



Fairstead House & Gatehouse, 1–7 Bury Road, Thetford, Norfolk Archaeological Monitoring Report

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Fairstead House & Gatehouse, 1–7 Bury Road, Thetford, Norfolk

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Summary

Between 1st July 2022 and 27th March 2023, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out 18 archaeological monitoring visits at Fairstead House and Gatehouse, 1–7 Bury Road, Thetford, Norfolk. The monitoring was carried out on five separate areas during redevelopment of the site, including conversion of existing buildings (Fairstead House and Gatehouse) and for up to 15 additional dwellings to be built alongside associated infrastructure and parking.

The archaeological monitoring of Area 1, 2 and 3 uncovered a group of pits and boundary ditches which contained a mixture of refuse from domestic and craft-based activity processes. Along with more frequent sherds of Thetford-type ware were some sherds of Developed St Neots ware and Early Medieval ware pottery to suggest the remains dated from after the Norman conquest, the Saxo-Norman period. Considering the proximity of the Late Anglo-Saxon town south of the river, a large proportion of the finds swept into the feature fills was probably residual in nature. In particular, the craft-based iron working slag and structural fired clay from the features may have originated from the previously identified Late Anglo-Saxon metalworking site to the east, a site which also suggested that settlement activity ceased in the area during the 12th century. It is possible some occupation south of the river was cleared as a consequence of the founding of the Augustinian priory to the west of the site in 1140. The only other finds of note were a group of wells, possible cess pit and wall footings constructed of 19th-20th century brick.

This investigation has provided an opportunity to suggest the previously discovered inhumation burials on this site might be associated with the site of the Anglo-Saxon Church of Great St Mary immediately to the northeast. The Anglo-Norman pits and ditches are of local significance when considering the early development of medieval Thetford south of the river, between the Norman conquest and the founding of the Augustinian priory. The relative dearth of medieval and post-medieval remains on this site reflects the site's peripheral location to the town across these periods. The modern wells, cess pit and wall foundations are not significant but can be associated with 19th century backplots of the Gatehouse.

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The monitoring programme was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Andrew Greef. The monitoring work was conducted by Rona Booth, Toby Knight and Malgorzata Kwiatkowska. Survey and digitising carried out by Thomas Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are also extended to the specialists for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by The Havebury Housing Partnership to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at Fairstead House and Gatehouse, 1–7 Bury Road, Thetford, Norfolk (NGR TL 86656 82948; Fig. 1). This archaeological work was carried during the development on the site from offices and a car park to residential properties alongside infrastructure and parking (Planning Application: 3PL/2020/1386/F). This site was deemed to have the potential to contain archaeological remains which would be destroyed by construction activities. This excavation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Moan 2021) on behalf of the Client in response to a Brief issued by Steve Hickling of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC/HES; Hickling 2021). Historic Building Recording of the properties on this site was not included in the scope of work of this project. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements for archaeological monitoring detailed in the WSI.
- 1.1.2 The site archive is currently held by OA and will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum under the Site Code NWHCM2021.15 in due course.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies in the urban centre of Thetford. Prior to its redevelopment in 2022–2023, the site was offices and a car park. The site is relatively flat, situated at approximately 12m OD. The River Thet is located c.150m to the north of the site. The site is bounded to the south by Bury Road (A134), to the west by Norwich Road, to the north by playing fields and to the east by a residential property and offices.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the development site comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. Superficial deposits are indicated to comprise River Terrace Deposits – sand and gravel – (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>, accessed 16th June 2023).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The landscape around Thetford has been occupied and settled since early prehistory. The town itself has pre-Norman origins but the town grew and prospered following the conquest, with the construction of Thetford Castle and founding of the Cluniac Priory of St Mary in 1104. The dissolution of the monasteries had a significant impact on the prosperity of the town which included destruction of the original castle, which was then rebuilt in the 16th century. The site itself is situated on the southern edge of the town's historic core.
- 1.3.2 A full search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) of a 1km radius centred on the excavation site was commissioned from NCC/HES June 2023. The following is a summary based on the NHER search, with selected records shown on Fig. 2.

Later prehistoric: c.4000BC-AD43

- 1.3.3 A Neolithic flint was recovered during trial trenching at 30 Bridge Street, directly east of the site (NHER 40942).
- 1.3.4 Pottery of possible Iron Age date is recorded as being found in the garden of The Limes in 1894, directly east of the site (NHER 5829). In 1995 a construction trench within the area also found undated human remains.

Romano-British: c.AD43-410

- 1.3.5 The nearest known Romano-British activity to the site is found in the form of one sherd of possible Roman pottery, recovered from the grammar school playing field, directly north of the site.

Anglo-Saxon: c.410-1066

Immediate environs of the site on the fringe of the Anglo-Saxon town of Thetford

- 1.3.6 The site is situated within an area dense with archaeological remains from the Anglo-Saxon period. The most pertinent record held on the NHER for the site is NHER 1033. Saxon pottery and the site of possible inhumations were recorded within the site during groundworks for Fairstead house in 1974. St Neots and Thetford ware body sherds were recovered and there was evidence of a grave where the inhumation had been removed.
- 1.3.7 Late Anglo-Saxon occupation and metalworking has also been identified directly adjacent to the site at 30 Bridge Street (NHER 40942) during trial trenching in 2004. Metal objects recovered include a 10th century pewter brooch and a Viking arrowhead. All activity on this site appears to have ceased by the 12th century when a blanket of topsoil built up across the site.
- 1.3.8 Approximately 25m to the northeast of the site at its closest point, lay the Church of Great St Mary, founded during the Anglo-Saxon period, which briefly became a cathedral in the 11th century after the Norman conquest. The site now lies within the grounds of Thetford Grammar School, where archaeological work from the 1950s onwards in the grounds uncovered 17 inhumations and deposits, pottery and metalwork indicative of Anglo-Saxon occupation (NHER 5740; ENF13596, ENF105012, ENF95612, ENF121535 and ENF98246).

Anglo-Saxon town of Thetford

- 1.3.9 The site of the Anglo-Saxon town is located 80m southwest of the site at its closest point and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003926; SAM 291; NHER 5756). Several extensive excavations have taken place here since the 1940s, and quantities of Saxon and medieval pottery and undated burials were recorded at various locations (ENF2567, ENF3737 and ENF134480). The town was also the site of pottery and metalwork production. Occupation was dense during the Late Anglo-Saxon period and was focussed on a flint and cobble road running northwest to southeast (NHER 5929) which was resurfaced several times, and a second east-west road in the extreme north of the site. The roads were lined with a confusing succession of buildings, primarily post built structures of various sizes but also a small number of

sunken featured buildings (NHER 5847; ENF13082). This site includes the possible location of St John's Church or St Lawrence's Church (NHER 5755; SAM 288). The Late Anglo-Saxon urban settlement also extends to the west of the site on the other side of London Road (NHERs 5749 and 5865; ENF4270 and ENF99290).

- 1.3.10 Approximately 650m west of the site, excavation work in 1990 uncovered a 10th century structure, several small pits, a large hearth or oven, an inhumation and some disarticulated human bone (NHER 1134).
- 1.3.11 Trial trenching in 2019, 330m southeast of the site, revealed a number of linear and discrete features of probable Late Saxon to medieval date (NHER 65565; ENF145857). The ditches all produced pottery of exclusively Late Saxon to early medieval date, suggesting they were potentially associated with an 11th- to 12th-century phase of activity. Much of the material recovered from these features appeared to represent domestic waste, although the site also produced waste from silver refining and iron smelting.
- 1.3.12 Southeast of the site (No grid reference give, TL88SE), Late Anglo-Saxon pits containing butchery waste was identified on Bury Road (NHER 35808; ENF91308 and ENF114982). They contained large quantities of butchered animal bone along with Late Saxon pottery and small quantities of other artefacts including textile implements, a bone skate, and a silver coin of St Edmund. It is possible this area, on the edge of the Late Anglo-Saxon town, was dedicated to butchering activities in the 10th and 11th century.
- 1.3.13 In addition, a number of smaller scale groundworks and excavations have encountered Anglo-Saxon pits (NHERs 5866 and 39257; ENF94858), pottery (NHERs 5869, 5932-3, 14193, 17210, 17643, 18081, 20983/ENF2140 and 28287), metalwork (NHER 5887 and 18436) and inumation burials (NHER 5917, 5920-1 and 14175) within a c.300m radius of the site.

Medieval: c.1066-1540

Immediate environs of the site

- 1.3.14 The site is also situated within an area dense with archaeological remains from the medieval period. The possible inhumations and St Neots and Thetford ware pottery recorded within the site during groundworks for Fairstead house in 1974 (NHER 1033) may also be of Saxo-Norman/early medieval origin.
- 1.3.15 The site of the 11th century cathedral, the Church of Great St Mary and Holy Trinity (founded on the site of the Anglo-Saxon Church of Great St Mary) and the ruins of the 14th century Dominican Friary are located in the grounds of Thetford Grammar School, 25m north-east of the site at its closest point. The remains of the friary are also a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1004006; NHER 5750; ENF13596, ENF105012, ENF95612, ENF121535 and ENF98246).

Priory of the Holy Sepulchre

- 1.3.16 The ruins of the Priory of the Holy Sepulchre are located west of the site on the other side of London Road (NHER 5749). This Augustinian priory was founded around 1140 and dissolved in 1536. The only extant remains of the priory are the nave of the

church and foundation of the tithe barn. The area is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003936). Archaeological observations were undertaken in 2005 during restoration of the priory as a visitor attraction. This work recorded a mortar floor surface within the eastern end of the nave and some stratification was found to survive in a previously unexcavated area external to the eastern wall of the building (ENF4270 and ENF99290).

Other remains within the search area

- 1.3.17 Medieval features have been recorded on the south bank of the River Thet, 150m northeast of the site.
- 1.3.18 The site of the Cluniac Priory (Priory of Our Lady) at Abbey Barns is located 350m to the north (NHER 5748).
- 1.3.19 In addition, a number of smaller scale groundworks and excavations have encountered medieval pottery (NHER 5869, 14193, 17210 and 18081), metalwork (NHER 5932 and 20922) and inhumation burials (NHER 5921) within a c.250m radius of the site.

Modern: c. 1700-present

- 1.3.20 An outbuilding behind 26 Bridge Street possible incorporates a Late Saxon stone cross, 50m east of the site (NHER 61024).
- 1.3.21 Immediately to the east of the site, The Limes comprises an L-shaped two storey house which was constructed around 1760 and converted into offices in 1989. It is made from red brick with a slate roof. The roof has a modillion cornice and was raised in about 1900.
- 1.3.22 The site is depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping as far back as 1885 (Fig. 3). The Gatehouse building is shown at the southern end of the property with a collection of outbuildings to the north. The remaining central and northern parts of the site is a garden shared with the neighbouring property of The Limes.
- 1.3.23 The town of Thetford expanded significantly following World War II, with the population expanding significantly due to an agreement between the borough and London County Council to relocate Londoners to Thetford.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 1.1.1 The initial aims of the archaeological monitoring work were set out in the WSI (Moan 2021):
- i. To metal detect both the excavated areas and spoil heaps to aid recovery of metal objects;
 - ii. To investigate and record archaeological features or deposits encountered during ground works; and
 - iii. To look for further evidence for the Anglo-Saxon settlement around Thetford and remains relating to the Saxo-Norman and medieval expansion of the town.

2.2 Regional Research Aims

- 2.2.1 The archaeological monitoring work takes place within, and contributes to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8);

Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24); and

Latest review undertaken between 2018-20: <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>.

- 1.1.2 Site specific research aims were to be identified and refined during the fieldwork and post-excavation work, drawing on the Regional Research Frameworks.
- 1.1.3 However, due to the limited nature of the Saxo-Norman and later remains identified by the monitoring work, no additional research aims were deemed necessary.

2.3 Fieldwork Methodology

Archaeological strategy

- 1.1.4 The WSI (Moan 2021) required an archaeologist to be present on site for the duration of any intrusive groundworks associated with the development, including:
- i. All areas of below-ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains and soakaways;
 - ii. Above-ground remains when the development affects a building of historic importance; and
 - iii. Pipeline and cable trenches.

Timetable

- 1.1.5 A total of 18 monitoring visits were conducted by OA between 1st July 2022 and 27th March 2023 (Table 1).

Monitoring visit number	Dates	Duration	Number of workers
1	1st July 2022	1 day	2
2	4th to 5th July 2022	2 days	1
3	12th to 14th July 2022	3 days	1
4	25th to 29th July 2022	5 days	1
5	2nd August 2022	1 day	1
6	31st August 2022	1 day	1
7	12th to 16th September 2022	5 days	1
8	19th to 23rd September 2022	5 days	1
9	26th September 2022	1 day	1
10	5th October 2022	1 day	1
11	9th to 13th January 2023	5 days	1
12	16th to 19th January 2023	4 days	1
13	20th January 2023	1 day	2
14	23rd to 24th January 2023	2 days	1
15	26th January 2023	1 day	1
16	30th January 2023	1 day	1
17	23rd March 2023	1 day	2
18	27th March 2023	1 day	1

Table 1: Monitoring timetable

Monitoring Areas 1-5

- 2.3.1 A total of five areas (Areas 1-5) of groundworks were monitored during groundworks associated with the redevelopment (Fig. 4).

Area 1 (Plate 1): located north of the Gatehouse properties. Comprised a 1m deep trench measuring 22m by 4m across and a group of shallow wall foundations to the north.

Area 2: located to the west of Fairstead House West Wing. Comprised two, *c.*0.5m deep and 6m-long by 1m-wide perpendicular trenches were excavated for the laying of service pipes.

Area 3 (Plate 2): located to the north of Fairstead House East Wing and excavated for the installation of a new soakaway drain. It comprised a small trench which measured 5.5m by 2m across and *c.*1m deep.

Area 4 (Plate 3): located to the south of Fairstead House East Wing. Comprised a 17m-long by 9m-wide and *c.*1m deep excavation for the removal of the former car park substrate and surrounding topsoil.

Area 5: located against the east wall of the Gatehouse. Comprised a narrow 3m-long by 0.5m-wide and 0.95m deep trench, excavated for a diverted gas pipe.

Excavation standards

- 2.3.2 The proposed archaeological excavation and analysis was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines.

Monitoring procedures

- 2.3.3 All machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.4 Topsoil was stripped to the depth required for the construction works, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 2.3.5 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user. Excavated areas were detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps were checked. To prevent losses from night-hawking, features were metal detected immediately after stripping. Metal detectors were not be set to discriminate against iron.
- 2.3.6 The top of the first archaeological deposit was cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary, in order to clarify located features and deposits.
- 2.3.7 All features were investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential, whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features, and deposits. All relationships between features or deposits were investigated and recorded. Any natural subsoil surface revealed was hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts.
- 2.3.8 Excavation characterised the full archaeological sequence down to undisturbed natural deposits. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their character.
- 2.3.9 All excavation of archaeological deposits was done by hand, unless agreed with the County Archaeologist that there will be no loss of evidence using a machine. The method of excavation will be decided by the senior project archaeologist.
- 2.3.10 A total of seven bulk soil sample (10-20L) was taken from excavated deposits which were processed by flotation at OA's environmental processing facility at Bourn.
- 2.3.11 Site conditions were good.

Recording of archaeological deposits and features

- 2.3.12 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and met the

requirement for photographic recording specified *in Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson *et al.* 2018).

Exceptional remains

- 2.3.13 If exceptional or unexpected features – including human remains – were uncovered, the County Archaeologist was to be informed, and their advice sought on further excavation or preservation. No human remains were encountered during monitoring work.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below and include a description of the archaeological remains by period. Phasing of the remains is based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent, similarity of features. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided by stratified artefacts. Cut numbers are given in **bold**.
- 3.1.2 Details of all contexts and finds are included in Appendix A, Tables 4 and 5, with finds and environmental reports presented in Appendices B and C respectively.
- 3.1.3 An overall phased excavation plan of Areas 1-5 is presented as Fig. 5 with a detailed plan of Area 1 is shown on Fig. 6. Selected sections of features are given as Fig. 7. Photographs of a selection of features are included in Plates 4-13.
- 3.1.4 Three periods of activity have been identified:
- Period 1: Saxo-Norman (*c.*AD1066-1150)
 - boundary ditches and pits
 - Period 2: post-medieval (*c.*AD1540-1700)
 - postholes, pits and ditch
 - Period 3: modern (*c.*AD1700-present)
 - wall foundations, wells, cess pit and pit

3.2 General soil and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The natural deposits underlying the site were found to consist of yellowish and reddish brown sand consistent with the River Terrace Deposits superficial geology indicated by the BGS Survey (see Section 1.2.2). Each excavation area encountered archaeological features, beneath modern truncation, at *c.*10.9m OD (Plate 1). Above the truncation level, Areas 1, 2, 4 and 5 recorded made ground deposits to the surface. Light brownish grey subsoil (417) was observed intermittently across the site which measured up to 0.3m thick. The features in Area 3 were overlain by recent garden soil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the monitoring programme were variable with periods of both wet and dry weather. Archaeological features, where observed during good weather conditions, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. However, the sandy ground conditions were prone to waterlogging during wet weather which made recording of the narrower trenches in Areas 2 and 5 more difficult.

3.3 Overview of results

3.3.1 An overall phased plan of the monitoring results is presented as Fig. 5. The monitoring revealed a group of four Saxo-Norman pits within Area 1 which were bound on their eastern side by a slightly curvilinear ditch that ran from north to south. A further set of four parallel Saxo-Norman ditches on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment were found to extend across Area 2. Two smaller, intercutting Saxo-Norman ditches were also uncovered by Area 3 on a broadly north to south alignment. In the central part of the site, Area 4 encountered a close group of three postholes and two small pits which possibly represents the remains of a post-medieval post-built structure. Area 4 also revealed the possible east to west alignment of a post-medieval ditch in the baulk section. The Saxo-Norman ditch and pits in Area 1 were truncated by modern, brick-built wells, a brick-built cess pit and a pit. Modern wall foundations were also partially delineated to the north of Area 1.

3.4 Period 1: Saxo-Norman (c.AD1066-1150)

Area 1 (Figs 5 and 6)

Ditch

1.1.6 A slightly curvilinear ditch (**508**) was revealed towards the eastern end of Area 1 on a broadly north to south alignment. It measured 2.45m wide and c.1m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 7a, Section 50; Plate 4). It contained a series of four, 0.1-0.15m thick, primary fills (509, 510, 511 and 512) of mid yellowish/brownish/orangish brown or grey silty sand with rare gravel inclusions overlain by a 0.6m thick secondary fill of dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions (513). Combined, the fills produced 16 sherds (346g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, three sherds (84g) of Developed St Neots-type pottery, a fragment of human bone, 39 fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, bird, dog and fish bone and 15 fragments (591g) of oyster. The ditch was truncated by Period 3 pit **514**.

