Report 2697

nps group

nau archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation at The Canary Public House, Watling Road, Norwich, Norfolk

ENF 126457

Prepared for

Dove Jeffery Homes
Suite 11 Chalkwell Lawns
648-656 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 9HR

Suzanne Westall MA AIFA

June 2011

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Suzie Westall	17/05/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	25/05/2011
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	25/05/2011
Signed Off	Nigel Page	25/05/2011
Revision Completed	Jayne Bown	02/06/2011
Signed Off	David Whitmore	07/06/2011
Issue 3		

NAU Archaeology
Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150 F 01603 756190 E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk www.nau.org.uk

Contents

Figures

Plates

Tables

Location:	The Canary PH, Watling Road, Norwich, Norfolk
District:	Norwich
Grid Ref.:	TG 2568 1039
HER No.:	ENF 126457
OASIS Ref.:	101672
Client:	Dove Jeffery Homes Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	20 - 21 April 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Dove Jeffery Homes Ltd ahead of work to redevelop the site of the former Canary Public House at Watling Road, Norwich.

A large ditch crossing the eastern side of the site represent the remains of an old medieval or post-medieval boundary, noted on several late post-medieval maps, while a pit filled with pottery on the far western side of the site may have originally been the remains of a Roman kiln.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Dove Jeffery Homes at the site of the former Canary public house on Watling Road, Norwich in April 2011. The public house has been demolished and it is proposed to erect a number of private dwellings t in its place. The total area of the site is 0.473 hectares.

The evaluation work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Norwich City Council (Ref. 10/00339) and a Brief issued by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref. CNF42826). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2697/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Dove Jeffery Homes.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located in the suburbs to the north-east of Norwich, between Salhouse Road and Plumstead Road East. The natural soils in this area are typical brown earths: coarse loamy soils over sand; but these have largely been disturbed by city development. The solid geology beneath is Upper Chalk.

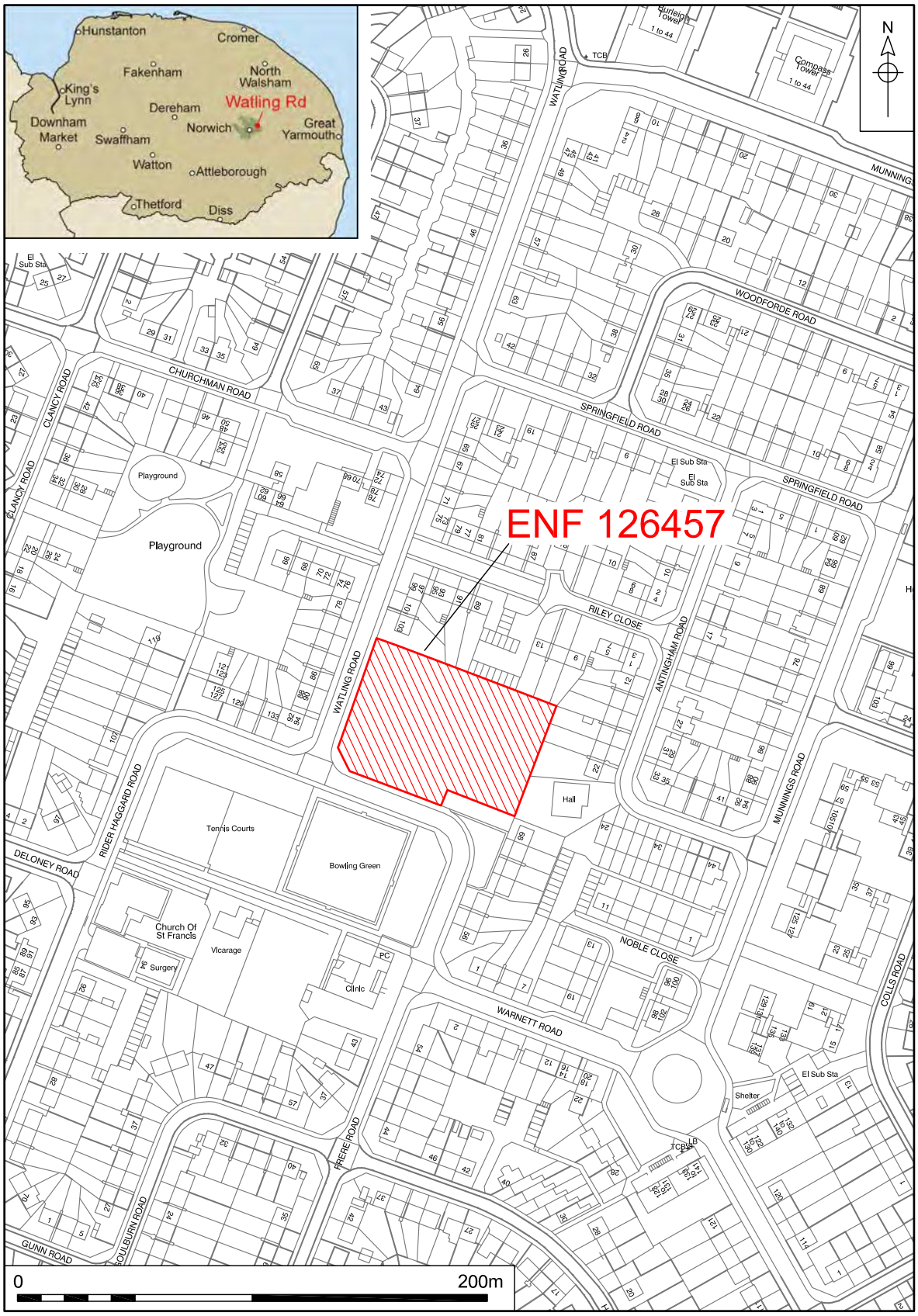

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

The site was excavated in extremely dry weather and the sandiness of the deposits indicates that it is likely to be well drained. It lies at a height of approximately 37m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Old maps and the Norfolk Historic Environment Records (NHER) were checked for any known sites of historic significance in this area. The following provides a summary of the data gathered from those sources.

