Walsingham Way, Ely, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Excavation

Adam Slater

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Walsingham Way, Ely, Cambridgeshire; An Archaeological Excavation.

Post-Excavation Assessment

Adam Slater

With contributions from A.Hall, , D. Hall,
Vida Rajkovâcâ and Anne de Varielles

Graphics by Vicki Herring

University of Cambridge

March 2011

Report No. 993
Event No. ECB3354

Contents

List of Illustrations

Summary

This report is the assessment of the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken on land between Walsingham Way and West Fen Road, Ely. The project was commissioned by F E Peacock Construction Ltd on behalf of Sanctuary Hereward.

The site was situated on the transition between Greensand and Kimmeridge clays on the western side of the Isle of Ely (TL 5320/ 8064). The excavation revealed that the density of archaeological activity known to the west of the site, extended to the east, providing further evidence for the Saxon and Medieval settlement in the area.

The earliest activity was represented by a single prehistoric or Romano-British boundary ditch. A very low quantity of residual Romano-British material culture indicated the presence of Roman-British activity near to the site. A strong Middle-Saxon presence was identified with an organised system of land/property division aligned with a probable road/droveway. Reorganisation was evident during the Late Saxon/Conquest period with a notable re-alignment of boundary ditches respecting the alignment of the modern West Fen Road, with distinct properties and structural elements contained within the boundaries. Evidence of later, Medieval occupation comprising house platforms and quarry pits was also identified as well as a continuation of boundary alignments up to the post-Medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook an archaeological excavation on behalf of Sanctuary Hereward between March and July 2010. The development area was located to the west of the centre of Ely (centred NGR 5320/ 8064) and totalled approximately 4248.9 square metres. The excavation was a mitigation strategy following an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site (Hutton 2010a&b). The excavation followed a project specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Beadsmoore 2010), in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) (Gdaniec 2010).

1.1 Geology and Topography (Figure 1)

The development area was located on the western slope of the Isle of Ely, with Walsingham Way to the immediate west and West Fen Road to the north; the eastern and southern edges of the site were bounded by private residential properties. The underlying bedrock of the site was Kimmeridge Clay overlain by Boulder Clay and Greensand (British Archaeological Survey 1995, Gallois, 1988). Immediately prior to excavation, the development area contained a row of 20th century residential properties with grassed gardens fronting onto Walsingham Way and a single 20th century property within the eastern limit of the site; a communal garden with deep-rooted trees, lawns and concreted walkways was located between the two. The excavation area lay at a maximum of 13.20m OD (ordnance datum) and minimum of 10.9m OD.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The excavation at Walsingham Way followed on from an earlier phase of trenched evaluation (Hutton 2010) within the development area that identified features and deposits dating from the Middle Saxon to post-Medieval periods. Further investigations in the surrounding locale, along with historical sources, show that the site was situated within a landscape of significant archaeological activity, focused on the Saxon and Medieval development of the Isle of Ely.

The location of the development area on the western side of the Isle of Ely, approximately 900m to the west of Ely Cathedral has been the focus of many archaeological investigations of varying sizes in the last two decades: discussed in detail in Mortimer *et al* (1995, 1-6), consequently they shall only be summarised below. The closest and by far the most relevant were large open area excavations at The Ashwell Site (*Ibid*.), 80m to the west of the investigations at Walsingham Way. The large excavation revealed low levels of prehistoric occupation from the Iron Age, with Romano-British ditched enclosures, Middle-Saxon and Late Saxon occupation, as well as Medieval and post-Medieval continuation of land use. A more widespread Iron Age presence, with a large system of enclosures again seemingly re-occupied during the Middle-Saxon period was identified approximately 250m to the north-west at the West Fen Road site excavated by Northampton Archaeological Unit (Mudd 2001). A similar sequence was located at Dunstan Street (Saunders 2003), whilst Saxo-Norman and Medieval features relating to enclosure and cultivation were

identified approximately 300m to the north-east at Upherds Lane (Taylor-Wilson 1992).

A 7th century Saxon presence was identified by the excavation of a high status cemetery at Westfield Farm, approximately 500m to the south-west of the development area (Newman 2007), demonstrating the significance of at least the south-western side of Ely. This contrasts with the absence of occupational activity pre-dating the first quarter of the 8th century at the Ashwell site and has led to the assumption that a core of early Saxon activity, would be located away from the current development area.

A detailed historical investigation into the origins and development of the Late Saxon and Medieval activity around the current development area as well as into the foundation and development of Ely as a whole was included in the publication of the excavations of the Ashwell Site immediately to the west (Holton-Krayenbuhl 2005) and therefore only needs to be summarised here:

The earliest documentary record of Ely is associated with the foundation of a Monastic settlement around the year 673 by Etheldreda, which was described as being a *Double House* for both monks and Nuns with Etheldreda as the first Abbess. Such Saxon Monasteries were often founded by royalty (Etheldreda herself being the daughter of Anna, the King of the East Angles) with endowed familial land, often in the vicinity of the monastery itself and were run similarly to large aristocratic estates. Saxon monasteries performed the duties of central churches and likely performed pastoral work within its territory (Blair 1988).

The site of the Etheldreda foundation has never been identified, described as being located a mile away from the already existing settlement of *Cretendune* 'where ancient coins and items of antiquity were still being found' (Blake 1962) which was destroyed by fire in 673 at the same time as the Monastic foundation. Several possibilities for the position of the Saxon monastery have been postulated; with the site of the current cathedral, St Mary's Church and St Johns Hospital being suggested. The latter site, being the highest point of the Isle of Ely has been favoured by Mortimer (*et al*. 2005) as well as David Hall (1996) due to the presence of carved stone fragments found in the grounds, which is potentially an 8th century architectural fragment (Henderson 1997) used to decorated the first stone church, built to replace the original timber structure.

Following the Danish conquest of Cambridgeshire in 870 and the reported burning of the monastery, the foundation of a Benedictine Abbey was completed on land granted by King Edgar in 970 (Blake 1962). The Abbey developed an extensive estate of lands on and around the Isle of Ely, which were controlled and exploited in progressively different methods to those utilised during the previous ownership. The newly populated, presumably larger monastic settlement required supplies of goods and the provision of skilled services from the local population. This may have involved a social reorganisation of occupation and land-use, as well as a renewal of old communication networks and establishment of new thoroughfares to improve movement between the monastery and its manors (Holton-Krayenbuhl 2005, 5).

The Norman Conquest effected Ely in several ways: The Fenland Rebellion and most famously Hereward the Wake utilised Ely as a base 1070-71, which resulted in the armed restoration of Norman rule on the island and a determination to impose stronger dominance based at the heart of Saxon resistance. The rebellion resulted in the confiscation of the Benedictine lands. Socially, those who had been associated with the Abbey lands within and around Ely were reduced en-mass to the position of tenant with the introduction of the Feudal system with all the responsibility and burdens that went with it.

The newly built Norman martial centre based at the Motte and Bailey overlooking the Ouse on the southern side of Ely was the beginning of an imposition of Norman rule through control of secular and religious institutions within Ely: this is most evident in the grand majesty of the Norman Cathedral (founded 1081). The placement of the cathedral, whilst not located on the very crown of the hill, was on more geologically stable Greensand; allowing a higher, more dominant structure to be built. The built and communication network of Medieval Ely appears to have been complete by the beginning of the thirteenth century with the focus of occupation being around the new monastic precinct overlooking the river, suggesting an increased dependence on river trade and transport.

Agricultural practices and changes in organisation from the 13th century saw the control of production returned to manorial lords who strived to constantly increase production and profit (Postan 1975) including transformation of woodland to agriculture and further exploitation of fenlands as well as a more regulated division of land. The thriving success of 13th century agriculture and its associated increase in the population only serves to contrast the failures occurring in the early decades of the 14th century. Livestock epidemics and serious crop failures between 1315 and 1322 and large scale flooding in the 1340s (Hatcher 1979) resulted in approximately 5000 acres of former agricultural land being abandoned in Cambridgeshire. The accumulative misery caused by 35 years of agricultural turmoil peaked when the Black Death reached Ely in 1349 with a mortality rate comparable with the rest of the country (Owen 2003). The resulting sudden decline in population affected both the market and workforce, with large areas of land, both regionally and locally being left to pasture.

A 1417 survey of land controlled by the Bishop and monastery in Ely gives informative descriptions of urban properties with tenants and landlord details (Holton-Krayenbuhl 2005). The area of West Fen Road appears to be largely controlled by the Bishop, and comprised predominantly of *Unfree* holdings which were full holdings of 18 acres each commonly divided into single acres worked and occupied by a cottager. A record of a large drop in rent from 12 to 4 shillings for these properties is recorded in 1436-7 which suggests a rapid decrease in both value and profitability of the land towards the middle of the fifteenth century.

The transformation from a generally arable to pasture based economy continued into the 15th century when the enclosure of land for sheep management became more common. Ely was included in this but no sources exist for the enclosure of the West Fen road area (Palmer 1936) and it has been suggested that this is, at least in part, due to the Ely enclosures being reserved for dairy cattle rather than sheep, the enclosures were therefore smaller and less likely to be recorded in detail.

The dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 had a negligible effect on Ely, with the monastery being replaced with a Dean and Chapter two years later. The Medieval control by the church of affairs within the town was halted however by the lack of revenue caused by the cessation of pilgrimages to the town (Holton-Krayenbuhl 2005). The geographical separation of Ely from the new, post-Medieval secular authorities halted development within and around the town with Ely remaining as a small regional market town until the mid 20th century.

2 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

The aim of the excavation was to define the Saxon and Medieval activity on the western side of Ely.

A series of research aims based on findings of nearby sites (such as the Ashwell excavations) as well as the evaluation of the current site (Hutton 2010) were devised prior to excavation taking place; and formed part of the Specification issued prior to excavation commencing (Beadsmoore 2010):

- Whether the settlement is a continuation in character of the known activity at the Ashwell site, a collection of farmsteads, or whether any economic specialisation is identifiable.
- Whether less fenland resources were utilised further away from the fen edge.
- Whether there is evidence for status associated with this part of the settlement, identified to the south west, at the south-eastern corner of the Ashwell Site.

Broadly, the excavation aims were:

- To determine the extent, character and date of the archaeological deposits and features revealed throughout the designated area.
- To determine, as far as possible, the origins, development, function, character and status of the site.
- To establish the stratigraphic sequence of the site, the date of the features and the 'occupation' horizons, and the nature of the activities carried out at the site during the phases of its occupation.
- To place the findings of the aims above in both regional and national research contexts.

3 EXCAVATION STRATEGIES

An area of 4248.9 square metres was excavated within the footprint of the development area. Restrictions relating to the on-site demolition of standing buildings caused the site to be trisected, the centre was striped and excavated first, the easternmost limit of the development area was investigated second, and the western end of the site was excavated third. The programme of works was carried out as agreed within the project specification using a 360° tracked excavator with toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Beadsmoore 2010).

Following removal of topsoil and subsoil to expose surviving archaeological deposits, a 5m by 5m grid was laid out across the site using a Global Positioning System (GPS) in tandem with an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM). All archaeological features were initially planned at 1:50 with further detail recorded at 1:20 or 1:10 as and if needed. Each excavated feature was recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system with individual features assigned feature numbers (F.#) and individual stratigraphic sequences assigned context numbers ([context #]). To complement these, a section drawing was produced at a scale of 1:10. Pertinent features and feature sets were photographed on black and white film, colour slide and digital media. A full metal-detector survey was made with each recovered item being given a small-find number with location co-ordinates recorded.

4 RESULTS

A large quantity of archaeological features was evident across the excavation area (Figure 2), eight broad phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1: Prehistoric
Phase 2: Romano-British
Phase 3a-b: Mid Saxon
Phase 4a-b: Late Saxon
Phase 5: Conquest Period (11-12th centuries)
Phase 6a-b: Medieval (12-16th centuries)
Phase 7: Late Medieval (15-16th centuries)
Phase 8: Post Medieval.

4.1 Phase 1: Prehistoric (Figure 3)

A limited quantity of largely Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from the fills of later features across the excavation area and from the topsoil/subsoil demonstrating comparable residuality of earlier material that had been identified at the nearby excavation areas.

Stratigraphically, the earliest feature identified during the 2010 excavation was a roughly north-south aligned straight linear **F. 336**, located within the eastern extent of the excavation area. F. 336 had generally steep, straight sides with a narrow, concaved base (Figure 10) and the fills were generally sterile and demonstrated a 'washed out' pale appearance, further suggestive of antiquity. Whilst not being firmly dated, the alignment and morphology of F. 336 suggests it was Iron Age and comparable with, if not directly associated with the Iron Age enclosures identified at the Ashwell site and West Fen Road excavations (Mortimer *et al.* 2005; Mudd 2000). The peripheral nature of the ditch was evident from the feature's almost complete sterility; a small quantity of animal bone, representing a single horse and single sheep/goat bone, as well as a low volume of charcoal was present within the fills, whilst a low quantity of fen sedge, barley and pulse, likely to be intrusive (de Vareilles, below) were also identified.

A single sherd of residual Late Iron Age or early Romano-British ceramic was recovered from Late Saxon pit F. 111 within the centre of the site.

4.2 Phase 2: Romano-British (Figure 3)

No features within the Walsingham Way excavations could be attributed to the Romano-British period. Small assemblages of Romano-British ceramic as well as a single Romano-British coin were recovered from later features. Although low in quantity, the residual material does show a patterning which favours the westernmost end of the site which suggests that the residual presence was associated with the early and late Romano-British activity identified at the Ashwell site to the west (Mortimer *et al.* 2005).

4.3 Phase 3: Middle Saxon (Figure 4)

Middle Saxon activity at Walsingham Way was well defined although seemingly artefactually poor. Linear features correspond in morphology and alignment with those identified at the nearby West Fen road sites (see Mortimer 2005 and Mudd 2000, 2001). Several sub-phases within the Middle Saxon period could be identified. Although the direct physical and stratigraphical relationships between the features were often impossible to ascertain with any certainty, due to the morphology of the features; shallow, filled with single deposits of redeposited geological sandy clays and heavily truncated by later features.

The likely earliest presence of the Middle Saxon period (Phase 3a) was defined by two enclosures (Enclosures 1 and 2) located in the very western and southernmost extent of the excavation area.

Phase 3a, Enclosures

Enclosure 1 was located at the western limit of the excavation area, and was formed by linears, **F. 432** and **F. 507** which, whilst truncated by later features, appear to form an opening or entrance to the body of the enclosure. Both gullies appeared to have silted up rapidly, although the prominence of the entrance itself remained with the insertion of postholes (**F. 433**, **F. 434**, **F. 443**, **F. 444**) through and close to the terminus of **F. 432**.

Enclosure 2 was a large curvilinear extending beyond the southern limit of the excavation area; comprising of **F. 400** and **F. 446**, both heavily truncated by later features to form an irregular D shaped enclosure. No entranceway was identified into the enclosure. Several features were located within it that may have been directly associated with it and not the later Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b), linears which overlie the enclosed area (see below): A heavily truncated pit, **F. 404** containing Middle-Saxon ceramic as well as domestic detritus and several fragments of metal knife blades was located centrally within the enclosed area and is likely to have been directly associated with the enclosure. Stratigraphically contemporary with the components of Enclosure 2 was an irregular curvilinear gully (**F. 108**) and associated posthole (**F. 102**) which appears to form a small external annexe to the main enclosure.

Enclosure 2 was a large curvilinear extending beyond the southern limit of the excavation area; comprising of **F. 400** and **F. 446**, both heavily truncated by later features to form an irregular D shaped enclosure. No entranceway was identified into the enclosure. Several features were located within it that may have been directly associated with it and not the later Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b), linears which overlie the enclosed area (see below): A heavily truncated pit, **F. 404** containing Middle-Saxon ceramic as well as domestic detritus and several fragments of metal knife blades was located centrally within the enclosed area and is likely to have been directly associated with the enclosure. Stratigraphically contemporary with the components of Enclosure 2 was an irregular curvilinear gully (**F. 108**) and associated posthole (**F. 102**) which appears to form a small external annexe to the main enclosure.

The complete absence of material culture from Enclosure 1 and several sherds of Ipswich and early Thetford wares from Enclosure 2 suggest that they may have served different functions, one relating to stock and the other to domestic activities.

Feature No.	Description.	Enclosure No.	Significant Finds.
432	Shallow terminus of irregular curvilinear gully.	1	None
507	Shallow curvilinear with concaved sides and base.	1	None
433	Posthole	1	None
434	Posthole	1	None
443	Posthole	1	None
444	Posthole	1	None
400	Shallow steeply concaved sides to concaved base	2	Ipswich Ware
446	Shallow steeply concaved sides to concaved base	2	None
404	Pit: circular in plan with steeply sloping sides to flat base	2	Ipswich Ware
108	Curvilinear gully, 7m in diameter. Shallow concaved sides and base	2	Thetford Ware
102	Posthole: Associated with curvilinear gully F. 108	2	None

Table 1: Middle-Saxon Phase 3a Enclosures.

The second phase of Middle-Saxon activity (Phase 3b) was focussed on a drove or roadway, aligned north-east to south-west comprising of a series of shallow, narrow gullies leaving a 'roadway' of approximately 9m in width. The majority of the droveway/ boundary ditches were morphologically similar to the Phase 3b linears (below). However, stratigraphically, the earliest of the droveway ditches, **F. 505, F. 523, F. 524** and **F. 525** were short, rounded ended gullies which were narrow with steeply sloping sides and narrow bases; suggesting an initial phase of a palisade or intermittent fence line forming at least one side of the probable droveway. Environmental samples from the boundary ditches all emphasised the wetness of the area in the 7-8th century with molluscs present in all samples (de Vareilles, *below*).

