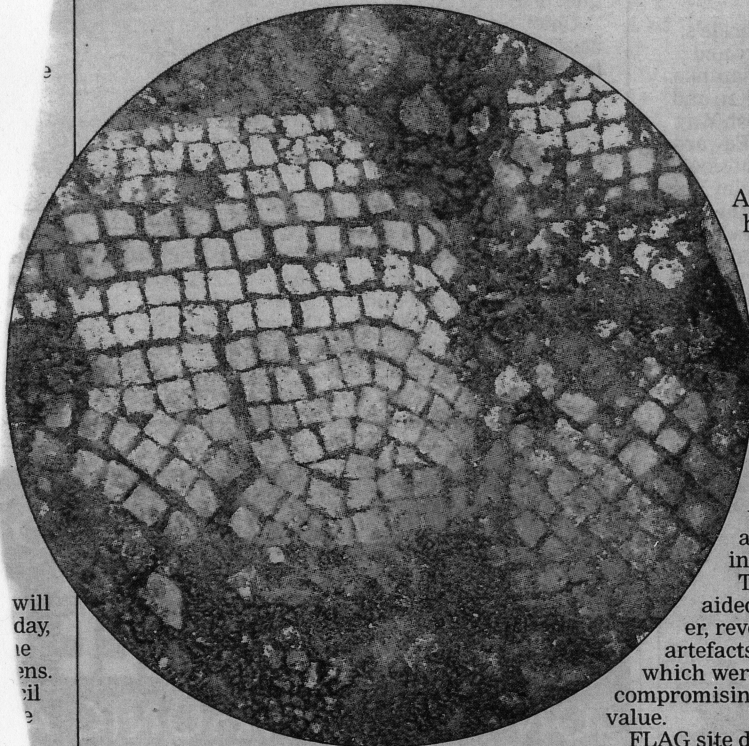


GOADBY'S BIG DIG: Plentiful Roman relics like finding Coke tin 2,000 years on

Rene is floored by his finds



HISTORY: David Stanley with one of the many finds at Goadby Marwood *PHOTO JH 9-269*



ANCIENT: Some of the mosaic floor unearthed at the site *PHOTO JH 9-270*

ANCIENT artefacts have been unearthed at an archaeological dig near Melton, but their monetary value is little over the price of a pint of beer.

Framland Local Archaeology Group (FLAG), a self-funded amateur team, has uncovered the past at a site on Wycomb Villa in Goadby Marwood.

The successful dig, aided by recent fine weather, revealed a number of artefacts from Roman times which were mass-produced, compromising their rarity and value.

FLAG site director Rene Mouraille said: "It would be like finding a Coke can 2,000 years from

By James Gates

now.

The trouble with the Romans is that they made so much of everything, so I shouldn't think the items come to more than a couple of quid, but it's been a very successful dig."

Items discovered include a Roman bath house with most of its plumbing intact, giving it 'high status', which means it belonged to a very wealthy owner.

Other items include remains of a mosaic floor and a Roman bracelet, and one member of the FLAG team armed with a metal detector found two Roman coins dating from around 275 AD.

The recovered items will be handed over to external archaeologists based at the county council, who will verify and redistribute them.

Mr Mouraille said it was highly likely that Carnegie Museum in Thorpe End will receive some arte-

facts. He said: "They tell us a little bit more about what happened in that area back then, and it'd be great if Melton got to keep them."

FLAG has been at the site for more than a month, and was led there after some initial digging around Goadby Marwood and consultation with a county council archaeology warden.

Awareness of the site's archaeological heritage goes back to the 1950s, when ploughing revealed the first hints of its history. It has since been visited by numerous groups, but the lack of any recent archaeological activity means it was perfect for a visit from FLAG, which formed three years ago.

The group is now winding down the dig before re-burying the site to preserve it for posterity.

David Stanley, FLAG chairman, said: "It's been a very successful dig. The best we've ever done, in fact."