In 1797 when Faden's map of Norfolk (Barringer 1989) was printed, the development site was located in part of Mousehold Heath, which covered an area of over 5,000 acres in size (NHER 53082). The Enclosure Acts of the early 1800s significantly reduced the size of the heath however and by 1838 only the area still preserved as common today survived within the city (NHER 53083).

A boundary line on Bryant's 1826 map of Norwich (Barringer 1998) runs from north-east to south-west across what is now the south-eastern side of the development site. This boundary is also shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of this area.

A map from 1929 (Landmark Historical Map 1:10,560) suggests that the current site once formed part of a Cavalry Drill Ground, and it lies adjacent to the site of the Mousehold Aerodrome (NHER 12415). An anti-aircraft battery was built on the site of the aerodrome during the Second World War (NHER 12415), and anti-landing trenches are recorded all across this area (NHER 51903).

From a more ancient archaeological perspective, the site lies immediately adjacent to, and may even overlie, a series of cropmarks identified from aerial photographs (NHER 51910). These are assumed to be medieval and/or post-medieval in date due to their location along the line of the parish boundary, as can be traced on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of this area. On a map of Mousehold Heath from 1585 this boundary is recorded as the route of a medieval road - the Ranworth Way (NHER 8166); but a note in the NHER states that no trace of this road has been found either on aerial photographs or on the ground. However a parish boundary ditch (or roadside ditch) was observed in 1979 in a gas pipe trench (NHER 8166).

In 1958 a late Roman copper alloy coin (NHER 11195) was recovered about 350m to the west of the site (undated cropmarks have been recorded 100m further west (NHER 51909)); more Roman coins may have been found 300m to the north-west of the site (NHER 8197) but the HER record is confusing and the two coin sites may be the same. Fragments of Roman pottery (representing three to four pots) (NHER 9630) were found around 480m to the south-east of the site in the 1950s, and another possible Roman coin was recovered from a site adjacent to that in 2009 (NHER 41906). A Roman road from Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew (NHER 7598) is thought to have run approx. 400-500m east of the development site. Although little evidence of the road itself has been found, Roman and Iron Age material has apparently been found in its vicinity.

