Land South of Foundry Way, March, Cambridgeshire.

An Archaeological Excavation.

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Summary

Between 25th November 2008 and 18th December 2008, a team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an excavation on 0.17 ha of land 2.5km north of March, Cambridgeshire, south of Longhill Road, centred at 541541 299216. The site is at a height of between 3.3m and 3.71m OD on the edge of March Island. The excavation followed an initial evaluation in 2003 and was designed to further our understanding of the extent, nature and significance of the Romano-British activity that was identified. The investigation was commissioned by Luminus Group and the programme of works was designed by CAPCA (Gdaniec 2008). Evidence for Late Iron Age/ Early Roman activity was identified within two of the three excavation areas in the form of pits, wells/ watering holes, ditches, postholes and artefacts. Background evidence for Neolithic activity was also identified in the form of flint artefacts.

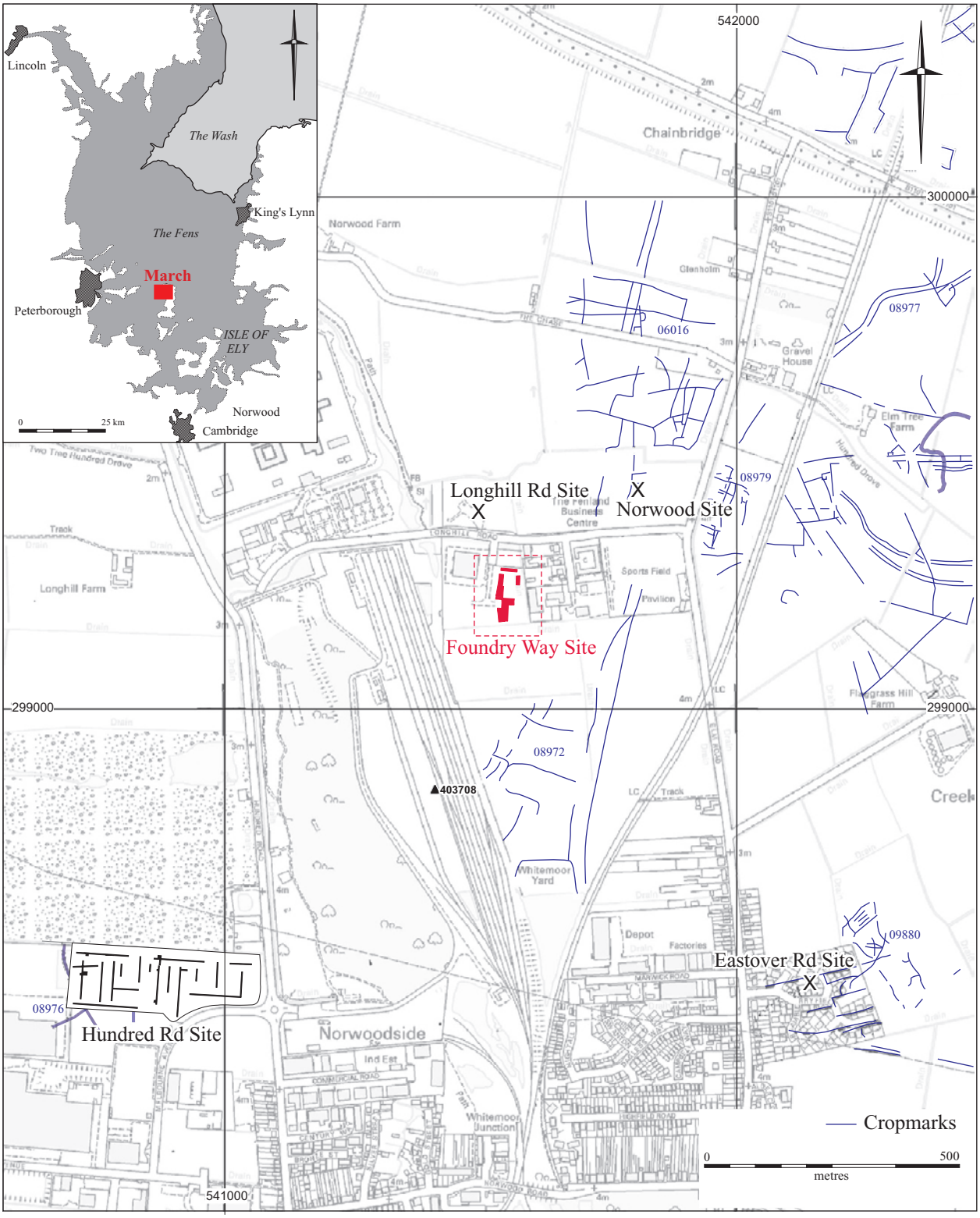

Figure 1: Location Plan.

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out at land south of Longhill Road, March Cambridgeshire to fulfil requirements of planning application, (F/YR08/0274/F), the erection of three industrial units. The project was commissioned by Luminus Group and the programme of works was designed by CAPCA (Gdaniec 2008). Due to the fact that the three industrial units were under construction at the time of the archaeological excavation, the investigation was divided into three separate areas which were located on the remaining undeveloped land around and between the industrial units. The excavation was carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit between 25th November and 18th December 2008.

Topography and Geology

The development area lies 2.5km north of March, Cambridgeshire, south of Longhill Road, centred at 541541 299216 and covers 0.17 ha of land (figure 1). The site was split into three small open areas: Area A (1420m²) which lies to the immediate west of two of the three industrial units within the DA; Area B (157m²) which lies to the immediate north of the industrial units; and Area C (125.8m²) which lies to the immediate east of the northern most industrial unit (figure 2).

The development area is situated on the northern edge of March Island, within the East Anglian Fenlands. This places the site within a fen edge environment at a time when there would have been renewed alluvial inundation (French 2003). The underlying geology was comprised mainly of glacial till (boulder clay) (British Geological Survey 1995). The till is occasionally obscured by flinty sands and gravels, which were probably derived through hill wash processes from the nearby exposures of the interglacial March Gravels (Atkins 2003).

The excavation was situated on moderately flat ground varying only slightly in height from between 3.0m OD at the south to 3.4m OD in the north. The water table was encountered in Areas A and B of the excavation, particularly in Area A where the water table was encountered at the same height or above the top of the archaeological features and was prone to flooding.

Archaeological Background

The site and its surrounding environment have previously been discussed in Britchfield, D. (undated), which was followed by a trench based evaluation (Atkins 2003). A further excavation was undertaken on the land immediately north of Longhill Road in 2004 – 2005 prior to the construction of a wind turbine, although no results have been made available. Consequently the archaeology is only briefly summarised in this report.

The evaluation (Atkins 2003) revealed evidence for a regionally important early Roman salt making area to the north of Longhill Road, perhaps utilising the water from the river channels on the fen edge. Associated domestic occupation was also identified, which extended into the area south of Longhill road and dated to the first

and second centuries AD. More specifically, the trenches within the eastern part of the evaluated area, south of Longhill Road (trenches 8, 9 and 10), appear to have defined the eastern boundary of the settlement, as features are less dense and in fact cease to exist within trench 9. The 2003 evaluation (Atkins) also identified the truncated nature of the archaeology within this part of the development area and suggests that the site has been subject to landscaping in the recent past.

Methodology

The excavation investigated a total of 0.17 ha of land which was comprised of three small areas fitted in between the industrial units that were under construction at the time of the excavation. These three areas, (A (1420m²), B (157m²) and C (125.8m²)), represented the remainder of the accessible/ un-development land within the site boundaries and were presented as a hardcore subsurface which was being used for road construction access and a car park. A layer of waterproof plastic and a layer of non-directional geotextile were found underneath the hardcore, all of which were removed using a 360º excavator with a flat bucket attachment. A layer of imported topsoil was uncovered beneath the hardcore build up, which appeared to replace the deposits, (topsoil and subsoil), that originally overlay the natural substrate/ archaeological level presumed to have been stripped at an un-known time prior to the onset of development of the industrial units.

