## LAND TO THE EAST OF BRANDON ROAD, SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT

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Planning Ref.: 3PL/2011/0868/F
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Site code: SBRM13 PCAS job no.: 1004

Prepared for

Ecus Ltd.,

on behalf of Gladedale (t/a Ben Bailey Homes)

by

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## Summary

- Full Planning Permission was granted in 2012 for 335 residential units together with associated access, car parking, open space & landscape provision on Land East of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk.
- In accordance with conditions attached to the planning permission, Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., (PCAS) were commissioned by Ecus Ltd, on behalf of Gladedale (t/a Ben Bailey Homes), to undertake an initial scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the site in association with proposed service runs.
- The site has been subject to previous archaeological works in the form of an evaluation and open area excavation by Albion Archaeology and site appraisal by Ecus Ltd. The evaluation recorded activity dating from the late Neolithic to Romano-British periods, the excavation recorded further evidence relating to peripheral settlement activity from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, and the appraisal confirmed that the eastern end of the site (broadly reflected as the boundary of the proposed Phase 3 development) has a high potential for late Iron Age and Romano-British archaeological remains (White 2013).
- The monitoring revealed a low level of archaeological features and suggests peripheral activity to settlement situated to the south and east. Dating was limited but indicates the focus of activity to be later Roman, possibly 4<sup>th</sup> century. These works add to and improve previous archaeological knowledge of the site namely in the identification of evidence for a possible high status building in the close vicinity.



Fig. 1. Site location based on the Ordnance Survey. ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. 1:20,000. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

#### 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Ecus Ltd., on behalf of Gladedale (t/a Ben Bailey Homes) to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on two service runs on land to the east of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk.

## 2.0 Location and description (Fig. 1)

Swaffham is a market town and civil parish in the County of Norfolk, located c. 20 km east of King's Lynn and 50 km west of Norwich. The parish falls within the administrative district of Breckland.

Swaffham town centre reflects its origins as a market town with a central market place as the main focal point for the main three routes through the town. A number of residential developments have expanded the town to the south along Brandon Road and Watton Road during the last 40 years and these consist predominantly of semi-detached and chalet-style bungalows (Gladedale 2011, 6).

The proposed development site is located on the east side of Brandon Road, c.1.5 km south of the centre of Swaffham, and its central National Grid Reference is TF 82300 07300. It comprises a long rectangular plot of 'brownfield' land, aligned approximately east/west and covering an area of approximately 10.5 hectares (26 acres). The western half of the site contained former employment buildings with areas of hardstanding for open storage. These have been recently demolished and the site cleared of buildings and infrastructure. The eastern half of the site is characterised by rough ground and scrub.

The site is not within a Conservation Area and there are no designated heritage assets in its vicinity.

#### 3.0 Geology and topography

The superficial geology of the area is Lowestoft Formation of chalk till with gravels, silts and clays, which overlies Cretaceous Chalk bedrock (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/).

The site is at an approximate Ordnance Datum height of 55m, being virtually flat with a slight slope from west to east.

#### 4.0 Planning background

On 07-09-2000 an outline planning application was made to Breckland Council by City & County Developments Ltd for 'Redevelopment to provide housing & employment B1,B2 & B8 (amended scheme)' on Land at Brandon Road. Outline planning permission was granted on 22-10-2004 and was subject to an archaeological condition (7) (Ref. 3PL/2000/1161/O).

Outline planning permission for the development of up to 400 dwellings was granted June 2009 (Ref 3PL/2007/1436/H), (Gladedale 2011).

On 01-08-2011, a planning application was made to Breckland Council by City & County Developments Ltd for the 'Erection of 335 residential units together with associated access, car parking, open space & landscape provision' on Land East of Brandon Road. Full Planning Permission for the development was granted on 19-12-2012. As a result of the

findings of the 2005 evaluation, an archaeological planning condition (Condition #5) was included on the current planning permission (Ref:3PL/2011/0868/F).

'No development shall take place with Phase 3 of the Scheme (as shown on drawing PL108) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme or archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Although no development of dwellings were proposed within Phase 3 at this time it became necessary for the mains and foul water pipes in Phases 1 and 2 to be linked to the utility network located within the Phase 3 area. Having recognised the archaeological potential of the area and to ensure good practice the client commissioned a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording for these works. The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Francis 2013) and in consultation with the Norfolk County Council Planning Archaeologist.

### 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background was comprehensively covered in the specification for these works. The information below was taken from this specification (Francis 2013).

The proposed development area is located immediately to the west of a known Romano-British settlement (NHER 17420 and 28566), discovered by metal detecting during the 1980s and 1990s. Artefacts from the adjacent site include metalwork (a disc brooch and numerous coins that span the Romano-British period) and local Nar Valley courseware pottery of 3rd-4th century date.

Following the granting of the 2000 planning permission, the site underwent an archaeological evaluation in 2005, followed by a phase of excavation in 2006. The work was undertaken by Albion Archaeology in liaison with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Norfolk County Council). The evaluation, comprising 34 trial trenches, found evidence for past human activity in the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age; late Bronze Age/early Iron Age; early-middle Iron Age and Romano-British periods; however, the majority of the site was either devoid of archaeological remains or had been subject to modern disturbance. In contrast, the easternmost 180m of the site contained a number of archaeological deposits and features. These represented peripheral activity relating to an adjacent Romano-British settlement that probably extends beyond the eastern edge of the site. The area of high potential broadly reflects the boundary of the proposed Phase 3 development (Fig. 2).

Further investigation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology in 2006. This involved an openarea excavation to investigate a number of ditches. These were dated to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods but probably represented peripheral settlement activity. In sum, the site's archaeological remains are characterised by a series of boundary ditches, possible foundations (gullies and postholes) and possible agricultural features such as corn-drying ovens. The focus of activity is in a 60m zone at the eastern end of the site, with a further series of ditches located around Trench 8 at the western edge of the Phase 3 area. The evaluation also noted the presence of large quarry in the southeast corner of the site.

In late 2012, ECUS Ltd was commissioned by Ben Bailey Homes to undertake an archaeological site appraisal, to assess the site's potential archaeological constraints. The appraisal confirmed that the eastern end of the site has a high potential for late Iron Age and Romano-British archaeological remains (White 2013).

## 6.0 Methodology

The monitoring works entailed continuous comprehensive archaeological attendance and recording during the excavation of two service runs known as Trenches 1 (Mains Water Pipe) and 2 (Foul Water Pipe). Trench 1, the longer of the two, was excavated and recorded, followed by Trench 2. The works were monitored by qualified and experienced professional archaeologists; Simon Savage and Michael Johnson.

The topsoil and modern overburden on the site was be excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits and features, including those revealed by machine were manually cleaned and recorded. Features were sample excavated by hand in order to establish their form, depth, character, date, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further study. All features exposed were fully mapped by GPS at scale on an overall site plan, showing the locations of any groundwork excavations.

Following the initial completion of these trenches (and an interim assessment report), a second phase of excavation was undertaken within Trench 2 within an area which had revealed subsoil. Due to the potential for subsoil to mask underlying archaeological deposits the construction of the pipe trench and two inspection pits was undertaken under archaeological supervision.