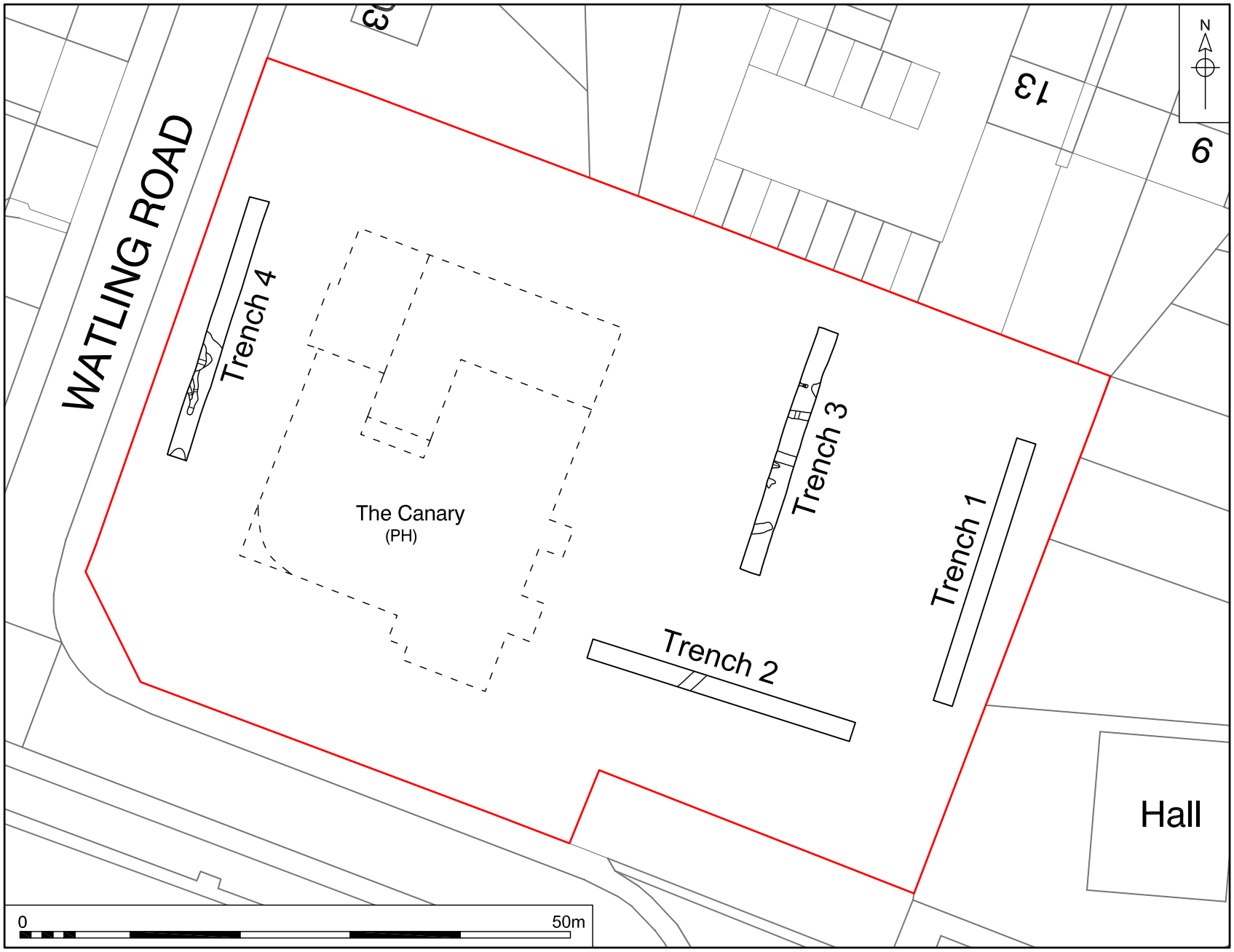

Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required 5% of the development area to be covered by trial trenching, focussing on the cropmark features and old parish boundary.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360˚ excavator with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate. Environmental samples were taken from a feature identified as Roman in Trench 4.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from a survey point marked as S103 in the pavement outside the entrance to the site. The value of this point is 37.636 OD.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in hot, dry weather.

Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north-east, 1m scale

5.0 RESULTS

Four trenches were opened across the site. A feature in Trench 3 and one in Trench 4 were initially identified as possible kilns, but after closer examination only the feature in Trench 4 proved to be a kiln.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-east corner of the site, running in a north-east to south-westerly direction (Fig. 2, Plate 1). It contained no archaeological features.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and oriented roughly south-east to north-west (Fig. 2, Plate 2). A large ditch crossed the trench in a north-east to south-westerly direction just to the east of its centre. This ditch was approx. 0.8m-1m wide and is likely to have been a former field boundary. It aligns perfectly with a field and parish boundary shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of this area and on Bryant's map of 1826 (Barringer 1998) and is thus likely to be of post-medieval date. The exposed fill of the ditch contained modern material (brick and glass) and was not investigated further.

Plate 2. Trench 2, north-west, 1m scale

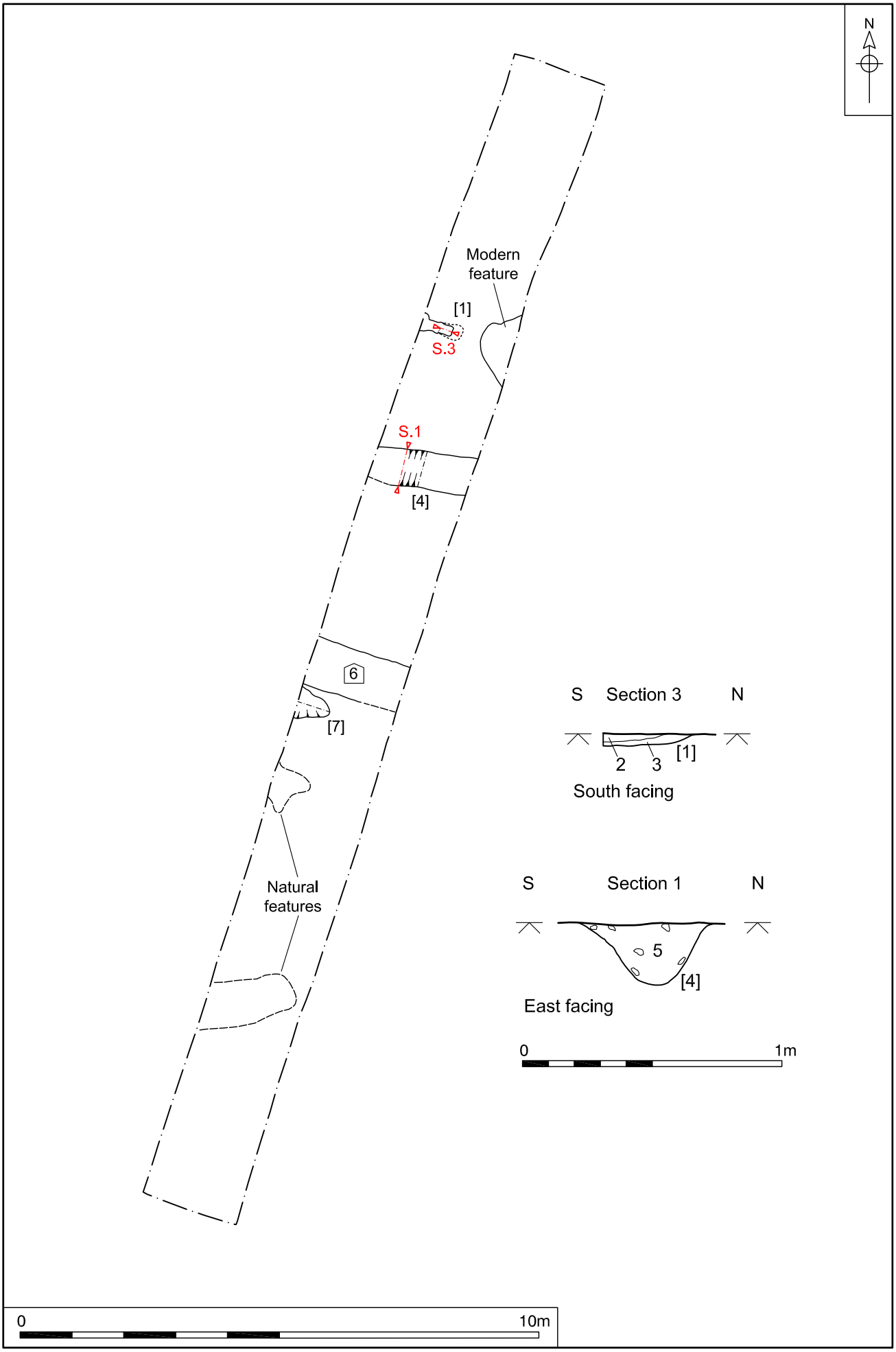

Figure 3. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:20

Trench 3

Trench 3 contained three potential archaeological features ([1], [5] and [7]) (Fig. 3, Plate 3), none of which yielded any finds.

Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north-east, 1m scale

Feature [1] (Fig. 3 section 3, Plate 4) located towards the north end of the trench was initially interpreted as part of a kiln. However, after further examination it proved to be very shallow and it is more likely that fills (2) and (3) represent a natural accumulation of iron pan and silt within a hollow.

A narrow ditch or gully [4] which crossed Trench 3 in an east-west direction measured 0.5m wide by 0.25m deep (Fig. 3 section 1, Plate 5) and contained a dark to mid-brown, soft sandy silt (5) with occasional flint.

A small, irregularly-shaped pit [7] measuring 0.6m wide, proved to be only 0.08m deep and was interpreted as a natural feature – like feature [1] formed of silt within a hollow.

The remains of a modern flint and mortar wall [6] crossed the centre of Trench 3 in a roughly south-east to north-westerly direction. This may have originally formed part of the public house that had stood on this site prior to the construction of The Canary but which is reported to have burned down. Fragments of charcoal were found around the wall.

Plate 4. Feature [1] in Trench 3, 1m scale

Plate 5. Gully [4] in Trench 3, 1m scale

Trench 4

In Trench 4 the clean, natural sand was found to be at a much deeper level than in the previously examined trenches and was overlain by both a thick layer of dark brown silt (13) containing a few sherds of pottery and a thinner layer of pale grey-brown silt (12) containing a greater number of pottery sherds (Fig. 4 section 5, Plate 6). These layers were only removed in the south-western half of the trench due to the presence of a utility pipe in the north-eastern half.

Plate 6. Trench 4 looking north-east, 1m scale

Within the trench where layer (13) was removed, a narrow linear pit-like feature ([9]) was exposed (Fig. 4, Plate 7) which is thought to be a kiln of Roman date. The main fill of the feature, deposit (10), was a dark brown-grey, slightly sandy, soft silt containing large amounts of pottery; beneath this was a thin and unevenly deposited layer of charcoal-rich, black silt (11) (Fig. 4 section 4, Plate 8) from which a few more sherds of pottery were recovered. The sides of the feature were reddened, suggesting that deposit (11) had been burnt *in situ*. It had not been lined with clay and no superstructure or kiln furniture was apparent.

The full length of the feature could not be ascertained as it appeared to 'trail off' into an amorphous feature which perhaps formed a flue ([14]). Kiln [9] measured between 1.7m and 2m long and was 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep, with almost vertical sides and a flattish base (Fig. 4 section 4, Plate 9).

