
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**FOSTERS END DROVE, BLACKBOROUGH END,
EAST WINCH, NORFOLK.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE
(PHASE 8)**

Authors: Christopher Leonard MA (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TF 6835 1516	Report No. 3896
Parish: East Winch	Site Code: 37413
Approved: C Halpin MIFA	Project No. 1793
Signed:	Date: August 2011

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Project details			
Project name	<i>Fosters End Drove, Blackborough End, East Winch, Norfolk.</i>		
Project description (250 words)			
<i>During August 2011 Archaeological Solutions conducted a strip, map and sample excavation on the area of Phase 8 at Fosters End Drove, Blackborough End, Norfolk (NGR TF 6385 1516).</i>			
<i>Previous phases of excavation (Phases 1-7) have uncovered significant Roman activity on the site, principally comprising a droveway delineated by gullies leading to a complex of structures including an aisled building and substantial evidence for metalworking and pottery production. Small-scale Iron Age remains, and also post-medieval field boundaries were recorded.</i>			
<i>The current phase of excavation (Phase 8) revealed a continuation of a Roman droveway previously recorded and post-medieval field boundaries. Seventeen pits were excavated, two of which contained 2nd- 4th century Roman pottery.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>08/08/2011 – 16/08/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>		
P. number	<i>P1793</i>	Site Code	<i>37413</i>
Type of project	<i>'Strip map and sample' archaeological excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>Former agricultural land</i>		
Current land use	<i>Quarry site</i>		
Planned development	<i>Proposed mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Roman droveway & two pits, post-medieval field boundaries, undated pits.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Roman and medieval pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Kings Lynn & West Norfolk</i>	<i>East Winch</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>c.6000 sq m</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 6835 1516</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.16-20m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Christopher Leonard</i>		
Funded by	<i>Middleton Aggregates</i>		
Full title	<i>Phase 8. Fosters End Drove, Blackborough End, East Winch, Norfolk. Strip, Map & Sample Excavation.</i>		

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**FOSTERS END DROVE, BLACKBOROUGH END,
EAST WINCH, NORFOLK.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE
(QUARRY PHASE 8)**

SUMMARY

During August 2011 Archaeological Solutions conducted a strip, map and sample excavation on the area of Phase 8 at Fosters End Drive, Blackborough End, Norfolk (NGR TF 6385 1516).

Previous phases of excavation (Phases 1-7) have uncovered significant Roman activity on the site, principally comprising a driveway delineated by gullies leading to a complex of structures, including an aisled building and substantial evidence for metalworking and pottery production. There is limited evidence for small-scale Iron Age activity on the site, and also post-medieval field boundaries.

The current phase of excavation (Phase 8) revealed a continuation of the Roman driveway encountered in previous phases and three post-medieval field boundaries. Seventeen pits were excavated, two of which contained locally-produced Roman pottery.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During August 2011, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a 'strip map and sample' archaeological excavation on the area of Phase 8 at Fosters End Drive, Blackborough End, Norfolk (NGR TF 6385 1516; Figs 1-2). The excavation was commissioned by Middleton Aggregates Ltd. in advance of proposed mineral extraction. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition required by the local planning authority (based on advice from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA)).

1.2 The excavation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by NLA (dated 14/06/2002), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 01/07/2002). NLA confirmed that the brief was still valid for the current investigation. The project complied with the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (revised 2001).

1.3 The primary objective is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt to reconstruct the history and use of the site.

1.4 Specific research priorities are to examine the extent, date, duration, character, function, depth, density and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits present. It is also a priority to interpret the nature of human activity at the proposed quarry site and assess the significance of the site at local, regional and national levels, as appropriate. Another priority is to confirm the artefactual and environmental nature of the archaeological features and deposits encountered.

1.5 This report presents the results of the archaeological 'strip, map and sample' archaeological excavation of the area of Phase 8. By agreement with NLA, the requirement in the original project brief for subsequent trial trenching has been varied to proceed directly to a programme of archaeological 'strip, map & sample' excavation, as set out in a model brief for this phase of works issued by NLA.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Fosters End Drove, c. 1.8km east of the village of Blackborough End, c. 1.5km south-west of the village of East Winch and c. 2km south-east of the village of Middleton (Fig. 1). It comprises former agricultural land and is accessed from the south via a bridleway, Fosters End Drove, that links Blackborough End and East Winch.

2.2 The site comprises Phase 8 of the area of proposed mineral extraction at the Middleton Aggregates Quarry. Phase 8 is bordered to the east by Phase 7, to the south by Phase 4 and to the west by Phase 5. To the north, the site is bordered by agricultural land (Fig. 2).

2.3 The site is situated at c. 12-20m AOD, at the edge of the Nar Valley, on land that slopes gently down to the south towards the River Nar. The area in the immediate vicinity has been quarried, creating a landscape with numerous artificial lakes and open workings surrounded by arable fields.

2.4 The drift geology map shows that the site is located in an area of Cretaceous Carstone, Snettisham and Tealby Clays, Sandringham Sands and Spilsby Sandstone, with one small area of Gault (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1971). The soils are well-drained, sandy, often ferruginous and of the Newport 2 association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Terrace deposits of the river Nar are common.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The resources of the Nar Valley have been exploited over a considerable period of time. Palaeolithic tools, such as the hand axes found to the south and north-west of the site (Norfolk Historic Environment Record 3434, HER15299), are occasionally found. Mesolithic activity is attested by flint scatters found further down the valley (Silvester 1988, 169). Neolithic finds close to the site comprise flint axes, arrowheads, scrapers and other tools found to the west (HER17311, HER32859), south (HER12279, HER30811) and north (HER3408), as well as a quernstone to the west (HER3422). The finds assemblage is domestic in nature, but no physical archaeology has been excavated to confirm settlement.

3.2 Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the local area is also restricted to stray finds. These consist of a quernstone and flint implements found to the west of the site (HER3422, HER32859).

3.3 The main evidence for Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the site is the ironworking complex to the west (HER 12559), where a furnace and associated

pits. The large finds assemblage included pottery, briquetage and a torc, in addition to extensive environmental evidence.

3.4 The Fenland Survey Project has revealed one domestic Roman site in the Nar Valley, located at Setchy, near the mouth of the river. It also demonstrated that this area of Norfolk had been the focus of industrial activity (Silvester 1988). Evidence for this comes from the excavation of a kiln, to the west of the site, at Blackborough End (Gurney 1990) forming part of a small regional group from the early to mid 2nd century onwards that comprised Brampton, Shouldham, Pentney, Witton and Hevingham (Swan 1984, 121). To the south-west of Blackborough, recent excavations have revealed extensive features related to late 3rd- and early 4th-century salt production (Crowson 2001). Together with the remains of Roman iron smelting at nearby Ashwicken (Tylecote and Owles 1961) and across the valley on Wormegay Island (Silvester 1988, 172), it appears that the local natural resources of Gault clay, iron ore, salt, and possibly peat, were being exploited (Crowson 2001).

3.5 Roman remains in the vicinity of the site include isolated finds of quernstones to the south (HER3432, HER17372) and jewellery to the west and north (HER28129, HER31095), the latter being found in an apparently later context. In addition, there have been finds of a scabbard chape to the east (HER29323) and a coin (HER3427) to the west.

3.6 The only early Anglo-Saxon remains in the immediate area is at HER28459, which records the discovery of early and middle Saxon pottery along with later Saxon and medieval metalwork, at a spot to the south-east. There is also little indication of late Saxon occupation other than certain surviving architectural features of the church at East Winch (HER3418).

3.7 The earliest surviving verified documentary source for the area is Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, which reveals both the presence of estates in the landscape and the cultural and tenurial idiosyncrasies of Norfolk. It portrays a densely populated, affluent and cultivated landscape surrounding various regional centres. The typical medieval organisation of the landscape into open and communally tilled fields, which may accompany the development of nucleated settlement, may not necessarily have prevailed everywhere, though there is evidence for a medieval field system to the north-west of the site (HER3406). The presence of two moated sites to the south and west (HER1062, HER35477), the former being part of Crancourt Manor, as well as the additions to East Winch Church (HER3418), testify to the relative prosperity of the local area at this time. Many medieval finds have been discovered during metal detecting, agricultural and archaeological work, including pottery to the west and north-east (HER3401, HER12559), coin weights to the north and north-east (HER23392, HER29324), a key to the north (HER34353) and a brooch to the west (HER29323). In addition, two significant collections of Saxon and medieval metal dress, furniture, book and horse fittings (HER28129, HER28459) have been uncovered by metal detectorists to the northwest and southeast of the study area.

3.8 Post-medieval and modern remains are sparse and consist mainly of structures such as Crancourt Manor (HER1062), Hall Farm House (HER33840), East Winch Church (HER3418) and a barn (HER11978), to the north-east of the site.

4 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS PHASES

A detailed description of the results from previous phases of excavation is contained in the forthcoming publication by Lally *et al* (2010). In summary:

4.1 Previous archaeological investigation at Fosters End comprised seven phases of excavation (Roberts, Wilkinson and O'Brien 2003; Grant, Roberts and Weston 2003; McConnell 2006; House, Pole and Weston 2007; Greene 2008; Greene and Newton 2008; McCall 2009). This work revealed a predominantly Romano-British (late 2nd to mid 4th century) site, with a lower density of Iron Age and 18th century elements also present.

4.2 The earliest evidence for activity on site comprised two middle Iron Age pits and a ditch. A complete 'ritually treated' jar and other sherds were deposited within these.

4.3 A system of undated co-axial ditches recorded during Excavation Phase 6 and similar undated ditches recorded during Excavation Phase 7 may represent Iron Age or earlier Romano-British period agricultural activity that formed a precursor to the enclosure that was established during the late 2nd century.

4.4 Late 2nd and early 3rd century features include two parallel ditches demarcating a deliberately defined or delineated droveway. A large rectangular enclosure was identified at the southern end of this droveway. The arrangement of ditches in the north-eastern corner of this enclosure suggests that it may have been part of a wider landscape of enclosures, extending eastwards. A large timber-built aisled building lay at the centre of the part of the enclosure, aligned parallel to the droveway; a substantial 'L'-shaped post-alignment ran from the building towards the droveway. Quantities of tap slag recovered from features of this date suggests possible associations with iron working, either at the site or at locations linked to the site via the droveway.

4.5 In the mid 3rd century a small masonry structure with an apse and possibly a hypocaust and a second timber-framed building were constructed. The masonry building is interpreted as a pottery workshop with a drying room. Both structures were located to the northeast of the aisled building, following the same alignment. Further subdivision within the area of the enclosure occurred at this time, evidenced by the creation of a new boundary ditch within the northern area of the enlarged enclosure. Pottery evidence suggests that the ditches of the earlier enclosure may have remained at least partially open at this time and the spatial relationships of 3rd century features with some of them would appear to support this, though stratigraphic relationships indicate that certain sections of them had been filled in. Industrial activity dominated this phase, with four kilns, a dryer and the possible workshop building.

4.6 Late 3rd to mid 4th century activity on the site was defined by two groups of features, those containing demolition debris from the deconstruction of the workshop and those containing slag. The former group comprised pre-existing features, cut while the workshop was still standing and used as convenient locations to deposit this material. The second group contained (overall) the highest concentrations of tap slag recovered from the site, possibly suggesting that this phase witnessed a renewed association with iron smelting at about the time that on site pottery production went into rapid decline.

4.7 Evidence for 18th century settlement on the site is limited to a small number of ditches aligned on the same axis as the current bridleway and hedgerows to the south east of the site. It is thought that these ditches may form a series of parliamentary enclosures.