Feature No.	Description	Orientation	Significant finds
425	Long straight narrow linear, shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NE-SW	None
488	Long straight narrow linear, shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NE-SW	None
526	Heavily truncated continuation of droveway ditch, concaved sides and base	NE-SW	None
527	Heavily truncated continuation of droveway ditch, concaved sides and base	NE-SW	None
528	Heavily truncated continuation of droveway ditch, concaved sides and base	NE-SW	None
523	Short shallow, narrow gully with steep sides to narrow concaved base.	NE-SW	None
524	Short shallow, narrow gully with steep sides to narrow concaved base.	NE-SW	None
525	Short shallow, narrow gully with steep sides to narrow concaved base.	NE-SW	None
504	Short shallow, narrow gully with steep sides to narrow concaved base.	NE-SW	None
505	Long straight narrow linear, shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NE-SW	Residual Romano-British Ceramic
506	Long straight narrow linear, shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NE-SW	None

Table 2. Features forming Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b) boundary/ droveway.

The Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b) activity formed of a series of shallow linear ditches/gullies, the majority of which were aligned on a northwest-southeast orientation, utilising and respecting the droveway, with fewer gullies on a perpendicular northeast-southwest orientation.

The pattern of the northwest-southeast aligned ditches, with an average space of between and 3.5 and 9m apart appear to form deliberate land/property division. The sub-division of one of these spaces, by the insertion of linear **F. 148**, respecting linears **F. 203** and most notably **F. 147** hints at a more complex system of land management within the development area which had not survived. A similar pattern of linears was identified within The Ashwell excavations (Mortimer 2005) which were assigned enclosure numbers. Within the current excavation area, the full extent and definition of the enclosed areas could not be determined due to later truncation.

A limited quantity of cut features, contemporary with the Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b) linears was identified. Postholes **F. 448** and **F. 489** were associated with the terminals of linears **F. 449** and **F. 457**, potentially forming an entranceway to one of the sub-divisions. Two small pits or large postholes (**F. 401** and **F. 402**) were associated with the north-western terminus of Phase 3b linear **F. 415**, whilst three (**F. 509**, **510**, **511**) were associated with the north-western terminus of linear F. 307. The north-western terminals of linears **F. 307**, **F. 415** and probably also the heavily truncated F. 199 appear to correspond with an otherwise not identified boundary, also corresponding

with the location of entranceway **F. 449/ 457**, which could also be associated with the north-western terminal of linear **F. 405**.

The majority of the Middle-Saxon material culture, in the form of ceramic, was located within features dating to later periods; spatially the majority of the residual ceramic was in the areas of the highest truncation of Middle-Saxon features.

Feature No.	Description.	Orientation	Significant Finds
415	Terminus of linear, shallow concaved sides and base	NW-SE	Residual Romano-British Ceramic & Thetford Ware
401	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base		Ipswich Ware
402	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base		None
199	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
307	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
509	Posthole: circular in plan concaved sides and base		None
510	Posthole: circular in plan concaved sides and base		None
511	Posthole: circular in plan concaved sides and base		None
147	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
148	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NE-SW	None
307	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
203	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
332	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
329	Long shallow linear with concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
401	Terminus of boundary ditch, concaved sides and base	NW-SE	Ipswich Ware
457	Terminus of boundary ditch, concaved sides and base	NW-SE	None
489	Posthole: associated with terminus of F. 457		None
448	Posthole: associated with terminus of F. 500/ 449		None
500/449	Terminus of boundary ditch, shallow with concaved sides to base	NW-SE	None
405	Linear with concaved sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
475	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
515	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
520	Shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
522	Shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
535	Shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None
546	Shallow concaved sides to concaved base	NW-SE	None

Table 3: Middle-Saxon (Phase 3b) boundaries and associated features.

4.4 Phase 4: Late Saxon (Figure 5)

The Later-Saxon activity identified during the excavation at Walsingham Way sub-divides into two clear sub-phases of activity. The two main phases of Late-Saxon (9-11th century) activity demonstrated a notably dramatic shift in alignment of boundaries. The earliest (Phase 4a) activity was limited to a rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 3) partially exposed within the westernmost limit of the excavation area with a distinct entranceway, 3.5 in width facing to the south-east. Enclosure 3 truncated Middle-Saxon Phase 3b linears but retained a generally northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest orientation, suggesting some form of continuity from the previous phase, the form of which was comparable with the paddocks identified during the Ashwell excavations to the west.

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Orientation	Significant Finds
100/ 137	Steeply sloping generally straight sides to a flat base		ENE-WSW, NNE-SSW	None
115	Shallow, concaved sides to concaved base		ENE-WSW	None
184	Shallow, irregular sides to irregular concaved base		E-W	Residual RB ceramic.
113	Pit: sub-oval in plan, steep sides to flat base.			None
166	Posthole: circular in plan, straight sides to concaved base		E-W	Thetford ware
167	Linear: steep sides to concaved base		E-W	None
120	Pit: sub-oval in plan, steep sides to flat base.			None
130/ 131	Pit: sub-rounded in plan, steep sides to flat base. Shallow gully at top.			None
397	Irregular linear gully, concaved sides and base		E-W	None
409	Irregular gully, concaved sides and base		E-W	None
545	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	3	SE-NW, SW-NE	None
531	Steeply sloping sides to slightly concaved base	3	NE-SW	None

Table 4: Later-Saxon (Phase 4a) linear and Enclosure ditches.

A single long curvilinear ditch, **F. 100/ 137** extended from beyond the southern extent of the excavation area possibly forming a boundary or even enclosure ditch. A second, linear, **F. 115** extending parallel to **F. 100** may have created a narrow east, north-east to west, south-west aligned corridor between 3 and 4.5m in width: The limited exposure of these two linears within the excavation area however made it unclear as to their relationship and function.

A single short, irregular and heavily truncated linear, **F. 184**, appeared to be stratigraphically contemporary with the Phase 4a activity although if and how it was associated with the possible route way was unclear. Two, short, irregular gullies, **F. 397** and **F. 409** within the south-western part of the excavation area also appeared to

be broadly contemporary with Phase 4a. Three irregular pits, **F. 113**, **F. 120**, and **F. 131** of unknown function were located between the ditches.

The second phase of Late-Saxon activity within the excavation area (Phase 4b) revealed a change in the linear alignments on the site, to a largely north-south, east-west orientation; an alignment that then remained consistent within the site until modern times.

The identified Late-Saxon ceramics recovered from the excavation revealed that an area of land, forming the approximate westernmost (downslope) third of the excavation area was largely devoid of Phase 4b features. A higher density of residual 9-12th century ceramic within later features was confined to the central third of the excavation area, emphasising a shift in occupational focus during the 9th to early 12th centuries.

The notable shift in alignment from the Middle-Saxon (Phase 3) features during the Late-Saxon period (Phase 4b) was emphasised primarily by a group of east-west aligned linears, marking the northernmost limit of the excavation area. The earliest of these, **F. 166**, **F. 167** and **F. 168** were either segmented without spaces between the terminals or were continuous across the excavation area. A second phase of ditches with terminals that left a narrow opening corresponded with the first ditches and appeared to correspond with the presence of Phase 4b Enclosures 4-7. All the linears continued beyond both the western and eastern limits of excavation (heavily truncated by linears of later phases), suggesting that they represent a major boundary, which was frequently renewed.

The Late-Saxon (Phase 4b) activity at Walsingham Way can be characterised by the creation of four narrow parcels of land, between 12 and 15.5m in width on a largely north-south alignment and demarcated by short, irregular shallow north-south ditches, extending beyond the southern and eastern extent of the excavation area. Where the wider excavation footprint allowed, it could be seen that these strips of land were themselves sub-divided with the addition of east-west aligned linears to create four smaller rectilinear enclosures (Enclosure 4-7). A similar pattern could only partially be seen in the easternmost area of excavation with Enclosure 8, and whilst no linears of a comparable date could be identified immediately to the west of Enclosure 8, it is likely that another division (Enclosure 9) was present, sharing an easternmost boundary with Enclosure 8 and being heavily truncated to the north and west by later boundaries.

The Phase 4b enclosures were defined with generally shallow wide linears. A notable exception was the presence of a short, narrow straight and near vertical sided gully (**F. 380**) likely to represent the foundation for a palisade or fence line and forming the eastern side of Enclosure 7.

Enclosure 4 was the most regular, and rectilinear of the Phase 4b enclosures, with the western side comprised of parallel ditches **F. 152** and **F. 153**, the northern side of the enclosure was formed by parallel linears **F. 204** and **F. 234** whilst the heavily truncated eastern side, is likely to have comprised of linears **F. 385** and **F. 395**. No southern limit of the enclosure was present within the excavation area, although it appears likely that it extended further to the south like Enclosure 6.

A single small pit/ posthole, **F. 219** and a truncated shallow gully, **F. 319** were located within the enclosure, although how and if these were structural could not be determined.

Enclosure 5 was the most complex of the exposed Phase 4b enclosures, with several, largely undistinguishable sub-phases of activity and a higher level of later truncation and earlier residual features than the others. The southernmost limit of Enclosure 5 was marked by shallow ditch **F. 600**, the eastern limit primarily formed by **F. 254**, and the shared ditch with Enclosure 7. The western edge of the enclosure appears to have been open or was truncated by later activity. The northern edge of Enclosure 5 appears to respect the sequence of Enclosure 7 with a short, well defined and relatively deep ditch; **F. 124** associated with the multiply re-cut boundary ditches marking the northernmost limit of the site. A secondary phase comprised of shallower linears forming an 'inner' enclosure, **F. 260** formed the eastern, **F. 209**, (possibly associated with F. 144 of Enclosure 7) formed the northern and **F. 237** formed the western side.

The terminus of Phase 4b boundary ditch, **F. 107** appears to respect the presence of this inner enclosure and suggests a formalisation of an entranceway through the boundary ditches and into a notable space or access way between Enclosures 5 and 7. The only internal features likely to be contemporary with Enclosure 5 was a large, relatively shallow sub-rectangular pit **F. 195**, with two associated postholes, **F. 196** and **F. 197**. The upper fills of this pit were largely sterile with a thick deposit of compacted, redeposited Kimmeridge clay which formed a lining at the base and lower sides, suggesting it was a cistern.

Enclosure 6 was formed by F. 600 to the north, a ditch that was shared with Enclosure 5, the continuation of F. 254 from Enclosure 7, **F. 320** and **F. 116** forming the eastern side and **F. 227** and **F. 183** forming the western side. No southern extent of Enclosure 6 was present within the excavation area which emphasised the disparity in length between Enclosures 5 and 6.

Several sub-rounded and sub-rectangular pits, **F. 145**, **F. 165**, **F. 176** were within the northern end of Enclosure 6; with associated postholes **F. 181**, **F. 179**, **F. 178**, **F. 188**, **F. 186**, **F. 187**, **F. 190** and **F. 222.** These features contained charcoal and burned clay in varying degrees, and pit F. 145 contained ashes, quantities of which were present in the upper fill of Mid Saxon Phase 3b linear F. 148. Pits further south within Enclosure 6, **F. 138**, **F. 140** and **F. 129** contained little, if any evidence of the same *ex-situ* burning activities. The localised nature of this activity suggests some intense domestic or industrial processes. A short, narrow yet relatively deeply cut segment of ditch **F. 306**, seeming to respect and recut the earlier, Middle Saxon Phase 4b ditch F. 307 appeared to represent a possible trough, although no evidence of a lining was present.

Enclosure 7 comprised of the north-south continuation of **F. 254** from Enclosure 6, forming the western side, the continuation of the north-south aligned ditch **F. 395** from Enclosure 4 and a possible palisade or fence line **F. 380** forming the eastern side. The south was bounded by **F. 234**, shared with Enclosure 4. The northern boundary of Enclosure 7 was formed by two linears, **F. 144** and **F. 170** which appear to correspond with similar Enclosure 5 linears **F. 209** and **F. 124** respectively.

Whilst no internal features within Enclosure 7 could be dated to Phase 4b, the space between the northernmost ditch of Enclosure 7, and probable roadside linear **F. 175** was a large, sub-rounded pit **F. 174,** dug through the sandy clay and into the underlying clays and likely to have been a waterhole, cistern or well.

Enclosure 8 was located in the easternmost limit of the excavation area, comprising of linears **F. 322** and **F. 324**. It was undetermined whether further enclosed areas extended to the south in concordance with the enclosed areas to the west. No internal features were present.

Enclosure 9 was only apparent from the spacing between the west of Enclosure 8 and the presence of the dense, conquest and Medieval boundary ditches to the west corresponding with the widths of Enclosures 4-7. A single small pit, **F. 359**, whilst devoid of material culture, was stratigraphically contemporary with the Phase 4b enclosures and was located within Enclosure 9.

The enclosure ditches of Phase 4b yielded a predominance of post-threshing barley, wheat and oats, suggesting that while some form of later production was carried out on site, the primary production occurred offsite. Garden herbs and brassicas appeared to also be abundant, suggesting on site cultivation, consistent with smallholdings reliant on grains grown elsewhere.

A moderately large quantity of fish-bones: likely those of Eels were identified within the bulk environmental samples of the majority of Late Saxon features. Highlighting the proximity to and utilisation of the nearby Fen edge by the occupants.

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Orientation	Significant Finds
168	Long generally straight linear, irregular concaved sides to flat base		E-W	Thetford Ware
166	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 167		E-W	None
167	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 166		E-W	None
126	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 175		E-W	None
175	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 126		E-W	Thetford ware, Ipswich and Saxo-Norman Ceramic
170	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 124	7	E-W	Ipswich and Saxo-Norman Ceramic
124	Straight linear, rounded terminus steep concaved sides to flat base: associated with F. 170	5	E-W	None

Table 5: Late-Saxon, Phase 4b enclosures, boundary ditches and associated features.

174	Waterhole/ well: Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides to narrow concaved base	Possibly 7.		Thetford ware, and Saxo-Norman Ceramic
380	Narrow, steep sided with flat base	7	N-S	None
144	Steep sided sides to narrow flat base	7	E-W	None
107	Steep sided to narrow concaved base		E-W	Thetford Ware
152	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	4	N-S	None
153	Shallow with steeply sloping sides and flat base.	4	N-S	None
204	Moderately steeply concaved sides to concaved base	4	E-W	None
234	Moderately steeply sloping sides to concaved base	4&7	E-W	Thetford ware
385	Shallow with steeply sloping sides and irregular plat base	4	N-S	None
395	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	4	N-S	Ipswich ware, and Saxo-Norman Ceramic
219	Pit: oval in plan, steep concaved sides to flat base	4		None
319	Narrow gully, shallow sides and concaved base	4	NE-SW	None
600	Steeply sloping straight sides to concaved base	5	E-W	None
237	Steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	5	N-S	None
260	Shallow concaved sides to flat base	5	N-S	None
209	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	5	E-W	None
195	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan, steeply sloping sides to generally flat base.	5		None
196	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	5		None
197	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	5		None
227	Concaved sides to irregular concaved base	6	N-S	None
320	Moderate to steeply sloping sides to concaved base	6	N-S	Thetford ware
183	Moderately steeply sloping sides to irregular concaved base	6	N-S	Thetford Ware
254	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	6&7	N-S	Thetford ware, and Saxo-Norman Ceramic
116	Moderately steep sides to flat base	6	N-S	Thetford ware
176	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan, steeply sloping, stepped profile to flat base.	6		Charcoal and burnt clay.
181	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	6		None

Table 5: continued.

188	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan with shallow concaved sides to flat base	6		Charcoal and burnt clay
186	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	6		None
187	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	6		None
190	Posthole: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	6		None
179	Pit: oval in plan with steeply sloping concaved sides and concaved base	6		Charcoal and burnt clay
178	Posthole: Circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	6		None
165	Pit: elongated oval in plan, steeply concaved sides to flat base	6		None
145	Pit: oval in plan, Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	6		High levels charcoal, burnt clay and Ash
222	Pit: oval in plan, Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	6		None
129	Pit: oval in plan, Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	6		None
138	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	6		None
140	Pit/ Rooting; Irregular shallow depression, concaved sides and base.	6		None
306	Trough/ linear:, steep concaved sides to concaved base.	6	SE-NW	Thetford ware
322	Moderately steep sides to flat base	8	E-W	None
324	Moderately steep sides to flat base	8&9	N-S	None
359	Pit: sub-rounded in plan, concaved sides and base	9		None

Table 5: continued.

4.5 Phase 5: Conquest Period (11-12th centuries)

The period of the Norman takeover of Ely demonstrated a continuation of what appeared to be a deliberate re-definition of Phase 4 enclosures, with Enclosure 10 appearing to be relatively unchanged and Enclosure 11 seemingly merged with Enclosure 12. Most notably within the north of the excavation area; defined by a deep and well cut ditch that also marked the eastern end of Enclosure 11, and formed a distinct entranceway northwards (Figure 6): A single, relatively shallow internal linear appeared to sub-divide Enclosure 11; Although the full north-south extent of the enclosed area was not exposed.

No features within Phase 5 Enclosure 11 could be firmly associated with either the enclosure itself or Structure I. A comparatively high density of archaeological activity from previous and later phases within the area with a subsequent mixing of ceramic assemblage made exact dating impossible.

Phase 5 Structures:

Three structures (I-III) could be attributed to Phase 5 (Figure 6): The footprint of a single structure (Structure I), recognised from a rectilinear arrangement of postholes was located within the newly defined Enclosure 11 whilst also truncating the fills of Phase 4b linear F.254. Structure I was post-built with the south, east and western sides well defined, 8.5m in length and 3.5m in width, the absence of postholes forming the northern side suggests a less permanent wall, if one existed at all, indicating that the Structure probably functioned as a cattle briar or animal pen.