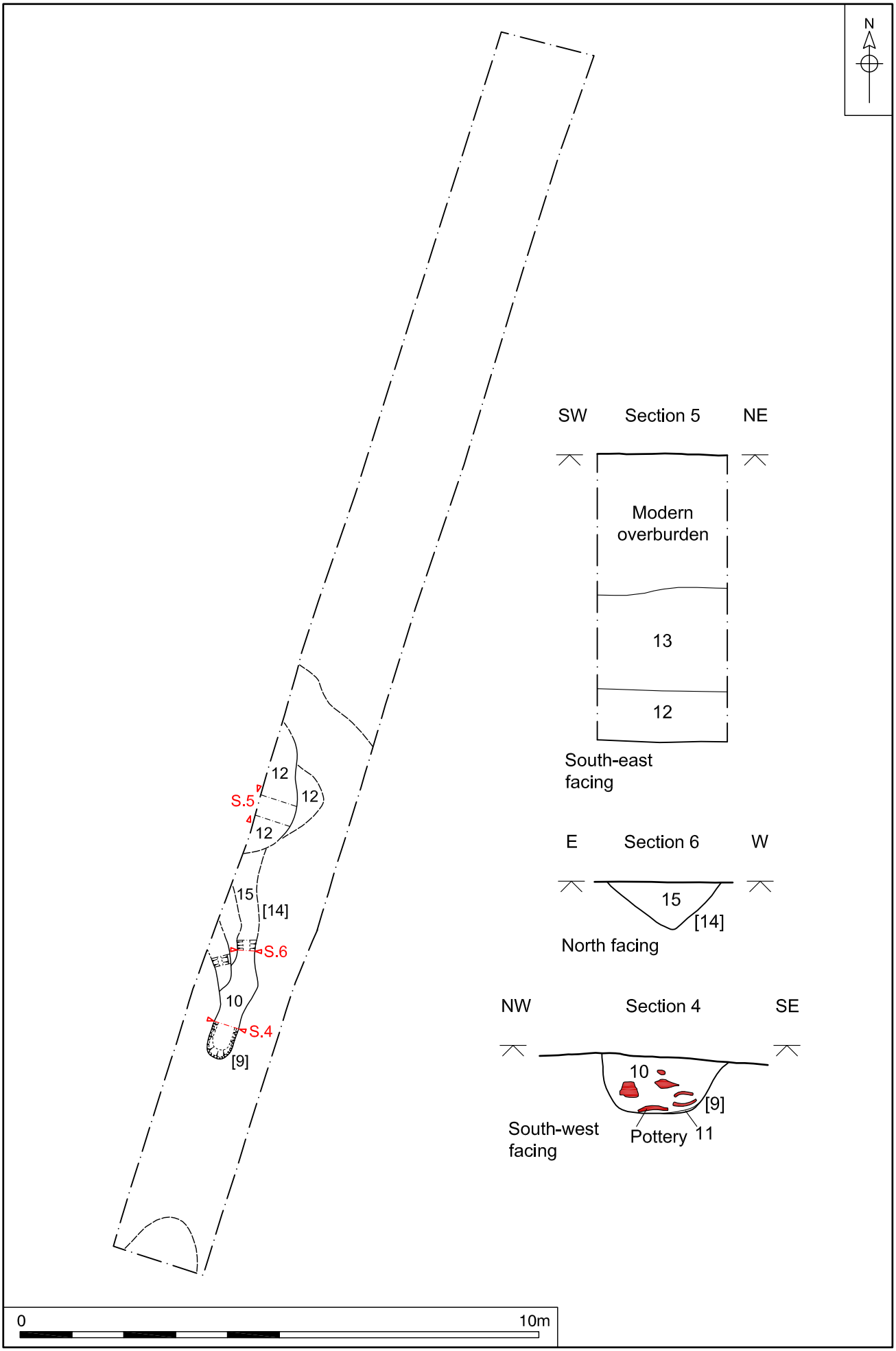

Figure 4. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:20

Possible flue [14] appeared to be v-shaped in profile, with a depth of about 0.18m (Fig. 4 section 6) however it is worth noting that the fill (15) was not markedly different in appearance or texture to the natural deposits it was cut through and iron panning was present at the base of the feature; the sides of the feature were not clearly defined either. It may be that feature [14] was not part of the kiln but a natural feature – either of geological origin or caused by root activity.

A second linear feature of similar width (0.35m) and appearance to feature [14] and which also lead off from the kiln was only 0.06m deep and was interpreted as non-archaeological.

No further archaeological features were identified.

Plate 7. Pit/Kiln [9] before excavation looking north-east, 1m scale

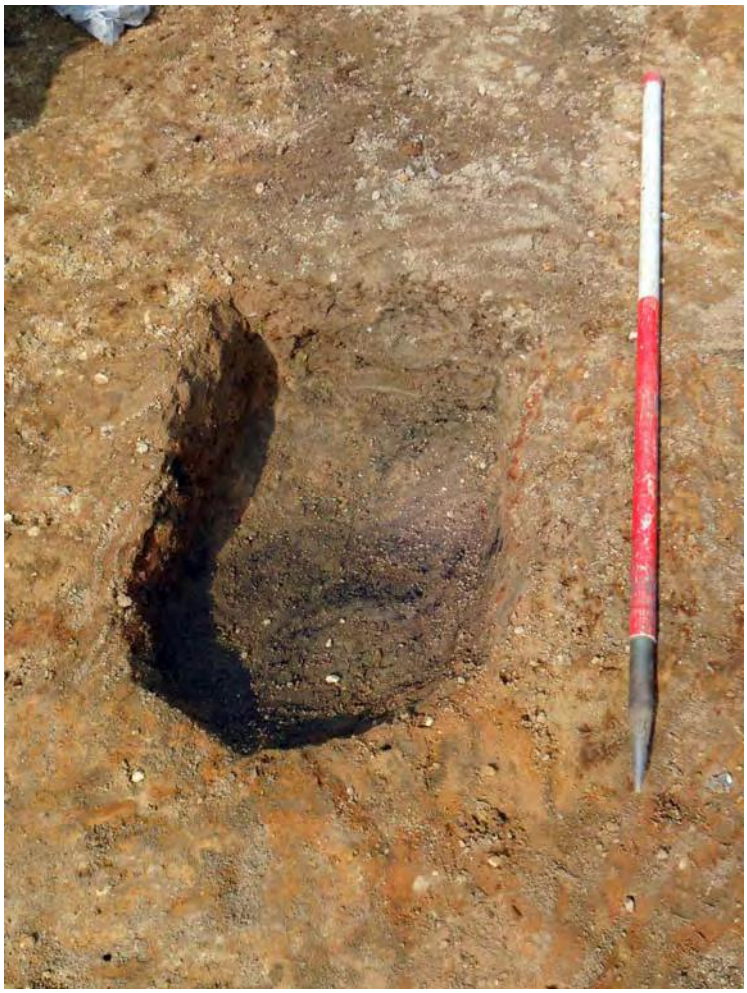

Plate 8. Pit/Kiln [9] mid-excavation, showing burnt deposit (11), 1m scale

Plate 9. Pit/Kiln [9] after excavation, 1m scale

6.0 THE FINDS

All finds recovered during the evaluation can be found in Appendix 2a, listed by context and described in more detail below (ordered by material).

6.1 The Roman Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

Evaluation excavations recovered a total of 267 sherds (2,768g) of early Roman pottery. The pottery was entirely contained in kiln [9] and deposits in Trench 4, with all sherds occurring in fabrics that were produced in the kiln. The kiln appears to be producing variants of platters, bowls and jars that suggest a date between *c*.AD60 to AD80/90 (Neronian to Flavian). The range of products and chronology is closely comparable to the kiln excavated in 1938-43 at Pound Lane, Thorpe St Andrew (Gregory 1979) *c*.2km to the south-east. The pottery is also similar to products of contemporary kilns at Caistor St. Edmund, Postwick, Spong Hill and Brampton.