Pits

3.4.1 West of ditch **508** lay four subcircular pits of similar morphology. To the east lay pit **528** which measured between c.2.2-2.6m in diameter and 1.06m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 7a, Section 57). The pit contained five fills (529-31 and 533-4) of light to mid yellow/grey/brown silty sand or sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions which measured between 0.08-0.72m thick. Fill 531 contained frequent charcoal inclusions. Combined, the fills yielded a smithing hearth cake (498g), a fragment (117g) of lava quern, a fragment (14g) of fired clay, 29 fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone, five fragments (117g) of oyster and mussel shell, 30 sherds (557g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, three sherds (64g) of Developed St Neots-type ware pottery and one sherd (37g) of Early Medieval ware pottery. Three small, subcircular posthole-type features (**532**, **550** and **551**) were excavated at its base that measured between 0.5-0.9m in diameter by 0.26-1.06m deep and contained similar fills (529-31, 551 and 558). The posthole fills produced two sherds (14g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, two fragments (554g) of possible a soft brick-type object, seven fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, fish and amphibian bone and two

fragments (4g) of oyster shell. Pit **528** was truncated at its northern end by Period 3 construction pit **535** for well **544** and pit **537**.

- 3.4.2 At the western end of Area 1 was a further group of three smaller, slightly intercutting pits, of which two (**507** and **517**) were excavated. The excavated pits measured between 0.9-1.9m in diameter and 0.55-0.65m deep with somewhat flat bases. Each pit contained between two and three fills (521-2 and 518-20) of mid to dark grey/orange/yellow silty sand with rare gravel inclusions. The unexcavated pit lay in the south-western corner of Area 1. It was sub-circular, measured 0.9m by at least 1.3m in diameter and was observed to contain a similar fill to pits **507** and **517**. This feature was not excavated due to its confined location between Period 3 well **554** and the excavation baulk. The fills of pit **507** yielded seven sherds (103g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, six fragments (238g) of structural (hearth/oven or wall daub) fired clay, 32 fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone and 19 fragments (339g) of oyster and mussel shell. Pit **517** contained an iron nail, a fragment (5g) fuel ash slag, one sherd (10g) of Developed St Neots-type pottery, one sherd (36g) of Ipswich-type ware pottery and two sherds (40g) of Thetford-type ware pottery. The pits were truncated by Period 3 construction pit **504** for well **554** and recent drains.

Area 2 (Fig. 5)

Ditches

- 3.4.3 North of Area 1, Area 2 revealed a set of four parallel linear ditches (**420** (Plate 5), **422**, **424** and **430**) on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment with U-shaped profiles. The ditches measured between 0.84-2.25m wide and c.0.5m deep with U-shaped profiles and contained fills (421, 423, 425 and 431) and which ranged between light brownish grey to dark grey sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. Combined, the ditch fills yielded seven sherds (70g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, three sherds (52g) of Developed St Neots-type ware pottery, eight fragments of cattle, pig and bird bone and a fragment (22g) of oyster shell.

Area 3 (Fig. 5)

Ditches

- 3.4.4 Northeast of Area 2, Area 3 uncovered two intercutting ditches (**309=315** and **311=313**) of similar morphology (Plate 6). Each ditch measured c.0.6m wide and c.0.4m deep (Fig. 7b, Sections 31 and 32). Their fills (310=316 and 312=314) consisted of light greyish brown to dark grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions. Combined, the ditch fills produced four sherds (138g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, 20 fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone and three fragments (157g) of oyster shell.

3.5 Period 2: post-medieval (c.AD1540-1700)

Area 1 (Figs 5 and 6)

Soil layer

- 3.5.1 The Period 1 features in Area 1 were sealed by a 0.76m thick layer of dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions (502) which yielded an iron nail, two fragments (160g) of modern roof tile and four sherds (55g) of Thetford-type ware pottery. This build-up of soil was in turn truncated by the Period 3 features.

Area 4 (Fig. 5)

Postholes and pits

- 3.5.2 In the north-western corner of Area 4 lay a group of three subcircular postholes (400, 402 and 404) and two , small subcircular pits (406 and 408)(Fig. 7b, Section 43; Plate 7).
- 3.5.3 Postholes 400, 402 and 404 measured c.0.3m in diameter by c.0.3m deep with rounded V-shaped profiles (Fig. 7b, Sections 41, 43 and 46). Their fills (401, 403 and 405) consisted of mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and rare charcoal inclusions. The posthole fills produced a combined total of two iron nails, one sherd (3g) of 16th-18th century pottery, two fragments (7g) of clay tobacco pipe stem, one sherd (3g) of Thetford-type ware pottery and two fragments (5g) of oyster shell.
- 3.5.4 Immediately south of the postholes pits 406 and 408 measured between 1-1.3m in diameter by 0.26-0.38m deep with U-shaped profiles. The pits contained differing mid greyish brown and light to mid reddish brown sandy silt fills with occasional gravel and rare charcoal inclusions. Pit 406 yielded two sherds (9g) of 16th-18th century pottery, three fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone and one fragment (17g) of oyster shell. Pit 408 produced a hearth cake/bottom (278g), nine sherds (82g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, seven fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse bone and four fragments (153g) of oyster shell.

Ditch

- 3.5.5 The profile of a truncated V-shaped ditch (418) measuring 1m wide by 0.4m was revealed in the eastern baulk section of Area 4 (Fig. 7b, Section 42; Plate 8). Its east to west alignment would have passed 4m south of the group of postholes and pits. It contained a mid greyish brown sandy silt fill with occasional gravel and rare charcoal inclusions. The fill produced a sherd (24g) of unidentified late medieval pottery.

3.6 Period 3: modern (c.AD1700 to present)

Area 1 (Figs 5 and 6)

Wells

- 3.6.1 Two brick-lined, circular wells (**544** and **554**) were encountered in Area 1 which truncated the Period 1 pits (Plates 9 and 10). The wells were hand cleaned but not excavated and shallow slots were excavated into their uppermost fills to recover finds.
- 3.6.2 The eastern well comprised a large sub-circular pit (**503**), up to 3.9m in diameter, that was excavated to allow the construction of the well. This pit contained light yellowish grey silty sand with greenish streaks (545) which yielded seven fragments of fish bone and a fragment (50g) of oyster. An inner, subcircular pit cut (**535**) was also identified which measured 1.5m in diameter which was possibly associated with later renovation or repair of the well's brick lining. This inner pit cut contained a mid greyish brown silty sand fill (536) with occasional gravel inclusions that produced four sherds (39g) of Thetford-type ware pottery, two fragments of sheep/goat bone and three fragments (50g) of oyster shell. The brick-lined, circular well itself (**544**) measured 1m in diameter and was constructed of 19th-20th century single-frog fletton-type bricks; two bricks were recovered (2336g and 2542g). Its backfill was not excavated.
- 3.6.3 The western well comprised a subcircular construction pit (**504=542**) which measured up to 2m in diameter. Its fill (543) consisted of mid greyish yellow sand. The brick-lined, circular well (**554**) measured 1.4m in diameter and was constructed of late 18th-19th century double-frog fletton-type bricks (L.220 x W.100 x TH.60mm). It was backfilled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent fragments of brick, tile, ceramic drainage pipes and pottery (541). A nail and two fragments (776g) of modern roof tile and drain pipe were recovered.

Possible cess pit

- 3.6.4 Between the wells lay a rectangular brick-lined pit which possibly represents a cess pit (Fig. 7a, Section 58; Plate 11). It measured 2m by 1.4m across with a 0.25m thick brick wall (**506**) set against the sides of its construction pit (**523**). Between the wall and the pit cut was a backfill consisted of dark grey sandy silt with moderate inclusions of gravel, crushed CBM and shell (524). The brick-lining was constructed of 19th-20th century single-frog fletton-type bricks, of which two (2364g and 3236g) were sampled. The stone foundation of the brick lining was also observed, comprising mortared clunch blocks (552). The cess pit had a stone slate floor. The pit was backfilled with mid brownish grey sandy silt (553). Finds recovered from the backfill included a fragment (58g) of 19th-20th century fletton-type brick, a fragment (284g) of modern drain pipe, a sherd (19g) of 18th-20th century pottery, a fragment (7g) of clay tobacco pipe stem, a shard (6g) of 19th-20th century glass bottle, a fragment of Welsh slate and two sherds (19g) of Thetford-type ware pottery.

Pit

- 3.6.5 Towards the eastern end of Area 1, circular pit **514** truncated Period 1 ditch **508** (Fig. 7a, Section 50). It measured 1.1m in diameter by 0.85m deep and contained successive fills of mid greyish brown and light brownish yellow silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions (515-6).
- 3.6.6 Between pit **514** and well **544** was a larger, sub-rectangular pit (**537**) which measured >2.5 by 2.4m across and 0.86m deep with a flat base (Fig. 7a, Section 56). It was backfilled with three successive fills of greyish brown/reddish brown/grey sandy silt (538 and 555-6) with frequent fragments of ceramic building material and fired clay observed in fill 555. Finds recovered from the backfills included a sherd (8g) of 17th-18th century pottery, a fragment (96g) of modern roof tile, a fragment (76g) of modern drain pipe, nine fragments (580g) of fired clay, a fragment (41g) of Welsh roof slate, 31 fragments of fish, cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone, a fragment (13g) of oyster, 11 sherds (116g) of Thetford-type ware pottery and one sherd (3g) of Developed St Neots-type ware pottery.

Wall foundations north of Area 1

- 3.6.7 Immediately north of Area 1 was a square, brick-built foundation (**557**) which measured 1.1m by 0.9m across. Further to the north, groundworks revealed part of a brick wall foundation. The bricks measured 0.22m x 0.1m x 0.06m in size and were bonded with lime mortar. The wall extended for *c.*7m on an east to west alignment before it turned north at its western end and continued for a further *c.*2m before terminating. A shorter section of wall lay *c.*2m to the north on a parallel, east to west alignment.

Area 3 (Fig. 5)

Garden soil

- 3.6.8 A 0.72m thick layer of garden soil (307=318; Fig. 7b, Section 31) was machine stripped in Area 3 and its surrounding area which consisted of greyish brown silty sand, from which three sherds (78g) of 17th-18th century pottery, two fragments (21g) of mid 17th-18th century clay tobacco pipe bowl, one shard (6g) of a 19th century glass bottle and two fragments (79g) oyster were recovered.

Made Ground

- 3.6.9 The garden soil was overlain by a 0.3-0.7m thick layer of made ground which was also stripped by machine. The made ground comprised compact light greyish brown silty sand with brick rubble, plastic and iron. Waste flint from the working of nodules for wall facing were also recorded but not retained.

Wall

- 3.6.10 The site was surrounded by wall **300** which was investigated by a small slot excavated into its foundation trench (**301**), northwest of excavation Area 3 (Plate 12). The foundation wall fill consisted of light greyish brown silty sand with inclusions of chalk and flint and fragments of ceramic building material (**302**). A total of one nail, a fragment (1g) of 19th-20th century window glass, 25 fragments (1110g) of

medieval/post-medieval roof tile, two fragments pig bone, two fragments (5g) of oyster shell, one sherd (10g) of Stamford ware pottery and one sherd (2g) of Early Medieval ware pottery.

Area 4 (Fig. 5)

Remnant subsoil and topsoil

3.6.11 In the north-eastern corner of Area 4 was a 0.3m thick remnant of subsoil (417) overlain by a 0.28m thick remnant of topsoil (411). These layers were overlain by the hardcore substrate (410) of the former carpark to the surface (Fig. 7b, Section 43).

Area 5 (Fig. 5)

3.6.12 Area 5 comprised a 3m-long by 0.4m wide and 0.95m deep trench excavated into the access road into the site, east of the Gatehouse (Plate 13). It was excavated for a diverted gas pipe. Abutting the wall was a series of three deposits. The lowermost deposit (103) was dark greyish brown silty sand which extended up to 0.63m below ground level. Above this level was the made ground substrate of the tarmac surface, comprising a 0.34m thick layer of hardcore rubble (101) overlain by sand (102). Waste flint from the working of nodules intended for wall facing were also recorded but not retained.

3.7 Finds and environmental summary

3.7.1 The Period 1 features produced Saxo-Norman pottery, material related to smithing, cereal processing and diet (animal bone, fish bone and marine shell). Some of this material was probably residual in nature and of Late Anglo-Saxon origin. The presence of Developed St Neots ware and Early Medieval ware in the Period 1 features suggests they date from after the Norman conquest. Most of this material was recovered from Period 1 features with a lesser proportion found residually in Period 2 and Period 3 features. A small quantity of 16th-18th century pottery and clay tobacco pipe was recovered from Period 2 features along with residual Late Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman material. The Period 3 deposits yielded a collection of domestic related (pottery, tobacco pipe and vessel glass) and building related (brick, tile, slate and window glass) material along with residual Late Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman finds.

3.7.2 The environmental bulk samples taken from Period 1 features produced carbonised cereal grains of barley, oats, rye and wheat along with another possible cultivar in the form of a legume (pea or bean). Frequent charred and mineralised elder seeds and fragments of charred hazel nutshells suggest the gathering of wild plant resources. The Period 2 features yielded occasional charred barley and rye grains along with possible beet and vetch/tare.

Period	Finds
1	<p>Domestic pottery: 65x sherds (1372g) Thetford-type ware, 10x sherds (210g) Developed St Neot's-type ware, 1x sherd (36g) Ipswich-type ware, 1x sherd (37g) Early Medieval ware</p> <p>Smithing and other heat related activity: 7x fragments (252g) structural (hearth/oven or wall daub) fired clay, 2x fragments (554g) of possible a soft brick-type object, 1x fragment (498g) smithing hearth cake and 1x fragment (5g) fuel ash slag</p> <p>Cereal processing: 1x fragment (117g) lava quern</p> <p>Diet: 135x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, bird, dog and fish bone, 44x fragments (339g) oyster & mussel</p> <p>Burial related: 1x fragment human bone</p> <p>Misc.: One nail</p>
2	<p>Domestic material: 3x sherd (12g) 16th-18th century pottery, 2x fragments (7g) clay tobacco pipe stem</p> <p>Residual material: 10x sherd (85g) THET pottery, 1x sherd (24g) unid. late med. pottery</p> <p>Probable residual material 2x nails, 1x (278g) hearth cake/bottom, 13x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig & horse bone, 7x fragment (175g) oyster</p>
3	<p>Domestic material: 5x sherds (97g) 17th-20th century pottery, 3x (28g) clay tobacco pipe, 2x shards (12g) 19th-20th century vessel glass</p> <p>Building material: 4x whole 19th-20th century fletton-type bricks and 1x fragment, 32x fragments (2502g) modern roof tile and drain pipe, 2x fragments Welsh slate, 1x (1g) 19th-20th century window glass</p> <p>Residual material: 1x sherd (10g) STAM, 1x sherd (2g) EMW pottery, 21x sherds (229g) THET pottery, 1x sherd (3g) DNEOT pottery</p> <p>Probable residual material: 4x nails, 9x fragments (580g) fired clay, 35x fragments of fish, cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone, 7x fragments fish bone, 9x fragment (197g) oyster</p>

Table 2: Summary quantification of finds by site phase

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Previously discovered inhumation burials

4.1.1 This site has provided the opportunity to study a plot of land in Thetford that lay between its extensively investigated Anglo-Saxon core to the southwest and west and the site of the Church of Great St Mary to the northeast. This ‘mother church’ was possibly the oldest parochial church of the town (Blomefield 1805; see also Section 1.3.8). The site’s peripheral location in relation to the Anglo-Saxon town and its proximity to the church probably explains the discovery of graves here in 1974 (see Section 1.3.6).

4.2 Saxo-Norman remains

4.2.1 The archaeological monitoring of Area 1, 2 and 3 uncovered a group of pits and boundary ditches which contained a mixture of refuse from domestic (sherds of pottery, fragments of animal bone, shellfish and fish and charred cereals) and craft-based processes involving heat (structural fired clay, soft-fired brick, smithing hearth cake and fuel ash slag). Importantly, along with more frequent sherds of Thetford-type ware were some sherds of Developed St Neots ware and Early Medieval ware pottery to suggest the Period 1 remains related to settlement activity south of the river which post-dated the Norman conquest and pre-dated the founding of the Augustinian Priory of the Holy Sepulchre west of the site in 1140.

4.2.2 Therefore, the settlement remains on this site may be broadly contemporary with other ‘transitional’ remains south of the river such as the ditches found by evaluation trenches in 2019, 330m southeast of the site which was potentially associated with 11th to 12th century settlement (see Section 1.3.11). After the Norman conquest, the Church of Great St Mary was briefly established as a cathedral before the see was transferred to Norwich in 1094-6 (Davison 1993, 199).

4.2.3 Considering the proximity of the Late Anglo-Saxon town, a proportion of the finds swept into the fills of the pits and ditches may be residual in nature. In particular, the iron working slag and structural fired clay may have originated from the Late Anglo-Saxon metalworking site previously identified immediately east of the site at 30 Bridge Street (see Section 1.3.7). The human bone fragment is clearly also residual considering the discovery of graves during the development of the site in 1974 and the proximity of the Church of Great St Mary (see Section 1.3.6).

4.2.4 The evidence from both the current site and 30 Bridge Street suggests settlement activity in this area ceased during the 12th century. It is possible occupation south of the river was cleared as a consequence of the founding of the Augustinian priory immediately west of the site in 1140. The priory was founded by William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey and gave to it the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and a carucate of land in the adjoining fields and fairs held twice in each year (Hare 1979, 190). These fairs took place southwest of the junction between Brandon Road and London Road. A 1¼ acre of land called *Fayrescrofte* is mentioned in the Canon’s survey of 1338 (Davison 1993, 202).

4.3 Post-medieval remains

4.3.1 The group of Period 2 postholes, pits and boundary ditch probably signifies an episode of occupation of the site during the post-medieval period. It is possible the ditch delineated a property division with the pits and postholes to the north representing the deepest surviving remains of a building which was otherwise completely truncated or possibly extended northwest, beyond the limit of Area 4. However, this is only a tentative interpretation. Most of the finds from these features were clearly residual in nature.