Deposits overlying the archaeology were machined under archaeological supervision and scanned by eye and with a metal detector. All of the archaeological features were planned immediately and subsequently sampled. A minimum of 50% of each discrete feature was excavated, while ditches were sampled in 1m sections. Excavation was carried out by hand and all finds were retained. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); assigning context numbers (e.g. [fill], [cut]) to stratigraphic units and feature numbers, F., to interrelated stratigraphic units (e.g. a ditch's cut and fills). Base plans were drawn at 1:50, sections at 1:10 or 1:20. The photographic archive comprises colour and black and white slides as well as digital images. A representative range of features were bulk sampled. All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation, within CAU risk assessment, and with the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen and Holt 2002).

The artefacts and accompanying documentary records have been compiled into a stable indexed archive. This is currently stored at CAU under the project code FYM08. Within the text, the reference to a feature number is marked in bold (e.g. **F.1**) and context numbers in square brackets (e.g. [01]).

Figure 2: Excavation Areas location plan

Results

Twenty four features were revealed including, linears, pits, wells and post holes. The archaeology identified within Areas A, B, and C was covered by a dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil that had been imported from elsewhere, meaning that all features within the development area had been truncated in the past when the original topsoil was removed. It is likely that the original topsoil had been removed using a toothed machine bucket as occasional, short, parallel lines were identified (reminiscent of the teeth from the bucket) cut into the natural substrate which was a bright orange gravel and lighter clay mix. This imported soil was in turn covered by a layer of water proof plastic, then a layer of textile, before being covered by a layer of hardcore rubble.

Area A *– 1420m², centred at 541541/ 299216, at a height between 3.0m and 3.3m OD*

Fifteen archaeological features were revealed within Area A, including seven linears, five pits, one large watering hole, one very small charcoal rich pit, and one tree throw. Evidence of modern truncation was identified within the majority of the features, the most obvious of which was a potential east-west aligned linear at the south of Area A which remained only in shadow (figure 2). Five modern east-west linears were also identified within Area 1, which included old field drains and out of use service trenches. One of the field drains heavily truncated linear **F.7**, further obscuring the relationships between the cluster of features in the vicinity.

Tree throw **F.1** was a sub-circular feature, 0.65m wide, 0.9m deep, with steep, irregular sides and a gently concave base, that was filled with a gravely sandy silt deposit. The tree throw contained rare flecks of burnt clay and eleven heavily burnt and heat fractured flints, including a potential flake knife/ arrowhead and a large end scraper typical of the Late Neolithic period (Billington, appendix 1). **F.1** was situated at the southern edge of Area A with no apparent relationship to any other features within the development area.

Linear **F.2** was aligned roughly north-south and was situated within the southern half of Area A and continued north to terminate at an unknown point between Areas A and B. **F.2** was heavily truncated and had an inconsistent profile along its length ranging from steep and concave with a concave base to near vertical sides with an almost flat base and was between 0.65m-0.9m wide and 0.1m-0.3m deep. No material culture was obtained from the single fill within linear **F.2**, which was cut by a perpendicular west northwest-east southeast aligned ditch **F.7**. Minimal material culture was also recovered from ditch **F.7** in the form of very sparse animal bone and a single piece of burnt clay. The profile of ditch **F.7** was varied as part of its length was cut through underlying pit group 1 (figure 3). Where the ditch was cut into natural (to the east) the profile was straight and regular with steep sides and a concave base, 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep. At this point, the ditch was filled by a soft silty sand upper deposit and a gravel rich silty sand basal deposit with a sharp basal boundary. Where the ditch was cut through pit group 1 the profile was irregular and eroded, taking on the dimensions of the underlying pits. The ditch was filled with the same upper fill as in the east but had a softer, silty sand basal fill containing no gravel with a diffuse basal boundary. It is likely that F.11 in Trench 10 of the 2003 evaluation (Atkins 2003) corresponds with

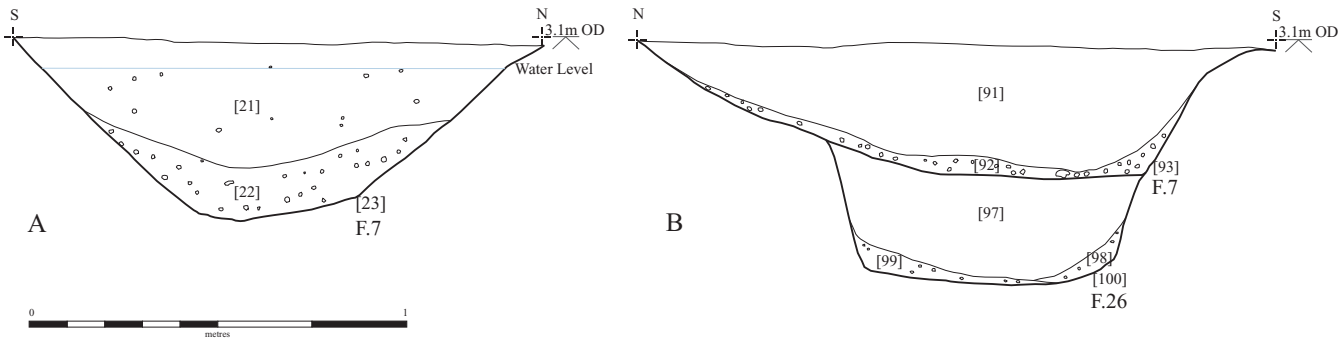

Figure 3: Sections of Ditch F.7

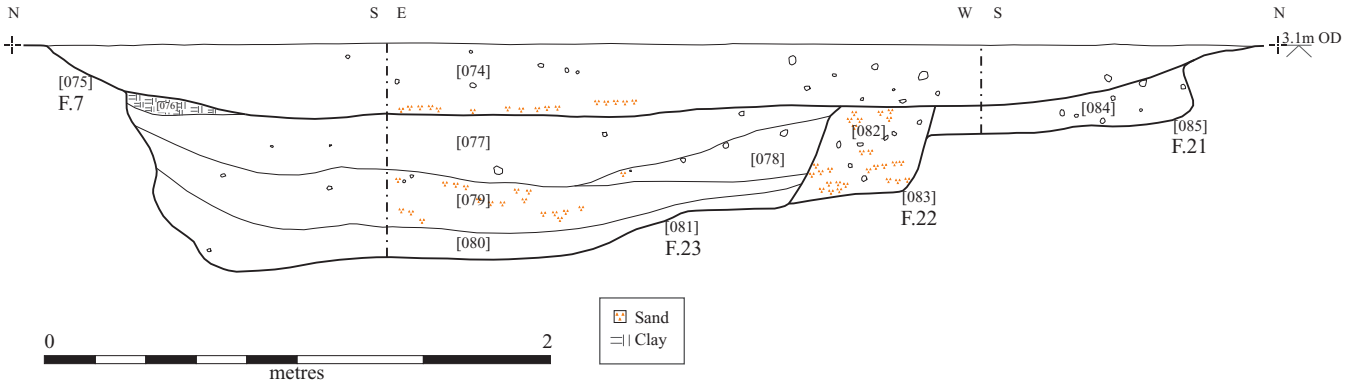

Figure 4: Section of Pit Group 1.

ditch **F.7**. A further small linear **F.19** was excavated to the west of **F.2** and south of **F.7** aligned northeast-southwest. The gully was heavily truncated and only 1.5m of its length remained, its relationship with **F.7** was undeterminable due to the shallow nature of the feature (0.05m deep).

