

## 6. EAST ANGLIA

By ALICE LYONS

ESSEX

(1) **Birch**, *Hanson Quarry, Maldon Road* (TL 9197 1927): since 1995 CAT have been monitoring, evaluating and excavating various parts of the expanding Birch pit. As might be expected over a large area, multi-period activity has been revealed, principally of Bronze Age to Roman, and medieval and post-medieval date. Monitoring and excavation in 2018 revealed thirteen LIA or early Roman ditches defining a field-system aligned north-west to south-east.<sup>1</sup>

(2) **Burnham-on-Crouch**, *land at Maldon Road* (TQ 93762 96641): evaluation revealed a high density of Roman ditches, likely to represent a field-system linked to a nearby settlement.<sup>2</sup>

(3) **Colchester**, *County High School for Girls, Norman Way* (TL 9796 2471): the site is within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum* and the Late Iron Age and Roman Lexden cemetery. A triple-ditched dyke uncovered during the construction of the school in 1955 is projected to run directly through the site. Evaluation (three trial-trenches) uncovered three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features. There was no trace of the triple-ditch.<sup>3</sup>

(4) **Colchester**, *Colchester Northern Gateway, Plots 2/3* (TL 99878 29486): evaluation (120 trenches) revealed 24 charcoal-rich pits probably created by charcoal burning. Dating evidence was scarce. There were Middle Iron Age and early medieval radiocarbon dates from two of them. However, considering 77 charcoal-rich pits from other local investigations, it appears that charcoal production was occurring in this part of northern Colchester from the Early Iron

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<sup>1</sup> Work by M. Baister, S. Benfield, A. Wightman, V. Fryer and S. Carter for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Hanson Aggregates. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>2</sup> Work by Tom Collie, OA East; for CgMs on behalf of David Wilson Homes; OA East Report 2227. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>3</sup> Work by B. Holloway, E. Hicks and E. Holloway for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Colchester County High School for Girls. H. Brooks sent information.

Age through to the medieval period. Some of the undated pits are probably Roman in date, and two others contained Roman finds.<sup>4</sup>

(5) **Colchester**, *23 Castle Road* (TM 0008 2547): the site is within the Roman town, 90 m west of the town wall, and 100 m SSE of Duncan's Gate. Monitoring during the erection of a conservatory revealed a Roman dump layer 0.8 m below current ground level, possibly associated with the remains of a Roman building found during previous investigations next door at 24 Castle Road.<sup>5</sup>

(6) **Colchester**, *St James' House and the Waiting Room, Queen Street* (TL 99581 25111): the site is in the south-eastern angle of the Roman walled town, north of the Roman town wall and north-east of the south gate. Evaluation revealed good archaeological preservation between the modern structural remains of St James' House. This consisted of a 1 m deep sequence of Roman floors (including a mosaic of red, white and black tesserae). A Roman gravel street dividing Insulae 38b and 39 should have passed through St James House, but was not seen. Previous sightings of this street will need to be re-evaluated.<sup>6</sup>

(7) **Colchester**, *The Triple Dyke: 78 Straight Road* (TL 9647 2477): the site overlies the central ditch of the scheduled earthwork known as the Triple Dyke, which is a Roman-period addition to the Late Iron Age dyke system surrounding the pre-Roman *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*. Evaluation prior to residential development revealed the western edge of the central ditch (the eastern edge being beyond the site edge), and the space between the western and central ditches formerly occupied by a bank evident elsewhere on the line of the Triple Dyke but absent at this particular location. Three test-holes east of the development site indicate that the ditch was between 5.2 m and 6.5 m wide. This corresponds to previous work 0.63 km to the north which measured it at *c.* 5.3 m wide and 1.8 m deep with a flat base. On the current site, the ditch was excavated to 0.9 m without reaching its base. There were no finds. Later monitoring showed

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<sup>4</sup> Work by A. Wightman, S. Carter, L. Pooley, S. Benfield and M. Baister for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Colchester Borough Council. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>5</sup> Work by N. Rayner, E. Hicks, S. Benfield, B. Holloway and E. Holloway for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Dr A.J. Bain and Ms S.A. Brock. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>6</sup> Work by A. Wightman, A. Wade, S. Benfield and E. Holloway for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Colchester Borough Council Homes. H. Brooks sent information.