4.4 Modern remains

4.4.1 The Period 3 wells (544 and 554) and possible cess pit (506) in Area 1 and the wall footings to the north are constructed of late 18th-20th century brick. These features would have lain to the north and rear of the Gatehouse which is shown on Ordnance Survey mapping as far back as 1885. A collection of outbuildings is depicted on this map north of the Gatehouse along with a pump – marked 'P' – which probably denotes the wells excavated in Area 1 (Fig. 8). The wall footings of building 557 also probably represent the surviving foundations of one of these outbuildings. The wells and outbuildings appear to have been constructed after the 1840s as they are not shown on the tithe map of St Cuthbert's parish (Davison 1993, fig. 173). The tithe map shows the Gatehouse as two separate buildings which were evidently amalgamated into a single long range before 1895.

4.4.2 The 17th to 20th century pottery, vessel glass and tobacco pipe, tile and drainage pipe in the backfills of the wells, cess pit and pit 537 might have been imported from other parts of Thetford for this purpose and are not good indicators of how far back this property was occupied. The NHER describes the adjacent buildings in the property to the east – The Limes – as being constructed around 1760 and it can be postulated the Gatehouse was also erected around this time. Interestingly, both 1–7 Bury Road and The Limes constitute a small island of St Cuthbert's parish south of the River Thet and, considering the shared garden shown on the 1840s tithe map and 1885 Ordnance Survey map, 1–7 Bury Road and The Limes may have originally formed part of the same property. A boundary is first shown on Ordnance Survey mapping between 1–7 Bury Road and The Limes in 1929, with the properties possibly separated during the early 20th century.

4.5 Significance

4.5.1 This investigation has provided an opportunity to suggest the previously discovered inhumation burials on this site might be associated with the site of the Anglo-Saxon Church of Great St Mary immediately to the northeast. The Anglo-Norman pits and ditches are of local significance when considering the early development of medieval Thetford south of the river, between the Norman conquest and the founding of the Augustinian priory. The relative dearth of medieval and post-medieval remains on this site reflects the site's peripheral location to the town across these periods. The modern wells, cess pit and wall foundations are not significant but can be associated with 19th century backplots of the Gatehouse.

5 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

5.1 Publication

5.1.1 It is anticipated that no publication of the Saxo-Norman remains is necessary other than a summary in the yearly roundup of fieldwork produced for the *Norfolk Archaeology* journal.

5.1.2 This report will be deposited at Norfolk HER and a digital copy will be deposited with OA online Library and ADS.

5.2 Archiving, Retention and Dispersal

5.2.1 The site archive is currently held by OA and will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum under the site code/accession number ENF151029/NWHCM: 2021.15 in 2023. The archive will comprise a maximum of three bulk finds boxes and one paperwork box. Norwich Castle Museum will also receive a copy of the digital archive held by OA.

5.2.2 The following table details the planned dispersal policy for artefacts and environmental remains from the site. This will be discussed with Norwich Castle Museum when the archive is prepared for deposition.

Material	Retention and dispersal policy
Metalwork	Disperse
Slag	Retain
Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery	Retain
Lava quern	Disperse
Post-medieval pottery	Disperse
Glass	Disperse
Clay tobacco pipe	Disperse
Ceramic building material	Disperse
Fired clay	Retain
Human skeletal remains	Retain
Faunal remains	Retain
Mollusca	Disperse
Environmental samples	Retain

5.2.3 Table 3: Artefacts and environmental remains dispersal policy

APPENDIX A CONTEXT AND FINDS INVENTORY

A.1 Context inventory

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
3	300	0	3	masonry	wall						
3	301	301	3	cut	foundation trench						
3	302	0	3	fill				light greyish brown	silty sand	chalk nodules, flint, cbm.	
3	303	0	3	layer			0.7	light greyish brown	silty sand	coarse rubble, brick, cbm, flint, modern rubbish	
3	307	306	3	layer			0.7	mid greyish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone	
3	309	309	1	cut	ditch	0.78	0.32				u-shaped
3	310	309	1	fill	ditch		0.32	light greyish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone	
3	311	311	1	cut	ditch	0.6	0.32				u-shaped
3	312	311	1	fill	ditch		0.32	light greyish brown	silty sand		
3	313	313	1	cut	ditch	0.54	0.4				u-shaped
3	314	313	1	fill	ditch		0.4	dark grey	sandy silt	occasional flint/stone	
3	315	315	1	cut	ditch						
3	316	315	1	fill	ditch						
3	318	0	3	layer				mid greyish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone	
4	400	400	2	cut	post hole	0.22	0.3				rounded v shaped
4	401	400	2	fill	post hole		0.3	mid greyish	sandy silt	occasional flint/stoneoccasional	

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
								brown		flint/stone, rare charcoal	
4	402	402	2	cut	post hole	0.26	0.3				rounded v shaped
4	403	402	2	fill	post hole		0.3	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	rare charcoal , occasional flint/stone	
4	404	404	2	cut	post hole	0.26	0.28				rounded v shaped
4	405	404	2	fill	post hole		0.28	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	rare charcoal ,occasional flint/stone	
4	406	406	2	cut	pit	1.04	0.38				u-shaped
4	407	406	2	fill	pit		0.38	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	occasional stone, rare charcoal	
4	408	408	2	cut	pit	1.3	0.26				u shaped
4	409	408	2	fill	pit		0.26	light to mid reddish brown	sandy silt	occasional stone/chalk, frequent charcoal	
4	410	0	3	layer	made ground		0.22		sand, gravel, cement , stones		
4	411	0	3	layer	topsoil		0.28	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	rare stones	
4	417	0	3	layer	subsoil		0.3	light brownish grey	sandy silt	frequent chalk flecks, occasional stones	
4	418	418	2	cut	ditch						
4	419	418	2	fill	ditch			mid greyish brown	sandy silt	occasional stone, rare charcoal	
2	420	420	1	cut	ditch						U-shaped
2	421	420	1	fill	ditch			dark grey	sandy silt	occasional stones/flint	
2	422	422	1	cut	ditch						u shaped

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
2	423	422	1	fill	ditch			dark grey	sandy silt	rare stone/chalk flecks	
2	424	424	1	cut	ditch			light greyish brown	silty sand		
2	430	430	1	cut	ditch	0.84	0.42				U shaped
2	431	430	1	fill	ditch		0.42	light brownish grey	sandy silt	occasional flint/stone,	
1	500	0	3	layer	asphalt						
1	501	0	3	layer	hardcore		0.34				
1	502	0	3	layer			0.76	dark brownish grey	sandy silt	occasional to frequent stone flint	
1	503	0	3	cut	well						
1	504	0	3	cut	well						
1	505	0	3	cut	well						
1	506	0	3	masonry	structure						
1	507	507	1	cut	pit	1.2	0.55				U shape
1	508	508	1	cut	ditch	2.45					U shaped
1	509	508	1	fill	ditch		0.1	mid brownish grey	silty sand	occasional flint and stone	
1	510	508	1	fill	ditch		0.15	mid yellowish brown	silty sand	rare small stone and flint	
1	511	508	1	fill	ditch		0.1	mid brownish grey	silty sand	rare stone and flint	
1	512	508	1	fill	ditch		0.15	mid orangish brown	silty sand	rare stone and flint	
1	513	508	1	fill	ditch		0.6	dark brownish grey	silty clay	frequent stone and flint	
1	514	514	3	cut	pit	1.1	0.85				U shaped
1	515	514	3	fill	pit		0.35	mid	silty sand	occasional flint and stone	

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
								greyish brown			
1	516	514	3	fill	pit		0.5	light brownish yellow	silty sand	rare small stone	
1	517	517	1	cut	pit	0.77	0.65				U shaped
1	518	517	1	fill	pit	0.77	0.65	dark grey	silty sand	rare flint,	
1	519	517	1	fill	pit/well	0.22	0.42	dark grey orange	silty sand	rare flint	
1	520	517	1	fill	pit/well	0.29	0.13	mid grey yellow	sand	gravel	
1	521	507	1	fill	pit		0.35	dark grey	silty sand	rare flint	
1	522	507	1	fill	pit		0.33	dark grey	silty sand	rare flint	
1	523	523	3	cut	foundation trench	0.09	0.33				Flat U shaped
1	524	523	3	fill	foundation trench		0.33	dark grey	sandy silt	moderate stone flint, crushed CBM and shell	
1	525	0	3	cut	modern drainage		0.53				square U shaped
1	526	525	3	fill	modern drainage	0.53	0.53	light greyish yellow	sand	gravel	
1	527	525	3	fill	modern drainage		0.29	mid yellow	builder sand		
1	528	528	1	cut	pit	0.9	1.06				
1	529	528	1	fill	pit		0.72	mid brownish grey	sandy silt	occasional flint/stone, occasional charcoal	
1	530	528	1	fill	pit		0.08	light yellowish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone	
1	531	528	1	fill	pit		0.19	dark grey near black	sandy silt	frequent charcoal	
1	532	558	1	cut	post hole						U shaped
1	533	528	1	fill	pit		0.8	mid brownish	sandy silt	occasional charcoal, occasional flint/stone,	

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
								grey			
1	534	528	1	fill	pit		0.2	mottled grey, yellowish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone,	
1	535	535	1	cut	pit	0.9	0.72				flat u shaped
1	536	535	1	fill	pit		0.35	mid greyish brown	silty sand	occasional flint/stone,	
1	537	537	3	cut	pit	1	0.86				
1	538	537	3	fill	pit		0.4	dark grey	sandy silt	occasional flint/stone	
1	539	0	3	layer			0.22	light grey	silty sand	brick tile stone	
1	540	505	3	fill	cess pit?	1.44	0.64	dark grey	sandy silt	large and medium flint nodules and occasional small stones	
1	541	504	3	fill	well			mid grey	sandy silt	abundant brick tile, stones, pot, ceramic pipes/drainage	
1	542	542	3	cut	well	0.4	0.64				
1	543	542	3	fill	well		0.64	mid greyish yellow	sand	stone flint	
1	544	0	3	masonry	well						
1	545	503	3	fill	cessy			light yellowish grey with yellowish green streaking	silty sand	rare stones	
1	548	550	1	fill	post hole			mid brownish grey	sandy silt	rare charcoal, occasional flint/stone,	
1	549	551	1	fill	post hole		0.84	dark grey	sandy silt	lumps of unfired clay	
1	550	0	1	cut	post hole	0.5	0.26				u shaped
1	551	0	1	cut	post hole	0.44	0.84				u shaped

Trench	Context	Cut	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
1	552	506	3	fill	cess pit?		0.27	off white	solid clunch		
1	553	506	3	fill				mid brownish grey	sandy silt	large lumps of clunch stone, loose smaller lumps of same stone /pebbles, occasional bricks and cbm	
1	554	0	3	masonry	well						
1	555	537	3	fill	pit		0.32	light reddish brown	sandy silt	frequent ceramic building material and fired clay	
1	556	537	3	fill	pit		0.32	mottled mid greyish brown	silty sand		
1	557	0	3	masonry	building						
1	558	532	1	fill	post hole			light reddish brown	sandy silt	occasional stones/flint throughout larger cobbles less than 10cm at base x3	

Table 4: Context inventory

A.2 Finds inventory

Area	Archaeological summary	Finds
1	<p>1x Saxo-Norman ditch (508);</p> <p>4x Saxo-Norman pits (unnumbered, 507, 517 and 528) and 3x postholes (528, 532 and 550) in base of pit 528;</p> <p>1x soil layer (502)</p> <p>2x modern wells (pit 503/535 for well 544 and pit 504=542 for well 554);</p> <p>1x modern cess pit (523);</p> <p>2x modern pits (514 and 537);</p> <p>1x modern drainage trench (525);</p> <p>Modern wall foundations (506 north of Area 1)</p>	<p>507 (521-2) 7x sherds (103g) THET pottery, 6x fragments (238g) of structural (hearth/oven or wall daub) fired clay, 32x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat & pig bone and 19x fragments (339g) oyster & mussel;</p> <p>508 (509/513) 16x sherds (346g) THET pottery, 3x sherds (84g) DNEOT pottery, 1x fragment human bone, 39x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, bird, dog & fish bone and 15x fragments (591g) oyster;</p> <p>517 (518) 1x nail, 1x (5g) fuel ash slag and 1x sherd (10g) DNEOT, 1x sherd (36g) IPS2 & 2x sherds (40g) THET pottery;</p> <p>528 (529) 1x (498g) smithing hearth cake, 1x fragment (117g) lava quern, 1x fragment (14g) fired clay, 5x fragments (117g) oyster & mussel, 30x sherds (557g) THET, 3x sherds (64g) DNEOT & 1x sherd (37g) EMW pottery and 29x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat & pig bone;</p> <p>550 (548) 3x fragments of cattle & sheep/goat bone and 2x fragments (4g) oyster;</p> <p>551 (549) 2x fragments (554g) of possible a soft brick-type object and 4x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, fish and amphibian bone;</p> <p>532 (558) 2x sherds (14g) THET pottery;</p> <p>502 1x nail, 2x fragments (160g) modern roof tile and 4x sherds (55g) THET pottery;</p> <p>535 (536) 4x sherds (39g) THET pottery, 2x fragments of sheep/goat bone and 3x fragments (50g) oyster;</p> <p>503 (545) 7x fragments fish bone and 1x fragment (50g) oyster;</p> <p>554 2x 19th-20th century fletton-type bricks (2336g and 2542g);</p> <p>504/554 (541) 1x nail and 2x fragments (776g) of modern roof tile and drain pipe;</p> <p>506 (553) 1x fragment (58g) 19th-20th century fletton-type brick, 1x fragment (284g) modern drain pipe, 1x sherd (19g) 18th-20th century pottery, 1x (7g) clay tobacco pipe stem, 1x shard (6g) 19th-20th century glass bottle, 1x fragment Welsh slate and 2x sherds (19g) THET pottery;</p> <p>506 2x complete 19th-20th century fletton-type bricks (2364g and 3236g);</p> <p>537 (538/555/556) 1x sherd (8g) 17th-18th century pottery, 1x fragment (96g) modern roof tile, 1x fragment (76g) modern drain pipe, 9x fragments (580g) fired clay, 1x fragment (41g) Welsh roof slate, 31x fragments of fish, cattle, sheep/goat & pig bone, 1x fragment (13g) oyster and 11x sherds (116g) THET & 1x sherd (3g) DNEOT pottery</p>

Area	Archaeological summary	Finds
2	4x Saxo-Norman ditches (420, 422, 424 and 430)	<p>420 (421) 1x sherd (11g) THET & 1x sherd (16g) DNEOT pottery and 5x fragments of cattle, pig & bird bone;</p> <p>422 (423) 3x sherds (41g) THET pottery and 1x fragment of cattle bone;</p> <p>424 (425) 1x fragment (22g) oyster, 2x sherds (36g) DNEOT & 3x sherds (18g) THET pottery and 2x fragments of pig bone</p>
3	<p>2x Saxo-Norman ditches (309=315 and 311=313);</p> <p>Modern wall (300) and foundation trench (301);</p> <p>Garden soil (307=318)</p>	<p>311=313 (312=314) 1x sherd (67g) THET pottery, 16x fragments of cattle bone and 2x fragments (116g) oyster;</p> <p>315 (316) 3x sherds (71g) THET pottery, 4x fragments of sheep/goat & pig bone and 1x fragment (41g) oyster;</p> <p>301 (302) 1x nail, 1x (1g) 19th-20th century window glass, 25x fragments (1110g) of med./pmed. roof tile, 2x fragments pig bone, 2x fragments (5g) oyster and 1x sherd (10g) STAM & 1x sherd (2g) EMW pottery;</p> <p>(307=318) 3x sherds (78g) 17th-18th century pottery, 2x (21g) mid 17th-18th century clay tobacco pipe bowl, 1x shard (6g) 19th century glass bottle and 2x fragments (79g) oyster</p>
4	<p>3x post-med. postholes (400, 402 and 404);</p> <p>2x post-med. pits (406 and 408);</p> <p>1x post-med. ditch (418)</p>	<p>400 (401) 1x nail, 1x sherd (3g) 16th-18th century pottery and 1x fragment (2g) oyster;</p> <p>402 (403) 2x fragments (7g) clay tobacco pipe stem, 1x sherd (3g) THET pottery and 1x fragments (3g) oyster;</p> <p>404 (405) 1x nail;</p> <p>406 (407) 2x sherds (9g) 16th-18th century pottery, 3x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat & pig bone and 1x fragments (17g) oyster;</p> <p>408 (409) 1x (278g) hearth cake/bottom, 9x sherds (82g) THET pottery, 7x fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig & horse bone and 4x fragments (153g) oyster;</p> <p>418 (419) 1x sherd (24g) unid. late med. pottery</p>
5	Modern wall (600) and foundation trench (602)	

Table 5: Finds inventory

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

The assemblage

- B.1.1 A total of six iron artefacts was retrieved from excavation. Finds are in poor preservation and incomplete due to the adverse condition of the soil. The small assemblage is representative of possible wood structures likely dating to the post-medieval or modern periods.
- B.1.2 Given the limited variation in form and forging technique, pre-industrial nails are difficult artefacts to date. A single nail was recovered from the fill of Period 1 pit **517**, while the remaining nails were produced by post-medieval and modern features (Table 6). From Period 3 well **504** is a fragment of an undiagnostic and unidentified artefact.
- B.1.3 Hand-forged nails were very versatile artefacts mostly used in wood structure constructions such as buildings or fences, the small assemblage recovered from the site could tentatively indicate the presence of such buildings in the area from the medieval to the modern periods.

Catalogue

Cxt.	Cut	Period	Feature	Artefact	Category	No. Category	No. Fragment	Condition	Spot date
518	517	1	pit	nail	Fitting	11	1	incomplete	LAS
401	400	2	post hole	nail	Fitting	11	1	incomplete	PMED
405	404	2	post hole	nail	Fitting	11	1	incomplete	PMED
302	301	3	wall foundation	nail	Fitting	11	1	Incomplete	MOD
502	0	2	soil layer	nail	Fitting	11	1	incomplete	MOD
541	504	3	well	Unid.	Misc.	18	1	incomplete	MOD

Table 6: Summary catalogue of iron artefacts

B.2 Slag

By Anna Lound and Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.2.1 The assemblage comprises three fragments (781g) of slag, recovered from three features: a well and two pits. The slag was scanned, weighed, and rapidly recorded, with basic descriptions and weight recorded in Table 7. The terminology used in the report is taken from Historic England *Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015).

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.2.2 **Period 1:** Pit 517 produced a small amount of fuel ash slag that is not closely datable.
- B.2.3 **Period 1:** Pit 528 produced a moderately large fragment of slag, broken from a larger piece. The pit also produced Late Saxon-early medieval pottery, suggesting the slag is of a similar date.
- B.2.4 **Period 2:** Pit 408 produced what appears to be a fragment from a hearth bottom. Although recovered from a post-medieval feature, the slag is probably earlier and residual in the feature.
- B.2.5 The slag assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain, other than to indicate high temperature metalworking in the vicinity of the archaeological works.

Catalogue

Period	Context	Cut	Material	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Date
1	541	517	Fuel Ash slag	A small sub-rectangular fragment of friable, vesicular, dark grey to white fuel ash slag. On the back it has a concave indentation, indicating it has been pressed against something like a wooden stick or other organic material while forming. This has created the colour, due to the presence of potassium in the wood ash. Tipper indicates that the potassium acts as a flux and has therefore melted silicates from the nearby soil and has created a slightly glassy surface to the slag. (Tipper 2012 87) 30mm x 40mm x 10mm thick.	1	5	Not closely datable
1	529	528	Smithing hearth cake	A large sub-rectangular fragment of material, probably broken from a larger piece. The surface contains many large voids, and the slag is somewhat friable; fuel residues are also present. The fragment is magnetic and hammerscale was tentatively identified. Flake hammerscale usually occurs when iron is forged, whereas spheroidal hammerscale occurs during hot working (The Historical Metallurgy Society: <i>Archaeology Datasheet No 10</i>). The slag may relate to secondary working. The base has gravel and sand along one edge, indicating it has pressed against the side of the hearth wall as it formed. Colouration is blackish brown to purple. 90mm x 80mm x 40mm thick.	1	498	Late Saxon-Early medieval
2	409	408	Hearth cake/ plano-convex hearth bottom	Large sub-rectangular fragment with concave base and concave surface. Some evidence of flow on the surface and there may be fuel within the matrix. Slightly magnetic, so may be associated with primary smelting processes, rather than secondary working. Colour is reddish brown to dark greyish purple, with some rust patches. 70mm x 90mm x 25mm thick.	1	278	Late Saxon-Early medieval or Medieval

Table 7: Slag catalogue by context and cut

B.3 Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery

By Denis Sami

Introduction

B.3.1 A total of 126 sherds of pottery (2118 kg) dating to the Late Anglo-Saxon – early medieval periods was retrieved from 22 contexts (Table 8). The assemblage consists of the standard range of fabrics and forms for this period in the county. The condition of the overall assemblage is good with sherds moderately abraded to sharp, and with an average weight of 16.80g (Table 8).

Fabric	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% Weight (g)	MNW	Chronology
Develop St Neots (DNEOT)	11	8.7%	213	10.1%	-	c.1050-c.1250
Early Medieval Ware (EMW)	2	1.6%	39	1.8%	-	11th-12th
Ipswich Ware (IPS)	1	0.8%	36	1.7%	-	c.700-c.850
Stamford ware (STAM)	1	0.8%	10	0.5%	-	c.850-c.1150
Thetford ware (THET)	110	87.3%	1796	84.8%	17	c.840-c.1150
Unidentified glazed late med	1	0.8%	24	1.1%	-	13th-15th
Total	126	100.0%	2118	100.0%	17	

Table 8: Summary quantification of sherds by type fabrics

Methodology

B.3.2 Finds were analysed according to the Oxford Archaeology East standards following the 2016 document A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (SPSA) (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group *et al.* 2016) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) document A Guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG 1998).

B.3.3 Previous works on medieval pottery assemblages from Thetford were published in the East Anglia Archaeology monographs (Rogerson and Dallas 1984; Andrews 1995; Andrews and Penn 1999; and Wallis 2005) these studies were used as main references in the identification and discussion of the assemblage.

B.3.4 The assemblage was quantified using a Microsoft Excel database. Sherds were counted and weighed, with a minimum number of vessels (MNV) estimated on the base of the number of rims. The catalogue is organised by context number.

The assemblage

Late Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman (c.850-1150)

B.3.5 A total of 110 sherds were attributed to Thetford ware type fabric, of which three (41g) belonging to Fabric 2 (fine, THET 2), while the remaining fragments were produced in Fabric 3 (medium, THET 3). In total 17 rims and 14 fragments of bases were recovered. Medium/small jars class AA dominate the assemblage, with a single rim of a class AF, and a carinated bowl class BB (Anderson 2005, 71). Rim type 5/7 is

the most frequent denoting a possible 10th to 11th century chronology for the assemblage (Anderson 2005, 71), although the absence of St Neots ware suggests a more likely 11th century date. The diameter of most of the jars is 14cm (8 vessels), the smaller 8cm (1 vessel) and the larger is 22 (1 vessel). Soot was found only in one sherd possibly suggesting these vessels were used for storing rather than for cooking.

B.3.6 Develop St Neots amount to a total of 11 sherds, of these few undiagnostic sherds present sparse and fine shell inclusion and they tentatively could be from Early Medieval Sparse Shelly Ware (EMWSS) (Anderson 2005, 74).

B.3.7 Early Medieval Ware is represented by two undiagnostic sherds. The assemblage also includes a wall of Stamford ware from a modern context, and a wall from an unidentified glazed ware with a hard fired, dense grey core showing few oolites and a dark and thick green glaze. A small and intrusive fragment of a base from a possible Ipswich ware (IPS 2) is the earliest sherd in the assemblage.

Class	Quantity	Weight (g)
Jar AA	15	245
Jar AF	1	35
Carinated bowl BB	1	33
Total	17	313

Table 9: Summary quantification of Thetford ware by form

Rim type	0	3	4	5	5/6	6	7
Total	83	1	3	2	7	2	1

Table 10: Summary quantification of Thetford ware by rim type

Spatial distribution

B.3.8 Most of the pottery was recovered from pits and ditches from Period 1 as results of secondary deposition, perhaps as part of the backfilling activity in the area following a reorganisation of this part of the town.

Period	1	2	3
No./Weight (g)	101/1871	11/109	14/138

Table 11: Summary quantification of pottery by site phase

Row Labels	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% Weight (g)
brick building	2	1.6%	19	0.9%
ditch	52	41.3%	1030	48.6%
layer	4	3.2%	55	2.6%
pit	59	46.8%	899	42.4%
posthole	3	2.4%	17	0.8%
wall foundation	2	1.6%	12	0.6%

Row Labels	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% Weight (g)
well	4	3.2%	86	4.1%
Total	126	100.0%	2118	100.0%

Table 12: Summary quantification of medieval pottery by archaeological feature

Discussion

- B.3.9 A possible sherd of Ipswich ware may tentatively indicate some Middle Anglo-Saxon activity in the area, however this fragment is small, abraded, and intrusive. The fragmentation and abrasion of sherds is indicative of secondary deposition. Pottery was redeposited in ditches and pits when these features were filled up during perhaps a possible reorganization of the space around the site. The amount of Thetford ware denotes the popularity and the easy access the community settling the excavated area had to this product. The small to medium size jars and the absence of evident soot and organic residue reflect storing purposes rather than cooking. Notably there is an evident consistency in the diameters of the jars potentially indicative of a specific use of such vessels and a relatively short time spanning for the formation of the assemblage.
- B.3.10 When compared with similar and contemporary sites in Thetford, Fairstead appears to be very focused on small to medium jars lacking the variety of forms and sizes generally documented in other excavations in the town.

Catalogue

Cxt.	Cut	Period	Feature	Fabric Dsc	Dsc	Form	Clas s	Rim type	Quantit y	Weight (g)	Diameter (mm)	Pot Date (min)	Pot Date (max)
302	301	3	wall foundation	STAM	wall	0	0	0	1	10	0	850	1150
302	301	3	wall foundation	EMW	wall	0	0	0	1	2	0	11th	12th
314	313	1	pit	THET 3	base	jar	0	0	1	67	0	840	1150
316	315	1	pit	THET 3	wall	jar	A	0	3	71	0	840	1150
403	402	2	posthole	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	1	3	0	840	1150
409	408	2	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	15	12	840	1150
409	408	2	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	6	39	0	840	1150
409	408	2	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	17	14	840	1150
409	408	2	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	11	14	840	1150
419	418	2	ditch	Unidentified glazed late med	wall	0	0	0	1	24	0	1350	1450
421	420	1	ditch	THET 3	base	0	0	0	1	11	0	840	1150
421	420	1	ditch	DNEOT	base	0	0	0	1	16	0	1050	1250
423	422	1	ditch	THET 2	wall	jar	A	0	2	19	0	840	1150
423	422	1	ditch	THET 2	rim	jar	AA	4	1	22	18	840	1150
425	424	1	ditch	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	18	0	840	1150
425	424	1	ditch	DNEOT	rim	0	0	0	1	18	16	1050	1250
425	424	1	ditch	DNEOT	Rim	0	0	0	1	18	20	1050	1250
502	0	2	layer	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	36	0	840	1150
502	0	2	layer	THET 3	base	0	0	0	1	19	0	840	1150
509	508	1	ditch	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	0	1	21	8	840	1150
509	508	1	ditch	DNEOT	base	0	0	0	1	34	0	1050	1250
509	508	1	ditch	THET 3	base	0	A	0	1	79	0	840	1150
509	508	1	ditch	THET 3	base	0	0	0	1	26	0	840	1150
509	508	1	ditch	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	42	0	840	1150
509	508	1	ditch	THET 3	wall	jar	A	0	6	69	0	840	1150
513	508	1	ditch	THET 3	wall	jar	A	0	2	38	0	840	1150
513	508	1	ditch	THET 3	base	jar	A	0	1	36	0	840	1150
513	508	1	ditch	DNEOT	base	0	0	0	1	17	0	1050	1250
513	508	1	ditch	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	33	0	1050	1150
513	508	1	ditch	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	10	181	0	840	1150
513	508	1	ditch	THET 3	Rim	carinated	BB	7	1	33	19	840	1150

Cxt.	Cut	Period	Feature	Fabric Dsc	Dsc	Form	Clas s	Rim type	Quantit y	Weight (g)	Diameter (mm)	Pot Date (min)	Pot Date (max)
						bowl							
513	508	1	ditch	THET 3	rim	jar	AF	3	1	35	22	840	1150
518	517	1	well	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	10	0	1050	1250
518	517	1	well	THET 3	base	jar	0	0	1	23	0	840	1150
518	517	1	well	THET 3	wall	jar	A	0	1	17	0	840	1150
518	517	1	well	IPS 2	base	jar	0	0	1	36	0	700	850
522	507	1	pit	THET 3	base	jar	A	0	1	16	0	840	1150
522	507	1	pit	THET 3	base	jar	A	0	1	20	0	840	1150
522	507	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	24	0	840	1150
522	507	1	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	30	14	840	1150
522	507	1	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	13	17	840	1150
529	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	2	5	0	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	44	0	1050	1250
531	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	4	50	0	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	THET 3	base	jar	0	0	2	117	0	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	12	14	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	5	1	12	14	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	1	4	0	840	1150
531	528	1	pit	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	1	0	1050	1250
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	6	1	7	0	840	1150
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	6	1	20	13	840	1150
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	A	0	2	19	0	840	1150
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	10	109	0	840	1150
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	base	0	0	0	2	66	0	840	1150
533	528	1	pit	EMW	wall	0	0	0	1	37	0	11th	12th
533	528	1	pit	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	19	0	1050	1250
533	528	1	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	136	0	840	1150
536	535	3	pit	THET 3	base	jar	A	0	1	16	0	840	1150
536	535	3	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	1	3	0	840	1150
536	535	3	pit	THET 3	rim	jar	AA	4	1	14	14	840	1150
536	535	3	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	1	6	0	840	1150
538	537	3	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	3	29	0	840	1150
538	537	3	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	5 to 6	1	20	14	840	1150
538	537	3	pit	DNEOT	wall	0	0	0	1	3	0	1050	1150
538	537	3	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	4	1	15	14	840	1150
558	532	1	posthole	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	2	14	0	840	1150

Cxt.	Cut	Period	Feature	Fabric Dsc	Dsc	Form	Class	Rim type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Diameter (mm)	Pot Date (min)	Pot Date (max)
553	506	3	brick building	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	2	19	0	840	1150
556	537	3	pit	THET 3	Rim	jar	AA	5	1	16	11	840	1150
556	537	3	pit	THET 3	wall	0	0	0	5	36	0	840	1150

Table 13: Summary catalogue of Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery

B.4 Post-medieval pottery and miscellaneous finds

By Carole Fletcher (post-medieval pottery) and Carole Fletcher and Rose Britton for the miscellaneous finds

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage, of various materials, from a limited number of features. These are discussed below on a feature-by-feature basis by phase where possible. The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards for the pottery. A simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric codes assigned from Sue Anderson's unpublished post-Roman fabric series, based on Jennings (1981). For the clay tobacco pipe, the terminology used is from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Hind and Crummy (Crummy 1988, 47–66).

The assemblage

Period 1

Area 1

B.4.2 Feature **528** produced an abraded irregular fragment (117g) of mid grey, vesicular basalt lava. No diagnostic features survive, although it is presumed that this fragment was originally part of a lava rotary quern.

Period 2

Area 4

B.4.3 Posthole **400** produced a small, moderately abraded sherd (3g), possibly from the base of an internally glazed, Glazed red earthenware vessel, 16th–18th century.

B.4.4 Two plain, undecorated, clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from post-hole **402**. The first (4g, 44mm) is slightly oval (7.9 x 9mm) with an off-centre bore. The second (3g, 22mm, 9mm in diameter) has a wider central bore.

B.4.5 Pit **406** produced a moderately abraded body sherd and a possible base sherd from one or more Glazed red earthenware vessels (9g, 16th–18th century). Both sherds have internal honey coloured glaze, and the body sherd has a slightly greenish external glaze.

Period 3

Area 1

B.4.6 Pit **537** produced a relatively unabraded body sherd (8g) from a Staffordshire-type slipware drinking vessel with internal glaze and external feathered slip decoration (late 17th–18th century). A fragment (41g) of blue-black Welsh roofing slate was also recovered. All the above material is intrusive or a later fill of an earlier feature.

B.4.7 The fill of possible cess pit **506** produced a moderately abraded base sherd from a probable porcelain flatware vessel (19g, 18th-20th century). The feature also produced a length of moderately abraded, undecorated, clay tobacco pipe stem (7g, 67mm). It is oval, with well-trimmed seams tapering from 8 x 8.9 to 7.1 x 8.5mm, with a small relatively well-centred bore. The layer also produced a single a curved fragment from a mid olive green cylindrical glass utility bottle (6g), the shard is slightly abraded on the breaks with smooth un-weathered surfaces and is probably 19th or 20th century. The context also produced an irregular fragment (8g) of 19th century or later blue-black Welsh roofing slate.

Area 3

B.4.8 Foundation Trench **301** produced a single sub-triangular, unabraded fragment of clear, slightly iridescent, window glass (1g). The fragment was probably manufactured in the 19th or 20th century.

B.4.9 Topsoil 307=318 produced several different find types, including three sherds of post-medieval pottery. Firstly, a moderately abraded body sherd (11g) from a Staffordshire-type slipware bowl or dish with internal glaze and slip decoration (late 17th-18th century). Secondly, a curved body sherd (13g) from a Staffs-type slipware on a red earthenware bowl, with internal cream slip and brown slip or manganese streaks (late 17th-18th century). The final sherd is from a large English Stoneware Nottingham-type bowl (54g, late 17th-18th century). The most significant non-pottery find is a complete Oswald type 6 (c.1640-60) clay tobacco pipe bowl (13g, Oswald, A. 1975). The pipe has visible rouletting on the back of the bowl that fades out on the sides of the bowl to a faint line. A slightly damaged teardrop, almost heart-shaped, poorly trimmed heel survives, attached to a short length (12mm) of subrounded stem with a large relatively central bore. Also recovered was an incomplete pipe bowl (8g), the upper sections of which are missing. Part of the back of the bowl and a complete sub-rounded heel survive, attached to a short length of oval stem (24mm, 9.3 x 11.3mm) with an off-centre bore. The fragment is possibly an Oswald type 10 (c.1700-40) pipe (Oswald, A. 1975). A fragment of plain, undecorated, slightly tapering clay tobacco pipe stem was also recovered (5g, 9.3mm tapering to 8.5mm). The relatively well-centred bore is smaller than that of the complete and incomplete bowls and they are from separate pipes.

B.4.10 Context 307=318 also produced an irregular, curved fragment of dark olive green vessel glass (6g). The glass is slightly iridescent, with pitting on the outer surface, and the thickness of the glass suggests the shard is from the lower part of a cylindrical utility bottle, probably from the 19th century.

Discussion

B.4.11 The lava rotary quern fragment may have originated in a domestic setting, strongly linked to agriculture. The fragment itself is not closely datable, however, it may be dated by its association with the Late Saxon-early medieval material with which it was recovered. The post-medieval pottery assemblage is fragmentary and indicates extremely low levels of post-medieval pottery distribution across the site. The fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered represent what were, most likely, casually

discarded pipes, indicating the consumption of tobacco on, or in the vicinity of, the site in the 17th and 18th centuries. Welsh slate became a common material for roofing in the early 19th century and is commonly recovered from urban and rural sites where 19th century buildings have been constructed and/or demolished. Overall, the assemblages are small, are not significant and, with the exception of the fragment of lava, indicate mainly the post-medieval date of certain features and the distribution of post-medieval and 19th century rubbish.

B.5 Ceramic building material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.5.1 A small assemblage of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) was recovered during excavation works (41 pieces, 14766g) collected from Period 3 contexts. The assemblage comprises several complete and near-complete bricks (some collected from extant wall footings), roof tile fragments, and extruded brown glazed drainpipe. Most of the material is dated to the 19th and early 20th centuries, i.e., of Victorian and early modern manufacture. The roofing material has a broader date sequence of medieval to post-medieval.

Methodology

B.5.2 The material was analysed in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology Guidelines for the Sampling, Recording and Discard of Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay. The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. The data and fabric series are stored on an Excel spreadsheet with the site archive.

B.5.3 A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 14.

Assemblage

Fabrics

B.5.4 A number of fabrics were recorded amongst this assemblage (Table 14), reflecting the different forms seen; four tile (T1-T4), three brick (B1-B3) and two for the glazed extruded pipes (P1-P2). The fabrics are all typical of the period of production with preference for fine sandy clays with minimal coarse inclusions for the roofing tile, compact gault clays typical of white stock bricks and flettons and compacted fine calcareous clays for the pipework.