Pit group 1 was made up of four inter-cutting pits (**F.21**, **F.22**, **F.23**, and **F.26**) aligned roughly east-west, situated beneath ditch **F.7**. Pit **F.21** is cut by **F.22** on its eastern side, which in turn is cut by **F.23** also on its eastern side, all of which are truncated by a later ditch, **F.7**. Due to truncation, the original/ exact dimensions of the pits remain uncertain (roughly 0.9m wide and between 0.28m-0.7m remaining depth), however all four pits had steep, near vertical sides with sharp basal breaks of slope and flat bases and were oval in plan (figure 4). The basal boundaries between each of the pits were diffuse because of the soft sandy silty clay deposits they were cut into each time they were re-cut. Eight fragments of animal bone were excavated from within the basal fill of the latest and deepest of the inter-cutting pits (**F.23**), no other material culture was recovered. Bulk environmental analysis from the basal fill [80] of **F.23** revealed a single wheat glume and two grass seeds (wild or cultivated). It is likely that pit **F.9** in trench 10 of the 2003 evaluation (Atkins 2003) is part of this pit cluster as the dimensions, fills and its location under a ditch all appear to correspond with these pits.

Watering hole **F.17** was an irregular sub-oblong feature in plan, 10m at its longest point by 5.75m wide. Two 1m wide, perpendicular transects were excavated into the watering hole and finds were collected in 1m squares within the transects (figure 5). Due to the unstable nature of the feature, the transects were only dug to a depth of 0.4m, the edges of which were shallow and irregular down to this point. Nine fills were identified within the top 0.4m which were large and unambiguous in the centre but diffuse and thin towards the edges, due to continuous slumping. An auger was sunk into the centre of the watering hole which reached natural clay at a depth of 2.05m.

Figure 5: Photograph of Watering Hole F.17

Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery was recovered from the watering hole, as well as residual un-diagnostic flints, sparse animal bone, a quern stone fragment and a single piece of Roman tile. The finds were clustered in the central squares of the

feature, in particular the pottery was most abundant in square C (Figure 2) suggesting a localised dumping of material. It is possible that there were several inter-cutting pits/ or several re-cuts within this watering hole, however they were not distinguishable. Environmental analysis from a central point within the watering hole revealed a single wheat glume base and two grass seeds which were not waterlogged, however this was taken from approximately 0.75m from the surface, not the base of the feature. A box section excavated at the junction of **F.17** and small drainage gully **F.18** appeared to show erosion of the softish natural sand that formed part of the watering holes upper side, presumably caused by water from the gully pouring in. The northwest-southeast aligned gully was 0.39m wide and 0.17m deep which was filled by a very fine silty sand which contained a residual Early Neolithic bladelet and sparse animal bone.

Pit **F.4** was a circular feature 1.6m in diameter and 0.38m deep with a sharp but truncated top break of slope, irregular sides, and an almost flat base. The irregularity of the sides is possibly due to the unstable nature of the surrounding sand natural into which the pit was cut. Pit **F.4** was filled with a single mottled blue/ grey and red/ brown sandy silt which contained rare animal bones through out. No obvious residue or any other cultural material was found within.

A heavily truncated sub-circular pit **F.3**, 0.45m in diameter and 0.1m deep was excavated within the northern half of Area A. 1g of extremely fragmented, well calcined bone, identifiable as neither human or animal was recovered from within **F.3** (Natasha Dodwell, personal communication, 07th July 2009). The small burnt pit was very shallow with irregular sides and was filled with a dark greyish black, charcoal rich silty clay.

Area B *– 157m², centred at 541554/ 299273, at a height between 3.3m and 3.4m OD*

Eleven archaeological features were revealed within Area B, including two large pit/ wells, three post holes, and six smaller inter-cutting pits. Evidence of modern truncation was identified within the majority of the features which was discernible due to the sharp boundary between the imported topsoil and upper fills of the features, as well as the truncated nature of the upper fills within the larger features (which could be identified in section).

Pit **F.5** was a large, (2.65m wide, 0.56m deep), sub-square feature with rounded corners leading to a flat circular base that was filled with weathering deposits from the surrounding loose natural. Despite its shape it is unlikely that **F.5** was a quarry pit as it was not dug deep into clean gravel, it is also unlikely to be a soaking pit as no residue/ sediments were found in the base and only a single cow mandible was identified within the basal fill. Bulk environmental evidence revealed little other than a small amount of charcoal and evidence for storage or cultivation within the vicinity therefore it is likely to have been used as a well (figure 6). **F.14** was a larger well/ watering hole, (4m wide, over 1.2m deep), with steep but irregular sides deepening east of the centre and gently sloping to a possible 'access platform' on the western side (figure 6). The cut of well **F.14** has taken advantage of the surrounding change in natural from an unstable loose gravel/ sand mix to a stable, firm, clay, which has enabled the deeper central shaft of the well to hold its shape. The well was filled with

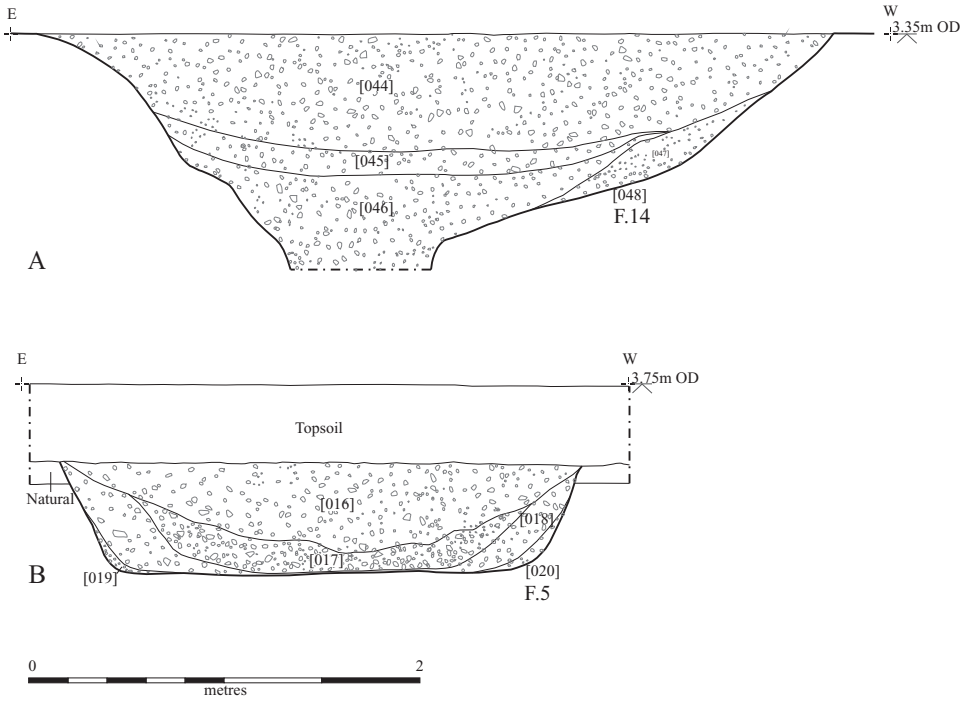

Figure 6: Sections of Well F.5 and Well F.14

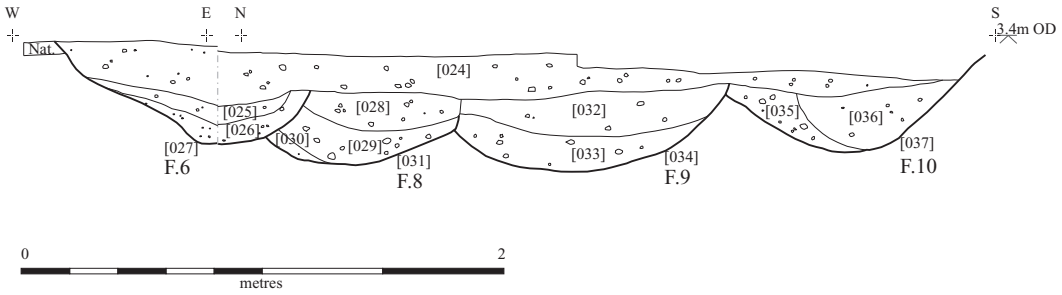

Figure 7: Section of Pit Group 3

natural silting episodes and produced only a single animal bone, however the base of the well was not excavated as it was too unstable at depth. A bulk environmental sample taken from the deepest fill revealed a small amount of charcoal but more importantly, a few dried waterlogged seeds, and suggests the basal fill was permanently wet. This reinforces the theory that **F.14** was a well.

