

Archaeological Monitoring during the construction of a Hydrotherapy Pool at Hill Farm House, Roughton, Norfolk.



Prepared on behalf of Linden Myers LLP

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**Archaeological Monitoring during the construction of a
 Hydrotherapy Pool at Hill Farm House,
 Thorpe Market Road, Roughton, Norfolk, NR11 8TB.**

Location:	Roughton
Grid Ref:	TG 2285 3667
NHES Event No:	ENF133461
Dates of fieldwork:	24 th & 30 th January and 17 th & 24 th June 2014

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Ian Wilding of Hoopers Architects Ltd and Gareth Williams of Linder Myers LLP, on behalf the client, to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a Hydrotherapy Pool and side extension link at Hill Farm House, Thorpe Market Road, Roughton. This work forms part of a planning application which also includes future extension work to the main house, currently planned for 2016 (Planning Ref. PF/13/0675). The plot size for the Hydrotherapy Pool building alone measures c.280m².

The house is located in an area where cropmarks have been identified through aerial photography in fields to the north; where ditches and an enclosure have been identified along with a ring-ditch marking the possible site of a prehistoric barrow. The ditches and enclosures are currently suggested to be of medieval to post-medieval date (NHER 38553). The site is situated on fairly high ground overlooking the site of post-medieval water meadow to the south-east (NHER 38557), with the site of a possible ring-ditch (NHER 38653) at a similar contour on an area of high ground c. 650m to the south-east. An extensive area of cropmarks identified c. 300m to the south-east of the site has been tentatively interpreted as evidence for an Iron Age field system.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF44970_3) on behalf of North Norfolk District Council. The aim of the monitoring work was to record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features identified during groundworks. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Summary of Results

No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered across the site during the works. The footprint of both the connecting extension and the hydrotherapy pool building were mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision and control to reveal natural geology below thin soils. In addition, a large soakway trench and the filter trenching for a new septic tank were excavated in the open field to the west of the house, which also proved to be clear of archaeologically significant deposits. Two postholes identified in the soakaway trench can be matched to a 19th century fence line which formerly subdivided this area of the field.

A small number of residual finds were collected from spoil generated from the swimming pool area, which amount to three musket balls, a Georgian shoe buckle, a single sherd of medieval pottery and a small flint scraper of Early Neolithic date.

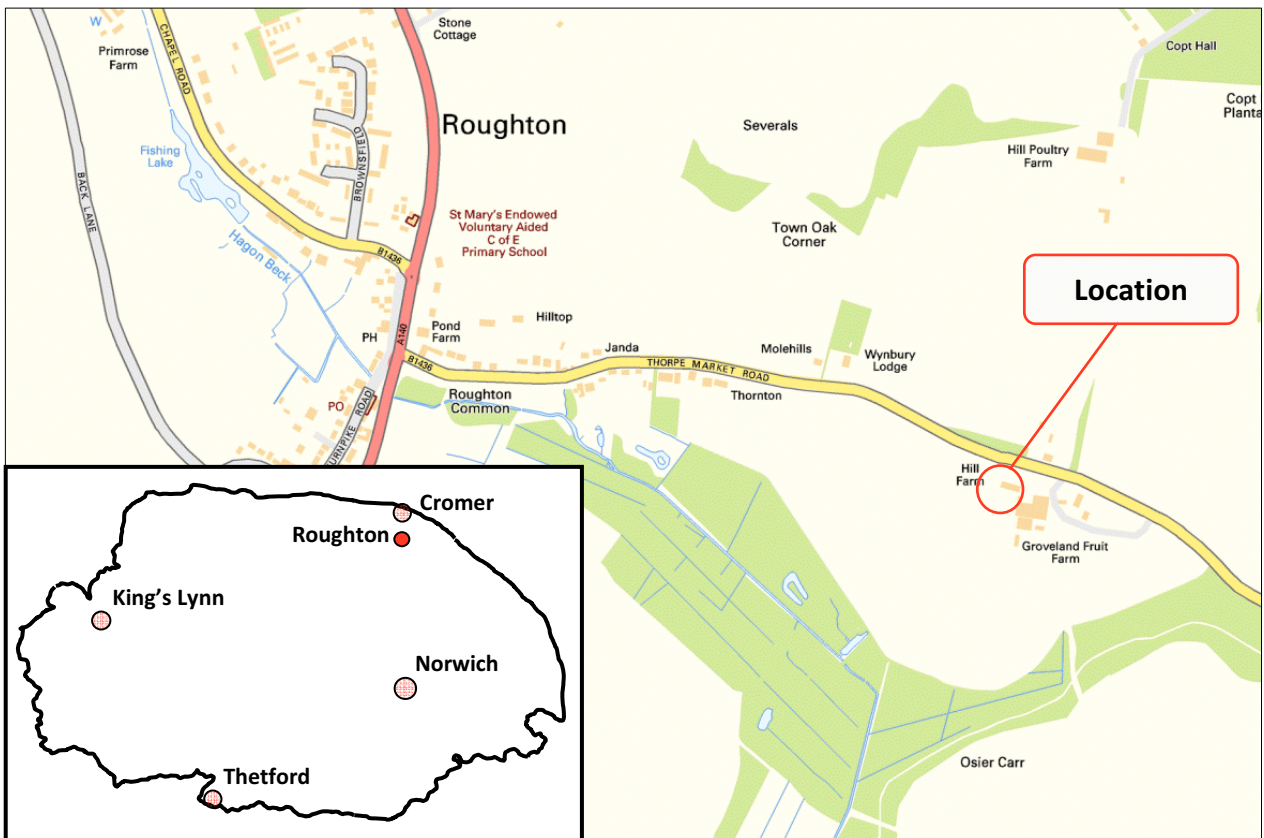
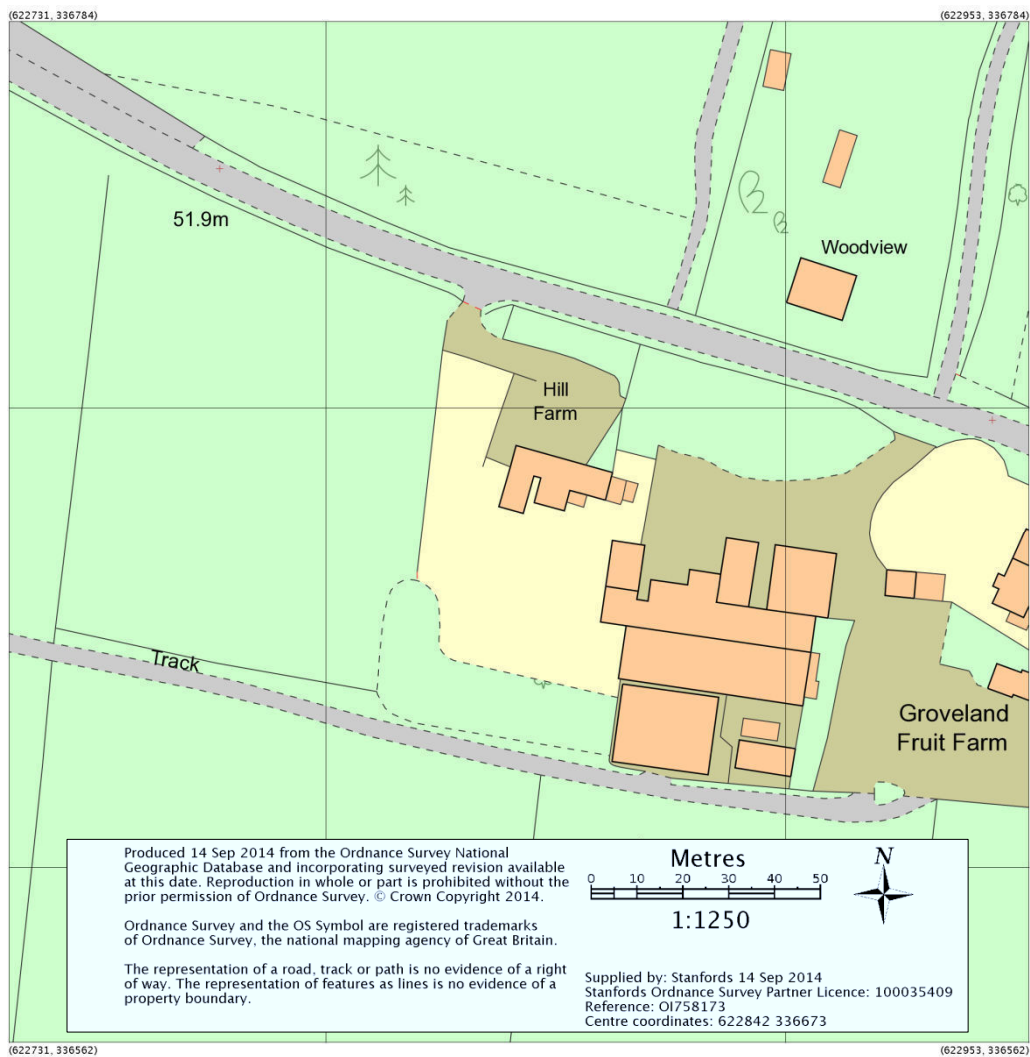


Figure 1. General Location of Hill Farm House

3.0 Geology and Topography

Roughton is a village and a civil parish in North Norfolk. The village is located c. 6km south of Cromer, surrounded by an area of heathland and several farms. Hill Farm House is located on high ground to the east of the village along Thorpe Market Road (B1463) at c. 48m OD, overlooking a water meadow to the south-west which drains into Hagon Beck – a tributary of the River Bure.

The underlying geology is sand and gravels (Wroxham Crag Formation) formed in the Quaternary period. Superficial Quaternary deposits comprise of sand and gravels formed under ice age conditions with thick upper deposits of sandy deposits - Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.)

The sub-surface geology of the site encountered during the fieldwork can be characterised as soft sands and sandy-gravels with patches of chalk drift and sandy-clay.

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Roughton's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated over 120 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

The 19th century brick and flint farm house known as Hill House Farm is shown as an L-shaped building serving a larger farm complex (now the Groveland Farm Shop and Garden Centre) in the 1st Edition OS plan of 1886, with very similar fence and hedge lines to the modern layout. By 1906, the property has had an extension to the rear but lost the southern wing, which was reconstructed in the late 20th century.

Evidence for an extensive prehistoric funerary landscape of Neolithic to Bronze Age date has been identified through cropmarks within the modern parish and its neighbouring parishes. A Neolithic causewayed enclosure (NHER 13358) is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs c.1.3km to the south-south-west of Hill Farm. In a similar manner to Hill Farm it occupies a slight knoll or spur, overlooking minor tributaries of the River Bure. Two Neolithic long barrows, or mortuary enclosures, and a possible round or oval barrow, also likely to date to the Neolithic, lie just to the north of the enclosure (NHER 38485).

Neolithic or Bronze Age enclosures (NHER 38496, 38501) have also been identified in the same area and a Neolithic-Iron Age enclosure has been identified to the west of the village (NHER 38662). A variety of flint tools have been recorded for the parish, including numerous Neolithic axeheads.

Roughton Heath is also notable for the high number of Bronze Age barrows that have been recorded there, both as earthworks and cropmarks. However, many such barrows have since been damaged or levelled by modern ploughing. At present c. 24 barrow/ring ditch sites are recorded, the majority as cropmarks. Several Bronze Age round barrows were excavated here by G.J. Chester in the 19th century. The excavation at Kettle Hill (NHER 6735) revealed deposits of charred wood and a mass of burnt bones and at Rowhow Hill (NHER 6737) a cremation was recorded along with jet beads.

Evidence of Iron Age activity is currently limited to cropmarks of square shaped barrows (NHER 38476) and trackways (NHER 38483), with possible Iron Age to Roman enclosures and field systems also identified (NHER 38563, 38495, 38571 and 39117). Fragments of Roman pottery (NHER 19468), Roman coins (NHER 37313, 40427) and brooches (NHER 39545, 40427) have been found during metal detecting.

Roughton is believed to come from a mixture of Old English and Old Scandinavian meaning 'rough farm' or 'rye farm' (Rye, 1991). Saxon evidence for the parish is limited to a small number of artefacts, which include metalwork, beads and pottery. In the Domesday Book,

complied in 1086, Roughton was held by the Count of Mortain, Roger Bigot and Hugh of Montfort, who all had fairly substantial holdings.

