCCAS/CT for the storage of paper/digital archives will be met.
- At completion of the project the client and/or landowner will be asked to deposit all finds from the fieldwork with SCCAS, who can provide permanent storage of bulk finds. Allowance has been made in the project costing to meet archive charges. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCCAS storage facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCCAS/CT.
- Bulk finds will be stored in labelled boxes of a standard size and quality; acid free brown card, brass wire stitched measuring 460mm x 255mm x 180mm. The packaging materials within boxes will conform to ICON and MGC standards. Finds in the sensitive store will be packed individually in re-sealable polythene boxes or in crystal boxes labelled with the site code and context/small find number. Packaging methods will follow ICON guidelines, or conservation advice will be sought before deposition.

REMOVED – Figure 1. Site Location

4 Health and safety/ Staff welfare/ Environmental controls

4.1. Health and Safety

The project will be carried out following the Suffolk County Council statement on Health and Safety at all times (Appendix 1). Particular hazards identified with this project are as follows:

- 1 General outdoor working
- 2 Manual excavation
- 3 Excavation of evaluation trenches, site stripping, other mechanical excavation
- 4 Work on military Bases

Individual risk assessments for each are provided in Appendix 3.

The following staff, listed below with job title and relevant H&S qualifications, will carry out the fieldwork for this project.

Name	Job Title	First Aider	CSCS card	SPA Quarry passport	Misc
Rob Brooks	Project Officer	Yes	Yes		
Ewan Chipping	Senior Site Assistant		Yes		
Tim Carter	Senior Site Assistant		Yes		
Laszlo Lichtenstein	Project Officer	Yes	Yes		

All SCCAS staff are experienced in working on a variety of archaeological sites and are aware of SCCAS H&S policies. All staff will be issued with a copy of the projects risk assessment and will receive a safety induction from the Project Officer. All staff have either already had, or will receive the Mansells safety induction for the site. All site staff will be equipped with high visibility vests, coats and trousers, a hard hat with ear defenders, steel toe capped boots (laced and with ankle support) and gloves.

From time to time it may be necessary for site visits by external specialists, SCCAS Conservation Team members and other SCC staff. All such staff and visitors will be issued with the appropriate PPE (hi-vis jacket, hard hat with ear defenders, steel toe capped boots as a minimum, and gloves and goggles if necessary) and will undergo the required inductions.

Jo Caruth and Rob Brooks hold contractors base passes with escort privileges.

First Aid

A member of staff with the First Aiders at Work qualification (see above) will be on site at all times. A First Aid kit is carried in SCCAS vehicles and a fully charged mobile will also be on site at all times.

Insurance

Site staff, official visitors and volunteers are all covered by Suffolk County Council insurance policies. Details are available on request.

Welfare

Staff will be able to use the Vinci welfare facilities. A vehicle will be on site at all times. First aid kits and fresh, clean water for drinking and hand washing will be carried in the vehicle.

Lone Working

SCCAS have a reporting in procedure for lone working, although lone working is not anticipated on this project.

Site security/Rights of Way/Public Access

The site lies within RAF Lakenheath and so is only accessible to those with base access. There is no public Right of Way across the site.

RAF Lakenheath however is effectively a small self-contained town and the site lies in close proximity to residential areas, schools and leisure facilities. The site however is securely fenced and not open to public access. Machinery will be halted if approached by members of the public.

Vinci and MoD Infrastructure Organisation will be given notice of the commencement and close of field work.

4.2. Buried Services/Overhead Powerlines/Ground contamination

Vinci will be providing machinery and personnel for the stripping of the sites and will advise on the presence, and need to avoid, buried services. No overhead powerlines cross the site.

Details of any ground contamination have not been provided. If any such is identified then groundworks will cease until adequate safety and environmental precautions are in place. The excavation will be halted/modified as required if areas of contaminated ground are encountered or SCCAS is informed of their presence.

Advice will be sought from HSE and relevant authorities if required concerning any of these issues.

4.3. Environmental Controls

Suffolk County Council has its own Environmental Management System (EMS). Subcontractors will be issued with Suffolk County Council environmental guidelines.

The SCCAS project officer will monitor environmental issues on site and will alert staff to possible environmental concerns. During Site Induction for all staff potential environmental problems will be identified. These might include:

- **Waste Disposal.** All refuse will be taken back to base for disposal or recycling.
- **Ground Contamination.** Plant and fuel stores will be closely monitored to avoid spillages and procedures for dealing with these will be followed if contamination occurs. Areas of existing ground contamination will be avoided.
- **Water Contamination.** Water will not be pumped into any water course, storm drain etc without prior consent from the Environment Agency. Procedures for dealing with contamination from fuel spills or sediments will be closely followed.
- **Wildlife.** Minimise damage to sensitive flora and fauna or their habitats.

- **Trees.** Excavation areas will avoid the 'precautionary area' of any trees that are to remain *in situ* during the development, this being the distance from the tree equal to 4 times the circumference of the tree (at a height of 1.5m above ground level), as detailed in '*Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees*' National Joint Utilities Group, 1995.

In the event of spillage or contamination EMS reporting and procedures will be followed in consultation with Jezz Meredith (SCCAS EMS Officer).

Contacts

Environment Agency:	Customer Services Line (8am to 6pm) 08708 506 506 24 hour Emergency Hotline 0800 80 70 60
Essex and Suffolk Water:	24 hour Emergency Hotline 0845 7 145 145
Anglian Water:	24 hour Emergency Hotline 01502 572 406
SLD Pumps and Power:	Unit 33, Shepherd Grove Industrial Estate, Stanton, Bury St Edmunds IP31 2AR. Phone: 01359 250101 email: east.anglia@sldpumpspower.co.uk

REMOVED – Appendix 1. Suffolk County Council Health and Safety Policy

REMOVED – Appendix 2. Risk assessments

Risk Assessments for Archaeological Work at Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath

- 1 General outdoor working*
- 2 Manual excavation*
- 3 Excavation of evaluation trenches, site stripping, other mechanical excavation*
- 4 Work on military Bases*

1-5 = Low risk

6-12 = Medium risk

13-19 = High risk

20-25 = Very high risk

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0014	0013	Ditch Fill	Pale yellowish-grey loose sand, with sub-rounded chalk fragments and a clear horizon. Single feature fill.	0.3	0.18	SF1002				0013		No	No	0173
0015	0015	Pit Cut	Ditch fill containing an iron object, probably modern [not very likely]. Sub-circular(?) cut in plan, but uncertain. Near vertical sloping sides, meeting the flat base at a sharp angle. Same as 0155. Cut by ditch 0144.	1.4	0.57						0020	No	No	
0016	0016	Ditch Cut	Cut of pit seen in both sections of slot. Uncertain purpose - most likely field boundary [this is a pit, not a ditch]. Finds suggest Roman. [Possibly part of the phase of early pits, although fills look a little bit darker than most].	1.5	0.9	0023				0023	0024	No	No	0144
0017	0017	Ditch Cut	Linear cut, probably aligned east to west. Only the north side seen in section 9 - very gradual slope - approximately 45°. Sharp 'UV' profile. Cut of ditch - most likely a field boundary. Could possibly be a re-cut of 0015, but on different alignment.	0.32	0.26	0026				0026	0027	No	No	0173
0018	0018	Pit Cut	Linear cut in plan, aligned north-west to south-east (but uncertain of true alignment [actually east to west]). 'U' shape profile, sides nearly vertical and a flat/slightly concave base. Cuts ditch 0016. [Possibly part of ditch group 0173, but unclear]. Cut of small gully into the top of ditch 0016.	0.9	0.62						0028	No	No	
0019	0019	Ditch Cut	Pit or possible ditch terminus cut seen in section 9. Only partially visible, but probably circular or oval in plan, with 65°-90° slightly concave sides, with a curving break of slope to the flat base. Cut by small ditch 0017. Feature in south-east corner of excavated area. In area of heavily animal disturbed soil. Cut by ditch 0017, so hard to see the edges. Unknown relationship with 0016. Interpreted as a ditch, cut could possibly be a pit [appears in plan to most likely be a pit - one of the early pits].	1	0.32	0026				0026	0032	No	No	0128
0020	0015	Pit Fill	Linear cut in plan, aligned east to west, but only survives in section 8, not in section 9 and it is not clear across the rest of the site. Northern side irregular with steps down, but south side slopes at approximately 45°. Concave 'U' shaped base. Could be group 0128.	0.94	0.1					0015	0021	No	No	
0021	0015	Pit Fill	Dark grey loose sandy-silt, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Primary fill of feature. Initial silting of ditch.	1.02	0.14					0020	0022	No	No	
0022	0015	Pit Fill	Light grey-orange loose sand, with very occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary filling of ditch. Mixed sandy fill - could be natural erosion into ditch. East facing section shows possible re-cut (as dashed line), but this is uncertain. The fill was more mixed on the northern side than the southern side.	1.13	0.2					0021	0023	Yes	No	
0023	0015	Pit Fill	Light grey loose sand, with very occasional small pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Tertiary fill of ditch. Fill of mixed sand, similar to 0021 and 0023 - could be a mixed lens of the two?	1.4	0.28				0016	0022	0016	Yes	No	
0024	0016	Ditch Fill	Grey loose sand with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Fourth fill of ditch. Final/upper fill of ditch.	0.52	0.2					0016	0025	No	No	0144
0025	0016	Ditch Fill	Dark grey loose silty-sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Primary/basal ditch fill. Initial silting up of ditch. Mixed light grey-orange loose sand, with occasional small pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary fill of ditch. Wash in/silting material from surrounding environment.	0.74	0.3					0024	0026	Yes	No	0144