Post holes **F.11**, **F.12** and **F.13**, situated in the centre of Area B, were arranged in a straight line orientated northeast-southwest. The postholes were circular/ sub-circular in plan and between 0.3m-0.41m in diameter and 0.15m-0.25m deep. **F.11** had almost vertical sides and a flat base, while **F.12** and **F.13** had slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base. No material culture was contained within the postholes and no evidence of a post pipe or post packing remained. The alignment of posts appears to run up to pits **F.15** and **F.16** at the south-eastern end of Area B, however there was no obvious association or reason for this.

A series of six inter-cutting pits, aligned north-south, were excavated at the western end of Area B which were clustered in two smaller groups (figure 2). Pits **F.15** and **F.16,** (pit group 2), were situated at the southern edge of the trench, and were both filled with banded layers of firm, sterile gravely silts that contained no material culture. Pit **F.15** was 1.4m wide and 0.56m deep with a steep slightly undercutting eastern side and a flat base. **F.15** was truncated on its western side by a shallower pit, **F.16**, which was 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep with concave sides and base. Very little material was recovered from the environmental analysis from the basal fill of pit **F.15**. Pit group 3 was composed of four inter-cutting sub-circular pits, **F.6**, **F.8**, **F.9** and **F.10** with a combined north-south length of 3.5m. The four pits were between 1.2m-1.4m in diameter and between 0.33m-0.50m deep with steep, concave sides and either flat or gently concave bases, all of which were filled with moderately loose, gravely, silty sand deposits. Early Roman pottery and residual later prehistoric flints were recovered from the upper fills of pits **F.8** and **F.9**. Although there was a clear matrix between the four inter-cutting pits, it is likely they are roughly contemporary as they are all sealed by the same capping fill, [24]. It is probable that all six pits are quarry pits that were following a seam of high-quality gravel.

Area C *– 125.8m², centred at 541572/ 299252, at a height between 3.2m and 3.3m OD*

No archaeological features were revealed within Area C of the excavation. A single tree throw was identified, which had previously been investigated in the 2003 evaluation of the site. Modern disturbance was also noted within Area C which had occurred during the development of the surrounding industrial units (figure 2).

Discussion

The evaluation carried out in 2003, (Atkins 2003), had previously identified an Early Roman site here, thought to have been a settlement area to the south of a saltern area on the fen edge. As expected, the majority of the features excavated within this excavation were from the Early Roman period, either dated directly or by association with other features. A Neolithic feature was also excavated.

Chronologies

Neolithic
Evidence for background Neolithic activity was identified in the form of residual flints within features already dated to the Early Roman period and within tree throw **F.1**. The tree throw contained a discrete group of burnt, worked flint suggestive of Later Neolithic activity, and represents the only feature on site that can be dated to this period. Incidentally **F.1** was the southern most feature excavated on site, which suggests that any further Neolithic activity is likely to be found in the fields south of Foundry Way.

Early Roman
As expected there was evidence of Early Roman archaeological remains. Pit groups 2 and 3 and watering hole **F.17** contained sherds of Early Roman Pottery, the later of which also contained a few sherds of Late Iron Age pottery, which suggests that there is an Late Iron age presence within the vicinity.

Despite the small percentage of features that can be securely dated to the Early Roman period from the pottery recovered from within them, it is fair to assume that the majority of the remaining features are also of this date. This is possible to assume due to the proximity and similarity in form of the Roman features within the site and previously excavated features to the immediate north (Atkins 2003), and the lack of any other datable evidence or material culture from any other period.

Potential Roman features include two pit/ wells (**F.5** and **F.14**) in Area B and pit group 1 in Area A which was similar in form and composition to pit groups 2 and 3, which contained Roman pottery. The post hole alignment may be part of a structure associated with pit groups 2 and 3 although no obvious indication of this was identified. Pit **F.4** and small burnt pit **F.3** are also potentially Roman, in particular pit **F.4** which had steep sides and a flat base, as did the majority of the securely dated Roman pits.

Apart from the earlier tree throw, no discrete features were identified south of ditch **F.7**, which was aligned west northwest by east southeast. This ditch was probably a boundary and may represent a division of land use from industry in the north and west (Atkins 2003), to settlement/ field systems in the south and east. It is likely that ditch **F.7** replaced an existing boundary which was originally defined by a pit alignment (pit group 1), and that further slots excavated along its length, outside of the development area, would reveal more inter-cutting pits beneath.

The 2003 evaluation (Atkins) indicated a more complex and dense artefact rich archaeological sequence to the west of the Luminus site, which became considerably less dense eastwards, this was corroborated by these excavations which revealed enclosures and watering holes at the margins of the settlement. Therefore the bulk of the 1st – 2nd century settlement probably remains beneath the central and western part of the industrial site. Excavations at Norwood (CHER 06016, TL 418 995), approximately 0.35km to the northeast of Foundry Way, were carried out between 1959-1960 and revealed a Roman settlement, which included evidence of enclosures, salt works, floors and a trackway.

To the south of Foundry Way, a series of 'lazy beds' were excavated at Hundred Road (MCB18212, TL 410 985), approximately 0.8km to the southwest (Hutton & Standring 2008) which were aligned perpendicular to a west northwest by east south east boundary ditch. The pottery from Hundred Road was also of a comparable date and style to sherds found within the Foundry Way site. Excavations at Eastover Road (CHER 07936, TL 421 984), approximately 0.9km southeast of Foundry way, and within the boundaries of known cropmarks (CHER 09880) revealed very early Roman, possibly even very Late Iron Age enclosures associated with a trackway, as well as field systems and a Roman road. The early date of these features correlates with the rare presence of Late Iron Age and predominantly early Roman pottery found within the watering hole at Foundry way, and provides further support for an earlier Iron Age presence in the vicinity before the peak of the industrial activity in the early Roman period.

Further potential evidence of large scale Roman activity can be seen in the form of cropmarks to the north, east and immediately south of Foundry way; CHER numbers 06014, 08977, 08979, and 08972 respectively. It is possible that all of these Roman sites and others in the vicinity (e.g. Barn Farm (OAU 1995) and Whitemoor Sidings (Hall 2004)), together with the cropmarks, are part of the same extended community. This community is potentially connected to the Fen causeway which is a main arterial route within the Fen.

Approximately 15km to the west, at Eye Quarry, A Romano-British settlement with intensive agriculture and industry was identified, which was believed to be part of one developing community. There were two distinct phases of Romano-British activity within this community at eye; industrial and agricultural. The first phase was industrial, in the form of salt making which was associated with enclosures. It appears that there was a shift in activity from industry to the second phase; a more intensive agriculture identified predominantly in the form of 'lazy beds' (Patten 2004). A similar representation of Romano-British features and their associated use is recognized within the vicinity of the Foundry Way site and it is possible that a similar pattern of occupation occurred here. It is also possible that these two types of activity are concurrent, creating a diversified local economy, which would have been stronger and more sustainable to the local community than a single one. It is also highly likely that both salt making and agriculture are seasonal occupations, which enable the community to remain 'industrially' active all year round.

Modern Disturbance
Five east-west aligned modern field drains and disused service trenches were identified in Area A which further obscured the complex relationships between features associated with and situated beneath ditch **F.7**. Modern disturbance was also noted in Area C which was situated immediately east of industrial unit 3 which was under construction at the time. The most substantial disturbance within the site was the removal and importation of topsoil which appeared to be spread over the entirety of the site. This truncation leads to the assumption that only the deepest/ most robust features have survived.