Structures II and III were located within what appeared to be open ground at the western end of the excavation area: they were post built and the alignment of both appeared to correspond with that of Structure I. Structure II was smaller, 5m in length and 2m in width, and appeared to represent a more ancillary building, whilst Structure III was larger, 12m in length and more than 8m in width. Like Structure I, no definite function of the structures was determined. A complete absence of ceramic from the postholes of Structures II and III contrasted notably with a relatively high quantity of St Neots ware recovered from the postholes of Structure I, which may suggest that the latter had a more domestic function.

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Orientation	Significant Finds
110	Gradual sides to concaved base	11	E-W	12th Century ceramic
142	Moderate to steeply sloping sides to generally flat base	11	E-W/ N-S	Very Mixed: 9-15th century ceramic
143	Moderate to steeply sloping sides to generally flat base	11	E-W/ N-S	St Neots and Thetford wares Iron Nail
228	Narrow, steeply sloping sides to concaved base	11	N-S	St Neots ware
445	Moderately steeply sloping sides to concaved base	11	N-S	St Neots ware
447	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	11	N-S	St Neots ware
194	Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to flat base	11	N-S	Residual Romano-British ceramic

Table 6: Phase 5 boundary.

Similarities in morphology between Structure I and Structures II and Phase 6 Structure IV to the south-west suggest that they could be part of a continuous pattern of the abandonment and re-building of structures on roughly the same alignment which continued into the 12-14th centuries. Further evidence for which is supplied by the apparently short lifespan of Structure I, which was truncated by 12-14th century boundary ditches.

Structure No.	Description	Feature No.s	Significant Finds
I	Rectangular post built.	F. 146, F. 158, F. 160 F. 161, F. 162, F. 163, F. 164, F. 177, F. 293, F. 294, F. 295, F. 301, F. 308, F. 315, F. 316	St Neots ware
II	Rectangular post built	F. 435, F. 441, F. 467, F. 468, F. 474, F. 491, F. 492, F . 495, F. 496	None
III	Small structure, four corner posts plus single external 'brace'.	F. 513, F, 514, F. 519, F. 530, F. 521	None

Table 7: 11-12th Century structural elements.

4.6 Phase 6: Medieval (12-14th centuries)

The 12-14th century activity within the development area was characterised primarily (Phase 6a; Figure 7) by the continued redefinition of the ditches marking the northern extent of the excavation area. The presence of the probable entranceway to the north, from the Late-Saxon and Conquest phases was not continued, whilst the arrangement of Late-Saxon enclosures themselves, were seemingly retained but with the abandonment of previous internal divisions. The amalgamation of Phase 4b Enclosures 4 and 6 (Enclosure 12) 7 and 4 (Enclosure 11) and 8 and 9 (Enclosure 10) created longer, land parcels, potentially still reliant on the presence of earlier banks associated with the Middle-Saxon ditches forming the north-south axis. The westernmost boundary of the newly formed Enclosure 12, **F. 229** was the best defined, truncating the western side of Late-Saxon and Conquest date ditches. A partially exposed structure within the south of Enclosure 12, (Structure V) with two perpendicular beam-slots and associated postholes is likely to be of Phase 6a.

A large, deep and waterlogged pit, likely representing a well or watering hole was located within the east of Enclosure 11; however, its location and lack of clear stratigraphic relationships with later features may indicate it was associated with Phase 6b activity and that it may also have continued in use throughout the 12-14th centuries.

The latter part of the 12-14th centuries and possibly extending into the early 15th century (Phase 6b) was a period of notable change within the excavation area. The boundaries between Enclosures 11 and 12 and the eastern side of Enclosure 12 appear to have been abandoned and a much deeper, wider ditch (**F. 377/ F. 330**) was dug between Enclosures 10 and 11; a feature which also formed the northern boundary of Enclosure 10. An east-west orientated ditch, re-cut at least once crossed the length of the excavation area was probably associated with a re-cut north-south aligned ditch located within the eastern limit of the site. This large re-organisation amalgamated Phase 6a Enclosures into larger, apparently more open units extending to the west. To the north of Phase 6b, Ditches **F. 112** and **F. 135** and Enclosures 11 and 12 merged to become Enclosure 14, whilst to the south Enclosure 12 was extended to the west as Enclosure 13. The use of the re-cut ditch sequence along the northern extent of the

excavation area continued, most notably in the north-west corner, as a northern boundary of Phase 6b Enclosure 14.

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Orientation	Significant Finds
171	Moderately steeply sloping sides to flat base		E-W	Sandy ware
172	Steep, straight sides to flat base		E-W	Thetford, St Neots and Grey ware
331	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base		E-W	St Neots Ware
555	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base		E-W	None
556	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base		E-W	None
557	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base		E-W	None
374	Steeply sloping straight sides to concaved base	10	N-S	None
375	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	10	N-S	St Neots ware
386	Steeply sloping straight sides to flat base	11	N-S	St Neots ware, Reduced Ely ware and unidentified 12th century ware
119	Shallow concaved sides to flat base	11 and 12	N-S	St Neots ware
134	Steeply sloping sides to narrow flat base	11 and 12	N-S	11-14th century ceramic
109	Shallow concaved sides to flat base	12	N-S	None
229	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	12	N-S	None
149	Well/ waterhole: Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to narrow, concaved base	11?		Mixed 12-14th century ceramics

Table 8: Phase 6a boundary and enclosure ditches with associated features.

Structure No.	Description	Feature No.s	Significant Finds
V	Rectangular Structure: Two beam-slots and postholes	F. 114, F. 154, F. 156, F. 157	St Neots ware, Iron Nail

Table 9: Phase 6a Structures.

Enclosure 10 appeared to have been sub divided during this phase by the addition of north-south aligned ditches **F. 325** and **F. 327** which joined to the re-cut northern boundary, although the full extent of the enclosed area to the south and the presence of archaeology to the east were not within the development area.

Phase 6b Structures:

Seven structures associated with Phase 6b activity were identified. Structure IV, although not fully exposed within the south-western corner of the excavation area (within Enclosure 13) was predominantly post-built with a single, deep, beam-slot at the north-western corner.

Structure V, only partially exposed within Enclosure 13 was composed of two deep beam-slots and postholes.

Structure VI, within Enclosure 10 represented the best preserved structure, comprised of three straight very shallow beam-slots forming three sides of a rectangular footprint with a series of shallow postholes forming the fourth side: 8.5m in length by 4m in width, with possible entrances at the north-east and south-east corners.

Structure VII, located within Enclosure 14 was formed from two deep beam slots and a posthole. The location of the structure's beam slots appear to be deliberately around the sides of a group of the pits, these pits conform with the morphology of the other quarry pits within the site (or the pits were deliberately excavated within the structure). This may suggest that the beam-slots represent a structural element surrounding pits utilised as a cess-pit or other dump requiring a barrier from the rest of the site. The presence of a high quantity of mussel shells within pit F. 258 appears to support this.

Structure VIII comprised of two heavily truncated beam-slots and a posthole, with a truncated deposit of compacted stone and flint flooring overlying a compacted redeposited silty Greensand mound, both of which contained notable quantities of ceramic as well as quern stone and metal fragments.

Structure IX, represented by a single, deep beam slot which could have represented the only surviving structural element could also have been associated with Structure VII.

Structure X comprised of a short, shallow beam slot (**F. 473**) associated with two shallow deposits of materially rich silty sand, likely to be the remnants of a raised platform or mound. Similarly, a larger deposit of silty sand (**F. 516**), with no identifiable post holes or beam-slots was designated as Structure XI.

Apart from the major ditch and boundary re-cutting, the most distinctive feature type associated with the Phase 6b activity at Walsingham Way/ West Fen Road was the predominance of irregular, sub rounded and commonly clustered pits, dug through the geological Greensand, with bases exposing the underlying Kimmeridge clays. The distribution of these pits, predominantly within the east, and north-east of the excavation area, corresponding with the presence of the deepest Greensand, strongly suggests they were focused on quarrying the sand. The fills of the majority of the quarry pits, whilst generally devoid of notable quantities of material culture, revealed an apparent programme of deliberate backfilling, suggestive of them being located within land utilised for other purposes. Several of the pits contained comparatively large quantities of ceramic, bone and other materials of domestic detritus. The identified Phase 6b structures (Structures VI, VII and VIII), were all located close to a cluster or clusters of such pits, and it could be suggested that they were directly associated with the structures. Other clusters of pits appear to be close to a notably blank area, raising the possibility of other structures, not surviving in the archaeological record but having a similar association with pits (Figure 7).

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Orientation	Significant Finds
377	Steeply sloping generally straight sides to flat base	10 and 14	N-S	Ely ware
330	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	10	E-W	Ely ware
325	Steep sides to narrow flat base	10	N-S	None
327	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	10	N-S	None
112	Steep to moderately sloping sides to narrow concaved base	13 and 14	E-W	Residual St Neots and Thetford ware
135	Steep to moderately sloping sides to concaved base	13 and 14	E-W	Ely ware
106	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan, vertical sides to flat base.	13		St Neots, Ely and Lyvedon wares
220	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	E-W	St Neots and Thetford wares
570	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	14	E-W	None
577	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	E-W	None
581	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	E-W	None
582	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	E-W	None
207	Pit: sub-circular in plan, concaved sides and base	13		None
206	Pit: sub-rectangular in plan, steep sides to flat base	13		Grey ware and Ely ware
323	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping to vertical sides to flat base	10		None
352	Pit: circular in plan, steep to vertical sides to flat base	10		None
502	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	14		Ely ware
512	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep concaved sides to concaved base	14		None

Table 10: Phase 6b Enclosure and Boundary ditches with associated features.

Two small, localised spreads of compacted silty clay containing small assemblages of 12-14th century ceramic (**F. 466** and **F. 516**) sealing Late Saxon boundary ditches were thought to represent the base of heavily truncated platforms; neither of which had and surviving structural elements.

Very few discrete features, not immediately associated with either structural or quarrying activity could be firmly associated with Phase6b. Two large sub oval pits (one of which was unexcavated due to safety concerns) were located in the south of Enclosure 12. **F. 106** was deep with vertical sides and a flat base with a thick deposit of clay, probably as a waterproofing element, was at the base and lower sides of the feature suggesting a water storage function. Small discrete pits were located within Enclosure 14, with occasional fragments of Medieval ceramics.

A suggestion of small scale industrial activity was identified from this Phase 6b, with small quantities of what appears to be ferrous 'hammer scale' being identified from bulk samples of Pit **F. 338** and a posthole, **F. 213** associated with Structure IV. The features themselves were not associated and neither contained significant quantities of charcoal or other industrial residues.

Within the northern limit of Enclosure 14 and overlaying the northern boundary ditches was a large irregular deposit of silty clay, **F. 321**: probably from the east-west ditches guiding water downslope resulting in a seasonal pooling at the transition between the Greensand and the clay. No datable material culture was recovered from the deposit and it is probable that it marked an area prone to flooding from at least the Late Saxon Phase 4 period onwards. The surviving raised house platform and cobbled 'floor' surface of Structure VIII is a logical response to flooding of an area. No evidence was recovered to suggest that the area was a water-source or pond.

The Phase 6b quarry pits showed a predominance of wild grass seeds, with oat, wheat and rye, suggesting a mixed landscape of open grassland as well as cultivated plots. Some of the structure's beam-slots were rich in barley, which, as in earlier periods, appears to have been processed primarily off site.

Structure No.	Description	Feature No.s	Significant Finds
IV	Rectangular Structure: Two beam-slots and postholes.	F. 396, F. 399, F. 476 F. 478, F. 479	None
VI	Rectangular structure: Three beam slots and postholes	F. 333, F. 334, F. 337. F. 335, F. 338, F. 339, F. 363, F. 351, F. 352, F. 353, F. 354, F. 355, F. 356, F. 358	F. 338 possible Hammer-scale
VII	Two beam-slots, one post hole	F. 259, F. 264, F. 265	Ely ware and Brown ware
VIII	Rectangular structure: Cobbled surface over a raised platform. Two beam-slots and postholes.	F. 208, F. 304, F. 104, deposit [1020].	Grey ware, St Neots and Ely wares (in platform deposit F. 104)
IX	Single deep beam slot, possible association with Structure VII	F. 314	St Neots and Thetford ware
X	Shallow beam slot with deposit of house platform	F. 466, F. 472, F.473	None
XI	Deposit of probable house platform	F. 516	St Neots and Ely ware

Table11: Phase 6b Structural elements.

Feature No.	Description	Enclosure No.	Associated Structure Number	Significant Finds
334	Pit: sub-rounded in plan, irregular steeply sloping sides to flat base	10	VI	None
342	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	10	VI	None
344	Pit: large, sub rounded pit, steeply sloping sides to irregular, narrow base	10	VI	None
346	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base	10	VI	None
347	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to narrow, concaved base	10	VI	Thetford and Gritty wares
348	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular base	10	VI	None
205	Pit: sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	14	None	Ely, Thetford and Brown wares
210	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	14	VIII	None
213	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep, occasionally undercut sides to concaved base	14	None	St Neots and Ely ware, possible hammer-scale
214	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	14	None	Thetford, Ely and St Neots wares
215	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep, occasionally undercut sides to concaved base	14	None	Thetford ware
224	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercutting sides to concaved base	14	None	
238	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep, occasionally undercut sides to concaved base	14	None	
239	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercutting sides to concaved base	14	None	
240	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercutting sides to concaved base	14	None	
241	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercutting sides to concaved base	14	None	
242	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercutting sides to concaved base	14	None	
249	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	None	
282	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular, flat base	14	None	Large quantity of domestic vessels

Table 12: Phase 6b Quarry Pits.

286	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep to moderately sloping concaved sides to flat base	14	None	None
364	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular, flat base	14	None	Ely ware
372	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular, flat base	14	None	None
379	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	14	None	Ely ware
381	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular, flat base	14	None	None
251	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	14	VIII	St Neots, Ely and Thetford wares
252	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	14	VIII	Thetford and Ely wares
253	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	14	VIII	Ely ware
267	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steep sides to concaved base	14	VIII	St Neots, Ely and Thetford wares
268	Pit: sub-oval in plan, irregular steep sides to flat base	14	VIII	St Neots ware
269	Pit: circular in plan with stepped straight, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	VIII	St Neots, Ely and Thetford wares
271	Pit: sub-oval in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	VIII	None
274	Pit: sub-oval in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	VIII	None
275	Pit: sub-oval in plan, gradually sloping sides to uneven base	14	VIII	Thetford, Ely and Grey wares
281	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	VIII	Ely ware
150	Pit: circular in plan, steep sides to flat base	14	VII?	Thetford and Ely wares
233	Pit: circular in plan, steep, often undercut sides to flat base	14	VII?	St Neots, Thetford and Sandy wares
235	Pit: irregular sub-circular in plan, irregular sloping sides to concaved base	14	VII?	None
236	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base	14	VII?	None
258	Pit: circular in plan, concaved sides and base	14	VII?	Ely and Thetford wares

Table 12: continued.

318	Pit: sub-circular in plan, moderately steeply sloping sides to concaved base	14	VII?	None
410	Pit: sub-Circular in plan, steep concaved sides to flat base	14	None	Ely ware
411	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	14	None	None
414	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	14	None	None
416	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	None	None
417	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping concaved sides to concaved base	14	None	Ely ware
439	Pit: circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base	14	None	None
297	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to irregular flat base	14	XI	None
517	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base	14	XI	None
518	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to concaved base	14	XI	None
529	Pit: circular in plan, steep straight sides to irregular concaved base	14	None	Residual Romano-British ceramic
539	Pit: circular in plan, steep straight sides to irregular concaved base	14	None	None

Table 12: continued.

4.7 Phase 7: 15-16th Century

Features firmly dated to the 15th century by material culture content were scarce. A large re-cutting of the north-south aligned ditch (**F. 389**) dividing Phase 6b Enclosures 10 and 11 curved to the east and likely formed the northern side of Enclosure 10; the recut contained a significant quantity of later Medieval metal objects (Figure 8). The presence of a 19th century ceramic water pipe and large deposit of 19th century material at the corner of this ditch, suggests it remained a significant boundary until relatively modern times. The general absence of contemporary activity throughout the remainder of the excavation area could well be indicative of a period of abandonment or of use as open fields.

Stratigraphically, the northernmost of the re-cut boundary ditches forming the northern limit of the excavation area (**F. 542**, **F. 543**, **F. 558**, **F. 559**, and **F. 561**) could be of this period, and the presence of two incomplete and irregular rows of post (see below) could be a result of a fence or attempt at internal division.

An irregular cluster of pits (**F. 532**, **F. 533**), containing 15-16th century ceramics within a dark, silty fill was located within the north-west of the excavation area, the shape and depth of which are indicative of a watering hole or well.

Feature No.	Description	Orientation	Significant Finds
132	Pit: sub-rounded, vertical sides to flat base		Grey ware. Infrequent burned daub
133	Posthole: circular in plan, straight sides to concaved base		None
139	Posthole: circular in plan, straight sides to concaved base		None
141	Posthole:, circular in plan, straight sides to concaved base		None
389	Wide, deep linear. Moderately steeply sloping stepped sides to a concaved base.	N-S, turning to E-W	High quantities 15-16th century metal objects. Mixed 9-14th ceramics. Iron Nail.
532	Large pit, sub rectangular in plan near vertical sides to flat base.		15-16th century ceramic. Iron Nail
533	Pit: sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base		None
534	Sub-circular in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base		Ely ware
542	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	E-W	None
543	Steeply sloping sides to concaved base	E-W	Ely ware
558	Steeply sloping sides to irregular flat base	E-W	Iron Nail
559	Steeply sloping sides to flat base.	E-W	None
561	Steeply sloping sides to flat base	E-W	Iron Nail

Table 13: Phase 7, 15th century boundary/ enclosure ditches and associated features.