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0026	0016	Ditch Fill	Brown-grey loose sand with occasional small pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Third/final fill of ditch.	1.5	0.46				0017, 0019	0025	0017, 0019	Yes	No	0144
0027	0017	Ditch Fill	Final fill of ditch. Some slight disturbance from layer above. Black-grey loose silty-sand, with very occasional small pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	0.32	0.26					0017		Yes	No	0173
0028	0018	Pit Fill	Silty fill of ditch/gully - could be from natural silting/washed in material. Dark grey loose silty-sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Primary/basal fill.	0.95	0.1					0018	0029	No	No	
0029	0018	Pit Fill	Initial silting up of ditch - naturally occurring. Grey-orange loose sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary fill of ditch.	0.7	0.11					0028	0030	No	No	
0030	0018	Pit Fill	Natural wash-in/silting fill. Dark grey loose silty-sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Tertiary fill of ditch.	0.9	0.06					0029	0031	Yes	No	
0031	0018	Pit Fill	Silty wash-in/silting. Could represent standing water? Light grey-yellow loose sand, with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Fourth/top fill of ditch.	1.15	0.45					0030		No	No	
0032	0019	Ditch Fill	Final fill of ditch. Grey-brown-orange loose sand, with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Single ditch fill.	1	0.32					0019		No	No	0128
0033	0033	Ditch Cut	Single fill of gully, similar to fill 0026. Linear cut, aligned east to west, with 35° concave sides, which abruptly break to 85° straight edges. Curving break of slope to the thin concave base. Probably cut by pit 0046. Ditch continues across site.	0.64	0.5						0150	No	No	0142
0034	0034	Ditch Cut	Ditch cut/re-cut related to 0034, but unclear whether 0033 cuts 0034, or vice-versa. Linear cut, aligned east to west, with 35° concave southern edge (northern edge unclear), breaking gradually to a slightly concave base. Unclear relationship with 0033.	>0.35	0.12						0002	No	No	0142
0035	0035	Ditch Cut	Ditch cut/re-cut related to 0033, but unclear whether 0033 cuts 0034, or vice-versa. Linear cut, aligned north-west to south-east, with 40°-50° irregular sides, that rapidly break to become almost vertical towards the base, which is thin and concave. Truncated by 0038. Runs full diagonal of site.	>1.1	0.86						0036	No	No	0144
0036	0035	Ditch Fill	Cut of ditch. Probably Roman - contained pottery and flint flakes. Dark brownish-grey friable silty-sand, with no inclusions and a sharp horizon clarity. Basal ditch fill.		0.86						0037	Yes	No	0144
0037	0035	Ditch Fill	Basal fill of ditch. Primary silting from surrounding area. Light greyish-brown friable silty-sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Middle feature fill.	>1.1	0.42						0044	Yes	No	0144
0038	0038	Ditch Cut	Middle fill of ditch. Linear cut in plan, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Truncates 0035.	0.8	0.5					0044	0039	No	No	0142
0039	0038	Ditch Fill	Cut of ditch. Light yellowish-grey loose sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Basal ditch fill.	0.35	0.4						0040	No	No	0142
0040	0038	Ditch Fill	Basal fill of ditch. No finds in fill, but cuts into Roman ditch 0035. Very dark brownish-grey firm silty-sand, with moderate-medium/large sub-rounded chalk fragments and a clear horizon clarity. Top ditch fill. Top fill of ditch, without dating finds, but cuts a Roman ditch.									Yes	No	0142

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0041	0041	layer Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty-sand of friable to firm compaction. Common to frequent chalk flecks and nodules, and occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Often rabbit disturbed. Appears to seal most of the features in section 7 (and on site in general?) Diffuse to clear horizon with feature fills. Below windblown sand deposit 0165.							0081, 0042		Yes	No	0001
0042	0046	Pit Fill	Mottled friable/mineralised mid-dark grey and pale grey-brown sand with occasional small chalk nodules and common Fe staining. Clear horizon with 0045.			0.25				0045	0041	Yes	No	
0043	0043	unstratified Finds	Top pit fill. Unstratified finds/finds from rabbit warrens associated with the cleaning of the area around section/slot 7. May relate to layer 0041.									Yes	No	
0044	0035	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish-brown friable silty-sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Top ditch fill. Truncated by 0038.	>0.6	0.3					0037	0038	Yes	No	0144
0045	0046	Pit Fill	Top fill of ditch. Contained pottery - possibly Roman in date. Pale grey friable silty-sand, with common Fe staining and mid grey lenses. Occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Clear horizon with 0102.		0.2					0102	0042	Yes	No	
0046	0046	Pit Cut	Middle pit fill. Pit cut obscured by baulk/limit of excavation, but has rounded west edge and 80° slightly concave sides, with curving break of slope to the almost flat and wide base. Probably cuts 0033, but unclear relationship with 0148.	1.22	>0.6	0.59				0002	0102	No	No	
0047	0047	Ditch Cut	Large (late?) pit cut. [Possibly one of the early phase of pits - relationships with other small ditches are very unclear and its shape in plan and section and pale fills are reminiscent of the other pits]. Cut of ditch only see in part due to heavy animal burrowing/disturbance. No fill number issued as cut is so disturbed in section and was not excavated as a separate feature.									No	No	0165
0048	0048	Ditch Cut	Small ditch/gully cut. Likely to be the same as 0005/part of group 0165. Linear cut in plan, aligned north to south, with near vertical sides and a flat/slightly concave base.	>0.46	0.46		0052			0052, 0069	0049	No	No	0140
0049	0048	Ditch Fill	Possible re-cut of 0050, but shallower. Dark grey-brown loose silt, with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	>0.46	0.46					0048		Yes	No	0140
0050	0050	Ditch Cut	Silty organic fill of ditch. Linear cut in plan, aligned north to south, with very steep, almost vertical sides and a slightly concave base.	0.75	1		0054, 0071			0054, 0071	0068	No	No	0140
0051	0070	Pit Fill	Cut of deep ditch - likely to be a field or enclosure boundary. Mixed orange loose sand and silt with dark grey lenses and occasional pebbles. Clear horizon clarity. Tertiary fill.	>0.3	0.45					0068	0052, 0069	Yes	No	
0052	0070	Pit Fill	Formed by episodes of fluvial action forming the dark lenses. [Initially interpreted as a fill of ditch 0050, but is almost certainly from pit 0070]. Mixed grey, orange and yellow loose silty-sand, with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity.	>0.4	0.55				0048	0051	0048	No	No	
0053	0053	Ditch Cut	Mixed fill - probably washed in from immediate environment. [Initially interpreted as a fill of ditch 0050, but is almost certainly from pit 0070]. Linear cut in plan, aligned east to west. Only northern side visible, as cut by modern pipe to the south. Steep sided, with a flat base that drops down steeply to the west. Cut of ditch. The sudden depth change/drop away in the base may indicate a pit or a re-cut, but nothing to clearly indicate if this is the case or not.	>0.42	0.5						0055	No	No	0168