Landscape

A degree of variation in the natural substrate was identified within the site which ranged from loose gravel to stable clay, with the majority of the site being composed of a patchy mix of the two. The archaeology identified on site appeared to take advantage of this variable natural as features (such as the wells in Area B) were excavated to a greater depth where they were dug into the more water retentive clay. It also appears that the clusters of pits were dug into seams of good quality gravel and avoided the clay areas, which reinforces the theory that they were quarry pits. The archaeology within the site and surrounding sites north and south of Foundry Way is situated on the slightly lower lying edge of March Island in close proximity to numerous brackish river channels, slightly higher than the surrounding north March Fen. The slightly higher dryer ground situated close to the brackish river channels would have been critical for the development of industry and settlement identified within the site, particularly if this settlement had links with the main arterial route of the Fen causeway.

Conclusions

The excavation revealed background evidence for Neolithic activity towards the south of the site, which was not identified within the evaluation. This is unsurprising and may be explained by either: heavy truncation caused by layers of Romano-British industrial activity; or more likely, that the archaeological activity was not dense to begin with and is in fact on marginal ground.

This excavation has confirmed the presence of and refined the character of the Romano-British settlement that extended south from the industrial 'salt making' area, identified in the 2003 evaluation. The evidence of Iron Age activity identified within the site is limited to four residual pottery sherds within one Romano-British watering hole. The pits and ditches excavated were not 'refuse-rich' and no further evidence for 'salt-making' was identified, suggesting the site is situated on the edge of the settlement away from the industrial area. The lack of archaeological features within Area C confirms the hypothesised eastern limit of the settlement.

The preservation of features was varied due to the removal and importation of topsoil within the development area. The deepest features survived well, however the shallower ones were all but truncated away, suggesting that any shallow drip gullies

or post holes that you would expect to find associated with settlement/ structures no longer exist.

Although the quantity of subsurface features revealed and artefacts recovered was comparatively low, this excavation has enhanced our understanding of the Romano-British occupation of the northern edge of March Island.

Appendices

Flint *– Lawrence Billington*

The excavations recovered 16 worked flints (85.3g) together with a single burnt unworked flint chunk (4.4g).

Feature no.	Feature type	unworked burnt	secondary flake	tertiary flake	secondary blade	end scraper	retouched flake	Totals
1			3	5		1	2	**11**
8			1					**1**
9			2					**2**
17		1		1				**2**
18					1			**1**
	Totals	**1**	**6**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**17**

Table 1: Composition of the Flint Assemblage

The flakes from F.8, F.9 and F.17 are small hard hammer struck flakes of varied morphology, struck from unprepared platforms and are chronologically undiagnostic. F.18 produced a single bladelet, soft hammer struck from a carefully trimmed platform. This piece is the result of systematic core reduction geared towards narrow flake and blade production and, as such, is probably later Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic in date.

Tree throw F.1 produced a more substantial assemblage of 11 pieces of worked flint. All of these were heavily burnt and heat fractured. The majority of the pieces were undiagnostic fragmentary flakes, but included two broken pieces with invasively retouched edges. Although they do not refit it is likely they derive from the same artefact, potentially a flake knife or arrowhead. A large end scraper was the only diagnostic piece recovered, struck from a carefully facetted platform this piece is typical of a specialised form of later Neolithic flake production from discoidal or keeled cores.

The small assemblage from the site is generally composed of undiagnostic pieces perhaps representative of later prehistoric activity. Earlier, Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic activity is strongly suggested by the bladelet from F.18. The assemblage from F.1 appears to represent the deposition of a discreet group of burnt flintwork which, on the basis of a single diagnostic type, is suggested to be later Neolithic in date.

Roman Pottery *– Katie Anderson*

An assemblage totalling 34 sherds and weighing 945g was recovered from the excavation. All of the pottery was examined and details of fabric, form, date and decoration were recorded, along with any information deemed important.

The bulk of the pottery came from the large watering hole, Feature 17, which accounted for 92% of the assemblage. The material was collected from five test squares and dated to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. This included two sherds form a large shell-tempered storage jar and an oxidised sandy beaded rim jar, both of which date to the early Roman period. There were several sandy Late Iron Age handmade/ wheel-turned sherds.

Feature 8 contained only early Roman greyware body sherds, while one sherd from an oxidised sandy beaker with pinched decoration, was recovered from Feature 9. This sherd is also likely to be early Roman in date. Finally a sandy greyware sherd was recovered from the south of the site as a surface find.

The small assemblage of pottery recovered from this site suggests Late Iron Age and early Roman occupation in this area. Evidence for later Roman activity, as identified during an earlier phase of archaeological investigation (Macaulay 2003) is lacking in this area.

Tile

One fragment of shell-tempered tile was recovered from Feature 17. Its form is unclear and although the date is uncertain, that it was recovered alongside Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery suggests this as a possible date for the tile.

An undated piece of burnt clay, weighing 6g was collected from Feature 25.

Faunal Remains *– Vida Rajkovača*

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from site during the excavation carried out in 2008. The overall size of the assemblage numbered 28 fragments, 96.4% of which were identifiable to element and a further 16, (57.1%), could be identified to species. The assemblage was identified using the CAU reference collection, Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1999).

Preservation

Of the 15 contexts analysed, one demonstrated poor and ten showed quite poor preservation. This equates to a total number of 21 fragments showing quite poor to poor preservation and 7 fragments demonstrating moderate to good preservation; showing less or no bone damage or signs of weathering.

Results

A number of bones could only be assigned to a size category (Large, Medium or Unidentified Mammal), due to the breakage and erosion. The majority of the bones were recovered from several watering holes (wells) scattered across the excavated area. The biggest watering hole that elicited the most bones was feature 17, where 14 (50%) bone specimens came from. Horse tibia and pelvis were recorded in F. 23, the tibia bearing quite deep, probably cleaver marks. This would suggest a possible Roman date, which fits well with the dates from the pottery analysis. Feature 7 was a V-shaped Roman ditch where only one cattle bone had been found.

Species	**NISP**	**MNI**
Cow	12	1
Sheep/Goat	2	1
Horse	2	1
UUM	1	-
ULM	7	-
UMM	4	-

Table 2: Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) and MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)
Key: UMM & ULM = Unidentified Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment.

Conclusion

It is difficult to discuss this assemblage further in the absence of any toothwear data, and near absence of butchery or measurements. However, the general size of the elements would seem to indicate large sized domesticates such as cattle. Cattle are the dominant species, being the largest meat providers. The importance of cattle in the Romano-British economy and diet is well known and the limited bone that came from the excavations at Foundry Way March fit very well with this view. Judging by the predominance of cattle on this site, it would seem probable that the site had been practicing a Romanised form of economy for some time, as we know that beef consumption tends to be characteristic of Romano-British sites (Grant 1989). A number of bones found in watering holes would seem to suggest that the excavated area represents the outskirts of a settlement discovered in the previous investigations in the area.

Worked Stone *– Simon Timberlake*

A single fragment of worked stone (**<029>**) was recovered from Square H, a sample pit cut into the top of a large watering hole/ series of inter-cut pits (F.17) which was excavated to a depth of approx. 0.5m.

The small fragment of conglomerate (60mm x 60mm x 40mm; weight 160g) was part of a *rotary quernstone* which included part of the grinding surface of what was probably the upper stone of a beehive-shaped puddingstone quern. The fragment shows evidence of the intense burning which probably caused the break-up of the stone; this included the reddening of the exterior and calcination of the interior surfaces of the flint clasts, together with the reddening and also weakening of the sandy matrix and cement.