that the central ditch measured 5.4 m across. It was excavated to a depth of 1.4 m but was not bottomed for safety reasons.<sup>7</sup>

(8) **Colchester**, *Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road* (TL 98923 24878): the site is south-west of the walled Roman town, on the main Roman road from the Balkerne Gate and within a high-status Roman cemetery which has produced the Colchester Sphinx and the Longinus and Facilis tombstones. A Stage 1 archaeological evaluation by seven test-pits in the north and south car parks in advance of redevelopment revealed Roman contexts at depths of 0.4–0.95 m below current ground level. These included a number of Roman features, an undated pit/grave (probably Roman), and the remains of an oven or kiln.<sup>8</sup>

(9) **Colchester**, *Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road* (a) (TL 98324 25206): the site is on the south-western edge of Sheepen, one of the two principal *foci* of the Late Iron Age and early Roman *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*, and the Sheepen Dyke (one of *Camulodunum*'s defences) crosses the school site. Evaluation prior to the construction of a new school building revealed a Late Iron Age or Roman ditch and pit, a large Roman quarry pit, and two possible Roman inhumation burials.<sup>9</sup>

(10) **Colchester**, *Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road* (b) (TL 98324 25206): excavation following the removal of three temporary classrooms revealed three first-century grave cuts and a disturbed cremation burial.<sup>10</sup>

(11) **Colchester**, *39 Oaks Drive* (TL 98822 25159): the site is close to the Iron Age and Roman industrial complex at Sheepen and the Roman Lexden cemetery. Monitoring revealed a homogeneous layer about 2 m deep below modern ground level which contained a significant

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<sup>7</sup> Work by N. Rayner, R. Mathieson, L. Pooley, L. Gray and S. Carter, for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Balkerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>8</sup> Work by N. Rayner, A. Tuffey, L. Pooley, S. Benfield, B. Holloway, E. Holloway and M. Baister for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Essex Housing (ECC). H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>9</sup> Work by A. Wightman, S. Carter, B. Holloway, L. Pooley and S. Benfield for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Beardwell Construction Ltd. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>10</sup> Work by N. Rayner, A. Wade, S. Carter, A. Tuffey, E. Hicks and M. Loughton for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Beardwell Construction Ltd. H. Brooks sent information.

amount of Roman pottery, tile and bricks. Given the presence of Roman kilns at Sheepen, the bricks may indicate a local Roman brick kiln.<sup>11</sup>

(12) **Colchester**, *Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate* (TL 99281 25157): the site is immediately east of the Balkerne Gate, the western gate to Roman Colchester, and in Insula 25a of the Roman town. The scheduled Roman town wall lies only 10 m west. The Mercury Theatre is on the site of one or more Roman town-houses with surviving wall foundations, tessellated and mosaic floors, and also the remains of earlier buildings including the first-century Roman fortress. Monitoring during the excavation of six window sample boreholes and two boreholes as part of preliminary work for the Mercury Rising project revealed modern horizons to a depth of 0.6–1.25 m below current ground level, beneath which were Roman contexts 1.15–2.05 m thick. Natural ground was at 2.1–3.15 m below current ground level.<sup>12</sup>

(13) **Frating**, *Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road* (TM 0975 2215): previous evaluation had revealed features ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Roman period. Evaluation and excavation in advance of the construction of an agricultural reservoir revealed first- to second-century ditches defining a landscape of fields and paddocks with a large trackway running through its centre. Finds were sparse, indicating a largely agricultural landscape on the periphery of an area of Roman-period occupation.<sup>13</sup>

(14) **Great Chesterford**, *land w/o Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road* (TL 50381 42775): the site lies on the southern edge of the scheduled fourth-century Roman town. The Roman town wall is particularly elusive along its southern side (the Newmarket Road frontage). Foundations, presumably of the town wall, have been seen to the east of the present site, and a robber trench (tentatively of the town wall) was seen immediately north of the present site. On the evidence of the two above observations, the wall should have clipped the northern edge of the present site but was not seen. Its absence here means that the proposed alignment of the wall may need to be reconsidered.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Work by N. Rayner, E. Hicks, C. Lister and S. Carter for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Mr M. Stych. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>12</sup> Work by L. Pooley, M. Baister, C. Lister and B. Holloway for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Lee Spalding on behalf of Colchester Borough Council. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>13</sup> Work by M. Baister, S. Carter, Z. Eksen, H. Furniss, L. Pooley, S. Benfield, J. Curl, E. Holloway and R. Mathieson for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Brett Aggregates Ltd. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>14</sup> Work by M. Baister, A. Tuffey, H. Brooks and S. Carter for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Graham Elmer. H. Brooks sent information.