6.1.1 Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and R.EVE (Rim Estimated Vessel Equivalent (where the minimum number of vessels is calculated based on the number of rim sherds in the assemblage)). Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and assigned a code from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), or assigned an alpha-numeric code based on this system. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

6.1.2 Fabric Descriptions

Based on the firing conditions and condition of the exterior surfaces of the available sherds, it has been possible to distinguish four fabrics (described below; Table 1), although when examined microscopically they all exhibit the same suite of petrological inclusions. The intended product of the early Roman potters at this kiln appears to have been a relatively smooth reduced (grey) ware, with or without a thin white slip. The kiln at Pound Lane, Thorpe St. Andrew produced a reduced grey ware fabric closely comparable to GRS1a (Gregory 1979, 205: fabric A). The earliest kilns, ranging from the mid 1st to early 2nd centuries AD at Postwick, Spong Hill, Brampton, Lyng and Upper Sheringham all appear to be firing reduced grey wares (Lyons 2003, 45; Gurney 1995, 104), although only at Brampton do slipped grey wares occur in kiln deposits (i.e. Green 1977, 65: vessel 21). Oxidised fabrics, including at Postwick a white-slipped variant (Lyons 2003, 45: RedCC) also occur from these kilns and are presumed under-fired or misfired. At Spong Hill it was noted that the (misfired) oxidised fabrics were twice as common in the kiln deposits as elsewhere on the site (Gurney 1995, 104).

GRS1a Sandy grey ware 1a (Kiln Product). Surfaces range from pale to mid grey but are consistently one shade, fading to a core that is slightly darker. Inclusions comprise common fine sub-rounded/sub-angular quartz (<0.1mm), sparse quartz and iron ore/iron rich grains (0.1-0.25mm, occasionally larger), and sparse-common fine mica. The fabric is moderately hard with a powdery feel.

GRS1b Sandy grey ware 1b (Kiln Product), as GRS1a but with a thin white slip that exhibits fine turning marks (possible burnishing)

OXS1a Sandy oxidised ware 1a (Kiln Product). As GRS1 but with pale orange surfaces fading to an orange-red core. Probably misfired GRS1 rather than an intentional fabric.

OXS1b Sandy oxidised ware 1b (Kiln Product), as OXS1a but with a thin white slip that exhibits fine turning marks (possible burnishing), slip often appears on OXS1b as slightly metallic (over-fired)

Fabric Type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
GRS1a	200	1944	0.30
GRS1b	25	393	0.52
OXS1a	27	257	0.50
OXS1b	15	174	0.40
Total	*267*	*2768*	*1.72*

Table 1: Quantification of Roman fabric types

6.1.3 Distribution

Kiln [9] (10) contained a total of 246 sherds (2708g) of pottery including all the diagnostic rim and basal sherds in the assemblage. Further small body sherds were contained in kiln [9] (11) and silty layer (12). All these features were recorded in Trench 4 of the evaluation excavation.

6.1.4 The products of kiln [9]

A minimum number of 12 vessels were recorded in Kiln [9] (10), comprising a limited range of platters, bowls and jars (Table 2). It is highly likely that the total number of actual vessels represented, particularly in GRS1a, may be significantly greater. The apparent high frequency of GRS1a may also indicate that some of these sherds were GRS1b but that surface abrasion caused by over-firing or misfiring has removed all traces of the intended slipped finish.

Vessel Type	Fabrics	MNV	R.EVE
Platter	GRS1a & GRS1b	4	0.37
Bowl	OXS1a	1	0.30
Beaker/bowl	GRS1a & OXS1a	3	0.00
Jar/S-shaped bowl	All fabrics	4	1.05
Total		*12*	*1.72*

Table 2: The vessel types in Kiln [9] (10) and the fabrics they occur in, quantified by minimum number of vessels (MNV) and Rim Estimated Vessel Equivalent (R.EVE)

The four platters from kiln [9] (10) appear to represent a single form type, which has a slightly everted plain rim, a foot ring base, and an internal offset and external moulding at the junction of the base and wall. Of all the form types from kiln [9] (10), the platters appear to be particularly finely tooled, producing a smooth finish and a sharp regular profile. Closely comparable types of platter were produced in the kilns at Thorpe St. Andrew dated to c.AD43 to AD70 (Gregory 1979, 204: fig.2.2-3), and at Spong Hill dated to *c*.AD60 to AD80/90 (Gurney 1995, 106: fig.115.40). A comparable platter was also recorded in sandy grey ware at Postwick, where it was common but not produced in the recorded kilns (Lyons 2003, 46: fig.27.6.22).

The single open bowl in the assemblage comprises a reed-rimmed type with a slightly rounded body exhibiting a faint groove. This example has a patchy orange

and black finish (OXS1a) and has clearly been misfired. Comparable types were produced in the late 1st to early 2nd century kilns at Brampton (Green 1977, 64: fig.27.31) and are common at Caistor St. Edmund (Atkinson 1937, 224: type V5) and Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999: type Cam.244, fig.6.60.194-5).

Kiln [9] (10) includes three vessels that may be categorised as jars, small beakers or possibly bowls with zones of rouletted decoration on their bodies. These vessels are only represented by basal and lower body sherds, however, limiting conclusions on their true form type. Comparable sherds from bowls and possibly butt beakers have been recorded in the kiln at Thorpe St. Andrew (Gregory 1979, 204: figs.2.4 & 2.10) but also lack any diagnostic rim sherds.

The remaining vessels contained in kiln [9] (10) may be categorised as jars or S-shaped depending on the proportions of their complete profiles, which are not extant. Two of these vessels exhibit plain everted rims and plain shoulder cordons, comparable to types produced at Thorpe St. Andrew (Gregory 1979, 204: fig.2.22) and Caistor St. Edmund (Atkinson 1935, 217: S12). One rim and cordon is almost certainly part of the same vessel as a base although the two do not cross-join. Further types of jars or S-shaped bowls from kiln [9] (10) include variants with a short everted rim comparable to types produced at Spong Hill (Gurney 1995, 105: fig.114.25), or with a plain shouldered body comparable to types from the kiln at Thorpe St. Andrew (Gregory 1979, 204: fig.2.20).

6.1.5 Conclusions

The range of fabrics and forms recorded in kiln [9] (10) demonstrate a clear correlation with the early Roman kiln recorded *c.*2km to the south-east at Thorpe St. Andrew. Based on the form types present, this kiln appears to have been operational in *c.*AD60 to AD80/90 (Neronian to Flavian), indicating that it was contemporary with or immediately succeeded the kiln at Thorpe St. Andrew. The platters from the kiln indicate a very high standard of skill and quality in the production of finer coarse wares, while the remaining bowls and jars appear to represent more utilitarian coarse ware form types. The fabrics and forms also demonstrate that the potters firing this kiln were part of a ceramic tradition that extended across much of Norfolk, with most kilns producing sandy grey wares that were probably marketed locally and at nearby small urban centres, rather than for wider export.

Within this ceramic tradition, this kiln and those at Thorpe St. Andrew and Postwick may have formed a dispersed pottery industry that existed to the north-east of Roman Caistor St Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*). Such an industry may have been heavily influenced by the larger industries that existed at Brampton or Caistor St. Edmund, or may represent local off-shoots from these industries. Kilns rarely exist in isolation, with three kilns recorded in close proximity at Postwick (Lyons 2003), and further investigation following on from this evaluation may have the potential to expand on our understanding of the extent and character of pottery production on this site and in the local area. Roman towns such as Caistor St Edmund would have supported industries, including pottery production, on a substantial scale, both locally and in their hinterland, and within Norfolk the scope of pottery production maintains a high potential for future research (Going 1997, 40).

6.2 The Fired Clay

by Andrew Peachey

A single fragment (204g) of fired clay was recovered from kiln [9] (10), with slight surface abrasion as a result of the firing process. The fabric of the fired clay exhibits thin oxidised, pale orange-brown surfaces and a reduced pale-mid grey core, with inclusions of sparse quartz and iron rich grains (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally to 1mm), and sparse burnt out or charred organics, probably chaff or grass (0.5-3mm).

The shape and function of the fired clay is unclear with a single extant surface exhibiting a crudely-formed, right angled ledge *c*.20mm wide and deep. This suggests that the fired clay probably formed part of the superstructure (lining) of the kiln, with the ledge incorporated to support portable kiln furniture such as kiln bars or plates, or a perforated clay chamber floor (Swan 1984, 31). A 'fire-bar' or kiln bar that would have formed part of such a structure was recovered from the flue of the kiln located at Thorpe St. Andrew *c*.2km to the south-east (Gregory 1979, 202). Alternatively, it is possible that the ledge represents part of an internal hole through a large kiln bar, from when the object was formed around a stick (Swan 1984, 62), but the lack of any external surfaces or shape suggests this is unlikely.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the basal fill (context [11]) and main fill (context [10]) of kiln [9] of Roman date, and two were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds were present within both assemblages.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Results

The recovered assemblages were relatively large at 0.4 and 0.8 litres in volume. Both were almost entirely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, many of which appeared rounded and abraded, possibly suggesting that they had been exposed for some time prior to burial. The assemblage from Sample <2> also included a small number of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases. Other remains were scarce, although both assemblages contained mineralised soil/silt concretions, with many of the plant remains within Sample <1> being especially heavily coated.

7.1.3 Conclusions

In summary, given the context, it is, perhaps, most likely that both assemblages are derived from fuels used during the final firing of the kiln. If this is the case, it would appear that wood/charcoal were the principal fuels used, possibly indicating that the kiln had an industrial function, which required high temperatures of combustion. The grains and chaff within Sample <2> are possibly derived from the use of cereal processing waste as kindling.

Although the current assemblages are somewhat limited in composition, both clearly illustrate that well-preserved plant macrofossils are present within the archaeological horizon at Watling Road. As evidence for Roman activity within the Norwich area is still relatively limited, it is strongly recommended that if further interventions are planned, additional plant macrofossil samples of 20–40 litres in volume be taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts which are recorded during excavation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The main focus of interest appears to be at the western side of the site, where the natural, undisturbed sand was at a much deeper level and was overlain by a thick layer of brown silt. This silt may itself be an archaeological deposit, possibly an old ploughsoil, through which potsherds have been distributed from lower layers and features by subsequent agricultural activity. It has served to protect archaeological remains in this part of the site as evidenced by the Roman kiln identified within Trench 4. The 'protective' silt was not apparent in the eastern half of the site where Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were located. This deposit and deposits below it had also been effectively destroyed in the area of The Canary Pub itself which occupied much of the western half of the development area (Fig. 1). The pub measured *c.*25m x 70m, was cellared and positioned seven metres to the east of Trench 4.