The quern is made of Hertfordshire Puddingstone, a Lower Eocene conglomerate containing well rounded clasts of flint pebbles, a rock which outcrops intermittently in Hertfordshire from South Mimms to Aldenham near Watford (Robinson 1988), and St.Albans. This was formerly quarried for quernstone manufacture at Abbington Piggotts, Herts. (Curwen 1941). The latter site was one of the main sources of these beehive pudding-stone querns in the Iron Age, moreover, these quarries were known to have been exploited from the Late Iron Age into the Early Roman period (Wilkes & Elrington 1978). This trade in beehive puddingstone querns may have passed north-eastwards along the Icknield Way into East Anglia, and then perhaps north and westwards into the Fens along the tributaries of the River Ouse. This use of puddingstone quern continued into the Roman Period (1^{st}-2^{nd} centuries AD); the continuation perhaps of a pre-Roman tradition of use still adhered to amongst far-flung rural Romano-British communities. For a while the use of puddingstone quern coexisted with the introduction of Millstone Grit imported from the Pennines, and as such, this is not an uncommon find on Roman sites in Cambridgeshire. However, further northwards into the Fens puddingstone querns become less common.

Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples *– Anne de Varielles*

Methodology

Five bulk soil samples from five features of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman date were collected for archaeobotanical analysis, and processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. Flots were collected in 300µm sieves and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. Both flots and residues were dried prior to analysis. For this assessment, only heavy residue components greater than 4mm were sorted by eye. The smaller 1–4mm fractions have been stored for future reference. Sorting of the flots was carried out under a low power binocular microscope (x6–40) in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereal, Stace (1997) for all other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All macro-remains are listed in table 3.

Preservation

Charcoal occurred in all samples but only in small quantities and very fragmented. Other plant remains were rare but are quite well preserved. The preservation status suggests the macro-remains were not *in situ* but an accidental distribution of debris scattered across the area.

Occasional molluscs were noted. Modern rootlets were present in all samples and indicate some level of bioturbation.

Results and Discussion

Pit F.5 [18]

Only a little charcoal and some modern roots and seeds were retrieved from the 10 litre sample. The pit was not waterlogged.

Pit F.23 [80]

A single wheat glume base (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*), two grass seed fragments (wild or cultivated) and a tiny amount of charcoal were found in the 8 litre sample.

Pit F.15 [51] from pit group 2

The 4 litre sample contained very little material: two wild plant seeds and one grass seed fragment (wild or cultivated) were found, along with a tiny quantity of small charcoal.

Watering-hole F.17 [61]

The sample taken from this feature was dry and did not contain any evidence for a water-table higher than at its present day level. A little charcoal, one wheat glume base (*T. spelta/dicoccum*) and two grass fragments (either cereal or wild grass) were found. Rather than burnt waste purposefully discarded into the watering-hole, the finds seem to represent random scatters of debris from nearby activities.

Watering-hole/well F.14 [46]

Charcoal was the only charred archaeobotanical remain recovered. However, there were also a few dried waterlogged seeds which may be Romano-British. The seeds indicate that the water-table was higher so that context [46] was once permanently waterlogged. Too few seeds have survived to provide any environmental information.

Conclusion

Very few plant macro-remains were recovered from the five samples chosen for analysis. None of the features appear to have been used as rubbish pits for burnt plant processing or cooking waste. In fact, the occasional archaeobotanical finds represent loose debris, probably related to activities north of Longhill Road (see above).

Dried waterlogged seeds in F.14 indicate increased fluctuations in the water-table. Some molluscs were recovered, but too few to be of ecological significance.

Sample number	**5**	**9**	**7**	**6**	**8**
Context	18	80	51	46	61
Feature	5	23	15	14	17
Feature type	pit	pit in group 1	pit in group 2	watering-hole	watering-hole
Phase/Date	**LIA/ER**	**LIA/ER**	**LIA/ER**	**LIA/ER**	**LIA/ER**
Excavation area	B	A	B	B	A
Sample volume - litres	10	8	4	10	8
Flot volume - mililitres	2.5	2.5	1	8	5
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100	100	100	100
large charcoal (>4mm)	-				-
med. charcoal (2-4mm)	-		-	++	+
small charcoal (<2mm)	+++	++	++	+++	+++
vitrified charcoal	-	-			-
Cereal chaff					
Triticum spelta/dicoccum glume base - spelt/emmer chaff		1			1
Non Cereal seeds					
cf. *Odontites vernus* - possible red bartsia			1		
cf. *Lolium* sp. - possible rye-grass			1		
Poaceae frag. indet. - wild or cultivated grass seed frag.		2	1		1
Poaceae culm internode - wild or cultivated grass stem					1
Fresh water mollusca					
Lymnaea truncatula				-	+
Lymnaea peregra		-			
Anisus leucostama		-	-		
Damp / Shade loving species					
Cochlicopa lubrica / lubricella					-
Vallonia sp.					+
Catholic species					
Trichia sp.		+			++
Intrusive seeds	++		+		-
Waterlogged seeds, age indet				++	
Modern rootlets	P	P	P	P	P

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 items. P = present.

Table 3: Charred Plant Macro-Remains and Mollusca from the Bulk Soil Samples

Context Descriptions

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
01	01	tree throw	A	f	soft, light grey mottled with light orange yellow, sandy silt, with rare small sub- angular gravels, rare small very friable orange flecks of burnt clay. Contained frequent worked flint, some burnt at east part of pit, situated on top of wide lump of wood.	02						flint	
02	01	tree throw	A	c	sub-circular in plan with sharp top break of slope, sharp bottom break of slope		0.65	0.55	0.19	irregular and steep	slightly concave		
03	02	ditch	A	f	loose, light grey mottled with light orangey yellow sandy silt, with very rare small sub-angular gravel.	04							
04	02	ditch	A	c	NE-SW aligned linear with sharp top break of slope and a gradual bottom break of slope		1.00+	0.65	0.18	steep and concave	concave		
05	02	ditch	A	f	loose, light grey mottled with light orangey yellow sandy silt, with very rare small sub-angular gravel, subject to vertical bioturbation.	06							
06	02	ditch	A	c	NE-SW aligned linear with gradual top break of slope and a gradual basal break of slope		1.00+	0.70	0.10	steep and concave	flat		
07	03	cremation	A	f	dark greyish black charcoal rich silty clay with small grit, contained human bone sherds	10						cremated bone	0.00-0.05m spit SW half
08	03	cremation	A	f	dark greyish black charcoal rich silty clay with small grit, contained human bone sherds	10						cremated bone	0.05-0.10m spit SW half
09	03	cremation	A	f	dark greyish black charcoal rich silty clay with small grit, contained human bone sherds	10						cremated bone	0.00-0.05m spit NE half
10	03	cremation	A	f	dark greyish black charcoal rich silty clay with small grit, contained human bone sherds	10						cremated bone	0.05-0.10m spit NE half
11	03	cremation	A	c	shallow, sub-circular in plan with indeterminable top break of slope.		0.45	0.45	0.10	shallow	stepped		
12	02	ditch	A	c	NE-SW aligned linear with moderate top break of slope and a moderate bottom break of slope		1.00+	0.90	0.30	near vertical	almost flat		
13	02	ditch	A	f	compact, light grey, clay, with occasional grit, gravel, and angular stones	12							
14	04	pit	A	f	loose, light bluish grey mottled brown reddish sandy silt in patches and vertical stripes with moderate poorly sorted sub-angular small gravel.	15						animal bone	
15	04	pit	A	c	circular in plan with sharp top break of slope and moderate basal break of slope		1.60	1.55	0.38	irregular moderate with slight undercut	irregular flat		
16	05	pit	B	f	firm but friable, mid darkish brownish grey with common dull red brown mottling, very silty sand with common stones<30mm, rarely to <70mm	20							
17	05	pit	B	f	firm but friable, mid pale very orangey brown with common broad diffuse mottles merging to irregular patches of mid pale grey brown with very slightly silty sands and common stones <40mm frequenting the more orange sandy component	20							
18	05	pit	B	f	firmish friable mid faintly brownish grey silty sand with moderate stones <40mm	20						animal bone	
19	05	pit	B	f	loose very friable diffuse patches of slightly/barely brownish greyish stained oranges and whites, with faintly to less silty sands & fine calcarious gravels	20							