Code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Moulding sand	Comments
T1	Mid orange	Sandy	Occ. to common fine sandy minerals: quartz, mica, dark flecks	rare dark pellets and red clay pellets	Fine (white)	Pantile fabric; gritty and very well sorted
T2	Mid orange					Like T1 but grittier and streaky
T3	Mid orange	Sandy	common fine to med sandy minerals; quartz, mica, flint and other grit	rare flint flecks, stones etc	Fine	Med-Pmed roof tile
T4	Dull brown exterior, orange and grey core	Sandy	common fine sandy minerals; quartz,	no visible	Fine, rare flint	Med-Pmed roof tile
B1	Pink-Yellow	Compact	few visible inclusions; yellow and red clay flecks	few visible inclusions; yellow and red clay pellets	Fine, yellow	Fletton-type
B2	Yellow-Cream	Compact	few visible inclusions; some fine sandy minerals	rare sub-rounded med flint	Fine	White/Stock type 18/19C brick
B3	Pale orange-brown	Compact	few visible inclusions; some fine sandy minerals	rare rounded calc pebbles	None	Fletton-type
P1	Pale orange-brown	Compact	common sandy minerals, yellow flecks and dark grit	common yellow flecks and dark grit	None	Sewer Pipe
P2	Yellow-Cream	Compact	common sandy minerals, white flecks and dark grit	common white flecks and dark grit	None	Sewer Pipe

Table 14: CBM Fabric Series

Forms

Late brick

- B.5.5 The majority of the CBM assemblage is made up of 19th to early 20th century brick. This fraction comprises Fletton-type bricks collected from the extant structures encountered in Area 5. The examples are of clear Fletton style – L.215-220 x W.105 x TH.60-65mm – and made in yellowish clay (probably an Oxford Clays or gault). Two types were collected; one with a singular deep unbranded frog (retrieved from Building **506**) and the other with double frogs (again unbranded); both of which were shallower and rounded in the corners (construction pit **504** for well **554**). The lack of branding for these bricks limits provenance discussions, however they bear the hallmarks of powder-pressing and the dimensions of flettons made in the early modern period.
- B.5.6 A single near-complete brick of a different type was recovered from construction pit **504** for well **554**. It has a slightly earlier form to the flettons – L.220 x W.100 x TH.60mm – and its softer yellow-cream fabric is characteristic of a White/London stock-type brick, giving it a probable later 18th century or 19th century production date.

Roof tile

- B.5.7 Two groups of roofing material were recovered from site. Abraded fragments of peg tile (rounded) made in the compact sandy clays in various shades of orange. They are difficult to narrowly date and are typically assigned to the medieval to post-medieval period. They are the most abraded and fragmentary fraction of the assemblage (av. weight 44.9g), so it is likely that they originate from before the earliest post-medieval period. The rest of the roof tile assemblage is made up of parts of pantile. The fragments were fairly unabraded and survived in large pieces (av. weight 26g). Pantiles are a 17th century innovation with a long use into the present. The black glaze seen on these fragments is typical of this region.

Pipe

- B.5.8 Fragments of drain or sewer pipe were also recorded in this assemblage. They are of machine-extruded type with a thick mottled brown glaze. They are likely to have the same date range as the Fletton bricks described, i.e., a later Victorian innovation.

Discussion

- B.5.9 The material was recovered from Areas 3 and 5 and ranges in significance. The Area 3 material comprised the medieval to post-medieval peg tile, collected from Period 3 foundation trench fill (**301/302**) of wall **300**. It appears that peg and flat tile rubble was used as part of a rubble course within the flint wall construction. As it was used within this construction and was seemingly already quite abraded before its reuse, the earlier medieval date given to the fragments seems likely.
- B.5.10 The rest of the material was recovered in Area 5. The complete bricks were collected as a representative sample of the extant walls; the single-frog flettons were collected from the walls of Building **506** and the double-frog flettons from the construction pit (**504**) of well **554**. This brick type gives a solid date for the

construction of these structures and suggests that there were two construction phases. The white/London-type brick was recovered from (541), the infill fill of pit 504, alongside fragments of pantile and drainpipe (another fill, (555), also produced pipe). The slightly broader date range for this material – 17th to 20th century – points to the presence of late post-medieval buildings in the area (or accessible rubble from their demolition) rather than an earlier date for the double-frog flettons, but this cannot be discounted.

Catalogue

Area	Context	Cut	Context Type	Feature	Period	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	L (mm)	W (mm)	Th (mm)	Edge Th (mm)	Comment
3	302	301		foundation trench	3	Tile	Peg	Med-Pmed	T3	21	892	mod			12-15	12-15	Fragments of peg tile; three peg holes amongst the material, fabric suggests probably three or four objects. Rest of material is body, edge and abraded pieces. Compact sandy orange clays with occ flint/stone inclusions. Fairly neat forming. Typical of form. Smoothed uppers, sanded lowers, slight body warps etc. Some with render/wash across faces. Ped D:10-15mm (round).
3	302	301		foundation trench	3	Tile	Peg	Med-Pmed	T4	3	184	mod			12	10	Fragments of flat roof tile. Dull brown-orange faces, orange margins and grey core. Neat and thinly formed. Compact gritty fabric with few visible inclusions.
3	302	301		foundation trench	3	Brick	Undiag	Med-Pmed	T3	1	34	sev					Arris chunk of an orange sandy brick; sev abraded.
5	502	0	layer	abandonment	3	Tile	Pantile	C17-	T2	2	160	mod			17		Fragments of pantile; black glazed/coated. Smoothed inner curve, sanded outer. Gritty sandy clay.
5	506	0	masonry	structure	3	Brick	Fletton	C19-E20	B1	1	2364	slight	215	105	65-70		Complete unstamped fletton. Pink-red with yellow patchy faces. Deep V-shaped frog without branding. Neat, even, sharp arrises, flat faces. Fine sanded flat base, edges smooth. Remnant patches of fine sandy mortar, secondary calcite and iron-staining.
5	506	0	masonry	structure	3	Brick	Fletton	C19-E20	B1	1	3236	slight	215	105	65		Complete fletton; mortar obscures branding. Pink-red with yellow patchy faces. Neat, even, sharp arrises, flat faces. Fine sanded flat base, edges smooth. Thick patches (up to 30mm in places) of

Area	Context	Cut	Context Type	Feature	Period	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	L (mm)	W (mm)	Th (mm)	Edge Th (mm)	Comment
																	fine sandy mortar and rare pebble and brick chunks. Secondary calcite and iron-staining.
5	538	537	fill	pit	3	Tile	Pantile	C17-	T1	1	96	mod			15		Fragment of pantile side. Sanded outer curve, smoothed inner. Compact gritty sandy clay.
5	541	504	fill	well	3	Brick	White/Lstock	L18-C19	B2	1	1718	mod	220	100	60		Near complete London Stock or Suffolk-White type brick; dimensions suggests closer to the later. Yellow-cream colour, fairly even throughout, wiped upper sanded flat lowers, even rounded arrises. Moderate abrasion, face flaked off in places. An iron stain is present on the break of a header end, otherwise no accretions.
5	541	504	fill	well	3	Tile	Pantile	C17-	T1	1	248	mod			15		Fragment of pantile side. Sanded outer curve, smoothed inner. Compact gritty sandy clay.
5	541	504	fill	well	3	Other	Pipe	Lpmed-Mod	P1	1	538	mod			15		Fragment of female end of a brown glazed pipe. External D20mm; necks to 15mm. Compact clay with fine to coarse dark and yellow flecks. Sewer or drain pipe.
5	553	506	fill	structure	3	Brick	Fletton	C19-E20	B1	1	58	mod					Arris chunk of a fletton. Pink-orange with white-cream faces. Even, flat, smooth faces. Sharp arris.
5	553	506	fill	structure	3	Other	Pipe	Lpmed-Mod	P2	4	284	slight			15		Fragments of brown glazed pipe. Compact yellow clay with fine to coarse dark pellets. Sewer or drain pipe. Mottled outer glaze, thick inner.
5	554	504		well	3	Brick	Fletton-type	C19-E20	B3	1	2336	slight	220	105	60		Complete double-frogged fletton-type brick. Press-moulded brick in fletton/shale clay with two sub-rectangular shallow frogs (unbranded), one has a short ramp at a header end and raised nipples instead

Area	Context	Cut	Context Type	Feature	Period	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	L (mm)	W (mm)	Th (mm)	Edge Th (mm)	Comment
																	of the bolt head impressions of the other side. . Squared, neat even brick, sharp arrises and smooth faces. Cracked/split with lime spall. Abrasion has nibbled the faces in places. Probably iron-staining. Thinner than its pair.
5	554	504		well	3	Brick	Fletton-type	C19-E20	B3	1	2542	slight	223	105	65		Complete double-frogged fletton-type brick. Press-moulded brick in fletton/shale clay with two sub-rectangular shallow frogs (unbranded), one has a short ramp at a header end and raised nipples instead of the bolt head impressions of the other side. . Squared, neat even brick, sharp arrises and smooth faces. Cracked/split with lime spall. Abrasion has nibbled the faces in places. Probably iron-staining. Thicker than its pair.
5	555	537	fill	pit	3	Other	Pipe	Lpmed-Mod	P2	1	76	mod			15		Fragment of brown glazed pipe. Compact yellow clay with fine to coarse dark pellets. Sewer or drain pipe. Mottled outer glaze, thick inner.

Table 15: Summary CBM catalogue

B.6 Fired clay

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.6.1 A minor assemblage of fired clay was collected from Period 1 contexts (18 pieces, 1386g). The majority of the fragments were abraded and undiagnostic. Large slab-like pieces and fragment of probable daub are the most notable fragments.

Methodology

B.6.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram, in accordance with the *Oxford Archaeology Guidelines for the Sampling, Recording and Discard of Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay*. Fragments were identified as 'amorphous' when they possessed no discernible features beyond weight and fabric, 'structural' when they presented at least one diagnostic feature (e.g. a flattened surface, a rounded corner, an arris, a wattle/rod impression or any other traces of hand-forming) or as an 'object' when the diagnostic features were such that the original form could be identified or implied. Fabrics were examined in hand-specimen using a x20 hand lens and were described by the main inclusions present. The quantified data are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive and in Table 16.

Assemblage

Fabrics

B.6.3 Three fabrics were encountered. These likely represent locally sourced clays, indeed all have a calcareous base and sandy inclusions which is typical of clays collected from the local Thetford geology. Two fabrics were assigned to a 'Fine Clay' group (F1 and F2) as they are characterised by a compact calcareous clay matrix with few visible inclusions; both contain occasional fine quartz, mica and fine dark minerals. F2 also contains yellow and orange clay pellets and lumps (probably a sign of poor mixing of the raw clay). The third fabric (F3) was notably powderier and more had as higher fine mica content alongside medium coarse (?unhydrated) clay chunks and dark ?ferrous pellets.

Forms

B.6.4 No objects were encountered in this assemblage, but fragments with structural features or notable characteristics were present. One context – (521) – produced refitting fragments of a sheet of probable daub (F2; 6 pieces, 238g). It retained a smoothed but undulating face with a rough irregular reverse and a slight bow (irregular face is concave) to the form. In the body clay are three or four remnant wattle/rod impressions (D15-30mm). Common fine voids in the clay may be from organic inclusions. A fairly large block of similar clay (502g) was recovered from (549). It does not retain much form but does imply the presence of this clay fabric in larger quantities elsewhere on site. Fragments of a slab-like object (26mm) or very well-formed lining were collected from (556). The fragments are made in a soft

micaceous silty clay and are quite abraded (F3). It has one smoothed face and a less well finished reverse (slightly reduced). No edges or other faces were found so it is unclear if this is part of a larger area of applied clay or was a blocky object (i.e. tile).

B.6.5 The rest of the material presented as small, rounded lumps of low fired clays.

Discussion

B.6.6 All the fired clay was recovered from Period 1 features in Area 5. Taken in sum, this assemblage is of limited archaeological significance due to its lack of diagnostic features or objects. The sheet of daub is noteworthy for its surviving size and its fairly even but soft firing. Its retrieval from Pit **507** and the association with early medieval pottery dates the fragment. It is likely to have been part of a wall or hearth structure, but the evidence limits any further conclusions. The large lump of low fired clay was collected from posthole **551** and may have something to do with the function of the posthole group. The large slab-like object is enigmatic but is clearly well finished and had a deliberate function, this is unclear but facing for an internal architectural feature seems likely. It may be a soft brick-type object and might then be classed as ceramic building material but the evidence is limited. Few other inferences can be made beyond the use of this clay in construction, probably during the early medieval period.

Catalogue

Context	Cut	Feature	Period	Sample	Fabric type	Fragment type	Structural type	Object Class	Notes	Wattle Diam (mm)	Count	Weight (g)
521	507	pit	1		F2	s	fs/hf	?Daub/?Plate	Large piece (with related smaller bits) of flattened and worked fired clay. One smoothed but undulating face with a rough irregular reverse. Slight bow (irregular face is concave) to the form. Applied clay layer? Daub? Silty, powdery clay with common pores and voids (?organics)	15-30	6	238
529	528	pit	1		F1	a			oxidised pale orange. Twisted body texture. ?Related to the Med brick fabric?		1	14
549	551	Posthole at base of pit 528	1		F2	?s	?fs		Squared block of compacted clay made in similar fabric to the ?daub sheet in (521)		1	502
549	551	Posthole at base of pit 528	1	54	F2	s	fs		Face fragment, undulating and lightly sintered. Made in a fine sandy and voidy clay. Fine micaceous with ?organic voids		1	52
555	537	pit	3		F3	a			Pale yellow silty lumps, micaceous with occ dark grit, one frag is pinkish on one ?face.		2	64
556	537	pit	3		F3	s	fs		Fragments of fine sandy slab. Dull oranges; darker faces. One smoothed and well finished face and one irregular (?abraded) reverse. Fine sandy clay with coarse ?clay/?siltstone pebble. An occurrence of crushed sandstone was seen.		7	516

Table 16: Summary fired clay catalogue (fs=flattened surface, hf=handforming)

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human skeletal remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single fragment of disarticulated human bone was recovered from the watching brief at Fairstead house. The fragment is a humerus shaft from the uppermost fill (513) of Period 1 ditch 508.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The bone was identified with reference to Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Mays *et al.* (2004). The condition of the cortical bone was graded in accordance with the 0-5 scale devised by McKinley (Brickley and McKinley 2004, fig. 6).

Results of the analysis

- C.1.3 A single unsided human humerus shaft was identified during analysis of the animal bone. The condition of the cortical bone is poor and best represents a Grade 4 (*ibid.*) as all the surface of the bone is eroded. The bone belongs to an adult or older sub-adult based on size and robustness.

Discussion

- C.1.4 This fragment likely originated at the nearby priory where there are known to be burials. There is no further information to be gleaned from the fragment.

Retention and dispersal

- C.1.5 All human bone must be retained by law.

C.2 Faunal remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin with fish identification and quantification by Mary Andrews

Introduction

- C.2.1 A small assemblage of faunal remains, 8.823kg, was collected from the site (Table 17). The bone primarily dates to the Saxo-Norman period. Analysis of the bone finds there to be 192 recordable fragments i.e., fragments which are either identifiable to taxon with an observable epiphysis or which show signs of butchery, pathology or taphonomy (gnawing, burning). Taxa present are primarily domestic mammals: Cattle (*Bos taurus*), Dog (*Canis familiaris*), Horse (*Equus caballus*), Pig (*Sus sp.*) and Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*). A small number of galliforme sized bird bones and both fresh water and saltwater fish bone are also present.

Methodology

- C.2.2 All bone was identified with reference to Schmid (1972), Cohen and Searidson (1996) and Hillson (1992). The method used to record this assemblage is a modified version of that used by Albarella and Davis at Knowth (1996). Ribs and vertebrae are not recorded unless they show signs of modification of taphonomy. Only bone identifiable to taxon with a recordable epiphysis is included in NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) counts. This narrows down the assemblage and allows for more accurate NISP and MNI counts.
- C.2.3 Bird bone has only been recorded to familia as has amphibian bone.
- C.2.4 Provisional identifications of the fish bone were undertaken by Mary Andrews. Due to time constraints this has only been recorded as fish in the NISP/MNI tables with general observations about the presence of fresh water and saltwater species made.
- C.2.5 Wear on cattle teeth was assessed with reference to Grant (1982), Payne (1973) and Higham (1967). Observations on epiphyseal fusion were made with reference to Silver (1970). Biometric measurements were undertaken using the guidance laid out by Dreisch (1976). The condition of the cortical bone was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by McKinley in Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15).
- C.2.6 Bone was recorded at Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge Office).

Results of the analysis

- C.2.7 As previously stated the majority of the assemblage (172 fragments) is Saxo-Norman in date. Only 10 fragments are present from contexts of a post-medieval date with a further 10 fragments being from modern contexts. While these are included in the catalogue and NISP tables only the Saxo-Norman material is discussed hereafter.

Taxon	Period 1		Period 2		Period 3		Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	
	NIS P	NISP %	NIS P	NISP %	NIS P	NISP %	MN I	MNI %	MN I	MNI %	MN I	MNI %
Amphibian	1	0.83	0	0	0	0	1	8.33	0	0	0	0
Bird	3	2.48	0	0	0	0	1	8.33	0	0	0	0
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	65	53.72	3	30	1	50	4	33.3 3	1	20	1	50
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	1	0.83	0	0	0	0	1	8.33	0	0	0	0
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0
Pig (<i>Sus sp.</i>)	18	14.88	2	20	1	50	2	16.6 7	2	40	1	50
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	33	27.27	4	40	0	0	3	25	1	20	0	0
Totals	121	100	10	100	2	100	12	100	5	100	2	100

Table 17: NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) for Period 1: Saxo-Norman, Period 2: post-medieval and Period 3: modern

- C.2.8 In total 121 fragments from the Saxo-Norman period (Period 1) are identifiable to taxon. Cattle makes up over half of the assemblage (53.72%). There are a mixture of early fusing and later fusing elements present and evidence suggests a kill pattern between 2- 3.5 years of age. The level of wear on a single mandible from context 312 suggests an animal over 50 months old.
- C.2.9 A smaller percentage of the assemblage consists of sheep/goat (27.27%). There are no later fusing bones present with which to estimate a true kill pattern for sheep/goat however middle fusing bones such as the distal tibia and distal metapodiams are fully closed suggesting that most animals were at least 24-28 months old.
- C.2.10 Pigs make up 14.88% of the assemblage. All epiphyses present suggest that pigs were killed under 24 months. A single mandibular third molar suggests an older animal over 50 months. This may be evidence that a sow was present for breeding purposes.
- C.2.11 There are negligible fragments of dog and bird. Bird bone is of a galliforme size i.e. chicken, pheasant or grouse.
- C.2.12 A small amount of fish bone is present only preliminary IDs have been made therefore these have not been added to the NISP count. All bone identified was vertebrae. Freshwater species identified include pike and eel, neither unusual for the region. Saltwater species include mackerel and herring.
- C.2.13 Biometric measurements are presented in Table 21. These are primarily possible on foot bones. Cattle, sheep and pig are represented.
- C.2.14 Only five fragments of bone are burnt. All burnt bone is singed or blackened which is more representative of domestic activity i.e. cooking.
- C.2.15 Six fragments of bone have butchery marks. Both chop marks and fine defleshing cut marks are present and the evidence suggests preparation of the meat before cooking as opposed to the primary dismembering of the carcass.
- C.2.16 A single fragment of large mammal rib had ossified bone on both medial and lateral surfaces. This is a common occurrence when a bone has been broken as new bone has grown to knit the fracture together.