The kiln recorded in Trench 4 contained no internal structure or kiln fabric but appeared to be formed of an elongated pit filled with large amounts of potsherds and evidence of high temperatures. Reddish colouring around the edges of the feature and a charcoal layer in the base support the interpretation of this feature as a kiln, as does the environmental evidence gleaned from the two fills. Both samples were almost entirely composed of charcoal and/or charred wood fragments suggesting that they derived from fuels used during the firing of the kiln. It is suggested that the presence of charred grains and chaff within the deposit (11) at the base of the feature may have derived from the use of cereal processing waste being used as kindling. The presence of spelt wheat is consistent with the Roman date attributed to the feature from the pottery it contained.

The condition of the charcoal within the deposits indicates exposure to the elements and it seems likely that, following the last firing, the kiln was left open and abandoned. The lack of any kiln furniture (e.g. clay firing bars and superstructure) suggests that this had been removed – perhaps to be utilised elsewhere – prior to the kiln being backfilled with waste material from earlier firings. An alternative but less likely suggestion is that this was not the kiln itself but a separate feature which had been backfilled with hot ashes and waste material from a nearby kiln. The apparently misfired nature of many the potsherds, the surface condition of the sherds, and the homogeneity of the forms and fabrics

(and absence of anything else,) certainly suggest that this material came directly from a kiln.

The pottery assemblage places the use of the kiln within a relatively tight date range between *c.*AD60 and AD80/90, and the feature is considered to be a very interesting and locally/regionally important find. It is reasonable to surmise that other Roman features may well be present within the vicinity.

It seems likely that the large ditch recorded in Trench 2 marks the line of the parish boundary as shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of this area and Bryant's map of 1826. However there was no evidence of the medieval road known as Ranworth Way and the stratigraphy in the eastern half of the site, where the modern, stony overburden lies directly on the natural sand with no buffer of subsoil in between, suggests that landscaping may already have taken place here. The likelihood of archaeological features surviving in the eastern part of the site is low and those that may survive to the west outside Trench 1 are most likely confined to the western limit of the development area.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

Field work was carried out by Nigel Page, Suzanne Westall and Michelle Bull.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot and analysed and reported upon by Andrew Peachey. Environmental samples were processed and assessed by Robert Fryer and Val Fryer of Church Farm, Loddon.

The report was edited by Jayne Bown and illustrated and produced by David Dobson.

Bibliography

Ashwin, T. and Davison, A. (eds)	2005	*An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*. Chichester, Phillimore.
Atkinson, D.	1937	'Roman Pottery from Caistor-next-Norwich,' *Norfolk Archaeology* 26, 197-230
Barringer, J.C.	1989	*Faden's Map of Norfolk*, Larks Press, Dereham
Barringer, J.C.	1998	*Bryant's Map of Norfolk in 1826*, Larks Press, Dereham
Going, C.	1997	'Roman' in Glazebook, J (ed) Research and Archaeology; a framework for the eastern counties. 1; resource assessment. East Anglian Occasional Papers 3, 35-58
Green, C.	1977	'Excavations in the Roman Kiln Field at Brampton, 1973-4,' *East Anglian Archaeology* 5, 31-96
Gregory, T.	1979	'Early Romano-British Pottery Production at Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich' in *Norfolk Archaeology* 37 (pt II), 202-207
Gurney, D.	1995	'The Other Pottery' in Rickett, R. '*The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VII: The Iron Age: Roman and Early Saxon Settlement*,' East Anglian Archaeology 73, 100-126
Lyons, A.	2003	'Roman Pottery' in Bates, S. & Lyons, A. *The Excavation of Romano-British Pottery Kilns at Ellingham, Postwick and Two Mile Bottom, Norfolk, 1995-7.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 13, 45-51
Stace, C.	1997	*New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press
Swan, V.	1984	*The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Supplementary Series 5*
Symonds, R. & Wade, S.	1999	*Roman Pottery from Excavations in Colchester, 1971-86*; Colchester Arch. Rep. 10
Tomber, R. & Dore, J.	1998	*The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*. Museum of London, London
Webster, P	1996	*Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Cut		Possible kiln or natural feature	Uncertain
2	Deposit	1	Fill of [1]	Uncertain
3	Deposit	1	Silt layer in base of [1]	Uncertain
4	Cut		E-W ditch/gully	?post-medieval
5	Deposit	4	Fill of ditch/gully [4]	?post-medieval
6	Masonry		Modern wall/footings	Uncertain
7	Cut		Possible small pit	Uncertain
8	Deposit	7	Fill of poss. small pit	Uncertain
9	Cut		Kiln	Roman
10	Deposit	9	Upper, main fill of kiln [9]	Roman
11	Deposit	9	Burnt layer at base of [9]	Roman
12	Deposit		Pale, soft, silty layer	Uncertain
13	Deposit		Dark brown silt layer	Uncertain
14	Cut		Possible flue for kiln [9]?	Uncertain
15	Deposit	14	Fill of possible flue for kiln [9]	Uncertain

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Roman	Kiln	1
Post-medieval?	Ditch	1
Uncertain	Ditch	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
10	Pottery	246	2,708g	Roman
10	Fired Clay	1	204g	Unknown
11	Pottery	3	6g	Roman
12	Pottery	18	55g	Roman

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Roman	Pottery	267
Unknown	Fired Clay	1

Appendix 3: Plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	**1**	**2**
Context No.	**10**	**11**
Plant macrofossils		
Triticum sp. (grains)		x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)		x
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	xx
Charcoal >10mm		x
Charred root/stem		x
Other remains		
Burnt stone frags.	x	x
Mineralised soil concretions	xxx	x
Small coal frag.	x	
Sample volume (litres)	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres	**0.4**	**0.8**
% flot sorted	**25%**	**12.5%**

Key to Table

x = 1–10 specimens xx = 11–50 specimens xxx = 51–100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens