



**CCC AFU Report 925**

## **Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon buildings at the Old School, Feltwell, Norfolk**

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**Post-Excavation Assessment**

Aileen Connor and Liz Muldowney

January 2006

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## Summary

Archaeological Evaluation took place on land to the rear of the Old School, Feltwell (Archaeological Solutions Ltd) that identified the presence of archaeological features likely to belong to the later Roman period (3rd-4th Century). King's Lynn and West Norfolk Planning Authority granted planning permission subject to a condition for a programme of Archaeological Works. The programme of Archaeological Works was defined in the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Brief dated 7th July 2006 as an archaeological excavation of defined areas to replace by record archaeological features, deposits and structures which cannot be preserved *in situ*, and which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development. A specification (CCC AFU) was prepared that detailed the work that CCC AFU would undertake on behalf of Goymour Homes in order to fulfil the planning condition.

The excavation phase of the work was carried out between the 29th August and the 2nd October 2006. Five areas (A – E) were opened, varying in area from 12m by 8m to 30m by 10m. Archaeology was encountered in all areas, varying from moderately dense to very dense. Some areas contained relatively complex sequences of activity that suggest multiple phases of occupation. The archaeology primarily consists of ditches, pits, gullies and structural remains forming enclosures, boundaries and buildings. Superimposition of features made reconstruction of their original form very difficult.

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Circumstances of the Project**

An archaeological Evaluation took place on land to the rear of the Old School, Feltwell (Archaeological Solutions Ltd) that identified the presence of archaeological features likely to belong to the later Roman period (3rd-4th Century). King's Lynn and West Norfolk Planning Authority granted planning permission subject to a condition for a programme of Archaeological Works. The programme of Archaeological Works was defined in the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Brief dated 7th July 2006 as an archaeological excavation of defined areas to replace by record archaeological features, deposits and structures which cannot be preserved *in situ*, and which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development. A specification (CCC AFU) was prepared that detailed the work that CCC AFU would undertake on behalf of Goymour Homes in order to fulfil the planning condition.

The excavation phase of the work was carried out between the 29th August and the 2nd October 2006. Five areas (A – E) were opened, varying in area from 12m by 8m to 30m by 10m. Archaeology was encountered in all areas, varying from moderately dense to very dense. Some areas contained relatively complex sequences of activity that suggest multiple phases of occupation. The archaeology primarily consists of ditches, pits, gullies and structural remains forming enclosures, boundaries and buildings.

### **1.2 The Geology of the Site**

The parish of Feltwell is partially located within an area of Fen termed the Wissey embayment (Silvester 1991, 1); the remainder of the parish lies in Breckland (Silvester 1991, 29). The village of Feltwell is approximately 1km to the east of the Fen edge at the head of a small valley. The subject site is located within the village on chalk and chalky drift with shallow, well-drained calcareous coarse loamy and sandy soils over chalk or chalk rubble (Doyle, O'Brien and Williams 2005).

## **2 Archaeological Background**

### **2.1 Background Study**

A suitable level of documentary research has been undertaken in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. Existing information from historical sources and previous archaeological finds

and investigations in the vicinity have been collated and presented in a report by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (Doyle, O'Brien and Williams 2005).

## **2.2 Aerial Photography**

Aerial Photographs were consulted as part of the evaluation (Doyle, O'Brien and Williams 2005).

## **2.3 Trial Trenching**

Seven trial trenches were excavated by machine to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A mechanical excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used. The total length of trenches excavated was 112m providing a 5% sample of the site.

## **3 Aims and Objectives of the Excavation**

The main aim of the project is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site, with particular reference to origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and the nature of social, economic and industrial activities as required by the NLA Brief. The research aims listed below are those thought to be appropriate before excavation took place, it is part of the purpose of the post excavation assessment and updated research design to review these research aims and amend and add to them as appropriate. The updated research aims are documented in Section 6 below.

### **3.1 Prehistoric**

Other than a single struck flint flake found in an undated pit no remains of prehistoric date were found by the evaluation although two Neolithic flint chisels were found in a field nearby to the east of the subject site (NHER 17539). No aims specific to the prehistoric period were detailed in the specification.

### **3.2 Iron Age**

No features of Iron Age date were identified by the evaluation although small sherds of residual prehistoric pottery (possibly Iron Age were

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found in the backfill of later (Roman) features. No aims specific to the Iron Age were detailed in the specification.

### **3.3 Roman**

Based on the results of the evaluation the majority of the archaeological remains were thought likely to be late Roman (3rd to 4th century) in date, and possibly related to a rural agricultural complex, or a 'Villa Estate'. The evaluation report (Doyle, O'Brien and Williams 2005) highlights in particular the possibility of a number of stone buildings that may be of Roman or later date, coupled with ditches and pits that are more certainly Roman and likely to relate to agriculture. Research aims that the site is most likely to be able to contribute to are therefore centred on rural and agricultural themes.

The evaluation report notes that research topics could include investigation of food consumption and production, research into agricultural production, relict landscapes and communications networks and rural settlements. Preservation of plant remains is generally poor (Fryer in Doyle, O'Brien and Williams 2005) and unless better preserved remains are found in the excavation, research into food production/consumption and agricultural production will have to rely on the animal bone assemblage. The site is more likely to be able to contribute towards research into relict landscapes (field systems) and rural settlement (boundaries, rubbish disposal and buildings).

In the rural landscape there is a lack of classifications of settlements (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19). This excavation within a potential rural settlement may contribute towards better definition of settlement type.

Feltwell lies within an area of significant Roman rural settlement and this excavation could contribute towards better understanding of rural settlement layout and plan, particularly if it can be demonstrated that the buildings on the site are directly related to the ditch systems and/or pits.

The 3rd and 4th centuries have been identified as a period for which it has been more difficult to recover meaningful evidence than earlier centuries (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19). This site seems to be largely 3rd and 4th century in date and may therefore be able to contribute to research themes specific to this period.

This site would seem to have the potential to contribute towards a greater understanding of rural building styles and techniques, but it will be a primary objective to date the buildings in order to achieve this aim.



### 3.4 Post-Roman

No features or artefacts dating to the Post-Roman period were found by the evaluation and consultation of early maps has identified no buildings dating to the 19th century or later on the site (AS Evaluation Report). It is possible that some of the undated features date to this period and the Research Aims will need to be updated if this is found to be the case. However, excavation has subsequently identified evidence for a type of building that is generally associated with the Anglo-Saxon period (sunken featured building). Research aims relating to this period will therefore be included in the updated Research Aims and Objectives (Section 6 below).

## 4 Summary of Results

Five areas (A – E) were opened, varying in area from 12m by 8m to 30m by 10m (Fig. 2). Archaeology was encountered in all areas, varying from moderately dense to very dense. The densest activity was recorded in Areas A and B on the northern and western sides of the site. The archaeology primarily consists of ditches, pits, gullies and structural remains forming enclosures, boundaries and buildings.

In total an area of 1001.15 sq m was opened up.

Area A	258.70 sq m
Area B	337.93 sq m
Area C	105.63 sq m
Area D	56.34 sq m
Area E	276.89 sq m

### 4.1 Phasing

Three main periods of occupation have been identified:

Period 1: Romano-British (*late 2nd to 4th centuries*)

Period 2: Medieval (*10th to 17th centuries*)

Period 3: Post-medieval to modern (*18th to 20th centuries*)

Periods 1 and 2 have been subdivided into separate phases. For the Roman period (1) the dating suggests that most activity takes place in the 3rd to 4th century with the possibility of some earlier ?late 2nd century activity. There is little differentiation in the pottery assemblage so the phasing has been reliant upon stratigraphy, spatial relationships and groupings based on feature types. The activity within Areas A and B indicates that there were approximately five phases of development within this time frame. The phases have therefore been attributed an arbitrary duration:

## Period 1:

*Phase 1.1: Earliest Romano-British activity - late 2nd to early 3rd century*

*Phase 1.2: Early to mid 3rd century*

*Phase 1.3: Mid to late 3rd century*

*Phase 1.4: Early to mid 4th century*

*Phase 1.5: Latest Romano-British activity - mid to late 4th century*

## Period 2

*Phase 2.1: Early medieval – 10th to 12th centuries*

*Phase 2.2: Later medieval – 14th to 17th centuries*

An outline of the results will be presented below by Period and then by Phase where appropriate. Within each Period or Phase the features or feature groups will be discussed in the following order: ditches, pits, postholes, other features. Fill descriptions will only be included where appropriate. For ease of navigation these will be presented by Area unless otherwise stated. A summary of the phasing and pottery assemblages can be found in Tables 1-8, Appendix 1.

## **4.2 Period 1 Romano-British**

The majority of the activity on the site dates to the Roman period. Despite the presence of some residual Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery within the assemblage the earliest activity on the site was believed to date to the later part of the Roman period, probably the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The absence of latest redwares within the assemblage perhaps indicates that the Roman occupation of this site had ceased before the early 5th century.

This period saw the establishment of boundaries, the creation and modification of a number of rectilinear enclosures as well as the construction of at least one large building of uncertain form. The western, southern and northern limits to the settlement were not located within the excavated area and no full enclosure plans were retrieved.

### **4.2.1 Phase 1.1 ? Late 2nd to early 3rd centuries**

The earliest activity on the site was the construction of a large segmented recut boundary ditch at the east side of the site. This feature formed the boundary to the settlement throughout the Roman period. Two clusters of ditches and pits in Areas A and B may have been contemporary with the establishment of this boundary. Some elements of the boundary ditch may well have continued in use during later phases (Fig. 3). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 1 Appendix 1.

### **Ditches**

#### **2348=2379** Area A

An east to west oriented linear ?enclosure ditch measuring approximately 1m in width and 0.45m in depth. Two fills were recorded within the ditch, the upper fill contained two slightly abraded sherds of pottery dating from the late 2nd to the 4th century as well as a 3rd century coin. This ditch truncated the northern end of a clay-lined flue (also in this phase). It was in turn truncated by ditch **2382**.

