Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control

South Walsham Marshes, Norfolk

on behalf of
Broads Internal Drainage Board

Heather Wallis

March 2012

HW Report No. 113

Project Name	**South Walsham Marshes**
Client	**Broads Internal Drainage Board**
NHER Event No	**ENF 128744**
Grid reference	**TG 3844 1502 to TG 3892 1483**
Date of fieldwork	**6th March 2012**

Introduction

Broads Internal Drainage Board are undertaking a project to increase the suitable habitat for grasswrack pondweed (*potomogeton compressus*). This is a nationally scarce species of aquatic plant, but one which grows well in several managed drainage channels in Norfolk and is present in ditches and dykes in South Walsham Marshes. In order to encourage this species one ditch within the marsh has been widened and a collapsed drainage structure repaired. For site location see below.

These habitat improvement works were undertaken by the Broads Internal Drainage Board who commissioned the archaeological watching brief.

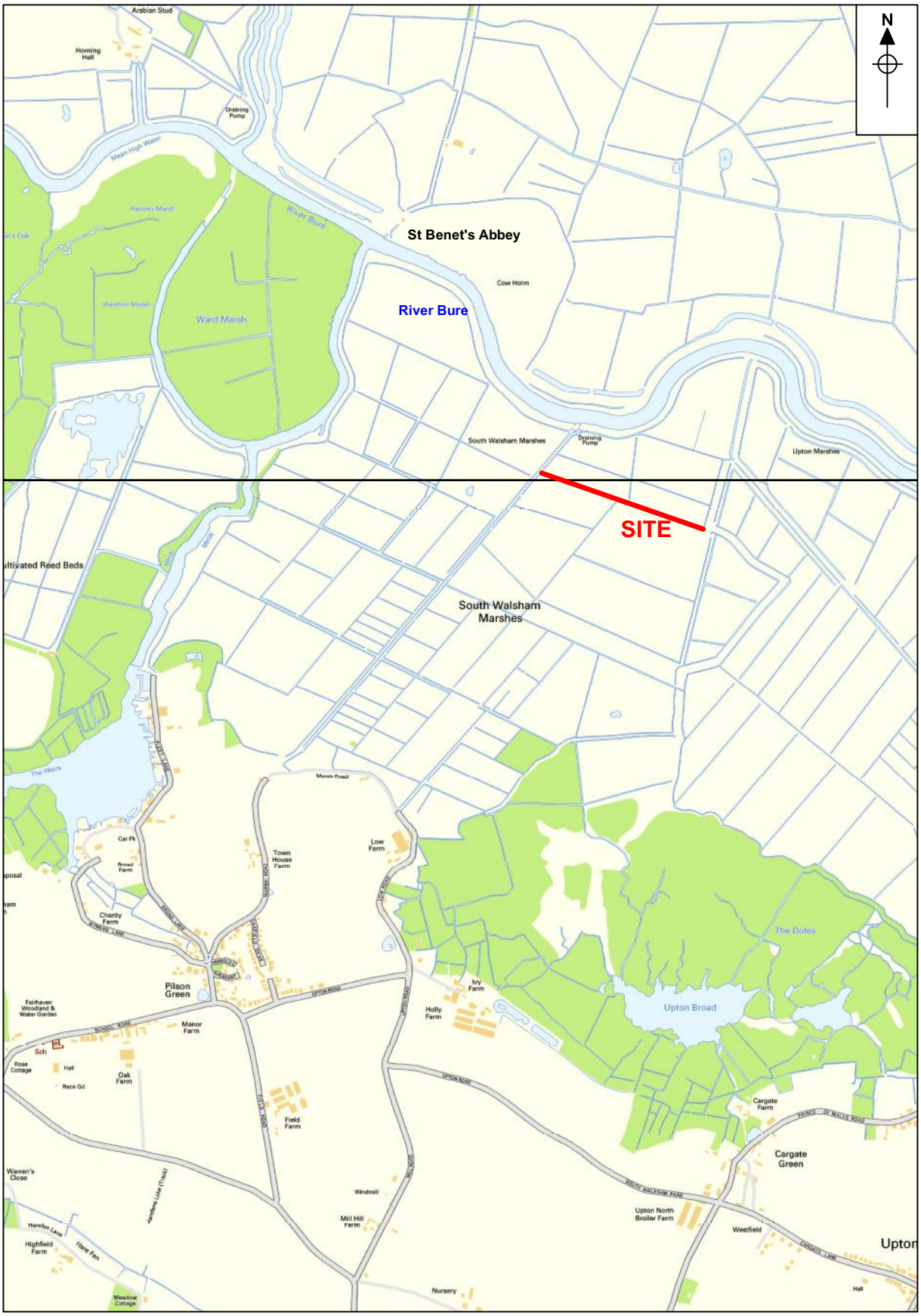
Archaeological Background

The area of works does not impact on any known archaeological site, although a few sites are located within 1km of the works. Most of these have been identified through the study of aerial photographs and include evidence of medieval or post-medieval extraction pits (49682), drainage channels (35530), enclosures and ditches (49506) and a linear feature identified as either a causeway or drain (8450). St Benet's Abbey lay on the opposite bank of the River Bure, less than 1km form the present site and finds from river dredgings *c*.0.5km to the north-west of the site included a Saxon spearhead and medieval pottery.

The Watching brief

One visit was made to site during the widening of the dyke. Approximately 1m of material was excavated from the north edge of the dyke. As the dyke had not been pumped down it was not possible the view the newly cut dyke side as this remained under water. The material removed from the dyke was orange and grey clayey silts. This was visually scanned but no artefacts were noted. Excavated material was not removed from site, but spread alongside the dyke.

The works for repairing the culvert were not monitored as excavation was limited to previously disturbed ground.



Site Location Map