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0054	0053	Ditch Fill	Dark orange-brown loose sandy-silt, with occasional small pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary/upper feature fill. Contained part of a quern stone.	>0.42	0.3				0050	0055	0050	Yes	No	0168
0055	0053	Ditch Fill	Second/upper fill of ditch. Silty, so possible a natural wash in. Primary/basal fill.	>0.42	0.25					0053	0054	No	No	0168
0056	0056	Ditch Cut	Sandy fill of ditch. Possibly gradual accumulation of material as similar to natural [probably in that case it is a mixture of quickly slumped and eroded natural]. Linear cut in plan, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Truncates 0059. Cut of shallow gully/ditch.	0.35	0.3			0059		0059	0057	No	No	0165
0057	0056	Ditch Fill	Probably Roman in date [or later]. Truncates earlier features. Dark brownish-grey friable sandy-silt. Sharp horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	0.35	0.3					0056		Yes	No	0165
0058	0058	Pit Cut	Fill of shallow gully. Probably Roman in date - pottery recovered. Oval cut in plan, aligned south-east to north-west, with concave sides and a flattish base. Truncated by ditch 0056, but truncates ditch group 0144.	0.85	0.65	0.12					0059	No	No	
0059	0058	Pit Fill	Cut of shallow pit. Possibly Roman in date. Mid brownish-grey firm sandy-silt, with small to medium sized sub-rounded chalk fragments. Sharp horizon clarity. Single feature fill. Oyster shell found in fill. Fill was sieved and sampled.	0.85	0.65	0.12	SF1003		0056	0058	0056	Yes	Yes	
0060	0060	Pit Cut	Fill of shallow pit. Uncertain if this is an oval pit or a linear ditch, as it is heavily truncated by modern pipe trench to the south. East to west aligned. Northern side only - vertical/under-cutting sides and a flat base.	>1.16	>0.22	0.68					0062	No	No	
0061	0061	Ditch Cut	Pit or ditch of uncertain purpose - most likely a ditch (field boundary). [It is very likely that 0060 is one of the poorly defined pale pits from the 'earlier' phase]. Linear cut in plan, aligned east to west. North side only (truncated by modern to the south) - moderately steep slope and a concave base. Same as 0053.	>0.5	0.54			0063		0063	0064	No	No	0168
0062	0060	Pit Fill	Possible re-cut of 0060 - most likely a field boundary. [It is very likely that 0060 is one of the poorly defined pale pits from the earlier phase of the site and that 0061 does not relate to it at all]. Mixed dark grey and orange moderately compacted silt and sand, with lenses of orange sand and grey silt. Clear horizon clarity. Basal fill.	0.76	0.22					0060	0063	Yes	No	
0063	0060	Pit Fill	Silting and water action in base of 0060 - possibly the cause for the under-cutting [this is unlikely as this is probably one of the fills of the earlier pits, which have all slumped in. This fill is noticeably darker and more organic in places than in the other pits]. Orange-yellow loose sand with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary/upper fill.	0.74	0.68				0061	0062	0061	No	No	
0064	0061	Ditch Fill	Natural accumulation of sandy material from immediate environment. Mixed lenses of dark grey and orange loose silt and sand, with occasional small pebbles in silty lenses. Clear horizon clarity. Primary/basal fill.	0.5	0.2					0061	0065	No	No	0168
0065	0061	Ditch Fill	Basal ditch fill. Grey-orange loose silty-sand with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary/upper fill.	0.5	0.3		SF1004, SF1005			0064		Yes	No	0168
0066	0066	Ditch Cut	Fill of field boundary ditch 0061. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-east to south-west. 40°-50° concave sides and a concave base. Unclear relationship with 0049. Shallow gully/ditch.	0.36	0.12						0067	No	No	0173

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0080	0079	Ditch Fill	Mid grey firm/mineralised sand, mottled with pale grey sand patches. Occasional chalk and small stones. Clear horizon clarity with natural, but somewhat diffuse with 0133.							0079	0147	Yes	Yes	0169
0081	0079	Ditch Fill	Basal fill of 0079. Similar to 0133, but lower levels of chalk inclusions. Top fill of ditch 0079. Very dark grey silty-sand with common chalk flecks and frequent Fe staining (giving a cess-like green/brown discolouration). Diffuse horizon with 0147. Excavated as one with 0147, so finds are mixed, but recorded under 0081.							0147	0041	Yes	No	0169
0082	0082	Ditch Cut	Top ditch fill. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with 40°-45° slightly convex sides and a curving break of slope to the thin concave base. Appears to be cut by ditches 0130 and 0132. Cuts layers 0105, 0106 and 0129.	0.9?	0.39					0129	0083	No	No	0171
0083	0082	Ditch Fill	Ditch cut. Part of earlier phase of similarly aligned ditches, with group 0144? Mid-dark grey firm silty-sand, mottled with Fe stain. Rare chalk flecks/nodules and small flints. Sharp horizon with layers below. Single feature fill. Thought to be cut by ditch 0130, but not very clear.	0.9?	0.39			0130	0082	0082	0130	Yes	No	0171
0084	0084	Ditch Cut	Single ditch fill. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-west to south-east [buy may actually be the very edge of an east to west cut]. Gently sloping sides and a flatfish base. Truncated by ditch 0088.	>0.7	>0.2	0.32				0085	0085	No	No	0144
0085	0084	Ditch Fill	Cut of shallow, narrow Roman gully/ditch. Truncated by later Roman gully 0088. Mid greyish-brown friable silty-sand, with small/medium sized common chalk fragments. Clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	>0.7	>0.2	0.32		0088	0088	0084	0088	Yes	No	0144
0086	0086	Ditch Cut	Fill of shallow Roman ditch. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Cuts 0084 and 0086.	0.25	0.4			0091		0091	0087	No	No	0175
0087	0086	Ditch Fill	Cut of shallow Roman ditch/gully. Dark brownish-grey friable silty-sand. Single feature fill. Clear horizon clarity.	0.25	0.4					0086	0088	Yes	No	0175
0088	0088	Ditch Cut	Ditch/gully fill. Contained Roman pottery. Linear cut in plan, aligned north to south, with gradually sloping side and a concave base. Cuts through ditches 0084 and 0086.	0.38	0.35			0085		0085, 0087	0089	No	No	0140
0089	0088	Ditch Fill	Cut of shallow Roman gully/ditch. Mid yellowish-brown friable silty-sand, with occasional small/medium sized rounded chalk fragments. Clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	0.38	0.35					0088		Yes	No	0140
0090	0090	Ditch Cut	Fill of shallow Roman gully/ditch. Contained Roman pottery and animal bone. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with steep sides and an unclear base [cut away by other features?]. Cut by ditch 0086, but also underlies small gullies 0084 and 0088.	>1.6	>0.45					0111	0113	No	No	0144
0091	0090	Ditch Fill	Cut of ditch, probably Roman, or earlier. [Probably just the upper edges of ditch 0112, which splays out quite widely elsewhere as well]. Very dark brownish-grey friable sand, with a clear horizon clarity. Upper fill of ditch. Probably Roman - contained pottery and CBM.	>1.6	>0.45			0086	0086	0114	0086	No	No	0144
0092	0092	Occupation Layer	Black/very dark brown loose sandy-silt, with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Soil layer. [Very heavily rabbit disturbed in places].								0098	No	No	0001
0093	0093	Layer	Patches of occupation soil under windblown sand layer. Similar to feature fills [but also to layer 0001/0041/0164, which are almost certainly the same thing]. Grey-brown loose sandy-silt with occasional pebbles and a clear horizon clarity. Layer of windblown sand over many features. [This is a heavily rabbit disturbed layer of windblown material, that is almost certainly the same as 0094 and 0095].									No	No	0176