5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 The topsoil was stripped from the site using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Exposed features were planned electronically using a Leica TPS Total Station. A total of six linear features, 17 pits and three modern features were planned (Fig. 3).

5.2 An excavation strategy was agreed following the advice of Dr Ken Hamilton, Head of Archaeological Planning, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. All of the pits were half sectioned, while slots were excavated through the linear features.

6 RESULTS (Figs 4-6)

6.1 The features have been phased on the basis of combined finds and stratigraphic evidence, and have been tabulated below.

Phase	Date	Contexts
1	Roman (2 nd - 4 th century)	Droeway Ditches F8037 & F8039. Pits F8023, F8025.
2	Post-medieval	Ditches F8011, F8033, F8035.
-	Undated	Gully F8009. Pits F8003, F8005, F8013, F8015, F8017, F8019, F8021, F8027, F8029, F8031, F8041, F8043, F8045, F8047, F8049.

Phase 1: Roman

Roman activity in Excavation Phase 8 consists of a continuation of the droeway ditches (F8037 and F8039) recorded in Excavation Phases 3, 6 and 7 and two pits (F8025 and F8025).

Droeway ditches.

Ditch F8037 formed the southwest side of the droeway. It was linear in plan, 72.83m long, and orientated NW-SE. The ditch was excavated in three slots (A-C), tabulated below. It became much shallower and more ephemeral towards the north-eastern sector of the site. Its fill, L8038, was a friable mid greyish brown silty sand. A sherd of Roman Nar Valley pottery was recovered from Slot B.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 0.55 x 0.15m)	L8038	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small, subangular flint.	No finds.
B	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 0.62 x 0.22m)	L8038	Ditto	Roman pottery (1 sherd, 2g).
C	Irregular sides and base due to root disturbance. (1 x 0.42 x 0.06m)	L8038	Friable mid greyish brown with occasional small, subangular flint.	No Finds.

Ditch F8039 formed the north-eastern side of the driveway. It was linear in plan, 59.13m long, and orientated NW-SE. The ditch was excavated in five slots (A-E), tabulated below. Its fill, L8040, was generally a friable mid greyish brown silty sand with flint inclusions. An intrusive ceramic field drain fragment was recovered from Slot C.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Shallow sides; concave base. (1 x 0.65 x 0.13m)	L8040	Loose mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent small subangular flint.	No finds.
B	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 0.88 x 0.26m)	L8040	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate small subangular flint.	No finds.
C	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 0.73 x 0.2m)	L8040	Ditto	CBM.
D	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (0.8 x 0.65 x 0.17m)	L8040	Ditto	No finds. Cut by Ditch F8035.
E	Irregular sides and base due to rooting. (1 x 0.5 x 0.1m)	L8040	Ditto	No finds.

Pits

Pit F8023 was ovoid in plan (1.48 x 1.28 x 0.19m). It had irregular sides and an irregular, flattish base. Its fill, L8024, was a friable mid orange brown silty sand with mottled brown and grey patches. Three sherds (6g) of Roman Nar Valley pottery was recovered from the fill.

Pit F8025 was ovoid in plan (0.9 x 1.09 x 0.18m). It had steep, almost vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a flattish base. Its fill, L8026, was friable mid orange brown with mottled brown and grey patches with small angular stones. A sherd (2g) of Nar Valley pottery was recovered from the fill.

Phase 2: Post-Medieval

Three ditches were revealed; all contained medieval and post-medieval pottery. Ditch F8011 also contained late 15th- early 17th century bricks.

Ditch F8011 was linear in plan, 37.31m long and orientated NW-SE. It was a continuation of Ditches F7010 and F7012 encountered in Excavation Phase 7. It was excavated in four slots (A-D), tabulated below. Its fill, L8012, was a friable mid greyish brown silty sand with flint inclusions. Pottery and ceramic building materials were recovered from Slots A, B and C.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Steep sides; sharp break of slope to flat base. (1 x 1.31 x 0.24m)	L8012	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium rounded flint.	Pottery (1 sherd, 5g); CBM (2 pieces, 3263g); Faced flint building material.
B	Steep sides; sharp break of slope to flat base. (2 x 1.18 x 0.23m)	L8012	Ditto	Residual Roman pottery (3 sherds, 7g); Animal bone (1g); Sandstone potboiler; Struck flint flake (4g). Cuts pit F8027. Cut by pit F8029
C	Steep sides; sharp break of slope to flat base. (1 x 1.36 x 0.16m)	L8012	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small rounded flint.	No finds. Cut by gully F8009.
D	Moderately steep sides; irregular base. (1 x 1.7 x 0.29m)	L8012	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium rounded flint.	Pottery (1 sherd, 20g).

Ditch F8033 was linear in plan, 110.37m long and orientated NE-SW. It ran perpendicular to the other Phase 2 ditches. It becomes much narrower and shallower towards the northeast (slots C, D, G and H), coinciding with a sharp downward slope of the natural geology. F8033 was excavated in nine slots (A-I), tabulated below. Its fill, L8034, was generally a loose mid yellowish brown silty sand with flint inclusions. Pottery was recovered from Slot H.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1.10 x 1.08 x 0.23m)	L8034	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium flint.	No finds.
B	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1.28 x 1.2 x 0.24m)	L8034	Ditto	No finds.
C	Moderately steep sides; flattish base. (0.64 x 0.43 x 0.18m)	L8034	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flint.	No finds. Cut by F8035.
D	Gently sloping sides; concave base. (1 x 0.36 x 0.07m)	L8034	Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subangular flint.	No finds.
E	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1.44 x 1.38 x 0.44m)	L8034	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium flint.	Fe fragment; Animal bone (111g).
F	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 0.78 x 0.26m)	L8034	Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small angular flint.	No finds.
G	Gently sloping sides; concave base. (1.36 x 0.34 x 0.08m)	L8034	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand.	No finds.
H	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1 x 1 x 0.41m)	L8034	Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small angular flint.	Pottery (1 sherd, 26g).
I	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (1.04 x 1.35 x 0.37)	L8034	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate small flint.	Slag

Ditch F8035 was linear in plan, 56.41m long and orientated NW-SE. It was a continuation of Ditch F7030 from Excavation Phase 7, which was undated in that phase. F8035 was excavated in eight slots (A-H), tabulated below. Its fill, L8036, was generally a friable mid brownish grey silty sand with flint inclusions. Pottery was recovered from Slots G and H.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Steep sides; sharp break of slope to narrow, flat base. (1 x 0.71 x 0.33m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate small and medium flint.	No finds.
B	Steep sides; sharp break of slope to narrow, flat base. (1 x 0.71 x 0.33m)	L8036	Ditto	No finds.
C	Moderately steep sides; gradual break of slope to flat base. (0.72 x 0.4 x 0.05m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small subrounded flint.	No finds. Cut Ditch F8033
D	Moderately steep sides; flat base. (1 x 0.29 x 0.05m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate small and medium flint.	No finds.
E	Steep sides; flat base. (1 x 0.36 x 0.11m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small angular flint.	No finds.
F	Moderately steep sides; concave base. (0.8 x 0.51 x 0.17m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small and medium flint.	No finds.
G	Moderately steep sides; flat base. (1 x 0.77 x 0.21m)	L8036	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate small and medium flint.	Pottery (1sherd, 3g).
H	Steep sides; flat base. (1 x 0.59 x 0.2m)	L8036	Ditto	Pottery (1 sherd, 10g).

Undated

Sixteen features contained no dateable artefacts and could not be assigned to a phase of activity. Three features, Gully F8009 and Pits F8027 and F8043, had stratigraphic relationships with other features.

Gully F8009 was linear in plan, 2.79m long and orientated NE-SW. It was excavated in two slots, which are tabulated below. F8009 cut Ditch F8011. Its fill, L8010, was a friable mid orange brown silty sand with flint inclusions.

Slot	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds/Observations
A	Shallow, steep sides; sharp break of slope to a flat base.	L8010	Friable mid orange brown silty sand with moderate small and medium subrounded flint.	No finds.
B	Shallow, steep sides; sharp break of slope to a flat base.	L8010	Friable mid orange brown silty sand with moderate small rounded flint.	No finds. Cut Ditch F8011.

Pit F8027 was subcircular in plan (0.8 x 0.62+ x 0.15m) with shallow, moderately steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It was cut by Ditch F8011.

Its fill, L8028, was a friable mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flint and gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F8029 was an irregular ovoid in plan (2.8 x 1.79 x 0.11m) with shallow, gently sloping sides and a gradual break of slope to a flattish, irregular base. Its fill, L8030, was a friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium subrounded flint. It contained a residual Roman pottery sherd (2g).

Pit F8043 was ovoid in plan (0.52 x 0.6 x 0.28m) with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The pit cut the Roman driveway ditch F8039. Its fill, L8044, was a friable mid brownish grey silty sand. No finds were present.

Pit F8003 was oval in plan (1.5 x 1.2 x 0.15m) with shallow, gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L8004, was a firm mid brownish grey silty sand with lenses of light brownish grey silty sand and charcoal, and occasional small and medium flint inclusions. Burnt flint (4g) was recovered.

Pit F8005 was subcircular in plan (1.08 x 0.72 x 0.17m) with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L8006, was a firm mid orange brown silty sand. No finds were present.

Pit F8013 was circular in plan (0.98 x 0.88 x 0.12m) with moderately steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L8014, was a friable mid orange brown silty sand with lenses of greyish black silty sand. The fill contained moderate small angular flints and moderate charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Pit F8015 was circular in plan (1.2 x 1.14 x 0.14m) with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L8016, was a mottled greyish black and orange brown friable silty sand with moderate small angular flint. No finds were present.

Pit F8017 was circular in plan (1.11 x 1.12 x 0.16m) with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L8018, was a mottled greyish black and orange brown friable silty sand with moderate flint gravel. Burnt flint (10g) was recovered.

Pit F8019 was ovoid in plan (1.17 x 1.27 x 0.15m) with moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L8020, was a mottled greyish black and orange brown friable silty sand with moderate flint gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F8021 was ovoid in plan (0.53 x 0.66 x 0.1m) with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L8022, was a mottled greyish black and orange brown friable silty sand with moderate gravel. No finds were present.

Pit F8031 was subrectangular in plan (1.76 x 1.02 x 0.32m) with gently sloping sides and a gradual break of slope to a flattish base. Its fill, L8032, was a firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium flint. No finds were present.

Pit F8041 was circular in plan (0.52 x 0.5 x 0.41m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill was a friable mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small flint stones. No finds were present.

Pit F8045 was ovoid in plan (1.46 x 2.1 x 1.15m) with vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L8046, was a friable light orange grey silty sand with medium sandstones. No finds were present.

Pit F8047 was ovoid in plan (0.72 x 0.56 x 0.14m) with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L8048, was a friable mid orange brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Pit F8049 was ovoid in plan (0.74 x 0.6 x 0.15m) with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L8050, was a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flint stones. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors significantly inhibited the recognition of archaeological features during the excavation at East Winch, Norfolk. Many of the pits were disturbed by heavy ploughing which distorted their shape in plan

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy of the site was recorded through three sample sections along the northeast limit of excavation; the other three sides consisted of bund material after quarrying had taken place. All of the archaeological features on the site were sealed by a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (L8000). This was an agricultural plough soil deriving from the previous use of the site and varied in depth between 0.28-0.38m.

8.2 Below topsoil L8000 was a layer of loose mid brownish orange sandy silt (L8001). This layer is most likely a colluvial hill wash deposit, and varied in thickness across the site depending on the slope of the natural. It was almost non-existent towards the southern and eastern ends of the site, and along the north-western limit of excavation, where the natural geology was noticeably higher. L8001 was at its greatest thickness, 0.29m, in the central area of the site, corresponding with a depression in the natural. All of the archaeological features on site were cut into this layer. Struck flint and Roman pottery were recovered from the layer, though these were heavily abraded pieces and could be intrusive due to ploughing.

8.3 The natural geology (L8002) underlying the subsoil was a friable light orange yellow sand with frequent flint stone and gravel inclusions. It was encountered between 0.4- 0.64m below the ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 A total of 26 archaeological features were investigated during Excavation Phase 8 at Fosters End Drove, Blackborough End, East Winch, Norfolk. Those features which contained dateable material were divided into two distinct phases of activity: 2nd- 4th century Roman and post-medieval. Sixteen features contained no datable finds and could not be phased, and three features were modern.

9.2 Phase 1 (2nd- 4th century) consisted mainly of two parallel ditches, F8037 and F8039, demarcating a Roman droveway recorded in previous excavation phases. Pits F8023 and F8025 contained Nar Valley pottery.

9.4 Three features were assigned to Phase 2 (post-medieval): Ditch F8033, which ran throughout the length of the site on a NE-SW alignment, and two

perpendicular NW-SE ditches (F8011 and F8035). The alignment of these ditches suggests that they form part of a system of field enclosures. The earliest dating evidence for these ditches represents a period of activity that has not previously been encountered during excavations at Blackborough End. Ditch F8011 contained two bricks and a faced flint nodule, possibly suggesting the presence of a nearby building. Ditches F8011 and F8035 correspond to Ditches F7010 and F7030 respectively from Excavation Phase 7. These ditches were noted as respecting the alignment of the existing bridleway and hedgeline adjacent to the southeast limit of that phase of excavation.

9.5 Sixteen features could not be assigned to either of the above phases. Gully F8009 and Pit F8029 both cut Ditch F8011. Pit F8027 was cut by F8011 and could be contemporary with a putative phase of Roman pits in this area of site. Pit F8043 cut the Roman droveway ditch, F8039. The remainder of the undated features are small, fairly shallow pits, approximately corresponding in size and shape to the Roman pits.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum.

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Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
8001			Topsoil	L2nd-M3rd C AD	(4) 21g	112		S.Flnt (1) 20g
8003	8004		Pit					B.Flnt 4g
8011	8012	A	Ditch	Medieval	(1) 5g	3263	1	S.Flnt (1) 1971g
		B		Roman	(3) 7g			W.Stone 535g
		D		Medieval	(1) 20g			S.Flnt (1) 4g
8017	8018		Pit					B.Flnt 10g
8023	8024		Pit	Roman	(3) 6g			
8025	8026		Pit	Roman	(2) 7g			
8029	8030		Pit	Roman	(1) 2g			
8033	8034	E	Ditch	Post-medieval	(1) 26g		111	Fe Fragment 3g
		H						Slag 161g
		I						
8035	8036	G	Ditch	Post-medieval	(1) 3g			
		H		Post-medieval	(1) 10g			
8037	8038	B	Ditch	Roman	(1) 2g			
8039	8040	C	Ditch			343		

APPENDIX 2

The Flint

Andrew Peachey

The excavation recovered two flakes (24g) of struck flint, a fragment of flint cobble (1971g) and two fragments of burnt flint (14g).

The struck flint includes a long blade (dimensions 80x20x7mm) contained in subsoil L8001, that has partial abrupt retouch on one lateral edge and may date to the later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic periods. The other struck flint comprises a single, small, slightly irregular un-corticated flake contained in Ditch F8011 (L8012 Seg.B). Both flakes of struck flint exhibit slight patination.

The flint cobble (1971g) was contained in Ditch F8011 (L8012 Seg.A) and has the profile of a quarter circle, approximately 70mm thick. One of the straight sides may have been artificially fractured or split, although there is no sign of striking. A small area of wear comprising a shallow indent, on one surface may indicate the cobble was used as a door jamb or pad, however this remains conjecture.

Small fragments of burnt flint were contained in Pits F8003 (L8004) and F8017 (L8018), but show n evidence of having been worked before or after burning.

Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 14 sherds (45g) of Roman pottery from six contexts, including a single sherd of east Gaulish samian and small, un-diagnostic body sherds of Nar Valley reduced ware.

Methodology

The Roman pottery was recorded by sherd count, weight and R.EVE (Orton, Tyers and Vince 1993, 172-3, PCRG 1995) with fabric examined at x20 magnification. Fabric codes were assigned according to the system developed for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Fabric descriptions

Roman Fabrics

- | | |
|---------|--|
| NAR RE1 | Nar Valley reduced ware 1 (Gurney 1990, 89; Andrews 1985, 89) waster vessels in this moderate to hard fabric were recovered from all the kilns on the site, and is the most common fabric in the assemblage. The colour of this fabric is not always consistent and sometimes mottled in appearance, with surfaces and cores ranging from very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1 or darker) to dark 'burnt' orange, dark red-brown and black. The description of the fabric as a reduced ware is appropriate and oxidised sherds only occur as misfired kiln material or possibly as storage jars. Inclusions in the fabric comprise common sub-rounded quartz generally in the 0.25-0.50mm size range, occasionally to 2mm, with sparse fragments of flint (1-5mm, occasionally larger) and sparse iron rich grains (predominantly black and <0.5mm). The fabric has an irregular fracture and a slightly granular break. |
| RHZ SA | Rheinzabern samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 39) |

Commentary

A single fragment (3g) of RHZ SA was recovered from Topsoil L8001 and probably formed part of a Dr.31 bowl produced between the late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD. The remaining Roman pottery, contained in Ditches F8011 (L8012 Seg.B), F8037 (L8038 Seg.B), Pits F8023 (L8024), F8025 (L8026), F8029 (L8030) and Topsoil L8001 is comprised of low quantities of small body sherds of NAR RE1. Nar Valley reduced ware was produced locally between the late 2nd and 4th centuries AD, including at kilns recorded within a previous phase of archaeological investigation on the site.

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Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The excavation recovered 6 abraded sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 66g from four ditches. Three sheds are medieval and three post-medieval in date. The pottery is quantified by feature below.

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
8011	8012 A	Ditch	1x6g Early medieval sandy ware	11 th -13 th	Abraded, buff surfaces, black core
	8012 D		1x20g Medieval glazed ware	Late 12 th -13 th /14 th	Moderately abraded body wall and angle of sagging base. Patchy green/clear glaze, reduced grey throughout
8033	8034 H	Ditch	1x27g Post-medieval glazed earthenware	16 th -18 th	Highly abraded, glazed both sides but mostly scraped off, coarse sandy fabric
8035	8036 G	Ditch	1x3g Post-medieval black glazed red earthenware	17 th -18 th	Abraded
	8036 H		1x5g Early medieval sandy ware 1x5g Glazed post-medieval red earthenware	17 th -18 th	EMSW buff external surface, abraded PMRE highly abraded, glaze both sides mainly eroded

Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The excavations recovered four fragments (3718g) of post-medieval CBM, including a complete brick.

The complete brick (2195g) and a further fragment of comparable brick (1068g) were both contained in Ditch F8011 (L8012 Seg.A). The bricks had dimensions of 220x110x50mm with flat bases, irregular faces and arrises, and sunken margins. The bricks were manufactured in an oxidised dark red fabric, tempered with common sand and sparse coarse black iron ore, possibly slag. These characteristics suggest the bricks were manufactured between the 15th and early 17th centuries. A further fragment of this type of brick (112g) was also contained in Topsoil L8001, while a fragment of earthen ware field drain (343g) was contained in Ditch F8039 (L8040 Seg.C).