Orientation	Feature No.s	Significant Finds
E-W	F. 216, F. 217, F. 218, F. 246, F. 247, F. 255, F. 256, F. 257, F.299, F. 300, F. 381, F. 509, F.510, F. 511	None
N-S	F. 459, F. 460, F. 461, F. 462, F. 463, F. 464, F. 481, F. 482, F. 483, F. 455, F. 486. Discrete F. 368, F. 369	None

Table 14: Phase 7 Post-rows.

Phase 8: Post-Medieval (Figure 8)

With the exception of the late 20th century house foundations within the west of the excavation area, the post-Medieval activity was mostly restricted to numerous ceramic field drains found throughout the site (not recorded in detail), emphasizing the generally ill drained nature of the land at Walsingham way and the open, agricultural use of the area from at least the 16th century onwards. A large irregular pit truncating the corner of the Late-Saxon to 15th century boundary ditches within the north-east of the excavation area contained a high density of 19th century ceramics, glass, clay pipe and domestic detritus and was probably a roadside rubbish pit. A ceramic water pipe, also truncating the older boundary ditches and leading to West Fen road demonstrates the prominence of the long standing boundaries, likely reflecting them in much later property/ field locations. Two shallow depressions (**F. 193** and **F. 289**), located within the south and at the north of the excavation area contained fragments of tobacco pipe as well as ash, charcoal and bone fragments suggestive of a single use hearth.

Feature No.	Description	Orientation	Significant Finds
561	Large, sub-rounded in plan, steeply sloping sides to flat base		19th century tobacco pipe, class and ceramic.
571	Shallow linear gully, rounded sides and base	E-W	19th century Ceramic
193	Circular in plan, shallow rounded sides and base		19th century tobacco pipe, Iron Nail.
289	Circular in plan, shallow rounded sides and base		19th century tobacco pipe

Table 15: post-Medieval features.

5 DISCUSSION

The excavation at the corner of Walsingham way and West Fen Road provided further insight into the development of Saxon and Medieval Ely and contributed to the large scale archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the development area. Problems relating to phasing of groups of features due to the silty clay fills encountered within them as well as the high quantities of both residual and intrusive material culture were also highlighted during the Ashwell site excavations to the west (Mortimer 2005). However, the presence of Greensand as the uppermost geological deposit across parts of the site, which was entirely absent from the adjacent excavations, made it possible to identify a relative chronological sequence for most of the excavation area, which could then be utilised to test the provenance of material culture contained within it. The longevity of particular features, most notably the multiple re-cut and re-defined boundary ditches and more robust structural elements could not be determined with any degree of certainty.

The geological factors that complicated the excavation and the reliability of phasing of archaeological features appear to have also influenced the development of the western side of the Isle of Ely. A geological boundary of Greensand was located within the western end of the excavation area; consequently the westernmost quarter of archaeological features were located on the Kimmeridge Clay.

Iron-Age and Romano-British activity, which was represented strongly within the excavations on the clays to the immediate west and north-west of the current excavation area, was not present in any notable quantity. This corresponds well with other clay Fen-edge settlements (Wright *et al*. 2009). The single, deep and well cut north-west to south-east aligned ditch within the eastern limit of the excavation area, representing the stratigraphically earliest feature on the site was unfortunately devoid of material culture, but morphologically resembled the Iron Age enclosure ditches found during both the 2005 and 2000 Ashwell excavations (Mortimer 2005; Mudd 2000).

The low density of flint from earlier prehistoric periods corresponds well with the surrounding sites and suggests a consistent 'background' of transient and ephemeral prehistoric activity along the slope of the hill, the elevated position overlying the edge of the fenlands.

The complete absence of Romano-British features appears to correspond with Mortimer *et al.'s* (2005) interpretation of the 1st to 4th century Romano-British occupation at the Ashwell site as representative of a small farmstead which did not demonstrate much growth over its occupied lifetime; a pattern similar to nearby sites such as the Trinity and Runciman fields, Ely (Masser 2001), Chatteris (Evans 2003) and Stonea (Jackson & Potter 1996). Consequently, the Romano-British activity did not extend as far up the hill as the current area of investigation.

The apparent absence of Early Saxon occupation also corresponds well with the results from The Ashwell site, where no evidence of Saxon settlement was identified prior to the 8th century (Mortimer *et al*. 2005). This dismisses the possibility of the West Fen road area being either the site of the 7th century or older settlement of *Cretendune* or associated directly with the foundation of the seventh century Monastic estate of Etheldreda.

The later phase of Middle-Saxon activity (Phase 3b) appears to compliment the alignment and morphology of the small rectilinear enclosures identified within the Ashwell excavations. The presence of a drove, road or trackway corresponding to the Middle-Saxon divisions, aligned north-east south-west is suggestive of an organised and formal land use/distribution. The lack of any features relating to contemporary structural components within these plots is by no means evidence of their absence considering the generally poor survival of structural elements from later periods. When combined with the assemblage from the Ashwell excavations (Blinkhorn 2000), the Middle Saxon ceramic assemblage from the current excavation suggests a larger degree of occupation than has previously been recorded in the region, and the scale of contemporary features across both the Ashwell and Northampton excavation areas to the immediate west and north demonstrate the expansive scale of land use in the Middle-Saxon period.

The earlier phase of Later Saxon occupation, represented by irregular curvilinear boundary/enclosure ditches corresponds well with the contemporary paddocks identified within the Ashwell site, which were shown to be associated with both domestic and none domestic structures and other features. The almost complete absence of features contemporary with the Phase 4a enclosures/ boundaries suggests a core of occupation to the west of the current excavation area.

The development of the Phase 4b enclosures is the most notable difference between the Ashwell site and the current area of investigation. The ditches and subsequent enclosures of this phase appear to demonstrate a re-organisation of the utilisation of the land within the development area, a phase not represented to the south. The alignment of ditches shifted from the generally northwest-southeast and southwest-northeast orientated boundary gullies seen during the Middle Saxon occupation to fewer generally north-south and east-west boundaries. The three major north-south aligned axes created 'plots' averaging between 10 and 15m in width.

The first of what would become a major group of boundary ditches, orientated east-west across the north of the excavation area could be dated to this phase and it is likely that the reorganisation respected the alignment of what is now West Fen Road. This could suggest that the reorganisation appears to be contemporary with the foundation of the Benedictine monastery and the improvements in communication associated with it.

The arrangement of the Phase 4b Enclosures, form what appears to be 'front' and 'back' enclosures with possible industrial activity and livestock restricted to the longer enclosures further from the road. Until the 13/ 14th or early 15th centuries the same alignments suggest a continuity of use, with structural expansion into the western limit of the excavation area as well as continued reinforcement and re-emphasis of the boundaries at the north and east of the central area during the conquest period. A notable predominance of fish-bones (most likely eel) within the Late Saxon environmental samples, as well as the presence of Fen Sedge within the peripheral boundary ditches suggests influence of and deliberate utilisation of the nearby fen-edge for resources. The same pattern was recorded at the Ashwell site, where eel was consumed and Fen Sedge was used as a fuel.

The westernmost of the Late-Saxon, Conquest, and then earlier 12-14th century enclosure ditches seems to mark an area of more open fields extending to the west of the development area. This area was utilised in what would appear to be a peripheral fashion within the 11th century, before being incorporated into the larger land parcels defining the later 12-14th or even 15th centuries. It is interesting, and not likely to be coincidental that the main western extent of the densest area of occupation during the 11th century onwards was located at the very edge of the limit of the Greensand, with the drainage benefits this could provide.

The largely north-south aligned divisions which appeared to be generally consistent from the Late-Saxon to 12-13th centuries suggest an organised distribution and management of land, likely based around family units. The internal divisions of the enclosures with those features indicative of industrial or agricultural processes generally restricted to the south certainly suggest a difference in use between the front and back areas in relation to West Fen Road; a characteristic more commonly associated with Late Saxon urban development.

If the Phase 5b enclosures could be seen as a first step towards urbanised property division, then the large, open 11-12th century Phase 5 enclosures that followed would appear to demonstrate a return to a more open agriculturally based economy.

Three post-built structures from this phase correspond in size and construction technique with contemporary structures identified at the Ashwell excavations.

The 12-14th century Phase 6 was marked by further redefinition of boundaries and by an amalgamation of enclosures into bigger open parcels of land. The structural elements of this phase show a predominantly beam or sill-slot construction, with a suggestion of several being built with raised mounds or platforms.

The survival of a raised platform, sealed by compacted cobbles within Structure VIII suggests the nature of at least some of the 12-14th century structures involved the piling of Greensand, into a mound. The foundation beam slots and postholes were then cut into, and in the case of Structures VI and VIII through this mound into the underlying substrata. In the case of structure VIII this was topped by a cobble floor which accounts for its preservation: The presence of a 'buried soil' containing contemporary ceramics within the area of Structure VI, identified during the evaluation phase (Hutton 2010) is likely to represent the remnants of such a truncated house platform.

Along with the beam slot built structures, activity within Phase 6b was characterized by the large number of pits located throughout the site but predominately in the north and eastern areas. Whilst the majority of these pits contained moderate quantities of material culture, some yielded larger quantities of domestic ceramics, and could initially be seen as rubbish pits, it is likely that their primary function was as a source of greensand to be utilisation in the construction of structural platforms. The distribution of the large pits containing greater quantities of domestic detritus appeared to correspond with the presence of Structures VI and VIII, suggesting a degree of contemporaneity between them; and intriguing 'open' areas adjacent to other groups of pits suggest the possibility of other structures having also existed on the site, but with no surviving archaeological footprint.

The 15-16th century phases reveal a relatively sudden and dramatic drop in activity within the development area, with what appears to be a conversion of the remnants of 12-14th century enclosures into open fields. The deep re-cutting of the previous Enclosure 10 boundary ditch suggests a field boundary, although the limited excavation area to the far east of the site did not allow the full character of this area to be seen.

The Phase 7 reduction of activity does correspond well with the de-valuing of land prices and reduction in rents seen during the 15th century (see historical background, above). With the over farming of peripheral, poor quality lands during the 13-14th centuries leading to crop-failures during the 15th century and a return to pastoralism, even before the population decline associated with the Black Death. This development of open fields was also noted during excavations at the Ashwell site (Mortimer *et al*. 2005).

6 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

The excavation at the corner of West-Fen Road and Walsingham Way was within an area of Ely that has seen a high number of archaeological excavations of varying sizes. The most relevant being the large open area excavations at the Ashwell site immediately to the west and Mudd's (2001) West Fen Road Site to the north-west.

The excavation has shown that there were four principle phases of activity on the site; Middle-Saxon, Later-Saxon, 12-14th century, and 15th century, with a low density of Prehistoric and post-Medieval activity. These results make it possible to compare how the western slope of Ely was occupied from the 8/9th centuries to the late Medieval period, and highlight how the density, phasing and character of the occupation changed in relation to its location on the slope, the geology and other factors.

The Middle-Saxon activity, typified by a distinct drove or roadway, is compatible with that the Middle Saxon activity identified within the nearby excavations. A more detailed examination of the stratigraphy of the features and the material culture that they yielded could further understanding of the early origins of the occupation of the Isle of Ely itself, and potentially articulating any relationships with the early monastic house of the Middle-Saxon period. The large quantity of Middle Saxon ceramics, mostly Ipswich Ware, from this excavation (155 sherds), Mudd's excavation, (410 sherds) and the nearby Ashwell site (227 sherds) makes the assemblage worthy of further study. Further discussion of the types, dates, origin and economic significance of such an assemblage could be made, with its relevance to the Saxon occupation of the Isle of Ely.

Historical research into the probability of West Fen road originating during the Later-Saxon period, and the associations with the 9th century Benedictine economic reorganisation could be useful in understanding the notable 9-11th century alignment changes in the archaeology. Potentially providing information on how the monastic foundation was linked with production and occupation in the west of Ely.

The 12-14th century use of the site, with a perceived change in form to more open, larger enclosures which appeared to correspond with the quarrying of Greensand and the construction of raised structures, would benefit from historical research, investigating the economic and social causes of such land organisation. Investigation as to whether the material culture deposited during the backfilling of the quarry pits was, in fact, associated with adjacent structures, with the implications for the levels and status of habitation on the site, or whether the pits were, in fact utilised by surrounding settlements or the town itself for waste disposal following the quarrying. A detailed study of the stratigraphic relationships, with a closer examination of the ceramic assemblage from the final 12-14th century enclosures, quarry pits and structural elements may help to clarify; this, as well as highlighting the potential differences in occupation patterns and land use between the current area of investigation and contemporary activity identified at The Ashwell site further down the slope.

Later activity within the excavation area, 15th century to later post-Medieval did not make a significant sub-surface impact, likely due to the area being open fields without

the clearly defined enclosures that characterised earlier phases. The reason for this marked decline in activity is potentially associated with the late 15th century social and economic responses to the population decline caused by the Black Death, with cattle/sheep becoming prominent and open fields dominating the landscape.

The assessment of 22 bulk soil samples from a range of feature types and dates revealed that whilst the grain and seed preservation was commonly rather poor, enough was preserved to indicate an economy from the Late Saxon to 14th centuries based on imported grain, processed close to the occupied areas and supplemented by vegetables such as cabbage and mustard grown on site. The assessment of the features and phasing of activity within the site has raised the possibility of further palaeobotanical studies of bulk samples. The potential for identification of areas of industrial/domestic processing could be highlighted, most relevant to the pits and structures of Phase 4, where the disparity between a street frontage and longer rear plots was noted.

7 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS

The original research design for excavations at Walsingham Way as stated in the project specification (Beadsmoore 2010) was to be led by a series of research aims;

- Whether the settlement is a continuation in character of the known activity at the Ashwell site, a collection of farmsteads, or whether any economic specialisation is identifiable.
- Whether less fenland resources were utilised further away from the fen edge.
- Whether there is evidence for status associated with this part of the settlement, identified to the south west, at the south-eastern corner of the Ashwell Site.

The excavation at Walsingham way has either fully or in part elucidated a number of these original research aims; however, in the process it has created further questions and theories. These revised research aims are:

- To consider how the Late Anglo-Saxon activity compares to the Middle-Saxon activity, and investigate reasons for the very distinct alignment changes within the site and to investigate the apparent decommissioning of the Middle-Saxon drove or roadway. The status of the droveway and association with known nearby Middle Saxon sites needs further investigation.
- Fuller investigation into the nature and status of the Middle Saxon activity within the excavation area; the relative environmental sterility of middle Saxon features compared to those of adjacent excavation areas, and the notable absence of Middle Saxon structural elements.
- To more accurately associate structural elements, especially those of the 11th and later 12-14th centuries with enclosures and features with larger quantities of industrial/domestic material.
- A thorough study of the ceramic, faunal and other artefact assemblage with a hope to identifying use, and change over time of the enclosures and occupation within the site and its association with similarly dated sites both

locally and regionally. The high quantity of ceramic recovered from Late-Saxon to Medieval contexts and a surprisingly high quantity of Middle-Saxon ceramic from the site as a whole could add to our understanding of the economy and population of Ely.

- To relate the known historical record with the identified phases of archaeological activity at the current site as well as comparing the similarities and differences in land use/development with those previously identified at nearby excavations such as The Ashwell Site and West Fen Road.

8 APPENDICES

8.1 Post-Roman pottery *David Hall*

The collection of post-Roman pottery from Walsingham Way is summarized by fabric type in Table 16. There were a total of 1,609 sherds weighing 24.228kg. All sherds were examined (with a X20 lens when necessary) and split into fabrics, quantified by sherd count, sherd weight and rim count. Details of vessel form, decoration, sooting, abrasion and burnishing were recorded.

Fabric type	Sherd Number	Percent (by no.)	Weight (grams)	Approx. date range	Notes
Ipswich	155	9.6	4712	700-850+	
Thetford	214	13.3	2381	850-1150	Includes 8 oxidized sherds
St Neots	236	14.7	1840	850-1150	1 pink sherd
Stamford	13	0.8	88	850-1150	1 pink sherd
Ely oxidized	551	34.2	10778	13-14th	
Ely reduced	231	14.4	2137	13-14th	
Grey ware	90	5.6	932	12-13th	
Blackborough End type	10	0.6	67	13th	
Lyveden	4	0.2	53	13th	
Grimston	8	0.5	183	14th	
Stamford Developed	1	0.1	1	14th	
Essex Red	2	0.1	20	14-15th	1 Hedingham sherd
Unident Medieval	29	1.8	285	12-14th	
Bourne	2	0.1	16	15th	Bourne D type
Glazed Red Earthenware	14	0.9	378	16-18th	
Staffs	1	0.1	2	17th	Yellow fabric
19th century	17	1.1	79	19th	Various fabrics
Prehistoric	2	0.1			
Roman	13	0.8	107		Grey & samian sherds
Other	16	1	169		
TOTAL	**1609**	**100**	**24228g**		

Table 16: Pottery types, dates and quantities.

Ipswich

Ipswich Ware, a hard fabric, usually grey in colour, was made on a slow wheel and fired at a high temperature. Most vessels are thick walled and some have uneven rills, about 1cm apart. The material has been described by Hurst (1957, 1979) and West (1963, 1985).

St Neots

Typically dark purple fabric with white shells and a soapy feel to the surface. Also coloured grey or pink (Hurst 1956).