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0121	0121	Ditch Cut	Linear cut in plan [this is not clear as not truly visible in plan], aligned east to west. Only the southern side visible - very steep with a sharp break of slope to the flat base.	0.18	?	0.26					0122	No	No	0169
0122	0121	Ditch Fill	Gully [or posthole] cut by later ditch 0116. [Possibly part of ditch group 0169]. Bands of dark grey and light grey loose sandy-silt, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	0.18	?	0.26		0116		0121	0116	No	No	0169
0123	0123	Ditch Cut	Fill mainly [formed] by water action. [Possibly part of ditch group 0169]. Linear cut in plan, aligned north to south, with gradually sloping [75°] sides and a concave base. Truncated by ditch 0125/group 0142.	>0.3	>0.55					0124	0124	No	No	0140
0124	0123	Ditch Fill	Cut of Roman ditch. Truncated by east to west ditch. Dark brownish-grey firm silty-sand, with occasional chalk inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill. Cut by 0125.	>0.3	>0.55			0125		0123	0125	Yes	No	0140
0125	0125	Ditch Cut	Fill of Roman ditch. Linear cut in plan, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, with gradual [75°] sloping sides and a concave base. Truncates ditch 0123/fill 0124 and in turn truncated by a cable trench.	>0.45	0.3		0124			0124	0126	No	No	0142
0126	0125	Ditch Fill	Cut of shallow ditch. Probably Roman. Very dark brownish-grey firm silty-sand, with occasional medium sized chalk fragments and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill.	>0.45	0.3					0125		No	No	0142
0127		Ditch Finds	Fill of ditch. Cut into a Roman ditch, so probably Roman too [probably Roman given that it contains Roman pottery elsewhere, not because it cuts a Roman ditch]. Finds collected from the excavation of east to west ditch group 0128 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated immediately east of western bank and west of cut 0075 - see plan 1 for position.									Yes	No	0128
0128		Ditch Group	Finds recovered from one of the later ditches. West-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditch. Seems to cut every feature it encounters. Made up of cuts 0007, 0075 and 0016. Finds numbers 0072, 0127 and 0162. Later Roman ditch cut.									No	No	0128
0129	0129	Layer	Dark grey/black silty-sand layer only recorded in the north-east corner of the site/section 7. Friable to firm with occasional chalk flecks and Fe staining. Clear horizon with layer 0106. Cut by Roman features, whereas layer 0041 tends to seal and slump into them.			0.14				0106	0082, 0130	No	No	
0130	0130	Ditch Cut	Occupation/buried topsoil? Distinct from other occupation layer 0041. North-west to south-east aligned linear cut, with 40°-45° sides, with curving break of slope to the concave base. Unclear relationship with/possibly cut by ditch 0132, but might cut ditch 0082. Same as ditch 0118. Excavated at oblique angle.	?	0.4?		0083			0083, 0129	0131	No	No	0170
0131	0130	Ditch Fill	Ditch cut. Mid grey friable to firm silty-sand, with frequent Fe staining/cess-like discolouration. Common chalk flecks and nodules. Very similar to 0133. Clear horizon with natural. Ditch fill.	?	0.4?					0130	0132	No	No	0170
0132	0132	Ditch Cut	East to west aligned linear cut with 75° slightly concave sides and a curving break of slope to the flat base. Probably cuts 0130 and is in turn cut by 0079. Terminates just to the west of section 25.	>0.38	0.74			0079		0131	0133	No	No	0169
0133	0132	Ditch Fill	Ditch out/re-cut relating to 0079. Mid grey friable to firm silty-sand, with frequent Fe stain/cess-like discolouration. Occasional chalk flecks. Very similar to 0131, but in places becomes striated with paler and darker lenses. Ditch fill.					0079		0132	0079	No	No	0169

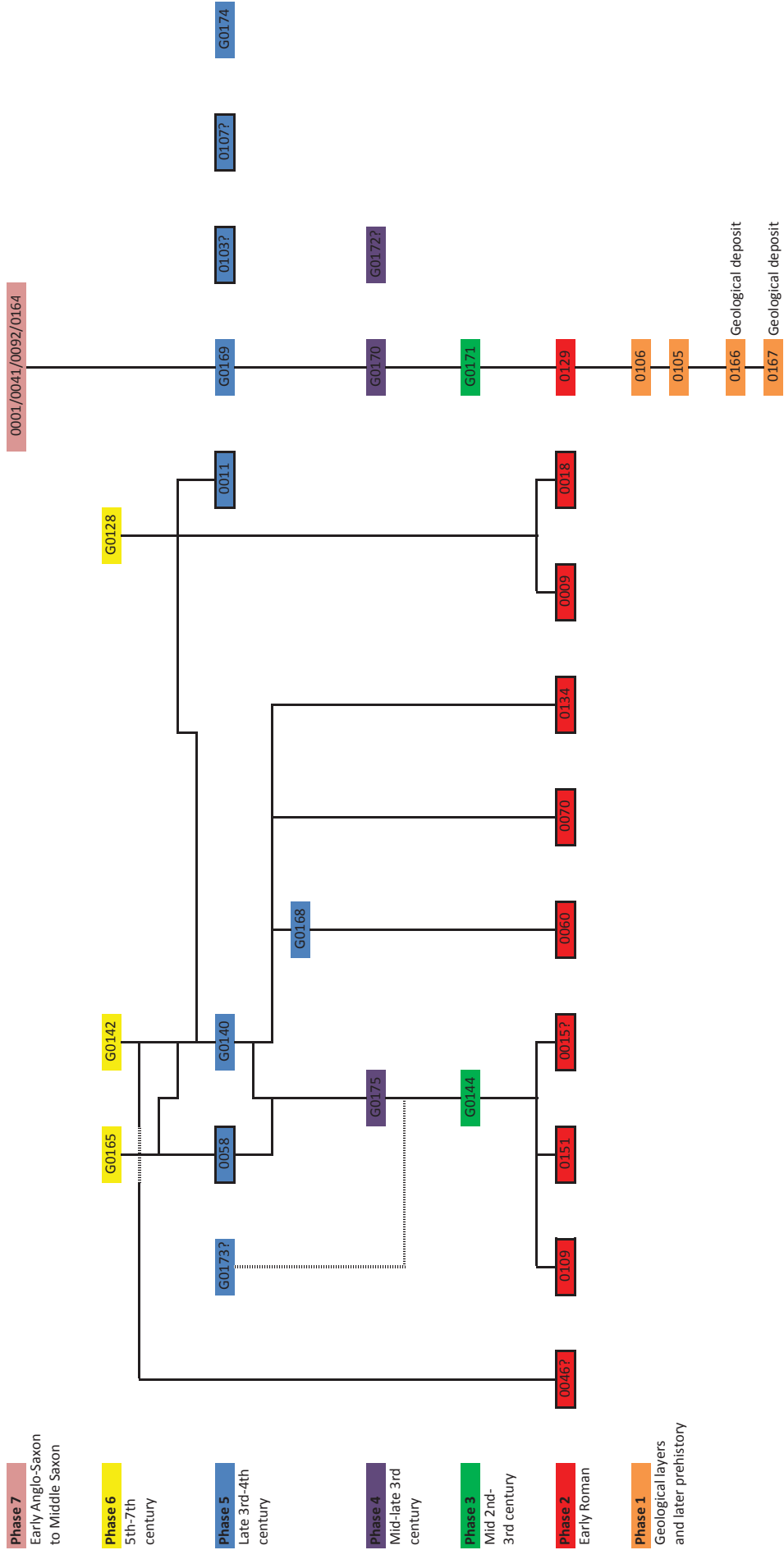
Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0134	0134	Pit Cut	[Irregular circle in plan(?)] - full shape not visible as cut away by other features]. Sharp, vertical sides and a flat base. Truncated by Roman ditch 0145.	1.68	>1.34	0.58					0135	No	No	
0135	0134	Pit Fill	Cut of pit. Truncated by Roman ditches, therefore earlier. [Part of a series of early pits filled with pale fills and with steep and often slumping sides]. Light brownish-yellow friable sand, with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Basal fill.			0.08				0134	0136	No	No	
0136	0134	Pit Fill	Basal fill of pit. Probable natural silting up of pit from surrounding area. Mid brownish-grey friable silty-sand, with occasional small rounded chalk flecks and a clear horizon clarity. Secondary fill.			0.04				0135	0137	No	No	
0137	0134	Pit Fill	Secondary fill of pit. Light greyish-yellow friable sand with no inclusions and a clear horizon clarity. Third fill of pit.			0.32				0136	0138	No	No	
0138	0134	Pit Fill	Third fill of pit. Probably natural infilling of pit by windblown sand from surrounding area. Mid yellowish-grey friable silty-sand, with occasional small rounded chalk flecks and a clear horizon clarity. Top feature fill, cut by 0145.					0145		0137	0145	No	No	
0139		Ditch Finds	Top fill of undated pit. Truncated by a Roman ditch. Finds collected from the excavation of north to south ditch group 0140 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated immediately north-east of cut 0123 - see plan 4 for position.									Yes	No	0140
0140		Ditch Group	Finds recovered from one of the second(?) phase of Roman ditches. North to south aligned ditch. Cut by all the east to west aligned ditches it encounters, but cuts ditch group 0144. Made up of cuts 0003, 0050, 0073, 0123 and 0145. Finds collections - 0139									No	No	0140
0141		Ditch Finds	One of the ditches of the second Roman phase? Finds collected from the excavation of west-north-west to east-south-east ditch group 0142 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated just east of the western baulk - see plan 4 for position.									Yes	No	0142
0142		Ditch Group	Finds recovered from one of the later Roman ditches. West-north-west to east-south-east ditch group. Cuts all the features it encounters (0140 and 0144), excluding pit 0046 that possibly cuts it. Made up of cuts 0033, 0034, 0038 and 0125. Finds collections - 0141 and 0163.									No	No	0142
0143		Ditch Finds	Part of the phase of latest Roman ditches. Finds collected from the excavation of north-west to south-east ditch group 0144 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated just north-west of cuts 0035 and 0038 - see plan 4 for position.									Yes	No	0144
0144		Ditch Group	Finds recovered from one of the earliest Roman ditches. North-west to south-east ditch group. Cut by all the features it encounters (0084, 0128, 0140, 0142, 0165), excluding posthole 0109, which it cuts. Made up of cuts 0035, 0090, 0112 and 0157. Finds collections - 0143.									No	Yes	0144
0145	0145	Ditch Cut	Earliest of the Roman ditches. Linear cut in plan, aligned north to south, with gradual sides [70°]. Concave base [base only very partially uncovered in this slot]. Truncates earlier pit 0134 and in turn is cut by a cable trench.	>0.8		0.5		0138		0138	0146	No	No	0140
0146	0145	Ditch Fill	Cut of Roman ditch. Mid brownish-grey firm silty-sand, with occasional small sub-rounded chalk fragments and a clear horizon clarity. Single feature fill. Single fill of Roman ditch.	>0.8		0.5				0145		Yes	No	0140