#### **2315** Area A

A west-north-west to east-south-east oriented terminating ditch located 1m to the north of ditch **2348/2379**. It measured 0.62m in width and 0.18m in depth and contained one sherd of severely abraded late 2nd to 4th century pottery. This ditch truncated pit **2313** and was truncated by gully **2260/2317**.

#### **2373** Area A

A narrow north-west to south-east oriented linear ditch terminating close to associated similar feature **2375**. This undated feature has been included here on the basis of its stratigraphic position. It was truncated to the south by ditch **2328**.

#### **2375** Area A

Similar to ditch **2373** this undated ditch was oriented north-east to south-west. It was truncated by an unexcavated pit believed to be of later Roman date.

#### **2038, 2040, 2045, 2046** and **2044** Areas B and E.

These ditches formed the northern element of the recut segmented boundary associated with ditch **2378** in Area C. The boundary ran north to south at the eastern side of Area B continuing to the south into Area E where it probably terminated and was truncated by later features that perpetuated its line. It is not clear whether it was a single ditch recut six times or whether some of the narrow ditches were contemporary forming a multi-ditched boundary. The sections and plan suggest that its terminals moved over time altering access routes through the boundary. It is possible that some of the later elements of this boundary on its eastern side were from later phases. The ditches become narrower and shallower over time, the earliest ditch being 2.2m+ wide the latest being 1m wide Only one of the ditches contained dateable material with two sherds of slightly abraded 2nd to 4th century grey ware pottery.

#### **2378** Area C and E

This ditch appears to have been associated with the earliest elements of the boundary in Areas A/E and probably formed the southern element of a segmented single boundary. It was a wide u shaped ditch

measuring 4.2m in width and 0.6m in depth. It was oriented north-north-east to south-south-west and terminated to the north just within the limits of Area E. This would form a gap of approximately 3m between the two segments. The lower of its two undated fills was notable for being composed of redeposited dirty yellow chalk. This ditch was truncated by small circular pit **2321**.

### **Pits**

#### **2172, 2330 Area A**

Two similar undercut storage pits lying 4m apart. Both were sub-circular in plan with steep to vertical sides and flat bases. Both were truncated by later ditches, **2172** was truncated by ditch **2170**; **2330** was truncated by ditch **2328**. Their inclusion in this phase is tentative and based on stratigraphy, both contained small quantities of St Neots ware pottery. It is possible that this pottery was intrusive.

#### **2313 Area A**

A small circular undated pit truncated by terminating ditch **2315**. Its inclusion here is tentative.

#### **2194, 2196, 2124, 2119 Area B**

These four features represent a small intercutting pit cluster. **2194** and **2196** were two small intercutting pits that had been heavily truncated. The upper fill of **2194** contained one sherd of 3rd to 4th century grey ware pottery. Pit **2124** was truncated by pit **2119**; both were sub-circular in plan and heavily truncated by later features. The lower fill of pit **2124** contained one sherd of 3rd to 4th century pottery.

#### **2139 Area B**

A large sub-circular pit measuring 2.5m in diameter truncated to the north by later pits and ditches. Its single fill contained a residual Iron Age sherd as well as a sherd of late 2nd to the 4th century pottery.

#### **2054, 2056 and 2059 Area B**

A cluster of three intercutting irregular undated pits, located just to the south of pit **2139**. **2056** was truncated by ditch **2086**, **2059** was truncated by posthole **2062**. Its relationship to gully **2126** could not be determined.

#### **2032 Area B**

This small circular shallow pit measured 0.82m in diameter and 0.24m in depth. It truncated ditches **2040** and **2038** that formed part of the eastern boundary ditch sequence. Its single fill contained two sherds of pottery, a sherd of Nene Valley grey ware dated to the 3rd to 4th century and a Nene Valley colour coat beaker sherd dating to the late 2nd to 3rd century.

**2321 Area C**

A sub-circular pit measuring 0.8m in diameter and 0.8m in depth. This pit cut through the disused ditch **2378**. Its lower fill contained a single sherd of very abraded late 1st to 4th century grey ware pottery.

**Other features****Flue 2430 Area A**

A short stretch of a linear flue was located at the southern limit of the area; it was truncated to the north by ditch **2348=2379**. It was vertical sided with a flat base and measured 0.4m in width and 0.23m in depth. It was lined on the sides and base with baked/heat affected clay approximately 0.06m thick. A large ?floor tile had been used as a cover for the flue and had tipped into it after disuse. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the feature. The lining and backfill both contained charcoal, hammer scale and charred cereal grains, in relatively small quantities. The flue was also truncated by an undated posthole **2427**.

**4.2.2 Phase 1.2 ?Early to mid 3rd century**

This phase saw the development of a rectilinear field system maintaining the alignment of the earlier eastern boundary. There is again no evidence for structures but the activity was focused in the same areas as in the previous phase (Fig. 4). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 2 Appendix 1.

**Ditches****2398 Area A**

A narrow undated linear ditch oriented east-north-east to west-south-west. It truncated an undated posthole **2396** and was in turn truncated by ditch **2382** to the south-west and by ditch **2362** to the north-east.

**2202, 2204=2328 Area A**

East to west oriented recut linear ditch **2202** was located 4m to the north of ditch **2348=2379**. It measured approximately 2m in width and between 0.18 and 0.4m in depth. Its line was not traced continuing to the east. It was recut as ditch **2204=2328** on the same alignment. This ditch truncated both pit **2330** and ditch **2373**. Fill of ditch **2204** contained one sherd of late 1st to 4th century grey ware pottery.

**2170 Area A**

An east to west oriented terminating ditch located 5m to the north of ditch **2202, 2204=2328**. It was similar in proportion to it and also truncated an undercut storage pit (**2172**). Its fill contained a highly abraded sherd of a 2nd to the 4th century grey ware jar.

**2085 = 2086 = 2148 =2030, 2151, 2410=2340, 2409 and 2405** Areas B and E

A rectilinear enclosure system was established, maintaining the eastern boundary from *Phase 1.1*. It zigzagged across Area B running north-to south then turning west to east before continuing north to south (**2085 = 2086 = 2148 =2030**). A small number of pottery sherds were retrieved from the fills of the enclosure including a residual Iron Age sherd, three sherds of 2nd to 4th century Horningsea reduced ware, three sherds of late 1st to 4th century grey ware, two sherds of 3rd to 4th century local reduced ware pottery as well as five sherds of a 3rd to 4th century Nene Valley grey ware jar. The fill of **2086** contained intrusive medieval pottery from the unrecognised medieval boundary ditch **2174** cutting through it. The enclosure probably continued to the south into Area E as ditch **2410=2340**, here the ditch contained a sherd of 2nd to 4th century grey ware pottery, a highly abraded late 1st to 4th century grey ware sherd, three sherds of local late 2nd to 4th century reduced ware, a sherd of late 2nd to 3rd century Nene Valley colour coat beaker and one very small, severely abraded, sherd of samian. This was the only sherd of samian pottery retrieved from the site. No return of this ditch was located to the west in the adjacent Area C. Undated ditches **2409** and **2405** were offset from the west to east oriented arm of the main enclosure ditch. Aligned north to south these would have formed a small enclosure with a west facing entranceway. No features could be associated with the use of this offset enclosure. Ditch **2151** was a recut of the west side of the main enclosure, it contained no datable artefacts. No evidence for recutting was recorded elsewhere along its line.

### **2331** Area E

This north to south oriented ditch was less than a metre wide and only 0.3m deep. It ran parallel to ditch **2410=2340** 2m to its east. Although it contained no datable material it is possible that it was contemporary with the rectilinear enclosure to the west. It might have continued to the north into Area B as part of the later sequence of the eastern boundary ditch.

### **Pits**

#### **2371** Area A

A small sub-circular undated pit, its inclusion here is tentative. Its fill merged with that of the adjacent, ?broadly contemporary, ditch **2328**.

#### **2214** Area A

A small undated sub-circular pit, truncated by ?foundation pad **2216**. Its inclusion here is tentative.

### **Other Features**

#### **Beamslots/gullies 2121, 2126 and 2081=2116 Area B**

Three narrow shallow parallel linear features were located in the south-west corner the main enclosure. The three were comparable in length at approximately 6m, in width at c. 0.36m and depth at c. 0.16m. They were set at a distance of approximately 3m from each other and were aligned with the west side of the enclosure ditch. All three terminated before the enclosure turned to the east suggesting that they respected its presence. **2121** contained two sherds of 3rd to 4th century and late 3rd to 4th century jars, **2081=2116** contained 21 sherds of pottery from throughout the Roman period, but predominantly the 2nd to 4th century. Their interpretation is uncertain, it is possible that they were beam slots for a structure, but it seems unlikely from their layout. They were not drainage features, and as there were only three of them they are unlikely to have been cultivation trenches. Ditch **2121** truncated pit **2124**, the relationship between **2126** and the pits in *Phase 1.1* has been inferred from its spatial association with the enclosure, no relationship could be determined in plan. All three were truncated by later ditch **2072=2141**. Their position above the earlier pits suggests continuity of use of this area but possibly with a change of function.

#### **4.2.3 Phase 1.3 ?Mid to late 3rd century**

This phase saw the disuse of part of, if not all of, the rectilinear enclosure system laid out in *Phase 1.2*. A new enclosure/boundary ditch was set out on approximately the same east to west alignment, cutting through the west side of the enclosure and truncating the three beamslots/gullies. Activity continues in the south-west corner of the site and to the north of this new ditch. Suggesting a slight shift in the focus of occupation to the area to the north of the excavation (Fig. 5). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 3 Appendix 1.

### **Ditches**

#### **2382, 2262 Area A**

A short stretch of truncated linear ditch terminating at its east-north-east end close to the possibly associated posthole **2433**. Its position suggests it may have also been associated with the adjacent similarly aligned ditch **2262**. This ditch was also west-south-west to east-north-east aligned terminating to the south-west. Neither feature contained any datable artefacts but both truncated ditch **2398**. **2382** was truncated by a large unexcavated pit and ditch segment **2384**. **2262** was truncated to the north by east to west oriented gully **2260**.

**2072=2141 Area B**

The construction of this ?boundary ditch defines this phase of activity. It was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and truncated the rectilinear enclosure described in *Phase 1.2*. It measured approximately 0.75m in width and c. 0.3m in depth. Although described as a boundary ditch it is feasible that it was the southern arm of an enclosure lying to the north of the excavated area. It contained two sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th century and one sherd of Nene Valley colour coat dating to the late 3rd to 4th century.

**2147 Area B**

This feature was interpreted as a highly truncated pit but its possible that it was the terminal of a narrow linear ditch running parallel to, and adjacent to, the north side of ditch **2072=2141**. Although undated the coincidence of its alignment suggests it was broadly contemporary with the ditch to the south. Its function is unclear but it might have been associated with an unusual three sided small ditched feature at its west end.

**2130, 2132 Area B**

A small three sided rectilinear feature open on the eastern side. The southern arm merged to the east with the presumed west end of ditch **2147**. The ditches were narrow at approximately 0.24m in width and shallow, the deepest being 0.09m. It was suggested that this might have been part of a small structure but its internal width would have only been 2m north to south and no evidence for an eastern side was recorded. It was not substantial enough to have been a stock pen and no evidence for a fence was recovered. Despite the absence of datable artefacts it is included here on the basis of its position and orientation in relation to the boundary ditch **2072=2141**.

***Other features*****Posthole 2433 Area A**

A large circular posthole located close to the east terminal of ditch **2382**. It was designed to hold a substantial post set at a raking angle. No other similar features were recorded in the vicinity and its inclusion here is tentative as no datable artefacts were retrieved from its fills. Its position suggested the possibility that it might have been associated with the terminating ditch.

**Foundation 2216 associated postholes 2218 and 2220 Area A**

A small sub-square foundation trench truncating earlier pit **2214** had been filled with rammed chalk to form a foundation pad. It measured 1.1m by 1.1m and was 0.45m deep. Two small sub-square postholes were cut into its corners on the west side. The east side had been removed by the construction of pit **2208**. No datable artefacts were retrieved from any of its components thus its inclusion here is tentative.



#### **4.2.4 Phase 1.4 ?Early to mid 4th century**

This phase contains the first evidence for the presence of a substantial structure on the site. However, only the ?west side of the structure was recorded within the excavation area. This structure might have been contemporary with a number of large ?storage pits. All similar pits have been grouped here, however, many were stratigraphically late suggesting that they were fourth century in origin rather than third century (Fig. 6). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 4 Appendix 1.

##### ***Ditches***

###### **2384 Area A**

A single short ditch segment measuring 2m in length 0.48m in width and 0.28m in depth was located at the south-western end of Area A. No other features were clearly associated with it. It was on the same alignment as a segmented medieval hedge ditch, however this ditch had good clear edges with no evidence for root disturbance unlike all the other elements of the medieval boundary. It was stratigraphically late truncating ditch **2382**, but contained no datable artefacts. It is possible that it was a post-Roman feature.

##### ***Pits***

###### **2265 Area A**

A large sub-circular pit measuring 1.8m in diameter and 0.6m in depth. It contained 9 sherds of pottery from throughout the Roman period. Immediately to the south was a sub-square unexcavated pit of similar proportions that truncated ditch **2382**.

###### **2208 and 2248 Area A**

Two large sub-circular pits , **2208** had been severely disturbed by roots from the hedge that cut through it. **2208** contained three sherds of late 2nd to 4th century pottery one sherd of highly abraded 1st to 4th century pottery. **2248** contained one sherd of late 2nd to 4th century pottery as well as a single sherd of an Oxfordshire colour coat cup datable to the late 3rd to 5th century.

###### **Pit Cluster Area A**

###### **2240, 2277, 2275, 2266, 2238, 2271, 2190 and 2185**

A number of large intercutting pits were located at the northern end of Area A. The absence of other features suggests that there was some zoning of activity in this phase. From the merging cluster of features seven pits and shallow hollow (**2190**) were identified. It is possible that some of the earlier pits were from earlier phases, however, the cluster is phased together because they were similar to stratigraphically late pits elsewhere. Although they form a coherent zoned feature group one of the later pits had a Late Saxon/early medieval bone pin beater in its upper fill, which suggests that it had only partially filled in before the end of the Roman occupation of the site. Therefore this area could

have remained in use till the latest phase of Roman occupation on the site. Their function is uncertain, unlike many of the other pits on the site, they were not undercut storage pits. It is possible that they were extraction pits, however, the upper layers of chalk through which they were cut were eroded and fragmentary, none of the excavated features cut into the solid chalk beneath. Therefore it is possible that good quality chalk for building was not being extracted but that chalk rubble was being extracted perhaps to make lime.

Pit **2240** contained 11 sherds of Romano-British pottery including one sherd of severely abraded 3rd to 4th century Lower Nene Valley shell tempered ware pottery suggesting a possible 4th century date. Pit **2266** contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery including one sherd of highly abraded late 3rd to 4th century local reduced ware pottery. Pit **2238** contained six sherds of similarly dated pottery. Pit **2185** contained two sherds of later Romano-British pottery, its upper fill contained a late Saxon/early medieval bone pin beater (SF 15) suggesting that it was still open when this period of occupation on the site ended.

Pit cluster Area B

**2095, 2099, 2097, 2105 and 2103**

A cluster of at least five small pits was recorded in the north-west corner of Area B, its full extent was not established. None of the features were distinct with all fills merging. The latest pit in the sequence (**2103**) contained a single sherd of 2nd to 4th century pottery, it was the only datable artefact retrieved from any of the features. Their inclusion here is naturally tentative.

**2075** Area B

A large circular undercut pit measuring 3m in diameter and 0.7m in depth. This undated pit truncated ditch **2072** and was in turn truncated by posthole **2157** and foundation trench **2154**. Despite the absence of datable material, its stratigraphic position and similarity to other undercut pits suggests that it was part of this phase of occupation.

**2143=2128, 2109** Area B

Two large sub-rectangular pits both of which truncated ditch **2141**. **2109** had steeply undercut sides similar to pit **2075** and might have been initially a storage pit. Pit **2143** contained a severely abraded sherd of residual Iron Age pottery as well as three sherds dated to the late 1st to 4th century, one mid 2nd to 4th century sherd and a late 2nd century Nene Valley colour coat sherd. Pit **2109** contained fifteen sherds of pottery the majority dating to the mid 2nd to 4th century from its lower fill, its latest fill contained five sherds of similarly dated material in association with twenty four sherds of late Saxon/early medieval Thetford ware pottery and four sherds of similarly dated St Neots ware pottery. It also contained a single iron nail in its upper fill (SF 14). This pit was close to an early medieval ?postbuilt structure and like pit **2185** with the pin beater in its upper fill may not have entirely filled in by the time occupation ceased in the later fourth century.

**2234 Area D**

A circular pit measuring 1m in diameter and 0.65m in depth containing a single sherd of 4th century pottery

**2403, 2473, 2412 and 2414 Area E**

A number of pits were recorded in this area. A cluster of intercutting unexcavated pits similar in appearance to the cluster at the northern end of Area A may have been a continuation of this activity zone. Four further pits were recorded across the rest of the area:

A sub-triangular pit **2403** truncating the terminal of ditch **2405**. No datable material was retrieved from its fill. Its inclusion here is tentative. Pit **2473** had steep, slightly undercut sides and may have been similar to pits **2075** and **2109** in Area B. It contained a sherd of severely abraded late 1st to 3rd century pottery as well as a sherd of 2nd to 4th century pottery. Pit **2412** was probably rectangular in plan, and 0.35m deep. Its single fill contained two sherds of highly abraded late 2nd to 4th century pottery. Circular pit **2414** ?truncated pit **2412**, it contained two similarly badly abraded Romano-British sherds.

**Other Features****Building 1 Area B**

This structure consisted of three chalk foundations; two sub-square foundation pads and a short linear foundation course. These three features might have formed part of a single eastern side to a building that lay mostly beyond the limit of excavation. Sub-square foundation trench **2018** measured 1.12m by 1.05m and was 0.51m deep at its deepest. The underlying ditch fill had been removed and replaced with packed chalk to form a stable footing. This same method had been applied to the adjacent linear foundation **2028=2066** which measured 4m in length by 0.9m in width and between 0.65 and 0.7m in depth. It was oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. The second sub-square foundation pad (2020) was located 5m to the north-east of the linear foundation. It was similar to trench **2018** but smaller measuring 0.78m by 0.55m by 0.1m in depth. This feature was cut into natural chalk unlike the other two, which explains the significant difference in their depths. Other footings for this structure might have been set on to the solid chalk and therefore have left no trace. The size of the footings cut into the earlier ditches suggests that they could have supported a substantial superstructure.

#### 4.2.5 Phase 1.5 ?Mid to late fourth century

The latest Romano-British activity consists of a small number of late ditches and pits. None of which contained diagnostically late 4th century assemblages but all of which were stratigraphically late in the sequence. A short stretch of mortared flint wall was also contemporary with this activity (Fig. 7). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 5 Appendix 1.

##### *Ditches*

##### **2258, 2310 and 2260=2317 Area A**

Three narrow linear intercutting ditches on an east-north-east to west-south-west orientation. These features replaced the earlier ditch **2262** that ran on a similar alignment. All three were insubstantial and measured between 0.45m and 0.65m in width and were on average 0.23m deep. Ditch **2258** contained a single sherd of Romano-British grey ware pottery, **2310** was undated and the latest ditch **2260** contained a very abraded sherd of pottery that was either Romano-British or Saxo-medieval.

##### **2022=2101 Area B**

This narrow shallow ditch measured 0.25m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was on a similar alignment to the three ditches to the south-west in Area A. Although undated this feature truncated the chalk filled foundation **2020**.

##### *Pits*

##### **2024 and 2026 Area B**

Two intercutting sub-circular pits. **2026** truncated the linear foundation pad **2028**. Pit **2024** contained two sherds of highly abraded late 2nd to 4th century pottery as well as a single sherd of late 3rd to 4th century pottery. Pit **2026** contained one sherd of late 3rd to 4th century pottery as well as a single sherd of unabraded 3rd to 4th century Colchester black burnished ware 2 pottery.

##### *Other features*

##### Wall 2078, Posthole **2157**

A short stretch of mortared flint wall on the same orientation as ditch **2022=2101** to the north. It survived to a height of one course in patches for a distance of 2m. It was bedded on the natural chalk, except where it encountered the large storage pit **2075**. Here a foundation trench (**2154**) was cut and a rough rubble and mortar foundation was inserted. Its construction was distinct from the foundations dug for Building 1 and

as such these features are not thought to be contemporary. Four sherds of 3rd to 4th century Nene Valley pottery were retrieved from the foundation course. A small rectangular vertical sided flat based posthole was located immediately to the north of the wall foundation also cutting through pit **2075**. It was probably associated with the wall. Too little of the wall was exposed to interpret its original function.

### **4.3 Period 2 (Late Saxon) Medieval**

Following the decline of settlement in the fourth century, there was a hiatus in its use lasting approximately six to seven hundred years. In the 10th/11th century the site was occupied again, and for a brief time a small settlement was established. This occupation was short lived with no evidence for its continuation beyond the early 12th century at the latest. In the later medieval period the site reverted to agricultural land with a small number of ditched and hedged field boundaries probably dating from between the 14th and 17th centuries dividing the fields. A list of spot dates can be found in Table 6 Appendix 1.

#### **4.3.1 Phase 2.1 Late Saxon/Early Medieval**

The settlement that was established here in the 10th or 11th century was small scale and short-lived but very unusual. Three structures have been identified, two of which were sunken featured buildings (Fig. 8). No parallels have been found for structures of this type in this period on rural sites. Sunken featured structures are known to occur in late Saxon towns but these are deep cellared buildings designed to increase useable space in crowded conditions (Tipper 2004). Two further structures have been identified as probable sunken featured buildings that were more comparable in form to the examples seen here. These were at Steyning and Goring-by-Sea in Sussex. However, these buildings have been dated to the 13th or 14th century and the 13th century respectively (Tipper 2004) and were also not located in rural contexts.

#### ***Ditches***

##### **2285 Area D**

A single ditch has been identified in this period; it measured 1.4m in width and 0.5m in depth. It was oriented north to south and was parallel with the west side of Building 2, 2m to the east. Two Thetford ware and one St Neots ware sherds dating to the late Saxon to early medieval period were retrieved from its fills. It also contained a fragment of copper alloy strip (SF 3).

## **Pits**

### **2305 Area A**

A large circular pit containing nineteen sherds of Thetford ware, two sherds of St Neots ware and one sherd of highly abraded Ipswich ware pottery. This pit was located just to the north of an unphased posthole cluster that may have been late Saxon in date. No structure could be identified from the posthole arrangement but the presence of a layer of trampled silt (2251) over this pit and the postholes might indicate that their use was associated.

### **2162 Area A**

A large circular pit measuring 1.52m in diameter and 0.82m in depth truncated an unexcavated pit in the cluster at the northern end of the area. It contained a mix of residual Romano-British pottery and five sherds of Thetford ware pottery.

### **2298, 2302 Area A**

Two intercutting pits truncating ditch **2260=2317**. **2298** contained one sherd of Thetford ware and three sherds of St Neots ware pottery in its upper fill. The later pit was undated.

### **2342 Area E**

A small shallow sub-rectangular pit measuring 1.4m+ in length, 1.25m in width and 0.2m deep. It contained one sherd of Thetford ware and one sherd of St Neots ware pottery.

### **2333 Area E**

A large sub-rectangular pit measuring 3.5m in length, 2.5m in width and 0.8m deep. It contained ten residual Romano-British pottery sherds mixed with five Thetford ware sherds. It also contained an iron nail (SF 22) and a split boar's tusk (SF 24)

## **Other features**

### Posthole cluster Area B

#### **2137, 2135 and 2062**

Three small square/sub-rectangular postholes of uncertain function. **2062** contained fourteen sherds of a Thetford ware jug.

### **Building 2 Area D**

#### **2228=2254** Sunken featured building, 2233 Trampled layer

A rectangular shallow pit with rounded corners formed the construction cut for the building. It measured 6m+ in length, 3.5m in width and between 0.26m and 0.43m in depth. The east side of the feature truncated a large 4th century pit (**2234**) and a rammed chalk floor layer was laid down over the pit to form a level surface with the natural chalk on the west side. A small hearth was set on this floor surface suggesting that this was a domestic dwelling. No evidence for postholes was recorded but the structure was badly disturbed by modern

intrusions and therefore not fully excavated. Its later fills contained a mix of residual Romano-British pottery as well as two sherds of Thetford ware and one sherd of St Neots ware pottery and a glazed later medieval sherd.

### **Building 3 Area E**

**2451** Sunken featured building, **2463** entrance hollow, **2460**, **2449** and **2461** Postholes, **2458** Pit

This structure was smaller than Building 2 at approximately 3m by 2m. It had two deep postholes (**2449** and **2461**) centrally placed in its short east and west sides, both raked slightly towards the centre of the structure and were presumably supports for a ridge-pole. A sub-rectangular hollow **2463** on its southern side with an associated posthole **2460** and small pit **2458** are believed to be contemporary with it and might form an entranceway. No evidence for a hearth or floor surface was present. Posthole **2449** contained a single sherd of pottery that was either Romano-British or Medieval in date. The fill within the building contained small quantities of abraded residual Romano-British pottery as well as two sherds of Thetford ware and one sherd of St Neots ware pottery. The tip of an iron scythe or sickle blade (SF 26) was also recovered.

### **Building 4 Area E**

**2468=2470**, **2474=2480** Beamslots, **2476**, **2482**, **2484**, **2486** and **2478** Postholes, **2497** Floor

This structure was rectilinear and measured 5m by 4m+. It was composed of two beamslots and five postholes. Its northern and western sides survived as vertical sided flat based beamslots. Four postholes were located on the external side of the western beamslot and were believed to be external supports. Two were excavated **2476** and **2478**. Its southern side was composed of two large sub-square postholes **2482** and **2484**. A small sub-rectangular posthole **2486** immediately to the south of these features might have been associated with its construction. A sunken floor was recorded within the building about 1m in from the wall trenches. It was a shallow depression with a smooth chalk base. Although undated Building 4 is likely to be contemporary with the sunken featured buildings.

### **?Hedged boundary/Wall Area E**

**2495=2502** Trench, **2493** and **2499** Postholes

An irregular narrow shallow linear trench to the north of and parallel with Building 4. This feature had two postholes cut into its northern side and was similar to the beamslot **2474=2480** although slightly less regular in construction. Its possible that it was either a hedged boundary associated with the adjacent building or its possible that it was also a wall trench, though it is not clear how it would have functioned with Building 4. Again this feature was undated.

### 4.3.2 Phase 2.2 Later medieval

After this brief flurry of activity in the 11th century settlement on the site ceased again. It probably reverted to agricultural land and during the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries five field boundaries were laid out. Four were oriented north-north-west to south-south-east, the fifth was oriented west-south-west to east-north-east (Fig. 9). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 7 Appendix 1.

**Hedge 2161=2180, 2421=2445, 2198, 2200 and 2425** Area A  
A north-north-west to south-south-east oriented segmented undated hedge trench.

**Hedge 2210, Posthole 2212** Area A  
A short stretch of hedge trench associated with a posthole. The posthole contained a sherd of glazed medieval pottery.

**Ditch 2174=2345** Areas B and E  
A west-south-west to east-north-east oriented narrow linear ditch, set at right angles to, and terminating close to hedge trench **2347**. Two sherds of early medieval pottery were retrieved from its western terminal **2345**. The medieval pottery from **2174** was assigned to the underlying ditch **2086** because the later feature was not recognised during excavation. Its eastern limit could not be traced.

**Hedge 2347** Area E  
A north-north-west to south-south-east oriented undated hedge trench.

**Hedge 2389 and 2387** Area E  
A north-north-west to south-south-east oriented segmented, undated, hedge ditch. A very wide shallow feature terminating to the north close to the western end of ditch **2174=2345**.

## 4.4 Period 3 Post-medieval to modern

The latest activity on the site is represented by a rectilinear ?agricultural structure and five pits. The majority of the features probably predate the construction of the School building in the 19th century, however the very large pit in Area E contained very modern rubbish including steel fragments and was probably 20th century in date (Fig. 10). A list of spot dates can be found in Table 8 Appendix 1.

### **Building 5** Area B **2003, 2005 and 2005** Foundations

A small rectilinear building continuing to the north beyond the limit of excavation. It measured 7m+ in length and 6.5m in width externally. Its



three walls survived to foundation course only. All were composed of roughly squared chalk blocks mortared together. One fragment of Romano-British tile was retrieved from the southern foundation. On the south and west sides the foundations were shallow (0.24m deep) and cut into the top of the subsoil. Only 0.04m of topsoil sealed these foundations. On the east side the foundation trench had been dug deeper over the course of the Romano-British boundary ditch sequence in *Phase 1.1* where the ground sloped into the hollow above the old ditch line. Here the foundations were 0.35m deep and sealed by 0.40m of topsoil. This indicates that the levelling of the site took place after the demolition of this structure. The building was probably 18th or 19th century in date, it was presumably demolished before the construction of the school and the levelling of the field behind it.

#### Pits Area B and E **2068** and **2088** Area A

There were four post-medieval pits in this area, two of which were excavated. The unexcavated features were small sub-rectangular intercutting pits with glass bottles in their fill. The two excavated pits were also sub-rectangular in plan, **2068** was associated with a stakehole **2070**. **2068** contained one sherd of post-medieval pottery as well as a residual Romano-British sherd. It also contained a modern wire nail (SF 10) and a piece of modern iron sheet (SF 11).

#### Unexcavated pit Area E

A large irregular unexcavated pit measuring 6m by 4m in area. The upper fill contained large fragments of steel and twisted wire suggesting that it was backfilled in the 20th century. It may have been associated with the reuse of the school building as a factory.

## 4.5 Unphased features

It was not possible to assign all features to phases at this stage. It is possible that some features will be phased during analysis, however the majority were isolated pits and postholes and are unlikely to be phaseable (fig. 11). The unphased contexts are listed in Table 9 appendix 1.

## 5 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

### 5.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

#### 5.1.1 Quantity of Excavation Records

The records generated by the excavation have all been cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The context records and finds catalogued have been entered on to a Database (Access 2000). All Records and finds are kept under the site code 40913 FWL.

The Excavation generated the following records:

508 Context Records

24 pencil drawn plans on pre-gridded permatrace

120 pencil drawn sections on pre-gridded permatrace

12 Environmental Sample Records

13 Photographic Record sheets

8 Monochrome Films, 5 Colour slide films, 233 digital photographs

5 Matrix Sheets (one per area)

#### 5.1.2 Range and Variety

The range of features is listed in the table below, the majority of the contexts were found in ditches and pits although there were also a substantial number of contexts associated with building related features.

Feature Type	No of Contexts
ditch	163
Topsoil/subsoil	2
Natural	6
pit/pit?	170
oven?	3
void	8
Contexts associated with buildings	
beam slot	9
floor?	2
Foundation trench	18
Posthole/ stake hole	109
sunken featured building	17
occupation layer	1
<b>Total building contexts</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>508</b>

Table 1 : Number of contexts allocated to feature types

### 5.1.3 Condition

The records are in good condition, written in black ink on paper and have been cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. Basic information about each context has been entered onto a database (Access 2000). The Post Excavation Assessment and updated Research Design will include a complete catalogue of context data. The drawn records are in good condition, all plans and sections have been drawn using 6h pencil on pregridded A3 sheets of permatrace.

## 5.2 Artefact Assemblage

### 5.2.1 Quantity of Artefacts

The table below lists weight (kg) for each artefact category found during the excavation. The majority of the finds were recovered from stratified contexts, however, most contexts were secondary or even tertiary, few finds have been recovered from primary contexts.

Object Name	Weight in kg
Animal Bone	9.623
Ceramic Building Material	36.532
Fired clay	0.689
Pottery	4.812
Cinder fragments	0.003
worked flint	0.009
Window glass	0.001
Mortar	1.154
Shell	0.488
Undiagnostic slag	0.002
Stone	1.119

Table 2: Artefact types by weight

### 5.2.2 Range and Variety

The finds assemblage is dominated by Ceramic building materials, followed by animal bones and pottery. There is otherwise little variety in artefact types, although small finds (see below) include items associated with textile working and food preparation. Individual finds assessments are in process of completion for the larger assemblages (pottery, CBM, animal bones and small finds).

### 5.2.2 Condition

All the finds have been quantified by weight and catalogued on a database (Access 2000). The finds are stable, packaged in acid free plastic bags and archive boxes marked by context and site code 40913FWL.

## 5.3 The Pottery

by Alice Lyons

### 5.3.1 Introduction

A total of 347 sherds, weighing 5.232kg, of multi-period pottery were recovered during this excavation (Table 3). The pottery was found in small quantities from 81 contexts including thirty pits, twenty ditches, four gullies and two sunken featured buildings.

Era	Quantity	Weight (g)	EVE	Weight (%)
Prehistoric	3	37	0.00	0.71
Roman	227	3781	2.86	72.27
Post-Roman	117	1414	1.35	27.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>5232</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 3 : The pottery quantified by era

This material has an average sherd weight of c. 15g; the pottery is only slightly abraded, allowing evidence for wear and use (sooty residues) to survive.

### 5.3.2 Methodology

The assemblage was assessed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 1994; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared.

The sherds were examined using a magnifying lamp (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and

abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW). Vessel form was recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

### **5.3.3 Storage and Quantity**

The pottery is presently stored in one archive box measuring 52mm x 26.5mm x 16.5mm. The pottery is washed and bagged by context and site code 40913 FWL.

### **5.3.4 Fabric and Form**

#### ***The Romano-British pottery***

A total of 227 sherds of Romano-British pottery (weighing 3.781kg), with an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) of 2.86 vessels were recovered. Twenty-five individual fabrics were identified (Appendix 2, Table 1), some found as single sherds only.

The majority of the pottery by weight (although not by fragment count or EVE) is made up by the Horningsea reduced ware storage jar fragments and one example of a smaller jar. These distinctive wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116; Evans 1991) were produced between the late 1st and mid 4th century AD (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 115). Horningsea is located in East Cambridgeshire and distributed its wares around the Fen basin and northern East Anglia.

The second most common fabric by weight, and the most prolific when quantified by sherd count and EVE, are the unsourced (but probably locally produced) utilitarian Sandy grey wares (Lyons 2005, 34). These were found in a variety of medium mouthed jars, straight-sided dishes (with and without) triangular rims and a lid. These forms generally imitate Black Burnished ware 2 (BB2; Tyers 1996, 186-187) forms. Indeed a single sherd of Black Burnished ware 2, produced in Colchester (Tomber and Dore, 131) was recovered, distinctive due to the fine fabric and high quality burnish.

Also found in significant quantities was the West Norfolk reduced ware known to have been produced in the Nar Valley (Gurney 1990, 89) and Snettisham (Lyons 2005, 34) from the later part of the 2nd century into the 4th century (Darling 1986, 41). Medium mouthed jars, and straight-sided dishes (including flanged) were recorded in this fabric.

In addition a small quantity of Sandy grey ware sherds with micaceous inclusions that were probably produced in the north Suffolk kilns situated in and around Wattisfield (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184) was found. These were identified in the form of medium mouthed jars.

A few sherds of a grey ware with a red surface were also recorded. It is likely these fragments had not been fired correctly and therefore have not travelled far from their source of production.

Also found were a few pieces of the late Roman South Midland shell tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115), produced in the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire, these wares did not reach this region until the later part of the 3rd and into the 4th century.

Fine wares are sparse with only one 2nd century Central Gaulish Samian (Izoux) plain body sherd found. This probably reflects the later Roman date of this assemblage, rather than the status or function of the settlement associated with the pottery assemblage.

It is also worthy of note that no amphora (ware traded into Roman Britain from the late Iron Age to 4th and early 5th centuries AD (Tyers 1996, 85-104)) was recovered during this project. This suggests the community who deposited this pottery were not buying the goods contained within the amphora (wine and olive oil), which may indicate a low order community with little surplus to buy expensive traded goods. Colour coated wares from the Nene Valley are more numerous and include (late 2nd to 3rd century) fragments from funnel necked and bag-shaped beakers, also a Caistor box lid. Later (4th century) Nene Valley colour coated body sherds (probably from straight-sided dishes) were also found but not assigned to type as no rim sherds were retrieved. Other Nene Valley products found include grey ware medium and wide mouthed jars, also straight-sided dishes with a triangular rim. While two Nene Valley white ware mortarium (both a bead and flange and reeded rim variety) were also found. The Nene Valley formed a massive industrial complex that thrived between the late 2nd and 4th centuries AD, whose wares are common in eastern England (Tyers 1996, 175).

Late Roman fine redwares were found in small quantities and include a single sherd of Hadham redware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151) and Oxfordshire redware single sherds with both white (*ibid*, 177) and red colour coats (*ibid*, 176).

### ***The post-Roman pottery***

A total of 117 sherds, weighing 1.414kg (1.35 EVE) of post-Roman pottery were recovered during this project (Appendix 2 Table 2). The majority are Late Saxon to early medieval in date, produced in local regional centres (see below).

Seven fabrics were identified the earliest of which may be a single body sherd of possible Middle Saxon Ipswich ware (Laing 2003, 76). This ware is distributed throughout East Anglia and beyond.

The majority of the pottery, however, consists of Thetford-type grey wares (Laing 2003, 79). These were found in a variety of medium

mouthered jars, all lid-seated – one with a handle. Although most of the sherds were plain, some are decorated with a rouletted band on the vessel shoulder or with thumb applied clay strips. The sherds often retain a sooty residue that indicates these vessels were used as cooking pots. This ware was produced from the late 9th to 12th centuries in several urban centres including as Ipswich, Thetford and Norwich (Dallas 1984, 117-66).

Also found in significant quantities were the shell tempered St. Neot's-type ware (Laing 2003, 80). Three bowls were recorded, two of which were wall-sided, the other had a distinctive in turned rim (*ibid*, 80, fig 127). These vessels produced between the 10th and 12th centuries in a dispersed industry based around St. Neot's in Cambridgeshire (although similar vessels were also made in Northampton (*ibid*, 80) and were traded over a large area including Wessex, west Midlands, York and East Anglia.

Slightly later in date are the Grimston-type green glazed grey body sherds (Laing 2003, 97) that were also found in small quantities. These wares were produced between the 12th and 16th centuries in a large industrial centre in north Norfolk (Leah 1994).

Other material includes unsourced glazed and unglazed wares which may also be early-to-mid medieval in date (although glazes were not common before the 12th century). A single body sherd of late medieval or early post-medieval slipware was also found.

### 5.3.5 Pottery by Feature

The majority of the assemblage was retrieved from within features. Roman pottery was recovered from many types of feature (Table 4) of both Roman and Saxon date. The majority of the assemblage was found in pits and ditches.

Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
ditch	1.425	29.65
foundation trench	0.119	2.51
pit\pit?	2.412	50.16
posthole	0.299	6.25
subsoil	0.056	1.20
sunken featured building	0.456	9.52
unstratified	0.032	0.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.812</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4 : Pottery weights by feature type

### 5.3.6 Pottery by Area

A significant proportion of the pottery assemblage was recovered from features in Area B, which was characterised by substantial ditches, pits and the remains of at least one building. By contrast the other areas produced relatively small amounts of pottery implying that the main focus of occupation (or at least rubbish disposal) was on the north side of the site.

Area	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
A	1.268	26.35
B	2.385	49.56
C	0.007	0.20
D	0.522	10.85
E	0.541	12.00
not assigned	0.058	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.812</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5: Pottery weights by area

### 5.3.7 Pottery by Period

The greatest percentage of pottery, by weight, was retrieved from the Late Saxon/early medieval period (2.1). However, the combined Romano-British assemblage represents 60.85% of the assemblage.

Period	Weight (Kg)	Weight (%)
1.1	0.18	3.44
1.2	1.39	26.53
1.3	0.04	0.77
1.4	0.88	16.79
1.5	0.70	13.36
2.1	1.69	32.25
2.2	0.06	1.14
3	0.02	0.38
Unassigned	0.28	5.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6: Pottery weights by phase

### 5.3.8 Significance of the assemblage

#### *The Romano-British Pottery*

This is a small but well recorded assemblage of late Romano-British pottery, mainly consisting of utilitarian coarse wares produced or traded from within the surrounding region. It has the potential to contribute to



our understanding of 'production and exchange in the Roman period' (Brown *et al* 2000, 46).

Where the pottery can be dated it indicates a range between the 3rd and 4th centuries; the scarcity of late Roman redwares perhaps suggesting this community who deposited this pottery declined before the very end of the Roman period in the early 5th century.

Feltwell is located on the south-west Norfolk fen-edge in a rich historic landscape. Previously a 4th-century villa and bath house have been excavated at Feltwell (Gurney 1986, 1-48) that probably formed the nucleus of an estate surrounded by field systems, droeways and enclosures. This assemblage contains a similar range of fabrics to those discovered from the villa (Darling 1986, 40-41) and it is possible that these two sites were contemporary and perhaps associated

Further work would allow the maximum amount of data to be retrieved from this assemblage to aid the interpretation of this important landscape.

#### ***The post-Roman Pottery***

This is a small but well recorded assemblage. The majority of the post-Roman pottery dates to between the very end of the Saxon period and the early medieval era. This material is typical for south-west Norfolk, however a small amount of further work would allow the maximum amount of data to be retrieved from this assemblage to aid the interpretation of this important landscape.

### **5.3.9 Recommendations for further work**

#### ***The Romano-British Pottery***

- To assign the pottery to vessel type and compare this pottery to material previously excavated in the area (0.5 day).
- To place this pottery in the context of the site (0.25 day).
- To prepare a short publication text, suitable for publication in *Norfolk Archaeology* (0.75 day).

Total of 1.5 days for Romano-British assemblage

#### ***The post-Roman Pottery***

- To confirm (or refine) fabric identification (0.25 day).
- To assign the pottery to vessel type and compare this pottery to material previously excavated in the area (0.5 day).
- To place this pottery in the context of the site (0.25 day).
- To prepare a short publication text, suitable for publication in *Norfolk Archaeology* (0.75 day).

A total of 1.75 days further work is recommended

## 5.4 The Ceramic Building Materials

by Alice Lyons

### 5.4.1 Introduction

A total of 468 fragments (6 boxes) of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 35.898kg, were recovered. All the CBM is Romano-British and consists of bonding tile, tegula, imbrices and flue-tile fragments. No complete examples were found and many (at least 17% by weight where dating available) were residual in Late Saxon or early medieval contexts (Appendix 3). These fragments were severely abraded with an average sherd weigh of c. 77g. Small amounts of daub were also recovered.

CBM type	Code	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Bonding tile	R1	36	11.537	32.14
Tegula	R2	90	10.003	27.87
Roof tile (probably tegula)	R2.1	52	4.767	13.28
Imbrix	R3	45	4.406	12.27
Undiagnostic fragments	FRAG S	228	3.648	10.16
Flue tile	R4	14	1.180	3.29
Daub	DAUB	3	0.357	0.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>468</b>	<b>35.898</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 7: The CBM listed in descending order of weight

### 5.4.2 Methodology

The CBM was counted and weighed, by form and fabric type and any complete dimensions measured (mm). Levels of abrasion, any evidence of re-use or burning were also recorded. This follows guide lines laid down by Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002). The terminology used follows Brodrigg (1987).

All the Ceramic Building Material (CBM) has been recorded on a context by context basis by weight and entered directly onto a database (Access 2000) which allows for the appending of further quantification data.

The CBM and associated archive are curated by the Archaeological Field Unit.

### 5.4.3 Storage and Quantity

The ceramic building materials are presently stored in six archive boxes measuring 52mm x 26.5mm x 16.5mm. The ceramic building material is washed and bagged by context and site code 40913 FWL.

### 5.4.4 CBM by Feature

The majority of the assemblage was retrieved from within features. Ceramic Building Materials were recovered from a small number of feature types (Table 8) of both Roman and Saxon date. The majority of the assemblage was found in pits and ditches, with a significant quantity found in SFBs.

Feature Type	Weight in kg
beam slot	0.023
ditch	9.546
Foundation trench	0.077
Natural	1.549
occupation layer	0.023
oven?	3.256
pit	10.408
pit?	0.039
post pipe	2.234
posthole	2.641
sunken featured building	5.844
void	0.892

Table 8 : CBM weights by feature type

### 5.4.5 CBM by Area

A significant proportion of the ceramic building material assemblage was recovered from features in Areas A and B which were characterised by substantial ditches, pits and the remains of at least one building. By contrast the other areas produced relatively small amounts of CBM implying that the main focus of occupation (or at least disposal of building materials) was on the north and west side of the site.

Area:	A	B	D	E	void	Total
Weight in kg	15.328	10.424	5.408	4.48	0.892	36.532
Percentage	41.96	28.54	14.80	12.26	2.44	100

Table 9: CBM weights by area

#### 5.4.6 CBM by Period.

The highest percentage of material was retrieved from residual Late Saxon/early medieval contexts (*Period 2.1*). However, again the combined Romano-British periods represents 58.38% of the assemblage. The majority of the CBM is believed to represent reuse or secondary deposition.

Period	Weight (Kg)	Weight (%)
1.1	7.119	19.46
1.2	4.116	11.25
1.3	0.805	2.20
1.4	5.663	15.48
1.5	3.654	9.99
2.1	8.947	24.46
3	0.09	0.25
Unassigned	6.183	16.91
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36.577</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 10: CBM weights by period

#### 5.4.7 The Fabrics

Only two broad fabric types were recorded.

##### Fabric 1

The majority (462 pieces; weighing 33,795kg; 94%) of the tile was a hard, red sandy fabric with an occasionally reduced core. This fabric includes sparse large flint pebbles (up to 5mm). All tile types were found in this fabric.

##### Fabric 2

A small amount (six pieces; weighing 2,103kg; 6%) of a slightly softer, pale yellow to cream fabric, moderately sandy and oxidised evenly throughout was also found. This fabric also includes sparse large flint pebbles (up to 5mm). Bonding tile and tegula were identified in this fabric.

#### 5.4.8 The Types

**Bonding tiles** form a significant part of this assemblage by weight (c. 32%). Bonding tile was used to form bands of brickwork that alternated with wider sections of regular stonework (usually flint in the case of Norfolk); they normally run through the entire thickness of the wall, to give stability to the mortared rubble-core. They were also useful as levelling courses during construction.

They are a flat tile between 25 and 50mm thick, with a mean (the mid point between the highest and lowest number in the set) thickness of 33mm. Three of these tiles had finger incised wavy lines on their upper surface (known as signature marks), these individual markings may have been purely decorative or may have served a practical purpose (such as batch marking). As no complete examples were found it is also possible these tiles could have been used as flooring. It is worthy of note that red and yellow examples were found.

**Tegula and Imbrex** combined form the majority of this assemblage. The tegula and imbrex are interlocking roof tiles used in Roman architecture as a roof covering. A complete roof was very heavy and relied on solid foundations, walls and roofing timbers for support. Once the roof was in place, however, it was waterproof and long-lasting. The tegula are flat tile with raised edges, which were laid flat upon the roof. The presence of mortar may indicate the tiles were re-laid on a pitched roof or reused in another way. Mortared roof tiles were found in deposits: tree bowl [2207], ditch fill [2350], pit fill [2023] and the fill [2223] of possible Sunken Feature Building [2228].

The imbrices completed the roof by arching over the joints between the vertical edges of the tegulae, dividing the roof into channels. Rain water flowed off the imbrices, into the tegulae channels then flowing to the gutter.

Tegula and undiagnostic roof tile (that may be tegula) represent 41% of this assemblage (by weight). The tegula measured between 15 and 33mm thick, with a mean measurement of 20mm. While the roof tile that may be tegula measure between 16 and 28mm thick and had a mean measurement of 21mm thickness. Two of these roof tiles also bore signature marks. Again it is worthy of note that red and yellow examples of this tile type were identified which may indicate colourful designs were incorporated into the roof of which they formed part.

Imbrex are much more unusual and only form c. 12% of the total assemblage by weight. Imbrices measure between 12 and 27mm thick, with a mean thickness of 17mm.

**Flue tile** are open-ended, box-shaped tiles built in the thickness of the walls of a room heated by hypocaust, they are often decoratively combed. The combing served the purpose of providing a key for any

mortar required to hold the tile in place. Only one mortared example was found within pit fill [2185]. The examples within this assemblage measure between 10 and 22mm thick, with a mean thickness of 17mm.