St Mary's Church (NHER 6771) is a Late Saxon to medieval parish church with an 11th century round tower with double splayed windows with evidence of basketwork. It is located c. 700m to the west of Hill Farm and appears to be a focus of Late Saxon to medieval settlement, while a possible medieval moated site survives as an earthwork to its south (NHER 6747).

Several military training sites are known for the parish, as well as an anti-aircraft gun or searchlight emplacement (NHER 34409). One such military training site was located c. 550m to the north of Hill Farm (NHER 38619).

Sites in the immediate proximity or of particular relevance or interest which fall in close proximity to the site include:

The following information has been sourced from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER)

NHER 18245: Cropmark – ?Medieval to Post-medieval mill mound. A ring ditch, possibly a medieval to post medieval post mill mound, is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It lies in an area notable for its evidence of prehistoric ceremonial and funerary activity, approximately 1km to the south and east of round barrows and ring ditches of probable Bronze Age date (e.g. NHER 6741). It is therefore possible that it too represents the remains of a prehistoric round barrow. It also lies adjacent, however, to the cross of a medieval or post-medieval post mill (NHER 38552) and a similar date and interpretation for the ring ditch seems plausible. It is overlain by a field boundary which survived until the 19th century. [c. 150m NW]

NHER 38499: Cropmarks – Extensive ?Iron Age field systems. An extensive field system, elements of which may date from the Iron Age to early post-medieval periods, is visible as the cropmarks of field boundary, enclosure and trackway ditches on aerial photographs. The subdivision of part of one of the enclosures may indicate settlement or other domestic use. Although few finds have been recovered from the area, many elements of the field system can be dated tentatively to the Romano-British or even Iron Age period on the basis of their morphology. The field system also surrounds and shares a general alignment with a farmstead of possible Romano-British date (NHER 17739) and may overlie the ring ditch of a Bronze Age round barrow (NHER 38504). Other elements of the field system would seem to date to a later period, however, again on morphological grounds; those centred at TG 2295 3507, for example, may relate to quarrying which perhaps continued into the post-medieval period. The area in which the field system lies was incorporated into Gunton Park in the 18th or 19th century (NHER 30438), and the majority of the field system is likely to predate this event. [c. 300m SE]

NHER 38553: Cropmarks – Medieval to Post-medieval ditches and enclosure. Linear and rectilinear ditches, a small polygonal or rectilinear ditched enclosure and a number of pits or post-holes of probable medieval or post medieval date are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs in fields immediately to the north of Hill Farm. The linear ditches that share an alignment with the surrounding field boundaries are likely to be of post medieval date. One of these is depicted on the 19th century tithe map for the parish, and overlies a ring ditch (NHER 18425) which may have surrounded a medieval or post medieval windmill mound. Other linear features may have been contemporary with this mound or with the post mill which stood adjacent to it (NHER 38552). The enclosure and post-holes or pits surround an unmapped quarry pit. The enclosure may be overlain by the post-medieval field boundaries but there is no evidence to suggest that it dates to any earlier than the medieval period. [c. 100m]

NHER 38554: Cropmark – Rectilinear enclosure. A small rectilinear enclosure of unknown date and function is visible as a soilmark or vegetation mark on aerial photographs. Morphologically, it bears some resemblance to an enclosure of probable medieval or post-medieval date 250m to its west (NHER 38553). [c. 250m NE]

NHER 38557: Earthworks – Poss. Water meadow. Three closely-spaced, parallel drainage ditches, perhaps the remnants of a post medieval floated water meadow, are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs. They are located on low-lying ground, approximately 30m to the south of the now canalised Hagon Beck, a tributary of the River Bure. Areas of floated water meadow have been identified further downstream (NHER 38498), and the alignment of the ditches to Hagon Beck results in a herringbone pattern typical of such features. Alternatively, they might be associated with the medieval moat and medieval to post medieval enclosures immediately to their south and west (NHER 6747), or they could simply be post medieval or modern drainage features. [c. 500m W]

NHER 38619: WWII Military Training Site. Evidence of World War Two military training activity is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs from 1946 within numerous fields to the north of Hill Poultry Farm. Tracks, pits, trenches and probable gun emplacements can all be identified. The majority of the earthworks appear fresh

on the 1946 aerial photographs, some of the features, particularly the probable gun emplacements, appear to relate to an earlier phase of activity and may even date back to World War One. [c. 600m N of the site]

NHER 38653: Cropmark – Ring ditch. A probable ring ditch of unknown date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It appears to be situated on the southern slope or edge of a small knoll overlooking Hagon Beck to its east and south. The site lies approximately 500m to the east of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (NHER 38562) and, like many of the other ring ditches identified in the vicinity, it too may be the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow. Prehistoric worked flints have also been recovered from the area (NHER 19468). [c. 650m SW]

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during groundworks associated with the extension link and Hydrotherapy Pool building. The footprint of both was able to be machine stripped to natural geology prior to further works. This allowed both areas to be carefully assessed for the presence of archaeological deposits prior to the excavation of footings and the pool pit.

In addition, the footprint of a large soakaway trench sited to the south-west of the pool building was also machine stripped to natural under direct archaeological supervision and control, while finger trench work for a new septic tank to the west of the house was monitored as the work progressed over the course of two days.

Excavations were carried out by a variety of 360° machines fitted with ditching buckets, assisted by dumpers – with spoil relocated to the southwest corner of the open field to the west of the house.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector (Minelab XTerra 705). All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology pro forma sheets. The trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were tied to a detailed topographic survey of the house and grounds carried out by Anglia Land Surveys Ltd on behalf of the client.

The monitoring work was generally carried out in fair weather conditions, with rain only occurring in the afternoon of the third visit following machine stripping of the hydrotherapy pool building footprint.

6.0 Results (Appendix 1)

- ***'Natural deposits'***

Natural geology (07) was revealed at a depth of c.0.3m across the site, observed to slope gently from north to south. The geology comprised of glacial drift deposits of sand and gravels below fine sand loess with erratic patches of soliflucted chalk and sandy-clays. In the area of the extension link, the deposits were particularly soft and prone to collapse with depth, which resulted in much wider footing trenching following initial reduction work.

- ***Upper Soils***

Above the geology was a thin sandy-loam (01) with occasional pieces of chalk and examples of modern building materials. No significant subsoil horizons were present.

- **Modern Features** (Figures 3 & 4)

The base of two square postholes were revealed by the soakway trench which were well defined and which align with a former east-west boundary fence shown on the 1st Edition OS plans of 1886.



Plate 2: Natural geology within pool area (looking W) [1x1m Scale]

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2)*

All artefacts described here were collected as unstratified finds from the spoil produced from the removal of all topsoils from the swimming pool area (06).

Pottery

A single abraded, everted rim sherd of locally manufactured medieval pottery weighing 9g was collected. No trace of glaze is present and the fabric is a greyish-buff sandy fabric with sparse mica and an applied pinch decoration, features which help to date the vessel to a 13th to 14th century date.

Musket balls

Three lead musket balls (weighing 15.93g, 13.34g and 13.97g) each with a diameter of 13mm were collected with the aid of a metal detector. All three have minor scars from the removal of their casting sprues to prepare them for use and two show minor denting from kinetic impact. Musket balls are a common stray find across open fields and in this context are likely to have been fired during post-medieval hunting or target shooting activities.

Shoe Buckle

A Georgian-style, cast copper-alloy sub-rectangular shoe buckle with drilled frame for a lost separate spindle was collected with the aid of a metal detector. The design has a simple grooved border and would originally have been tinned or gilded. It can be broadly dated to c. 1720-1790, although its size may place it around the middle of the 18th century. It weighs 15.56g and measures 62mm by 48mm.

Worked flint

A single struck flint weighing 8g was collected which has been clearly worked to form scraper. The piece is glossy in appearance with no cortex present. Its fabric is of an opaque highly mottled grey fabric, with frequent interclasts.

The tool exhibits semi-abrupt unifacial retouch and the opposite lateral edge has been retouched to create a blunt edge. A negative scar on the dorsal side, forms a depression into which a thumb sits well, which would allow more pressure to be exerted when in use (Butler 125, 2005).

The tool is broad yet small and appears to have been manufactured from a soft hammer struck piece where the platform has been removed. The method of manufacture defines this as a smaller example of an Early Neolithic end scraper.

8.0 Conclusions

No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered across the site during the works. The footprint of both the connecting extension and the hydrotherapy pool building were mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision and control to reveal natural geology below thin soils. In addition, a large soakway trench and the filter trenching for a new septic tank were excavated in the open field to the west of the house, which also proved to be clear of archeologically significant deposits. Two postholes identified in the soakway trench can be matched to a 19th century fence line which formerly subdivided this area of the field.

A small number of residual finds were collected from spoil generated from the swimming pool area, which amount to three musket balls, a Georgian shoe buckle, a single sherd of medieval pottery and a small flint scraper of Early Neolithic date.

This phase of monitoring appears to demonstrate that the archaeological potential in the immediate vicinity of Hill Farm House is negligible, with no evidence for a continuation of the enclosures or field boundaries recorded on the north side of Thorpe Market Road, which are currently suggested to be of medieval to post medieval date.

Any further works at the site to be carried out under the same planning application or any future application will require further consultation with the Norfolk Historic Environment Service ahead of development.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Ian Wilding of Hoopers Architects Ltd and Gareth Williams of Linder Myers LLP who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to the on-site staff of ELM Contracts for their assistance and cooperation. The monitoring was carried out by Sarah Bates and the author. Post-excavation analysis work was carried out by the author. NHER data was supplied by Anj Beckham of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	Deposit		Soft, mid greyish-brown sandy-loam, occ. chalk, rare cbm c. 0.3m deep	Topsoil	<i>Modern</i>
02	Cut		Square, well defined, c.0.25m W, sloping base, 0.14m deep	Posthole	<i>L19th century</i>
03	Deposit	[02]	V.Friable, mid yellowish-bron sandy-clay, occ. stones, rare chalk flecks	Fill	<i>L19th century</i>
04	Cut		Square, well defined, c.0.25m W, straight sides, flat base, 0.22m deep	Posthole	<i>L19th century</i>
05	Deposit	[04]	V.Friable, mid yellowish-brown sandy-clay, occ. stones, rare chalk flecks	Fill	<i>L19th century</i>
06	Unstratified		Finds collected from arisings of swimming pool area	-	-
07	Deposit		Various glacial drift and loess deposits of fine sands, sandy-gravels, soliflucted chalk and sandy-clays	-	<i>Quaternary</i>

Appendix 2: Finds Summary

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
06	Copper-alloy – shoe buckle	1	16	Post-medieval
06	Flint	1	8	Neolithic
06	Lead – musket balls	3	43	Post-medieval
06	Pottery	1	9	Medieval

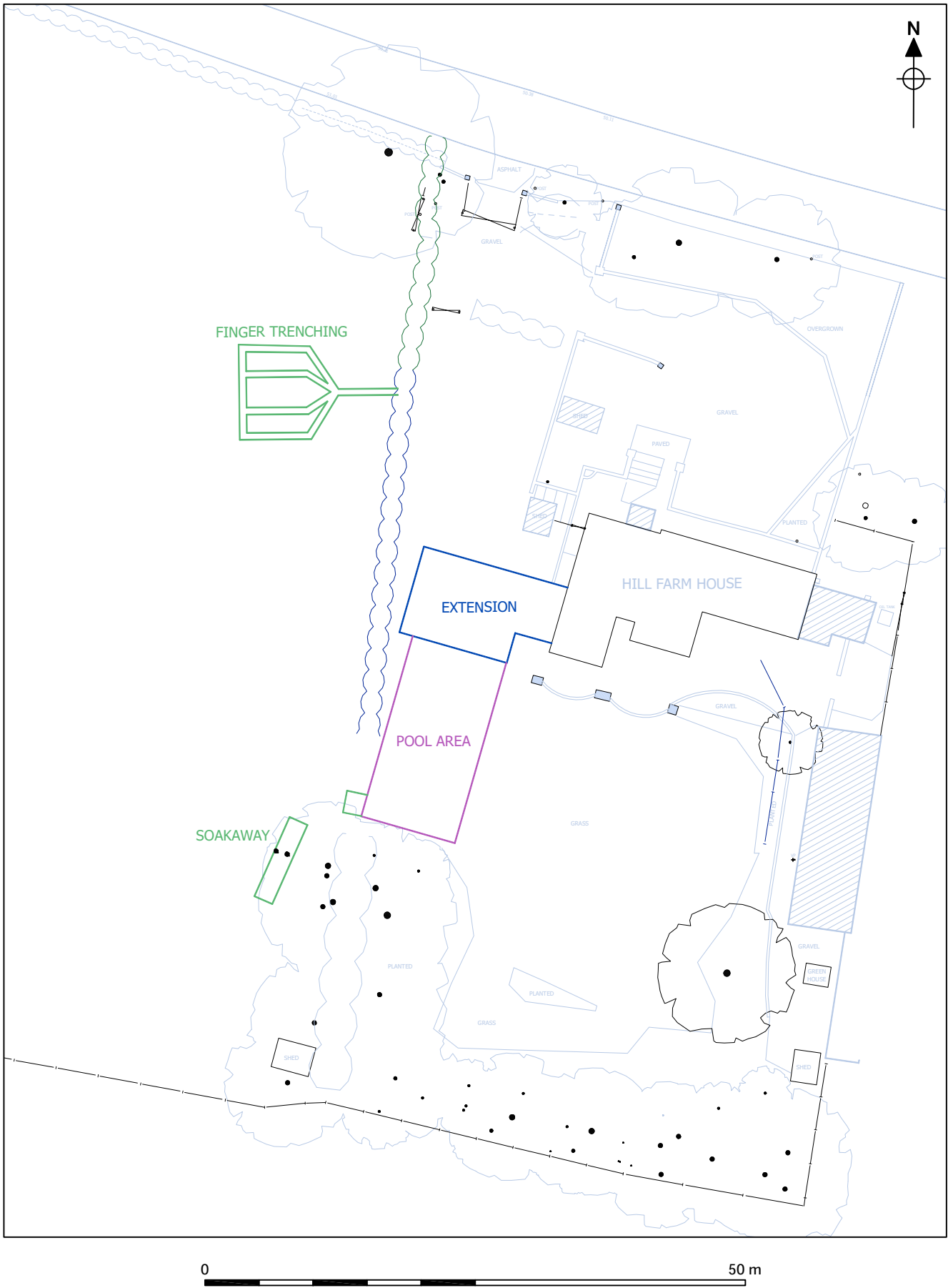


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:500

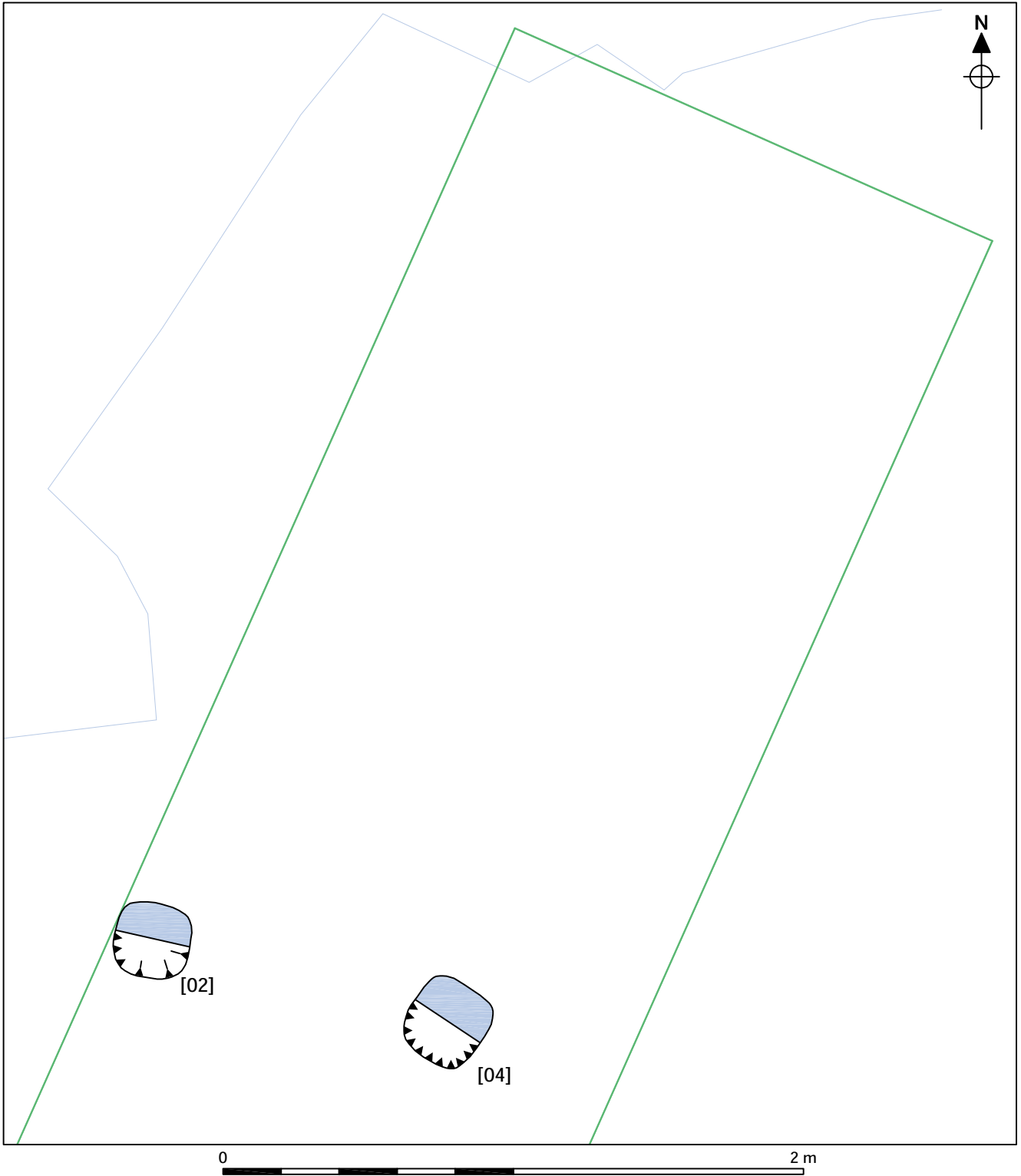


Figure 3. C19th Postholes revealed in the soakaway footprint. Scale 1:20

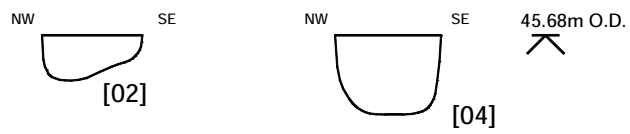


Figure 4. Section profiles of both postholes. Scale 1:20

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OASIS ID: norvicar1-190279

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring during the construction of a Hydrotherapy Pool at Hill Farm House, Roughton, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a Hydrotherapy Pool and side extension link at Hill Farm House, Thorpe Market Road, Roughton. The house is located in an area where cropmarks have been identified through aerial photography in fields to the north, where ditches and an enclosure have been identified along with a ring-ditch marking the possible site of a prehistoric barrow. The ditches and enclosures are currently suggested to be of medieval to post-medieval date (NHER 38553). The site is situated on fairly high ground overlooking the site of post-medieval water meadow to the south-east (NHER 38557), with the site of a possible ring-ditch (NHER 38653) at a similar contour on an area of high ground c. 650m to the south-east. An extensive area of cropmarks identified c. 300m to the south-east of the site has been tentatively interpreted as evidence for an Iron Age field system. No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered across the site during the works. The footprint of both the extension, connect and the hydrotherapy pool building were mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision and control to reveal natural geology below thin soils. In addition, a large soakway trench and the filter trenching for a new septic tank were excavated in the open field to the west of the house, which also proved to be clear of archaeologically significant deposits. Two postholes identified in the soakway trench can be matched to a 19th century fence line which formerly subdivided this area of the field.
Project dates	Start: 24-01-2014 End: 24-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2013/GE186 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF133461 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	PF/13/0675 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project

Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY BUCKLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	LEAD MUSKET BALLS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK ROUGHTON Hill Farm House, Thorpe Market Road, Roughton, Norfolk
Postcode	NR11 8TB
Study area	280.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 2285 3366 52.8537576211 1.31030820912 52 51 13 N 001 18 37 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Norvic Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Norvic Archaeology
Project director/manager	Giles Emery
Project supervisor	Giles Emery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Linden Myers LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NMAS
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	NMAS
Paper Contents	"Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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