Bayfield Pool
Bayfield Hall

Archaeological Monitoring of Works

ENF 141408

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HW Report No. 199

Project name	**Bayfield Pool**
Parishes	**Field Dalling**
Event No.	**ENF 141408**
Grid Ref.	**TG 04797 40350**
Date of Work	**21st September and 6th October 2016**

Introduction

In 2014 the Norfolk Rivers Trust in conjunction with the Wild Trout Trust carried out works on the River Glaven at Bayfield creating a new sinuous channel for the River Glaven. Monitoring of these work for deposits and artefacts of archaeological interest was undertaken and has been reported on (Wallis 2015a). Following these works, in September 2016, three small pools were excavated by Norfolk Rivers Trust (Fig. 1). This work was not subject to archaeological monitoring, but members of the Norfolk Rivers Trust staff recognised that burnt flints were present in one of the excavations and alerted Norfolk Historic Environment Service. Recording of this one pool was then undertaken by Sarah Bates and Heather Wallis.

Monitoring

Burnt flints were first noted on 19th September 2016 and monitoring and recording was undertaken on 21st September. A further inspection of the site along with additional recording was undertaken on 6th October.

Site records consist of a site plan, written soil descriptions, site location survey using a handheld GPS and digital colour photography. All works were carried out in full accordance with national and regional guidelines for the treatment of archaeological remains, and in particular the guidance set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the *Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014)

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Observations

At the time of recording the excavation of the pool was almost complete. The pool was oval in shape measuring *c.*12m x 8m, with sloping sides. The base was irregular and part of it was underwater, while other areas were still covered with spoil and trampled soils. Between these soily areas crazed burnt flints were obvious. A slot was cleaned through the least disturbed area on the western edge of the pool.

The burnt flints were observed to spread across most of the area of the excavated pool, the edge of the burnt flint deposit being recorded on the west side only. The deepest area, which was under water, was *c*.1.2m below the present ground surface and burnt flints were present at this depth. The top of the burnt flint deposit was *c*.0.45m below present ground surface, making the potboiler mound at least 0.75m thick. Patches of pale cream sand was seen above the burnt flints, over which was a dark brown peaty soil.

Excavated pool, looking south, 21/09/2016

Spoil from the excavations had been spread across the ground to the south-west of the pool. Eight worked flints were recovered from this material. It is likely that other worked flints may come to the surface as the spoil weathers.

No further excavation was due to be undertaken so the rest of the pot boiler mound and any other associated deposits remain *in situ*.

Flint

By Sarah Bates

Eight pieces of struck or shattered flint were recovered from the area of the burnt mound. Most of them seem likely to be associated with the monument.

Two of these pieces are sharp shatter fragments which may have originated during knapping. The larger piece has slight damage along one edge which could possibly be use-related although it more probably resulted accidentally

as its surface looks fresher than that of main surfaces of the piece. The other, smaller, shatter piece is dark reddish brown in colour; probably slightly burnt.

There is a thick hard hammer struck flake with wide platform the surface of which is patinated white. A smaller probable flake has fractured across its face due to burning.

A small squat flake from a rotated multi-platform core has one lateral edge utilised. This piece is unpatinated and of glossier appearance that the other flints. It is likely to date from the later Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

A burnt fragment has retouch forming small indentations at one edge. It may be from the edge of a denticulate type tool but is difficult to be certain due its small size and fragmentary nature.

An irregular thick fragment with thin pebble type cortex has been struck a few times along one side and the resulting shallow 'notch' may have been utilised; there is slight damage along its edge. This piece seems more characteristic of the expedient use of flint commonly associated with the later Bronze Age.

A thick blade-type piece which is heavily patinated and edge damaged has some irregular damage to one side of its main dorsal ridge which resembles the 'cresting' sometimes used during blade core preparation. The other side of the ridge is a smooth thermal surface with incipient percussion scars which may also relate to preparation of the original core. The piece is irregular, however, with another thermally fractured side. Crested pieces are usually considered as of Mesolithic date. The patina and abraded surfaces also indicate that this is older than the other flints.

Discussion

This new pool appears to have been located across the centre of a burnt flint mound; the burnt flint deposits extending across the excavated area. The flint deposit is likely to be quite substantial as within this area a depth of at least 0.75m of burnt flints was observed.

Struck flints are not always retrieved from burnt mounds but a small number were found within the excavated spoil. Of these one is Mesolithic in date while the remainder are more probably Bronze Age.

Burnt flints have previously been recorded from close to this site (NHER 34139) and these almost certainly originated from this potboiler mound. Other potboiler mounds are known in this area. During the monitoring works for the new river channel a crescent shaped mound was recorded *c*.600m south-east of the present discovery (Wallis 2015a). Further monitoring works on the excavation of wildlife pools *c*.800m to the north also identified an *in situ* burnt flint mound (Wallis 2015b).

Large deposits of burnt flints are found across the county often in association with water courses or springs and are most commonly date to the Bronze Age. These mounds are usually roughly circular or crescents shaped and are formed of burnt, shattered flints which had been used to heat large quantities of water. The exact use for the heated water is not known but suggestions include brewing, saunas, or steaming.

Bibliography

Wallis, H., 2015a

Bayfield Channel, Bayfield Hall. Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control. HW Report No. 160.

Wallis, H., 2015b

Bayfield to Glandford, Habitat Improvements on the River Glaven. Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control. HW Report No. 161.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must be extended to Jonah Tosney of the Norfolk Rivers Trust who recognised and alerted Norfolk Historic Environment Service to this discovery. Norfolk Rivers Trust also commissioned the site monitoring and the post-excavation work.

Site monitoring was undertaken by Sarah Bates and Heather Wallis. Identification of the struck flint was undertaken by Sarah Bates.

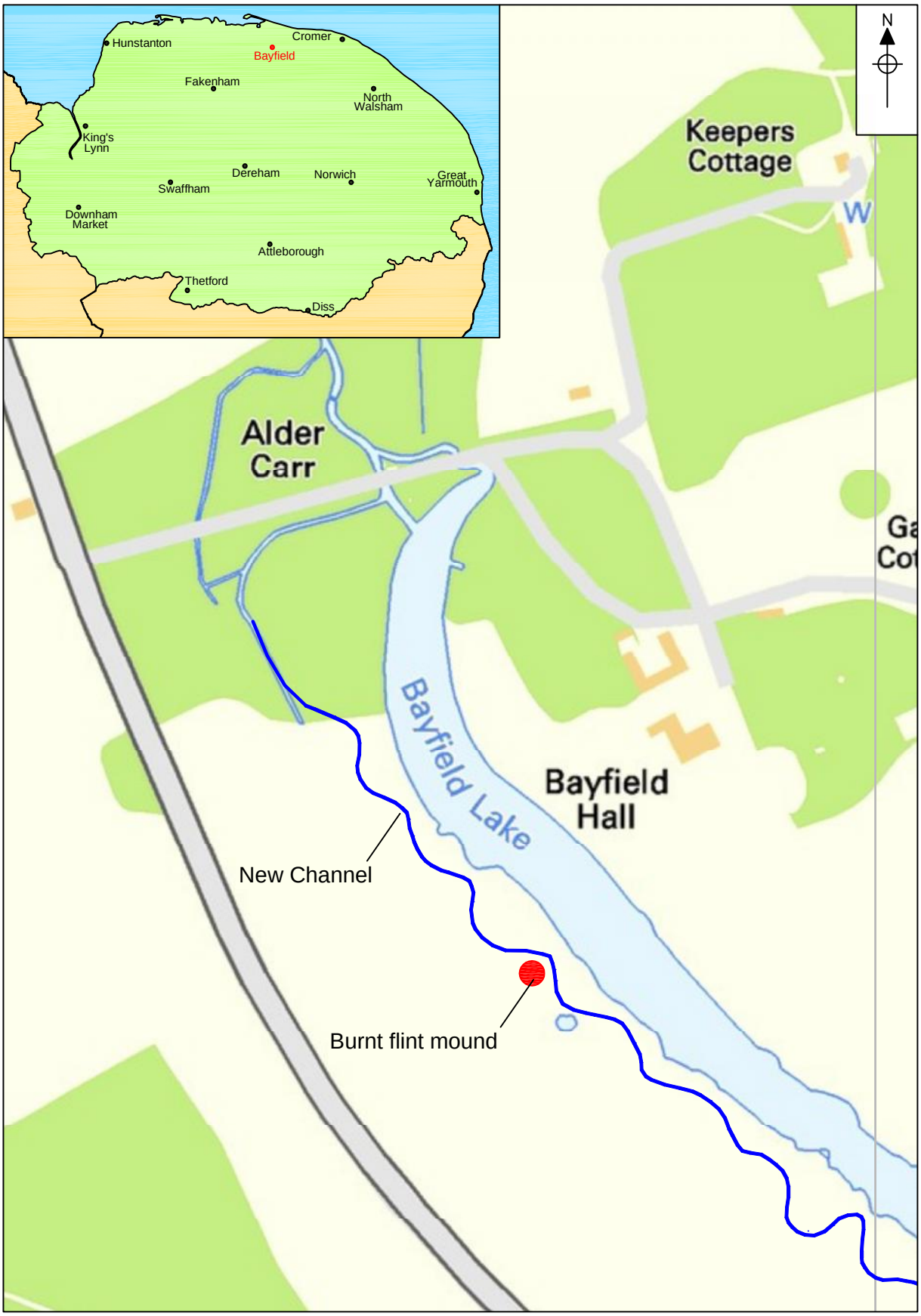

Fig 1. Location plan showing line of new river and location of burnt flint mound.