

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/212

Land North of 7-14 Narrow Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk WMH 033



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HER information

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Summary

This report presents the evidence from an archaeological evaluation and excavation at land to the north of 7-14 Narrow Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk. It provides a quantification and assessment of the site archive and considers the potential of the archive to answer specific research questions. The significance of the data is assessed and recommendations for dissemination of the results of the fieldwork are made. In this instance it is recommended that no further analysis is required and that this post-excavation assessment should be made available through the OASIS archaeological database as a 'grey literature' report. In addition the report will be made available on the SCCAS website either individually or as part of synthesis of similarly themed investigations.

The site is located in an area of glaciofluvial drift and chalky till, represented here by a deposit of sand with concentrations of mineralized and gravelly sand. The natural geology sloped away to the east from a high point of 16.198m AOD to 13.531m AOD.

Horizons of worked soil containing cultural material overlay the natural geology, and were capped by the modern agricultural plough-soil. The archaeological cut features that make up the bulk of the human activity on the site were in general cut through the lowest of the worked soil horizons, and excavated from the top of the natural geology.

Residual worked flint and prehistoric pottery was recovered that is typical of the background scatter of prehistoric activity in the region. The earliest activity for which we have direct evidence is the early Roman period. The pottery assemblage is quite closely dated from the late 1st or early 2nd century AD and trailing off by the 3rd century AD. Within this time span two main phases of activity have been identified. In the earliest phase the site is occupied by various timber buildings that share an alignment with a SW-NE aligned boundary ditch. The ephemeral nature of these buildings meant that

only portions of the buildings survived modern ploughing damage. This general phase may date to the late 1st century or more likely the early 2nd century. A later phase of buildings and ditches on a similar alignment, including a curving enclosure ditch around a timber building in the northern end of the site, and a ditch at the southern end of the site, may date to the later 2nd into the 3rd century.

At some stage, possibly in the Roman period or possibly in the Anglo-Saxon period, the site was reorganized with a large E-W aligned ditch cutting across some of the early phase buildings. In places, the ditch had a possible structural slot in its base, suggesting it once held a palisade or fence. The change in the alignment of the enclosure ditches was matched by a change in the alignment of the buildings. A single timber building occupied the centre of the excavation area, and other structural elements may represent other buildings or fence lines. Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from the top of the ditch/palisade trench, as well as from a pit near the building.

A boundary ditch located along the southern site boundary was undated, and may be medieval in origin, which is the presumed date for the adjacent track. This ditch was respected by a slot and a pit which may also be medieval in date.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site location

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent excavation took place on land to the North of 7-14 Narrow Way, Wenhaston. The site is on the eastern edge of the village of Wenhaston at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TM 4290 7544 and encompasses an area of approximately 1336m². It is bounded by Narrow Way to the south, a house and gardens to the west, and open fields to the north and east. (Figure 1).

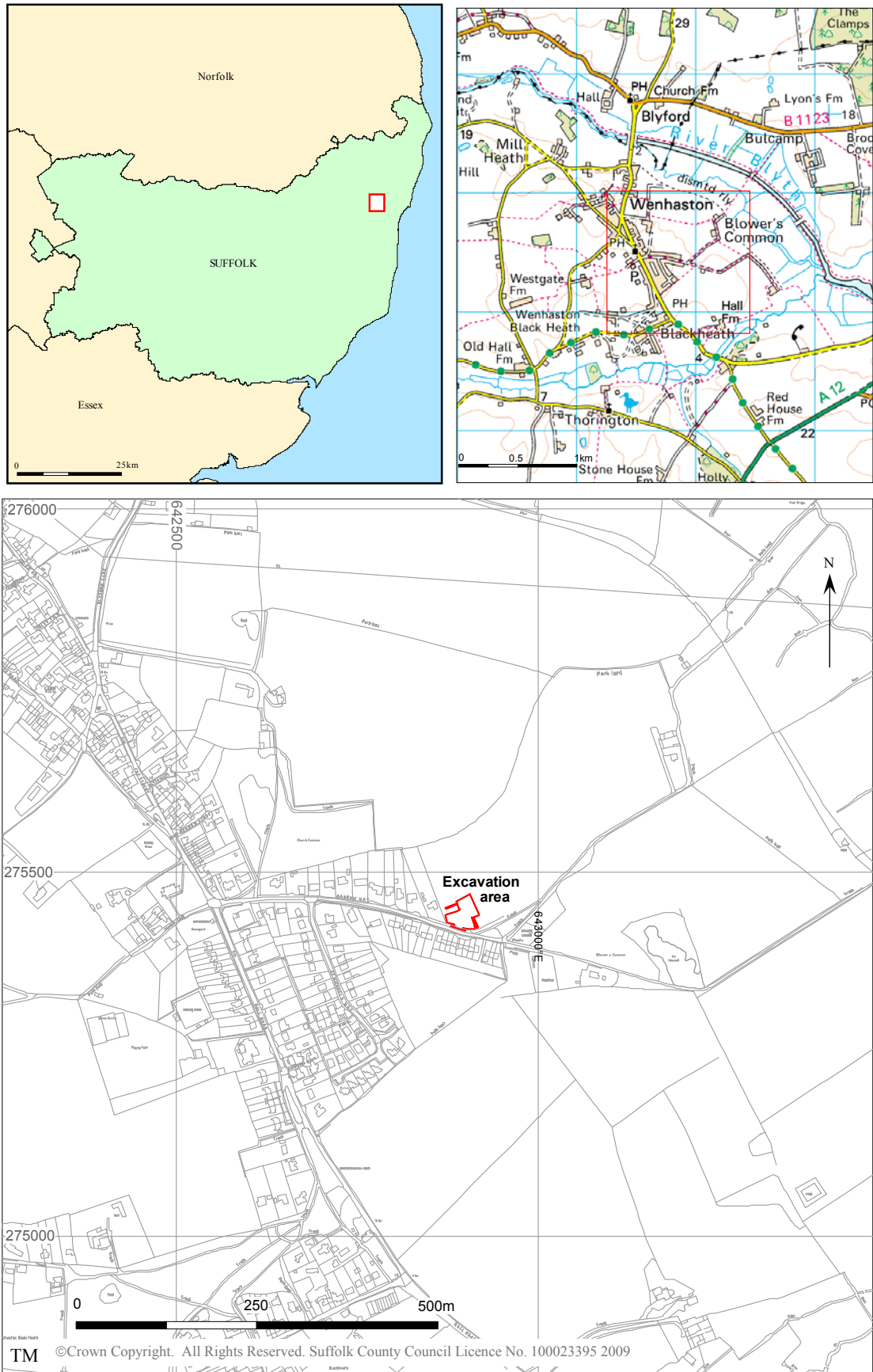


Figure 1. Location map

1.2 The scope of the project

This report was commissioned by Hastoe Housing Association and produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team. It has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) and is consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2), notably appendices 4 and 5 (English Heritage, 1991). The principal aims of the project are as follows:

- Summarise the results of the archaeological fieldwork
- Quantify the site archive and review the post-excavation work that has been undertaken to date
- Assess the potential of the site archive to answer research aims defined in the relevant Brief and Specification and additional research aims defined in this report
- Assess the significance of the data in relation to the relevant Regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook, 1997; Glazebrook, 2000)
- Make recommendations for further analysis and dissemination of the results of the fieldwork

1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out by SCCAS, Field Team in response to an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for a residential development (Application number: C/07/2050). Specifically, the proposed development includes the construction of six houses. Prior to the archaeological fieldwork the site formed part of Low Farm and was occupied by arable land.

An aerial photographic assessment was undertaken (Report 2008/16) by Rog. Palmer of Air Photo Services. (Palmer, 2008) This identified the likely

presence of field system ditches within the development area. A metal detector and fieldwalking survey was also undertaken on 24th September 2008 by Roy Damant, which produced an assemblage of Roman and Medieval period finds.

Trial trenching was carried out between the 14th and 19th of January 2009 in accordance with a Brief & Specification issued by the SCCAS, Conservation Team. Six trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. These varied between 15m and 30 metres in length and covered 224 sq. metres, or a 12.67% sample of the site. The revealed archaeological features included a number of Roman period ditches, pits and post-holes, a sample of which were excavated by hand. The results of this evaluation were documented in SCCAS Report 2009/059 (Stirk, 2009a).

The positive results of the evaluation resulted in a Brief & Specification for an archaeological excavation being issued by SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix 1). The excavation was undertaken by SCCAS Field Team between the dates 22nd April and 8th May 2009. A portion of the site encompassing 1244 sq. metres was excavated down to the natural subsoil by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.5m wide ditching bucket. A number of archaeological features including ditches, pits and post-holes were revealed, that were cutting the geological natural. A minimum of 10% of the length of linear features and at least 50% of discrete features was excavated by hand. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service (SCCAS, 2002). All archaeological deposits were also drawn in plan at 1:20 scale and in section at 1:10 or 1:20 scale. A full photographic record was made, including digital photographs, black & white prints and colour slides. Many deposits were sampled for environmental analysis. A SCCAS surveyor used a GPS system to map the area of excavation.

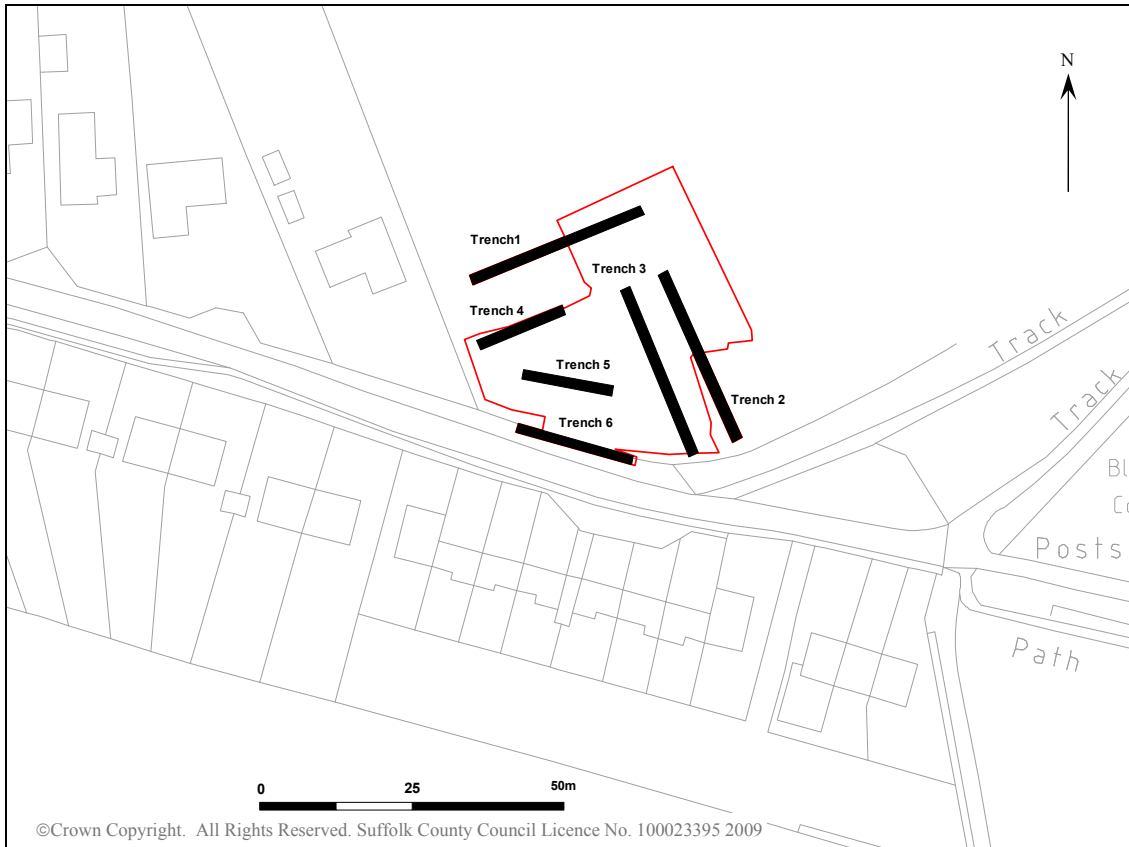


Figure 2. Location of evaluation trenches (black) and excavation area (red)

2 Topographic, archaeological and historical background

2.1 Topography

The site is located in an area of glaciofluvial drift and chalky till, represented here by a deposit of sand with concentrations of mineralized and gravelly sand. The natural geology sloped away to the east from a high point of 16.198m AOD to 13.531m AOD.

Layers of subsoil and topsoil with a combined thickness of up to 0.53m overlay the natural geology. The site is on evenly sloping ground with a high point to the west at 16.62m AOD and a low to the east at 14.06m AOD.

2.2 Archaeology

The site lies in an area of high Archaeological Importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It is situated between two known areas of archaeology recorded in the Historic Environment Record as WMH 004 and WMH 005. The HER records relate to enclosures and field systems indicated by cropmarks seen in aerial photographs, and a wealth of surface finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Medieval date.

On the basis of the cropmark and finds evidence, Wenhaston has been identified as one of the small towns of the Roman period, that each covers an area of between 10 and 30 hectares (Plouviez, 1995). The known road network is patchy for the eastern part of the county, but it seems likely that the Roman town at Wenhaston was on a continuation of the likely road from Caistor to Halesworth, and possibly also on the road known to run from Coddensham to Peasenhall (Moore *et al*, 1988).

The known areas of archaeology, WMH 004 and WMH 005, are situated in open fields to the east of the village. Little however is known about the archaeology of the built up area of the village itself. Archaeological work in the village to date has been limited. A small evaluation was undertaken at 14 Narrow Way (WMH 019) in 1998 by SCC Archaeology Service, which revealed archaeological activity of Roman date in the form of a pit and a ditch.

(Boulter, 1998). Recent monitoring of foundations at Church Lane, Wenhaston (WMH 034) by the author, has revealed undated features as well as a small assemblage of Roman finds (Stirk, 2009b). These small projects suggest that archaeological remains of probable Roman date are present between the known areas WMH 004 and WMH 005, and that remains of the Roman town probably extend beneath the modern village.

2.3 History

Documentary evidence for the lands around the site exists only as far back as the 18th century, while detailed cartographic evidence is limited to the 1839 Tithe map. The site is located between two commons, Church Common to the northwest, and Blower's Common to the southeast. On the 1839 Tithe map these were amalgamated into a single plot of land numbered 497 and named 'Church Heath'.

On the 1890 Ordnance Survey edition pieces of land on both sides of Narrow Way were designated as allotments, which suggests that the whole area was heathland commons before enclosure. This has implications for the type of activity on the site during the medieval period. In the medieval period houses are unlikely to have been located on common land except on the periphery. The site seems to have been located in the centre of the commons, and therefore no such medieval occupation was expected.

Documentary sources indicate that the area between Church and Blower's Commons was enclosed in a piecemeal fashion from about 1760, perhaps due to a lack of a single landowner for the relevant land. The subsequent history of land use is not particularly relevant to the findings of the archaeological work. The available documentary and cartographic evidence for the site was described in greater detail in a desk based assessment for a site to the immediate west, which has been reproduced in Appendix 2.

3 Original research aims

The original research aims of the project, as defined in the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (Tipper, 2008), were as follows:

OR1: Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.

OR2: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

OR3: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

OR4: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

4 Site sequence: results of the fieldwork

4.1 Introduction

The following is a summary of the results of the evaluation and subsequent excavation phases of fieldwork. The individual contexts have been assigned to Groups of related contexts (numbered **G1001** to **G1028**) which are described in detail in Appendix 3. The groups have been determined primarily through stratigraphic analysis, with a specific emphasis on form and alignment. The finds assessment has then allowed many of these Groups to be assigned to historic periods. All significant Groups are shown on Figure 4.

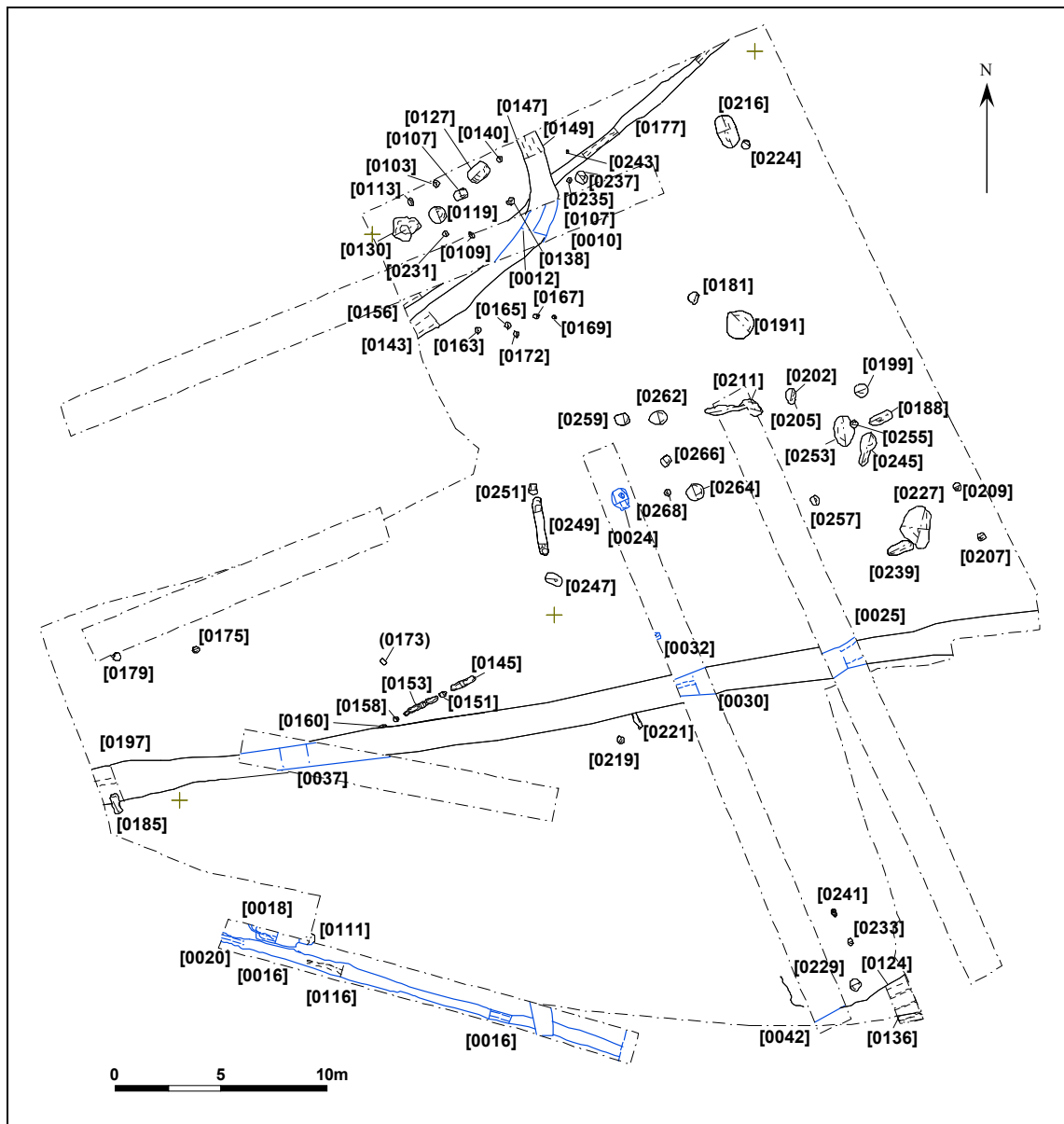


Figure 3. Plan of all features showing context numbers

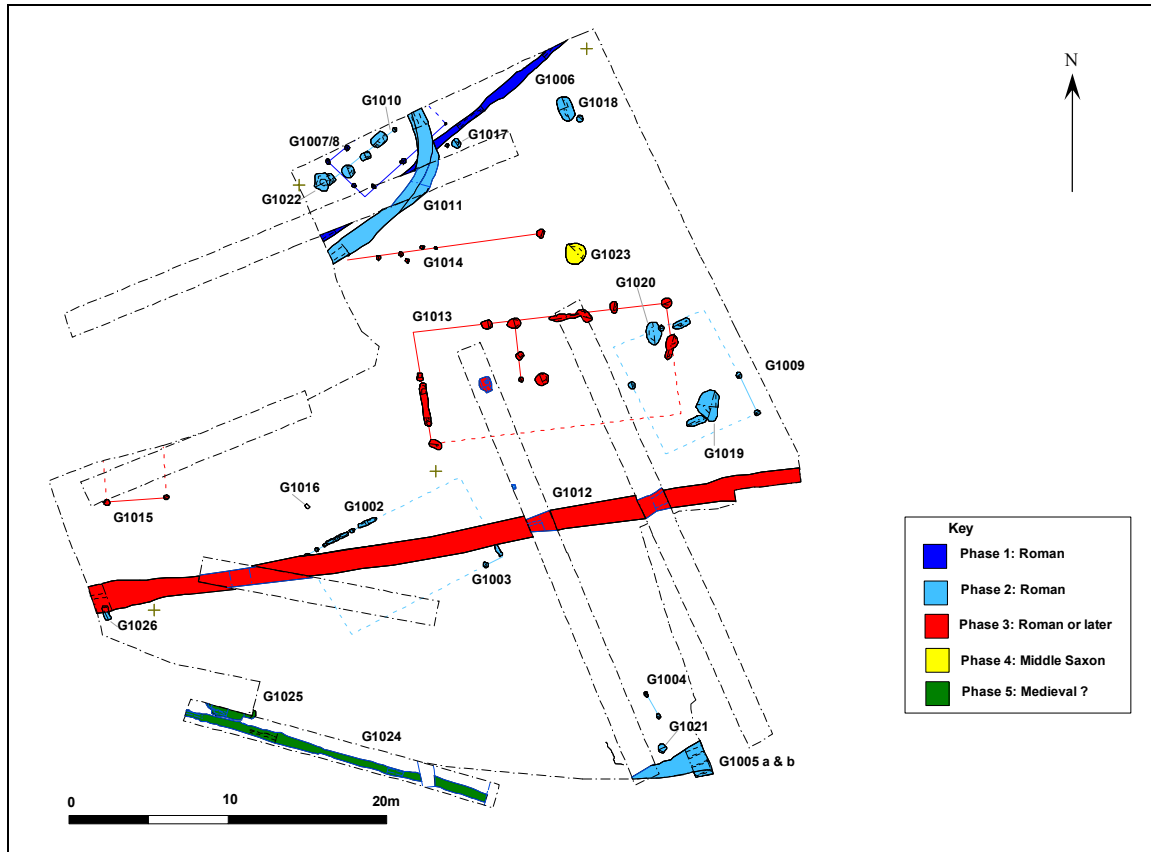


Figure 4. Phase plan showing location of all groups

4.2 Natural stratum and topography

The natural geology (**G1001**) was a mixed deposit of sand, in places mineralized and gravelly. The surface of the natural geology sloped from a high point of 16.198m AOD on the southwest side of the site to a low of 13.531m AOD on the northeast side.

Overlying the natural geology across the site was range of very mixed sandy 'subsoil' deposits (**G1027**). These varied in depth from about 0.13m to 0.37m. In general features appeared to cut through this subsoil deposit, although its relationship with most features was removed by the machining of the site. It seems likely that some of the earlier features were sealed by this subsoil, although where the relationship was observed, for example at the excavation edges, the features cut the deposit. The deposit contained roman period cultural material and had clearly been worked at some stage, possible by ploughing.

The subsoil was sealed by the modern agricultural soil (**G1028**) that was 0.2m to 0.45m thick, and had been ploughed and planted just prior to the fieldwork.

4.3 Roman (Phase 1)

The earliest stratigraphic features on the site appear to share a SW-NE alignment. This is demonstrated by a ditch at the northern edge of the site (**G1006**), and an adjacent timber building, that was represented by post-hole groups (**G1007**) and (**G1008**). This building, which is probably larger than the portion seen within the excavation area, measured 3.25m by 6.9m. No associated floor or occupation layers for the building had survived the destructive affects of modern ploughing.

A small assemblage of pottery, CBM and fired clay was recovered from the fills of the ditch that indicate it was being infilled in the late 1st or 2nd century. A smaller assemblage of finds from the post-holes shares this date range.

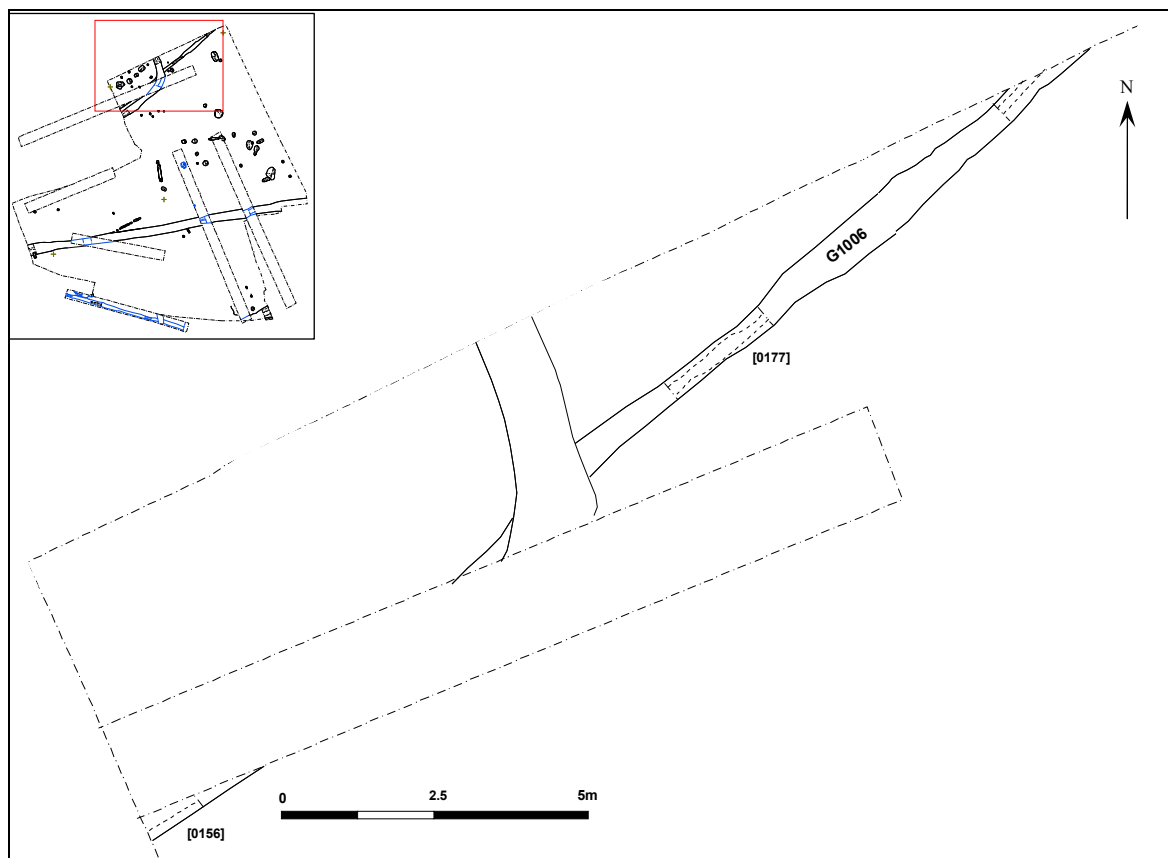


Figure 5. Group G1006

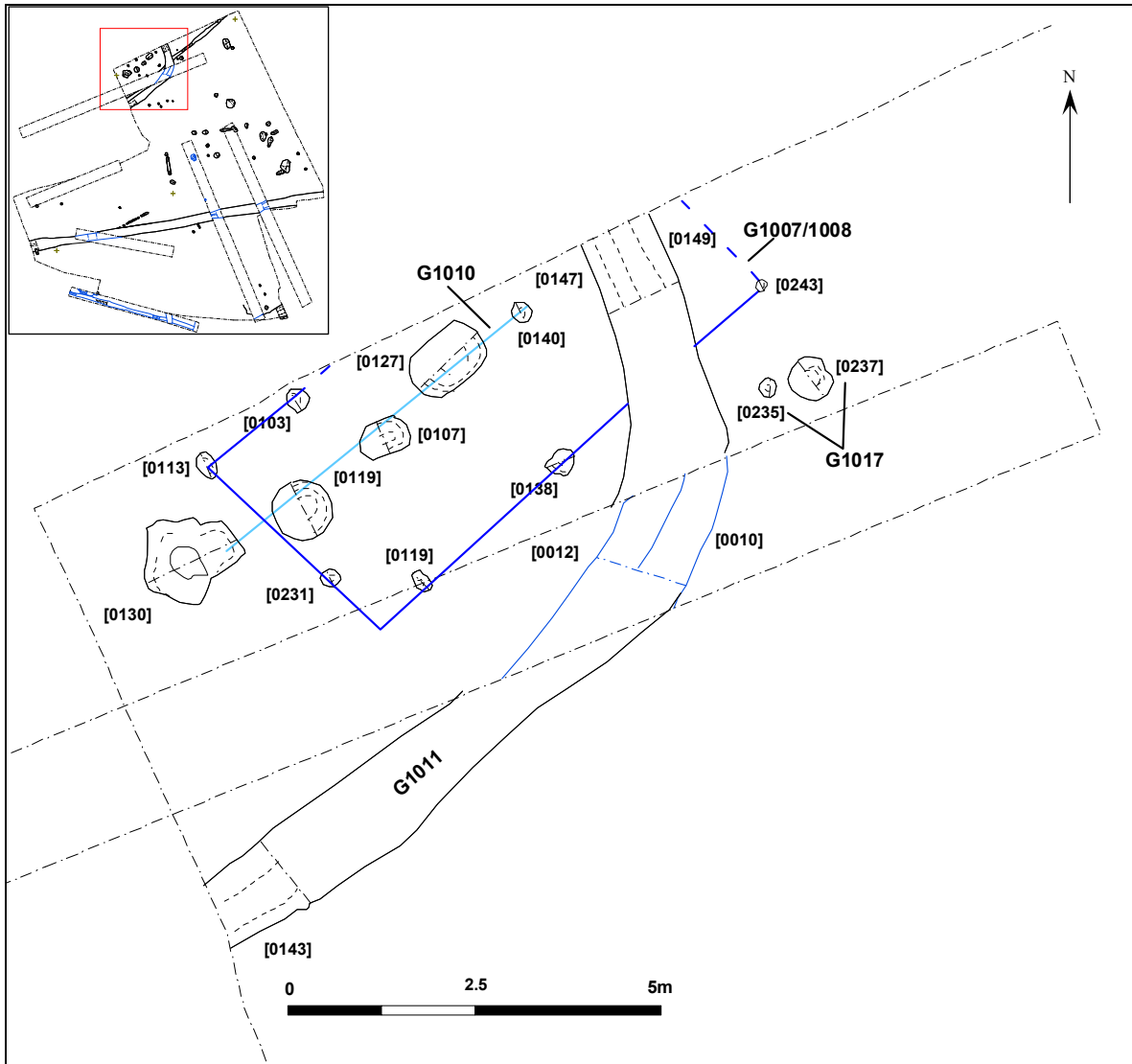


Figure 6. Groups G1007, G1008, G1010, G1011 and G1017

A ditch (**G1005a**) located on the southern site boundary, seems to share the alignment of these early phase features. The small assemblage of finds collected from this ditch cannot be closely dated but it appears the ditch was out of use and completely silted up by the mid 2nd century.

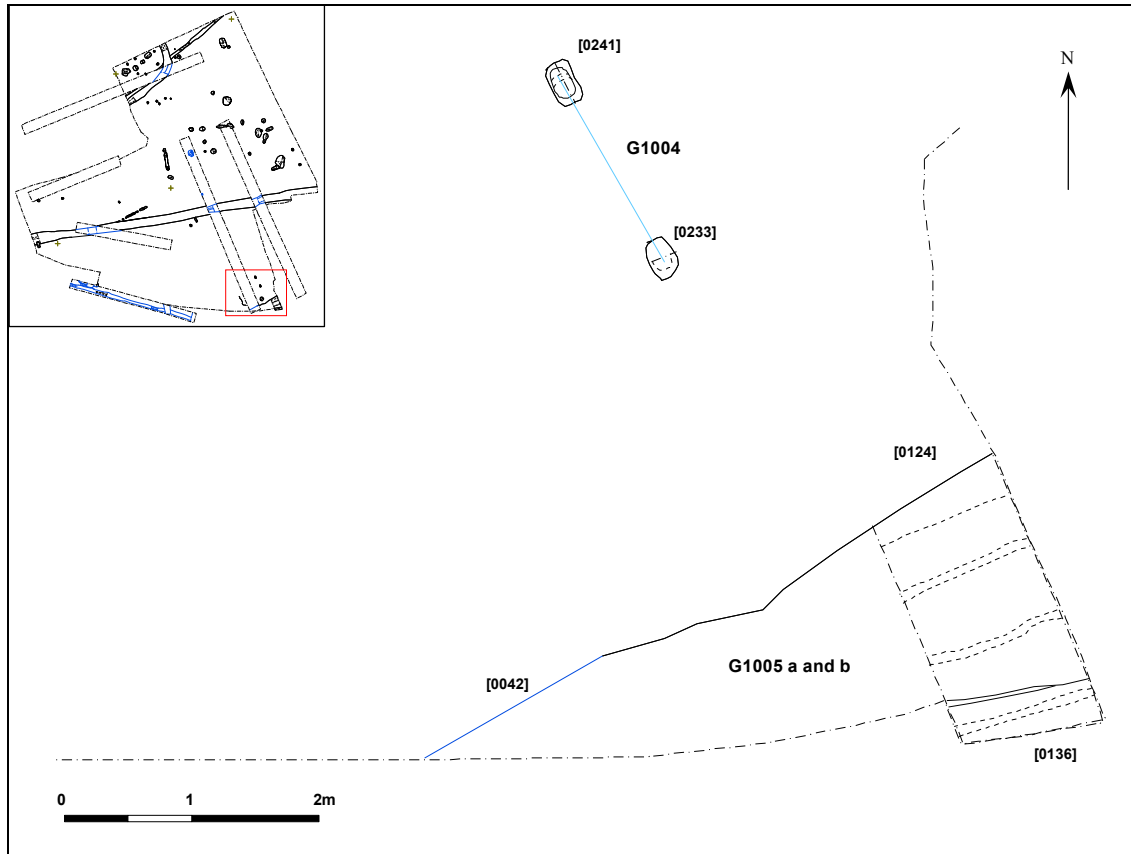


Figure 7. Groups G1004 and G1005 a and b

4.4 Roman (Phase 2)

The early phase ditch (G1006) was cut by a curving ditch, (**G1011**), that was SW-NE aligned with a NNW-SSE aligned return. The pottery and tile collected from the ditch (**G1011**) indicate it was being infilled during the 2nd century. At some stage the ditch was re-dug along the same line. The later version contained pottery, fired clay and lava quern suggesting it was infilled from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.

This ditch appeared to form a boundary for a second phase of timber building in the space formerly occupied by the (G1007) and (G1008) building. The building was represented by a line of substantial post-holes in which the post-pipe was usually evident (**G1010**). The assemblage of pottery and CBM collected from these features ranged in date from 2nd to 3rd century.

One of the post-holes forming building (G1010) was at some stage largely truncated by a large pit (**G1022**). The biggest assemblage of finds from a single feature was collected from this pit, consisting of pottery, CBM, fired

clay, slag, lava quern and an iron object. These date in general to the 2nd or 3rd century.

The rest of the site was occupied by features on a slightly different SW-NE alignment. On the southern edge of the excavation area two phases of ditch were recorded, which demonstrate this slight change in alignment (**G1005a&b**). One of the ditches, (**G1005a**), was grouped with the early phase features on the basis of alignment only, because the finds could not be closely dated. The other ditch (**G1005b**), on the evidence of the pottery, CBM, fired clay and quernstone recovered, was being infilled from the early 2nd to mid 3rd century. Sadly the stratigraphic relationship between these ditch phases had been removed by animal burrows.

Ditch (**G1005b**) matched alignments with a number of possible buildings and post-lines. In the centre of the site, alternating post-hole and slots making up walls (**G1002**) and (**G1003**), together may form a large building running parallel to the ditch. This building would have been 5.5m wide by over 11.4m long and possibly constructed of timber uprights alternating with ground beams topped by wattle panels or planks.

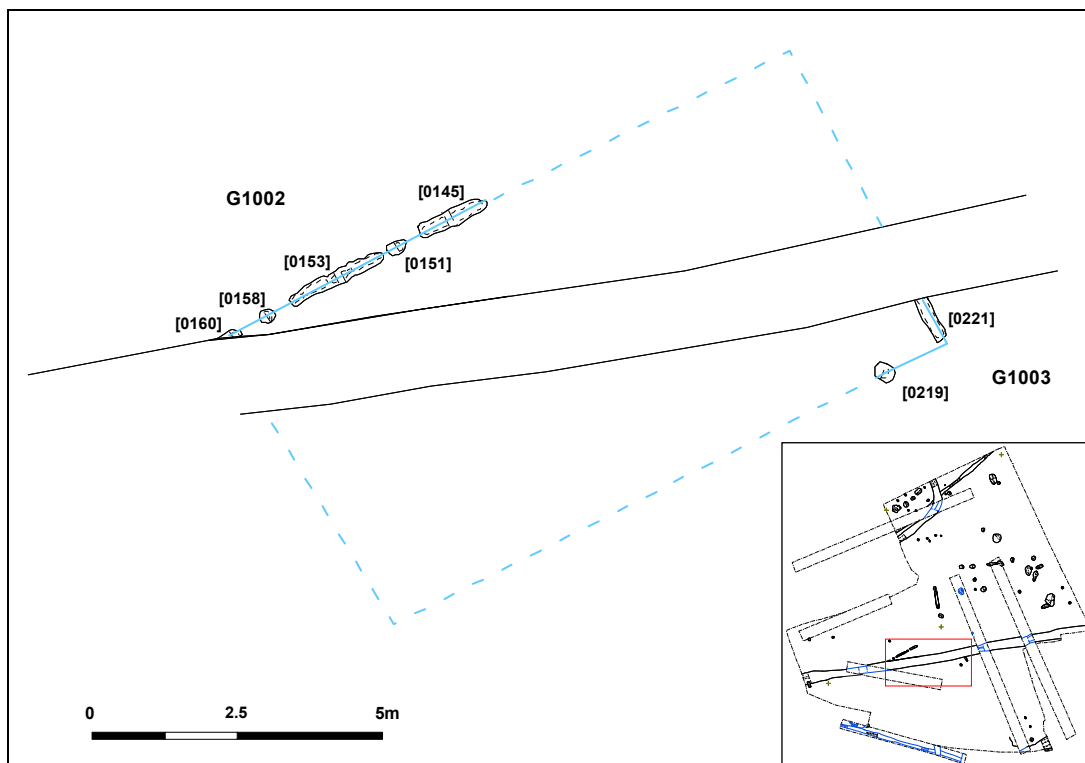


Figure 8. Groups G1002 and G1003

No evidence for floors or occupation layers survived for this building, but the fills of the structural features were particularly 'ashy' and black. Analysis of the environmental samples revealed that they contained relatively high concentrations of black tarry and cokey material, probably produced by burning wood at very high temperatures. Similar concentrations of this material were found in a fire pit or hearth (G1018), and perhaps more significantly, as a spread of burnt material at the western end of the building. The burnt material may be the by-product of a domestic hearth located within the building or the result of industrial activity. No firm evidence was produced either way, but fragments of melted bronze were recovered in the vicinity.

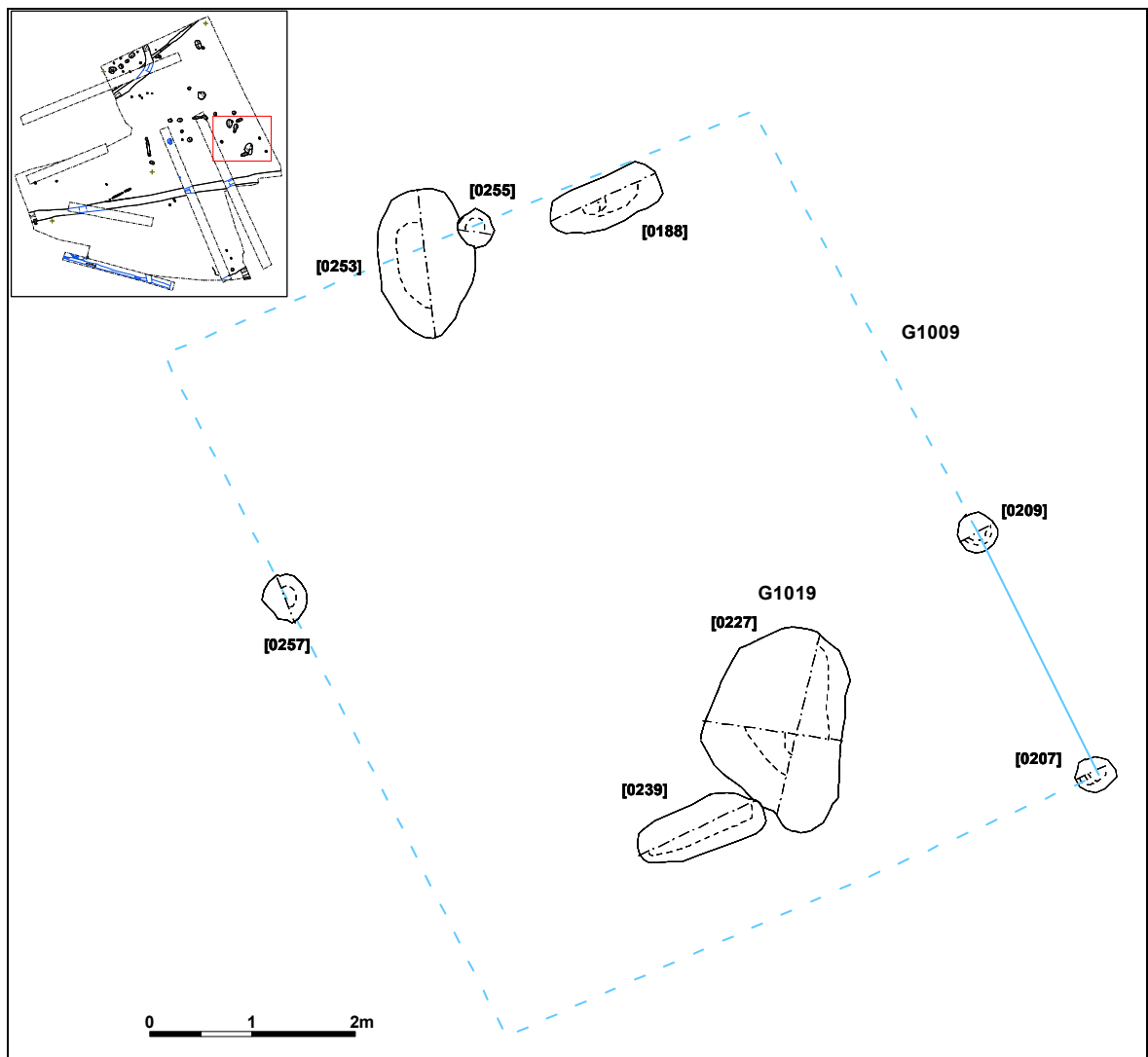


Figure 9. Groups G1009 and G1019

Along the eastern side of the excavation area there was a grouping of post-holes and slots possibly forming a building on the same alignment, and situated a similar distance from ditch (G1005b). This potential building (**G1009**) measured 7.4m by 6.17m, although the structure may have extended beyond the excavation edge to the east. Like the other buildings, no remnant of floors or occupation layers was evident. A single sherd of late 1st or 2nd century pot was recovered from this group of features, and its abraded nature may indicate it was residual. Pit (**G1020**), along the northern wall of this building, is probably later than the building, but on the basis of a single sherd of Roman pottery has been lumped into this phase.

Two post-holes (**G1004**) were located beside the southern boundary ditch (G1005b). While it is perhaps unwise to assign an alignment to two post-holes, the lack of any other similar features in the vicinity perhaps makes this less tenuous than might otherwise be the case. The alignment is perpendicular to the southern boundary ditch (G1005B) and the post-holes may have been part of a fence line. A small assemblage of pottery and fired clay with a single pottery sherd dating to the 1st century to the mid 2nd century came from these features.

A shallow feature probably a hearth or fire pit was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the site (**G 1018**). This feature contained a high proportion of black tarry and cokey material and charcoal indicative of high temperature burning, which supplemented evidence for in-situ heat discolouration of the underlying deposit. The single sherd of pottery produced from the 1st to 2nd/3rd century doesn't closely date the feature, although a quantity of animal bone collected from the fill perhaps suggests a domestic rather than industrial function. An undated post-hole that was beside the hearth/fire pit was also assigned to this group, as it may represent a support structure for cooking over the fire. The hearth is tentatively attributed to this phase based solely on the alignment of its long axis, which is similar to that of the buildings to the south (G1009) and (G1003 & G1003).

A number of isolated features of uncertain date were present across the site. These included a post-hole/slot near the western site boundary (**G1026**), a post-hole near the southern boundary (**G1021**), a possibly displaced post-pad stone (**G1016**) in the middle of the site, two post-holes near the northern boundary (**G1017**), and a large pit or post-hole (**G1019**) in the middle of building (G1009).

4.5 Roman? Or Later (Phase 3)

At some stage the site was re-organized, with the major features such as ditches and buildings being oriented on a more East-West alignment than in previous phases.

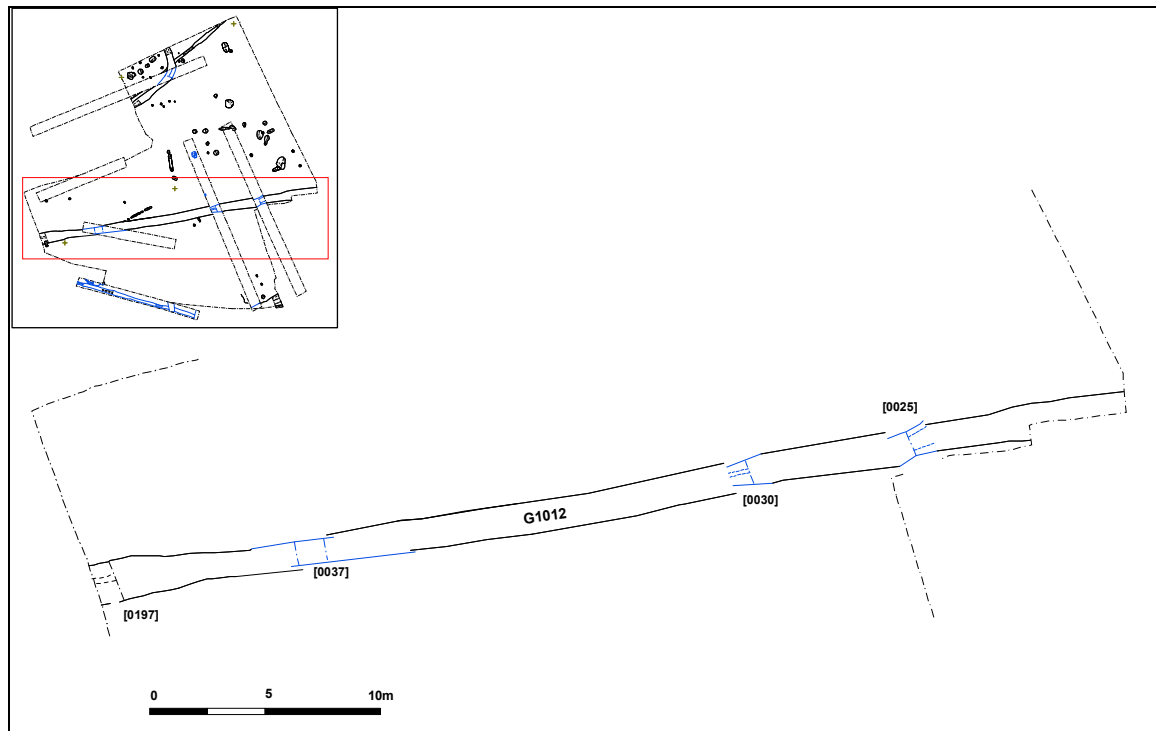


Figure 10. Group G1012

The main example of this is the large ditch running across the centre of the site (**G1012**). This feature clearly produced one of the major cropmarks identified during the aerial photographs assessment (Palmer, 2008). The profile of the ditch differed dramatically in the four excavated slots. The westernmost slot had a typical ditch profile, while others are possibly indicative of some form of post structure or palisade in the base. A potential explanation is that the boundary was originally a deeply set post line or

palisade, which was subsequently removed and re-dug as a ditch. The lowest fills were not datable by finds while the upper fills contained a mix of abraded 2nd to 3rd or 4th century pottery types, and a single middle Saxon Ipswich ware sherd.

To the north of this boundary ditch and parallel to it was a group of post-holes and slots which together possibly formed a building measuring 16.0m E-W and 7.25m wide (**G1013**). The building had a line of central post-holes, possibly to support the roof and more post-holes representing an internal partition. Interestingly, the western end of the building was represented by a deep slot that held post settings; a building technique not normally associated with Roman period buildings (Plouviez, Pers. Comm.). No floors or occupation layers were associated with the building.

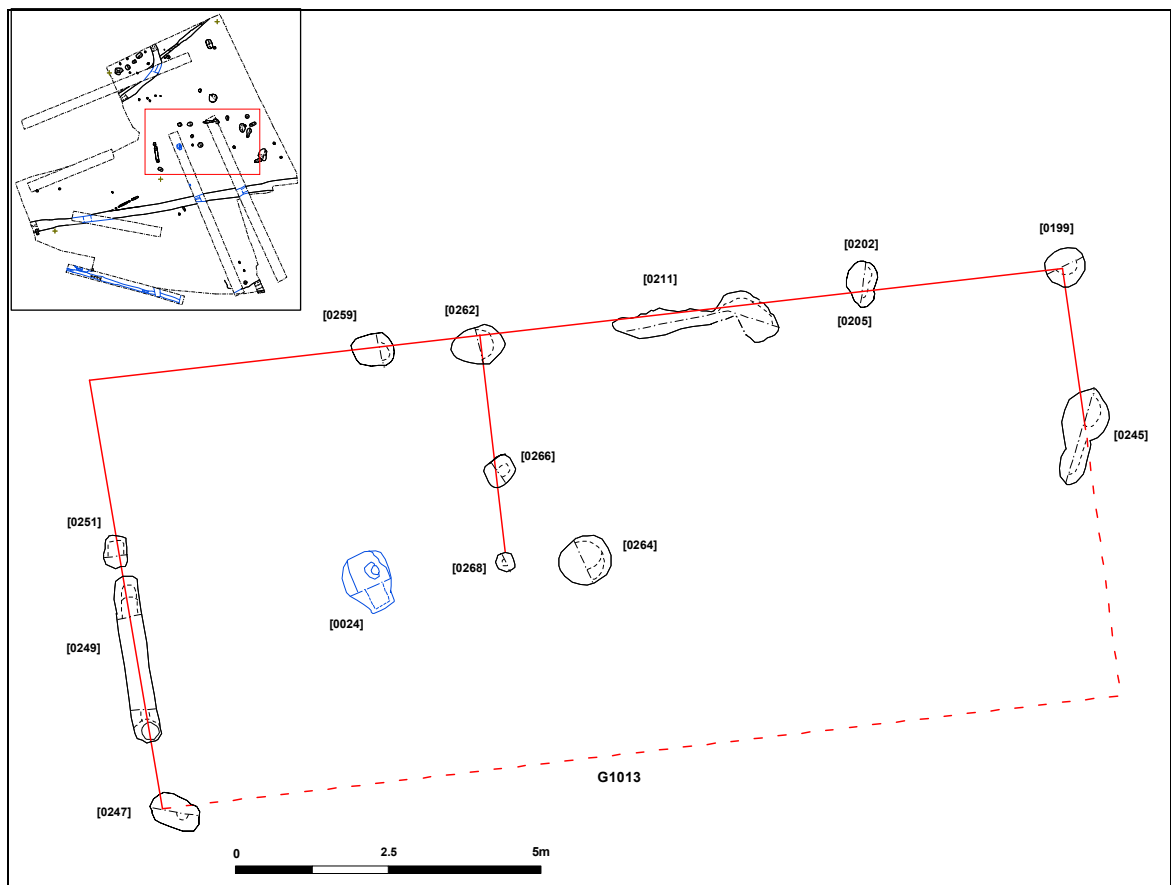


Figure 11. Group G1013

The finds assemblage from building (**G1013**) incorporated finds ranging in date from the 1st to 3rd century AD.

To the north of building (G1013) and on the same E-W alignment was a line of post-holes probably representing a fence-line (**G1014**). This group was not well dated by the few generic Roman pottery sherds recovered from it.

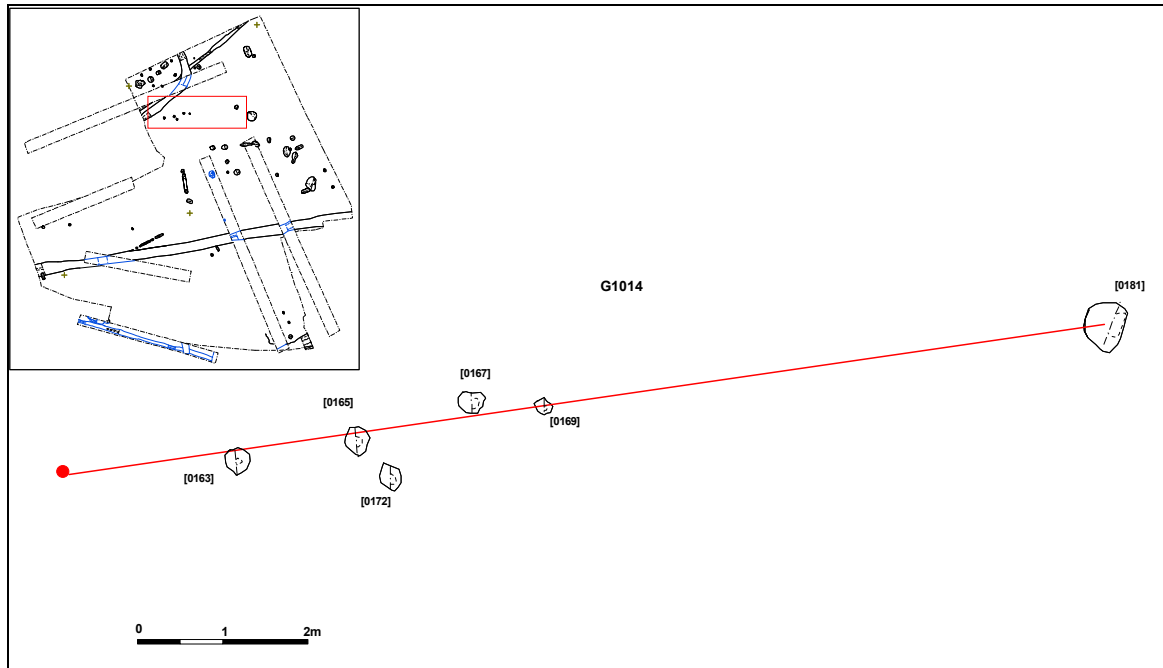


Figure 12. Group G1014

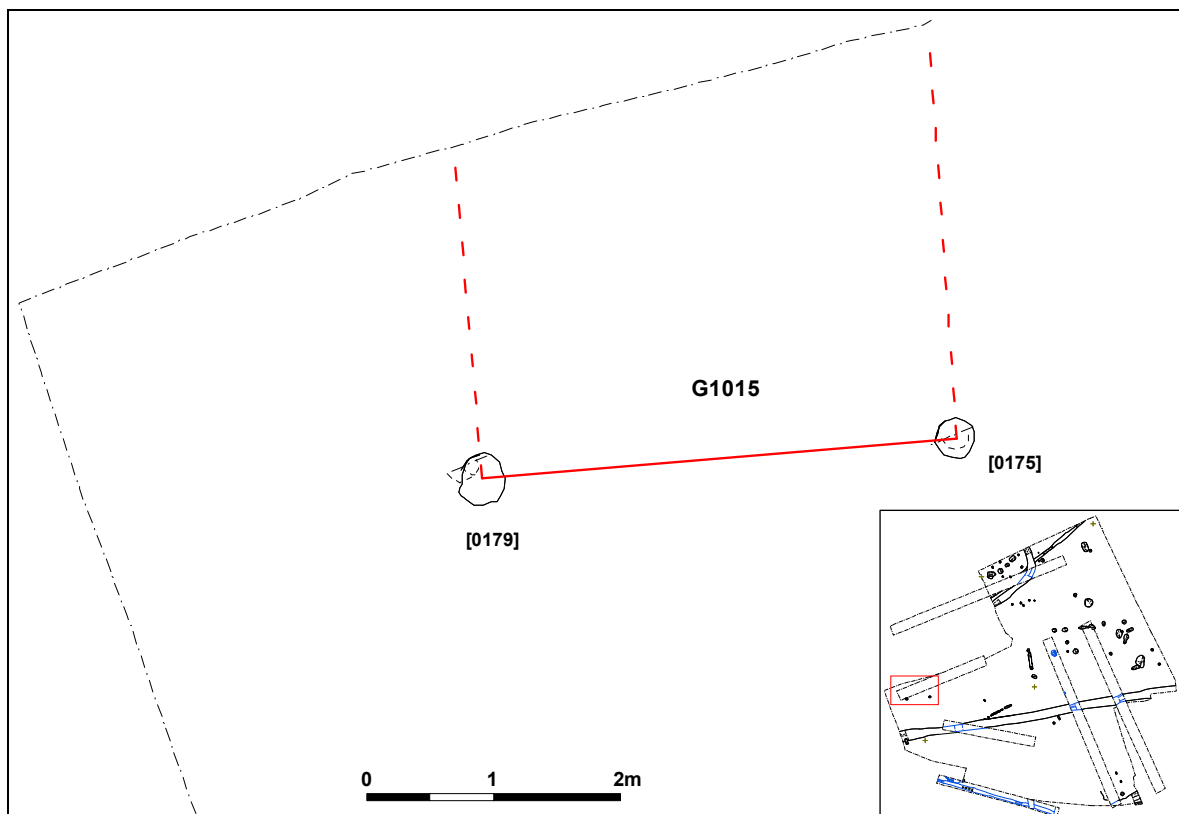


Figure 13. Group G1015

Lastly, two postholes (**G1015**), in the western part of the site, were located a similar distance from ditch (G1012) as building (G1013), and were on the same alignment. It is clear that whatever structure these features represent lies largely outside the excavation area, so it is impossible to interpret. One of the post-holes produced a small generic Roman assemblage of finds.

4.6 Middle Saxon (Phase 4)

Evidence for middle Saxon activity on the site is limited to two sherds of Ipswich ware, one recovered from the upper fills of ditch (G1012) and a sherd from a large pit (**G1023**). The finds assemblage recovered from this pit largely consisted of abraded Roman types which attests to the level of residuality of Roman finds on the site. This also poses questions about the dating of some of the other features that are dated by small assemblages of abraded Roman finds.

4.7 Medieval & Post-Medieval (Phase 5)

No features can be assigned a medieval date from the finds the finds assemblage alone. A number of sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery were recovered from the machining of the topsoil, as well as a buckle plate (SF 1004) of similar date. A 17th century buckle frame (SF1009) was also recovered from the topsoil. This said, it seems likely that a ditch (**G1024**) seen along the southern site boundary is medieval in date. The ditch is beside and parallel to the modern thoroughfare, Narrow Way; which is likely to be the medieval route across the common heathland. In addition the ditch does not share an alignment with any of the features assigned to earlier phases. A single sherd of Roman pottery and two fragments of possible Roman CBM is weak evidence of Roman date, and they may be residual.

Sharing an alignment with the boundary ditch was a slot and a large pit truncating it (**G1025**). Once again the single sherd of Roman pottery from the later feature is weak evidence of Roman date, and it is felt that the feature is likely to be medieval or later in date.

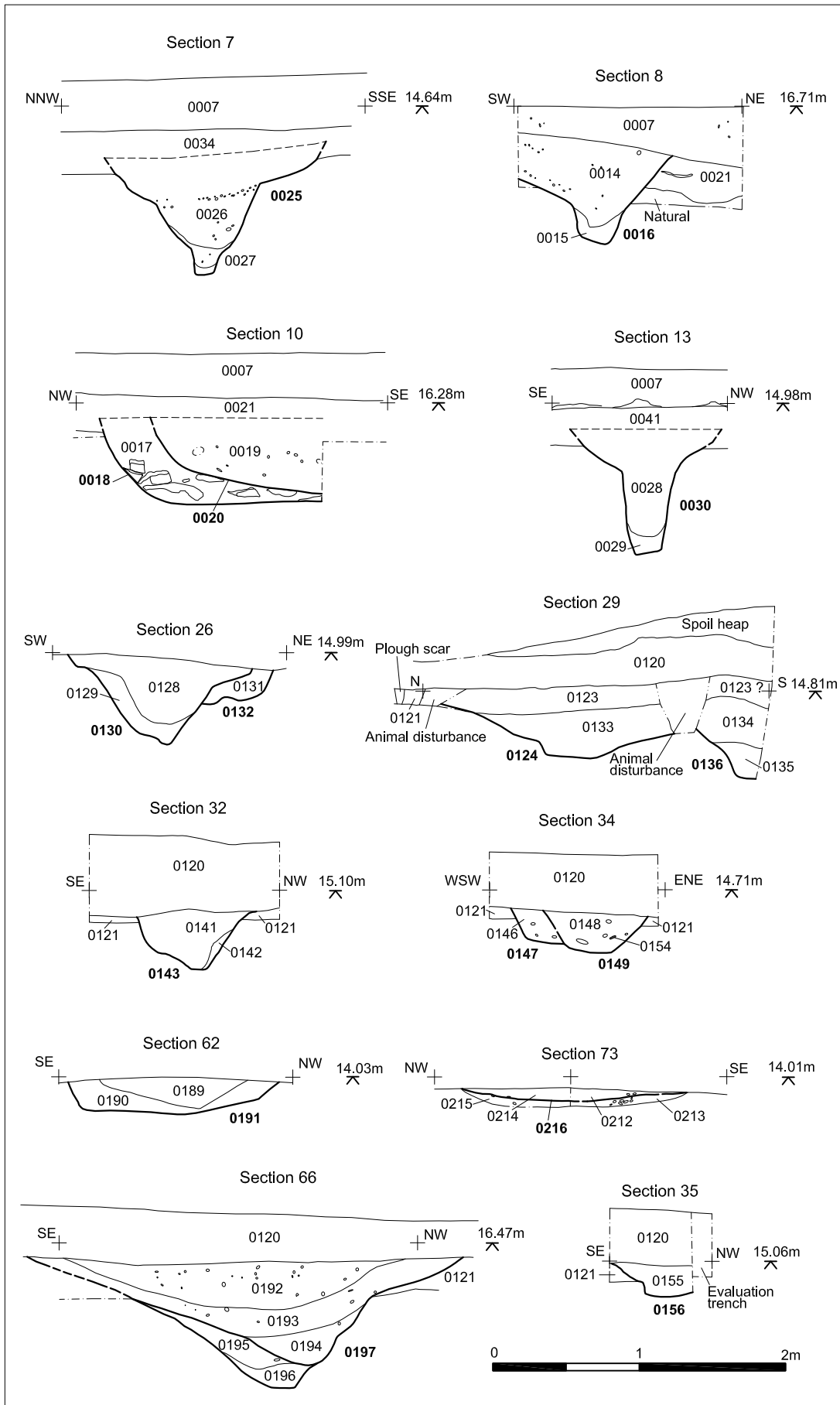


Figure 14. Sections (Sections 7, 10 and 13 upper edges extrapolated during post excavation)



Plate 1. Ditch 0016 in Trench 6 looking NW. Scales 0.5m & 1m



Plate 2. Pit 0020 and slot 0018 in Trench 6 looking NE. Scales 0.5m & 1m



Plate 3. Posthole 0024 in Trench 3 looking NW. Scales 0.5m & 1m



Plate 4. Ditch 0025 in Trench 2 looking NE. Scales 1m & 2m



Plate 5. Ditch 0030 in Trench 3 looking SW. Scales 0.5m & 1m



Plate 6. Pit 0130 & Posthole 0132 looking NW. Scale 1m



Plate 7. Ditches 0124 & 0136 looking NE. Scales 1m & 2m



Plate 8. Ditches 0147 & 0149 looking NW. Scale 1m



Plate 9. Post line Group 1014 looking W. Scales 1m & 2m



Plate 10. Postholes & Slots in Group 1002 looking SW. Scales 0.5m & 2m



Plate 11. General shot looking NW showing ditch Group 1002 & evaluation trenches



Plate 12. Ditch 0197 looking SW. Scales 1m & 2m



Plate 13. Ditch 0197 & posthole 0185 looking SE. Scale 1m

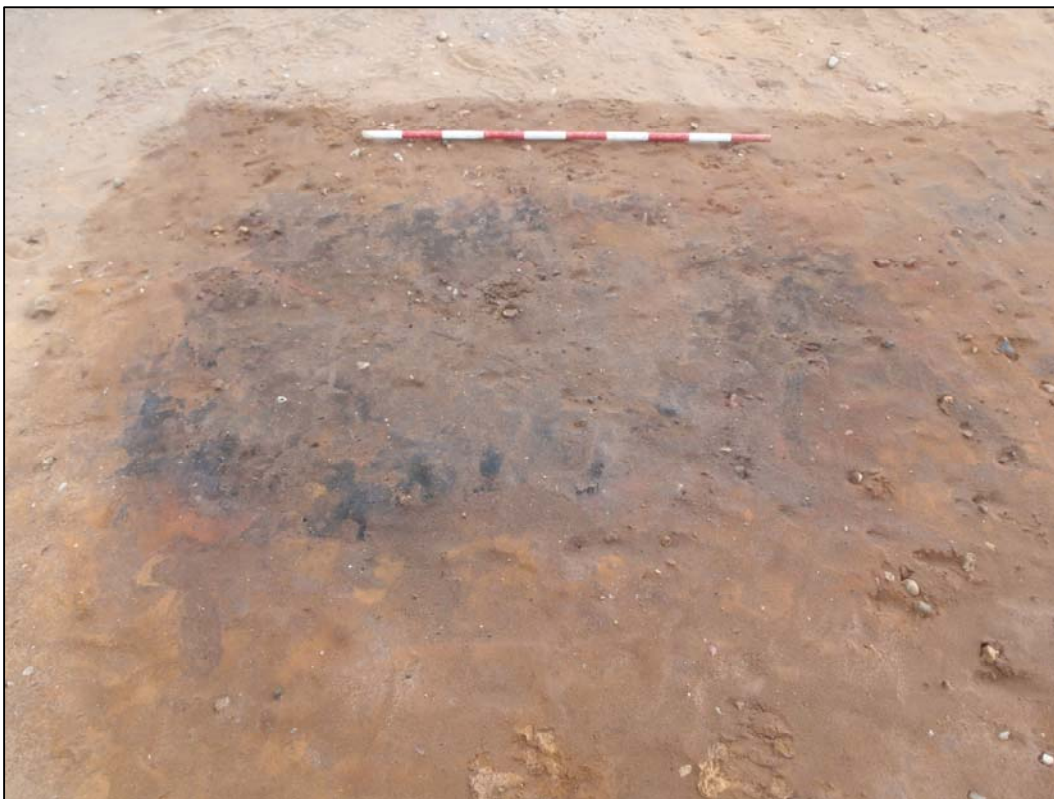


Plate 14. Hearth/fire pit 0216 before excavation looking NE. Scale 1m



Plate 15. Hearth/fire pit 0216 looking S. Scale 0.5m



Plate 16. Slot 0221 looking NW. Scale 0.5m



Plate 17. Postholes & slot in Group 1013 looking S. Scale 0.5m & 2m



Plate 18. Posthole in slot 0249 terminal looking N. Scale 0.5m

5 Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following post-excavation tasks have been completed:

Task 01: Completion and checking of primary (paper) archive

Task 02: Microsoft Access database of stratigraphic archive

Task 03: Microsoft Access database of finds archive

Task 03: Catalogue and archiving of photographic images

Task 04: Contexts allocated to Groups

Task 05: Group description/discussion text

Task 06: GPS survey data converted to MapInfo tables

Task 07: Plans digitised and integrated with GPS survey data

Task 08: Processing, dating and assessment of finds

Task 09: Processing and assessment of environmental samples

5.2 Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

Type	Number	Format
Context register sheets	8	A4 paper
Context recording sheets	217	A4 paper
Environmental sample register sheets	1	A4 paper
Environmental sample recording sheets	27	A4 paper
Small find register sheets	2	A4 paper
Drawing register sheets	5	A4 paper
Drawing sheets	2	595mm x 840mm film
Drawing sheets	33	297mm x 420mm film
Photograph register sheets	14	A4 paper
Digital images	282	3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg
Black & White print images.	156	Negatives
Colour Slide images.	74	Transparency
Evaluation Report (2009/059)	1	A4 ring-bound

Table 1. Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

5.3 Quantification and assessment: finds and environmental archive

(Stephen Benfield)

5.3.1 Introduction

This report deals mainly with the excavation finds, but the evaluation/fieldwalking finds quantities are summarised in Table 2 and will be

referred as appropriate within the relevant sections of this report. Full finds quantifications by context from the excavation are included as Appendix 4.

The finds are mainly Roman in date, but a small quantity of Post-Roman material was also present.

Find type	Evaluation finds		Excavation finds		Total	
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	45	373	282	2655	327	3028
CBM	33	2143	80	6082	112	8225
Fired clay	1	5	51	469	52	474
Stone			11	471	11	471
Clay pipe			1	4	1	4
Lava quern			15	283	15	283
Worked flint	1	2	2	88	3	90
Burnt flint/stone	1	54	9	82	10	136
Slag			7	793	7	793
Iron nails			1	12	1	12
Animal bone			23	24	23	24

Table 2. Evaluation and excavation finds quantities.

5.3.2 Pottery

Introduction

A total of 282 sherds of pottery, weighing 2655g, was recovered from the excavation. Almost all of the assemblage can be identified as Roman, with only three sherds which are of post-Roman date. The pottery is listed by context in Appendix 5.

Methodology

All of the pottery was quantified by count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (Eve). Roman and post-Roman fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk Roman and post-Roman fabric series. Roman pottery fabric quantities are summarised in Table 3 and the full catalogue by context is in the Appendix 5. Roman vessel forms were recorded using the typology devised for pottery at Chelmsford (Going 1987). Samian pottery forms were recorded following the references used in Webster (1996). Other references to vessel forms are individually noted in the text. For the Roman pottery the incidence of the recorded numbered vessel forms, together with some selected non-numbered general vessel types (*i.e.* flagon or beaker) are set out in Table 4.

Pottery by Period

Roman pottery

Table 3 shows the Late Iron Age/Roman pottery from the site.

Fabric	Code	No.	%No.	Wt/g	%Wt	Eve.	%Eve
Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux)	SACG	5	1.8	171	6.7		
East Gaulish samian	SAEG	7	2.5	107	4.2		
<i>Total Imported fine wares:</i>		12	4.3	278	10.9		
Late Colchester colour-coated ware	COLC	2	0.7	11	0.4		
<i>Total local and regional finewares</i>		2	0.7	11	0.4		
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	155	55.5	1339	52.4	1.38	69.4
Miscellaneous buff wares	BUF	13	4.7	46	1.7	0.03	1.5
Grey micaceous wares, black-surfaced	GMB	6	2.2	68	2.7		
Grey micaceous wares, grey-surfaced	GMG	1	0.4	52	2		
Grog-tempered black-surfaced wares	GROG/BSW	2	0.7	16	0.6		
Smooth red-surfaces wares	GROG-S	1	0.4	2	0.1		
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	85	30.5	701	27.4	0.28	14.1
Miscellaneous red coarse wares	RX	1	0.4	3	0.1		
<i>Total local and regional coarse wares</i>		264	94.8	2227	87	1.69	85
Hadham red wares	HAX	1	0.4	41	1.6	0.3	15.1
<i>Total late specialist wares</i>							
Total LIA/Roman pottery		279	100	2557	100	1.99	100

Table 3. Late Iron Age/Roman pottery fabric quantities

Fabric code	Forms recorded
SACG	Dr. 18/31 or 31 dish/bowl
SAEG	Dr. 31 bowl
COLC	roughcast beaker (?2)
BSW	A4 type platter/dish; B2 type bead-rimmed dish (2); B2.3 bead-rimmed dish; ?B3 type dish; B3.2 dish; B4.1/1 bead-rimmed bowl; B4.2 bead-rimmed bowl; ?B8 dish; C16 bowl with out-turned grooved rim; G9 1/1 jar with burnished lattice (5) G9.2/G9.3 jar with burnished lines (2)
GMB	?C23 bowl with bead rim
BUF	flagon
GX	?G10.1/1 jar; G9.1/1 jar with burnished lattice; G9.2/G9.3 jar with burnished lines; face-pot Braithwaite Type 13A (Braithwaite 2007); medium sized storage jar
HAX	large narrow-necked jar or flagon

Table 4. Numbered vessel forms and selected non-numbered general vessel types recorded by Fabric

Note: if more than one recorded incidence of a particular form type then the total number of records of that form is given in brackets

Discussion

The Roman pottery consists of 279 sherds weighing a total of 2.522kg. The average sherd weight is about 9.2g. The condition of the pottery is generally fair, but much has slightly degraded surfaces or is abraded to varying degrees. Although not a large assemblage, the group is of a sufficient size to be worthy of discussion, beyond simply being used to provide a dating framework. Part of its significance also lies in the fact that it provides a useful

assemblage in an area where little stratified Roman pottery has been excavated. It also helps to provide a broader context for the interpretation of other significant finds material from the site, notably some metalwork with Roman military connections.

The largest quantities of pottery (43% by numbers of sherds and 72% by weight) are associated with just two individual numbered contexts. One of these is a number given to the unstratified material (0100) but the other is the pit 0130 (0128). The unstratified material is about 14% of the pottery by sherd count and about 18% by weight, whilst the pottery from this pit is about 29% of the pottery by sherd count and 54% by weight.

In terms of the date of the pottery, potentially the earliest is represented by a small number of sherds (3) which have some grog-temper; Fabric GROG/BSW - unstratified (0100) and from the ditch 0197 (0193) - and Fabric GROG-S - unstratified (0100). These can be dated to the Late Iron Age or the early Roman period, probably to the 1st century AD, although the 2 sherds in Fabric GROG/BSW are probably more likely to date to the early Roman period. One other sherd, a groove-rimmed bowl of form C16 from the post-hole 0259 (0258), can also be dated to the early Roman period, c 1st-early/mid 2nd century. Otherwise there is little that can be dated specifically to the 1st-early 2nd century and the imported fine ware (samian) is all of 2nd-3rd century date. In respect of this, it can be noted that among a much larger pottery assemblage from the Roman settlement at Hacheston, Suffolk, 1st century - south Gaulish - samian, accounted for only 9% (by vessel numbers) of all the samian recovered (Tester 2004, 150).

Pottery which can be dated to the mid-Roman period, c early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, is much more recognisable among the vessel forms and fabrics. The most obvious of these are imported fine wares, regional fine wares and vessels copying Black-Burnished Ware forms. There are sherds of plain samian imported from Central Gaul (Lezoux) - unstratified (0100) and from the pit 0127 (0126) - and East Gaul - unstratified (0100). There are also 2 sherds from the Colchester kilns in Late Colchester colour-coated ware which are

from a roughcast beaker – from the ditch 1024 (0123) and post-hole 0202 (0200) - possibly representing a single pot. Vessels in Black-Burnished Ware forms of 2nd-3rd century date make up the largest number of identified vessel types. Their predominance is partly due to the fact that jars in the forms can be recognised from body sherds and also that they form a distinctive and classifiable range of vessels. The recorded incidence of these particular jar and bowl forms in Table 4 is certainly biased in this way. However, the number of different forms of Black Burnished Ware type recorded shows that these are a significant part of the assemblage. A face pot (see below) can also be dated to this period.

Pottery of the late Roman period, .c mid 3rd-4th century, is not well represented among the closely datable pieces. The only piece that can be dated to this period is the abraded rim of a narrow-necked jar or flagon in red oxidised ware from the Hadham potteries and which is likely to date to the 4th century – unstratified (0100).

The types of vessels are dominated by jar, bowl and dish forms. Beakers and flagons are poorly represented, while two types of Roman vessel are completely absent from the assemblage: mortaria and amphora.

Recognisable imports and regional imports to the site consist of the samian (about 11% by weight and 4% by number of sherds), the colour-coated beaker(s) from Colchester and the large narrow-necked jar or flagon from Hadham (between them about 2% by weight and about 1% by sherd numbers). A buff coloured flagon (Fabric BUF) may also be from Colchester and a face pot (see below) may also be a Colchester product. Otherwise, the remaining pottery is probably most, if not all, of relatively local origin.

There is one moderate sized group of stratified pottery, a pit 0130 (0128) with 86 sherds weighing 1376g. The average sherd weight in this context is about 16g, which is nearly twice the site average (see above). Most of the closely datable sherds are of 2nd-3rd century date, a few pieces may date from the 1st-early 2nd century. The latest closely dated piece is a black-burnished ware type jar decorated with grouped burnished lines, which can probably be

dated from the mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. The pottery from the pit is dominated by the Black surfaced wares which account for between about 60% and 75% of the pottery by weight and sherd numbers respectively (Table 5).

Fabric code	No.	% No.	Wt./g	% Wt.t
SACG	1	1.1	150	10.9
BSW	66	76.7	803	58.4
GMB	6	6.9	68	4.9
BUF	3	3.5	10	0.7
GX	10	11.6	345	25.0
Totals	86	99.8	1376	99.9

Table 5. Pit 0130 (0128) Roman pottery fabric quantities

Only three other contexts have more than 15 sherds and most have either one or two, or less than five. Many of these sherds, especially from contexts numbered 0193 and higher, are noted as abraded and are old or residual in these contexts.

One sherd has a graffito – from the post-hole 0241 (0240). This is the base of a beaker or small jar with a small pedestal foot in Fabric BSW with part of an X scratched into it post-firing.

Roman face pot

Of particular interest are sherds from a face pot in Fabric GX with a dark grey surface from the pit 0130 (0128). The 6 sherds come from the upper part of the pot; from the rim, neck and upper body. The largest sherd has part of the frilled rim, neck and a handle. A group of three joining sherds encompasses a length of an applied frill, representing part of the hair, and a small rectangular piece of applied clay, which has a raised part toward the top of the pot, representing the ear. The ear is within the area bounded by the hair. This is unusual but can be seen on one example from Colchester (Braithwaite 2007, plate J9). There is also a small piece of applied clay, which has flaked away from the body of the pot that forms a rounded point or ridge. This can be certainly identified as the chin from the face as the eyes and mouth usually have a groove across them, similar to a coffee bean, and it does not match the shape of the single known ear. Although little of the pot remains, there is sufficient to clearly identify it as an example of Braithwaite Form Type 13A

(Braithwaite 2007, 259). This form is dated by Braithwaite to c AD120-220 for its main period of production (2007, 259), but may originate in the late 1st century. The form is relatively common among face pots from Colchester where it is classified as Cam 288, along with some undecorated pots of the same overall form (Hull 1958 fig 120, Symonds and Wade 1999 480-481). However, at Colchester the form is usually produced in an oxidised buff fabric rather than grey ware, although grey ware face pots of uncertain specific form were produced there (Symonds and Wade 1999 fig 6.83, 820-824). This could indicate that it is of relatively local production, and face pots attributed to this form type (Braithwaite Type 13) are known from Norfolk (Braithwaite 2007, fig. J6, no.5). It can be noted that of a small number of face pots known from Hacheston, Suffolk, one which can be identified to a form type by the rim is of a different type (Braithwaite Type 21C) to that from the site here at Wenhaston (Plouviez 2004, 178 & Fig 117 no.4). Face pots, as a general vessel type, are known to have military connections (Braithwaite 2007, 325).

Evaluation pottery

Forty-five sherds of pottery weighing 0.373kg were collected during the evaluation and fieldwalking. The largest proportion (93%) of the evaluation and fieldwalking pottery assemblage is Roman with the most diagnostic fabrics and forms dating from the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries. None of the forms or fabrics which characterise the earliest or latest Roman periods are present in this assemblage which consists mainly of local and regional coarsewares and just a very small proportion of imported finewares represented by samian from Central and East Gaulish production centres. This is a very typical composition for a rural assemblage indicating that the inhabitants of this site relied mainly on local or regional sources for their pottery requirements but also had access to markets where finer products were sold.

The Roman pottery was collected from a limited number of features or unstratified in five of the six evaluation trenches (1-3, 5 and 6) and there were no real concentrations in any of them. The total number of sherds from each was four or less except in Trench 1 which produced nine sherds. Without

exception, the pottery from every context is very abraded and appears to have been through a very long deposition cycle.

The Post-Roman pottery

Two sherds of Ipswich ware (Fabric SIPS) of Middle Saxon date respectively were recovered from two excavation contexts. One sherd (weighing 35g) came from pit 0191 (0189), the other (weighing 97g) from the surface fill of a ditch (0210). In addition a single small fragment of Transfer-printed pottery, unstratified (0100), dates to the nineteenth century or later.

Post-Roman pottery from the evaluation consisted of two sherds each of medieval and post-medieval pottery which were recovered from the topsoil (0007) during fieldwalking.

The significance of the pottery assemblage and potential for further work

The main significance of the pottery assemblage is in providing a broad dating for the settlement and its status. The earliest closely dated pottery dates to the late Iron Age or early Roman period and to the early Roman period (1st-early 2nd century) but the quantity of this material is small. Most of the closely datable pottery can be dated to the mid Roman period of the 2nd-3rd century. Pottery that can be dated to the late Roman pottery of the late 3rd-4th century is represented by one sherd. The implication from the closely datable pottery is that the main occupation on the site begins in the Late Iron Age or early Roman period. Its main flourish is in the 2nd-3rd century and by the late Roman period activity on this part of the site has, in terms of the pottery, effectively ceased. However, there is only one context, the pit 0130 on the north of the site, which has a significant group of pottery in terms of size. Also, it should be noted that much of the rest of the pottery - especially from contexts numbered 0193 and higher which are located mainly on the central and southern parts of the site - is noted as abraded and therefore is probably old or residual within the contexts.

The range of the pottery is consistent with other rural sites. The only exception is the recovery of a necked and handled face pot. These are not common finds on rural sites and suggest a possible military connection, possibly with an army veteran settler. No further work on the Roman pottery from the evaluation or excavation will be required.

The two middle Saxon Ipswich ware sherds from a pit and a ditch surface are significant finds in terms of the site and in the wider context, as Saxon material (pottery and metalwork) has previously been collected from the immediate area, Suffolk Historic Environment Records (HER) WMH 004 and WMH 005). No further work on the Saxon pottery from the excavation is required, but the significance of this material should be fully discussed in the site report.

No further work is required for the medieval or post-medieval pottery from the evaluation.

5.3.3 Ceramic building materials (CBM) and Fired Clay

Introduction

A total of 80 fragments of brick and tile, weighing 6082g, was recovered from the excavation. The assemblage was fully quantified by fragment count and weight and is listed by context in Appendix 6.

75 fragments of Roman brick or tile, weighing 5.909kg were identified as being Roman or probably Roman in date. In addition one fragment (0100) (64g), appears to be from a post-medieval/modern, possibly frogged, brick. A further four small pieces of thin, flat tile - unstratified (0100) - (weight 109g), all about 12 mm thick, are possible pegtile fragments; although this is not certain as they conform to Fabric C and they could be pieces of Roman *imbrex*. These pieces have not been included further in the quantification.

Description

The Roman brick and tile could be divided between four fabrics based on visual examination (below). A breakdown of the quantity of each of the fabrics is set out in Table 6.

Fabric A	fine sand with streaks and pieces of pale silty-clay, few other inclusions but some red-brown iron-rich sand ironstone fragments. General overall Fabric colour is red.
Fabric B	medium-coarse sand, generally few inclusions but with some small flint, quartz and red-brown iron-rich sand or ironstone pieces. General overall Fabric colour is red, some pieces have a darker coloured surface.
Fabric C	fine sand with few inclusions, some red-brown iron-rich sand ironstone fragments. General overall Fabric colour is red.
Fabric D	medium-coarse sand, few other inclusions, the few examples are brownish and the fabric appears laminated and poorly worked.

Fabric type	No.	% No.	Wt./g	% Wt.
A	24	32	1411	23.9
B	33	44	3076	52.1
C	15	20	1208	20.4
D	3	4	214	3.6
Totals	75	100	5909	100

Table 6. Roman brick and tile fabric quantities

A number of Roman brick or tile types could be identified. The numbers of these for each fabric type are given in Table 7 and, where measurable, the recorded thickness of individual brick and tile types is given in Table 8.

Fabric type	<i>tegulae</i>	<i>imbrex</i>	box flue-tile	brick
A	2 (?3)		?1	1 (?2)
B	1 (?4)	(?1)		3 (?5)
C		2	1	2
D				1
Totals	3 (?7)	2 (?3)	1 (?2)	7 (?10)

Table 7. Types of Roman brick and tile by Fabric

Type	thickness mm	Fabric
<i>tegulae</i>	18	A
<i>tegulae</i>	22	A
? <i>tegulae</i>	22	A
<i>tegulae</i>	22	B
<i>tegulae</i>	23	B
? <i>tegulae</i>	19	B
? <i>tegulae</i>	23	B
? <i>tegulae</i>	23	B
<i>imbrex</i>	13	B
<i>imbrex</i>	12	C
<i>imbrex</i>	17	C
brick	40	A
brick	32	A
?brick	34	A
brick	53	B
brick	55	B
?brick	33	B
brick	55	B
brick	30	C
brick	29	B
brick	30	C
?brick	36	D
?box flue tile	14	A
box flue tile	14	C
RBT	32	A
RBT	36	A
RBT	15	B

Table 8. Recorded thickness of types of Roman brick and tile by Fabric
(Note: RBT – unspecified Roman brick or tile)

Discussion

The Roman brick and tile forms a small, but interesting assemblage.

All of the brick and tile is in red oxidised fabrics. The four fabric types (Fabrics B-D) can, based on differences in the inclusions, be divided between those with a medium-coarse sand content (Fabrics B & D) and those with fine sand (Fabrics A & C). These may indicate different sources for the tiles. However, all of the fabrics contain some iron-rich sand or ironstone pieces and the most obvious difference is with Fabric A, which contains streaks and pieces of pale silty-clay and must, one feels, indicate a distinct and separate clay source or production site. It is not clear whether any of these fabrics need represent other than local production, although one, probably two, pieces of combed box flue-tile (see below) may indicate specialist production, either locally or as imported pieces.

The brick and tile consists of fragments of roof-tiles, *tegulae* and *imbrex*, and flue tiles from hypocaust heating systems and from hypocaust floor tiles or wall (tile-like) bricks. The flue tiles consist of a piece from a combed box flue – from the pit 0130 (0128). The pottery from the pit 0130 is dated to the 2nd-3rd century. A tile piece, 14 mm thick, which retains part of the edge of a large hole, cut before firing – from the subsoil (0211) - is also probably part of a box flue tile. It can be noted that there is one small piece of hard fired clay - from post-hole 0119 (0117) - where the surface has been divided into rectangles by scored lines. This might just possibly be part of a scored flue-tile. If such, this piece would date to the early Roman period. However, it is much more likely that this is fired clay which has been decorated, or which has a keyed surface (see below). There is no mortar on any of the broken edges of the bricks or tiles so there is no evidence that any are reused pieces. However, the near complete absence of mortar could indicate that they had been used as collected spare or scrap tile in predominantly clay built structures such as ovens, hearths (see below) or wall foundations. In fact only one of the pieces has any trace of mortar at all. This is a tile/brick fragment – from ditch 0176 (0183) - 33 mm thick, which has a thin spread of white mortar on the base and on the surviving edge. As there is no mortar on the top this suggests that it is possibly from a hypocaust floor rather than a wall.

Some of the bricks show signs of use in that they have been burnt on one side. Two bricks – from the post-hole 0118 (0118) and pit 0189 (0189) - had been burnt black on the upper face. Only one of these (0118) could be measured and was 55 mm thick. These bricks had possibly been used in the base of a hearth or oven. Three other brick and tile pieces also had been subjected to heating or had been burnt, two brick fragments - unstratified (0100) - and the combed box flue-tile piece (0128).

None of the Roman brick and tile is more closely datable within the Roman period, with a few exceptions. There is a *tegula* – from the pit 0127 (0125) - with a lower cut-away of Warry Type D1 (Warry 2006, fig 1.3), which he dates to c AD 240-380 (Warry 2006, 63). However, while probably dating to the mid-late Roman period, this date needs to be treated with some caution. While it

appears certain that tiles with this type of lower cut-away are much more common in the later Roman period, some of Warry's later dated lower cut-away types are recorded among Boudican destruction debris at the Lion walk site in Colchester (Crummy 1984, 298-301 (microfiche)) and in early dated fabrics from London (Black forthcoming). More generally, based on closely dated assemblages of tile from Colchester, the thickness of *tegulae* might be useful in dating. It seems there that there, from about the mid 2nd century, lighter *tegulae* – defined among the Colchester assemblages as *tegulae* which overall are consistently less than 20 mm thick - become more usual (Black forthcoming). This trend towards thinner tiles from the later 2nd century is also seen among dated assemblages from London (E. Black *pers. com.*). The identified *tegulae* tiles from Wenhaston range between 18 mm and 23 mm thick, most being of 22 mm or 23 mm, with an average of 21.5 mm. This could suggest that most of the roof tiles date to the early Roman period, prior to the mid 2nd century, but this is very speculative. The findings from Colchester may have little relevance to sites elsewhere and it can be noted that the *tegula* of probable 3rd century date (above) has a base which is about 23 mm thick, although this had to be measured close to the flange and the thickness across the base on individual tiles can vary.

It can be noted that one brick or tile piece - unstratified (0100) - in Fabric D, has a signature type mark on its upper surface which has been made with a comb. The thickness of this piece, 36mm, suggests that it is part of a floor tile or wall brick/tile. The comb impression is broken away and incomplete, but the comb used had at least four teeth as grooves from these survive on the remaining fragment of the tile. Combing of this type is usually used in the manufacture of combed box-flue tiles suggesting this tile came from a production site where flue tiles were also made.

CBM from the Evaluation

Most of the 33 fragments (2143g) of CBM recovered from the fieldwalking and evaluation trenches are made in dense fabrics of Roman date which show a standard range of fabrics and forms for the Roman period. A single fragment

of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile was present as an unstratified find in Trench 3.

Fired clay

A small quantity of fired clay, 50 pieces or fragments weighing a total of 455g, was recovered from 11 contexts. The pieces are mostly small, having an overall average weight of 9.1g. The largest quantity from any one context is 12 pieces, weighing 96g, which was associated with the ditch 0143 (0141) which also produced Roman pottery dated to the mid-late 2nd to 3rd century. There is little that is diagnostic among the fired clay. Of interest is a small piece of hard fired clay – from the post-hole 0119 (0117) – the surface of which has been divided into rectangles by scored lines. The thickness of the piece is greater than 20 mm. This might represent either decoration on a clay slab or possibly decoration or keyed surface on part of a wall. There is part of a clay object of which two edges survive – from the ditch 0156 (0155) - which is possibly part of a slab or a loomweight. Also one piece – from the pit 0127 - has part of a small hole, made pre-firing. Apart from the scored piece (0117) and the clay object (0155) above, much of this material is likely to derive from clay built domes or other parts of the structure of ovens or hearths. In this context it can be noted that a number of the pieces of Roman bricks and tiles had been heated or burnt.

A single, small, non-diagnostic fragment of fired clay was recovered from evaluation Trench 3, ditch 0030 (0028).

The nature of the surviving pieces of fired clay do not suggest that, in the main, any further work is necessary on the excavation or evaluation material, although the scored fragment (0117), the piece from a clay slab or other object (0155) and possibly the piece with the pre-firing hole (0127) should be looked at in more detail to see if further work and comment might be useful or desirable.

Significance of the CBM assemblage and recommendations for further work

The ceramic building material assemblage forms an interesting group of material, with the presence of flue tile fragments indicating the presence of hypocausted rooms. The groups have been fully recorded and no further work is recommended for the excavation or evaluation material.

5.3.4 *Lava quern*

In total, 15 pieces (283g) of imported lava quern were recovered from two excavation contexts, unstratified (0100) and from the ditch 0143 (0141). This was the only type of quernstone recognised among the finds. The pieces are of a size which indicates they are from hand operated rotary querns. This quern stone type was first imported in the Roman period. In the late Roman period their importation appears possibly to have ceased, their place being taken by querns stones of millstone grit, but was started again in the Saxon period (Crummy forthcoming). Based on the other finds from the site the pieces here are almost certainly of Roman date.

The condition of the lavastone fragments is poor and no further work is recommended. .

5.3.5 *Worked flint*

Identifications by Colin Pendleton

Two fragments of worked flint were recovered from two contexts. A single unpatinated long flake, irregular, with parallel flake scars on dorsal face, dated probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was unstratified (0100.) An unpatinated thin squat flake with hinge fracture and limited edge retouch or use wear, dating to the later prehistoric was recovered from the ditch 0116 (0114.)

A single flake which is probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was recovered from evaluation Trench 6.

The flint has been fully recorded and no further work is required on the excavation or evaluation material.

5.3.6 Small Finds

Identifications by Andrew Brown

Introduction

A total of eight items were recorded as small finds during the excavation and are listed in Appendix 7. Five copper alloy objects could be identified and dated. All were surface finds recovered by metal-detector. Four are from the general topsoil (0100), the other (SF1010) is from the surface of the fill of a ditch (0210). One can be dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period, three are Roman and one is of post-medieval date. Two of the Roman objects are possibly military items of 2nd-3rd century date (SF1011, SF1015). In addition there were also a small number of undated and unidentifiable pieces. These are a small copper alloy lump (SF 1013) and some mixed fragments - four small lead pieces, two possibly from an object, also two other small copper alloy pieces, one probably modern (SF1014).

Small Finds By Period

Late Iron Age/early Roman

SF 1012. Complete copper alloy brooch pin from a small Colchester type brooch, dated c 25-60 AD.

Roman

SF 1008. Pair of copper alloy tweezers. Almost complete, slightly flaring, with end of blades curved in and decorative groove down edges of arms, (Crummy 1983, 59, fig 63, no 1883).

SF 1011. Decorative copper alloy mount with 2 studs, possibly military of 2nd-3rd century date, (Oldenstein 1976, tafel 56, nos. 686-694).

SF 1015. Copper alloy disc headed stud, possibly military of 2nd-3rd century date, (Oldenstein, 1976, tafel 47-48, nos. 512-527).

Post-medieval

SF 1009 Copper alloy buckle frame end, moulded decoration, dated c 17th century.

Undated

SF 1010. Unidentified copper alloy piece from a larger object, probably of Roman date based on condition and balance of the date of the other finds.

Small Finds from the evaluation

A total of seven small finds of Roman and medieval date was recovered during the evaluation. The copper alloy small finds demonstrate a wide date-range within the Roman period and include both earlier and later material than was present in the pottery assemblage. The Colchester brooch is early, but the silvered coin is likely to date to the late 4th century. Both these finds were metal detected and unstratified. The remains of the mount (SF 1006) may perhaps have a military connection, although it is in very bad condition and difficult to identify with certainty. It bears some similarities to a circular military belt fitting from Bear House Field 1, Caerleon, which has been dated to c.130-230 AD (Chapman, 2005).

Significance of the small finds assemblage and recommendations for further work

The non-ferrous small finds are significant in that, although a small group (the size probably not being unexpected for a Roman rural site), they help support a general dating for the site of Late Iron Age/early Roman-mid Roman. In addition the presence of two objects with military associations (SF1011 & SF1015), with a further possibility from the evaluation (SF 1006) may provide useful supplementary evidence on the nature of the settlement.

All of the metal small finds from the excavation and evaluation will be x-rayed in this phase of work. It may be desirable for a few (one or two) of the metal objects to be illustrated (if possible).

5.3.7 *Animal bone*

Very little animal bone was recovered and the material is in very poor deteriorated condition and fragmented. A total of 23 fragments of animal bone weighing 24g was recovered from four excavation contexts and none at all from the evaluation.

5.3.8 *The plant macrofossils and other remains (Val Fryer)*

Introduction and method statement

Nineteen samples for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages were taken for assessment from a number of pits, ditches, post-holes and other discrete features of Roman and later date from the excavation.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 9. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia were present throughout. Twelve of the assemblages studied contained only charcoal and/or other remains and these are listed separately within Table 10.

Sample No.	9	13	12	20	10	18	26
Context No.	0105	0125	0118	0189	0106	0142	0240
Feature No.	0107	0127	0119	0191	0107	0143	0241
Feature type	ph	Pit	ph	Pit	ph	Ditch	ph
Date	1-2AD	2-3AD	Rom	M.Sax	U/D	U/D	U/D
Cereals							
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)					xcf		
Cereal indet. (grains)			x				
Herbs							
Small Fabaceae indet.						x	
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.					x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.				xx			xcf
Tree/shrub macrofossils							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x					
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	x			x			
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx	xxx	xx	x	xxxx	xx
Charred root/stem	x	x	x	x			x
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	xxxx	x			x		x
Black tarry material	xx				x	x	
Burnt/fired clay	xx						
Bone					x		xb
Vitrified material					x		
Small coal frags.			x			x	
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	30	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	10%	100%	100%	100%

Table 9. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Key: x = 1 - 10 specimens, xx = 11 - 50 specimens, xxx = 51 - 100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens ph = post-hole, Rom = Roman, M.Sax = Middle Saxon, U/D = undated

CH = Charcoal, CR/ST = charred root/stem, BPC = black porous 'cokey' material, BTM = black tarry material, B = bone, VIT.MAT. = vitrified material

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Date	Content
8	0104		Deposit	U/D	CH;BPC;BTM
11	0117	0119	ph	2nd C AD	CH;BPC;B
14	0133	0124	Ditch	2-3rd C AD	CH
15	0135	0136	Ditch	U/D	CH;CR/ST;BPC
16	0128	0130	Pit	2-3rd C AD	CH;BPC
17	0131	0132	ph	Rom	CH;CR/ST;VIT.MAT
19	0144	0145	Slot	U/D	CH;BPC;BTM
21	0212	0216	Pit	Rom	CH;BPC
22	0214	0216	Pit	U/D	CH;B
23	0215	0216	Pit	U/D	CH;CR/ST;BPC;BTM;B
25	0220	0221	Slot	Rom	CH;BPC;BTM
27	0110	0111	Slot	Rom	CH;BPC

Table 10. Samples containing only charcoal and/or other remains

Key: CH = Charcoal, CR/ST = charred root/stem, BPC = black porous 'cokey' material, BTM = black tarry material, B = bone, VIT.MAT. = vitrified material

Results

Cereal grains, seeds and tree/shrub macrofossils were recorded at an exceedingly low density within only seven of the assemblages studied. Preservation was generally poor, with most remains being either distorted, due to combustion at very high temperatures, or fragmented.

Only two cereal grains were noted. That within Sample 10 (post-hole 0107) appeared to be sharply keeled and with an elongated embryo and was tentatively identified as rye (*Secale cereale*) although it may equally have been a poorly preserved wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain. The grain within Sample 12 (post-hole 0119) was too poorly preserved for accurate identification. Seeds of common grassland herbs were recorded from four of the assemblages studied. Taxa noted included small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was recovered from sample 13 (pit 0127) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) 'pips' were noted within the assemblages from Samples 9 (post-hole 0107) and 20 (pit 0191).

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were common throughout and small pieces of charred root/stem were also recorded. With the exception of Sample 9, other remains were scarce, but did include fragments of bone and globules of vitreous material. The pieces of black porous and tarry material, which were so abundant within the assemblage from Sample 9 but also occurred within four other samples, were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

Evaluation plant macrofossils

Six samples from fills within ditches, post-holes and a possible quarry pit, were taken during the evaluation and submitted for assessment. As none of the assemblages contained a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis was recommended. The assemblages were all extremely small and sparse and it is most likely that all derived from scattered refuse, much of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Despite this, they did illustrate that charred plant

remains were preserved within the archaeological horizon, most notably within the post-hole fills.

Conclusions and recommendations

In summary, the assemblages are all extremely small and sparse and it would appear most likely that all are derived from low densities of scattered refuse, much of which was probably accidentally included within the feature fills. The origin of the material within the Roman assemblages is currently unclear, although the abundance of charcoal and burnt residues may be indicative of the presence of either hearth waste or possibly 'industrial' detritus. The Middle Saxon and undated assemblages are essentially similar to those from the Roman deposits and it is, perhaps, likely that some material is common to both, being derived from the re-cutting or disturbance of earlier features.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a written summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Overall summary and discussion of the finds

The value of the artefacts recovered lies in their being a moderately large and diverse group excavated from the area of the Roman settlement at Wenhaston, in northeast Suffolk. As such they not only help in providing a dating framework for the features located during the excavation, but also are a small, but important step toward understanding the settlement here and its relation to other Roman sites in the vicinity. Previous knowledge of the site is limited (Moore *et. al.* 1988, 38) and mostly based on finds recovered during fieldwalking (J. Plouviez pers. comm.)

The earliest closely datable finds are two worked flints: one unstratified from topsoil, can be dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age period; the other, residual in a later dated feature, is dated more generally as later prehistoric. A number of pieces of heated flint and some heated sandstone/quartzite pieces may also be of prehistoric date. It can be noted that sandstone/quartzite has

better thermal properties than flint and had been specifically sought-out for use as 'pot-boilers' at Stanway in the prehistoric period (Crummy et al 2007, 19) This small quantity of material suggests quite limited activity or occupation in the immediate area of the site and no prehistoric pottery was recovered.

Most of the artefacts date to the Roman period. The pottery is almost all of Roman date, although a few sherds could date to the Late Iron Age or to the early Roman period. There are also fragments from two brooches, one recovered during the evaluation of the site, (Goffin and Tester 2009) which are of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. Otherwise nearly all of the closely datable pottery is of 2nd-3rd century date. Only one sherd is dated to the period of the late 3rd-4th century. This dating is reflected in the small finds recovered as the two other closely datable Roman objects are also dated to the 2nd-3rd century. However, it can be noted that a coin recovered during the evaluation may date to the late 4th century (Goffin and Tester 2009).

The Roman pottery assemblage is dominated by utilitarian black surfaced wares and grey wares, most probably of local origin. Only a few pieces, mostly specialist table wares, can be identified as imported from further afield. These come from the regionally important centres at Colchester and Hadham and there is a small quantity of samian imported from Gaul. Overall the pottery can probably be described as fairly typical of assemblages from a rural community, reliant for the most part on local supply but with some access to wider markets. Other imports include hand querns of Mayen lava imported from the Rhineland. There is no evidence of imported commodities such as olive oil - commonly represented by sherds from globular Spanish *amphorae* (Dressel form 20) and no evidence of specialist food preparation vessels, i.e. *mortaria*. Their complete absence may be due to the moderate size of the assemblage itself. In this respect it may also be noted that no Roman glass was recovered. Also, the pottery recovered from individual contexts in the main consists only of small quantities and is often abraded. Only one pit feature contained a significant group of pottery in terms of size.

As with the pottery, almost all of the ceramic building material (CBM) is of Roman date. The largest group consisted of material recovered from topsoil and much of the tile recovered from excavated contexts is broken-up and abraded. A few pieces of brick or thick tiles are burnt or have black sooted surfaces. These appear to have been used in direct association with fires, possibly as hearth bases or some work or industrial activity. While much could not be identified other than simply as Roman brick/tile, it is clear that a range of brick and tile types are present. These include roofing tiles (*tegula* and *imbrex*) and tiles associated with hypocausts. The hypocaust tiles consist of two pieces from combed box-flue tiles. Hypocausts tiles were not present in the assemblage from the evaluation (Goffin and Tester 2009). They indicate heated room(s) in a building of some status in the settlement, either domestic or administrative, or possibly a bath building. The roof tiles pieces include a *tegula* lower cut-away type which can possibly be dated within the late Roman period, c AD 240-380. However the general thickness of the *tegula* tiles suggests that, in general, most could date to the period prior to the late 2nd century. The tile fabrics indicate at least two clay sources, one sandy, the other with pale silty inclusions or bands. The more specialist box-flue tiles pieces are recorded in both of these main fabric types.

One aspect of the Roman finds is a distinct military association. This can be seen in two of the small finds - a decorative copper alloy mount (SF 1011) and a copper alloy disc headed stud (SF 1015) - and a face pot (0128). These finds can be dated to the period of the 2nd-3rd century. They may indicate some direct connection between the site and the Roman military, or possibly military veterans settled here. Overall the Roman finds suggest that the settlement was either abandoned or had shrunk away from the excavation area in the late Roman period.

The quantity of post-Roman finds, as for the evaluation, is very small. The most significant of these are the two sherds of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware recovered from the excavation, which suggest activity of this date on the site, or in the vicinity.

Finds of an unstratified buckle plate of c 17th century date, a sherd of modern pottery, a few pieces of brick and tile which are, or may be post-Roman and a piece from a clay pipe suggests rare casual loss, with very little activity on the site.

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6 Potential of the data

6.1 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

OR1: Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in-situ.

Realisation: Archaeological deposits and features are present across the site. After consultation with SCCAS, Conservation Team, none of the deposits/features were deemed of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ. Also, the shallow nature of the sealing deposits made the preservation *in-situ* of the archaeological deposits impractical.

OR2: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

Realisation: The fieldwork has revealed a number of phases of activity on the site ranging from the early Roman period to the middle Saxon period. Other undated features may be medieval in date. The Roman remains consist largely of enclosure boundary ditches and timber buildings. The site is clearly part of the fairly extensive Roman period small town at Wenhaston, as discussed by Plouviez (1995) in a summary of similar sites in the region. The location of the wider Anglo-Saxon settlement is less well understood, but it may have a focus around a possible early Saxon cemetery to the south of the site.

The features have all been truncated by ploughing to a certain extent, but are otherwise well preserved. Structural features such as post-holes and slots vary from 0.05m to 0.5m deep and ditches from 0.2m to 0.85m in depth.

OR3: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

Realisation: The Roman to possible medieval period features were generally recognized at the level at which they cut the geological natural. Most if not all features however probably also cut a worked soil subsoil horizon that overlay the natural geology, but that prevented the identification of the archaeological features cutting it. All features were sealed by the modern agricultural soil.

OR4: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

Realisation: Plant macrofossil assemblages are small and poorly preserved.

6.2 General discussion of potential

The earliest phase of activity on the site is represented by a small assemblage of prehistoric struck flint, that was residual in later features. This is a typical 'background scatter' assemblage that indicates prehistoric activity in the area.

A small assemblage of later Iron Age/Early Roman metal finds were recovered from the plough-soil, notably two pins from Colchester-type brooches dating to 25-60 AD.

The earliest datable features on site are of possible late 1st century to early 2nd century AD date, and include parallel ditches and a post-built timber building. No floors or occupation layers survived for this building, so it was not possible to determine how long it remained in use. Not enough of this building was seen to be able to compare it to other examples from Roman period small towns.

A later period of Roman activity probably dating to the later 2nd century into the 3rd century AD involved a 2nd phase of post-built timber building on the same footprint as the early phase building and a change in the adjacent boundary ditch. A second phase of the southern boundary ditch hints at a slight change in the alignments on the site. This was reflected in the alignment of a number of timber building elements across the site. Mostly

these were scattered features, but two probable building footprints could be identified.

One building towards the eastern edge of the excavation area is probably incomplete and the grouping of post-holes and slots is tentative at best. The other building was more ephemeral, but more coherent, and composed of alternating post-holes and slots. This building would have been 5.5m wide by over 11.4m long and conceivably constructed of timber uprights alternating with ground beams topped by wattle or plank panels. This building is very close to the documented size of excavated Roman period buildings at Pakenham (Plouviez, 1995). Unlike the Pakenham buildings the structure at Wenhaston had no surviving floor levels or hearth.

The other feature of note in this phase was a hearth or fire pit located in the northeast corner of the site. The environmental sample contained a quantity of animal bone, so on balance it is more likely that this was a domestic fire pit rather than an industrial feature. The pit did not appear to be within a building, with a single nearby post-hole thought to be a support for cooking.

At some stage the site was re-organized in terms of alignment. The main features of this phase of activity related to a large boundary ditch which in its early life appears to have held a post or palisade structure. Is this perhaps the first evidence in Suffolk for the type of later Roman defences seen in the small Roman towns of Essex and the towns to the west of the fens? (Glazebrook, 1997) The feature is not well dated from the finds recovered from its fills, which are largely 2nd and 3rd century in date, but also include a sherd of middle Saxon Ipswich ware, but it clearly cuts across the main building of the previous phase.

A single large timber building and related fence lines are also attributed to this phase of activity. The building is a mix of post and post in slot construction techniques and measured 16.0m long and 7.25m wide. It had a couple of large post-holes along the central axis, presumably to support the roof, and at least one internal partition. No floors or occupation layers associated with the

building survived. The finds assemblage from the building was a range of types, dating from the 1st to the 3rd century AD.

Roman activity on the site as demonstrated by the finds assemblage appears to end in the 3rd century. A single possible 4th century AD coin recovered from the topsoil, a possible late 3rd century pottery sherd and some later Roman CBM being the only later Roman finds. This supports a study of the coins from Wenhaston in general. In a comparison of the known Roman period small towns in Suffolk it has been noted that at Wenhaston there are relatively high coin loss frequencies in the 1st and 2nd century and a very low frequency by the mid 4th century. (Plouviez, 1995)

Middle Saxon activity on the site is demonstrated by the presence of Ipswich ware in a single pit and an upper fill of the large possible palisade trench/ditch. The problems of identifying Post-Roman features on such a site are amply demonstrated by the much larger residual Roman assemblages in the pit and possibly also the ditch.

Other middle Saxon features that have been wrongly attributed to a Roman phase are a distinct possibility on this site. Indeed there is an element of doubt about the dating of the last Roman phase of activity, namely the large ditch and timber building. A single sherd of Ipswich ware from a Roman period ditch has been explained as a late inclusion only with reference to the full depth of ditch and slot, in which case the pottery came from an upper fill. There is a suggestion however that the palisade trench is an early phase subsequently re-cut by a ditch boundary. In this scenario the Ipswich ware comes from the middle of the ditch fill, presumably while the ditch was in use, which has very different implications for the phasing of the site. In addition, there are aspects of the building that are more typical of Anglo-Saxon buildings than Roman period ones, in particular the post in slot feature representing the western end of the building.

This evidence is not in itself enough to confirm the presence of middle Saxon buildings in the excavation area, but it may be possible to re-assess the finds assemblage with this in mind.

The boundary ditch along the southern edge of the site beside Narrow Way, and an associated pit and slot, were dated only by a few Roman finds. It is felt that the thoroughfare across the common heathland formerly known as the 'Greenway' and now Narrow Way is unlikely to have a Roman origin. Much more likely is that the route is medieval, and these features, which are clearly on the boundary between the track and the commons land, are of that date also. The problems of residuality in post-roman contexts have already been described, a phenomenon that appears to hinder interpretation of these features also. A modest assemblage of medieval and post-medieval finds collected from the site was entirely derived from the topsoil, and probably represents manuring of the fields and casual losses.

In the light of these comments it is proposed that there is little or no potential for analysis of the stratigraphic, finds/environmental and documentary archive, beyond that contained in this assessment report. A possible exception may be a re-examination of material from the Phase 3 features to determine whether the assemblage is more likely to be residual than the assemblages from other phases, and by extension whether it belongs to the middle Saxon Phase 4.

7 Significance of the data

The work at 7-14 Narrow Way Wenhaston is the first substantial project to be undertaken in the village. Other plots in the village have been developed for housing without or with only limited archaeological investigation. As such it presents the first view of a Roman period settlement that has been known about from surface finds, and latterly metal detected finds, since the 1970's. The archaeological results therefore have considerable *local significance*.

In relation to regional research agendas (as defined in Glazebrook, 2000) the site has considerable *regional significance*. A possible military association for the Roman period town has been noted from surface finds assemblages, and this is supported by the finds assemblage from the site. This may have relevance to the foundation of the shore forts and the connections between the coastal regions and inland towns like Wenhaston. The later Roman phases from the site may contribute to research topics related to the decline of Roman period towns.

The presence of middle Saxon activity on the site is not by itself significant unless the latest building phase is also of this date. An early and middle Saxon settlement at Wenhaston was suggested to the south of the site prior to this work, and the single middle Saxon pit that can be attributed to this period does not add much to research topics related to this period.

The significance of the site is in large part due to the lack of previous archaeological work in the village, and it should be noted that the relatively modest scale of the work limits the potential for further analysis of this archive. The real value of the archaeological work at Narrow Way Wenhaston is probably the potential it suggests for future development work in the village.

8 Recommendation for Publication

It is felt that further analysis of the fieldwork archive will not be able to address the remaining research questions about the site, and is therefore not recommended. The outstanding research questions are likely to be only answered by further archaeological investigations in the vicinity.

This post-excavation assessment will be disseminated initially as a 'grey literature' report *via* OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations), and a summary of the results will be submitted to the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

It is proposed that the results will not be formally published in a national journal; rather they will see interim publication online, on the SCCAS website, to be followed by later inclusion in an appropriate thematic publication.

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Brief and Specification for Excavation

LAND NORTH OF 7 – 14 NARROW WAY, WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET, SUFFOLK

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning consent (application C/07/2050) has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the erection of 6 dwellings, associated parking and construction of vehicular access on Land North of 7 to 14, Narrow Way, Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, Suffolk (TM 4290 7544) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The site is located at approximately c. 15.00 m AOD, sloping gently downwards SW to NE towards the River Blyth, and measures 0.187 ha. The underlying geology is glaciofluvial drift chalky till.
- 1.3 A trenched evaluation was undertaken of this site by SCC Archaeological Service Field Team in January 2009 (HER No. WMH 033; Draft Report dated February 2009). The evaluation revealed important Roman finds and features within this area, as well as a number of other undated archaeological features.
- 1.4 In order to comply with the planning condition, the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) has been requested to provide a brief and specification for the archaeological recording of archaeological deposits that will be affected by development – archaeological mitigation in the form of preservation by record. An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

2. Brief for Archaeological Investigation

- 2.1 An archaeological excavation, as specified in Section 3, is to be carried out prior to development. The area of the excavation will measure 1,375 m² (see accompanying plan).
- 2.2 The excavation objective will be to provide a record of all archaeological deposits which would otherwise be damaged or removed by development, including services and landscaping permitted by the consent. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation.
- 2.3 The academic objective will centre upon the potential for this site to produce, in particular, evidence for Roman occupation, in the form of finds and features.
- 2.4 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2). Excavation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential for analysis

and publication. Analysis and final report preparation will follow assessment and will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design.

- 2.5 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to SCCAS/CT (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory.
- 2.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met; an important aspect of the WSI will be an assessment of the project in relation to the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment', and 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'*).
- 2.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with SCCAS/CT before execution.
- 2.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on archaeological field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 2.9 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 2.10 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3. Specification for the Archaeological Excavation

The excavation methodology is to be agreed in detail before the project commences. Certain minimum criteria will be required:

- 3.1 Topsoil and subsoil deposits must be removed to the top of the first archaeological level by an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist.
- 3.2 If the machine stripping is to be undertaken by the main contractor, all machinery must keep off the stripped areas until they have been fully excavated and recorded, in accordance with this specification. Full construction work must not begin until excavation has been completed and formally confirmed by SCCAS/CT.

- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 All features which are, or could be interpreted as, structural must be fully excavated. Post-holes and pits must be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (e.g. yards and floors) must be fully exposed and cleaned. Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 3.5 All other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date and function. For guidance:
- a) A minimum of 50% of the fills of the general features is to be excavated (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- b) 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (ditches, etc) are to be excavated (min.). The samples must be representative of the available length of the feature and must take into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature and any concentrations of artefacts. For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width.
- 3.6 Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement [if necessary on site] with a member of SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 3.7 Collect and prepare environmental bulk samples (for flotation and analysis by an environmental specialist). The fills of all archaeological features should be bulk sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains and assessed by an appropriate specialist. The WSI must provide details of a comprehensive sampling strategy for retrieving and processing biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations and also for absolute dating), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. All samples should be retained until their potential has been assessed. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.8 A finds recovery policy is to be agreed before the project commences. It should be addressed by the WSI. Sieving of occupation levels and building fills will be expected.
- 3.9 Use of a metal detector will form an essential part of finds recovery. Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed. No discard policy will be considered until the whole body of finds has been evaluated.
- 3.11 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts to be cleaned and processed concurrently with the excavation to allow immediate evaluation and input into decision making.
- 3.12 Metal artefacts must be stored and managed on site in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines* and evaluated for significant dating and cultural implications before despatch to a conservation laboratory within four weeks of excavation.

- 3.13 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of remains following study and analysis will be required in the WSI.
- 3.14 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images, and documented in a photographic archive.
- 3.16 Excavation record keeping is to be consistent with the requirements the County Historic Environment Record and compatible with its archive. Methods must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences.
- 4.2 Monitoring of the archaeological work will be undertaken by SCCAS/CT. A decision on the monitoring required will be made by SCCAS/CT on submission of the accepted WSI.
- 4.3 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors). For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.4 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example, in the form of an open day and/or local public lecture and/or presentation to local schools.
- 4.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Specification.
- 4.6 A detailed risk assessment and management strategy must be presented for this particular site.
- 4.7 The WSI must include proposed security measures to protect the site and both excavated and unexcavated finds from vandalism and theft.
- 4.8 Provision for the reinstatement of the ground and filling of dangerous holes must be detailed in the WSI. However, trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.
- 4.9 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.10 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this specification are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute of Field Archaeologists'

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Archive Requirements

- 5.1 Within four weeks of the end of field-work a written timetable for post-excavation work must be produced, which must be approved by SCCAS/CT. Following this a written statement of progress on post-excavation work whether archive, assessment, analysis or final report writing will be required at three monthly intervals.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a Historic Environment Record number for the work. This number will be unique for the site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principle of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. However, the detail of the archive is to be fuller than that implied in MAP2 Appendix 3.2.1. The archive is to be sufficiently detailed to allow comprehension and further interpretation of the site should the project not proceed to detailed analysis and final report preparation. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for lodgement in the County Historic Environment Record or museum.
- 5.4 A complete copy of the site record archive must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record. All record drawings of excavated evidence are to be presented in drawn up form, with overall site plans. All records must be on an archivally stable and suitable base.
- 5.6 The project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute Conservators Guidelines.
- 5.9 The site archive quoted at MAP2 Appendix 3, must satisfy the standard set by the "Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels" of the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993).
- 5.10 Pottery should be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with 6.3 above, i.e. *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occ Paper 1 (1991, rev 1997), the *Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery*, Study Group Roman Pottery (ed M G Darling 1994) and the *Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Group* (in draft).
- 5.11 All coins must be identified and listed as a minimum archive requirement.

- 5.12 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County Historic Environment Record or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.13 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project, a summary report in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology journal, must be prepared and included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.14 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.15 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.16 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An assessment report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided consistent with the principle of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4. The report must be integrated with the archive.
- 6.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.3 An important element of the report will be a description of the methodology.
- 6.4 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.5 Provision should be made to assess the potential of scientific dating techniques for establishing the date range of significant artefact or ecofact assemblages, features or structures.
- 6.6 The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.7 The report will give an opinion as to the potential and necessity for further analysis of the excavation data beyond the archive stage, and the suggested requirement for publication; it will refer to the Regional Research Framework (see above, 2.5). Further analysis will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. Analysis and publication can be neither developed in detail nor costed in detail until this brief and specification is satisfied. However, the developer should be aware that there is a responsibility to provide a publication of the results of the programme of work.

- 6.8 The assessment report must be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 6.9 The involvement of SCCAS/CT should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 4 March 2009

Reference: / Narrow Way_WenhastonwithMells2009

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix 2: Documentary research (*Anthony M Breen*)

(DBA originally produced for The Martins, Narrow Lane, Wenhaston with Mells)

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. The site is to the north of Narrow Lane and situated between two commons, Church Common to the west and Blower's Common to the east. In 1998 a site to the south of Narrow Way was the subject of a documentary report and it was found that these two commons at the time of the 1839 tithe map for Wenhaston with Mells had been just one numbered 497 on the map and described as 'Church Heath' measuring at 14 acres 1 rood and 19 perches. The area to the south of Narrow Lane is shown as allotments measuring 18.010 acres on the early editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps. At the time of the tithe map, this field was divided into three smaller fields with a total acreage of 17 acres and 27 perches. These fields were formerly part of the heath and had been enclosed in about 1760. At that time Narrow Lane was known as 'Greenway'. In the area to the north of Narrow Lane there is another small field marked as 'Allotments' on the second edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map, numbered 549 and measuring 0.657 acres which may suggest that the lands to the north had also been part of the heath.

It is the purpose of this research to determine whether or not the land forming this site had been formerly part of the heath or in its medieval context had been the site of a messuage that is a dwelling house or tenement or part of the medieval fields.

1 Tithe Map

The Suffolk Archaeological Unit has proved copies of the first three editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of this area for the purpose of this report.

Apart from the tithe map there are no earlier manuscript maps depicting this part of Wenhaston with Mells. The parish was not the subject of a formal enclosure act instead a series of minor enclosures in the form of encroachment were permitted by the lords of the various manors who held lands in Wenhaston. These encroachments would have included all the small plots numbered 546 – 549 on the second edition of the Ordnance Survey map. In 1839 they were all part of the heath.

On the tithe map (ref. FDA270/1A/1), this site was part of a large field numbered 376 on the map and described in the apportionment as 'Heath Piece' measuring 14 acres 2 roods and 14 perches. On the later Ordnance Survey maps the same field numbered 565 has a larger acreage of 17.383 acres. A rood was equal to 0.25 acres and a perch equal to 0.00625 acres, expressed in acres, roods and perches the field 565 was equal to 17 acres 1 rood and 21 perches. In 1839, Heath Piece was part of a small landholding of 36 acres 3 roods and 6 perches then in the ownership of Thomas Carter and in the occupation of his tenant John Smith. The homestall 377 was to the

north with over two thirds of the land, fields 376-77, 382-384 forming a single block of 25 acres 2 roods and 17 perches stretching from the river Blythe to the north to Church Heath in the south. The adjoining fields 385 to the east and 350 to the west were separate holdings.

The field 385, described as 'Field Hamlens', measuring 4 acres and 4 perches was part of a larger landholding of 129 acres 3 perches then the property of John Youngs and in his own occupation. His lands included the field 399 'Heath Piece'. The field 351 'Little Broom Hill' was measured at 3 acres 2 roods and 26 perches and was in the ownership of Nathaniel Micklethwaite and in the occupation of his tenant Seaman Garrod who lived at the farm buildings numbered 355 on the map. The field was part of this farm of 118 acres 2 roods and 8 perches.

2 Manorial Court Books

The tithe apportionment was prepared simply to convert the payment of tithes into a fixed rent, though the apportionments list both the owners and occupiers of the land they do not describe their terms of tenure. In the medieval period lands were held as a fee of a lordship. The title to a lordship was held of the crown and tenants held their lands either as freeholders or as native, bond or copyholders in return for a mixture of rents and services generally agricultural services. On entering a piece of land the copyholder had first to surrender their lands back to the lordship at a manorial court held in front of a jury before it was granted to the new tenant who swore his fealty to the lord. Each transaction was recorded in the manor court rolls with a copy being given to the tenant. This system of copyhold tenure was eventually abolished in 1922, though earlier 'Copyhold Acts' allowed lands to be enfranchised that is converted into freehold. The freeholders were not bound to perform the same services and in most instances the transfer or conveyance of their lands are not recorded in detail in the later manorial court books, though the fees payable on the entry to copyhold property included payments for the freehold as well.

Apart from the various lands and tenements, the soil of the commons was the property of the lord of each manor and only his commoners enjoyed the various rights to graze animals or collect firewood on a particular common. These commons could be enclosed or small parts added to adjoining properties with the permission of the manorial court and such enclosures or encroachment of either common or waste are recorded in the court books.

In the absence of detailed maps, the property descriptions in both manorial and other forms of conveyance tend to be historic rather than contemporary descriptions. These descriptions were only reconciled to the contemporary landscape in later records, normally after the large-scale tithe maps became available.

3 Manor of Mells in Wenhaston

There are contemporary manorial court books for the manor of Mells in Wenhaston. Most are indexed with the name of the copyholders, though both

the names of John Youngs and Nathaniel Micklethwaite appear in the indexes, there is no references to the property of Thomas Carter.

The manorial court books of Mells in Wenhaston record only the copyhold lands not freehold. They do record encroachments of commons and waste, though these are not indexed separately. This manor had jurisdiction over stray beasts and minor infringements of the byelaws and continued to appoint its own pound keepers and constables.

At the court held on 19 October 1819 John Youngs entered his copyhold property on the surrender of Jenny Welsh and Ann Thompson. The entire property would have been described a separate deed dated 11 October 1806, but only the copyhold estate is mentioned in the court books. The lands included 'All that one messuage or tenement called Felice Beales and three acres of land, meadow and pasture lying in divers parcels in Wenhaston between the lands meadow, aldercarr and pasture formerly of Thomas Warren late of Robert Ludbrooke in part and other lands of John Tradescant and a place called Blower's Hill on the part of the south'. The property also included a meadow of twelve acres, though both pieces totalling sixteen acres represent only a small portion of his 129-acre farm of 1839. It is clear that the property description has been copied from an earlier record as until 1733 these records were kept in Latin and 'Felice' is the Latin genitive form of Felix.

Nathaniel Micklethwaite was admitted to his copyhold lands on 25 October 1825 following the death of John Micklethwaite his grandfather. Again the total acreage of the lands is small in comparison with the overall acreage of 118 acres and 2 roods. These are described as 'All those four acres of land (that is to say) To one Pightle called Marl Pit Pightle and to one piece of pasture called Swan's Fenn containing two acres and an half ...'. Other pieces included Dingolfes Meadow two acres, a pightle containing one acre called Spruntings, a piece of land called Gingalls one and a half acres, another piece of meadow called Nab containing half a rood and a pightle marsh called Wilcocks one acre. In February 1857 on the entry of Revd John Nathaniel Micklethwaite to the same property, the lands were enfranchised under the terms of the Copyhold Act of 1852. In 1857 it was determined that all the lands 'are in the Tithe Commutation Award for the parish of Wenhaston described as follows:

245 Sprints Pightle arable 1a 0r 7p
354 Willow Meadow meadow 7a 0r 12p

These pieces do not join onto the lands of Thomas Carter

In the same court book (ref. HB25/7) there are a number of encroachments listed after the names of the tenants.

On 25 October 1808 the court granted a licence to James Pitcher 'to continue enclosed a certain piece of land parcel of waste of this manor containing one rood ... lying next to the highway from Walpole to Wenhaston on the south and west parts and the lands of the said James Pitcher north'. This piece of

land is not mentioned amongst the copyhold lands of James Pitcher when he surrendered his lands to Edward Revans at a court held on 19 October 1824.

On 21 October 1834, the court records that Edward Revans had 'made an encroachment upon the Demesnes of the Lords of this manor by inclosing a part thereof abutting upon the King's Highway leading from Wenhaston Street to the Old Chapel without licence for so doing'. He was given notice to abate his encroachment and he was permitted to do so at the court held on 23 October 1835.

On 24 October 1837, Robert Haward, George Furrell and James Wells were reported to have made encroachments 'upon part of the waste lands ... called Chapel Hill'.

On 19 October 1841, it was presented to the court that Samuel Seaman of the hamlet of Mells had 'lately erected and built a barn and other buildings upon a certain part of the demesne or waste lands ... without leave or licence'. Samuel was to be given notice to appear at the next court to acknowledge the lordship and to 'undertake that the same barn and buildings shall not be converted into a dwelling house'. At the same court it was reported that part of Chapel Hill, had been enclosed 'as it may become of some advantage to the poor of the parish of Wenhaston'.

In the earlier court books examined for this report there are no earlier references to encroachments. There are acknowledgements of freehold and payments of fine for cutting timber, such as on 25 October 1670 'Licence granted to Samuel Prentice to take down eight oaks, to rebuild a Kiln House standing upon his copyhold lands' (ref. HB25/3).

4 Manor of Blythburgh Late Priory

In the court book for this manor covering the years 1810-1835, there is a reference in the index to the entry of Nathaniel Micklethwaite to copyhold land, though there are no references to either John Youngs or Thomas Carter.

On 5 April 1825 Nathaniel Micklethwaite entered the lands on the death of his grandfather John Micklethwaite (ref. HA 30:50/22/9.6(11)). The date of the entry and the circumstances of Nathaniel's succession to the title of these lands suggest that they were all part of the same property though this property was divided between different manors.

The lands were described as 'On piece of Copyhold land holden of this manor lying in Wenhaston whereof the first piece contains three roods by estimation and lyeth between a Pightle late of Thomas Warren afterwards of Robert Harvey on the part of the north and Free lands of William Girling on the part of the south and abutteth on the lands late of Thomas Thurston towards the east and the lands next recited towards the west the Second and Third pieces contain by estimation one acre and an half and lye together between the lands late of John Girling on the part of the north and Birchhill on the part of the south and do abut upon the lands late of the said John Girling of the fee of the Manor of Mells towards the west and upon the lands of the said Manor

towards the East The Fourth piece contains by estimation one acre and lyeth between the lands late of the said John Girling as well south as north and do abut upon the lands late of the said John Girling towards the east and upon Lands of the Parish of Wenhaston and other lands there towards the west And also to Six Acres of copyhold land ... in Wenhaston lying and being between the Common Way there leading to Duffords Bridge to the Church of Wenhaston on the part of the east and the lands late Dunmows on the part of the west and do abut upon the church yard of Wenhaston aforesaid and the lands sometime of William Pepyn and other lands called Church Lands towards the north and upon the lands sometime of William Pepyn towards the south'.

Again these lands are not extensive just nine acres and one rood compared with the total acreage of the farm of 118 acres and 2 roods. The descriptions of the lands are again historic rather than contemporary. Some of the land is interspersed with those belonging to the manor of Mells.

Some of the land allotted 'In trust for the support of the poor and the church of Wenhaston' was held of this manor. At court held on 27 December 1764, the names of new trustees were added to the records in place of trustees who had died since the June 1731 when the names had previously been renewed. The land is described as 'One Inclosure containing by estimation four acres with the appurtenances in Wenhaston lying on the west part of the vicarage there between the pond of the said vicarage on the part of the east and lands called Dosmere Pightle on the part of the west and abutteth upon a close called Church Close in part and lands late of Hamon Nolloth in part towards the south and upon a tenement late of Thomas Wake in part and upon lands late of William Aldred in part towards the north' (ref. HA30 50/22/9.6(9)).

This manor too permitted the encroachment of waste and common land however there is no reference to Church Heath and the few references to encroachments were for land in Blythburgh.

5 Manor of Thorington Wimpoles with Wenhaston

Records for this manor formerly deposited at the record office in Ipswich were returned to the depositor in 1981. They included manorial court books for the years 1622-1902.

6 The Manor of Wenhaston

There are no contemporary manorial court books for this manor. There is an late sixteenth century extent or description of the lands of this manor written in Latin (ref. HA30/372/1). The document is not dated and possibly incomplete. The lands are described under each tenant such as 'Reginald Lessye holds freely diverse closes and parcels of arable land, meadow and marsh, alder grove and pasture containing by estimation in total 30 acres ... late Hamond Nolothe lying together in Wenhaston aforesaid on the west part the King's Highway there leading from Dufford Bridge towards the church of Wenhaston'.

There are references to the same tenants mentioned in the property description of Nathaniel Micklethwaite's land held of the manor of Blythburgh late Priory. In the extent 'William Harvye holds by native tenure one piece of land containing by estimation one rood called Kyppyssteches formerly John Grenlynge and since William Barret and after Thomas Warren', though this land abutted on the 'lands of the chantry of Mettingham now belonging to the manor of Bramfield'. Another tenant Walter Norton held land lying in a certain enclosure belonging to the manor of 'Wymples' and 8 acres belonging to the manor of 'Mells' and most of the entries show that the lands of the various manors were hopelessly interspersed.

Though it is quite clear that some of the pieces described later became part of the lands owned by Nathaniel Micklethwaite and possibly by his neighbour Thomas Carter, there is no mention of Church Heath in this record.

7 Glebe Terriers

According to White's Directory of 1844 the land to the south of Church Heath 'about 16 acres formerly waste land' had been granted the Town Estate by the lord of the manor of Blythburgh in 1770. There is no reference to this grant in the contemporary manorial court books. In 1998 a reference to this land was found in the glebe terrier of 1784. Glebe terriers are descriptions of lands owned by the church. They were returned to either the archdeacon or bishop at the times of their visitations. They also include other details of parochial property.

In the terrier of 1894, after the description of the vicarage it states 'This item comprises the site of the old vicarage (now pulled down) and the piece of land adjoining described in the first and second items in the former terriers'. In the earlier terrier of 1845, it states that the first piece of land was held of the manor of Blythburgh.

It then quotes from the 1784 terrier describing 'The third piece of land is Heath Ground which lyeth between the King's Highway towards the west, over against the church and chancel of Wenhaston and the common ground of Wenhaston towards the east whose head abuts on the Greenway'. In the 1845 terrier this is described as 'Lost'.

The next piece was also heath 'One long narrow ridge of ground now let as cottage allotments to various tenants containing by estimation one rood more or less and lyeth between the Queen's Highway towards the west and the town land of Wenhaston (formerly Heath Ground) on the part of the east one head whereof abutteth upon the aforesaid Greenway leading from the messuage belonging to and in the occupation of John Youngs'. In the 1845 terrier this is described as 'Also Lost'.

At the end of the terrier under 'lands belonging to the parish church of Wenhaston the rents whereof are yearly received by the Churchwardens and expended about the repairs of the said church or other charges', there are further lands described.

'Also three other enclosed pieces of arable land (formerly in Heath Land) enclosed in one Field about one hundred and forty five years since ... containing together sixteen acres more or less and lyeth between the lands ... of John Youngs on the part of the south and the aforesaid Greenway leading to the messuages formerly of William More and now belonging to and in the occupation of John Youngs on the part of the north, one head thereof abutteth on the narrow ridge of ground hereinbefore described belonging to the vicarage of Wenhaston on the part of the west'.

Unlike many other glebe terriers, the churchwardens of this parish have made no attempt to link the various described pieces of land to either the tithe map or the later Ordnance Survey maps.

8 Conclusion

This site is described as 'Heath Piece' in the 1839 tithe apportionment. The name of owner of the land Thomas Carter does not appear in the manorial records for the manors of Mells in Wenhaston or Blythburgh late Priory. The records for the manor of Wenhaston for this period are not at the record office in Ipswich and may no longer be extant. The depositor has withdrawn the records for Thorington Wimples in Wenhaston from the record office. There are no title deeds indexed under the name Thomas Carter. The property descriptions in the surviving records are historic rather than contemporary and the lands of the various manors are interspersed together.

At present it is not possible to trace the earlier history of this site however it is possible to offer comments on the general pattern of land ownership in this area.

In the tithe apportionment and in the various manorial records the landholdings include an area of marsh or meadowland. The pasture and arable lands were situated well above the flood plain of the river. In terms of their economic value in the medieval period marsh and meadow was extremely important and of high value for the pasturing of both cattle and sheep during the summer months. Heath land was marginal land used for rough winter pasture.

Most of the houses, with the exception of some of the large farms, are grouped around or in areas of large greens, commons or heath. The lack of a single significant landowner may have been an important reason why these common lands were not enclosed through act of Parliament, as this was an expensive procedure. Instead the various areas of common land have been reduced in size through encroachment. There are late references in both the surviving manorial records and in the glebe terriers to encroachment of lands. The fields on the north side of Church Heath curve into the green in an irregular pattern and suggest possible encroachment, though there is a lack of documentary sources to support this suggestion.

The field name 'Heath Piece' and the field 'Heath Close' part of John Youngs' property suggest that the heath at an earlier date may have been much larger.

The names of the John Youngs and Nathaniel Micklethwaite the owners of the adjoining properties appear in the manorial records for the manor of Wells in Wenhaston and that of Nathaniel Micklethwaite in the records of the manor of Blythburgh late Priory as well, but not in relation to an encroachment of lands in this area. The records of the other manors are in complete and these may have contained references to the lands of Thomas Carter.

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References

Maps

FDA270/1A/1 Tithe Map and Apportionment (enrolled) Wenhaston with Mells

Manor of Mells In Wenhaston: Court Books

HB25/3 1745-1771

HB25/5 1772-1806

HB25/6 1806-1861

HB25/9 1861-1934

Manor of Blythburgh late Priory: Court Books

HA 30:50/22/9.6(11) 27 December 1810 to 18 May 1835

HA 30:50/22/9.6 (10) 4 January 1780 to 27 December 1809

Manor of Wenhaston: Extent

HA 30: 372/1 no date Sixteenth Century

Glebe Terrier

FC189/C3/12 Terrier 1845

FC189/C3/14 Terrier 1894

Appendix 3: Group discussions

Group 1001: Natural geology

Contexts: 0009, 0122

The natural geology is a mixed deposit of friable to compact light orange brown varying to light yellow brown sand, mottled with dark orange brown/reddish brown mineralized sand, with some areas of gravelly sand. The surface of the natural geology sloped from a high point of 16.198m AOD on the southwest side of the site to a low of 13.531m AOD on the northeast side.

Most archaeological features were recognised at the level at which they cut the natural geology, although some in the excavation edges were also seen to cut a subsoil deposit that overlay the natural geology.

Group 1002: Part of a timber building (undated)

Contexts: 0159, 0160, 0157, 0158, 0152, 0153, 0150, 0151, 0144, 0145, 0104

A portion of a timber building was represented by two post-holes (0158, 0151) alternating with two full and one truncated beam-slots (0153, 0145 and 0160). The structure as excavated measured over 5.28m and was aligned SW-NE. The post-holes were oval in plan with moderate to steep concave sides and concave bases 0.09m to 0.11m deep, and 0.26m to 0.35m long. The slots had shallow to moderate concave sides and concave to irregular bases, that were 0.04m to 0.23m deep. They full slots were 1.27m to 1.78m long and 0.23m to 0.3m wide, while the truncated slot was 0.4m long and 0.04m deep.

The post-holes and slots held very similar fills of very dark grey sandy silt. No finds were recovered from these features. These fills were very similar in make-up to a spread of very dark grey ashy sand 0104, measuring circa 8m in diameter, that was located at the south-western end of the building, and may relate to the function of the building.

These shallow features had clearly been truncated by ploughing and none of the contemporary surfaces or floors for the building survived.

Group 1003: Part of timber building (undated)

Contexts: 0218, 0219, 0220, 0221

A single post-hole 0219 and slot 0221 were located about 7m to the east of timber building (Group 1002) and might have been part of the same structure. The post-hole 0219 was oval in plan and measured 0.36m long by 0.3m wide. It had steep concave sides and a concave base that was 0.17m deep. Slot 0221 was aligned NW-SE and had a truncated length of 0.8m and was 0.18m wide. It had steep to vertical sides and a concave to flat base that was 0.11m deep.

These features held similar very dark grey sandy silt fills, from which no finds were recovered.

These structural features are so similar to Group 1002 in form, content and alignment that it is very likely that they are part of the same building. If so, the building would have been 5.5m wide by over 11.4m long.

Group 1004: Two post-holes (Late 1st to mid 2nd century AD)

Contexts: 0241, 0240, 0232, 0233

Two very similar post-holes were located in the south-eastern corner of the site. They were both sub-rectangular in shape, with steep sides and concave bases. Post-hole 0241 had a clear post-position in the base of the cut. These post-holes held similar mid to dark grey sandy silt fills from which a small assemblage of pottery and fired clay probably dating from the late 1st century to the mid 2nd century.

These post-holes were so similar that on the basis of the NW-SE alignment they have tentatively been grouped with other features on this alignment.

Group 1005a & b: Ditch and Re-cut and their fills (? - Early 2nd to mid 3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0042, 0044, 0043, 0124, 0133, 0136, 0135, 0134, and 0123?

Two ditches aligned SW-NE were located to the south of Group 1004 in the southeast corner of the site. One 0124, had moderate convex sides and a concave to flat base, the other 0136, had steep convex sides and a concave to flat base. These were filled by mixed deposits of sand and silty sand that suggest natural silting processes.

The relationship between the ditches was not clear. An assemblage of pottery, fired clay, CBM and lava quern indicates that the northern ditch was being infilled during the early 2nd to mid 3rd century. A much smaller assemblage recovered from the southern ditch was not closely datable except to the Roman period.

These ditches, although side by side and only partly inter-cutting in the excavated portion, may represent a ditch that has silted up and been re-dug. The top of both ditches was filled with a deposit of silty sand containing an assemblage of pot and fired clay dating to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Group 1006: Ditch and its fills (Late 1st or 2nd century AD)

Contexts: 0177, 0155, 0176, 0155, 0182

A SW-NE aligned ditch was located along the northern edge of the site. It was seen over 19.81m and was between 0.34 to 0.6m wide, and 0.22 to 0.28m deep. It had moderate concave sides and a concave base. The ditch had light brownish grey to mid brown silty sand fill from which a small assemblage of pottery, CBM and fired clay was recovered. This suggests that the ditch was being infilled in the late 1st or 2nd century.

Group 1007: Post line? (1st - 2nd century AD or later)

Contexts: 0109, 0138, 0243, 0108, 0137, 0242

Beside and parallel to ditch (Group 1006), along its northern edge, was a line of three post-holes. These were all oval with steep to vertical straight sides and concave bases. They ranged in size from 0.14m to 0.35m wide by 0.16 to 0.4m long, and 0.09m to 0.35m deep.

These post-holes were filled with generally light to mid brown grey silt sand fills. CBM and a single sherd of pottery from these features date to the 1st or 2nd century.

Group 1008: Three post-holes. (Roman)

Contexts; 0103, 0113, 0231, 0102, 0112, 0230

Three post-holes were positioned to the NW of post-hole Group 1007 in the northern portion of the site, and may have been part of the same structure. Two of the features were oval and one circular in shape, ranging in size between 0.24m and 0.35m long, and between 0.06m to 0.17m deep, with shallow to steep sides and concave bases.

The features held sand and silty sand fills ranging in colour from orangy brown to mid grey. A single sherd of Roman period pottery was recovered from one of the post-holes.

Group 1009: Possible timber building (1st? - Early 2nd century AD? Or later)

Contexts: 0207, 0209, 0239, 0188, 0257, 0255, 0206, 0208, 0238, 0187, 0186, 0256, 0254

Four post-holes and two slots can potentially be grouped together as a structure, located along the eastern side of the excavation area. The structure has a SW-NE alignment in common with the other features of this general phase. The post-holes ranged from circular to slightly oval, and were 0.35m to 0.44m across and 0.1m to 0.36m deep. They had moderate to vertical sides and concave bases, with generally mid grey brown silty sand or brownish sand fills. No finds were recovered from the post-holes.

The two slots were aligned SW-NE along their long axes, measuring 1.34m by 0.52m by 0.17m deep, and 1.1m by 0.43m by 0.34m deep. Both slots contained brown or grey silty sand fills. A clear post-pipe was visible in the SW end of slot 0188. A single sherd of late 1st or 2nd century pot was recovered from this group of features, and its abraded nature may indicate it was residual.

Large shallow pit 0227 conceals a smaller pit or likely post-hole. The majority of the feature is probably the mixed subsoil. If so, it is probably part of this building Group.

Group 1010: Timber building portion? (2nd/3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0140, 0127, 0107, 0119, 0132, 0125, 0105, 0117, 0131, 0126, 0106, 0118

A line of four large and one small post-holes was located just northwest of and parallel to ditch (Group 1006) along the northern edge of site. Three post-holes were oval in shape and between 0.46m to 0.77m wide by 0.7m to 1.0m long, and 0.17m to 0.35m deep, while the remaining two were circular with diameters of 0.25m and 0.8m and depth of 0.12m and 0.37m respectively. They all had steep to vertical sides and uneven, flat or concave bases. Three of the five post-holes had distinct post-pipes representing the position of the post.

The packing fills in the post-holes were generally mid brown to dark grey brown silty sand mixed with orange brown or yellow sand, while the post-pipe fills were typically dark grey brown silty sand. The assemblage of pottery and CBM collected from these features ranged in date from 2nd to 3rd century. It was not possible to distinguish construction and disuse dates for the building from the finds assemblage.

Group 1011: Ditch and re-cut (2nd/3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0010, 0147, 0012, 0149, 0143, 0011, 0146, 0013, 0148, 0142, 0141

In the northern part of the excavation area was a SW-NE aligned ditch and its SE-NW return. The ditch appears to be the boundary for post Group 1010, although the relevant relationship between the groups lies outside the excavation area. The original cut, 0147 & 0010, for the ditch was over 0.62m wide and 0.32m deep, and had moderate to steep straight and concave sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled by mid orange brown to mid grey brown sand and silt sand. A small assemblage of pottery and tile of probable 2nd century date was recovered from the ditch fill.

The ditch was re-dug generally along the same line as the original, 0149, 0012, & 0143. The NW-SE portion had moderate straight sides and a flat base 0.7m to 0.78m wide and 0.23m to 0.27m deep. The SW-NE portion had convex sides and a concave base 0.82m wide and 0.4m deep. The ditch re-cut contained grey brown or orange brown silty sand fills, from which an assemblage of pottery, fired clay and lava quern probably dating to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Group 1012: Ditch and its fills (? to Middle Saxon)

Contexts: 0197, 0037, 0025, 0030, 0196, 0195, 0194, 0193, 0192, 0040, 0039, 0038, 0027, 0026, 0029, 0028

A WSW-ENE aligned ditch crossed the middle of the excavation area measuring over 45.23m in length. Four slots were excavated through this ditch, revealing steep to vertical convex sides and a flat base in three of the slots, ranging from 0.8m to 0.96m wide and 0.62m to 0.75m deep. These

slots exhibited an extremely narrow and nearly vertical base to the ditch, which may have held a post-line or palisade. The fourth slot through the ditch, located at the western end of the excavation area, was different. It had moderate convex to stepped sides and a flat base, which was circa 3m wide by 0.87m deep. The increased width and depth is a result of the ditch being recorded in the edge of excavation, rather than after being machined to the natural geology.

The deepest parts of the ditch were filled with a mix of light yellow and orange brown sandy fills derived from slumping of the sides, as well as waterlain laminated light grey and light orange brown silty and clayey fills. Secondary fills of the ditch were bands of silty sand and sand of various colours, probably derived from slumping and wind-blown sand. The final ditch fills were more homogenous reddish brown and grey brown silty sand fills, perhaps indicating intentional infill.

The early fills of the ditch are not well dated by the assemblage of pot and CBM recovered, which are largely Roman in date. The upper fills suggest that the ditch may have been slowly silting up throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and was probably still a feature in the landscape when a sherd of Middle Saxon pottery was deposited in an upper fill.

Group 1013: Timber building (1st century 2nd / 3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0251, 0249, 0247, 0259, 0262, 0211, 0205, 0202, 0199, 0266, 0268, 0264, 0024, 0245, 0250, 0265, 0248, 0267, 0246, 0263, 0258, 0270, 0022, 0023, 0260, 0261, 0204, 0203, 0201, 0200, 0198, 0244

To the north of ditch (Group 1003), and similarly aligned, was a series of post-holes (14) and slots (2) that formed a single building or a series of smaller buildings. If these features were all part of a single timber building, it was approximately 16.0m long and 7.25m wide.

The western end of the structure comprised two post-holes and a slot, (0247, 0249, 0251). The post-holes were oval and sub-rectangular in shape, measuring from 0.54m to 0.75m long by 0.4m to 0.26m wide, and 0.19m to 0.32m deep. They had moderate concave sides to steep straight sides, and flat to concave bases. The slot was 2.75m long and 0.42m wide, and varied in depth between 0.14m and 0.43m deep. It had vertical sides and a concave to flat base. These features contained dark grey brown mottled with reddish brown silty sand fills. A small assemblage of pottery and CBM dating possibly to the 1st to 2nd / 3rd centuries was recovered.

The northern wall of the building was made up of a single possible slot, 0211, and four post-holes (0259, 0262, 0202, /0205, 0199); one of which appears to have been re-excavated. The post-holes were generally circular or oval in shape, varying in size from 0.34m to 0.86m across, and 0.11m to 0.43m deep, with steep or vertical sides and flat bases. The slot was 2.75m long and 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep. It had shallow concave sides, and was originally recorded as a deposit only. On balance, this feature is likely to be structural

because it is aligned with the other features making up the northern wall to the building. The features were generally filled with dark grey or brown silty sand fills sometimes mottled with lighter coloured sandy natural fills. Two of the post-holes had distinct post-pipes showing the post-position. These features produced an assemblage of pottery and CBM ranging in date from possibly the 1st century to the 2nd or 3rd century AD.

The eastern end of the building is represented by two post-holes, one of which, 0199, was described above. The other, 0245, was irregularly shaped, measuring 1.65m in length by 0.74m wide, and 0.28m deep. It had moderate concave sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a pale grey silty sand with pinkish edges perhaps indicating burning. From its profile it looks like this feature may in fact be two post-holes. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Four post-holes in the centre of the building probably represent internal roof supports and partitions. Three post-holes are along the central axis of the building, 0024, 0268, 0264, and one more, 0266, is probably along the line of a partition.

Two post-holes along the main axis of the building were similar. Both were oval with steep to vertical straight sides and concave bases. One, measuring 1.01m by 0.7m by 0.58m deep, the other measuring 0.86m by 0.8m by 0.34m deep. The larger post-hole, 0024, held a mottled brown and orange brown sand packing fill, and a mottled brownish grey and brown silty sand post-pipe. The other, 0264, held a single dark grey brown silty sand fill. Between these post-holes was a smaller post-hole, 0268, that was circular in shape, 0.31m across and 0.24m deep. It had steep straight sides and a sloping base, and held a mid brown silty sand fill. The final post-hole, 0266, in this group was sub-rectangular in shape, measuring 0.5m by 0.38m by 0.29m deep. It had steep to vertical sides and a flat base, and held a mixed brownish grey silty sand and yellow sand fill.

The largest post-hole appeared to have been cut by a much smaller post-hole with a distinct post-pipe. No contexts were assigned for this feature, which was perhaps a replacement of the post.

No features were recorded along the southern side of the building. It is not certain if this is because of differential survival of structural elements, perhaps due to ploughing, or whether the features were missed.

A single sherd of Roman period pottery was recovered from one of these post-holes.

Group 1014: Post-line (Roman)

Contexts: 0163, 0165, 0167, 0169, 0181, 0172, 0162, 0161, 0164, 0166, 0168, 0180, 0170, 0171

To the north of timber building (Group 1013), and on the same alignment was a line of post-holes. Four of these were in line and had moderate concave sides and concave bases. They were all oval in shape ranging in size from 0.22m to 0.3m and depth of 0.05m to 0.2m. The fills were generally mid brown silt sand. A single post-hole, 0172, was slightly off this line. It was oval in shape, with steep concave sides and a concave base, and measuring 0.3m across and 0.14m deep. It was filled by brown grey silty sand. A further larger post-hole, 0181, was in line with this post-line, albeit further to the east. This was sub-rectangular in shape, with steep straight sides and a concave base, measuring 0.58m across and 0.28m deep. It held a mid brown and grey brown silty sand fill. The base of a further post-hole in this group may have been seen in the side of ditch 0143, however it was not recognized during excavation and not assigned a context number.

This post-line is not well dated by the few Roman pottery sherds recovered from the fills.

Group 1015: Two post-holes (Roman)

Contexts: 0179, 0175, 0178, 0174

Towards the western end of site there were two post-holes that were aligned with the southern edge of timber building (Group 1013). One was oval, and 0.4m across, the other circular, with a diameter of 0.26m. They both had steep concave sides and concave bases, 0.13m and 0.14m deep, and were filled by mid grey brown sandy silt fills. A small assemblage of pottery from one of the post-hole fills can only be generally dated to the Roman period.

Group 1016: Possible post-pad.

Context: 0175

A single flat greenish stone measuring 0.31m by 0.18m by 0.06m thick was located in the centre of the excavation area, just to the north of timber building (Group 1002). This stone did not appear to be part of the local geology, and may therefore be a glacial erratic or have been imported for use as a post-pad. It was not positioned within a building, so may have been displaced by ploughing for example.

Group 1017: Two post-holes (Undated)

Contexts: 0235, 0237, 0234, 0236.

Two post-holes were located just to the south of ditch (Group 1006), and were not obviously part of a timber building. They both had moderate concave sides and concave bases, were circular in shape, and were filled with brownish grey silty sand fills. The only difference between the features was size; one post-hole was 0.24m in diameter and 0.06m deep, the other 0.56m in diameter, and 0.16 deep. No finds were collected from these features.

Group 1018: Hearth? And post-hole (?1st to 2/3 century AD)

Contexts: 0216, 0212, 0214, 0213, 0215, 0224, 0223, 0222..

A possible hearth or fire-pit, 0216, was located in the northeast corner of the excavation area. It was sub-rectangular in shape measuring 1.55m by 0.9m. It had shallow concave sides and a concave base that was only 0.11m deep. A single fill of mottled dark grey brown silty sand and pink sand overlay a zone of mid grey brown and pink sand. The lower deposit was heat affected geological natural rather than a fill of the feature. A single sherd of pottery and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the fill.

A single post-hole, 0224, was beside the hearth. It was circular at 0.42m across, and had steep straight sides and a flat base 0.12m deep. It held two fills; a mixed grey brown and orange brown sand packing fill, and mid to dark grey brown silty sand post-pipe fill. No finds came from this feature.

Group 1019: Pit or post-hole (Undated)

Contexts: 0227, 0226, 0225

A large feature, 0227, was located within timber building (Group 1009) at the eastern edge of the excavation area. It was rectangular in shape, measuring 1.6m by 1.36m by 0.24m deep. It had shallow to moderate straight sides and a concave base, and was filled by a mid pinkish brown silty sand and dark brownish grey silty sand fills. No finds were recovered from the feature.

In retrospect it seems that this large feature may be in fact a smaller pit or post-hole that is cutting a particularly mixed deposit of subsoil. If so, it may be part of building (Group 1013) or building (Group 1009) which overlap in this area.

Group 1020: Shallow Pit (Roman)

Contexts: 0253, 0252

A shallow feature was located to the eastern side of the site, not far from pit 0227 (Group 1019). It was oval in shape, measuring 1.46m long by 0.9m. It had shallow straight sides and a flat base, that was 0.09m deep. The feature held a mid to light grey brown silty sand fill. A single sherd of Roman period pottery came from this fill.

Group 1021: Post-hole (Roman)

Contexts: 0229, 0228

A single post-hole was located in the south-eastern corner of the site between post-hole (Group 1004), and ditch (Group 1005). It was oval, measuring 0.6m by 0.51m. It had moderate concave sides and a concave base that was 0.16m deep. It held a mid brownish grey silty sand. A small assemblage of pottery sherds of Roman date was recovered from the fill.

This post-hole may be part of a structure that also includes post-hole (Group 1004).

Group 1022: Pit (2nd or 3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0130, 0129, 0128

A large pit, 0130, partially cut the westernmost post-hole in Group 1010. It was irregular in shape, measuring 1.5m by 1.2m, and had steep convex sides and an irregular base, that was 0.59m deep. It held two dark brown and mid brown silty sand fills, from which a relatively large assemblage of pottery, CBM, fired clay, slag, lava quern and an iron object were recovered. These are likely to date to the 2nd or 3rd century.

Group 1023: Pit (Middle Saxon)

Contexts: 0191, 0190, 0189

A sub-circular pit was located to the north of timber building (Group 1013). It measured 1.45m by 1.4m by 0.26m deep, and had steep straight and moderate concave sides and a concave base. The pit held two fills, a mid brown silty sand with lenses of pale yellow sand primary fill, and a pale to mid brownish grey silty sand secondary fill. An assemblage of pottery and CBM was recovered from pit, largely consisting of abraded Roman period types, but also including a middle Saxon sherd of Ipswich ware.

Group 1024: Ditch (Undated)

Contexts: 0016, 0116, 0015, 0014, 0039, 0035, 0115, 0114

A WNW-ESE aligned ditch was located along the southern site boundary, covering over 19.6m in length. Three slots were excavated through it, revealing a V-profile with moderate convex sides and a concave base, that was over 1.05m wide and 0.64m deep. The ditch held a mid orangy brown sand primary fill, and mid grey brown silty sand secondary fill. A small assemblage of pottery and CBM of probable Roman date were recovered from the ditch fills, although this may be residual.

Group 1025: Slot and large pit (Roman?)

Contexts: 0018, 0111, 0020, 0017, 0110, 0019

A slot (0018 & 0111), was located to the north of, and with a similar alignment to, the ditch on the southern site boundary (Group 1024). This was 3.25m long and 0.55m wide and as much as 0.74m deep. It had steep concave sides and a flat base, and held a mixed dark brown grey silty sand and orangy brown sand fill, parts of which appeared to be turves. No finds were recovered from this feature.

The slot was cut by a large pit, 0020, that was sub-rectangular in shape, measuring 2.12m by over 0.62m and 0.65m deep. This feature had moderate to steep concave sides and a sloping base. It held a mid brown mottled with orange brown sand fill. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.

Group 1026: Post-hole/slot (Undated)

Contexts: 0185, 0184

At the western edge of site there was a single large post-hole or slot measuring 0.93m long by 0.38m wide with vertical straight sides and an irregular base 0.31m deep, containing a mid grey brown silty sand fill. No finds were recovered from this feature, although it pre-dates the ditch (Group 1012).

Group 1027: Subsoil layer (Early 2nd - Mid 3rd century AD)

Contexts: 0021, 0045, 0008, 0033, 0121, 0046, 0034, 0041

Overlying the natural geology across the site was a very mixed deposit of light grey sand, mid grey silty sand, and light orange brown mineralized sand. This varied in depth from about 0.13m to 0.37m. In general features appeared to cut through this subsoil deposit, although its relationship with most features was removed by the machining of the site. A lot of finds were collected during the machining process, that probably derived from this subsoil. A sample of finds that were securely attributed to the subsoil included pottery and fired clay dating to the early 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Group 1028: Modern topsoil

Contexts: 0007, 0120

The subsoil (Group 1026) was sealed by a dark grey silty sand modern agricultural soil that was 0.2m to 0.45m thick.

Ctxt	Pottery		Animal bone		CBM		Fired clay		Flint		Bt flint/stone		Slag		Stone		Lava quern		Miscellaneous	Spot date
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0200	1	1																		EC2-M/LC3
0203	1	3																		Rom
0210	3	38			2	4														Middle Saxon
0211	1	2			1	17														Rom
0212	1	6	12	16																C1-C2/3
0214			5	3																
0217			3	2							3	2								
0220			1	1																
0228	4	19																		Rom
0240	3	15					5	9												Rom ?LC1-C2
0242			1	1	1	2														
0246	3	3																		?C1/2
0248	1	1			1	9														Rom
0250	1	2																		?C1-2/3
0252	1	5											1	1						Rom
0258	1	2			1	3							1	4						?C1-EC2
0261	1	5	1	1	1	65														C2/3
0263	1	1																chalk 1-2g		Rom

Appendix 5: Pottery

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Notes	Spotdate
0100	BSW	r	8.lid	1	5	Lid (Eve 0.16)	Rom
	BSW	r	?B8	1	5	Bowl rim	C2/3
	BSW	b		5	99	Misc. bodysherds	
	BSW	r	B4.2	1	5	Rim BB type bowl B4.2 (Eve 0.05)	LC2-M/LC3
	BSW	r	B3.2	1	5	Rim BB type dish B3.2 (Eve 0.06)	EC2 -M/LC3
	CMG	b		1	52		
	GROG/BSW	b		1	7	Abraded, decorated, stab neck; pale grog, probably same pot as context 0193	LIA/ERom
	GROG-S	b		1	2	Oxidised red fabric with red grog	LIA/ERom
	GX	ba	Sjar	1	3	Probably from same vessel as 0123	EC2-EC3
	GX	b	G9.1/1	17	121	Includes BB type jar with burnished lattice decoration (2 sherds)	EC2 -M/LC3
	HAX	r		1	41	Flat-topped disc rim from large narrow-necked jar or flagon (Eve 0.30)	LC3/4
	SACG	b		2	14	Very abraded	c 120-200
	SAEG	ba	Dr. 31	6	98	Abraded, two other bases unidentified form	MC2-MC3
	modern	b		1	1	Small sherd, transfer printed pattern	19th-20th C
0105	GX	b		1	3	Sharply carinated body sherd	C1-EC2
0108	BUF	r	6 bowl	1	3	Bowl rim, grooves below rim (Eve 0.03)	C1/2
0112	GX	b		1	1		Rom
0114	BSW	b		1	1		Rom C1-EC2
0117	BSW	r	jar	3	30	With streak-burnished bands (Eve 0.10)	Rom ?1-2C
	GX	b		2	16		Rom
	SACG	b		1	1	Small fragment	120-200
0121	BSW	r	B4.1/1	1	5	Bowl (Eve 0.05)	E/MC2-MC3
	BSW	b		1	8		Rom
	BSW	r	jar	1	5	jar rim (Eve 0.09)	Rom
	GX	s	G9 1/1	1	5	BB type jar with burnished line lattice decoration	EC2-MC3
	GX	b		5	19	includes BB type jar below	Rom
0123	BSW	r	jar	9	45	jar rim (Eve 0.02)	Rom
	BUF	b		5	4	abraded small fragments	Rom ?1-2/3C
	COLC	ba	beaker	1	10	beaker base, probably same pot as context 0200	E/MC2-EC3
	GX	b		4	10		Rom
	SAEG	b		1	9		MC2-MC3
0125	BSW	b	G9 1/1	1	5	BB type jar sherd with burnish lattice decoration	EC2-M/LC3
	BSW	b		2	23	includes BB type jar sherd below	Rom
	GX	b		2	35		Rom
	GX	r	jar	1	5	rim, probably from a large narrow-necked jar, ?2-3/4C (Eve 0.17)	Rom
0126	SACG	r	dish/bowl	1	6	rim from form Dr. 18/31 or 31	c120 -200
0127	GX	b		2	7		Rom
0128	BSW	b		49	300		Rom
	BSW	r	?bowl	1	4	?bowl (Eve 0.15)	Rom
	BSW	r	B2	1	10	BB type bowl form B2 (Eve 0.07)	EC2-LC2/MC3
	BSW	r	?G9	2	18	joining sherds, possibly. BB type jar with upright rim (Eve 0.20)	?E/MC2
	BSW	ba	jar	1	225	whole base and lower body of jar, about 25% of pot	Rom ?1-E2
	BSW	r	bowl	2	17	bowl rim, non-joining sherds (Eve 0.22)	Rom
	BSW	b	G9 1/1; G9 2/1- 3/1	4	37	includes sherds from BB type jars with burnished lattice and grouped burnished lines	M/LC2 to M/LC3
	BSW	b	G9 1/1	3	127	BB type burnished lattice jar	EC2-MC3
	BSW	ba	jar	2	64	joining sherds from same base	Rom
BSW	r	jar/bowl	1	11	jar or closed mouth bowl (Eve 0.13)	?1-E2C	

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Notes	Spotdate
0128	BUF	b	flagon	3	10	abraded. flagon neck, probably Colchester (COLB)	C1-C2/3
	GMB	b		5	57		Rom
	GMB	r	?C23	1	11	bowl form poss. Form C23 type (1-E2C) but the small rim is more pointed	?C1-EC2
	GX	r	13A	6	275	Type 13A face pot, 3 join, rim with handle, body sherd with ear and hair, applied chin (Eve 0.30)	LC1/EC2/3
	GX	r	?G10 1/1	1	20	Jar rim poss. Form g10 1.1 (1-e2c)	Rom, ?Erom
	GX	r	jar	1	21	Jar rim, poss. 2c or later	?C2+
	GX	b	280	1	24		Rom
	GX	r		1	5	Friiled rim fragment, not part of face-pot	Rom
	SACG	ba	bowl	1	150	Abraded large bowl base	c120-200
0131	BSW	b		1	4		Rom
	GX	b		1	3		Rom
0133	BSW	b	?G9 1/1	10	32	Sherds and fragmets, includes sherd probably from a BB type lattice decorated jar	EC2-MC3
	BUF	b		1	18		prob.C 1-C2/3
	GX	b		5	30		Rom
0134	BSW	b		1	6	Slightly Abraded	Rom
0141	BSW	b		6	33		Rom
	BSW	r	6 B2	1	7	Bowl, form type B2 (Eve 0.05)	E/MC2-MC3
	GX	b	?G9 2/1-3/1	7	18	Includes burnished line decorated sherds, 1 probably from a BB type jar	M/LC2-MC3
0146	GX	b		1	8	Roman possibly 2C or later	C2+
0148	BSW	r	A4	3	36	Non-joining sherds from a bowl of form A4 type (Eve 0.07)	C1-MC2
	BSW	b		3	10		Rom
	BSW	b		8	70		Rom
0154	GX	b		1	10		Rom
0155	BSW	b		1	2		?C1-EC2
	GX	b		2	5		Rom
0166	BSW	b		1	4		Rom
0176	BSW	b		2	2		Rom
	GX	b		1	3		Rom
0178	BSW	b		2	7		Rom
	GX	b		2	4		Rom
0180	BSW	b		1	1	Abraded	Rom
0187	BSW	b		1	12	Abraded	Rom ?C1-EC2
0189	BSW	b		5	14	Abraded	Rom
	GX	b		3	7		Rom
	RX	b		1	3	Abraded	C1-C2/3
	SIPS	ba	jar	1	62	Sandy grey ware, thick sherd, rounded base, Ipswich ware (see 0210)	Middle Saxon
0193	BSW	r	?B3	1	4	Abraded, probably a bb type bowl of form b3 (eve 0.03)	EC2-MC3/4
	BSW	r	jar	1	7	Abraded jar rim (eve 0.09)	Rom
	BSW	b		5	9	Abraded	Rom
	GROG/BSW	b		1	9	Abraded similar in fabric to sherd in copntext 0100	LIA/ERom
	GX	b		1	7	Abraded	Rom
	GX	r		1	2	Abraded (eve 0.05)	Rom
0195	BSW?	b		1	2	Very abraded	Rom
	GX	b		2	2	Roman	Rom
0200	COLC	b	beaker	1	1	Abraded roughcast beaker, dark colour-coat	EC2-MC3
0203	GX	b		1	3	Abraded	Rom
0210	BSW?	b		1	1	Abraded	Rom
	GX	b		1	2	Abraded	Rom
	SIPS	b		1	35	Sandy grey ware, thick sherd, Ipswich ware	Middle Saxon

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Notes	Spotdate
						(see context 0189)	
0211	GX	b		1	2	Abraded	Rom
0212	BUF	b		1	6	Slightly abraded.	Rom
0228	BSW	b		1	4	Abraded	Rom
	GX	b		3	15	Abraded	Rom
0240	BSW	b	beaker?	1	11	Part of beaker, or small jar base with small pedestal foot, part of graffiti X on underside	M/LC1-E/MC2
	BUF	b		1	3	Slightly abraded	Rom
	GX	b		1	1		Rom
0246	BSW	r		2	1	Rim fragment	Rom
	GX	b	jar	1	2	Shoulder and neck sherd from a shouldered jar	Rom
0248	GX	ba	dish or bowl	1	1	Abraded fragment from dish or bowl with chamfered base, prob. E2-3/4C	EC2-C3/4
0250	BUF	b		1	2	Abraded prob. 1-2/3C	C1-C2/3
0252	GX	b		1	5	Abraded	Rom
0258	BSW	r	C16	1	2	From a flat-rimmed bowl C16 (Eve 0.02)	C1-E/MC2
0261	BSW	r	B2.3	1	5	Bead rim bowl of BB type, probably form B2 3, E-M2 to M3C poss. E-M2 to L2C (Eve 0.02)	E/-MC2-MC3
0263	GX	b	jar/bowl	1	1	Abraded small sherd, probably shoulder/neck of shouldered jar/bowl	Rom ?C1-C2

Appendix 6: CBM

Context	Period	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt/g	Thick-ness/mm	Notes
0100	Rom	A	RB	1	445	32	Probably <i>Tegula</i> Burnt on upper face Probably peg-tile, very flat, same thickness as p-tile, fabric local? Probably brick, combed signature mark (4 tooth marks), uneven base or flaked? Abraded modern ?brick fragment Abraded ?Roman brick piece Possibly Fabric A overfired or burnt Possibly Fabric A overfired or burnt Abraded pieces and fragments Abraded fragments Abraded pieces/fragments Abraded fragment, possibly Fabric C
	Rom	A	RBT	8	326		
	Rom	B	RBT	1	198	19	
	Rom	C	RI	5	257	17	
	Rom	C	RBT	1	289		
	Rom	C	RB	1	175	29	
	Rom	C	RB	1	223	30	
	P-Rom	C	PT	4	109	12	
	Rom	D	RBT	1	175	36	
	Mod		MB	1	64		
	Rom	B	RBT	1	169		
	Rom	A	RB	1	63	40	
	Rom	A	RB	1	22		
	Rom	D	RBT	1	32		
	Rom	B	RBT	15	159		
	Rom	A	RBT	2	15		
Rom	C	RBT	3	82			
Rom	C	RBT	1	2			
0114	Rom	B	RBT	2	1		Fragments, probably Roman, all are ??
0117	Rom	A	RFT	1	14		Fragment, no thickness - greater than 20 mm, early Roman scored flue tile, cuts form rectangular squares
0118	Rom	B	RB	1	513	55	Thick brick, burnt on upper face
0125	Rom	B	RBT	1	79		Abraded, similar in make-up but less dense than most Fabric B pieces UCA Warry 2006 Type D1 (fig 1.3) dated AD 240-380, largest piece recovered at 110 x 100 mm Probably Fabric A
	Rom	B	RTF	1	515	23	
	Rom	B	RB	1	581	53	
	Rom	A	RTF	1	100	22	
Rom	A	RBT	1	31	32		
0128	Rom	A	RBT	1	117	36	Combed box flue tile fragment, appears to be burnt or heated over break
	Rom	C	RFT	1	108		
	Rom	C	RI	1	63	12	
0133	Rom	D	RBT	1	7		Fragment
0141	Rom	B	RBT	1	41	13	Probably <i>Imbrex</i> Probably Roman ?brick
	Rom	A	RBT	1	194	34	
	Rom	B	RBT	1	95	15	
0176	Rom	B	RBT	1	88	23	? <i>Tegula</i> Fragments
	Rom	A	RBT	3	9		
0183	Rom	B	RBT	1	120	33	Probably a brick, thin white mortar spread on side and base
0189	Rom	A	RTF	1	34	18	Flange broken off Rounded off brick piece, 2 joining fragments, burnt Probably a <i>Tegula</i>
	Rom	B	RB	2	174		
	Rom	B	RBT	1	273	23	
0196	Rom	A	RBT	1	24		Abraded fragment
0211	Rom	A	RFT	1	17		Tile with part of a pre-firing hole at least 15 mm dia., thickness - >14 mm
0242	Rom	B	RBT	1	2		RBT? abraded fragment
0248	Rom	C	RBT	1	9		Abraded fragment
0258	Rom	B	RBT	1	3		RBT? abraded fragment
0261	Rom	B	RBT	1	65	22	Probably <i>Tegula</i>

Appendix 7: Small Finds

Small find no.	Ctxt	Period	Material	Object Name	No.	Wt/ g	Length mm	Comments
1008	0100	Roman	Copper alloy	tweezers	1	3.19	46	Almost complete Roman type, slightly flaring with end of blades curved in and decorative groove down edges of arms, see <i>CAR 2</i> , 1983, Nina Crummy <i>The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-79</i> , 59, fig 63, no 1883.
1009	0100	Post-med	Copper alloy?	buckle frame	1	2.81	30	Buckle frame end, moulded decoration, dated c 17 th century
1010	0210	?Roman	Copper alloy		1	1.87	15	Unidentified piece from a larger object, probably Roman base on condition and balance of other finds
1011	0100	Roman	Copper alloy	stud	1	10.33		Decorative mount (diam. 35mm) with 2 studs, possibly military of 2 nd -3 rd century date, see Oldenstein, von J, 1976, <i>Zur Ausrüstung romischer Auxiliareinheiten</i> , tafel 56, nos. 686-694
1012	0100	Roman	Copper alloy	brooch pin	1	1.42	25	Complete brooch pin from a small Colchester type brooch, dated c 25-60 AD
1013	0100	Unknown	Copper alloy	lump	1	6.11	20	Irregular rounded lump
1014	0100	Unknown	Lead	fragments	6	13.58		Fragments - 2 possibly from an object, also two other copper-ally scraps
1015	0100	Roman	Copper alloy?	stud	1	2.65		Disc headed stud, possibly military of 2 nd -3 rd century date, see Oldenstein, von J, 1976, <i>Zur Ausrüstung romischer Auxiliareinheiten</i> , tafel 47-48, nos. 512-527