**Undiagnostic fragments** have only one (or no) original surfaces surviving and are therefore impossible to assign to type.

**Daub** is hardened clay, used in the production of ovens, kilns and houses. It sometimes bears the impressions of wattles and withies that formed the superstructures of these buildings; however these examples are without form, although one example was burnt.

#### **5.4.9 Contamination, bias and condition**

The assemblage is relatively small and statistical analysis is unlikely to be viable. The main excavation was undertaken in five small open areas. Excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling procedures on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has been no recovery of CBM.

#### **5.4.10 The Significance and the Potential of the Assemblage**

This is an abraded, fragmentary and (in some cases) residual assemblage that requires little further work.

However, this material does indicate that a substantial building (or buildings) with bonded walls, a tiled roof and hypocaust existed in the vicinity. It is likely that this CBM originated from the villa (or another similar building) similar to the one located at Oulsham Drove, Feltwell (Gurney 1986, 1-48). This villa and bath house was located 2km to the north west of this site and is unlikely to be the source of this material.

Furthermore, the presence of domestic animal prints (cat and dog) and human hobnail prints together with the absence of any military stamps or other markings, suggests that these tiles were produced near to a farm house or other settlement. It is possible they were produced by the villa estate to meet its building requirements as and when they were needed. Tile recovered from the Oulsham Drove villa bath-house (Gurney 1986, 41-42) also had human and animal prints preserved in the tile surfaces including a lamb or kid and cattle suggesting those tiles were made near a farm yard. Local production would also explain the uniformity of fabric

#### **5.4.11 Proposals for Further Record and Analysis**

Preparation of a short article for publication in the regional journal (0.25 day), also the production of images of the noteworthy tiles (0.25 day).

A total of 0.5 days further work is recommended.

### **5.5 The Coins and the Bone, Metal and Stone Objects**

by Nina Crummy

#### **5.5.1 Storage and Quantity**

The small finds are presently stored in crystal boxes by context and site code 40913 FWL. The metal objects are kept in stable storage with silica gel. The assemblage (appendix 4) is small, with objects ranging in date from Roman to modern.

#### **5.5.2 Range and Variety**

Items of any antiquity from Area A are a 3rd century Roman coin, a Late Saxon or early medieval single-pointed pin-beater, and a fragment of Mayen lava from a rotary handquern that seems to have been reused as a hand-held pestle for grinding small quantities of grain, nuts or spices, or as a smoothing or polishing stone. The pin-beater was used in weaving to adjust the warp threads and push down the weft threads between throws. These tools are frequently found on Late Saxon settlement sites, and their appearance in the late 9th or 10th century coincides with the introduction of the two-beam vertical loom, whereas the earlier double-ended pin-beaters had been used on the warp-weighted loom since the Roman period (Wild 1970, 66; Walton Rogers 1997, 1755-6).

Area B produced a single Roman coin, again probably 3rd century in date, and Area D another, dated to AD 260-8. This seeming consistency in date for the coins need not necessarily imply that Roman activity on the site was confined or concentrated in the 3rd century, as the debased and often barbarous nature of the mid to late 3rd century coinage meant that the period was one of high coin loss generally.

The sunken-featured building on Area E contained the tip of an iron scythe or sickle blade. Probably broken off during use, this fragment may have been saved for recycling as iron was a precious commodity

and not lightly discarded, but, having the cutting edge on the inside of the curve, it may alternatively have been used as a makeshift razor. Also from Area E is a fragment of a boar's tusk that may have been deliberately split along its length while being adapted for use, although no definite signs of working are visible. An unstratified lead weight from Area E may be of Roman date, but again this is not certain.

### **5.5.3 Recommendations**

A short report based on this text should be published along with a full catalogue of the finds and two small finds illustrated (SF 15 a bone pin and beater and SF26 the tip of an iron scythe or sickle blade). It is estimated that one day will be needed to complete the publication text and catalogue.

## **5.6 The Zooarchaeological Remains**

by Ian Baxter

### **5.6.1 Introduction and Methods**

Animal bones were recovered by hand and from environmental samples. The preservation of the animal bone recovered is largely good.

This assessment is based on contexts from phases preliminarily dated to the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods. Approximately one third (33%) of the total weight of these has been used as the basis for this assessment. There are in addition small quantities of medieval, post-medieval and recent material that have not been assessed.

Numbers of "countable" bones, ageable mandibles and measurable bones are recorded in Tables 13 and 14. The counting system was based on a modified version of the system suggested by Davis (1992) and used by Albarella and Davis (1994).

### **5.6.2 Storage and quantity**

The animal bones are presently stored in three archive boxes measuring 52mm x 26.5mm x 16.5mm. The bones are washed and bagged by context and site code 40913 FWL. The total weight of the hand-collected bone is 16Kg recovered from 83 contexts.



### 5.6.3 The Animal Bones by Feature Type

The majority of the animal bones were collected by hand from stratified contexts, by far the largest part of the assemblage came from pits although significant quantities were also recovered from ditches and from the sunken featured buildings.

Feature Type	Weight in kg
beam slot	0.016
ditch	2.3
foundation trench	0.065
Natural	0.028
oven?	0.002
pit/pit?	4.970
post pipe/posthole	0.012
Subsoil	0.454
sunken featured building	1.496
void	0.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.623</b>

Table 11: Animal bone weights by feature type

### 5.6.4 The Animal Bones by Area

The majority of the animal bones (by weight) were recovered from area A followed closely by areas B and E (see table below), although this broadly follows the same pattern as that seen for the disposal of pottery and CBM there is variation which may prove significant with further analysis.

Area	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
A	3.527	36.65
B	2.864	29.76
D	0.663	6.89
E	1.835	19.07
not allocated	0.734	7.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.623</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 12: Animal bone weights by area

### 5.6.5 The Assessed Bone

PERIOD	COUNTABLE BONES							
	Cattl	Sheep/goa	Pig	Other	Bir	Tota	Fish	Comments
Romano-British assessment	5	35	1	0	1	42	0	Includes perinatal sheep/goat partial skeleton, chicken
<i>Romano-British estimated</i>	15	105	3	0	3	126	0	
Anglo-Saxon assessment	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	Includes ewe horncore with "thumbprints"
<i>Anglo-Saxon estimated</i>	6	3	3	0	0	12	0	
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>0</b>	

Table 13: Countable bones (The estimated total is calculated on the basis of the proportion of the total used for assessment (approximately 33%)).

PERIOD	AGEABLE MANDIBLES				MEASUREMENTS					
	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Total	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Other	Bird	Tot
Romano-British assessment	1	3	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	5
<i>Romano-British estimated</i>	3	9	0	12	0	12	0	0	3	15
Anglo-Saxon assessment	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
<i>Anglo-Saxon estimated</i>	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	9
<b>Assessment Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

Table 14: Ageable mandibles

### 5.6.6 Range and Variety:

Bones of the main domestic species, cattle, sheep/goat and pig, are present in both the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon assemblages. Chicken has also been observed in a Romano-British context. Most of the Anglo-Saxon material is associated with a sunken-featured building (SFB). In addition, domestic dog and horse have been seen in material not dated and/or not assessed. Small numbers of fish bones were also found in two samples.

### **5.6.7 Potential and Recommendations**

#### ***Potential***

Due to its relatively small size, the potential of this assemblage is likely to be limited to a tentative general overview of the livestock economy in the main periods of occupation of the site.

The Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon material should be fully recorded. Later material can be minimally recorded, unless of particular interest, and quantified. The recording of the animal bones should only start when final information about residuality can be provided. Final phasing will be essential to undertake the analysis of the data.

#### ***Recommendations***

Bone recording (hand-collected mammals and birds): 2 days

Data processing and analysis: 0.5 days

Writing of report: 0.5 days

## **5.7 Environmental Remains by Rachel Fosberry**

### **5.7.1 Introduction and Methods**

Samples for environmental processing were taken from across the excavated area and 12 were submitted for an initial appraisal. Of these, only one (Sample 6) produced a significant density of material.

The plant remains were dominated by the grains of crop plants, namely cereals (barley, wheat and oats) along with a few legumes.

Up to 20 litres of each sample was processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts is noted in Table 1 Appendix 5.

### **5.7.2 Results**

A table of results can be found in appendix 5.

**Plant macrofossils**

Cereal grains are present in varying densities in most of the samples. Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) predominates along with barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and a few oats (*Avena sativa*). Preservation is by charring and is generally poor as most of the cereals are abraded and/or fragmented. Charcoal fragments are present in some of the samples in varying quantities.

Sample 6 (context 2186) is the only sample to produce significant quantities on plant remains. Cereals predominate but several weed seed species are present including *Lithospermum arvense* (Gromwell) seeds and *Rumex* sp. (dock).

Both Samples 4 (context 2067) and 6 contained single specimens of pea (*Pisum sativum*).

**Other materials**

Fishbones were recovered from many samples along with fragments of animal bone and pottery sherds.

**Industrial activity**

Evidence of industrial activity is found in Samples 1,4,9,10,11 and 12 in the form of hammer scale.

**5.7.3 Conclusions and Recommendations**

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. Cereal grains predominate presumably due to spillage either when the grains were dried/parched prior to storage/processing or during cooking. The paucity of plant remains in most of the samples suggests that they were not deliberately dumped as food refuse but probably represent debris blowing around the site. The presence of spelt glume bases in Sample 2 indicates some cereal processing on site, but apparently not in close proximity to the features sampled. Chaff could have been wind blown from a considerable distance although glume bases are less likely to be wind blown than the lighter chaff elements but may have been transported from elsewhere on clothing, shoes etc.

Sample 6 produced the most significant assemblage consisting predominantly of wheat grains along with barley, oats and weed seeds that would have been associated with such crops. The wheat can be tentatively identified as Spelt based on the morphological appearance of the grains. Associated weed seeds such as gromwell that are of a similar size to cereal grains are often seen in batches of grain that has been semi-cleaned prior to final cleaning when such seeds would be picked out by hand.

A mixture of spelt wheat and barley is typical of the Saxon period however all of the samples contained intrusive root material accompanied by a modern seeds and clearly intrusive entomological

remains. It is therefore possible that movement of plant remains has taken place including contamination from other contexts.

Other dietary elements include the fishbone, marine molluscs and animal bone.

Industrial activity in the form of hammerscale is present in small quantities in several of the samples. Flake hammerscale is the most common form and indicates smithing activity. The flakes can travel a significant distance from the hearth and the small quantities in these features cannot identify smithy structures.

In conclusion, the samples showed only a low diversity of plant remains that is not considered worthy of further analysis.

## **6 Updated Research Aims and Objectives**

The research aims and objectives need to be significantly modified in light of the excavation.

### **6.1 Prehistoric/Iron Age**

Two further flint artefacts were found in residual Romano-British contexts and in the subsoil (SFs 6 and 13). Three sherds of Iron Age pottery were also retrieved, again from residual contexts. No features of Prehistoric or Iron Age date were positively identified. Therefore there is no evidence for the pre-Roman use of the site.

### **6.2 Roman**

The excavation confirmed the presence of a late Roman rural settlement. Occupation did not commence until at the earliest the late 2nd century and possibly not until the early 3rd century. Several themes within the Roman period can be addressed although the absence of complete enclosure plans and fragmentary survival of structures will limit its potential.

#### **6.2.1 Food Consumption and Production**

The poor survival of plant remains in association with the small animal bone assemblage mean that it will not be possible to contribute to this research topic except in the broadest terms.

#### **6.2.2 Landscape and Rural Settlement**

Sufficient evidence has been collected to contribute to the study of the late Roman landscape around Feltwell. The development of boundaries

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and field systems as well as changes in the landscape following the end of the Roman period are topics that could be addressed.

The site has the potential to contribute to understanding of Roman rural settlement in the locality. Although Building 1 does not survive well, the overall assemblage is sufficient to contribute to the study of Roman rural life. It may be possible to compare this assemblage with that from the comparably late Roman villa site 2km away at Oulsham Drove in order to determine its status. This would contribute to the need to classify rural settlement types (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19)

### **6.2.3 *Late Roman settlement***

The late date for the origins of the Roman settlement entails that it should be possible to contribute to the understanding of the later Roman period. This period has been identified as one for which it has been more difficult to recover meaningful evidence than the earlier Roman period.

### **6.2.4 *Production and Exchange in the Roman period***

Assessment of the Romano-British pottery assemblage has identified its potential to contribute to this research theme.

## **6.3 *Late Saxon***

The excavation produced significant evidence for a brief phase of occupation on the site in the 10th or 11th century. The presence of which had not been detected in the evaluation. As such it should be possible to contribute to a number of Anglo-Saxon rural research aims

### **6.3.1 *Rural Settlement diversity***

Very little is known about middle to late Anglo-Saxon rural settlement diversity in East Anglia (Wade 2000, 23). There is sufficient evidence to contribute to the understanding of late Saxon settlement type and organization. In a period when rural settlements were undergoing processes of nucleation (Wade 2000, 23) this site may be able to contribute to the understanding of settlement change. The absence of an earlier Saxon precursor and perhaps more significantly a total absence of later medieval settlement evidence from the 12th century may contribute to the understanding of this theme.

### **6.3.2 Rural building types**

The two sunken featured buildings (Buildings 2 and 3) have been dated to the late Saxon period. The presence of two buildings of this form, from this period, in a rural context is believed to be unique. Although late Saxon cellared buildings are known to exist in urban centres at this date (Tipper 2004) Buildings 2 and 3 were significantly different sharing characteristics of both the earlier irregular shallow sunken featured buildings of the early to middle Saxon period as well as some features of these later urban examples. This evidence could therefore contribute to the understanding of late Saxon building form.

### **6.4 Medieval to post-medieval**

The reversion of the site to agricultural land following the 10th or 11th century settlement means that it will not be possible to contribute to research topics for these periods beyond the broadest terms.

A small number of medieval field boundary hedges and ditches appear to respect earlier Roman land divisions and as such it might be possible to contribute to the understanding of the origins of boundaries and field systems.

## **7 Methods Statements**

Specialist recommendations are included with the individual assessments. They are located in the following sections:

Pottery analysis – Section 5.3.9

Ceramic building material – Section 5.4.11

Coins, bone, metal and stone finds- Section 5.5.3

Animal bones – Section 5.6.7.2

Environmental remains – Section 5.7.3

A detailed task list for all further analyses and publication is included in section 9.2.

### **7.1 Stratigraphic Analysis**

A small number of tasks are required to complete the stratigraphic analysis in order to meet the updated research objectives. Tasks 1 and 13 in section 9.2.

- Integrate evaluation and main excavation data: update matrices, update groups and phases
- Finalize phasing, write updated feature descriptions by period for inclusion in archive report.

- Documentary research: place site in context by examining cartographic sources and any unpublished excavation information in local area.

## 7.2 Other analyses

Details of tasks required to complete the specialist analyses are contained in the following sections, task numbers from section 9.2 in brackets:

Pottery - see section 5.3.9 (Task 2)

CBM – see section 5.4.11 (Task 3)

Coins, bone, metal and stone artefacts – see section 5.5.3 (Task 4)

Animal bone – see section 5.6.7.2 (Task 5)

Environmental remains – see section 5.7.3 (Task 6)

## 8 Report Writing, Archiving and Publication

### 8.1 Report Writing

Tasks associated with report writing are identified in Table 16 (Tasks 1-6 and 9-12).

### 8.2 Archiving

Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Norfolk County Museums Service under the Site Code 40913 FWL. A digital archive will be deposited with ADS. During analysis and report preparation, CCC AFU will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

The archive will be prepared in accordance with Norfolk Museums Service Guidelines.

### 8.3 Publication

It is proposed that the results of the project should be published in Norfolk Archaeology, under the working title Feltwell Beginnings: The excavation of Roman and Saxon remains at The Old School, Feltwell, 2006 by Elizabeth Muldowney and Aileen Connor. **8.3.1 Report**

#### **Structure**

Introduction  
(c. 1 text page, c.1 figure, )



- I. Introduction
- II. Geology and Topography
- III. Archaeological and Historical Background
- IV. Methodologies

Site Narrative  
(c. 4 text pages, c.4 figures, c. 2 plates)

- I. Roman
- II. Anglo-Saxon

The Finds  
(c. 4 text pages, c. 3 tables, c.2 figures, 1 plate)

- I. Metal Objects, by Nina Crummy
- II. Pottery by Alice Lyons
- III. Ceramic Building Materials by Alice Lyons
- IV. Other finds by Carole Fletcher

The Zooarchaeological and Botanical Evidence  
(c. 1 text page, c. 2 tables,)

- I. Animal Bone, by Ian L. Baxter
- II. Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains, by Rachel Fosberry

Discussion and Conclusions  
(c. 1 text page, c. 1 figure)

Back Matter (acknowledgements, bibliography)  
(c. 1 pages)

### **8.3.2 Volume Summary**

	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>No. pages</b>
Total front matter	1	1
Total text pages	11	11
Total figures	8	5
Total plates	3	1
Total tables	5	3
Back material	1	1
<b>Volume Total</b>		<b>22</b>

## 9 Resources and Programming

### 9.1 Staffing and Equipment

#### 9.1.1 Project Team

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Elizabeth Muldowney	EM	Main Author	CAMARC
Aileen Connor	AC	Joint author and project manager	CAMARC
Alice Lyons	AL	Roman Pottery Specialist	Freelance
Alice Lyons	AL	Ceramic Building Materials Specialist	Freelance
Paul Blinkhorn	PB	Post-Roman pottery specialist	Freelance
Ian Baxter	ILB	Faunal Remains specialist	Freelance
Nina Crummy	NC	Small Finds Specialist	Freelance
Elizabeth Popescu	EP	Internal Editor	CAMARC
Rachel Fosberry	RF	Environmental Supervisor	CAMARC
Carole Fletcher	CF	Archive and Finds Supervisor	CAMARC
Helen Fowler	HF	Finds Supervisor	CAMARC
Crane Begg	CB	Senior Illustrator	CAMARC

Table 15: The project team

#### 9.1.2 Equipment

CAMARC carries all necessary equipment; no special purchases have been identified for this project.

### 9.2 Task Identification

Task No.	Task Description	No. Days	Staff
1	Stratigraphic and Structural Report	7	EM
2	Roman Pottery Analysis and Report	5	AL
3	Post-Roman Pottery Analysis and Report	2	PB
4	CBM Analysis and Report	0.5	AL
5	Small Finds Report	0.5	NC
6	Animal Bones Analysis and Report	4	ILB
7	Environmental Report	0.5	RF
8	Other Finds	0.5	CF
9	Illustrations	7	CB
10	Report Background, introduction and conclusions	3	EM/AC
11	Report integration	2	EM/AC
12	Edits	2	EP/AC
13	Proofs and copy edits	1	EP
14	Documentary research	2	EM

Table 16: Identified tasks

### **9.3 Project Timetable**

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Figure 1: Location of excavation areas (black) with the development area outlined (red)



Figure 2: Overall site plan





Figure 3: Period 1.1



Figure 4: Period 1.2



Figure 5: Period 1.3



Figure 6: Period 1.4



Figure 7: Period 1.5



Figure 8: Period 2.1



Figure 9: Period 2.2

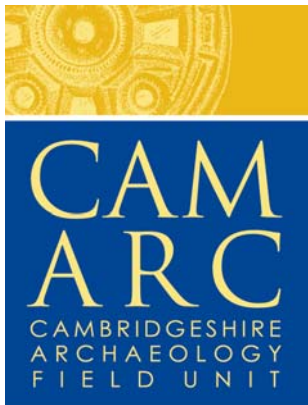


Figure 10: Period 3





Figure 11: Unphased features



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