In addition to GPS planning, conventional plans and section drawings were completed by hand at appropriate scales of 1:20 and 1:50. These drawings were supplemented by a colour photographic record on colour slide film and in digital format, a selection from which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS recording forms. These were supported by the creation of a narrative account of the works contained within a site diary.

All finds revealed during the monitoring works were retained and stored in labelled bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing. All features considered suitable for environmental assessment were sampled. Due to the shallow nature of the features encountered, selected samples were taken in 20 litre quantities.

The monitoring works were conducted between 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Conditions on site were difficult, with the southern end of Trench 1 (close to multiple land drains) filling with ground water and poor weather/snow storms hampering efforts.

#### 7.0 Results (Figs. 2-6)

## 7.1 Trench 1 The Mains Water Pipe Run (Figs. 2-4)

Trench 1 covered a length of approximately 235m and ranged from between 5 to 7m wide along its length. The majority of this trench was archaeologically negative, picking up the blank elements of Albion Archaeology's evaluation Trenches 20, and 26 and the area they called 'zone of disturbance'. It also recorded a modern sewer and nine land drains. The overburden on this pipe run was not consistent across its length; subsoil (101) was visible only in patches to the north of the 'zone of disturbance' where topsoil chiefly lay straight over the natural. To the south of Albion Archaeology's Trench 20 the modern topsoil (100) sealed a dumped levelling deposit (103) that in turn sealed a buried topsoil (104) which sealed the archaeology present.

All archaeological features exposed by this service run were seen south of the zone of disturbance and are described here in order they were exposed, from the northernmost moving south-eastwards. Immediately to the south of the modern sewer, two large oval pits containing Romano-British pottery were exposed ([106], [108]). Both features contained numerous fragments of animal bone and a few sherds of pottery and were thus possible refuse pits. Both contained mainly large mammal bone fragments, including horse remains, and yielded Roman pottery (Appendix 3 and 6). Some pottery was only diagnostic to Roman but sherds from (107) were spot dated to the late 3rd-4th century (Appendix 3).

Approximately 30m to the south of these pits, a large oval undated pit was exposed within an area of crisscrossed land drains, and only partially within the excavation limits [110]. Interpretation of this feature was hampered by its partial exposure and the influx of water from nearby land drains.

In the east of Trench 1, in the area that would have been Albion Archaeology's Trench 33 (but not seen/recorded by them), a 1.8m wide northwest-southeast aligned ditch was revealed [113]. This possible boundary feature appears to have run across the north-south length of the site - being recorded as [3211] by Albion in Trench 32 and [204] in the second trench run (Trench 2) of the current works. The upper fill (111) contained fragments of Roman box tile and a few fragments of animal bone (Appendix 4 and 6).

Rectangular box flue tiles were used to create flues to allow hot gases to pass through elements of the walls of buildings, functioning as components of a heating system for villatype structures or bathhouses. These hypocausts worked by aid of a furnace conducting hot air under a raised floor. One side of the box tile would have had a distinctive comb pattern to allow internal wall plaster to adhere to it. Such a pattern is present on the fragments recovered from this site. The box flue tile also had soot present on the interior, confirming it had been used (Appendix 4). These fragments, although not recovered *in-situ*, do highlight the presence of high status structural remains close to the site.

Immediately to the east of this ditch was a large possible quarry pit [115]. As this feature was previously recorded by Albion Archaeology as feature [3302] it was not substantially excavated again, but its eastern limit(?) was exposed and recorded [120]. It should be noted that due to the size and nature of the investigations it was not possible to establish exactly how many features formed this 'pit'. If it was one feature, then this investigation revealed the feature to be at least 22m wide and found it contained two fills (118) and (119). The lower fill (119) contained a small group of 4th century pottery and a single fragment of animal bone (Appendix 3 and 6). The date of this feature is unclear as the material recovered was possibly residual; deriving from features that it truncates, including an abraded Roman(?) brick recovered by Albion Archaeology during their investigations.

The eastern limit of the quarry pit was seen to truncate the flue of rectangular kiln-type feature ([221] (117)). This steep-sided orange clay kiln measured 1.6m in diameter, and was orientated northeast-southwest, with the flue to the southwest. It was filled with a dark greyish-brown clayey sand that contained elements of the kiln walls and roof material (116). Finds included Romano-British building material, pottery, animal bone, iron fragments and oyster shell. An environmental sample was recovered for assessment.

The flue of the kiln contained a 0.10m thick dark orangey-grey clay at its base (121). This mixed loose deposit probably derived from the flue structure itself and was deposited when the guarry pit cut through it.

Assessment of the pottery found within the kiln structure gave a possible 3rd-4th century date and contained bowls, jars and flagons. This assemblage is considered to represent backfilled waste into the kiln after its disuse, not necessarily kiln products (Appendix 3). The iron objects were found to join into a single chisel blade, examples of which are generally

used in carpentry (Appendix 5). This artefact may not indicate activity during the Roman period and could have been discarded much later, after the kiln had been abandoned.

Processing of the sample taken from this fill found that it included common fragments of charcoal but no charred seeds. This would tend to indicate an industrial or domestic rather than agricultural function.

Rectangular kilns such as this were employed during the Roman period for the firing of brick and tile, though the analysis of the ceramic building material retrieved from the fill found no direct evidence for production within this structure. Ceramic building material from the site as a whole was minimal; a production site would be expected to have yielded much greater quantities.

The building material from within the kiln consisted of only five Roman brick fragments, but there was no evidence that these were *in-situ* wasters nor from on-site production. These fragments were abraded and re-deposited. They could have been used for decorative courses within walls or as *pilae* in hypocausts (the bricks that formed pillars which supported the raised floors of houses, under which hot air would circulate). One fragment showed evidence of burning which could further support an interpretation as *pilae* (Appendix 4).

The presence of possible *pilae* in the kiln feature and box tile fragments in close proximity could highlight the function of this 'kiln'. Possibly it formed the furnace that fuelled the hypocaust. As the furnace would be attached to the house or villa this would suggest that further structural remains could survive just beyond the limits of the excavated area. This evidence is limited however and no further evidence for structural remains was seen.

## 7.2 Trench 2 The Foul Water Pipe Run (Figs. 2, 5 & 6)

Trench 2 covered approximately 110m and ranged from between 6 to 9m wide along its length. This exposed blank elements of Albion Archaeology's Trench 21 and the modern sewer and 'zone of disturbance' seen in Trench 1. The overburden on this section was primarily topsoil (200) directly overlying the archaeological horizon, but a subsoil (220) was present in patches.

All archaeological deposits exposed by this service run was revealed east of Albion Archaeology's Trench 21 and is discussed in the order that it was exposed from northwest to southeast. Immediately to the east of Trench 21, gully [203] was exposed: a small shallow north-east aligned feature with an east-west fork. The edges of the gully consisted of heat-affected clay and the fill was a dark burnt deposit (211). This feature was similar to the kiln flue, feature [2105] revealed in Albion Archaeology's Trench 21. Unfortunately no dating was retrieved from this feature but two samples, one from the east and one from the west of the feature, were taken from its fill (Samples 1 and 2). These samples contained lumps of burnt clay, common charcoal and low quantities of charred plant seeds. The assessment of the samples suggests that these features relate to an industrial or domestic kiln structure, as the absence of grains, crop processing by products and weeds suggest the gullies were not related to crop processing activities (Appendix 7). However the close proximity to a probable corn drying oven should not be overlooked.

Cut into the very north of this gully was small shallow pit [202]. This was not heat-affected and was filled with a single naturally silted fill and it is unlikely to have been directly related. Its function is unclear.

To the east of these features, a large area of subsoil was exposed (220). A pipe trench and two manholes were excavated within this area and exposed within the section was the oblique profile of a shallow ditch [204] (same as [113]). Revealed to the south of the area of

subsoil, aligned northwest-southeast was the continuation of ditch [204]. This was found to truncate [206], a highly irregular feature, and probably natural. It was also seen to truncate a small round pit [214], and a single posthole [208]. These features all contained single naturally silted fills that did not yield finds. [214] showed evidence of rooting in its base and so may also have been of natural origin.

All slots through ditch [204] revealed a shallow u shaped profile c.20m deep, which is in contrast to the c.0.40m recorded in Albion Archaeology's Trench 32 and the c.0.70m it survives to in Trench 1 of the current works [113]. This suggests the upper part of the site has been subject to a great deal of truncation, leaving only the base of a once larger ditch. This might also explain its somewhat irregular plan form.

#### 8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The archaeological monitoring encountered a relatively low level of remains, though evidence of truncation and disturbance have been recorded on site and have clearly affected overall survival.

Dating from the site was limited but suggests the focus of activity revealed by the current works dates to the later Roman period, most likely the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Only the possible quarry pit represents a later phase of activity.

Although archaeological features were limited, the monitoring has added to and improved the previous archaeological knowledge of the site. Namely, it has provided evidence of possible high status structural remains in the vicinity; highlighting the focus of such activity to lie towards/beyond the southeast corner of the site and beyond the limits of the current excavation.

The current works also revealed the possible northeast limit to the previously identified quarry pit, provided further evidence for the field boundary (seen in Albion's Trench 32), establishing a more accurate alignment for it and providing more evidence of kiln structures. The kiln structure exposed appeared to indicate industrial or domestic, not agricultural, activity.

Finds and environmental evidence on site was sparse but invaluable in assisting an interpretation of the features revealed.

#### 9.0 Project archive

The project archive, currently in the custody of PCAS, will be deposited with printed copies of the full reports at Norwich Castle Museum. Following deposition, it may be consulted under the global accession number NWHCM:2013.160

### 10.0 Acknowledgements

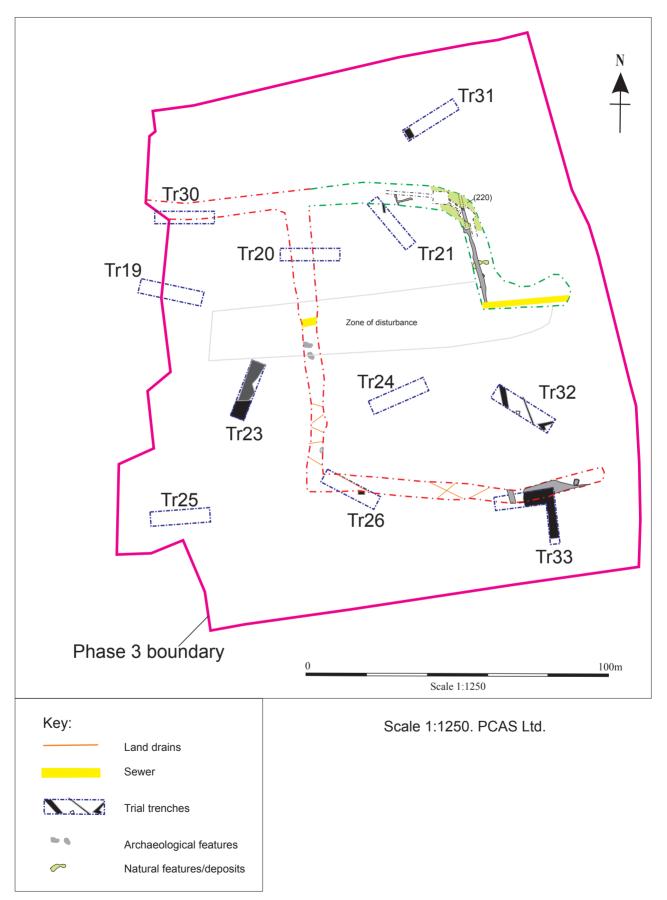
Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Ecus Ltd. on behalf of Ben Bailey Homes for this commission.

#### 11.0 References

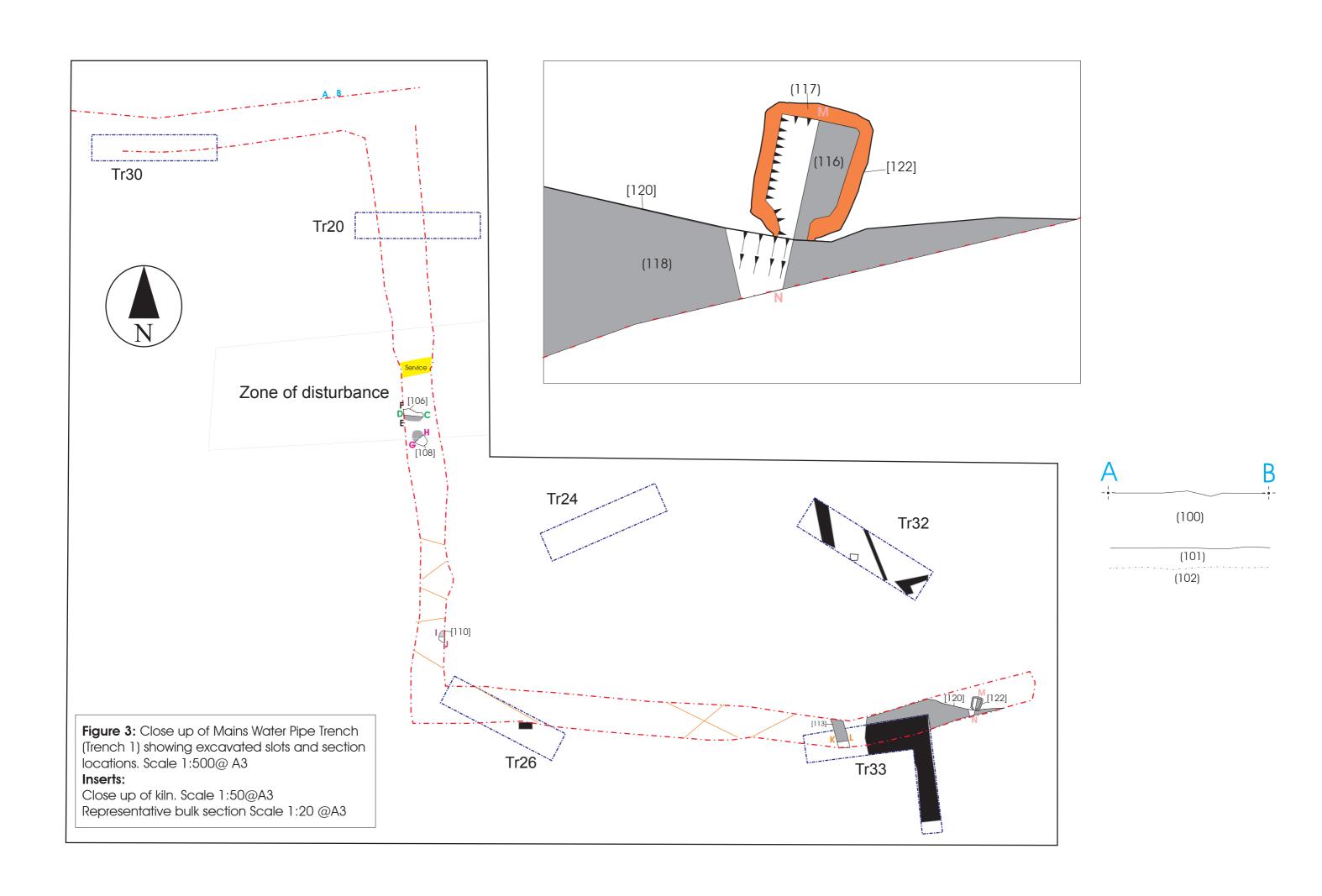
Gladedale. July 2011. Design and Access Statement: Planning Application, Brandon Road, Swaffham. For Ben Bailey Homes by Gladedale

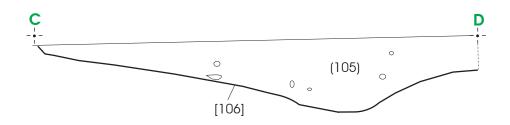
White, P. January 2013. *Brandon Road, Swaffham -Archaeological Site Appraisal.* Unpublished report for by Ecus Ltd. Gladedale (Lincoln) Ltd t/a Ben Bailey Homes.

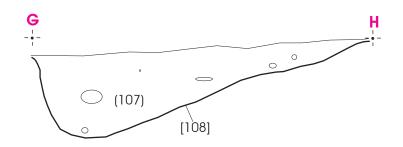
Francis. K. 2013. Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Land to the East of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk. Grey Literature specification PCA Ltd Lincoln

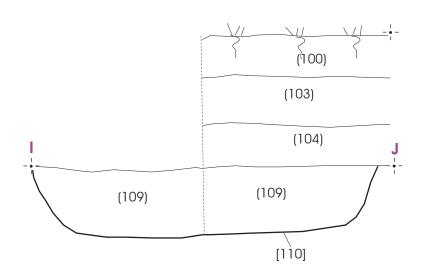


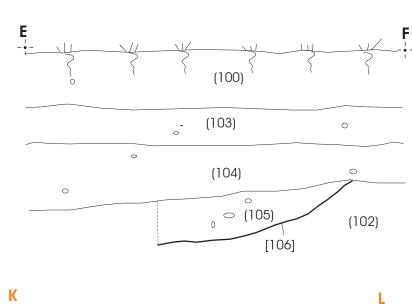
**Figure. 2:** Plan of Phase 3, showing the locations of the two services runs and the 2005 trial trenches. Trench 1 is outlined in red, Trench 2 in green.

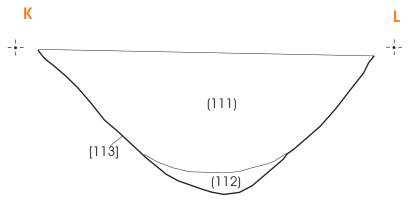


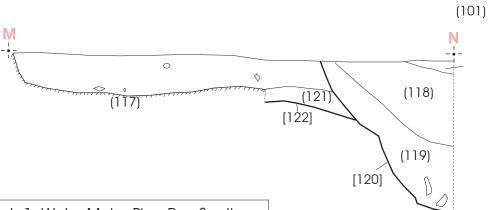




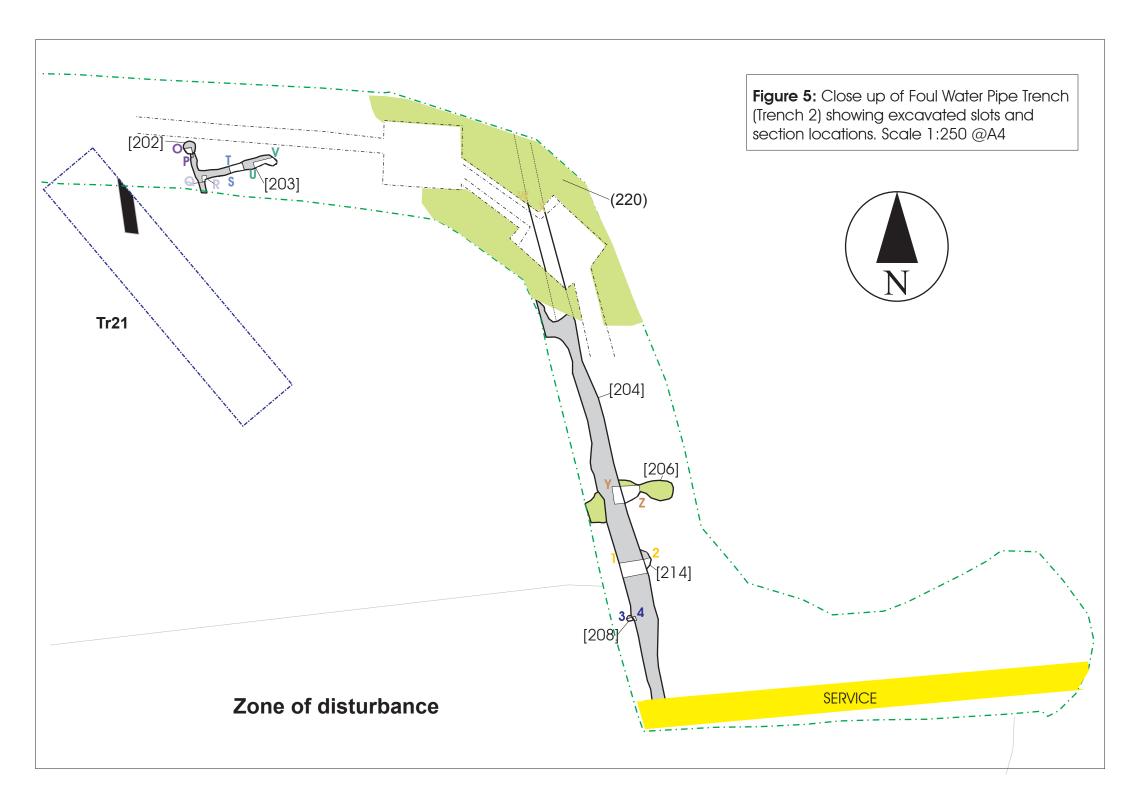


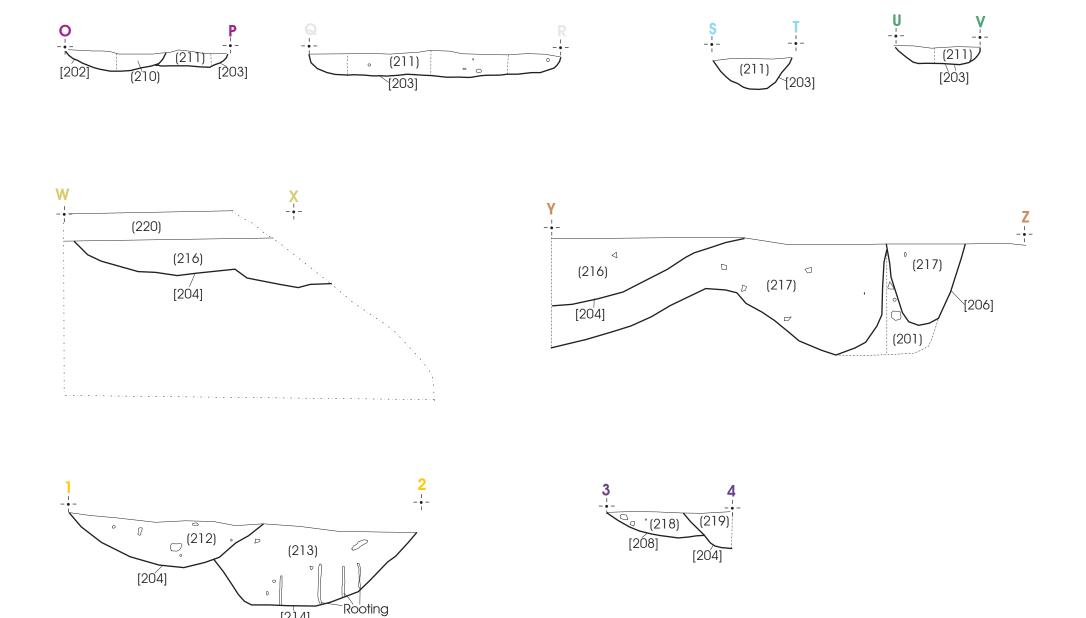






**Figure 4:** Trench 1, Water Mains Pipe Run Sections. Scale 1:20 @ A4.





[214]

Figure 6: Trench 2, Foul Water Pipe Trench Sections. Scale 1:20 @A4.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view looking north along north-south route of Trench



**Plate 2:** Pit [106], looking south with unexcavated pit [108] in the back ground.



**Plate 3:** Boundary ditch [113], looking north. Fragments of box flue tile recovered from upper fill (111).



Plate 4: Eastern end of Trench 1, looking west. Rectangular orange clay kiln (117) can be seen in the foreground with the large quarry pit truncating the flue to the south and extending into the background



**Plate 5:** Kiln (117) following half sectioning, looking southeast.



**Plate 6:** Burnt gully [203] looking southwest along the east-west fork of the feature.

# **Appendix 2: Context Summary**

# Trench 1 -The Mains Water Pipe Run

Context No.	Туре	Description	Finds/Dating
100	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil, 0.30m deep	Modern. No finds.
101	Layer	Mid brownish-grey silty clay subsoil present to the north of track disturbance, 0.10m deep	No finds.
102	Layer	Whitish-orangey-brown weathered chalk, >1m deep	No finds
103	Layer	Mid reddish-brown silty clay levelling layer present in the south of the site, 0.26m deep	Modern tile
104	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay buried topsoil present to the south of disturbed track, 0.36m deep	No finds.
105	Fill	Mid greyish-brown silty clay fill of pit [106], 0.40m deep	Pottery and Animal Bone. Roman.
106	Cut	Elongated oval pit 2.34m x ? x 0.40m deep	
107	Fill	Mid greyish-brown silty clay fill of pit [108], 0.42m deep	Pottery and Animal Bone. Roman. L3-4.
108	Cut	Oval pit, south of [106] 1.80m x ? x0.42m deep	
109	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of pit [110]	Animal Bone
110	Cut	Oval pit, > 0.92m wide x ? by 0.38m	
111	Fill	Mid greyish-brown silty clay upper fill of ditch [113], 0.65m deep	Ceramic building material, Animal bone. Roman
112	Fill	Mid reddish-grey silty clay primary fill of ditch [113], derived from weathering of the sides	No finds
113	Cut	Large ditch, located to the west of pit [115]. Same as ditch [3211] from Evaluation Trench 33. 1.8mx 0.85m deep	
114	Fill	Mid greyish-brown silty-clay fill of large pit [115], seen and excavated previously in Evaluation Trench 33	None (backfilled deposit from 2005)
115	Cut	Large probably oval pit from area of Trench 33. Unexcavated in this phase of works as recorded in evaluation	
116	Fill	Dark greyish-brown clayey-sand fill of kiln [117]. Natural accumulation of abandoned structure, 1.69mx ? x 0.24m deep.	Roman?3-4C Pottery, Animal bone, Roman bricks, Oyster shells, Fe Chisel blade. Sample No. 3
117	Structure	Steep sided, rectangular orange clay kiln 1.69x0.24m	Roman?
118	Fill	Dark yellowy-grey silty clay with frequent stones, upper fill of large pit [120]. Max 0.40m deep	
119	Fill	Dark yellowy-brown silty clay with large angular pebbles, lower fill of pit [120]. Max 0.36m deep	Pottery, Animal bone Roman 4C
120	Cut	Eastern edge of pit that cuts kiln (117). Same as [115]	
121	Fill	Dark orangey-grey clay fill at base of kiln flue	
122	Cut	Construction cut for kiln 117	

# Trench 2-The Foul Water Pipe Run

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
No.	''	'	J
200	Layer	Topsoil, same as (100)	
201	Layer	Natural same as (102)	
202	Cut	Shallow round pit cut into end of feature [203]	
203	Cut	Small gully N-S orientation with an E-w fork	Roman ?
204	Cut	N-S ditch runs across site	
205	Cut	Natural feature, glacial fissure investigated but not recorded	
206	Cut	Curved gully cut by ditch [204]	
207	Cut	Natural feature, glacial fissure investigated but not recorded	
208	Cut	Small round post hole west of [204]	
209	Cut	Natural feature, glacial fissure investigated but not recorded	
210	Fill	Sole fill of pit [202]	No finds
211	Fill	Mid greyish-brown clayey-sand burnt fill containing frequent	Roman ?
		burnt stones. Sole fill of gully [203]. Max depth 0.16m	
212	Fill	Dark orangey-brown clayey-sand sole fill of ditch [204]	No finds
213	Fill	Mid orangey-brown silty sand, sole fill of pit [214]. Max	No Finds
		0.45m deep	
214	Cut	Large round pit cut by ditch [204]	
215	Fill	Mid greyish-brown silty sand sole fill of gully [206]. Terminal	No finds
0.1.0		end.	<b>N.</b> (1)
216	Fill	Same as (212) but from slot nearest [206]	No finds
217	Fill	Same as (215) but from slot nearest [204]	No finds
218	Fill	Dark Brownish-grey sandy clay sole fill of post hole [208]. Max 0.13m deep	No finds
219	Fill	Same as (212) and (216) but from slot nearest post hole [208]	No finds
220	Layer	Subsoil Same as (101)	No finds

# An Assessment of the Roman pottery archaeological monitoring at Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk SBRM13; TF82300 07300

## **Appendix 3: The Roman pottery assessment**

By Ian Rowlandson June 18<sup>th</sup> 2012

## Introduction

The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit- CLAU (see Darling and Precious *forthcoming*) and the fabric codes used by Darling for Norfolk (Darling in Lane and Morris (eds) 2001). The form series developed for Brancaster by Andrews has been used to parallel all recognisable vessel forms (1985). Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Orton (1975, 31). The archive record (tabulated below) is an integral part of this report and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format. The report was produced on the basis of a context list provided by PCAS Ltd. This author wishes to thank Andy Peachey for discussing the colour coated pottery from this site: any mistakes remain the author's own.

#### Condition

The ceramics presented for assessment totalled 34 sherds, weighing 1.166kg total RE 0.66, from a scheme of archaeological monitoring. The sherds are from a maximum of 17 vessels. The majority of the sherds are in a fresh condition.

#### **Dating**

The detailed archive is presented at the end of this report. The dating summary is tabulated below; all of the pottery from this site can be dated to the late Roman period.

		Dating summary			
Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
105	ROM	A single shell gritted sherd, probably dating to the later 3rd-4th century AD.	1	9	0
107	L3-4	A small group including greyware an undercut jar rim from a South Midlands shell gritted jar (Andrews 1985, No. 100.19-20)	4	62	6
116	?3-4C	A small group including Nar Valley wares including: bowls with curving sides and a small bead rim (Andrews 1985, No. 133 & 133.4), fragments from the base of a large jar with a zone of burnished diagonal line decoration, jars including vessels with Nar Valley rustication (Andrews 1985, No.100.11) and a curve rimmed jar (Andrews 1985, No.105.6). Also present is a fragment from a colour coated vessel, probably a flagon.	27	1063	51
119	4C	A small group including a fragment of Nar Valley ware and a colour coated Pentice moulded beaker (Andrews 1985, No.98).	2	32	9

## **Fabrics and forms**

	Fabric summary									
Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %			
CC	Fine	Other colour-coated wares	4	11.76%	127	10.89%	9			

	Fabric summary											
Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %					
NARO	Oxidised	Nar Valley wares- fully oxidised	8	23.53%	147	12.61%	37					
NARR	Reduced	Nar Valley wares- reduced	20	58.82%	857	73.50%	14					
SMSH	Calcareous	South Midlands shell-tempered wares	2	5.88%	35	3.00%	6					

	Form summary												
Form	Form Type	Form Description	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %	Maximum Vessels					
BKPM	Beaker	Pentice moulded beaker	1	2.94%	15	1.29%	9	1					
BFL	Bowl	Flange rimmed (eg Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	1	2.94%	22	1.89%	7	1					
BTR	Bowl	Triangular rimmed (eg. Gillam 1970 Types 222-3)	1	2.94%	49	4.20%	8	1					
BD	Bowl/dish	-	1	2.94%	37	3.17%	0	1					
FJ	Flagon/jar	Unclassified form	3	8.82%	112	9.61%	0	1					
J	Jar	Unclassified form	2	5.88%	16	1.37%	0	1					
JCUR	Jar	Curved	12	35.29%	110	9.43%	35	3					
JL	Jar	Large	9	26.47%	756	64.84%	7	4					
JBL	Jar/Bowl	Large	1	2.94%	20	1.72%	0	1					
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	3	8.82%	29	2.49%	0	3					

The range of forms in use on the site is a typical for this area and can be paralleled at Brancaster (Andrews 1985). Most of the coarseware jars are variants upon the Type 100 mostly from the Nar/ West Norfolk coarse ware industries with burnished lines, zonal rouletting and Nar type 'rustication'. A single rim from a South Midlands Shell gritted vessel probably transported to the site from Northamptonshire or Bedfordshire and a further undiagnostic bodysherd. Also present are fragments from Nar Valley/West Norfolk coarseware bowls and a jar with a curved rim loosely copying late BB1 types (Andrews 1985, No.105.6).

The colour coated pottery consists of two vessels one flagon or a jar with traces of a red colour coat and a second a Pentice moulded beaker with traces of a browner slip (Andrews 1985, No.98). Both of these vessels are not in a recognisable Nene Valley fabric and their light orange fabric is similar in firing colour and inclusions to the colour coated pottery produced at Pakenham (Tomber and Dore 1998, PAK CC) but it should be noted that no Pentice moulded beakers have thus far been published from that kiln site (Smedley and Owles 1961). As such an East Anglian source for these colour coated vessels appears likely although a Pakenham source is by no means certain.

#### **Discussion**

The pottery present suggests activity on the site during the late Roman period most likely during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The inhabitants of the site appear to have utilised a limited range of vessels including some finewares from East Anglia but also used shell gritted jars brought from the South Midlands area. There are no finewares imported from the Oxfordshire region or further afield. As this is a small assemblage little more can be inferred from this sample of pottery as to the status or activities of the inhabitants of this site.

#### Recommendations

All of the pottery should be retained and deposited in the relevant museum.

As all of the pottery can and has been paralleled to existing publications and there are no significant groups present no further work is needed for the Roman pottery. The text from this report could be included in any final report. It should be noted that further archaeological investigations may produce more significant assemblages. If the pottery is deposited in the local museum it remains possible for this sherd to be examined by researcher as part of a survey of the colour coated pottery of this region.

#### **Bibliography**

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					SBI	RM13 Ron	nan pottery archive					
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight (g)	Rim diam	
105	SMSH			1			BS		1	9		
107	NARR			1			BS		1	3	0	C
107	NARR	JL		1			BS		2	33	0	0
107	SMSH	JCUR		1			RIM; UNDERCUT RIM FORM AS ANDREWS 1985, NO.100.19-20		1	26	24	6
116	CC	FJ		1	ABR		BS; PALE ORANGE SANDY FABRIC WITH A GREY CORE AND A RED COLOUR COAT INCLUSIONS MATCH DESCRIPTION GIVEN FOR THE PAKENHAM COLOUR COATS PAK CC TOMBER AND DORE 1988		3	112	0	0
116	NARO	BD		1			BASE		1	37	0	0
116	NARO	BFL		1			RIM; AS ANDREWS 1985, No.133		1	22	26	7
116	NARO	BTR		1			RIM; AS ANDREWS 1985, 133.4 WITH EXTRA GROOVE ON LOWER WALL		1	49	26	8
116	NARO	JCUR		1			RIM SHLDR; FORM AS ANDREWS 1985, NO.105.6		5	39	20	22
116	NARR	J	ROUZ	1	ABR		BS; ROULETTED ZONE AS ANDREWS 1985, NO.100.8		2	16	0	0

	SBRM13 Roman pottery archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments Join Sherd		Weight (g)	Rim diam			
116	NARR	JBL		1			BS		1	20	0	0	
116	NARR	JCUR	RNAR	1			RIM SHLDR UNDER CUT WITH NAR TYPE RUSTICATION ON SHOULDER; ANDERWS 1985, NO.100.11		6	45	16	7	
116	NARR	JL		1			BS LOWER WALL		1	105	0	0	
116	NARR	JL		1			RIM; FORM AS ANDREWS 1985, NO.100.6		1	25	20	7	
116	NARR	JL	DBL	1			BASE; PATCHY SURFACES; DIAGONAL BURNISHED DECORATION		5	593	0	0	
119	CC	BKPM		1	ABR		RIM SHLDR; PENTICE MOULDED BEAKER AS ANDREWS 1985, No.98		1	15	9	9	
119	NARR	-		1			BS		1	17	0	0	

#### APPENDIX 4:

# REPORT ON THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL FROM BRANDON ROAD, SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK (SBRM 13)

#### JANE YOUNG

#### INTRODUCTION

A total of eight fragments of Roman ceramic building material weighing 1.654 kgms and coming from six individual tiles, or bricks, were submitted for examination. The material was examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded on an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

#### **CONDITION**

The material is all in an abraded but stable condition. Fragments range from large-sized (at 660 grams) to small-sized (at 4 grams). The surfaces of most of the fragments are too abraded for the survival of detailed evidence of manufacturing techniques. The three fragments of box-flue tile have I soot residues on the internal surfaces and one of the bricks appears to have been partially burnt.

#### THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

A limited range of Roman ceramic building material including identifiable box-flue tile and brick fragments, was found on the site. The types are shown and quantified in Table 1.

Table 1: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Codename	Full name	Total fragments	Total weight in grams
BOX	Roman box-flue tile	3	159
FIRED CLAY	fired clay	1	4
RBRK	Roman brick	4	1491

#### The Roman Brick and Tile

Seven identifiable fragments of Roman building material were recovered from the site. The collection includes examples of brick (RBRK) and box-flue tile (BOX) and represents no more

than six individual tiles or bricks in three different fabrics. The fragments are within a bright to dull oxidised colour range and fabric texture varies from a fine to medium sandy.

#### 1) Fabric 1

This fabric is poorly mixed and has variable, but mainly abundant, rounded to subrounded quartz grains of 0.2 to 0.3 mm but with moderate larger grains up to 1.3 mm and moderate iron-rich grains.

The single tile in this fabric is represented by three abraded fragments from a single box-flue tile found in ditch 113 (fill 111). The tile is 23mm thick and has vertical and cross-struck combing made with wide-toothed 6 (+) pronged comb.

#### 2) Fabric 2

This fabric has abundant rounded to subrounded quartz grains of 0.4 to 0.6mm occasionally up to 0.8mm and rarely up to 2.0mm together with moderate iron-rich grains and moderate calcareous grains. A single brick fragment in this fabric was recovered from kiln 117 (fill 116). The brick is 45mm thick and has part of a curved double-grooved signature.

#### 3) Fabric 3

This fabric has abundant fine background quartz below 0.2mm and moderate rounded to subrounded quartz grains of up to 0.4mm together with moderate to common iron-rich grains, sparse flint fragments and occasional calcareous grains. One example additionally has cream clay lenses. Three bricks in this fabric were recovered from kiln 117 (fill 116). Two of the bricks are 30mm thick and one is 35mm thick. One of these bricks has signs of partial burning.

## The Fired clay

A single small very abraded fragment was recovered from fill 116 of kiln 117. Microscopic examination of this pieces reveals a poorly mixed fabric with variable amounts of rounded to subrounded quartz grains of 0.2 to 0.9mm, occasional larger well-rounded quartz grains, moderate iron-rich grains and moderate to common rounded calcareous grains. It is likely that this fragment came from a Roman brick or tile as it is highly fired and the composition of the fabric is similar to that of Fabric 2 used for Roman bricks.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The assemblage consists of a very limited range of Roman ceramic building types in three fabrics. The bricks could have been used as decorative courses in stone, flint and tile walls, or as pilae in hypocausts. The box flue tile has sooting on the interior, confirming that it was used in a wall-heating system associated with a hypocaust. Box flue tiles would have been used to channel hot air from the hypocaust through the walls of the room above. The entire collection should be kept for future study.

## **REFERENCES**

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.

# Appendix 4:

# Ceramic Building Material Archive for Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk (SBRM 13)

## Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description
111	BOX	Roman box tile	oxid fine sandy	3	159	23 mm thick;abraded;vert & cross-combed with wide-toothed 6 (+) prongs;soot int;poorly mixed fabric with mainly abundant round to subround quartz of 0.2-0.3 mm bu mod larger up to 1.3 mm mod fe
116	RBRK	Roman brick	dull oxid fine sandy	1	258	30mm; abraded; part burnt; some cream clay streaks in poorly mixed abundant fine background quartz below $0.2$ mm mod round to subround quartz up to $0.4$ mm mod-comm fe occ flint occ ca
116	RBRK	Roman brick	oxid fine sandy	1	126	$30 \rm mm; very$ abraded; poorly mixed abundant fine background quartz below $0.2 \rm mm$ mod round to subround quartz up to $0.4 \rm mm$ mod-comm fe occ flint occ ca
116	RBRK	Roman brick	oxid fine sandy	1	660	$35 \rm mm; abraded; abundant fine background quartz below 0.2 mm mod round to subround quartz up to 0.4 mm mod-comm fe occ flint occ ca$
116	RBRK	Roman brick	dull oxid med sandy	1	447	45mm;very abraded;part curved 2 grooved signature;abundant round to subround quartz of 0.4-o.6mm occ up to 0.8mm rarely up to 2.0mm mod fe & mod ca
116	FIRED CLAY	fired clay	light oxid med sandy	1	4	very abraded formless frag;? Tile/brick;poorly mixed fabric withvariable amounts of round to subround quartz of 0.2-0.9mm with occ larger well rounded mod fe mod-common rounded ca

02 July 2013

## **Appendix 5:**

## Iron Object from SBRM13 Swaffham

Nicholas J. Cooper, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

A single incomplete iron object in two pieces was recovered from (116), the fill of kiln structure [117] which also contained Roman pottery, CBM and animal bone. It has been x-rayed by Graham Morgan and investigatively cleaned to reveal the section. The find is catalogued below.

## Iron tanged carpenter's chisel of Roman date

(116) Iron. Upper part of broken, parallel-sided blade of rectangular section, joining fragment with curving shoulders and lower part of tang. Lower part of blade and tip of tang are missing. Surviving length of joining pieces: 72mm. Width of blade: 12mm (half inch). Thickness of blade: 2.5mm.

Prior to x-ray and cleaning, this object was assumed to be a small knife with a centrally-placed tang but the x-ray shows the blade to be parallel-sided and the cleaning of the section shows it to be rectangular rather than tapered to one edge, and so the most likely identification is that of a firmer chisel with a tang which would have slotted in to an organic handle (Manning 1985, 21, fig. 6 Type 4 with an example from London, Pl.10 B31). This would have been a small example (half inch width) of a tool which is still used in general carpentry today, and an unusual find on a Roman site. It demonstrates the value of routinely x-raying and part-cleaning iron work from such sites.

#### Reference

Manning, W. H., 1985. Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum, (London)

## **Appendix 6:**

## Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk (SBRM 13) The Animal Bone By Jennifer Wood

#### Introduction

A total of 35 (1785g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk. The remains were recovered from Trench 1 Pits [106], [108], [110], [120], ditch [113] and Kiln [117], all possibly dated from the roman period.

#### **Results**

The remains were generally of a good to moderate overall condition, averaging between grades 2 and 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

Carnivore gnawing was noted on two fragments of bone recovered from pits [106] and [108].

No evidence of burning, butchery or pathological change was noted on the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
		Large Mammal Size	Thoracic	В	1	75	
		Large Mammal Size	Skull	X	2	30	
		Equid (Horse Family)	Femur	R	1	125	Lateral condyle and supra condylar fossa
105	106	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	13	Shaft
103	100	Equid (Horse Family)	Innominate	L	1	351	Fragmentary
		Equid (Horse Family)	Innominate	R	1	206	Fragmentary, mostly illium ans ischium. Carnivore gnawing on the illium
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	2	55	
		Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	3	26	Blade fragments
		Large Mammal Size	Thoracic	В	1	65	Spinous process in 2 pieces
		Large Mammal Size	Cervical	В	2	156	Unfused centra
		Large Mammal Size	Thoracic	X	1	31	Unfused centrum
		Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	X	1	20	Articular facet
107	108	Sheep	Skull- frontal	R	1	143	With large horncore base
		Equid (Horse Family)	Tibia	R	1	299	Shaft and distal articulation. Carnivore gnawing on the distal end. Dd=44mm, Bd=67mm
		Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	17	Shaft broken into 3 pieces
		Unidentified	Unidentified	X	9	22	
109	110	Sheep/Goat	Radius	L	1	10	Midshaft fragment
		Cattle	Scapula	L	1	97	Fragmentary
111	113	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	6	Shaft fragment
		Pig?	Mandible	L	1	7	Mental syphysis
116	117	Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	3	Blade fragment
119	120	Pig	Skull- maxilla	L	1	28	Mainly tooth row, with M1 and M2 in occlusion

As can be seen, *equid* (horse family) are the most predominant species identified within the assemblage, followed by sheep/goat. A single fragment was positively identified as sheep. Small numbers of pig and cattle were also present.

The entire animal bone assemblage was recovered from Trench 1 suggesting a focus of activity within that area. The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful

information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

In the event of further works the site is liable to produce further remains of good to moderate condition, with a good potential of providing further information of site economy and animal husbandry practices.

## References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## **Appendix 7:**

## Assessment of the Archaeobotanical Remains from Swaffham (SBRM13)

Anita Radini (ULAS, June 2013)

#### Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at Swaffham, conducted by Pre-construct Archaeological Services LTD, soil samples were taken for the recovery of plant and other remains in order to assess the potential preservation of evidence about past environment, food production and consumption at the site, and to assess the possible use of a kiln. The samples date the Roman period.

#### **Materials and Methods**

Three samples were sieved to assess the potential for environmental analysis and to retrieve any possible dating evidence. All the samples appeared to have some charcoal debris, but varied in colour. Sample 1 (211) had lumps of red burnt sand and clay while Sample 2 (also 211) appeared greener in colour, had less visible charcoal, and consisted of clayey soil. Sample 3 (116), appeared medium green brown and had a smaller amount of charcoal than the other two samples.

The soil was wet-sieved in a sieving tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation through a 0.30mm mesh sieve. The residue in the tank mesh was air-dried and sorted for all finds. The flotation fraction (flot) was air dried and scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnifications between 10x and 40x. Sample context, volume and a summary of results are presented in table 1. Plant names follow Stace (1997).

**Table 1**: Summary of results by sample.

			V in	Ch and Ch	Ch	
Sample	Context	Feature	L	flecks	Se	Comments
						Some lumps of
						burnt clay were
						visible in the
1	211	Burnt gully	5	XX	X	sample
2	211	Burnt gully	5	XX	X	
		Centre of				
3	116	kiln	5	XX		

V=volume, L=litres, Ch=charcoal, Ch Se= charred seeds, x=present in low quantity, xx=common

#### Results and discussion

The assemblage consisted mainly of charcoal, in very small, fragile fragments, with a greater quantity in Sample 1 than 2, and a much smaller amount in Sample 3. The state of preservation of the charcoal suggests that damp or even waterlogged conditions may have occurred in the ground in the past.

The seed assemblage was poor in all samples, and was mainly represented by charred grass seeds (Poaceae) recovered in very low number Sample 1 and 2. These could have grown nearby or were brought into the site as kindling or building material.

There were no identifiable seeds from Sample 3, despite it coming from the centre of a kiln. The absence of charred cereal grains, crop processing by products and weeds, from both the kiln and the gully samples suggests that was not used for crop processing. The charcoal may therefore result from an unspecified industrial or domestic activity.

## Other finds

No other finds were retrieved from both tank mesh and flot.

#### **Conclusions**

Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage was poor in terms of charred plant remains. No material useful for C14 dating was found as the charcoal could not be identified and the seeds retrieved are in too low in number.

#### **Statement of Potential and Recommendations**

No further archaeobotanical analysis is recommended on these samples. However, it is important to take into account that soil conditions can vary widely across different areas of a site. Despite the paucity of remains recovered in this assessment, an appropriate sampling strategy is still highly advisable if future archaeological work is undertaken in the area.

## **Bibliography**

Stace C., 1997. New Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Appendix 8: OASIS ID: preconst3-154238

#### **Project details**

Project name

Land to the East of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk

Short description of the project

Full Planning Permission was granted in 2012 for 335 residential units together with associated access, car parking, open space and landscape provision on Land East of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk. In accordance with conditions attached to the full planning permission Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., (PCAS) were commissioned by Ecus Ltd, on behalf of Ben Bailey Homes, to undertake an initial scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the site in association with proposed service runs. The monitoring revealed a low level of archaeological features and suggests peripheral activity to settlement situated to the south and east. Dating was limited but indicates the focus of activity to be later Roman, possibly 4th century. These works add to and improve previous archaeological knowledge of the site namely in the identification of evidence for a possible high status building in the close vicinity.

Project dates Start: 13-03-2013 End: 27-03-2013

Previous/future work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

NWHCM:2013.160 - Museum accession ID

Any associated project reference codes

SBRM13 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type PITS Roman

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type QUARRY PIT Roman

Monument type KILN/KILN FEATURES Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds CBM Roman

Significant Finds CHISEL (FE OBJ) Uncertain

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Roman

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

## **Project location**

Country England

Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND SWAFFHAM Land to the East of Brandon Road

Swaffham, Northfolk

Study area 10.50 Hectares

Site coordinates TF 82300 07300 52 0 52 37 56 N 000 41 38 E Point

## **Project creators**

Name of Organisation

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Project W director/manager

Will Munford

Project supervisor Simon Savage and Michael Johnson

Type of sponsor/funding body

Developer

## **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient

Norwich Castle Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"

Digital Archive Exists?

No

Paper Archive recipient

Norwich Castle Museum

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

# Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the East of Brandon Road, Swaffham, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Keal, L.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	PCA Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln
Description	A4 heat bound Grey literature report.