Thetford

Hard grey reduced ware, with thin sherds except for large storage vessels. Jar rims tend to be smaller and more finely made than St Neots Ware. Described by Hurst (1957), Jennings (1981, 14-22) and Rogerson and Dallas (1984). It was made at places other than Thetford.

Stamford

Fine off-white ware with light green glaze (Hurst 1958), with later work by Kilmurry (1980). Sometimes reduced to grey.

Ely

Medieval Ely fabrics are hard with a slight sand component and characteristically contain white grits evenly distributed throughout the fabric and visible on the surface. The grits are usually small, but can be up to 1.5 mm in diameter. Oxidized sherds have surfaces coloured buff, pink and occasionally red. The core is usually dark. The reduced fabric has grey or nearly black surfaces (Hall 2001; Spoerry 2008).

Blackborough End type

A fabric of reduced black sandy ware, sometimes brown or grey. Predominantly hard with thin-walled vessels. Probably from Blackborough End, Middleton, Norfolk (Rogerson and Ashley 1985).

The bulk of the sherds (96%) consisted of material dated prior to 1400, comprising principally Ipswich Ware (10%), Saxo-Norman wares (29%) and local Ely fabrics (47%).

The 155 Ipswich Ware sherds, when added to the 227 sherds previously excavated from West Fen Road, continue to make Ely one of the major find spots of this fabric outside of Ipswich and London (Blinkhorn in Mortimer et al 2005, 64-5). The sherds from Walsingham Way mostly had a smooth sandy fabric, often very dark. Grey sherds with a 'pimply' surface were uncommon.

The particular interest of the collection is that it contains Ipswich sherds without admixture of hand- made gritty Middle Saxon sherds. At the nearby Ely Ashwell site, only 9 hand-made gritty Middle Saxon sherds and an unspecified number of Maxey type Middle Saxon sherds were found (Mortimer et al 2005, 62). The absence of these sherds from Walsingham Way may be attributed to the Ipswich Ware supplanting the hand-made wares, but more likely is a chronological indicator, with the phase of the site producing pottery dating to the early 9th century when hand-made Saxon pottery ceased to be used.

Ipswich Ware occurred in 71 contexts, 36 of them without any other material. The two largest groups were from [1440] feature 404, 27 sherds; [1273] feature 344, 8 sherds; and [1101] 6 sherds. Admixture of Ipswich Ware with St Neots or Thetford Ware in 8 contexts that is unlikely to be disturbed, on stratigraphic evidence, and

probably represent a genuine late 9th-century phase, before Ipswich Ware was superseded. The contexts are:

> [694], F170 Linear, enclosure 7; [702], F174 Pit or well; [705], F 175, Boundary ditch; [1097], F 254, Linear; [1394], F385, Boundary ditch; 1406, F395, Linear, Enclosure 4.

Thetford and St Neots type wares were frequent finds (214 and 236 sherds; 13 and 15 percent). The vessel forms were typical; bowls with inturned and hammer-head rims, and jars with a variety of everted rims.

Local Medieval Ely Ware sherds were the commonest ceramic finds, a third of them (231 sherds, 14% of the total assemblage) occurring in a fully reduced grey fabric. The bulk of Ely sherds were oxidized (551 sherds 34%). From the rim forms most of the material appears to be 13th century.

Some reduced Ely fabrics are similar in form to early Medieval jars from Blackborough End Norfolk (Rogerson and Ashley 1986). These jars are normally sandy and thin walled. Similar material was found at Thetford (Rogerson and Dallas 1984, 164-6). The Walsingham Way vessels are not very sandy and have an Ely type gritty fabric. They most probably are copies of the Norfolk vessels. The Ely pottery industry often copied other forms, notably Grimston Ware, but in that case never achieved a very good glaze.

Other Medieval fabrics were only minor components of the collection (15 sherds, 0.9% plus 29 unidentified sherds, 1.8%). They are fully described in the ceramic report of Ely Forehill (Hall 2001). They included:

Lyveden: a shelly pink ware often leached; sometimes reduced to grey (13th century).
Developed Stamford: fine off-white-cream fabric with light green glaze background and dark blotches of green (14th century).

Essex red wares: fine wares of which Hedingham is the most easily identified with golden mica particles; some sherds are reduced to a grey colour (14th-15th centuries).

There were only a few post-Medieval sherds in the collection. Of these 14 were 17th century Glazed Red Earthenware (0. 514kg, from [1798, 1811, 1830, 1869]), one sherd of 17th century Staffordshire origin [1869] and 10 sherds of various fabrics of 19th-century date 0.079 kg, [1830, 1869]. These early-modern sherds are not further discussed.

8.2 Metalwork *Andrew Hall*

Following the stripping of top and subsoil from the excavation area metal detecting was employed to aid in the retrieval of small finds from archaeological features as well as to minimise impact of clandestine unauthorised detecting. Systematic detecting continued throughout the schedule of works. Surveying the topsoil and subsoil prior to removal was abandoned due to high levels of modern domestic detritus.

Recent objects of little or no archaeological significance, such as milk bottle tops, ring pulls; modern shotgun cartridges, etc. were collected, but discarded prior to finds assessment. The detectors used were XP ADX100, set with limited discrimination to ensure the retrieval of iron artefacts. A proportion of the finds were recovered by hand excavation without the use of the detector and these are included within the results below. Also included are artefacts recovered during the evaluation phase (Hutton 2010a).

Copper alloy

A total of 32 copper alloy finds were recovered from the site The date range for the assemblage spans the 2nd century AD through to the modern day, with the majority of artefacts dating to the Medieval and post-Medieval periods. A proportion of the assemblage consists of undiagnostic or relatively modern artefacts which are summarised within Table 17. The remaining finds are worthy of further description and are listed within the following catalogue:

<1001> Evaluation, F. 27: Sf.3. A cast copper alloy decorative bar mount, possibly from a casket or book binding, with ornate terminals and traces of gilding to the upper surface. The bar has two curving lugs positioned centrally to one side, possible suggesting that this formed part of a hinge mechanism. It measures 13mm in width by 94mm in length and weighs 20g. Similar examples were excavated from a moated site at Wintringham in Huntingdonshire (Beresford 1977, 278). A late Medieval date seems appropriate.

<1001> Sf. 11. A heavy worn copper alloy Roman Coin of 28mm diameter and 3mm thickness. Possibly a *Sestertii* or *As* of 1st or 2nd century AD. Weight 18g.

<1006> Sf.19. A heavily worn copper alloy disc, possibly a coin, centrally pierced. Measuring 18mm diameter and weighing 2g.

<1007> Sf.24. A hammered copper alloy jetton of Hans Kravwinckle type with central orb and cross. This jetton appears to have been cut into a quarter. It originally would have measured 18mm in diameter. These date from the second half of the 16th to the 17th century AD.

<1008> Sf.27. A cast copper alloy grain or cloth seal of small size. The main body is circular and measures 12mm in diameter with two protruding lugs. Weight 3g.

<1010> Sf.30. A cast copper alloy *fleur de lis* shaped mount measuring 17 x 12mm. With the remains of two rivets on the plain undecorated reverse. Medieval in date. Weight 3g. A close parallel is published from London (Egan and Pritchard 2002, 200).

<1015> Sf.42. A cast copper alloy belt slider attachment. The frame is rectangular in shape, with two pierced holes to the reverse. This would have slid onto a belt and may have been used for suspending items or securing a strap. It measures 29 x 16mm and weighs 8g. Late Medieval in date.

<1018> Sf.47. Fragment of a long (85mm+) needle, weighing 8g, with lumen and point missing. Possibly used for leather working. Similar examples have been found in Norwich (Margeson 1993, 186) and York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2744) and dating to the Medieval period.

<1021> Sf.53. A cast, copper alloy buckle of square shape, missing its plate and pin. The frame measures 16 x 14mm and weighs 4g. The front bar has five filed grooves with slight wear on the back bar where the pin would have rubbed. Close parallels are recorded from London (Egan and Pritchard 2002, 96) and these date this example to the late 14th or 15th century.

<1023> Sf.55. A sheet copper alloy mount of square shape with two protruding square arms off opposing sides. Each arm is centrally pierced for attachment. The mount measures 56 x 30mm and weighs 11g. The reverse is plain; however, the upper surface is decorated with an incised "wiggle work" border that extends around the central square and each arm. This may well be a book mount or furniture mount, and although no clear parallel can be found within the literature, it appears stylistically to date from the later Medieval period.

<1024> Sf.56. A sheet metal, copper alloy bell with a heavily corroded iron pea or pellet. The bell measures 23mm in height by 17mm diameter and has a dumb-bell shaped aperture. The suspension loop is intact having been made separately and subsequently attached. Weight 10g. Such bells were often sewn onto clothing or attached to horse harnesses. They are often also interpreted as animal bells, a pre-cursor to the Post Medieval crotal or rumbler bell. Parallels are noted from Norwich (Margeson 1993 p.213) and London (Egan 2005 p.57) and date this to the later Medieval period.

<1025> Sf.58. A 4th century AD copper alloy Roman coin (*nummus*) of the House of Constantine. Measuring 16mm in diameter and weighing 4g.

<1029> F.404 [1440]. A badly corroded, sheet copper alloy hooked tag of triangular shape with two pierced holes for attachment, measuring 18mm in length by 6mm in width and weighing 1g. No surface decoration is apparent. These date from the Late Saxon period (10th-11th century) with similar examples recovered during the excavation of the nearby West Fen Road site (Mortimer *et al* 2005, 55). Further similar examples are discussed from Norwich (Margeson 1993, 16).

Catalogue No.	Small find No.	Feature	Context	Description	Date
1000				casting spill droplet	undated
1002		F.5	7	An Art Nouveau copper alloy pendant with openwork decoration and suspension loop	*c.*1900
1003	13			A white metal press stud	Modern
1004	16			Rectangular sheet of copper alloy with two pierced holes. 50 x 30mm	19th/20th
1009	29			Irregular sheet off cut.	undated
1011	31			Machine stamped thimble 18 x 19mm	18th/19th
1012	32			Machine pressed copper alloy lid from dressing table bottle. Diameter 28mm	20th
1013	35			Irregular sheet copper alloy off cut	undated
1014	36			Plain button. Diameter 15mm	19th/20th
1016	43			Pressed sheet copper alloy washer	modern
1017	45			Plain copper alloy button, 15mm diameter	19th/20th
1019	48			Modern zip pull	modern
1020	51			Shank from copper alloy nail	18th/19th
1022	54			Copper alloy casting spill	undated
1025	57			Irregular copper alloy casting spill	undated
1026	59			Pressed copper alloy button of 16mm diameter	19th
1027	60			Plain tombak or hessian button of 24mm diameter	18th/19th
1028		F.104	510	Undecorated copper alloy disc	Post Med
1030		F.418	1473	Drawn copper alloy wire of 2.5mm gauge.	Post Med
1031		F.234	1723	A twisted wire loop of 16mm diameter	16th /17th

Table 17: Additional copper alloy finds.

This is a very typical, if slightly underwhelming assemblage with a large proportion of the finds dating to the recent centuries. There is, however, a group of later Medieval finds that stand out and include

items such as the *fleur de lis* and casket mounts, objects of some quality and suggestive of higher status occupation or through traffic within the vicinity. This is a disappointing assemblage, considering the density of cut archaeological features and the size of the stripped area.

Lead

A total of 15 objects formed the assemblage of lead artefacts. Within this group are six casting spills (Sfs 10, 20, 25, 26, 41 and 52), seven lead sheet off-cuts (Sfs 12, 17, 28, 33, 40, 46 and <1075>). A single fragment of possible window lead Sf.44 <1073> was also recovered along with a pierced net or line weight of oval shape Sf.22 <1066>.

Iron

The iron artefacts recovered were in poor condition and encased within a thick layer of corrosion. This makes identification, date attribution and discussion limited to a brief note at this stage of analysis. Should further work be deemed necessary, then x-rays should be commissioned.

The majority of artefacts recovered within this category are nails. A total of 20 were retrieved through detecting and hand excavation. All appear to be hand forged and range from 15 to 75mm in length. The following catalogue entries refer to nails: <1034, 1032, 1035, 1037, 1038, 1043, 1044, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1058, 1059, 1061, 1062, and 1064>, the typical morphology of which remained generally unchanged from the Iron Age to the 19th century and the nails recovered from excavated contexts were from features dating from the 11th to 16th centuries, the majority being within the later phases.

The following catalogue lists the other identifiable iron artefacts:

<1033> Sf.21. A rectangular domed headed rivet? Or bolt head. Measuring 45 x 25mm and weighing 53g.

<1039> Evaluation F.27 [30]. A square section tool tapering to a point. Possibly a punch or chisel. It measures 77mm in length and weighs 42g.

<1041> Evaluation F.28 [72]. A fragment of a horse or oxen shoe. Measuring 70 x 28mm, weight 31g. Dating to the later Medieval or Post Medieval period.

<1045> F.173 [700]. An Iron bar of oval cross section 250mm in length by25mm in width. Possibly door or window furniture. Weight 165g.

<1046> F.174 [702]. The tip of a large knife, with a curved back. Measuring 50 x 27mm and weighing 26g.

<1047> F.264 [751]. The tang of a knife 115mm in length and weighing 41g.

<1051> F.229 [1170]. A small hook, 60mm in length and weighing 16g.

<1052> F.314 [1199]. A fine small knife with tang intact. Length 105mm. Later Medieval or early post-Medieval in date.

<1057> F.389 [1399] A further domed rivet head identical to <1033>.

<1060> F.542 [1832] A large iron key 140mm in length and weighing 130g. Medieval / Post Medieval.

<1076> F.344 [1175] A small knife blade with rounded end and missing tang. Measuring 62mm in length and weighing 12g. Most likely post-Medieval in date.

The following catalogue entries are unidentifiable at this stage: <1036, 1040, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, and 1063>.

8.3 Faunal remains *Vida Rajkovača*

Fieldwork at Walsingham Way, Ely represents a continuation of archaeological investigations in the area (Mortimer, Regan and Lucy 2005, Hutton 2010) and will build on zooarchaeological work carried out by Higbee and others on assemblages from nearby sites (Higbee in Mortimer, Regan and Lucy 2005, Rajkovača in Hutton 2010). The excavations resulted in the recovery of an assemblage totalling 1653 assessable fragments and weighing 48.857kg. In addition, further 460 specimens came from the heavy residues and this material has been quantified separately (Table 18).

Based on the chronology of the material, eight sub-sets were created in order to study the site. A small percentage of animal bone (*c.*11%) came from undated features and this material has been considered separately. Overall, judging by the quantity of faunal material recovered from each of the phases of occupation, it appears that the more intensive economic activities of animal exploitation took place between the Mid Saxon period and the 12-14th century; yielding the largest portion of the assemblage (*c*. 39%).

	Phase								
Hand-recovered	*Preh/RB*	*Mid Saxon*	*Late Saxon*	*11-12th c.*	*12-14th c.*	*15-16th c.*	*Post-Med.*	*Undated*	***Total***
Contexts	2	15	67	28	124	14	3	46	**299**
Fragments	3	190	330	240	646	48	8	188	**1653**
Heavy residues	*Preh/RB*	*Mid Saxon*	*Late Saxon*	*11-12th c.*	*12-14th c.*	*15-16th c.*	*Post-Med.*	*Undated*	***Total***
Contexts	1	9	4	.	7	1	.	.	**22**
Fragments	4	123	154	.	173	6	.	.	**460**

Table 18: Faunal material: context and fragment count by phase

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge. Most, but not all, caprine bones are difficult to identify to species however, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep or goat from the assemblage, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Halstead (Halstead *et al.* 2002). Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to

general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982; Payne 1973) and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident. Measurements have been taken following Von den Driesch (1976) and withers estimates follow the conversion factors given by Von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974).

More than half of the assemblage came from the contexts excavated within linear features across the site, followed by significant quantities which were recovered from pits, postholes and beam slots. The preservation of bone was generally good, yet bones were rather fragmented, as is the case for most of the assemblages derived from butchery and food refuse (table 22). It was not possible to note any difference in the preservation patterns between earlier and later stages of occupation. Surface bone erosion and weathering were minimal. There were no articulated portions or complete skeletons, which might suggest that at least part of the assemblage was redeposited. Canid gnawing was observed on *c.*5% and butchery was recorded on *c.*8% of the material. No pathological specimens were noted in this assemblage.

Preservation	*Preh/RB*		*Mid Saxon*		*Late Saxon*		*11-12th c.*		*12-14th c.*		*15-16th c.*		*Post-Med.*		*Undated*	
	Context	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*	*Context*	*Fragment*
Good	.	.	1	6	2	9	1	1	3	4	3	12	.	.	.	.
Quite good	1	1	5	130	11	104	3	16	18	150	1	5	1	2	9	60
Mod.	1	2	9	54	48	198	23	220	81	450	7	24	2	6	32	123
Quite poor	.	.	.	.	5	18	1	3	19	32	3	7	.	.	5	5
Poor	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	2	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mixed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	2	3	15	190	67	330	28	240	124	646	14	48	3	8	46	188

Table 19: Hand-recovered material: preservation by phase

Occurrence and frequency of species

The list of *taxa* is given in Table 20, by phase. Just over half of the assemblage as a whole could be identified to species level, the remainder being assigned to size-category. Three main food-species dominate the assemblage (ovicapra, cattle and pig), followed by horse and poultry such as chicken and domestic goose. Cattle were the prevalent species during the Mid Saxon period, although this is based on small numbers. Ovicapra seem to have become increasingly more important during the Late Saxon period and through the 11th and 12th century. Although ovicapra were quantitatively better represented, cattle would have certainly been the largest providers of meat. Wild taxa are not particularly well represented; yet it would seem that deer and wild boar were at least occasionally hunted. Both chicken and domestic goose were present in four different phases of occupation, followed by a few bones from mallard, pheasant, partridge, crane and teal. Two specimens were not possible to identify to species, one of which was a small wader bird. Other specimen belonged to the group of closely related galliformes and it was difficult to assign it to species.