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0147	0079	Ditch Fill	Dark brownish-grey friable silty-sand, with occasional chalk flecks and small stones. Clear horizon with 0080. Not distinguished from 0081 during excavation, so finds kept under 0081. Ditch fill.							0080	0081	No	No	0169
0148	0148	Ditch Cut	North-west to south-east aligned linear cut, with 45°-55° irregular sides and curving break of slope to the thin, concave base. Unclear relationship with 0046. Poorly defined and becomes very hard to distinguish further to the north-west. This is the only cut through the feature. Possible ditch cut, but poorly defined, especially to the north-west. May be a rabbit burrow!	0.4	0.12						0149	No	No	0172
0149	0148	Ditch Fill	Mid to dark grey-brown silty-sand with rare chalk flecks and small stones. Clear to diffuse horizon with geology. Rabbit disturbed. Single feature fill. Quite similar to layer 0041 in places. Possible ditch fill, but heavily disturbed.	0.4	0.12					0148		No	No	0172
0150	0033	Ditch Fill	Lenses of orange sand, pale grey sand, mid grey silty-sand and orangish-grey sand, with occasional small stones. Friable compaction. Clear horizon with natural.							0033	0002	No	No	0142
0151	0151	Pit Cut	Basal ditch fill, including slumped natural from the sides of the feature. Sub-circular cut in plan, with 75° slightly concave sides that curve rapidly to the almost flat/slightly concave base. Cut by ditch 0157.	1.65	>1.46	0.42					0152	No	No	
0152	0151	Pit Fill	Large pit cut. Part of the phase of older pits with steep sides and pale fills. Pale yellow loose sand, with very occasional small flints and a diffuse horizon with the natural below. Basal fill.		0.4					0151	0153	No	No	
0153	0151	Pit Fill	Basal fill of pit made up of slumped natural from the side of the pit. Pale to mid brownish-grey sand with some Fe staining and occasional to common patches of small flints. Secondary fill of pit.		0.16					0152	0154	Yes	Yes	
0154	0151	Pit Fill	Secondary fill of pit. The most organic of the fills, judging by its colouration. Mixed pale yellow and pale grey-brown Fe stained loose sand. Diffuse to clear horizon with 0153. Cut by 0157.	0.28					0157	0153	0157	Yes	No	
0155	0155	Pit Cut	Upper fill of pit, made up of a series of what appear to be windblown and possibly colluvial lenses, or deliberate back fill. Roughly sub-circular pit cut in plan that is the same as pit 0015. 80° slightly concave sides, that have a gradually curving break of slope to the slightly concave base. Cut by ditch 0157/ditch group 0144.	2.02	>1.5	0.58					0156	No	No	
0156	0155	Pit Fill	Large pit cut. Possibly one of the earlier large pits that typically have steep sides and pale fills, although the fills in this cut are generally slightly darker. Lenses of pale grey, mid-dark grey, pale brown and orange sand. Fe stained, with occasional small flints. Clear horizon with natural.	0.58					0157	0155	0157	No	No	
0157	0157	Ditch Cut	Fill of pit. Probably represents a series of fill events, but it was not possible to easily separate the fills during excavation. Linear cut in plan, aligned north-west to south-east. Part of the 0144 ditch group that runs the full diagonal across the site. Sides initially slope at around 40°-45° and vary from convex to concave, before breaking to c.55°-65°, before breaking again to 80°-90°, before finally curving to the thin concave base in a typical Roman 'ankle breaker' form gully. Shovel marks recorded in the base of the cut. Cuts pit 0155/fill 0156 and pit 0151/fill 0154 as in turn cut by ditch group 0165. Relatively early Roman ditch cut.	1.62	0.74			0154, 0156		0154, 0156	0158	No	No	0144
0158	0157	Ditch Fill	Mid grey Fe stained loose/friable silty-sand, with occasional small flints and charcoal flecks. Clear horizon clarity with natural. Basal fill of ditch. Basal fill of narrow 'gully' part of ditch. Presumably a result of rapid silting up of the feature.	0.24						0157	0159	No	No	0144

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0159	0157	Ditch Fill	Mid-dark brownish-grey loose silty-sand, with common charcoal flecks and occasional small flints. Clear horizon with 0158. Secondary infilling of ditch.			0.22				0158	0160	No	No	0144
0160	0157	Ditch Fill	Pale-mid grey-brown loose silty-sand, with Fe staining and occasional small flints and charcoal flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Tertiary infill of ditch. Ditch fill.			0.15				0159	0161	No	No	0144
0161	0157	Ditch Fill	Mixed dark grey-black and mid brownish-grey silty-sand. Fe stained. Occasional charcoal flecks and small flints. Top ditch fill. Cut by ditch group 0165. Top fill of ditch.			0.19		0165		0160		Yes	No	0144
0162	0128	Ditch Finds	Finds collected from the excavation of east to west ditch group 0128 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated immediately west of eastern baulk/section 8 and west of cut 0016 - see plan 1 for position. Finds recovered from one of the later ditches.									Yes	No	0128
0163	0142	Ditch Finds	Finds collected from the excavation of west-north-west to east-south-east ditch group 0142 during excavation to retrieve finds and check for ditch burials. Excavated just east of cut 0038 and west of cuts 0033 and 0034 - see plan 4 for position. Finds recovered from one of the later Roman ditches.									Yes	No	0142
0164	0164	Layer	Layer of 0001/0041/0092, where excavated above section 22 and above ditch cuts 0084, 0086, 0088, 0090/0112 and posthole 0109. Number issued to locate small find (coin) 1006. Layer of 0001/0041/0092 mixed with upper ditch fills.				SF1006					No	No	0001
0165		Ditch/Beam slot Group	West-north-west to east-south-east ditch/gully group. Possibly a late (Saxon?) beam slot, given its profile and stratigraphy. Cuts all the features it encounters (0003, 0058, ditch group 0144). Possibly sealed by 0001/0041, though this relationship was obscured in both the eastern and western baulk sections (2 and 21). Made up of cuts 0005, 0047, 0056 and 0100. No further finds retrieved from this ditch, except from cuts. Ditch/gully or possible beam slot. If it is a beam slot there are currently no obvious further structural contexts associated with it.					0161				No	No	0165
0166	0166	Natural Layer	Mid-dark orange friable to firm sand, with common small flints and a diffuse horizon clarity with 0167. Natural geological layer.			0.12				0167	0105	No	No	
0167	0167	Natural Layer	Pale orangish-yellow friable to firm sand, with common small flints. Not fully excavated. Natural geological layer.			>0.08					0166	No	No	
0168		Ditch Group	Heavily disturbed east to west aligned ditch group at the southern end of the site. Truncated by a cable trench and rabbit warren and also obscured by the limit of excavation. Cut by ditch group 0140. Recorded in cuts 0053 and 0061. East to west aligned ditch group at the northern end of the site. Truncated by modern trench. Unclear relationship with ditch group 0140, but either cuts it; given 0169's similar alignment to other later ditches, or is part of a contemporary coaxial field system. Recorded in cuts 0079, 0116, 0132 and possibly 0121. 0132 marks and earlier western terminus to the ditch, but then it appears to have been extended in 0079 and 0116.									Yes	No	0168
0169		Ditch Group	West-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditch in northern corner of site. Cuts ditch 0082. Unclear relationship with other features on site, but similar alignment to ditches 0142, etc. Recorded in cuts 0118 and 0130. Group number issued to ditch cut 0082 simply so it has a group number. Located in very north-east corner of site. Aligned north-west to south-east.									No	No	0169
0170		Ditch Group										No	No	0170
0171		Ditch Group										No	No	0171

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No
0172		Ditch Group	Group number issued to ditch cut 0148 simply so it has a group number. Located running from eastern baulk of site. Aligned roughly east to west. May be a disturbance.									No	No	0172
0173		Ditch Group	Group number issued to ditch cut 0066 and ... simply so it has a group number. Located near southern baulk of site. Aligned roughly east to west. Only visible in plan in one small area.									No	No	0173
0174		Ditch Group	Group number issued to ditch cut 0077 simply so it has a group number. Located emerging from eastern baulk of site, near northern corner. Aligned roughly east to west. Only visible in plan in one area.									No	No	0174
0175		Ditch Group	Group number issued to ditch cut 0086 simply so it has a group number. Located emerging from western baulk of site, near north-west corner. Aligned roughly north-east to south-west. Only visible in plan in one area.									No	No	0175
0176	0176	Windblown Layer	Windblown sand deposit group number. Recorded across the site. Regularly disturbed by rabbit warrens, which have subsequently collapsed and back filled with a mix of this layer and other surrounding deposits. Made up of pale to mid orangish-grey and brownish-grey sand, with rare small flints and no other consistent inclusions. Often root disturbed. Same as 0093, 0094 and 0098, and elsewhere recorded in section as 'Windblown sand'. Depth is variable, but is unclear in places as it is so disturbed. Windblown sand deposit as seen elsewhere on the base.	0.02-								No	No	0176

Appendix 3. Matrix



Appendix 4. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-194141

Project details

Project name	ERL 236 RAF Lakenheath, Rochester Road Soakaway Excavation
Short description of the project	<p>A small area was opened up for excavation prior to the installation of a new soak-away in the area of the water works, on RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. Previous archaeological works in the area have uncovered a range of prehistoric remains, but of greater significance have been the extensive Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation deposits. On site the levels were generally well preserved, despite frequent disturbance from rabbit burrowing. Underlying layers of modern material, as well as a windblown sand deposit (that has been recorded elsewhere on the base) was a layer of occupation soil that appeared to have formed throughout the Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon periods and possibly into the Middle Saxon period. This overlaid Early Anglo-Saxon ditches and a possible beam slot. Underlying this were three phases of Roman ditches, and scattered small pits, as well as an earlier phase or Roman pits and a posthole. The earliest archaeological context was a later prehistoric layer. Finds from the site included Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic and later prehistoric flint work, Iron Age, Roman, Early Anglo-Saxon and Middle Saxon pottery, Roman ceramic building material, quern stone fragments, coins and an Iron nail, as well as fired clay, slag and a pintle (the latter being of possible post-medieval date). The geological profile of the site, as well as its low elevation and position next to Caudle Head indicated that it was wet and this continues to the present day, hence it being chosen for a soak-away.</p>
Project dates	Start: 04-11-2014 End: 20-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ERL 236 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ERL 236 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	LAYERS Late Prehistoric
Monument type	LAYER Roman
Monument type	LAYER Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Roman

Monument type	DITCHES Early Medieval
Monument type	BEAM SLOT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Iron Age
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Early Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENTS Mesolithic
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENTS Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENTS Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	HEAT ALTERED STONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	QUERN STONE Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	FIRE CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	SLAG Uncertain
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Uncertain
Significant Finds	COINS Roman
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Roman
Significant Finds	PINTLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Early Medieval
Investigation type	""Full excavation""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ERISWELL ERL 236 RAF Lakenheath, Rochester Rd Soak Away Excavation
Postcode	IP27
Study area	82.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7289 8058 52.3954627255 0.541318116708 52 23 43 N 000 32 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.20m Max: 6.30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jo Caruth
Project director/manager	Jo Caruth
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Military body

Name of sponsor/funding body
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Physical Archive ID
ERL 236

Physical Contents
"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Digital Archive recipient
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Archive ID
ERL 236

Digital Contents
"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Digital Media available
"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Paper Archive ID
ERL 236

Paper Contents
"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Paper Media available
"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type
Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Rochester Road Soak-Away, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, Archaeological Excavation Report

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Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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Appendix 5. Bulk finds catalogue

Context No	Pot No	Pot Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	F Clay No	F Clay Wt (g)	W flint No	W flint Wt (g)	B flint No	B flint Wt (g)	A bone No	A bone Wt (g)	Oyster shell No	Shell Wt (g)	Miscellaneous	Overall date
0001	65	1324	2	273			4	116			76	1242				Roman, ?ES and MS
0002	3	23									3	20				Iron Age, Roman
0004	1	17														Mid 2nd C+
0006	2	12									1	5				Roman
0008	9	82									2	110				Roman and ?E Sax
0012															Quernstone frag SF1001	
0022	4	35					8	157	1	20	10	356				Roman and ?E Sax
0023	1	17									1	83				Early Roman
0025							1	20							1 frag slag @ 73g	
0026	1	3					3	51			5	423				Early Anglo-Saxon
0027			1	30							1	20				Post-roman (CBM)
0030	1	9					2	15								Early Anglo-Saxon
0036	1	32														Roman
0037							2	26								
0040	1	2					1	2								Roman
0041											2	24				
0042	2	4							1	10	166	425				Prehistoric
0043	18	112					1	7			41	517				Mid 2nd century +
0044	68	1998					1	22	1	22	7	13				Mid 2nd C+ (some M/L3rd C
0045	1	1			1	3	1	1	1	4	11	17				Roman
0049	4	50									16	725				Pre, mid 2nd C- L3rd/4th C
0051	9	103									1	51				Late 1st- mid 2nd C

Context No	Pot No	Pot Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	F Clay No	F Clay Wt (g)	W flint No	W flint Wt (g)	B flint No	B flint Wt (g)	A bone No	A bone Wt (g)	Oyster shell No	Shell Wt (g)	Miscellaneous	Overall date
0054	3	40									3	128			1 frag quernstone @ 492g	Roman
0057	3	192									5	9	1	11		Mid 2nd century+
0059	4	14			1	7	1	1				3				Early Anglo-Saxon?
0059					1	1										
0062	1	18					1	122								Early Anglo-Saxon?
0065	8	14					3	8			14	81				Roman
0072	6	113														Late 3rd/4th C and Middle Saxon
0074	2	22									2	6				Roman
0076	2	18														Roman and ?Early Anglo-Saxon
0078	7	53							3	95	4	42				Late 3rd/4th C
0080	3	236									2	23				Late 3rd/4th C
0080							1	2		5		3				
0081	5	28					1	4	1	6	8	382	1	6		Late 3rd/4th C
0083	2	11					1	13	1	8	4	108				Roman
0085	4	17														Iron Age, Roman
0087	4	25									3	95				M3rd/4th C + pre or ESax
0089	8	81					1	2			1	109				E Roman, Roman
0101	2	7									2	4				Roman
0101	5	12			2	5			1	1		7				
0102									6	20		6				
0105									93	1105						Prehistoric?
0105										1335						
0108	1	2													1 iron nail @ 5g	Early Roman
0111							1	1			1	1				