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
20	05	pit	B	c	rectilinear with rounded corners in plan with a sharp top break of slope leading to a moderate basal break of slope and a circular base		2.65	1.05	0.56	steep	flat		
21	07	ditch	A	f	soft, light brownish grey water saturated silty sand, with very rare small pea gravel and flecks of charcoal, diffuse basal boundary, tertiary fill	23						animal bone	
22	07	ditch	A	f	loose, mottled light brownish grey & darkish orange gravel (30%) within silty sand and a clear basal boundary	23							
23	07	ditch	A	c	E-W aligned, straight and regular linear with sharp top break of slope and gradual basal break of slope		1.00+	1.40	0.50	straight and steep	concave		
24	06, 08, 09, 10	pit	B	f	moderately firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt mottled with occasional patches of red brown moderately compact iron panning, contained moderate inclusions of sub-angular small gravel	27							
25	06	pit	B	f	loose, light brown yellowish silty sand, with rare small sub-angular gravel.	27							
26	06	pit	B	f	basal fill, loose, mid grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of mid brown patches, with moderate small grit and occasional small sub-angular gravel.	27							
27	06	pit	B	c	circular in plan with moderate top and basal breaks of slope		1.40	0.40	0.35	steep and concave	almost flat		cuts F.08
28	08	pit	B	f	moderate, mid grey sandy silt mottled with patches of mid brownish dark red iron panning and patches of light brown pale yellow sand, contained moderate sub-angular gravel.	31						Roman pottery flint	
29	08	pit	B	f	loose, dark grey dark brown sandy silt, with moderate sub-angular and rounded gravel and rare sub-angular small stones.	31							
30	08	pit	B	f	loose, light brown pale yellow slightly silty sand, with moderate small grit and rare angular stones	31							
31	08	pit	B	c	circular in plan with truncated top break of slope and gradual basal break of slope		1.40	0.75	0.45	steep and concave	gently concave		cut by F.06 and abuts F.09
32	09	pit	B	f	moderately firm, dark grey mid brown sandy silt with patches of dark red brown moderately compact iron panning and occasional mottling of pale yellow brown sand with moderate sub-angular gravel	34						Roman pottery flint	
33	09	pit	B	f	loose, dark grey mid brown sandy silt mottled with occasional patches of yellowish sand, with moderate sub-angular small gravel and small grit.	34							
34	09	pit	B	c	sub-circular in plan with sharp top break of slope and moderate basal break of slope.		1.30	1.15	0.50	steep and concave	concave		cuts F.10 and abuts F.08
35	10	pit	B	f	moderately firm, red brown, slightly silty sand with patches of mid grey sandy silt with moderate sub-angular gravel and occasional small stones, similar to surrounding natural.	37							
36	10	pit	B	f	moderate firm, light grey mottled with red brown slightly silty sand with occasional small sub-angular gravel and moderate small grits	37							
37	10	pit	B	c	circular in plan with sharp top break of slope and a gradual basal break of slope		1.18	1.05	0.33	steep and concave	concave		cut by F.09
38	11	post hole	B	f	firm, friable mid brown silty sand with occasional stones <30mm, moderate distribution to the edges	39							

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
39	11	post hole	B	c	sub-circular in plan with sharp top break of slope and a moderate basal break of slope		0.41	0.34	0.25	almost vertical	almost flat		
40	12	post hole	B	f	loose and friable, grey brown sandy silt, with rare small grit and gravels	41							
41	12	post hole	B	c	circular in plan with sharp top of slope and a moderate basal break of slope		0.30	0.30	0.10	concave	concave		
42	13	post hole	B	f	loose and friable, grey brown sandy silt, with rare grit and gravels	43							
43	13	post hole	B	c	circular in plan with gradual top and basal breaks of slope		0.40	0.40	0.15	concave	concave		
44	14	watering hole	B	f	firm friable mid brownish grey with broad patchily variable dull red rusty mineral staining, moderate to common. Colour hue fading very diffusely to faintly yellowish brown towards cut. Silty sand with higher frequency of sand towards edges. Common stones <40mm reducing to moderate and mainly <30mm towards outer edge.	48							
45	14	watering hole	B	f	firm friable mid pal faintly brownish grey silty sand with moderate stones <40mm	48							
46	14	watering hole	B	f	variously soft? sticky and predominantly mid dark brownish grey sandy silts & clayey silts in diffuse merging bands with clear lenses of fairly bright orange gritty sands and pale grey & yellowish gritty gravels. Stones generally occasional/moderate <40mm being least common in the finely sedimented clayey silts	48						animal bone	
47	14	watering hole	B	f	softish lensed pale grey slightly/faintly silty coarse to fine sands with lenses of grits/small stones <15mm	48							
48	14	watering hole	B	c	oval in plan with sharp top break of slope with access platform on western side and deeper plug towards eastern side		4.00	1.20	>1.2	steep but irregular with stepped western side	unknown		not bottomed
49	15	pit	B	f	moderately firm, mid grey mottled with mid brown, sandy silt, with moderate sub-angular gravel and occasional sub-angular small stones and patches of gritty inclusions	52							
50	15	pit	B	f	moderately firm, mid brownish red orangey slightly silty sand, with mottling of mid grey sandy silt, contained moderate sub-angular gravel and frequent small grit.	52							
51	15	pit	B	f	loose, mid grey silt, with occasional sub-angular gravel inclusions and moderate grits.	52							
52	15	pit	B	c	sub-circular in plan with sharp top break of slope, undercutting sides, gradual bottom break of slope		n/a	1.40	0.56	steep and concave	flat		
53	16	pit	B	f	moderately firm, mid grey mottled with red brown sandy silt, with moderate sub-angular gravel and occasional sub-angular stones.	55							
54	16	pit	B	f	moderately loose, mid grey yellow brownish sandy silt, with moderate sub-angular gravel mottled with patches of grit.	55							
55	16	pit	B	c	circular in plan with sharp top break of slope, gradual bottom break of slope and slightly under cutting sides.		n/a	1.20	0.30	steep and concave	concave		cuts F.15
56	18	gully	A	f	moderately firm, pale grey with diffuse but common slightly darker brownish mottling, fine very silty faintly clayey sand with occasional small stones <30mm	57						flint animal bone	feeds into F.17
57	18	gully	A	c	WNW-ESE aligned linear with moderate top break of slope and shallow basal break of slope		0.90+	0.39	0.17	moderately steep and concave	concave		feeds into F.17

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
58	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, mid bluish grey, sandy silt, with rare small stones and a clear basal boundary	67							
59	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, mottled dark reddish orange and light bluish grey, silty sand, with rare small stones, and diffuse basal and lateral boundaries	67							
60	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, mid bluish grey, slightly silty sand with very rare small pea gravels, rare charcoal and diffuse basal and lateral boundaries	67							
61	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, mottled dark reddish orange and light bluish grey, silty sand with rare small stones and diffuse basal and lateral boundaries	67							
62	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, light grey silty sand with clear basal boundary	67							
63	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, light grey silty sand with clear basal boundary	67							
64	17	watering hole	A	f	soft, mottled red and light grey, silty sand with rare small stones and diffuse basal and lateral boundaries	67							
65	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, light grey silty sand with clear basal boundary	67							
66	17	watering hole	A	f	very soft, light grey, silty sand, with occasional small pea gravels and a clear basal boundary	67							
67	17	watering hole	A	c	NW-SE aligned, irregular an uneven oblong in plan, with shallow top break of slope		10+	5.75+	0.35+	irregular and shallow (to level reached)	unknown	Roman pottery flint animal bone quern stone burnt clay tile	finds from mixture of fills (within squares B, C, D, F, G, H, I, J
68	19	gully	A	f	moderately firm, light grey, silty sand mottled with patches pf brown orangey silty sand, with moderate amounts of moderately sorted small sub-angular gravel	69							cuts F.25
69	19	gully	A	c	very shallow NE-SW aligned linear with indeterminable top and basal breaks of slope		1.40	0.50	0.05	shallow and concave	flat		cuts F.25
70	25	ditch	A	f	moderately loose, light greyish yellow sandy silt mottled with patches of pale yellow, with rare small sub-angular gravel, rare small charcoal flecks and flecks of degraded animal bone	71							same as F.07
71	25	ditch	A	c	E-W aligned linear with sharp top break of slope		n/a	0.70+	0.16	shallow and concave	flattish		same as F.07
72	20	ditch	A	f	loose, light greyish blue, silty sand, with mottled patches of light brownish yellow sand, contained rare small sub-angular gravels and rare small charcoal flecks.	73							cut by F.07
73	20	ditch	A	c	terminus of E-W aligned linear with sharp top break of slope and a gradual basal break of slope		n/a	0.40	0.16	steep and concave	concave		cut by F.07
74	24	ditch	A	f	firm, mid slightly brownish grey faintly sandy and clayey silt, with occasional loosely clustered stones <20mm rarely up to 50mm, occasional diffuse patches of bright yellowy orange clay towards the base, and occasional broad mid-dark brown very silty patches towards the top	75							same as F.07
75	24	ditch	A	c	E-W aligned linear with moderate top break of slope		2.36+	1.4+	0.30	eroded and moderately steep	gently concave		same as F.07

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
76	23	pit	A	f	firm, sticky, yellow clay with common yellow brown silty mottles (eroded natural)	81							cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
77	23	pit	A	f	moderately soft, mid grey clay silt, with slightly firmer very small patches, frequent diffuse brown fine mottling and rare stones <40mm	81							cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
78	23	pit	A	f	moderately firm, sticky, mid-pale brownish grey, clay silt with very occasional stones <30mm	81							cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
79	23	pit	A	f	moderately soft, dark grey clay silt, with granular patches up to 8mm, moderate irregular patches of bright yellow orange silty clay with fine white grits and occasional stones <30mm	81							cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
80	23	pit	A	f	moderately firm, with large firm lumps (50-200mm) mixed patchy darkish grey and mid yellowish grey clay, contained small grits and rare stones<40mm	81						animal bone	cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
81	23	pit	A	c	E-W aligned oval in plan, with sharp but truncated top break of slope and sharp basal break of slope		1.80+	1.00+	0.70+	near vertical but irregular	uneven, but gently concave		cut by F.24 and cuts F.22
82	22	pit	A	f	moderately firm, sticky, patchy, mid-pale very orange brown clay silt, with common mid grey diffuse patches of slightly sandy silt, contained occasional stones <30mm	83							cut by F.23 and F.24
83	22	pit	A	c	E-W aligned oval in plan, with sharp but truncated top break of slope and sharp basal break of slope		0.90+	0.30+	0.35+	near vertical and slightly concave	flattish		cut by F.23 and F.24
84	21	pit	A	f	moderately firm, sticky, patchy, mid grey slightly sandy silt with common patching of very orange brown.	85							cut by F.22 and F.24
85	21	pit	A	c	N-S aligned oval in plan, with indeterminable top and sharp basal breaks of slope, undercutting on northern edge		0.90+	0.85+	0.28+	very steep and slightly convex	flattish		cut by F.22 and F.24
86	25	ditch	A	f	moderately loose, mid grey mottled with pale yellow patches, sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular gravel and rare small charcoal flecks	88						burnt clay animal bone	unclear relation with F.02
87	25	ditch	A	f	moderately loose, mid grey, mottled with brown orangey patches, sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular gravel and rare small charcoal flecks	88							unclear relation with F.02
88	25	ditch	A	c	E-W aligned linear with moderate top break of slope		1m+	0.95	0.12	concave	flat		unclear relation with F.02
89	02	ditch	A	f	moderately loose, light grey bluish mottled with patches of brownish orange, silty sand, with occasional small sub-angular gravel and rare small charcoal flecks	90							unclear relation with F.25
90	02	ditch	A	c	N-S aligned linear with sharp top break of slope, and imperceptible basal break of slope		n/a	0.75	0.19+	shallow and concave	n/a		unclear relation with F.25
91	07	ditch	A	f	soft, mid brownish grey, sandy silt, with rare small pea gravels, rare burnt clay smears, very rare charcoal and a clear basal boundary	93							cuts F.23 and F.26
92	07	ditch	A	f	soft, mottled mid brownish grey sandy silt and mid yellowish orange gravel, clay and sand mix, with a diffuse basal boundary	93							cuts F.23 and F.26

context	feature	feature Type	area	cut/ fill	context description	assoc. cut	length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	sides	base	finds	additional notes
93	07	ditch	A	c	E-W aligned linear with sharp top break of slope and varied indeterminable basal break of slope		0.90+	1.55	0.39	eroded and irregular	flattish		cuts F.23 and F.26
94	23	pit	A	f	soft, mottled, mid grey silt and orange sandy gravel, with rare rounded stones and a diffuse basal boundary	96							cut by F.07
95	23	pit	A	f	soft, mid grey sandy silt with no inclusions and a clear basal boundary	96							cut by F.07
96	23	pit	A	c	circular in plan with truncated top break of slope and indeterminable basal break of slope		n/a	0.85	0.38+	moderately steep and stepped	narrow and flat		cut by F.07
97	26	pit	A	f	soft, mottled mid grey sandy silt and orange sandy gravel, with rare stones and a diffuse basal boundary	100							cut by F.07
98	26	pit	A	f	soft, mid grey sandy silt with no inclusions and a clear basal boundary	100							cut by F.07
99	26	pit	A	f	soft, mid grey sandy silt with no inclusions and a clear basal boundary	100							cut by F.07
100	26	pit	A	c	circular in plan with truncated top break of slope and sharp basal break of slope		n/a	0.85	0.38+	near vertical	flat		cut by F.07

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The site was excavated and interpreted by Krzysztof Andrzejewski, Tony Baker, Ilanith Pongolini, Hayley Roberts and Vickie Williams. The site was surveyed by Donald Horne and illustrated by Bryan Crossan and Vicki Herring. Finds were catalogued by Jason Hawkes and environmental samples were processed by Lizzie Middleton. The project manager was Emma Beadsmoore.

Oasis Form

OASIS ID: cambridg3-63197	
Project details	
Project name	Land South of Foundry Way, March; An Archaeological Excavation
Short description of the project	Between 25th November 2008 and 18th December 2008, a team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an excavation on 0.17 ha of land 2.5km north of March, Cambridgeshire, south of Longhill Road, centred at 541541 299216. The site is at a height of between 3.3m and 3.71m OD on the edge of March Island. The excavation followed an initial evaluation in 2003 and was designed to further our understanding of the extent, nature and significance of the Romano-British activity that was identified. The excavation was commissioned by Luminus Group and the programme of works was designed by CAPCA (Gdaniec 2008). Evidence for Late Iron Age/ Early Roman activity was identified within two of the three excavation areas in the form of pits, wells/ watering holes, ditches, postholes and artefacts. Background evidence for Neolithic activity was also identified in the form of flint artefacts.
Project dates	Start: 25-11-2008 End: 18-12-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FYM08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3085 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR08/0274/F – Planning application ref.
Type of project	Recording project

Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	TREE THROWS Neolithic
Monument type	QUARRY PITS Roman
Monument type	WATERING HOLES/ WELLS Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND MARCH Foundry Way, March
Postcode	PE15 8
Study area	0.17 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 41541 99216 52.5719407687 0.088804638188 52 34 18 N 000 05 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.30m Max: 3.71m
Project creators	
Name of	Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Kerry Murrell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lunimus Group
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	FYM08
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	FYM08
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	FYM08
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
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