Body parts

Skeletal element count for the three main species demonstrated that all parts of beef/ mutton/ pork carcass were present within the assemblage indicating that animals were probably if not raised on site, then certainly slaughtered on site. As in most assemblages, loose teeth were over-represented due to the preservation bias.

Age and biometry

Quantity of available specimens for ageing is given in Table 21. Albeit the figures may not be sufficient for the study of kill-off patterns, some propositions about animal use could be made based on the data available from ageing analyses. A few foetal (?) and/ or neonatal bones of cattle and sheep were recorded suggesting that these species were reared on site and this is consistent with what was suggested by the representation and distribution of body parts. Studies of kill-off patterns could potentially highlight different stages at which cattle and sheep were killed thus indicating possible *emphases* on certain secondary products or maybe even offer evidence for a specialised economy where one would see higher concentration of killings at a certain age stage. In addition to the economy, the possibility of the seasonal occupation of the site can also be discussed. Unfortunately, only three complete measurable specimens were recovered from three different phases and this is most likely due to the high levels of fragmentation.

Butchery and craft

Butchery marks were fairly common on Walsingham way bones being recorded on *c.* 7% of the assemblage. It is interesting that several cut marks were noted on a fish element recovered from pit F.344. Chops were more common than cut marks and the actions include bone splitting either for working (into bone points or gauges) or marrow extraction, as well as disarticulation and meat removal. Two specimens showed sings of sawing and this is usually interpreted as sign of a preparation for bone working. Detailed examination of butchery will be able to indicate the presence of specialised butchers or skilled individuals on site.

In addition to the butchery, four worked bone specimens were also recorded. These objects are listed below:

<406>;Fragmented pin-beater oval in section with cortile tissue present at fragmentary end. Polished and includes a series of transverse marks around the middle section. [775]; F.191; undated linear.

<690>;Fragmented and highly polished pin-beater oval in section. A series of transverse shallow grooves at an oblique angle is visible around the bottom end of the middle section, *c.*2cm above the point. [1199]; F.314; 12-14th century beam-slot

<208>: Distal end of sheep/goat unfused humerus with a perforation on the medial side. This mark can represent a puncture made by canine teeth; however, there is no visible flaking around the perforation which could be expected if the puncture had been made by carnivore teeth. [510]; F.104; 12-14th century deposit.

<363>: Hemispherical spindle whorl with a relatively flat base fashioned from a cattle femoral head. [702]; F.174; Late Saxon pit.

Taxon	Preh/RB			Mid Saxon			Late Saxon			11-12th c.			12-14th c.			15-16th c.			Post-Med.			Undated			Total NISP
	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	NISP	NISP %	MNI	
Cow	.	.	.	47	43.1	3	62	37.6	3	37	34.3	3	132	39.3	6	5	20.8	1	.	.	.	40	43	3	323
Sheep/Goat	1	50	1	38	34.9	3	70	42.4	6	40	37	3	114	33.9	8	7	29.2	1	2	66.6	1	30	32.2	2	302
Sheep	.	.	.	1	0.9	1	2	1.2	1	5	4.6	3	12	3.6	3	.		.	.	.	.	5	5.4	2	25
Goat	.	.	.	2	1.9	1	.	.	.	1	0.95	1	4	1.2	2	.		.	.	.	.	1	1	1	8
Pig	.	.	.	9	8.3	2	14	8.5	1	16	14.8	3	33	9.8	2	2	8.3	1	.	.	.	7	7.5	1	81
Horse	1	50	1	1	0.9	1	12	7.3	1	4	3.7	1	12	3.6	1	6	25	1	1	33.4	1	6	6.5	1	43
Dog	.	.	.	1	0.9	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0.6	1	.		.	.	.	.	2	2.2	1	5
Cat	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.6	1	1	0.95	1	2	0.6	1	2	8.3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Red deer	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.95	1	2	0.6	1	1	4.2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Roe deer	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Fox	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Wild boar	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	4.2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chicken	.	.	.	4	3.6	1	1	0.6	1	2	1.8	1	2	0.6	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2.2	1	11
Dom. goose	.	.	.	4	3.6	1	3	1.8	1	1	0.95	1	2	0.6	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Mallard	.	.	.	2	1.9	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	0.9	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Crane	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Teal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0.6	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Pheasant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Partridge	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Galliform n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Frog/toad	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0.6	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Cattle-sized	.	.	.	38	.	.	104	.	.	46	.	.	148	.	.	11	.	.	2	.	.	35	.	.	384
Sheep-sized	1	.	.	35	.	.	55	.	.	70	.	.	138	.	.	13	.	.	3	.	.	57	.	.	372
Rodent-sized	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	6	.	.	6	.	.	16	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	42
Fish n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Total	**3**	**100**	**.**	**190**	**100**	**.**	**330**	**100**	**.**	**240**	**100**	**.**	**646**	**100**	**.**	**48**	**100**	**.**	**8**	**100**	**.**	**188**	**100**	**.**	**1653**

Table 20:Number of specimens identified to species (or NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI) by phase for hand-recovered remains. The abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that a specimen was or could not be further identified.

Phase	Number of measurable specimens	Number of ageable specimens	
		Toothwear	Epiphyseal fusion
Prehistoric /Romano-British	.	.	2
Mid Saxon	.	5	12
Late Saxon	1	2	16
11-12th century	1	13	22
12-14th century	1	17	59
15-16th century	.	1	.
Post-Medieval	.	.	.

Table 21: Total numbers of measurable and ageable specimens by phase.

Phase	Number of butchered specimens
Prehistoric /Romano-British	1
Mid Saxon	20
Late Saxon	34
11-12th century	14
12-14th century	43
15-16th century	.
Post-Medieval	.

Table 22: Total numbers of butchered specimens by phase.

Faunal material from heavy residues

A small faunal assemblage was recovered from 22 of the sorted environmental bulk samples. Albeit this sub-set reflects the same range of species as those found in hand-recovered assemblage, a considerable amount of fish specimens was also recorded (Table 23) with the majority being recovered from the Late Saxon period. Fish remains were not identified to species at this stage and should be sent to a specialist; however, it appears that Eel and Herring are present. It is worth noting and this stage that Eel and Herring were the two most common fish species found at the Ashwell site (Piper in Mortimer *et al*. 2005). The processing of environmental samples for additional recovery of fish remains has proved to be important here, given that only two fish bone specimens came from the hand-recovered assemblage. In addition, small vertebrates are also present. Frog/ toad and shrew were positively identified and these species were also identified at the Ashwell site (Piper in Mortimer, Regan and Lucy 2005).

Taxon	NISP	NISP%	MNI
Cow	7	13.7	1
Sheep/Goat	11	21.5	1
Pig	1	2	1
Horse	2	3.9	1
Dog	1	2	1
Cat	2	3.9	1
Frog/ toad	26	51	1
Shrew *sp.*	1	2	1
Cattle-sized mammal	7	.	.
Sheep-sized mammal	68	.	.
Rodent-sized mammal	23	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	212	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	6	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	93	.	.
Total	**460**	**100**	**.**

Table 23: NISP and MNI for identified species from heavy residues (all phases).

Conclusions and summary of the potential

The most substantial stratified sub-sets of animal bone date to the Middle and Late Saxon period, and the period between the 11th and 14th century. The animal economy seems to have been based mostly on livestock species, yet wild game was also sporadically hunted and represented an occasional addition to the diet. Although beef and mutton were the most important contributors to the diet; pork, venison and horse meat were also eaten.

Certain differences in animal use were noticed between different phases of occupation, with cattle and sheep/goat being comparably well represented and pig of lesser importance overall (Chart 1). Slight increase in sheep during the Late Saxon and later periods is comparable with findings from the Ashwell site (Higbee in Mortimer *et al*. 2005: 93). Although animals can be as representative of a society as any other elements of material culture, it is problematical to discuss economy regimes purely based on the ratio of different species.

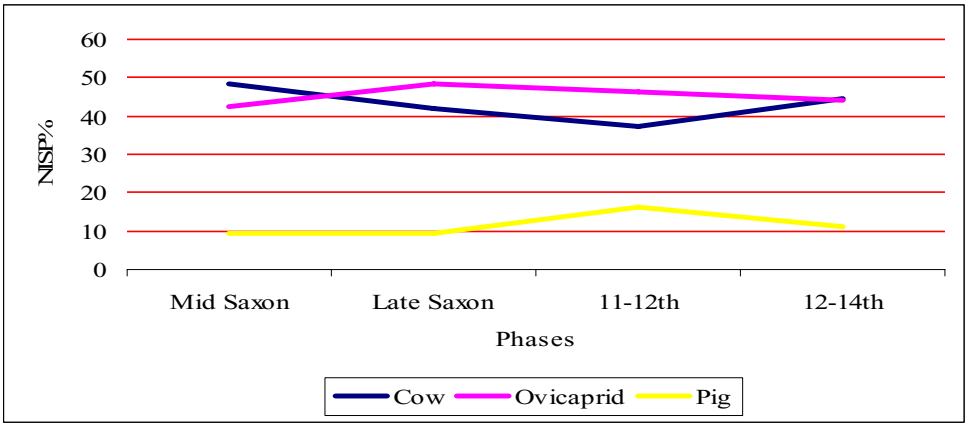


Chart 1: Proportions of main domesticates by NISP% for four main phases of occupation.

This having been said, it is possible to make certain propositions about animal management and use at Walsingham way during the Middle to Late Saxon and Medieval period. Study of kill-off profiles for cattle and ovicapra would be important for our understanding of the site's dietary practices. Furthermore, detailed analysis of butchery marks and body- part distribution can offer valuable information about food procurement and use. Finally, incorporating data from contemporaneous assemblages from the immediate locale or area further a field can significantly increase the size of the data-set. This can potentially offer more distinct answers relating to questions about site's husbandry and/or hunting strategies, as well as socio-economic and dietary practices. Relative comparison between the assemblages from the area is also needed as it can present us with potential differences between the economic regimes practiced on these sites.

8.4 Analyses of Bulk Environmental Samples-*Anne de Vareilles*

22 bulk samples, totalling 638 litres of deposit, were floated using a modified version of the Siraf flotation machine (Williams 1973). The samples range from pre-historic to Medieval and are described below in a temporal sequence. Flots were collected in 300µm aperture meshes and analysed dry under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x). Sorting of the flots was carried out in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Plant remains were identified using the laboratory's reference collection and the following seed manuals: Berggren (1969, 1981), Anderberg (1994) and Cappers *et al*. (2006). >4mm fractions of the heavy residues were sorted by eye and all ecofacts and artefacts recorded (see Table 24). Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals, Stace (1997) for all other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs.

Results

Despite basal fills with high levels of water retention from two deep pits or wells: F.149 and F.174, no samples were found to be waterlogged. The site's previous use as a wooded garden has greatly affected all features with its deep ramifications of roots. Roots and their associated biota have disrupted contexts and probably caused small finds, such as carbonised plant remains, to move between archaeological layers. The fibrous plant remains seen in the deep pits/wells that were thought to be waterlogged residues were, in fact, modern rootlets.

Charred cereal grains and/or wild plant seeds were found in all samples, with 32% of contexts containing over 50 grains. The count density, however, was moderate, averaging 5 items (seeds, chaff, grain) per litre of soil. Identification of cereals to species was not always possible as the level of preservation is moderate; most grains have suffered from abrasion, puffing, pitting and breaking. Differing between hulled, naked, twisted and straight types of barley grains was not attempted. Other starchy seeds, such as the legume pulses, have also suffered and lost their diagnostic hila (attachment point) and testae (outer coat). Conversely, smaller wild seeds have retained their original shape and surface textures. Untransformed seeds of brambles (*Rubus* sp.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) were found in a few samples and may have archaeological significance. These seeds have a tough outer coat that enables them to survive relatively well in features with high rates of infilling. Samples were not specifically processed for the recovery of snail shells. Those found in the flots are noted in Table 24 and loosely interpreted where relevant.

Prehistoric: *Ditch F.336 [1417].*
A little charcoal and one wild plant seed was contained in F.336. Plant remains are unlikely to be *in situ* and may, in fact, be later intrusions.

Mid-Saxon: c.*8th C boundary or droveway ditches F.488 [1656], [1693] and F.505 [1741], F.507 [1712]; and three ditches perpendicular to these F.515 [1742], F.520 [1752] and F.535 [1800]. Possible palisade ditch, F. 148 [640] Pit F. 404 [1440].*

As was noted with the recovery of artefacts, the mid-Saxon ditches had relatively low concentrations of plant remains, all of which appear to have been accidental inclusions. Charcoal was mostly fine, cereal grains infrequent and wild plant seeds all from species well represented in later deposits. The snail shells suggest the main parallel boundary/droveway ditches were seasonally waterlogged and well

vegetated. F. 507 contained 12 seeds, which were similar to those from the Medieval features and are likely to be intrusive. Pit F.404 contained significant quantities of seeds with barley clearly outnumbering all other cereal types.

***Late Saxon**: Post hole F.256 [994], Ditch F.320 [1035], deep pit or well F.174 [702], beam slot F.165 [686].*
Sample composition varied with the ditches containing rich assemblages of grain and wild seeds, whilst the post hole and probable well contained few remains comparable to the earlier mid-Saxon finds. The sparse concentration of charcoal, cereal grains, wild seeds and small artefacts is reminiscent of surface debris that must have lain scattered across the site before being integrated into feature F.174. Despite being submerged during excavations, F.174 [702] was not waterlogged. Few snail shells were recovered but no true aquatics. Their absence, along with that of waterlogged seeds, points to prolonged episodes of drying. It remains possible however, that F.174 was used as a seasonal well.

The linears did not differ to previous samples in the cereal varieties they contained, but rather in the notable increase in their abundance. A mix of barley (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sl.*) and oat (*Avena* sp.) caryopses, which could not be identified as wild or domestic due to the absence of chaff, were found. Barley chaff was not recovered, and where wheat chaff was present (a total of 6 rachis nodes) both hexaploid and tetraploid varieties were evident. Wheat dominates all three assemblages, whilst barley and oat occur in lesser but similar quantities. Peas (*Pisum sativum*) and lentils (*Lens culinaris*) were found as minor components of the assemblages. Wild plant seeds were abundant but only outnumbered grain counts in F.320. This comparison, however, is misleading as 40% of the seeds, are of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and could actually originate from a single flower. All three wild seed assemblages are dominated by vetches and/or wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), stinking chamomile, great-fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and cereal-sized grass seeds. Cabbage and/or mustard seeds (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.) were quite common, one of which was identified as black mustard (*Brassica nigra* Type), possibly grown as a garden herb. True sedges (*Carex* spp.) and spike rushes (*Eleocharis* sp.) may have grown along field margins along with the great-fen sedge. Conversely, the latter may represent a separate collected resource as it requires wet soils and will not tolerate ploughing. Beam slot F.165 contained a little over 80 cereal grains and 150 seeds, which corresponds with a domestic or processing site.

***Medieval:** 12th-14thC deep pit or well F.149 [667], 12th-13thC pits F.282 [1093], F.213 [844], house platform F.104 [1020], and beam slot F.338 [1414],beam slot F.121 [546] and 13thC beam slot F.264 [751]; 12-14th century ditch F.119 [1172], 15th Century posthole F. 256 [994].*
As with the late Saxon well F.174, F.149 contained very few charred and no waterlogged plant remains. Fewer snail shells were recovered than in F.174, but are also suggestive of high seasonal levels of ground water.

The pits were three of the richest features, especially F.213 from which 665 grains (including oat) and 175 other seeds were retrieved. Cereal types remain constant from the Saxon phase, with the addition of rye (*Secale cereale*), present as grain but not chaff. Free-threshing wheat continues to dominate the assemblages. It was the only sample with barley chaff and included 2-row barley rachis internodes. Interestingly, two glume bases from a hulled wheat were also found. Spelt, a favourite hulled wheat during the Roman period, requires the same processing as hulled barley and so it would not be unusual to find chaff from both species within the same assemblage. The wheat was probably an unintentional addition to the barley crop, its presence having been retained from earlier times.

Stinking chamomile, vetches and/or wild peas, great-fen sedge and grass seeds common in the Saxon phase continue to dominate in the Medieval period. Two lentils were found in F.213 but none of the larger pulses could be identified beyond possible pea. Like late Saxon F.305, flax and corncockle was found in F.213. It would appear that portions of unclean crops (before the weed seeds had been fully removed from the grain) of various kinds were charred and discarded into the rubbish pits, along with other finds, of which small fragments were recovered from the residues.

The beam slots were richer than the house platform, especially feature F.264. That F.338 is the only other feature (after F.404) where barley dominates over wheat, although no chaff was found in this sample. It is difficult to know at what point within the structures' histories plant remains were integrated within the beam slots. Cereal and other seed quantities and types however, are comparable to those from the rubbish pits, suggesting an on-site processing of harvested crops.

Mid-Saxon features contained few remains, supporting other archaeological evidence that suggests the features formed a barrier or droveway west of the main settlement area where plant remains were abundant (Ballentyne in Mortimer *et al.* 2005).