Context No	Pot No	Pot Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	F Clay No	F Clay Wt (g)	W flint No	W flint Wt (g)	B flint No	B flint Wt (g)	A bone No	A bone Wt (g)	Oyster shell No	Shell Wt (g)	Miscellaneous	Overall date
0114	1	23									6	299				Iron Age
0117											2	38				
0119	1	6				1	121				4	26				Pre or Early Anglo-Saxon
0120	3	15				1	37				11	338				Roman
0124	2	27				1	2									Roman
0127	2	12	1	176		1	2									Roman
0139	14	222									24	605				Mid 2nd C+
0141	19	607									7	66				Mid 2nd C+, pre or ESax
0143	4	62														
0143	6	9														Mid 2nd C+
0146	4	49									6	16				Late 1st C-Mid 2nd C
0153																
0153						1	3				1	10				
0154	1	3				1	3				1	14				Prehistoric
0161	1	2				4	260				3	60				Roman
0162	4	29							1	3	2	89				Mid 2nd-Mid 3rd C
0163	3	38														Roman
0168	65	1324	2	271	1	6	6	16	1	6	114	1240			1 iron nail @ 12g	

Appendix 6. Pottery catalogue

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0001	HOG	b	3	129	SJar				thick, combed (SV)	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HOGB	b	1	94	SJar				thick, combed (burnt)	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	GX	r	1	13	Jar	8	240	8		Rom		2	ROM
0001	LSH	b	3	34	Jar					LC3/4		2	ROM
0001	HOG	r	1	16	Ev 26-29		280	7	orange-grey	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HOG	r	1	20	Ev 26-29		240	9	Beaded ev. Rim	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	NVWM	r	1	48	7 mort		200	5	Bead=200mm,5%, & flange, Battered, abr.	LC3/4		2	ROM
0001	BSW	r	1	12	6.19.4		200	7		MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HAX	r	1	7	6.19					LC3/4		2	ROM
0001	BSW	r	1	7	6.18				(x,x) oxy core	MC2-MC3		2	ROM
0001	NVC	r	1	33	6.17		180	15		LC3/4		2	ROM
0001	GMB	ba	2	49	6 dish				Dish base (b1)	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	BSW	r	1	8	4 jar	7	140	7		Rom		2	ROM
0001	HOG	r	1	79	4 Evans1		380	7	Grey battered	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HOG	r	1	245	4 Evans1		360	11	Orange surf/grey core	MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HOG	r	1	59	4 Evans 10		340	4		MC2+		2	ROM
0001	NVC	b	1	9	3 Beaker				brown slip	LC3/4		2	ROM
0001	GX	b	1	7	2 NJar				neck sherd	Rom		2	ROM
0001	BSW	b	3	41					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0001	BUF	b	1	16					Buff ext/orang core & int	Rom		2	ROM
0001	GIPS	b	1	14						MSax		3	MSAX
0001	GMB	ba	1	4					Small vessel (50mm, 15%)	Rom		2	ROM
0001	GMB	b	4	27					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0001	GMG	r	1	5		4	100	13	(b)	Rom		2	ROM
0001	GMG	b	5	45					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0001	GX	b	4	20					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0001	GX	b	1	30					Lattice dec (cd be hog)	Rom		2	ROM
0001	HM	b	5	68					sandy w white qtz preh/ or esax?	ESax?	ESax?	3	ESAX
0001	HM	rb	8	72					2 rims & 6 b/s, all black and look esax	ESax?	ESAX?	3	ESAX?
0001	HOG	ba	1	18						MC2+		2	ROM
0001	HOG	b	3	53					burnished	Rom		2	ROM
0001	HOGB	b	1	7						MC2+		2	ROM
0001	OXRC	b	1	5						C4		2	ROM
0001	RX	b	1	18					Flaked, largish	Rom		2	ROM
0001	WSF	b	1	12					WSF?vGlob body w concentric gooves (large)	LC1-MC2		2	ROM
0002	GX	b	2	15					Abraded. (cd be HOG)	Rom		2	ROM
0002	HMF	r	1	8					FTI on flat rim	IA		1	PREH
0004	HOG	b	1	17					lattice dec, SV in 0044. orange marg. Blue-grey core	MC2+	sv in 0044	2	ROM
0006	BSW	r	1	8	Jar	7	160	6	Necked jar	Rom		2	ROM
0006	BSW	r	1	4		7	180	4	Oxy. Core	Rom		2	ROM
0008	GX	b	1	3					Abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0008	HAX	b	1	2					Small and abraded	LC3/4		2	ROM
0008	HM	b	5	72					looks like flint but may be sax? Thick rounded base	Preh/Esax		?	?
0008	HM	b	2	5					(from 2 sep vess. Looks ESax)	ESAX?	ESax?	3	ESAX
0022	GMG	b	1	3					lattice dec	Rom		2	ROM
0022	HMSO	b	3	32					(cd be post-rom looks more esax than preh)	ESax?	ESax?	3	ESAX
0023	GMB	b	1	17					Fine burn. From carinated vess - GB cup?	ERom		2	ROM
0026	HM	b	1	3					Black (looks esax)	ESax		3	ESAX
0030	HM	b	1	9					ESO1?	ESax		3	ESAX

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0036	GMG	ba	1	32					100% Base type 3(55mm) irreg. breaks	Rom		2	ROM
0040	GX	b	1	2					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0042	GMB	b	1	2					fine burn. Bead cord.	ERom		2	ROM
0042	HMIF	b	1	2					(looks preh)	Preh		1	PREH
0043	HOG	b	1	21	SJar				thick	MC2+		2	ROM
0043	LSH	ba	6	37	SJar				base type 2	LC3/4		2	ROM
0043	BSW	r	2	9	Jar	8	200	5	Necked jar	Rom		2	ROM
0043	BSW	r	1	13	Jar	7	240	5	Oxy. Core	Rom		2	ROM
0043	GX	r	1	5	Jar	13	140	7		Rom		2	ROM
0043	LSH	b	2	8	Jar				standard	LC3/4		2	ROM
0043	GX	b	4	12					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0043	NVC	b	1	7					Abraded	LC3/4		2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	1	52	SJar				neck cord & shoulder of lattic dec vess. Surf flaked, abr. Grey	MC2+	diff vess	2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	1	66	SJar				neck cord & shoulder of lattic dec vess.	MC2+	diff vess	2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	1	102	SJar				neck cord & shoulder. Surf flaked, abr. Grey	MC2+	diff vess	2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	5	103	SJar				Heavy soot on int. Bands of vert comb	MC2+		2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	9	213	SJar				SV. All w heavy soot on int. lattice dec (may be from sv as above but this piece got burnt)	MC2+	v1?	2	ROM
0044	HOG	b	10	303	SJar				vert bands of incised lines 1 or 2 vessels?.	MC2+	1 or 2 vess?	2	ROM
0044	HOGB	ba	1	58	SJar				horiz incised lines on wall and concentric on basal ext.	MC2+		2	ROM
0044	HOGB	ba	1	91	SJar				vert comb bands on wall and concentric on basal ext	MC2+	(at least 6 HOG vessels from 0044)	2	ROM
0044	HOG	r	2	190	Ev. 1		380	7	grey surf, orange marg. Grey core. Slipped. Irregular burnished lattice dec	MC2+	v1	2	ROM
0044	GMB	r	1	62	6.17		220	14	transitional to form 6.17 v low bead	M/LC3		2	ROM

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0044	HOG	b	35	755	(Ev. 1)		35	755	Bodysherds from SV, w irreg burn lattice. Orange (MC2+	v1 prob. All from one vessel	2	ROM
0044	GX	b	1	3					Abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0045	BSW	b	1	1					Flaked, abr.	Rom		2	ROM
0049	LSH	b	1	15	Jar					LC3/4		2	ROM
0049	GMG	r	1	11	6.18		160	9		MC2-MC3		2	ROM
0049	GMG	b	1	12	3.8				'barbotine dot beaker (sv in 0051)	LC1-MC2		2	ROM
0049	HMF	b	1	12						Preh?		1	PREH
0051	GMG	b	1	15	3.8				Burnt barb dot beaker (sv in 0049)	LC1-MC2		2	ROM
0051	GX	rb	7	73	3.8		100	34	Panels of barb dot (sv)	LC1-MC2		2	ROM
0051	GX	b	1	15					Abraded, pocked	Rom		2	ROM
0054	GX	ba	1	20	Jar				Type 2 (b) thick	Rom		2	ROM
0054	BSW	b	1	13					Oxidised core	Rom		2	ROM
0054	GX	b	1	7					grooved bodysherd	Rom		2	ROM
0057	HOG	b	1	181	Sjar				lower half of jar has typical 'gouged' dec. Combed int surf	MC2+		2	ROM
0057	GX	b	2	11					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0059	GX	b	3	9					miscellaneous small bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0059	HM	b	1	5					Black . HM = ESax?	ESax?		3	ESAX
0062	HMS	b	1	18					Thick, black. ES	ESax?		3	ESAX
0065	BSW	b	1	1					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0065	GMG	b	1	3					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0065	GX	b	1	2					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0065	HM	rb	5	8					1 rim, 4 b/s ESax?	?ESax		3	ESAX
0072	HAX	ba	4	77	6 bowl				Bowl base (50mm, 100%) worn type 3	LC3/4		2	ROM
0072	BSW	b	1	22					Band of horiz grooves	Rom		2	ROM
0072	GIPS	b	1	14					(SV in 0001?)	MSax		3	MSAX
0074	GX	ba	1	8					Type 2	Rom		2	ROM
0074	GX	b	1	14					Oxidised	Rom		2	ROM