(15) **Harlow**, *land off Gilden Way* (TL 4815 1225): large-scale excavation uncovered Roman activity focused along a gravel terrace to the south of a scheduled villa (HER 3600), continuing down the hill towards the river and extending to the east. The presence of the villa was evident from building debris and pottery recovered from the surface prior to excavation and also from excavated features. There were two clusters of cremation burials to the south-east of the villa containing 14 and 10 cremation pits respectively, as well as two single cremations scattered across the site. Crossing the site on a north-west to south-east alignment was a trackway, bounded by a ditch on either side, with further ditches extending perpendicular to the north and south, some of which may have replaced Iron Age boundaries. To the east of the villa complex was a field-system that used the trackway as its southern boundary and contained strip fields between 18.4 m and 28.9 m wide. A kiln/oven and a corn-drier dating to the Roman period were also uncovered. Features dating from the Neolithic to the medieval period were found across the site.<sup>15</sup>

(16) **Harwich**, *former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road* (TM 23690 31100): evaluation (nine trenches), area excavation and monitoring in advance of and during residential development revealed a rectilinear Romano-British rectilinear field-system.<sup>16</sup>

(17) **Langenhoe**, *Fingringhoe Ranges, Lodge Lane* (TM 03143 17124): evaluation (22 trenches) in advance of the construction of two new firing ranges, swales and attenuation ponds revealed a Late Iron Age/Romano-British red hill. Although five red hills are known in the immediate vicinity, this a previously unknown example. Modern use of the firing range has damaged the red hill, although the remains of at least one hearth were present. A significant concentration of Romano-British ditches, pits and post-holes, with finds including pottery sherds, ceramic building material, animal bone, coins, iron bolt-heads and other small finds, indicates Roman-period settlement or occupation in the north-western corner of the development site, probably associated with the red hills. Activity starts in the Late Iron Age and spans the mid-first to late second/early third century, but a fourth-century coin indicates later activity. The pottery evidence also suggests the presence of a relatively wealthy site with

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<sup>15</sup> Work by R. Webb, OA East, for CgMs for Taylor Wimpey; OA East Report 2205. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>16</sup> Work by B. Holloway, Z. Eksen, H. Furniss, G. Morgan, L. Pooley, S. Benfield, M. Loughton, A. Wade, B. Holloway and E. Holloway for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Rose Builders. H. Brooks sent information.

a number of ceramic imports and fine ware beakers. Other significant finds included five Roman coins and the iron remains of three weapons. The mid-first-century iron bolt-heads and spearhead could indicate that the Roman army was active in the area, perhaps associated with the early Roman harbour and military supply base at Fingringhoe 3 km to the north-west, or they could simply indicate hunting.<sup>17</sup>

## NORFOLK

(1) **Ashill**, *land west of Hale Road*: a programme of archaeological mitigatory work associated with residential development produced evidence of activities dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period (early/mid-first century A.D.). An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in 2016<sup>18</sup> identified a series of Late Iron Age/early Roman linear features probably representing land partition and the likely presence of a kiln/s nearby. An undated pit and pits of probable Late Iron Age/early Roman date were also recorded. Subsequent archaeological excavation and monitoring in 2017/18 revealed further remains of Late Iron Age/early Roman date.<sup>19</sup> The remains appear to relate to a farmstead of some significance including important evidence for pottery making in the early Roman era, not previously seen in Ashill, and some fine ware and imported material. A focus for settlement during this period has not yet been identified in Ashill.<sup>20</sup>

(2) **Attleborough**, *land east of Hargham Road (TM 03856 93727)*: evaluation uncovered archaeological remains indicative of an outlying Roman field-system; the small quantity of Roman pottery recovered suggesting it was some distance from the core of a settlement.<sup>21</sup>

(3) **Great Ellingham**, *Rosedene, Attleborough Road (TM 0198 9731)*: a programme of archaeological mitigatory work commenced with trial-trenching, followed by works under Archaeological Supervision and Control (monitoring) during construction of a single dwelling.

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<sup>17</sup> Work by N. Rayner, A. Wade, A. Tuffey, R. Mathieson, L. Pooley, M. Loughton, A. Wightman and S. Carter for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd. H. Brooks sent information.

<sup>18</sup> NHER ENF140453.

<sup>19</sup> NHER ENF142421.

<sup>20</sup> Work undertaken by Birks Archaeology. C. Birks sent information.

<sup>21</sup> Work by A. Lord, OA East, for NPS Property Consultants Ltd; OA East Report 2270. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

An undated domestic refuse pit was recorded during the trial-trenching and an iron spearhead of mid-first-century date was recovered unstratified during monitoring.<sup>22</sup>

(4) **Little Plumstead**, *land at the former Little Plumstead Hospital (West Site)* (TG 3059 1063): the excavation (3.6 ha) identified a farmstead and associated features comprising a series of boundary ditches in addition to a variety of different ovens, a corn-drier, pits and post-holes dating from the late first to fourth centuries A.D. The excavated remains would appear to form part of a relatively high-status farmstead founded in the later first century A.D. which operated a mixed arable and pastoral economy. There are slight hints in the finds assemblage that textile production was undertaken in the early stages of the farmstead. The recovery of fragments of a rare imitation miniature pottery cauldron is also noteworthy. The large number of quern and millstone fragments present, combined with the variety of ovens and driers found, provide good evidence that crop processing, of wheat and barley, were key activities in the later Roman period. The recovery of the bones of a young horse provides some evidence for horse breeding on the site in the third century A.D.<sup>23</sup>

(5) **Ringstead**, *Ringstead Sustainability Reduction Scheme* (TF 7177 3746–TF 7211 3748): evaluation, followed by immediate excavation of an easement, revealed part of a dense concentration of Roman boundary and enclosure ditches. These appeared to be orientated on, or at right-angles to, the line of the nearby Peddars Way Roman road,<sup>24</sup> but firm conclusions about function were difficult to formulate given the constraints of the easement. In addition, two large, potential extraction pits were revealed in the centre of the site, possibly having provided materials for the construction and maintenance of the Roman road. The western half of the site also contained several pits filled with oyster shell, the heavily truncated remains of a ring gully and a charcoal filled, but otherwise empty, oven-like feature; all suggesting domestic activity very nearby.<sup>25</sup>

(6) **Trowse**, *land off Devon Way* (TG 2487 0638): a small open area excavation (0.32 ha) in advance of house-building revealed ditches on north-west to south-east and south-west to

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<sup>22</sup> Work by Birks Archaeology for Mr and Mrs Obey. C. Birks sent information.

<sup>23</sup> Work by B. Hobbs, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Cripps Development. K. Anderson sent information.

<sup>24</sup> NHER 1289; 43419.

<sup>25</sup> Work by N. Mason, OA East, for Anglian Water; OA East Report 2275. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

north-east axes, which defined a set of adjoining small rectilinear enclosures. These are likely to have been part of the agricultural infield on the edge of a farmstead or other settlement located a short distance to the south, proximity to which was suggested by an increasing distribution of finds towards this edge of the site, as well as by several pits and possible post-trenches/beam-slots, though these lacked obvious structural configurations. The animal bone assemblage shows that cattle were more important to the settlement's economy than sheep, but both were exploited, particularly for secondary products. The pottery is predominantly mid-Roman, with a focus in the second century, although there is some earlier material including a Colchester-derivative brooch (A.D. 40–75/80). Metalwork finds, including two sets of copper-alloy tweezers, suggest a moderate level of prosperity.<sup>26</sup>

(7) **Wymondham**, *Gunvil Hall Farm* (TG 0997 0030): excavation across two areas revealed that Roman enclosures succeeded Bronze Age and Iron Age features. Geophysical survey appeared to further define a trackway respected by a Roman enclosure and adjacent to Sutton Lane, alluding to this road's possible Roman origins. Importantly, a largely intact pottery kiln was uncovered within the Roman enclosure in Area A; this produced a significant quantity of Roman greyware pottery, dated to the mid-third century.<sup>27</sup>

## SUFFOLK

(1) **Great Whelnetham**, *Stanningfield Road* (TL 87 60: WLG038): an archaeological excavation on the southern edge of a known Roman settlement identified three phases of Roman activity. The first comprised an extensive scatter of quarry pits to exploit the natural sand geology, probably associated with the construction of parts of the Roman settlement, or possibly associated pottery production and similar industries, although artefactual evidence was negligible. The second phase comprised a single large boundary ditch that traversed the site, potentially forming a southern boundary to the Roman settlement in relation to the river Lark and a smaller tributary that also encloses the settlement, as does as the Roman road between Pakenham and Long Melford. The boundary ditch contained a rich array of finds including a complete brooch, several coins and pottery in good condition, with adjoining

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<sup>26</sup> Work by G. Reid and P. Crawley, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting. K. Anderson sent information.

<sup>27</sup> Work by G. Clarke, OA East; for Lovell Partnerships Ltd; OA East Reports 2253 and 2246. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.



fragments recovered from a range of segments along its length. Mould-decorated and stamped samian ware suggests deposition and back-filling in the second half of the second century A.D. This was also associated with a range of colour-coated beakers, including roughcast hunt-cup types, as well as local coarse wares. The last phase of Roman activity comprises a cemetery, with 54 inhumation burials and a single cremation recorded within the excavated area at varying depths, including examples cut into the natural sand, the backfilled deposits of quarry pits and the boundary ditch. The graves are generally unadorned, but two included bone combs that suggest they may date to the late fourth century A.D. There is a very high proportion of deviant burials within the cemetery, with potentially over a third comprising decapitation burials and another third placed in non-supine positions (prone, flexed and crouched). The decapitation burials include several examples with skulls placed at their feet, or adjacent to the legs, and possibly some with additional skulls placed in the graves. Initial analysis suggests the burial population is skewed towards a middle-aged to older population, with a near equal proportion of male to female graves, and extensive pathological conditions resulting from physical and nutritional stress. However, a striking component of the burials is a single 3–4-year-old burial that has also been decapitated with the head placed between its legs; while another adult burial has the skull of a dog placed on its feet.<sup>28</sup>

(2) **Herringswell** (TL 723701 743707): at the western extremity of the scheme, excavation of Area 3 revealed a dense collection of ditches, the function of which was difficult to determine within the constraints of an 8 m wide easement. These features produced a modest amount of Romano-British pottery. Two Romano-British coins were also recovered by metal-detector survey in this area.<sup>29</sup>

(3) **Ingham**, *Ingham Solar Farm North, Bodney Farm* (TL 8485 7241): evaluation over an area of 19.5 ha involved 115 trenches. Just six features (possible pits and tree-throw holes) were investigated, with two of these producing a very small amount of pottery including just two Roman sherds.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Work by K. Bull, Archaeological Solutions for Havebury Housing Partnership. F. Minter, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service sent information.

<sup>29</sup> Work by N. Mason, OA East, for Anglian Water; OA East Report 2274. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>30</sup> Work by L. Esteves of TVAS East Midlands in 2018. S. Preston sent information.

(4) **Lavenham**, *land adjacent to Bears Lane* (TL 91 48; LVM121): an archaeological evaluation revealed a cluster of pits and ditches, associated with a kiln, a grave and a surface or layer focussed on the central-southern area of the site that are of Roman date, probably within the latter half of the second century A.D. The artefactual evidence is consistent with substantial domestic occupation and a building in the immediate vicinity. The Roman pottery includes a samian ware dish with a maker's stamp. The animal bone includes butchered cattle, horse and deer bone. Other finds include copper-alloy coins, a pin, strap end, and a bronze or brass disc bearing the bust of an emperor, possibly part of a brooch or similar adornment.<sup>31</sup>

(5) **Mildenhall**, *Mildenhall Hub* (TL 70 74; MNL 798): following an evaluation in 2016/17, archaeological excavation was carried out on the site of the Community Hub, off Sheldrick Way and Queensway/West Row Road in Mildenhall. The earliest and largest feature on the site was a paleochannel that ran across approximately half the length of the excavation area. During the Middle Iron Age to early Roman period it had already silted up somewhat and appeared to have been marshy, with peat and fine silt formations, at which time the deposition of animal remains, a human mandible, occasional coins, a Roman horse harness and occasional prehistoric pottery and worked flint was taking place. Several Middle Iron Age ditches appeared to utilise the channel, terminating within it to form enclosures. Several other ditch boundaries are likely contemporary, as were several clusters of circular pits, numbering between two and twenty-five features in each group. These produced occasional remains of pottery and other material, including the remains of two adult burials, whilst another contained a human skull fragment. An atypical pit cluster also contained the remnants of an oven or kiln base, as well as several cow skulls and a complete pony skeleton.<sup>32</sup>

(6) **Saxmundham**, *land east of Beech Road* (TM 3898 6359): a cluster of Late Iron Age and early Roman features was exposed within the northern part of the excavation area, mostly in the north-east corner. These included two perpendicular boundary lines, one running roughly north to south, formed by two parallel ditches, and the other to the west, aligned east to west

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<sup>31</sup> Work by S. Thomelius, Archaeological Solutions for Marden Homes Ltd. F. Minter, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, sent information.

<sup>32</sup> Work by R. Brooks, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for Forest Heath District Council. F. Minter, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, sent information.

and represented by a single ditch. The rest of the features were primarily pits and post-holes, including a possible four-post structure and a single very large post-hole.<sup>33</sup>

(7) **Thurston**, *land west of Ixworth Road* (TL 91716 65914): evaluation revealed a pair of road-side ditches marking Peddars Way, the Roman road linking Chelmsford to Ixworth. These were clearly visible, albeit intermittent, within the results of a geophysical survey and appeared in two of the four trenches that were sited to intersect with them. A single iron nail was found in one of the ditches. There was no sign of nearby associated settlement. Neolithic and post-medieval remains were also uncovered.<sup>34</sup>

(8) **Yaxley**, *Eye Airfield (a)* (TM 1277 7460): whilst most of the archaeological remains found during excavation were medieval in date, the remains of a trackway were found spanning both excavation areas. This potentially joined settlements recognised during earlier work at Eye Airfield.<sup>35</sup>

(9) **Yaxley**, *Eye Airfield (b)* (TM 1255 7461): excavation over several areas revealed Roman field and enclosure systems overlying a previous Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement area. An increase in activity was evident during the early to mid-Romano-British period; earlier roundhouses were replaced by enclosures and track/droeways alongside structures and numerous pits and post-holes. Four identifiable groups of post- and stake-holes were also encountered, indicating the presence of structures.<sup>36</sup>

(10) **Yaxley**, *Eye Airfield (c)* (TM 12 74; YAX 041): two main zones of activity were revealed during evaluation. Zone 1 in the north-east corner of the site comprised a scatter of ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes, tentatively assigned to the Romano-British period based on the recovery of a small number of pottery sherds. Features included two charcoal-rich pits containing burnt flint and fired clay, possibly the waste from a grain-drying structure or bread oven. Ditches in surrounding trenches were thought to represent the remains of a small rural

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<sup>33</sup> Work by N. Cox, OA East, for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hopkins Homes; OA East Report 2261. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>34</sup> Work by S. Ladd, OA East, for CgMs Heritage on behalf of Persimmon Homes; OA East Report 2247. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>35</sup> Work by M. Kwiatkowska, OA East, for Cranswick County Foods Plc; OA East Report 2234. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

<sup>36</sup> Work by T. Collie, OA East, for Drax Power Ltd; OA East Report 2199. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

Roman farmstead. The archaeology in Zone 2 comprised a network of ditches, largely devoid of finds. Two principal axes were identified, hinting at a pattern of rectilinear divisions reconfigured on at least one occasion. Dating was problematic, but the ditches were thought to be Roman in date, forming part of a wider field-system previously identified to the south of the site.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Work by M. Kwiatkowska, OA East, for Cranswick County Foods Plc; OA East Report 2191. F. Minter, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, sent information.