Apart from rye, the same crops and weed types were found in late Saxon and Medieval features. Nevertheless, rye should not be considered a Medieval introduction since it was found in Saxon features further north west (*ibid.*). Barley, rye, free-threshing wheat and oats are common crops for such periods though little is known about their different contextual uses (Green 1984: Grieg 1991). Barley, for example, is often thought to have been grown as animal feed but was found here in rubbish pits along with a mix of other crops from various origins. Free-threshing wheat appears to have been the most popular crop or at least the one most likely to become charred. The low quantities of chaff are not unusual since the latter is removed early on in the processing sequence (*cf*. Hillman 1981). Grain would have been stored in a semi-clean state with some arable weed seeds still remaining. It is at this stage that most of the assemblages seem to have formed, suggesting that grain was accidentally lost rather than intentionally burnt.

Flax, great-fen sedge, black mustard, peas, lentils and possibly other pulses constitute other useful resources, some of which may have been of economic value. Unlike at West Fen Road, great-fen sedge was only represented by its seeds and not its more valuable vegetative parts. During the Medieval and post-Medieval periods East Anglia was the main producer of great fen-sedge, an important resource for thatching and as a fuel favoured in local bread ovens (Rowel 1986). Wood was used to fire up bread ovens until they were sufficiently hot for baking in and the embers would then be pushed aside. In between batches the oven temperature could be boosted up with a fine fuel such as great fen-sedge straw, which burns very intensively and very quickly. Whereas the coals might be re-used, the straw would be cleared out with any food residues that may have charred during baking. Such deposits are common on Medieval sites, such as were found at Grand Arcade and Bradwells Court. The presence of only seeds, however, either suggests that the plants grew on field margins and inadvertently collected with the crop harvest, or that plants were striped of their seeds and used elsewhere.

Fields and the agricultural regime appear to have remained constant throughout the Saxon and Medieval periods. The arable weed seed assemblage does not vary but continuously describes a damp, clay-rich and nutrient poor growing environment. Stinking chamomile is a clay loam indicator, whilst pulses and other legumes fare well on poor soils thanks to their nitrogen fixing abilities. Sedges and spike-rushes would also grow well on damp soils, whereas arable weeds more typical of looser, dryer fields were rare.

Charred plant remains were found throughout the site though not always in rich, intentionally discarded deposits. The general scatter of ecofacts is reminiscent of a densely populated area where cereals and other crops were not confined to specific areas, such as bakeries or communal barns. Assemblages all contained a mix of cereal types, as well as other crops such as flax and pulses, which again shows how 'busy' and diverse the deposits were. There is no clear spatial patterning of remains with rich assemblages occurring across the site.

The archaeobotanical finds complement well those from West Fen Road, and should be seen as an addition to the larger amount of data recovered their. Findings show the extent of the Iron Age, Romano-British and middle Saxon settlements, and show that the range of late Saxon and Medieval crops and agricultural techniques evidenced at West Fen Road extended into this recently excavated area.

Table 24: Contents of Bulk Samples

Sample		**55**	**56**	**72**	**60**	**61**	**65**	**66**	**62**	**34**	**68**	**42**	**30**	**35**	**26**	**32**	**45**	**33**	**29**	**36**	**54**	**37**	**28**
Context		1417	1440	1693	1656	1741	1742	1752	1712	640	1880	702	1035	686	667	1093	844	1172	1020	546	1414	751	994
Feature		336	404	488	488	505	515	520	507	148	535	174	320	165	149	282	213	119	104	121	338	264	256
Type		Linear	Pit	Boundary/ Droveway ditch		Boundary ditch				Linear		Pit/ Well	Linear	Beam Slot	Pit/ Well	Pit	Pit	Linear	House platform	Beam Slot			Post Hole
Date		Prehistoric	Mid Saxon c.8th Century							9-11th Century					12-14th Century								15th Century
Volume		45	40	23	40	30	35	27	25	14	24	45	27	16	40	28	30	45	10	14	40	25	15
Charcoal Volume		<1	3	<1	2	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	<1	1	2	10	<1	2	1	5	1	1	1	2	<1
Cereal Grains																							
Hordeeum Vulgare	Barley		34	1	2	1			2	10		5	3	1		5	5	63		1	18	5	1
Triticum aestivum sensu lato	Free Threshing Wheat Grain		7	2	4	2	2		1	50	2	3	2	26	3	31	300	87	4	8	2	15	2
Triticum	Unspecified Wheat Grain		2	2	2					21	1	1	12	6	2	35	72	43	4	8	1	9	
Secale Cereale	Rye		1											12			26						
Avena	Wild/ Cultivated oat		7			1	1	1		18			6	11		49	35	97		7		20	
Hordeum/ Triticun	Barley/ Wheat	2	13		3	3	1			23	1	7	7	3	1	24	41	57	3	3	9	12	
Indeterminate cereal grains >2mm		1	24	4	1	1	2	1	2	18	2	5	7	26	2	43	186	60	3	7	15	20	2
Total Grain Count		**3**	**88**	**9**	**12**	**8**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**140**	**6**	**21**	**37**	**85**	**8**	**187**	**665**	**407**	**14**	**34**	**45**	**81**	**5**
Indeterminate cereal grains <2mm			+					+	-	++		+	++	+	++	+	+++	+++	+	++	+	++	+
Cereal Chaff																							
H. Vulgare	Barley	3																					
Hordeum Distichum	2 Row Barley	4																					
Triticum aestivum	Hexaploid Free Threshing Wheat									1							4	1					
Triticum aestivum	Tetraploid Free Threshing Wheat									2								2					

Triticum aestivum	Free Threshing Wheat chaff													1			5						
Triticum	Hulled Wheat Glume Base		2																		1		
Triticum	Indetermined Wheat Chaff																		1				
Total Ear Chaff		**0**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Cereal culm nodes	Straw nodes		+		-									+			+	-					
Cereal/ reed/ sedge/ culm internodes			+											+									
Charcoal	>4mm		++	-	-					-		-	+	++		+		++	-	-	+	-	
	2-4mm	-	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	+++	+	++	+	+++	+	++	++	++	-
	<2mm	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
	Vitrified	-		+	-		-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-						+		-	
Perenchyma- Undifferentiated plant storage tissue: Probably Pulses		-						-				-	+		-	-		-	-	-			
Fish Scales and charred fish bone			+							+				-(+)		-	-	-		-	-		
<2mm metallic 'blobs'																	+				+		
Fresh Water Mollusca																							
Lymnaea truncatula				++	++	+						++	+		+			-					-
Anisus vortex				-										- burnt				-					
Anisus leucostama																	-						
Damp/ Shade loving species																							
Carchium tridentatum/ minimum					+	++							-				+			-			
Cochlicopa lubrica/ lubricella				+		+			+			++			+		-	+	-	-			
Vallonia excenrica/ pulchella					++		++				+												
Vitrea				+	+	-			-														
Oxychilus/ Aegopinella			-		++	+	++			+		++	-	+	-	+	++	+		-	-		

Dryer environments																							
Vallonia costata						++																	
Catholic species/ unknown habitat																							
Vertigo				++	+	++	+	+	-	+	+	+	- burnt				+	-				-	
Vallonia				++	+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+		-	-	-		
Lauria/ Pupilla				+	++	++	-				+			-									
Tricha		-	-	++	+++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+		+		
Helix												-											
Ceciloides acicula	Blind burrowing snail	-	++	++	++	+++	+		+	+++			+	+++		++	+++	+++	++	++	++	+++	+++

Key '-' 1 or 2. '+' <10. '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 Items.

9 Bibliography

Allen, J. L. & Holt, A. 2002 Health and Safety in Field Archaeology. SCAUM.

Anderberg, A-L. 1994. *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest-European plant species, Part 4: Resedaceae – Umbelliferae*. Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Beadsmoore, E. 2010 *Project Specification for Archaeological Excavation at Walsingham Way and West Fen Road corner, Ely, Cambridgeshire.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Beedham, G.E. 1972. *Identification of the British Mollusca*. Bath: Pitman Press.

Breggern, G. 1969. *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest-European plant species, Part 2: Cyperaceae*. Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Beresford, G. 1977. Excavation of a Moated House at Wintringham in Huntingdonshire. *The Archaeological Journal*134:194-286.

Blair, J. 1988. *Minsters and Parish Churches. The Local Church in Transition 950-1200*. (Oxford University Committee for Archaeology monograph 17.) Oxford: Oxford University School of Archaeology.

Blake, E. O. 1962. *Liber Eliensis.* London: Royal Historical Society.

Boessneck, J. 1969. Osteological difference between Sheep (*Ovis aries* Linné) and Goat (*Capra hircus* Linné) in Brothwell, D.R. and Higgs, E. (eds.) *Science in Archaeology; a survey of progress and research.* Thames Hudson. Bristol.

British Geological Survey. 1995. *Ely: England and Wales Sheet 173*. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:500000 Provisional series. London: BGS.

Cappers, R.T., Bekker, R.M. & Jans J.E. 2006. *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*. Volume 4. Groningen: Barkhuis Publishing & Groningen University Library

Dobney, K., & Reilly, K. 1988. A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5 (2): 79-96.

Egan, G. 2005. *Material Culture in London in an Age of Transition.* London: The Museum of London.

Egan, G., & Pritchard, F. 2004. *Dress Accessories, c.1150-c.1450 (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London)*. London: Boydell Press.

Evans, C. 2003. Britons and Romans at Chatteris: Investigations at Langwood Farm, Cambridgeshire. *Britannia* 34: 175-264.

Gallois, R.W. 1988. *Geology of the County Around Ely.* London: HMSO.

Gdaniec, K. 2010. *Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Walsingham Way and West Fen Road corner, Ely, Cambridgeshire*. Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice.

Gibson, D. 1995. *Excavations at West Fen Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 160.

Grant A. 1982. The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals. In B. Wilson, C. Grigson and S. Payne (eds.), *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. (British Archaeological Reports British Series 109.) Oxford: BAR: 92-108.

Green, F.J. 1984.The archaeological and documentary evidence for plants from the Medieval period in England. In W. van Zeist and W.A.Casparie (eds.), *Plants and Ancient Man*. Rotterdam: Balkema: 99-114

Greig, J.R. 1991. The British Isles. In Van Zest, W., Wasylikowa, K. and K-E. Behre (eds.), *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*. Brookfield and Rotterdam: A.A. Balkema: 299-334.

Hall, D. 1996. *The Fenland Project No. 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, The Isle of Ely and Wisbech.* (East Anglian Archaeological 79.) Cambridge: Cambridgeshire County Council.

Hall D. 2001. Medieval pottery from Forehill, Ely, Cambridgeshire. *Medieval Ceramics* 25: 2-21.

Hall, D. 2000. 'The ceramic sequence' in R. Mortimer, Village development and Ceramic Sequence: the Middle to Late Saxon village at Lordship Lane, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 89: 21-25.

Hall, D. 2005. Later Saxon and medieval pottery. In R. Mortimer, R. Regan and S. Lucy, *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site* (East Anglian Archaeology 110.) Cambridge: Cambridge Archaeological Unit: 65-70.

Halstead, P. Collins, P and Issakidou, V. 2002. Sorting the sheep from the goats: morphological distinctions between the mandibles and mandibular teeth of adult *Ovis* and *Capra. Journal of Archaeological Science* 29: 545-553.

Henderson, I. 1997. Anglo Saxon Sculpture. In C. Hicks (ed.), *Cambridgeshire Churches*. Stamford: P. Watkins: 216-32.

Hillman, G. 1981. Reconstructing crop husbandry practices from charred remains of crops. In R.J. Mercer (ed.), *Farming practices in British prehistory*. Edinburgh University Press:123-162

Hillson, S., 1999. *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*. London: Institute for Archaeology, University College of London.

Holton-Krayenbuhl, A. 2005. The Historical Context. In R. Mortimer, R. Regan and S. Lucy, *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site* (East Anglian Archaeology 110.) Cambridge: Cambridge Archaeological Unit: 4-6.

Hurst, J.G., 1956. Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia: Part I St Neots Ware. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 49: 43-70.

Hurst, J.G. 1957. Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia: Part II Thetford Ware. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 50: 29-60.

Hurst, J.G. 1958. Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia, Part III, Stamford Ware. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 51: 33-65.

Hurst, J.G. 1959. Middle Saxon Pottery. *Medieval Archaeology* 3: 13-19.

Hutton, J. 2010. *Walsingham Way, Ely, Cambridgeshire; An Archaeological Watching Brief.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 927.

Jackson, R.P.J. & Potter, T.W. 1996. *Excavations at Stonea, Cambridgeshire, 1980-1985*. London: British Museum.

Jennings, S., 1981. *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich*, East Anglian Archaeology Report 13.

Kilmurry, K.,1980. *The pottery industry of Stamford, Lincs. c.AD850-1250.* (British Archaeological Report British Series 84.) Oxford: BAR.

Margeson, S. 1993. *Norwich Households*: *The Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from the Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-197*8. (East Anglian Archaeology 58.) The Norwich Survey/Norfolk Museums Service, Centre for East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia.

Mortimer, R. 2000. Village development and Ceramic Sequence: the Middle to Late Saxon village at Lordship Lane, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 89: 5-33.

Mortimer, R. Regan, R. & Lucy, S. 2005. *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site* (East Anglian Archaeology 110.) Cambridge: Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Mudd, A. 2000. *West fen Road, Ely, Cambs. Interim Progress Report on Excavations to March 2000*. Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Mudd, A. 2001. *West Fen Road, Ely. Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*. Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Ottaway, P. & Rogers, N. 2002. *Craft, Industry and Everyday Life: Finds from Medieval York.* The Archaeology of York Vol. 17/15: The Small Finds. York: The Council for British Archaeology.

Owen, D. 2003.Ely 1109-1539: Priory Community and Town. In P. Meadows and N. Ramsey (eds.), *A History of Ely Cathedral*. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer.

Payne, S. 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale. *Anatolian Studies* 23: 281-303.

Postan, M.M. 1975. *The Medieval Economy and Society*. London: Penguin.

Rowel, T.A. 1986. Sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) in Cambridgeshire: Its use and Production since the Seventeenth Century. *Agriculrural Review 34*; 140-148

Rogerson, A. & Dallas, C. 1984. *Excavations at Thetford 1948-59 and 1973-80*. (East Anglian Archaeology 22.) Dereham. Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service.

Rogerson, A. and Ashley, S.J. 1985. A medieval pottery production site at Blackborough End, Middleton. *Norfolk Archaeology* 39 (2): 181-9.

Schmid, E. 1972. *Atlas of animal bones*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Silver I. A. 1969. The ageing of domestic animals. In D. Brothwell and E.S. Higgs (eds.), *Science in archaeology*, 2nd edition. London: Thames and Hudson: 283-301.

Spoerry, P. 2008. *Ely wares*. (East Anglian Archaeology Report 122.) Cambridge: CAMARC, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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

Von den Driesch, A. and Boessneck, J. 1974. Kritische anmerkungen zur widerristhohenberechnung aus Langenmassen vor- und fruhgeschichtlicher Tierknochen, *Saugetierkundliche Mitteilungen* 22: 325-348.

Von den Driesch, A. 1976. A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites, *Peabody Museum Bulletin* 1. Cambridge Mass., Harvard University.

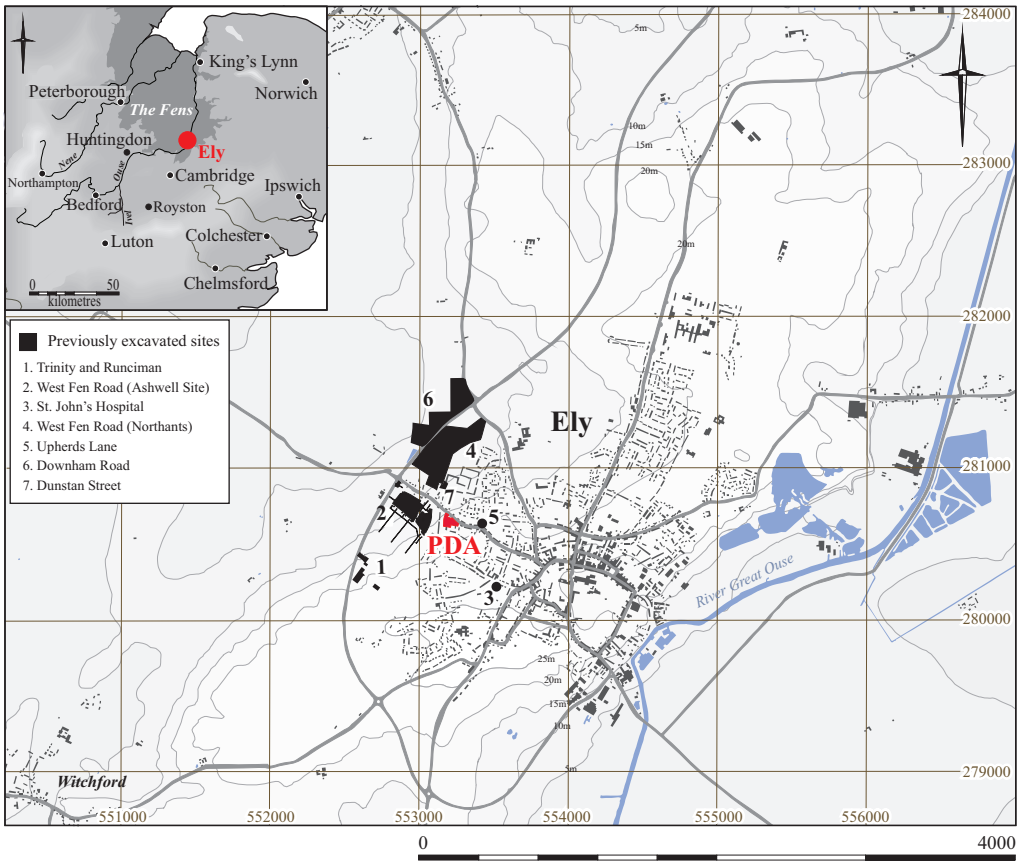
West, S.E., 1963. Excavations at Cox Lane and the Town defences 1959. *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* 29 (3): 233-303.