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0076	GX	b	1	9						Rom		2	ROM
0076	HM	b	1	9					Black. Burnished ext/int (looks ESax)	?ESax		3	ESAX
0078	GX	ba	1	36	Jar				Type 2	Rom		2	ROM
0078	GMG	b	1	3					(b)	Rom		2	ROM
0078	GX	b	3	9					1 w coarse roul.	Rom		2	ROM
0078	LSH	b	1	2					Small and abraded	LC3/4		2	ROM
0078	NVC	b	1	3					Small and abraded	LC3/4		2	ROM
0080	NVC	r	1	6	6 Dr 38				Flange frag	LC3/4		2	ROM
0080	NVC	r	2	230	5 ar		200	33	(NV75)	C4		2	ROM
0081	LSH	b	1	1	SJar				(Sv as 0043)	LC3/4		2	ROM
0081	BSW	r	1	10	6 bowl				(x,x)	Rom		2	ROM
0081	BSW	b	1	12					B1 dec	LC3/4		2	ROM
0081	GX	B	2	5					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0083	GMG	b	1	7					(b2)	Rom		2	ROM
0083	GX	r	1	4		7	160	5	Or is it a lid?	Rom		2	ROM
0085	HM	r	1	9	Jar				jar rim , flat-topped w FTI. (SV in 0002)	IA		1	PREH
0085	GMG	b	3	8					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0087	GMG	r	1	9	6 dish		200	7	Going B10,	MC3/4	shallow dish w out-turned rim, upt. . At tip	2	ROM
0087	GMB	b	1	9					Abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0087	HM	b	2	7					HM = Preh or ES	Preh/ESax		?	
0089	GX	r	1	3	Jar				(x,x)	Rom		2	ROM
0089	WSF	b	2	54	6 bowl				Vert incised bands. A bit warped	ERom		2	ROM
0089	BSW	b	3	13					Oxidised core	Rom		2	ROM
0089	GX	b	2	11						Rom		2	ROM
0101	BSW	b	1	1					v sm	Rom		2	ROM
0101	HOG	b	1	6					oxidised	Rom		2	ROM
0108	WSF	b	1	2					Fineware w compass-drawn conc circles (large)	ERom	I think of these as early	2	ROM
0114	HMF	b	1	23						IA		1	PREH

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0119	HM	b	1	6					w. organic imp. Preh? ES?	Preh/ESax	preh/ES?	?	
0120	BSW	b	3	15					1 dec w multi wavy incised lines	Rom		2	ROM
0124	GMB	b	1	2					patchy	Rom		2	ROM
0124	HOG	b	1	25					Irregular burnished lattice dec	Rom	All the hog is orange or orange marg w grey core nearer top of vessel	2	ROM
0127	GX	b	2	12						Rom		2	ROM
0139	HOG	b	2	18	Sjar				Sjar w irreg burnished lattice. Oxid.	MC2+		2	ROM
0139	HOG	b	1	34	Sjar				Neck cordon & shoulder	MC2+		2	ROM
0139	HOG	b	3	77	Sjar				Sjar w vert comb. SV oxid.	MC2+		2	ROM
0139	GX	r	1	23	6.18		200	6		MC2-MC3		2	ROM
0139	GMG	b	1	13	3 Beaker				Barbotine dot panel - could be Glob bkr 3.8	Rom		2	ROM
0139	BSW	b	1	14					Could be HOG	Rom		2	ROM
0139	GMB	b	2	14					Flaked, abraded, oxy core	Rom		2	ROM
0139	GX	b	1	11					Small & glob	Rom		2	ROM
0139	GX	b	2	18					1 fine	Rom		2	ROM
0141	HOG	b	2	128	Sjar				SV, Vertical combed bands	MC2+		2	ROM
0141	GX	r	1	9	Jar		220	6	Impressed cordon below rim	Rom		2	ROM
0141	HOG	r	3	163	Ev.1		380	4	(Same vessel in 0044)	MC2+		2	ROM
0141	BSW	bba	3	19					1 base 2 b/s	Rom		2	ROM
0141	GMB	ba	1	12					Base 3. fine	Rom		2	ROM
0141	GX	b	1	11						Rom		2	ROM
0141	HM	b	1	4					Small & black sim to other preh/ES	Preh/ESax		?	
0141	HOG	b	7	261					Irregular burnished lattice dec. (same as above?)	MC2+		2	ROM
0143	HOG	r	1	45	Ev. 1		360	6	Oxidised margins, grey core	MC2+		2	ROM
0143	GMB	b	2	5					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM

Context No.	Fabric	Sherd	Pot No.	Pot Wt(g)	Form	Rim	Rim dia	Rim Eve	Notes	Date	Comment	Per2	Period
0143	HOG	b	1	12					Abraded, pocked. Orange	Rom		2	ROM
0146	BSW	b	1	7					Abraded, pocked (had v glossy burnish)	Rom		2	ROM
0146	GMG	b	1	2					Abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0146	GX	ba	1	22						Rom		2	ROM
0146	WSF	b	1	18					Brown b/s lookd like WS kiln examples (b)	LC1-MC2		2	ROM
0154	HM	b	1	3					HMF?	Preh		1	PREH
0161	BSW	b	1	2					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0162	GX	r	1	18	6.18		170	12		MC2-MC3		2	ROM
0162	GX	b	3	11					Miscellaneous bodysherds	Rom		2	ROM
0163	BSW	b	1	35					Fine & dense like WSF. 3 grooved bead cords at intervals	Rom		2	ROM
0163	GX	b	1	1					Small and abraded	Rom		2	ROM
0163	NVC	b	1	2					Small and abraded	LC3/4		2	ROM

Appendix 7. Struck flint catalogue

Context	Type	Quantity
0001	Building fragment	1
0001	Core fragment	1
0001	Tested piece	1
0001	Flake	1
0001	Retouched fragment	1
0001	Utilised blade	1
0022	Flake	3
0022	Shatter	1
0022	Retouched flake	1
0022	Struck fragment	1
0022	Non-struck fragment	
0025	Shatter	1
0026	Flake	1
0026	Retouched fragment	1
0026	Non-struck fragment	
0030	Retouched blade	1
0030	Utilised flake	1
0037	Flake	1
0037	Struck fragment	1
0040	Flake	1
0043	Blade-like flake	1
0044	Blade-like flake	1
0045	Spall	1
0059	Flake	1
0062	Hammerstone	1
0065	Chip	1
0065	Spall	1
0065	Utilised flake	1
0081	Flake	1
0083	Utilised flake	1
0089	Retouched blade	1
0111	Flake	1
0119	Struck fragment	1
0120	Retouched flake	1
0124	Flake	1
0127	Flake	1
0154	Flake	1
0161	Spall	1
0161	Hammerstone	1
0161	Retouched flake	1
0161	Utilised flake	1

Appendix 8. Roman coins catalogue

SF No.	No.	Wt./g	Diameter	Description	Obverse	Reverse	Mint	Date	Reece period
1004	1	0.81	14.92	Ae radiate, possibly Victorinus or Tetricus I (contemporary copy?)	Illegible / Radiate and draped bust right	Illegible / Victory left holding wreath and palm?	?	269-274	13
1005	1	1.46	16.95	Ae radiate, barbarous copy	[III] / Radiate and draped(?) bust right	[INO / Female figure standing left, uncertain object (crescent) in left hand	?	275-285	14
1006	1	2.81	18.33	Ae radiate of Tetricus I	[TRICVS] / Radiate and draped bust right	Illegible / Uncertain standing (female?) figure left	?	271-274	13

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