Discussion

- C.2.17 The assemblage is not unusual for the time. There is no evidence of breeding on the site and very little indication of older animals. It seems most probable that the majority of this assemblage represents meat for consumption brought in from the surrounding area. Tooth wear patterns suggest a very small number of animals were kept for secondary products (milk, cheese, wool). The diet primarily consisted of beef and mutton supplemented by freshwater fish.
- A.2.1 Pigs only have one use – consumption. As such they were slaughtered young.
- A.2.2 Saltwater fish is an indication of trade with other areas in the region. As the closest port would have been Kings Lynn it is the most likely area for trade with the fish being transported from there via the river. This would have been significantly more

expensive and is a sign of affluence. It is known that Thetford is a large and prosperous Saxon town with sites such as Brandon Road (Atkins and Conner 2010) nearby.

Recommendations for retention and dispersal

C.2.18 All bone should be retained for the archaeological record.

Catalogue

Area	Period	Cut	Cxt.	Sample	Chronology	Taxon	Element	Erosion	Count
3	3	301	302	hand	3	Pig	Metacarpus IV	2	1
3	3	301	302	hand	3	Medium mammal	Radius	3	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	3	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Loose mand cheek tooth	2	2
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Incisor	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Metacarpus	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Maxilla	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Maxilla	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Skull	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Atlas	2	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	3	1
3	1	311	312	hand	1	Cattle	Pelvis	2	1
3	1	313	314	hand	1	Cattle	Horncore	2	1
3	1	313	314	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	3	1
3	1	313	314	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Radius	5	1
3	1	315	316	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpus	2	1
3	1	315	316	hand	1	Pig	Ulna	4	1
3	1	315	316	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	4	1
3	1	315	316	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	2	1
4	2	406	407	hand	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose mand cheek tooth	1	1
4	2	406	407	hand	2	Pig	Radius	2	1
4	2	406	407	hand	2	Cattle	Ulna	3	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Sheep/Goat	Mandible	3	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsus	3	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Pig	Radius	4	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Horse	Loose mand cheek tooth	2	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Cattle	Loose mand cheek tooth	2	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose max cheek tooth	2	1
4	2	408	409	hand	2	Cattle	Metapodial	4	1
2	21	420	421	hand	1	Large mammal	Scapula	2	1
2	1	420	421	hand	1	Cattle	Metacarpus	2	1
2	1	420	421	hand	1	Cattle	Metatarsus	2	1
2	1	420	421	hand	1	Pig	Radius	3	1
2	1	420	421	hand	1	Pig	Tibia	3	1
2	1	420	421	hand	1	Bird	Long bone	2	1
2	1	422	423	hand	1	Cattle	PH1	2	1
2	1	424	425	hand	1	Pig	Tibia	2	1

Area	Period	Cut	Cxt.	Sample	Chronology	Taxon	Element	Erosion	Count
2	1	424	425	hand	1	Pig	Incisor	2	1
1	1	508	509	40	1	Fish	Vertebra	2	5
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	3	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Cattle	Calcaneus	4	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	2	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Cattle	Metacarpus	3	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Cattle	Humerus	4	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Cattle	Ulna	4	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Cattle	Tibia	3	1
1	1	508	509	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Atlas	4	1
1	1	508	513	51	1	Fish	Vertebra	1	1
1	1	508	513	51	1	Fish	Vertebra	1	14
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Galliforme	Ulna	1	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Dog	Radius	2	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Cattle	Metapodial	3	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Fish?	Indet	1	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Pig	Mandible	2	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Large mammal	Skull	1	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Cattle	Ulna	2	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	3	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Cattle	Loose mand cheek tooth	1	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Axis	2	1
1	1	508	513	hand	1	Cattle	Humerus	2	1
1	1	517	518	hand	1	Cattle	PH2	3	1
1	1	517	518	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpus	2	1
1	1	517	518	hand	1	Cattle	PH1	4	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Femur	3	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Femur	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Pelvis	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	4	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	PH1	3	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	PH2		1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Skull	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Large mammal	Pelvis	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Skull	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Medium mammal	Rib	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsus	0	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Pig	Pelvis	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Pig	Maxilla	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Pig	Mandible	3	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Skull	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Cattle	Loose max cheek tooth	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Pig	Maxilla	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Pig	Metatarsus III	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Large mammal	Long bone	2	1

Area	Period	Cut	Cxt.	Sample	Chronology	Taxon	Element	Erosion	Count
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Atlas	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Maxilla	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	3	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	2	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Calcaneus	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Astragalus	1	1
1	1	507	522	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Astragalus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Humerus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Tibia	3	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Femur	3	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Medium mammal	Humerus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Pig	Ulna	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Large mammal	Mandible	3	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Pig	Metatarsus V	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	bird	Tibiotarsus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Radius	2	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Humerus	3	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Large mammal	Pelvis	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Tibia	2	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Metatarsus	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	2	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	1	1
1	1	528	529	hand	1	Pig	Skull	1	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Pig	Pelvis	2	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Pig	Metatarsus IV	1	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Pig	Radius	1	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpus	1	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Horncore	2	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Cattle	PH1	2	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Cattle	Tibia	1	1
1	1	528	533	hand	1	Cattle	Humerus	2	1
1	1	535	536	hand	1	Large mammal	Rib	3	1
1	1	535	536	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpus	4	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Pig	Humerus	2	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Large mammal	Long bone	3	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Cattle	Horncore	2	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Cattle	PH3	1	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Cattle	Calcaneus	1	1
1	3	537	538	hand	1	Cattle	Metatarsus	1	1
1	3	503	545	52	3	Fish	Vertebra	1	7
1	3	503	545	hand	3	Cattle	Loose max cheek tooth	2	1
1	1	550	548	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Atlas	1	1
1	1	550	548	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	1	1
1	1	550	548	hand	1	Cattle	Rib	2	1
1	1	551	549	54	1	Amphibian	Vertebra	2	1

Area	Period	Cut	Cxt.	Sample	Chronology	Taxon	Element	Erosion	Count
1	1	551	549	54	1	Fish	Vertebra	2	1
1	1	551	549	hand	1	Cattle	Pelvis	2	1
1	1	551	549	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Axis	1	1
1	3	537	556	50	1	Fish	Vertebra	2	18
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Sheep/Goat	Radius	4	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Large mammal	Pelvis	2	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	2	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Cattle	Radius	2	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	2	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Cattle	Mandible	2	1
1	3	537	556	hand	1	Cattle	Incisor	2	1
Totals									192

Table 18: A catalogue of bone by context

Area	Context	Period	Element	Taxon	ProximalFus	DistalFus	Age (months)
3	302	3	Metacarpus IV	Pig	Fused	Fused	> 27
3	312	1	Metacarpus	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 36
3	312	1	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
3	314	1	Radius	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Absent	>10
3	314	1	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
3	316	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 24
3	316	1	Metacarpus	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Fused	> 28
3	316	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 24
4	407	2	Radius	Pig	Fused	Absent	> 12
4	409	2	Radius	Pig	Unfused shaft	Absent	< 12
4	409	2	Metapodial	Cattle	Absent	Fused	> 36
2	421	1	Metacarpus	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> birth
2	421	1	Radius	Pig	Fused	Absent	> 12
2	421	1	Metatarsus	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> birth
2	421	1	Tibia	Pig	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 24
2	423	1	PH1	Cattle	Unfused shaft	Fused	< 18
2	425	1	Tibia	Pig	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 24
1	509	1	Metacarpus	Cattle	Fused	Unfused shaft	< 36
1	509	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 24
1	509	1	Tibia	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> 30
1	509	1	Humerus	Cattle	Absent	Fused	> 18
1	513	1	Ulna	Galliforme	Fused	Fused	Adult
1	513	1	Radius	Dog	Absent	Fused	
1	513	1	Metapodial	Cattle	Absent	Fused	> 36
1	513	1	Humerus	Cattle	Unfused epiphysis	Absent	< 42
1	518	1	PH1	Cattle	Unfused shaft	Fused	< 18
1	518	1	Metacarpus	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 28
1	518	1	PH2	Cattle	Unfused shaft	Fused	> 24
1	522	1	Femur	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
1	522	1	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Fusing	42 - 48
1	522	1	Radius	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> 18
1	522	1	Femur	Cattle	Absent	Fusing	42 - 48
1	522	1	PH2	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 24
1	522	1	Calcaneus	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Fused	> 36
1	522	1	PH1	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 24
1	522	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 24
1	522	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Unfused shaft	Absent	<15
1	529	1	Humerus	Cattle	Absent	Fused	> 18
1	529	1	Tibia	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 24
1	529	1	Tibia	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 30
1	529	1	Femur	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
1	529	1	Radius	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> 18

Area	Context	Period	Element	Taxon	ProximalFus	DistalFus	Age (months)
1	529	1	Radius	Cattle	Fused	Absent	>18
1	529	1	Metatarsus	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Fused	> 28
1	529	1	Metatarsus V	Pig	Fused	Unfused shaft	< 24
1	529	1	Metatarsus	Cattle	Fused	Absent	> birth
1	529	1	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Fused	> 48
1	529	1	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
1	529	1	Radius	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Absent	> 12
1	529	1	Tibiotarsus	bird	Fused	Fused	Adult
1	529	1	Metatarsus	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Fused	> 28
1	533	1	PH1	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 24
1	533	1	Tibia	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42
1	533	1	Metatarsus IV	Pig	Fused	Unfused shaft	< 24
1	533	1	Radius	Pig	Fused	Absent	> 12
1	533	1	Metacarpus	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Absent	> birth
1	533	1	Humerus	Cattle	Unfused epiphysis	Absent	< 42
1	536	1	Metacarpus	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 28
1	538	3	Metatarsus	Cattle	Fused	Unfused shaft	< 24
1	538	3	Calcaneus	Cattle	Fused	Fused	> 42
1	548	1	Tibia	Sheep/Goat	Absent	Fused	> 24
3	556	3	Radius	Sheep/Goat	Fused	Indeterminate	> 10
3	556	3	Radius	Cattle	Absent	Unfused shaft	< 42

Table 19: Age based on fusion of the epiphyses

Area	Period	Context	Element	Taxon	Side	Higham MWS	Age (months)
3	1	312	Mandible	Cattle	Right	17	18-24 months
3	1	312	Mandible	Cattle	Left	22	50 months
4	2	409	Mandible	Sheep/Goat	Unsided	18	Old
1	1	522	Mandible	Pig	Left	24	30+ months
1	1	522	Mandible	Cattle	Right	16	15-16 months

Table 20: Age based on Higham mandibular wear stage (MWS)

Area	Period	Cxt.	Element	Taxon	Side	Greatest Length (gl)	Breadth Proximal (bp)	Breadth Distal (bd)	SD
3	3	302	Metacarpus IV	Pig	Right	67			
3	1	312	Metacarpus	Cattle	Right	180	49.74	50.67	25.68
3	1	316	Metacarpus	Sheep/Goat	Left	121	22	25	
1	1	522	Astragalus	Sheep/Goat	Left	30	22	19	
1	1	522	PH1	Cattle	Left	55.38	30.53	28.69	
1	1	522	PH2	Cattle	Unsided	36.69	27.98	20.63	
1	1	522	Calcaneus	Sheep/Goat	Left	59			
1	1	522	Astragalus	Sheep/Goat	Right	30	21	19	
1	1	529	Metatarsus	Sheep/Goat	Left	140	20	26	14
1	1	529	Tibiotarsus	bird	Right	110	20	12	6
1	1	529	Tibia	Cattle	Left	325		57	28
1	1	533	PH1	Cattle	Left	58			
1	3	538	Calcaneus	Cattle	Right	118			
1	3	538	PH3	Cattle	Unsided	72.54			

Table 21: Measurements including greatest length (in mm)

C.3 Mollusca

By Joshua White

Introduction

C.3.1 A total of 61 shells or shell fragments weighing 1,602g were recovered through hand-collection during the watching brief at Fairstead House, Thetford. The assemblage was predominantly recovered from features of Saxo-Norman date (Period 1), with smaller quantities coming from post-medieval (Period 2) and modern (Period 3) features and layers. The assemblage consists entirely of marine species and is dominated by European flat oyster, with lower counts of blue mussel.

Methodology

C.3.2 Each specimen was scanned to identify species, with the valve side noted (where relevant) along with any modifications/butchery marks or evidence of parasitic infestation. The assemblage was recorded using a modified version of the methodology set out by Winder (2011). The mollusca were quantified by context through both the NISP (number of identified specimens present) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) methods, with MNI calculated for each context and values combined to reach an assemblage total. Data was recorded into a *Microsoft Excel* spreadsheet which forms part of the digital archive. Biometric analysis has not been carried out due to a lack of suitable specimens. Quantification of marine mollusca by period is given in Table 22 and a summary catalogue is presented at the end of this report in Table 23.

Results

- C.3.3 European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) is the most abundant species represented in the assemblage, with shells recovered from features and layers dating from Periods 1-3. Saxo-Norman (Period 1) features produced 45 oyster shells or shell fragments, equating to an MNI of 29. Sixteen specimens (weighing 337g) were recovered from the fill of Period 1 pit 507, which comprises the largest single assemblage retrieved from the site and most likely represents a deliberate deposit of food waste. The preservation of the assemblage varies, with a significant proportion of the Saxo-Norman remains having worn and eroded surfaces, while other shells are coated with a fused layer of iron oxide and sand. As a result, the identification of butchery marks and other taphonomic markers has been significantly hindered. Despite this, cut marks can be observed on the interior of a right oyster valve from ditch 508, suggesting this shell was prized open with a sharp knife. Around a third of the Period 1 assemblage demonstrates evidence of parasitic infestations, with borings of both *Cliona celata* and *Polydora ciliate* present.
- C.3.4 Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shells were recovered from Period 1 pits 507 and 528 – four fragments were retrieved in total (4g), with an MNI of three. The mussel shells are in a poor state of preservation and due to the more fragile nature of their shells generally, it is highly likely that they are underrepresented in this assemblage.

C.3.5 Post-medieval (Period 2) deposits produced only seven oyster shells or shell fragments (175g), with an MNI of five. The largest Period 2 group was recovered from pit **408**, with four fragments collected (153g). The assemblage retrieved from modern features and deposits is very small (five fragments, weighing 134g) and the absence of any concentrations of shell may indicate that these fragments represent residually deposited, earlier specimens.

Species	Period 1: Saxo-Norman		Period 2: post-medieval		Period 3: modern		Total	
	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI
European flat oyster	44	29	7	5	5	4	56	38
Blue mussel	4	3	-	-	-	-	4	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>41</i>

Table 22: Quantification of marine mollusca by period

Discussion

- C.3.6 The recovered assemblage indicates that marine shellfish were incorporated into the diets of the communities once present on or in the near vicinity of the site during the Saxo-Norman period and probably to a lesser extent in the post-medieval period. Based on the small size of the assemblage and an absence of any concentrations in Period 3, it is possible that the remains recovered from modern features and deposits represent residual, earlier specimens.
- C.3.7 In the Saxo-Norman period, marine shellfish probably formed an important, yet calorically minor component of the diets of the people once present on or in the near vicinity of the site. The recovered specimens were most likely collected from around The Wash (c. 50km north-west) and transported up the Great River Ouse and River Thet, where they were accessed through local markets.
- C.3.8 It is possible that the popularity or availability of shellfish declined locally in the post-medieval period; however, the apparent reduction in the quantity of oyster shell from this period may simply reflect changing patterns of discard.
- C.3.9 Saxo-Norman features excavated in Thetford commonly produce the remains of shellfish, with oysters dominating followed by lower counts of mussel (Murphy 1984). Consequently, the findings from the Fairstead House watching brief fit current understandings of access to resources, diets and discard patterns in early medieval Thetford – at least in terms of marine shellfish.

Retention and dispersal

- C.3.10 The mollusca assemblage recovered from the site can be dispersed as it is of minimal archaeological significance and the relevant information has been extracted and recorded within a digital catalogue held in the project archive.

Catalogue

Context	Cut	Description	Period	Group	Species	No of shells/ frags	Total Weight (g)
302	301	Foundation trench	3	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	2	5
307	-	Garden soil layer	3	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	2	79
312	311	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	45
314	311	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	71
316	315	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	41
401	400	Posthole	2	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	2
403	402	Posthole	2	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	3
407	406	Ditch	2	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	17
409	408	Pit	2	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	4	153
425	424	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	22
509	508	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	2	32
509	508	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	2	117
513	508	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	6	348
513	508	Ditch	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	5	94
522	507	Pit	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	16	337
522	507	Pit	1	-	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	3	2
533	528	Pit	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	4	116
533	528	Pit	1	-	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	1	1
536	535	Pit	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	3	50
538	537	Pit	1	-	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	13
545	503	Well	3	544	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	1	50
548	550	Posthole	1	544	<i>Ostrea edilis</i>	2	4

Table 23: Mollusca summary catalogue

C.4 Environmental samples

By Martha Craven and Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.4.1 A total of seven environmental samples were taken from the site. Samples were taken from deposits that range in date from the Saxo-Norman period to the post-medieval period onwards.
- C.4.2 The aim of this investigation was to determine whether environmental remains were present in the bulk samples, their mode of preservation and what information can be gleaned from them regarding such topics as diet, industrial and agricultural activity, the economy, trade and waste disposal.

Methodology

- C.4.3 The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.
- 1.1.7 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 24.

- 1.1.8 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and OA's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

Quantification

- C.4.4 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

- C.4.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such snail shells have been scored for abundance:

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

- C.4.6 Key to tables:

f=fragment, m=mineralised u =untransformed

Results

- C.4.7 Preservation of plant remains is both through carbonisation (charring) and mineralisation. Carbonisation occurs when plant remains are exposed to heat and partially oxidise into elemental carbon due to sub-optimal conditions; such as low oxygen levels (Märkle and Rösch 2008). Mineralisation is a complex process in which calcium phosphate and other such minerals replace biological tissues (Carruthers and Smith 2020). Untransformed material is also present. Untransformed plant remains may be contemporary to the context from which they were recovered or may be modern intrusions. This material usually consists of seeds with tough outer coatings which are resistant to decay.

- C.4.8 Snail shells are generally rare or absent within the samples but where present were relatively well-preserved.

Period 1

Area 1

Ditch 508

- C.4.9 Samples were taken from both the basal (509) and upper (513) fill of ditch **508** and both were relatively similar in composition. Both fills contain relatively small quantities of cereal grains; consisting of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), oats (*Avena* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and grains too poorly preserved to identify. A single rye grain displayed evidence of germination in the form of shrunken sides and a missing embryo end. Chaff was rare; a single carbonised culm node and occasional mineralised straw fragments were identified. Other possible cultivated remains were noted in the form of a mineralised fragment of a large (>4mm) legume (Fabaceae), possibly a pea or bean. Frequent charred and mineralised elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds and a fragment of charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell; could suggest the gathering of wild resources. Carbonised weed seeds within the sample consist of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), corncockle (*Agrostemma*

githago), large grasses (Poaceae) and docks (*Rumex* sp.). Mineralised weed seeds were also present including stinking chamomile, medick/clover/ bird's foot trefoil (Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.) and thorum-wax (*Bupleurum rotundifolium*). Frequent mineralised insect eggs were also recorded within the sample. A relatively large quantity of charcoal was recorded in the basal fill of the ditch.

Posthole 550

C.4.10 Fragments of hazelnut shell and occasional fragmented large grasses were found within Sample 53, fill 548 of posthole 550.

Posthole 551

C.4.11 Moderate quantities of charred barley grains with smaller quantities of oats and indeterminate grains were recovered from Sample 54, fill 549 of posthole 551. Occasional charred weed seeds of docks, grass seeds, possible mugwort (*Artemisia* sp.) and spurrey (*Spergula* sp.) were also present.

Period 2

Area 4

Pit 408

C.4.12 Occasional charred barley, rye and indeterminate grains were recovered from Sample 40, fill 409 of pit 408. Other culinary related remains were recovered in the form of a single possible beet (cf. *Beta vulgaris*) seed. A large legume was also noted which is thought to be a vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Weed seeds present include corncockle, mallow (*Malva* sp.), a possible common purslane (cf. *Portulaca* sp.) and large (>4mm) grasses. Occasional untransformed seeds of elder were also recorded which may or may not be contemporary to the deposit.

Period 3

Area 1

Well pit 503

C.4.13 Sample 52, fill 545 from well 503, contains sparse barley, rye and indeterminate grains. Weed seeds were present in similarly small quantities with only occasional stinking chamomile present. Mineralised straw fragments were also noted; just as in ditch 508.

Pit 537

C.4.14 Sample 55, fill 556 was taken from pit 537 was the most productive sample in Area 5. The carbonised plant material was noted as being quite friable which may be related to charring conditions or perhaps post-depositional taphonomic processes. Cereal grains present consist primarily of barley and oats with smaller quantities of wheat and poorly preserved grains. Of note was the frequent appearance of grains showing evidence of germination in the form of shrunken sides, detached/ attached sprouts, dorsal furrows, and grains with lost or damaged embryos. Occasional chaff fragments were recorded consisting of culm node fragments and a common wild oat (*Avena fatua*) floret base; identified by the oblique, horseshoe-shaped articulation scar (Jacomet 2006). Weed seeds present include those of corncockles, stinking

chamomile, grasses and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). A single sedge (*Carex* sp.) seed was suggestive of a wetland/damp ground environment and tentatively could be related to the gathering of sedges for fuel/thatching. A single charred flower bud was noted which may possibly be a heather flower.

Discussion

- C.4.15 The environmental samples from this site likely derive from the disposal of domestic waste and, in the case of the mineralised material, possibly latrine/stable waste.
- C.4.16 The majority of the carbonised plant material is comprised of cereal grains and their associated weed seeds. Barley appears to be the dominant cereal type within the assemblage, but it should be noted that none of the samples are particularly rich in charred plant remains. It is possible that the frequency of barley, and to some extent rye and oat is related to their tolerance, of less fertile, drier soils in comparison to wheat (McKerracher and Hamerow 2022). These cereal types are well suited for the predominantly sandy soils of the Breckland region and even to this day barley is one of the primary crops grown in this area. Samples taken from medieval features at Dragon Hall, King Street, Norwich, were similarly dominated by barley with smaller quantities of rye, oats and wheat (Shelley, 2005). A mixture of cereal types are present within the assemblage and it is not possible to ascertain whether these were mixed prior to or post-deposition. It is possible that the cereals were grown together as a maslin crop as a form of insurance in case one crop suffered a poor harvest (Banham and Faith 2014).
- C.4.17 The low density of chaff within the Saxo-Norman and post-medieval deposits is not surprising given that crop processing often took place in designated threshing barns often away from the site or in the fields themselves (Banham and Faith 2014). Free-threshing rachis segments are often fragile in consistency and as such do not survive well when exposed to heat. Chaff may also have been utilised for such purposes as fodder which would not necessarily leave an archaeological trace.
- C.4.18 The majority of the weed seeds within the samples are not ecologically specific but are typical of arable/ruderal environments. The weed taxa are most likely derived from plants that have been harvested along with the crop and have been removed via subsequent processing. The presence of stinking chamomile within several of the features is suggestive of cultivation of heavy clay soils (Stace 2010). The single mineralised thorow-wax within ditch 508 is indicative of well-drained chalk or limestone soils (Stace 2010).
- C.4.19 The frequent germinated grains within pit 537 could be suggestive of malting activity, however, it should be noted that grains can germinate for a variety of reasons including poor storage conditions. It is possible that this material may instead be spoiled grain that has been deliberately burnt in order to dispose of the material.
- C.4.20 Mineralised plants remain within ditch 508 and well 503 are likely the result of the disposal of excrement or midden waste. Mineralisation typically occur within middens, sewers and cesspits. It is possible that the mineralised elder seeds within ditch 508 may have been consumed and as such is indicative of faecal deposition. A

similar deposit of mineralised elder seeds were recorded in a medieval pit at Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, in Thetford (Cotswold 2020). The discovery of a mineralised corncockle fragment also in ditch **508** could indicate the consumption of contaminated flour. Corncockles are known to be poisonous in large quantities but are difficult to remove during crop processing as they have similar dimensions to cereal grains. Mineralised straw fragments within the features may possibly have been added to middens or cesspits to dampen the odour (Greig 1982).

Retention and disposal

C.4.21 All of the assessed flots will be retained within the site archive.

Area No.	Sample Number	Context Number	Cut number	Feature type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Wetland/Aquatic Plants	Tree/Shrub Macrofossils	Snail Shells	Charcoal Volume(ml)	Pottery	Animal Bones	Mussels	Hammerscale
4	40	409	408	Pit	14	50	#	0	#	#	0	0	+++	40	#	#	0	0
1	50	509	508	Ditch	17	20	##	0	0	##/#m	0	###/#m	+	30	0	##	#	0
1	51	513	508	Ditch	18	5	##	0	0	#	0	###/#m	+	13	#	#	0	++
1	52	545	503	Well	10	4	#	0	0	#	0	0	0	12	0	#	0	0
1	53	548	550	Posthole	4	5	0	0	0	#	0	#	0	12	0	#	0	0
1	54	549	551	Posthole	9	10	##	0	0	#	0	0	0	18	0	#	0	0
1	55	556	537	Pit	20	10	###	#	0	##	#	0	+++	18	0	#	0	0

Table 24: Environmental samples

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-415342
Project Name	Fairstead House & Gatehouse, 1–7 Bury Road, Thetford, Norfolk

Start of Fieldwork	1st July 2022	End of Fieldwork	27th March 2023
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFFHT21	Planning App. No.	3PL/2020/1386/F
HER Number	ENF151029	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Direction of Local Planning Authority - NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (e.g. as a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full excavation (100%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Iron nail	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Posthole	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Slag	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Fired clay	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pit	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Human bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Posthole	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Animal bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Well	Modern (1901 to present)	Fish bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Cess pit	Modern (1901 to present)	Bird bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Wall	Modern (1901 to present)	Oyster	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pit	Modern (1901 to present)	mussel	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Soil layer	Modern (1901 to present)	Iron nail	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Made ground	Modern (1901 to present)	pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		Clay tobacco pipe	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		Animal bone	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		Oyster	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		Iron nail	Modern (1901 to present)
		Roof tile	Modern (1901 to present)
		Brick	Modern (1901 to present)
		Slate	Modern (1901 to present)
		Drain pipe	Modern (1901 to present)
		Pottery	Modern (1901 to present)
		Glass	Modern (1901 to present)
		Animal bone	Modern (1901 to present)
		Fish bone	Modern (1901 to present)
		Oyster	Modern (1901 to present)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Address (including Postcode) Fairstead House & Gatehouse 1–7 Bury Road Thetford Norfolk IP24 3PL
District	Breckland	
Parish	Thetford	
HER office	Norfolk	
Size of Study Area	0.4ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 86656 82948	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Steve Hickling (NCC HES)
Project Design Originator	Patrick Moan (OA East)
Project Manager	Andrew Greef (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Ro Booth (OA East)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Norwich Castle Museum	NWHCM: 2021.15
Digital Archive	Norwich Castle Museum	NWHCM: 2021.15

Paper Archive

Norwich Castle Museum

NWHCM: 2021.15

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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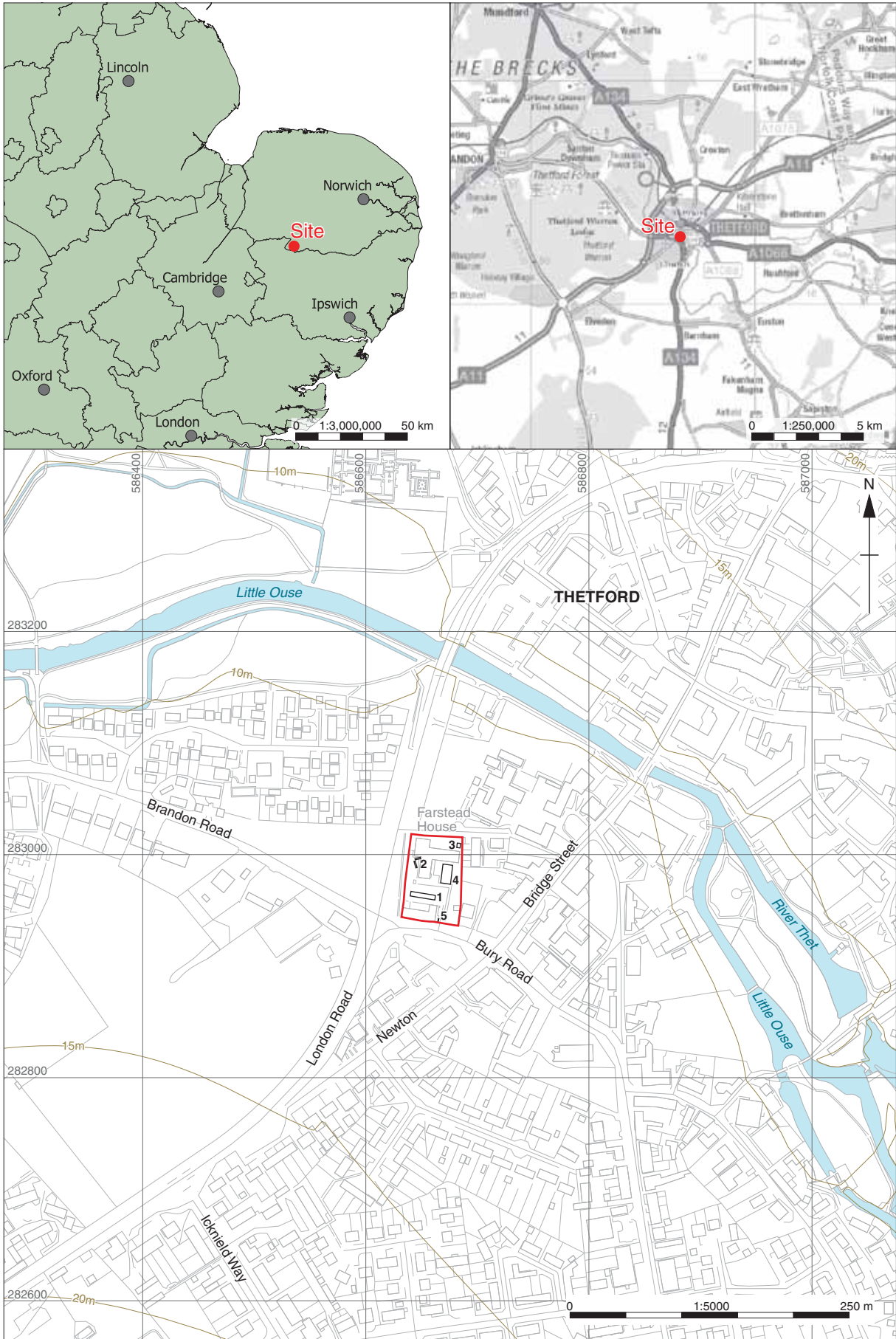
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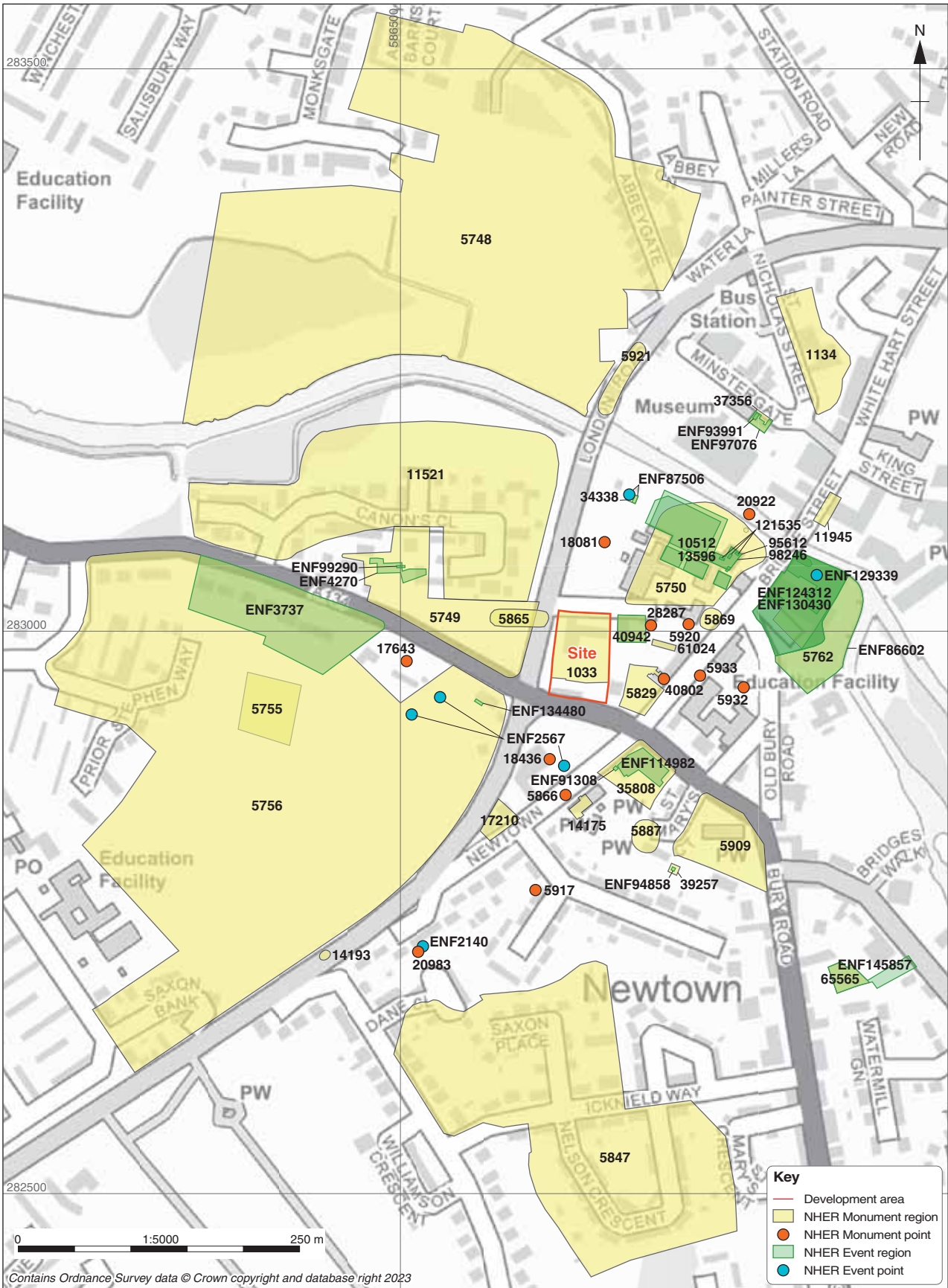
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Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing monitoring Areas 1-5 in development area outlined red



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Figure 2: Selected NHER entries

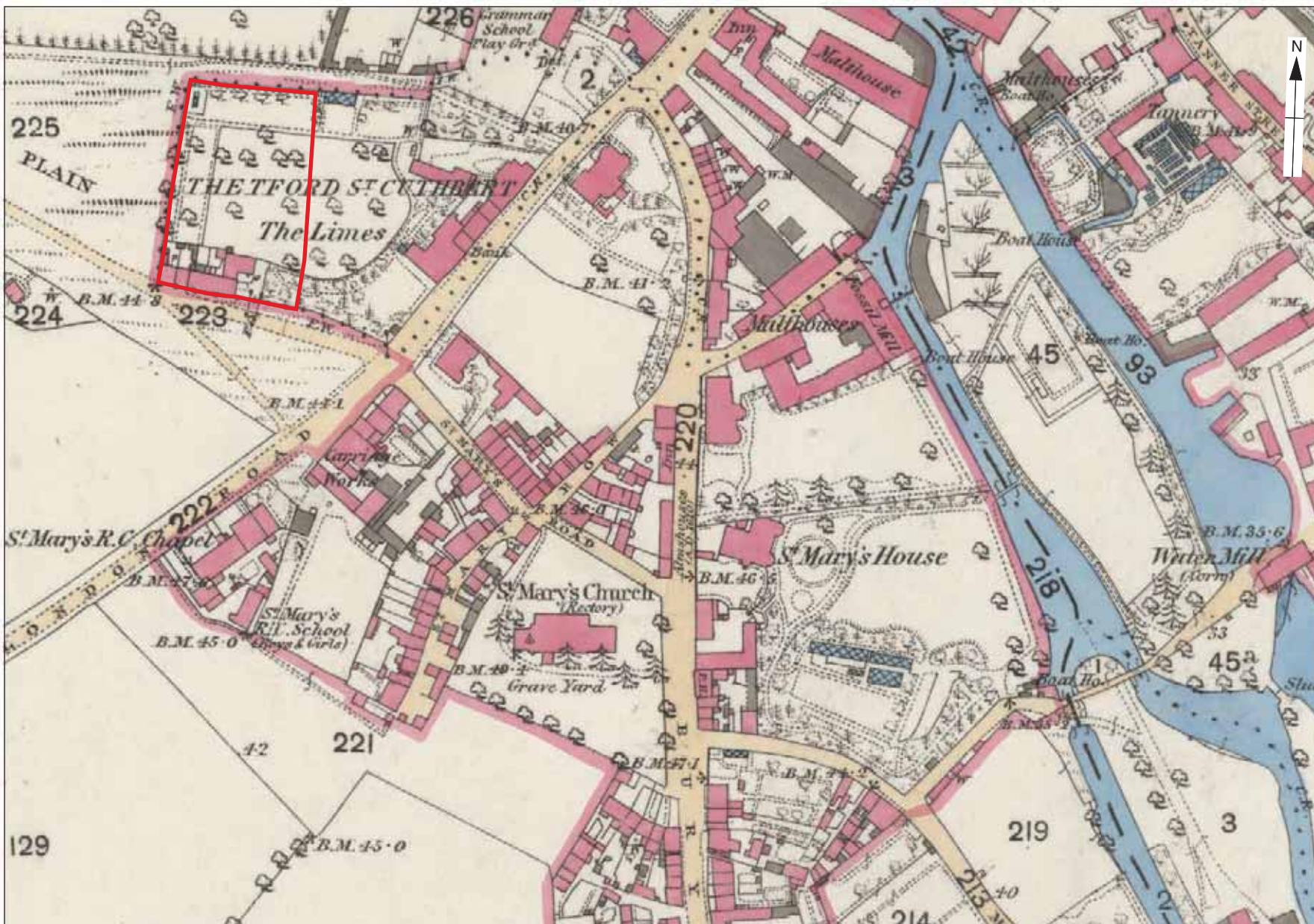


Figure 3: 1885 Ordnance Survey map (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland) with development area outlined red



Figure 4: Plan of monitoring work



Figure 5: Overall phase plan of results

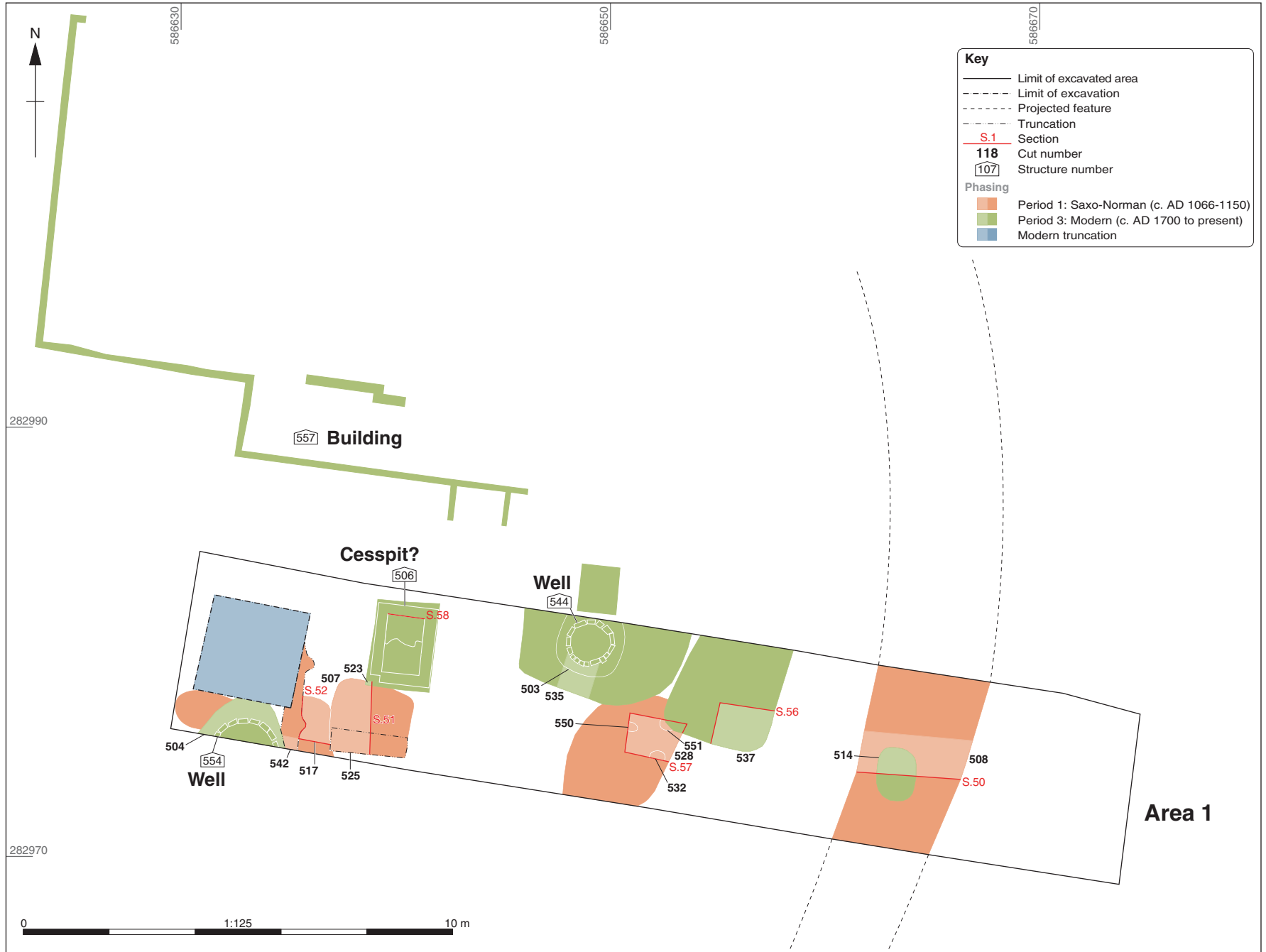
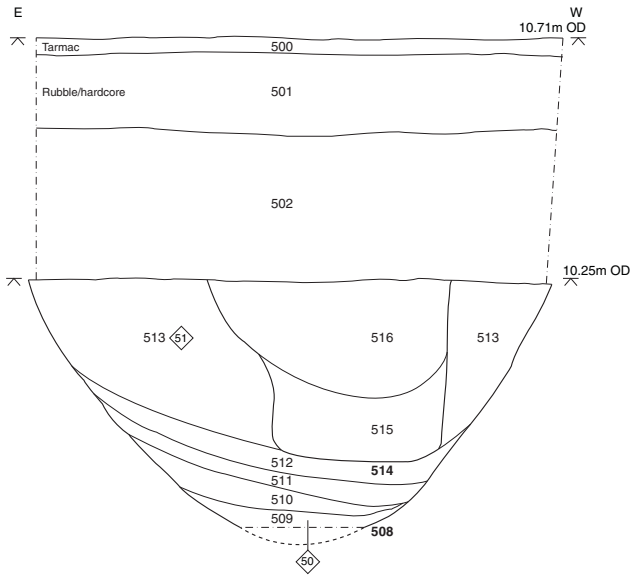


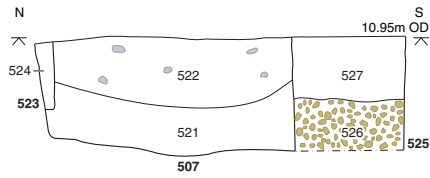
Figure 6: Area 1 detail plan

AREA 1

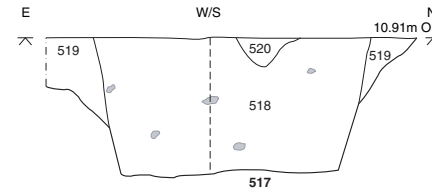
Section 50



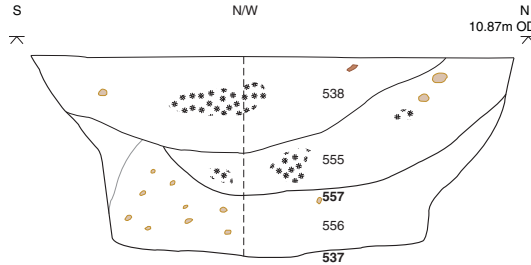
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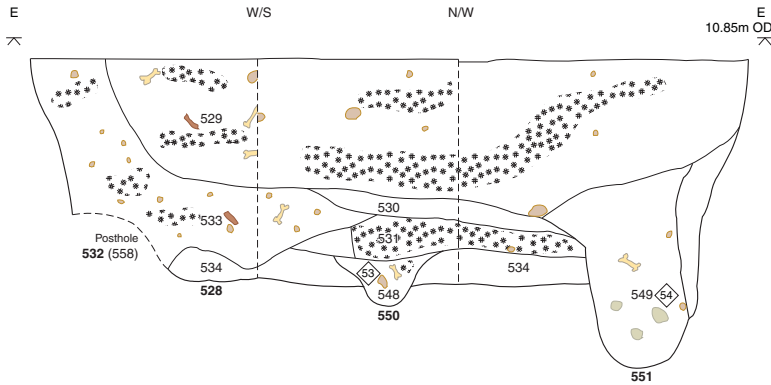
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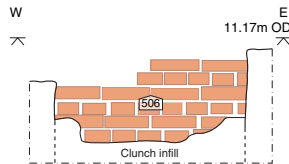
Section 56



Section 57



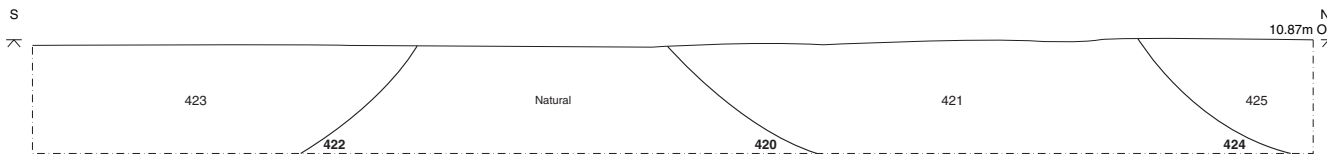
Section 58



Key	
—	Cut
- - - -	Cut uncertain
—	Deposit horizon
—	Top of surface/natural
- - - -	Limit of excavation
- - - -	Break in section/limit of section
—	Natural deposit
■	Stone
■	Chalk
■	Flint
■	Clay
■	Charcoal
■	Pottery
■	Brick
■	Bone
118	Cut number
117	Deposit number
107	Structure number
18	Sample number
18.45m OD	Ordnance datum

AREA 2

Section 44



Section 45

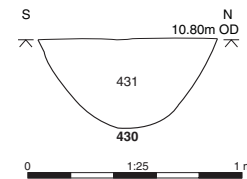
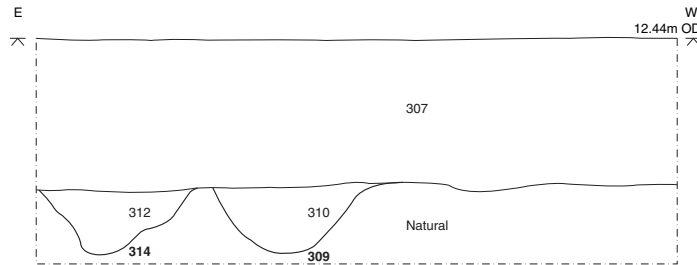


Figure 7a: Selected sections

AREA 3

Section 31



Section 32

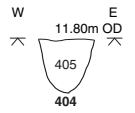


Key

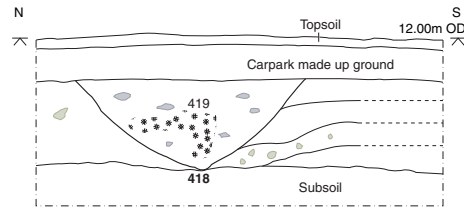
- Cut
- Deposit horizon
- - - Deposit horizon uncertain
- Top of surface/natural
- - - Limit of excavation
- - - Break in section/limit of section
- █ Chalk
- █ Flint
- ★ Charcoal
- 118 Cut number
- 117 Deposit number
- ◇ Sample number
- 18.45m OD Ordnance datum

AREA 4

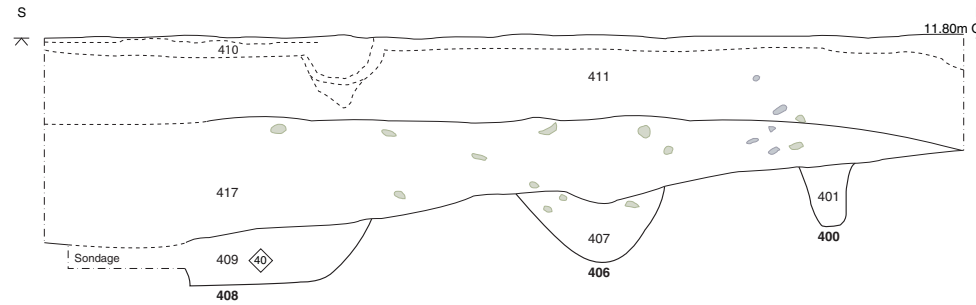
Section 41



Section 42



Section 43



Section 46

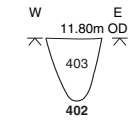


Figure 7b: Selected sections

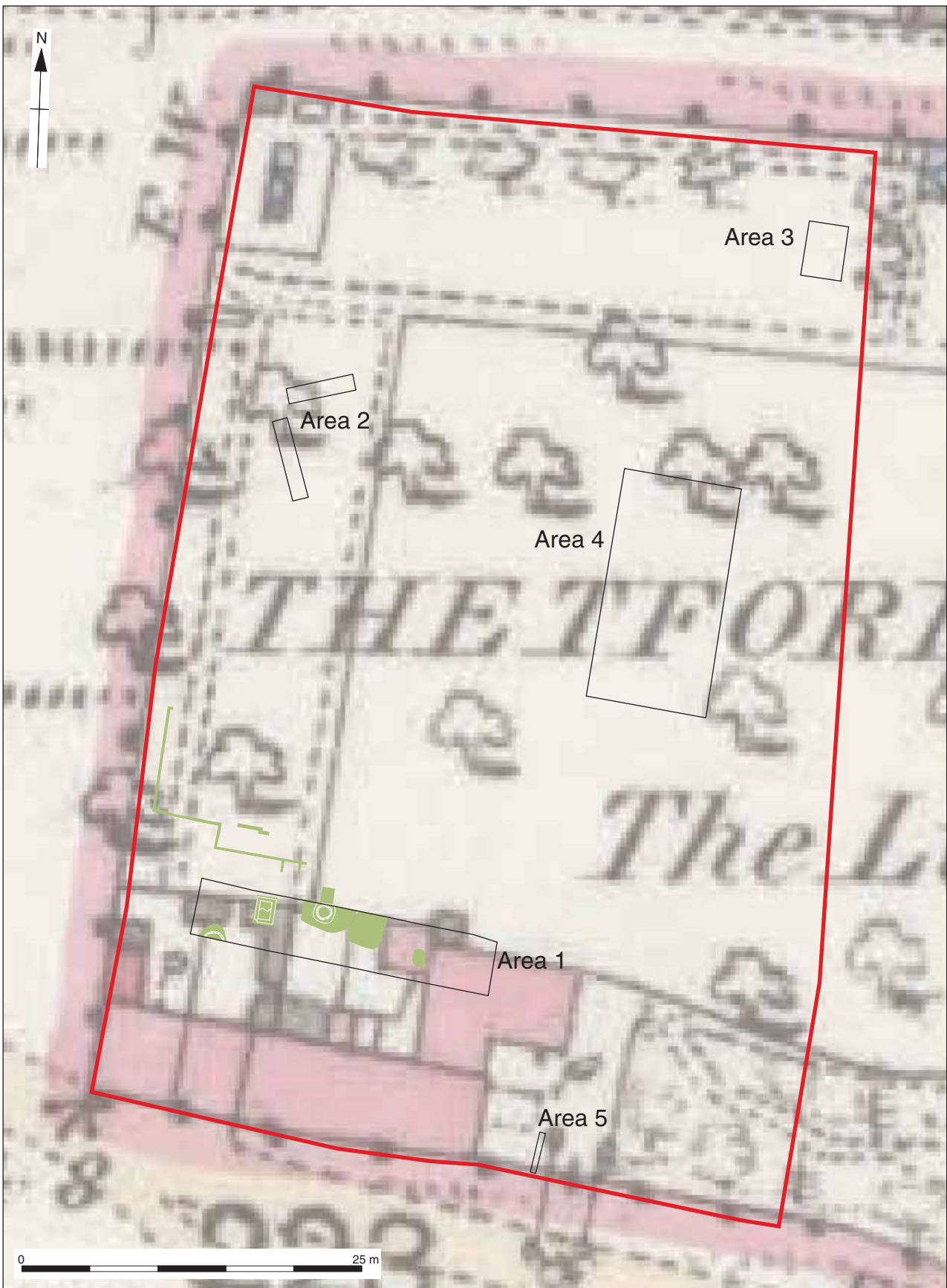


Figure 8: Period 3 features overlain on 1885 Ordnance Survey map (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)



Plate 1: Area 1, north of the Gatehouse, looking west



Plate 2: Area 3, north of Fairstead House East Wing, looking east



Plate 3: Area 4, south of Fairstead House East Wing, looking north



Plate 4: Area 1, Period 1 ditch **508** and Period 3 pit **514**, looking north



Plate 5: Area 2, Period 1 ditch 420, looking west



Plate 6: Area 3, Period 1 ditches 309=315 and 311=313, looking south



Plate 7: Area 4, Period 2 postholes **400**, **402**, **404** and pits **406**, **408**, looking west



Plate 8: Area 4, Period 2 ditch **418**, looking east



Plate 9: Area 1, Period 3 well **544**, looking north



Plate 10: Area 1, Period 3 well **554**, looking west



Plate 11: Area 1, Period 3 possible cess pit **506**, looking east



Plate 12: North of Area 3, Period 3 wall **300** with excavated section of foundation trench **301**, looking north



Plate 13: Area 5, looking north



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