West, S.E., 1985. *West Stow: the Anglo-Saxon Village* (2 vols), East Anglian Archaeology Report 24.

Wright, J. Leivers, M. Seager-Smith, R. & Stevens, C. 2009. *Cambourne New Settlement: Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement on the Clay Uplands of West Cambridgeshire*. Wessex Archaeology.

Zohary, D. and Hopf, M. (2000). *Domestication of Plants in the Old World*. Third edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

10. Illustrations



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
With the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
University of Cambridge Licence No.AL 550833

Figure 1. Site location and location of previous archaeological work in the vicinity

Figure 2. Site plan showing location of excavated slots

Figure 3. Phases 1 and 2: Prehistoric and Romano-British Features and Residual Artefacts

Figure 4. Phases 3a and 3b: Middle Saxon features

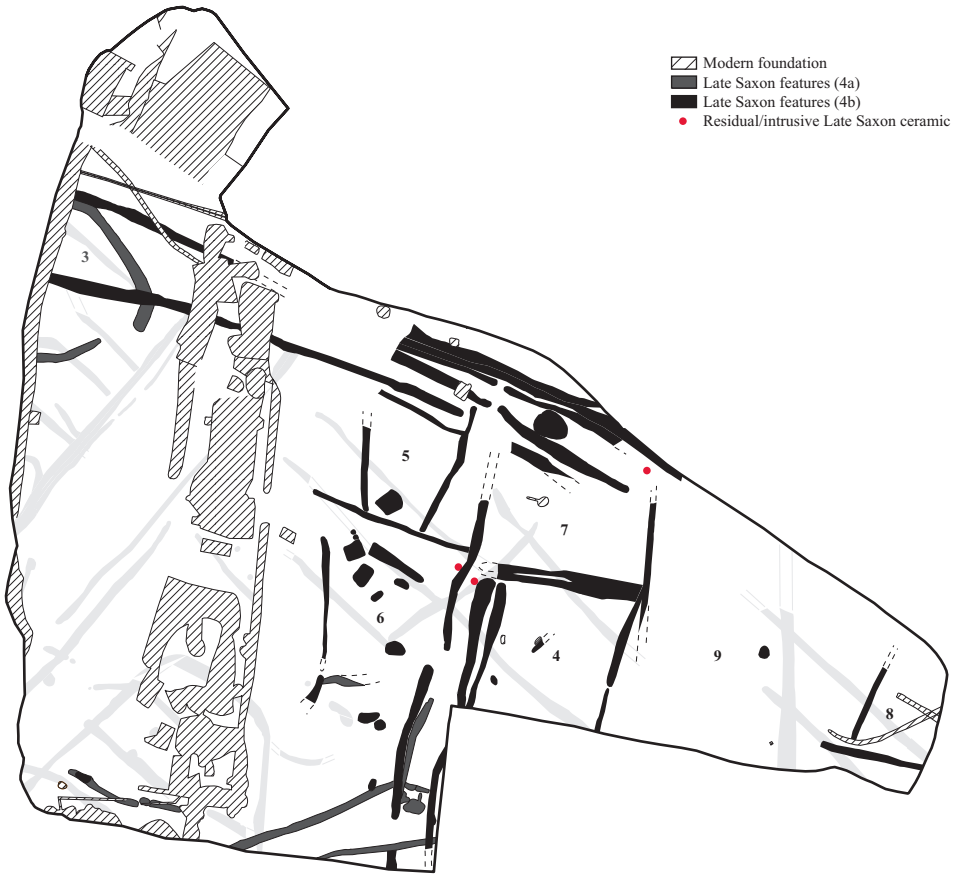


Figure 5. Phases 4a and 4b: Late Saxon features

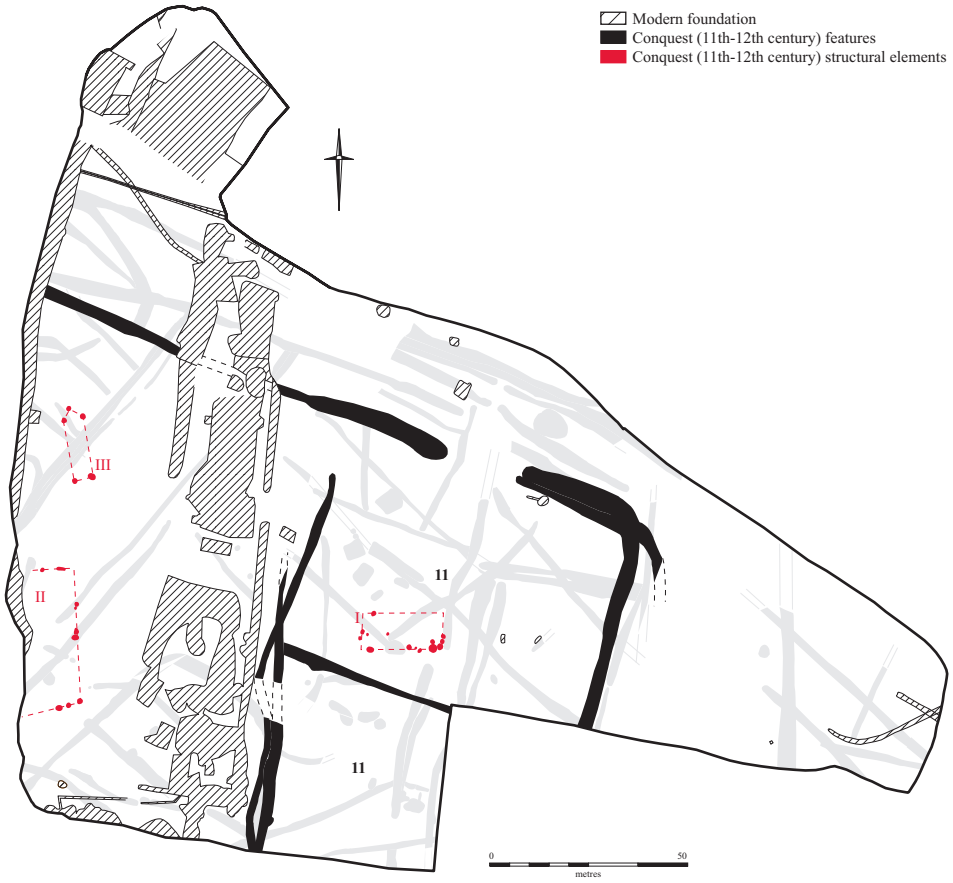


Figure 6. Phase 5: Conquest Period features

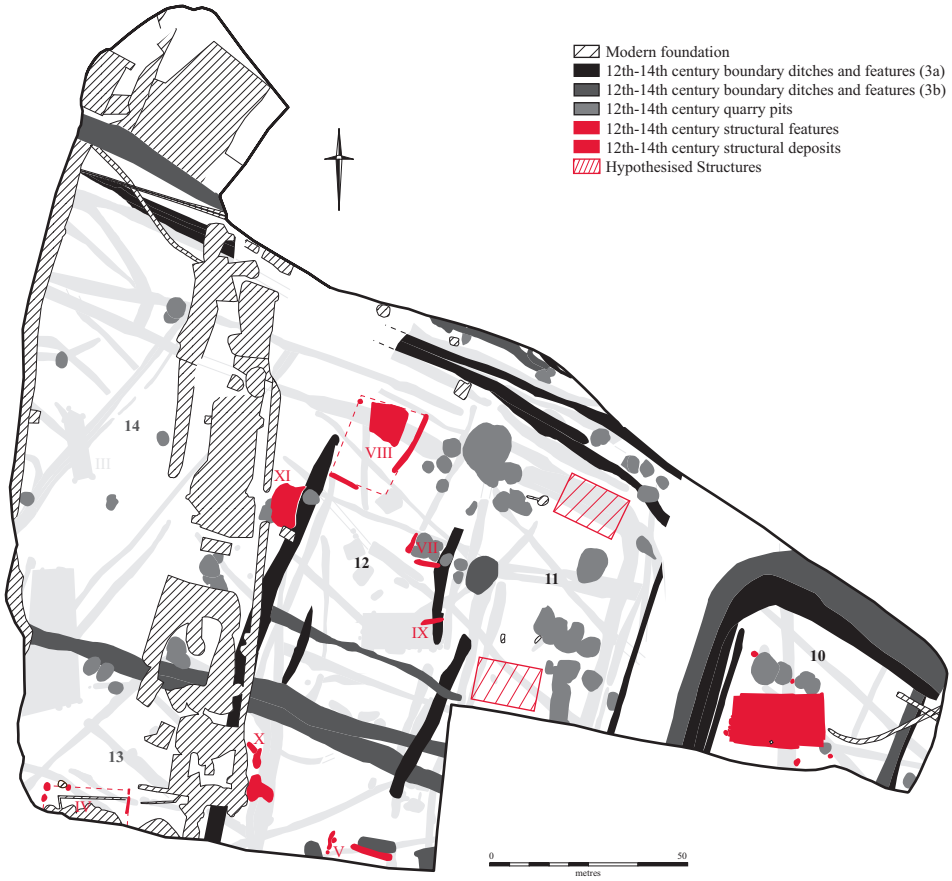


Figure 7. Phases 6a and 6b: Medieval features

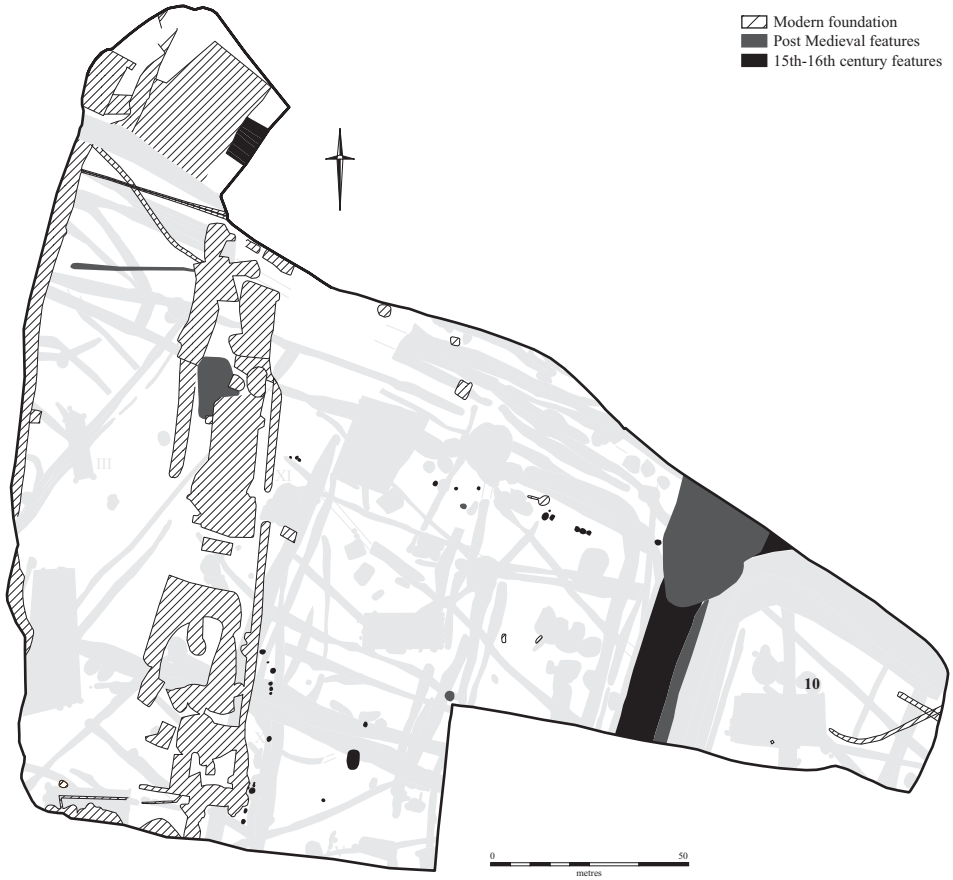


Figure 8. Phase 7 and 8: 15th-16th century and Post-Medieval features

Figure 9. Metal detecting finds

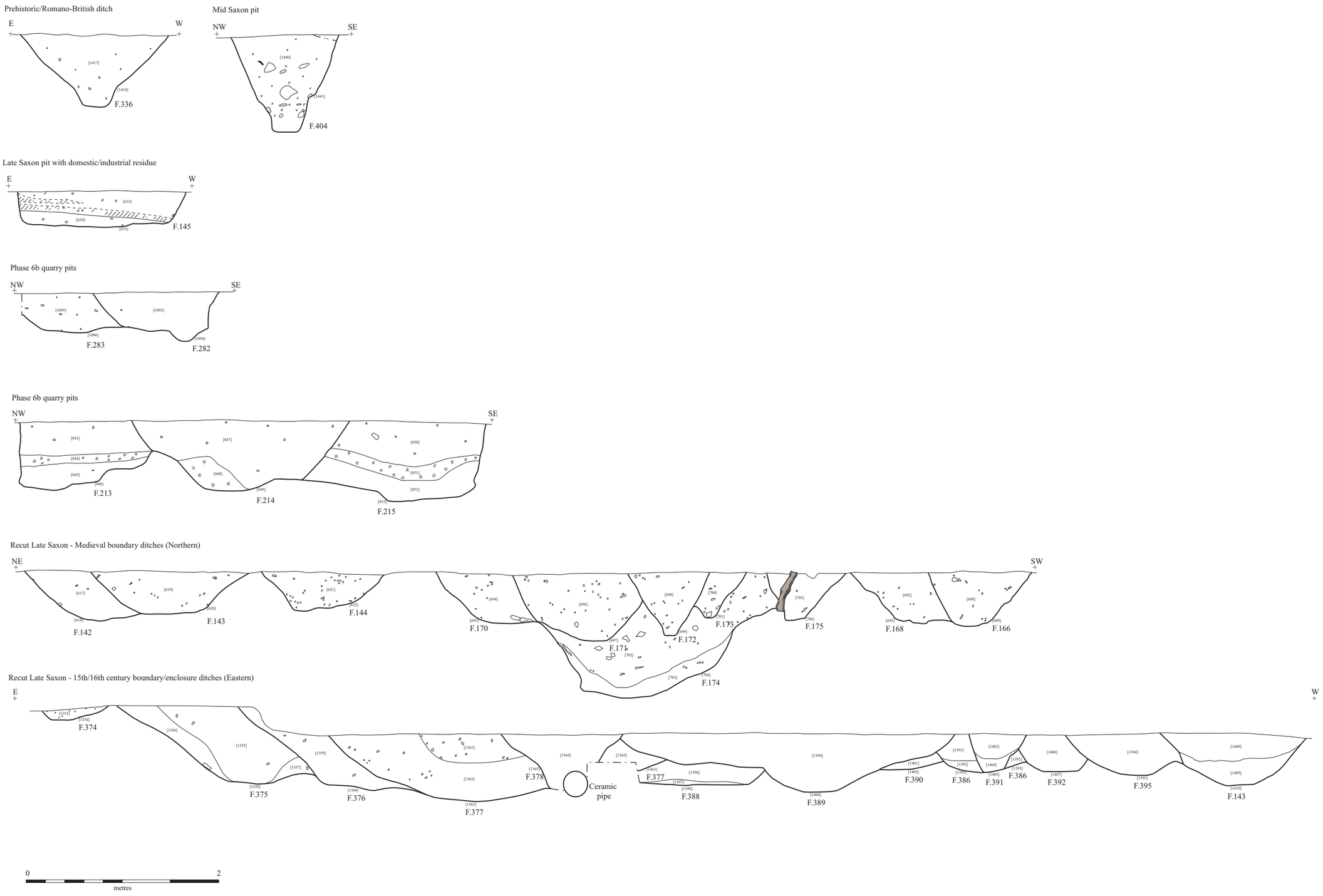


Figure 10. Sections of selected features

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: cambridg3-95141

Project details

Project name	Walsingham Way, Ely, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	This report is the assessment of the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken on land between Walsingham Way and West Fen Road, Ely. The project was commissioned by F E Peacock Construction Ltd on behalf of Sanctuary Hereward. The site was situated on the transition between Greensand and Kimmeridge clays on the western side of the Isle of Ely (TL 5320/ 8064). The excavation revealed that the density of archaeological activity known to the west of the site, extended to the east, providing further evidence for the Saxon and Medieval settlement in the area. The earliest activity was represented by a single prehistoric or Romano-British boundary ditch. A very low quantity of residual Romano-British material culture indicated the presence of Roman-British activity near to the site. A strong Middle-Saxon presence was identified with an organised system of land/property division aligned with a probable road/droveway. Reorganisation was evident during the Late Saxon/Conquest period with a notable re-alignment of boundary ditches respecting the alignment of the modern West Fen Road, with distinct properties and structural elements contained within the boundaries. Evidence of later, Medieval occupation comprising house platforms and quarry pits was also identified as well as a continuation of boundary alignments up to the post-Medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2010 End: 31-07-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3354 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3224 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	METALWORK Early Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BONE Roman
Significant Finds	BONE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ELY Walsingham Way, Ely, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB6 3AL
Study area	4248.90 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 32 06 51.7366711653 -0.08814717465920 51 44 12 N 000 05 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.90m Max: 13.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Adam Slater
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	F E Peacock Construction Ltd for Sanctuary Hereward

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Animal Bones'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text','Unspecified Archive'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Walsigham Way, Ely, cambridgeshire. An Archaoelogical Excavation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Slater, A
Other bibliographic details	Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 993
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	Soft cover, wire bound.

Entered by	G A Appleby (gaa21@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	4 March 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice