Report 2013/1274

nps archaeology

Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation at Hall Farm, Bungay Road, Tasburgh, Norfolk

ENF132524

Prepared for
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Contents

Figs

Plates

Tables

Location:	Hall Farm, Tasburgh
District:	South Norfolk
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Summary

An archaeological excavation was conducted for Small Fish ahead of the construction of a Dutch barn at Hall Farm, Tasburgh in Norfolk.

Due to the presence of several historic sites within 300m of the development, including probable Bronze Age round barrows, this work necessitated that the footprint of the new barn be fully excavated.

A total of seven pits were observed, excavated and recorded within the footprint of the barn. A cluster of three of the pits located at the southern edge of the site is likely to be Neolithic-Bronze Age in date. The findings link with the known prehistoric activity to the south-west of the farm and support the idea that the Tas valley was particularly attractive in the Neolithic and Bronze Age due to its well-draining soils and access to water.

Two of the pits are likely to be recent in date and a further two were undated.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A strip map and sample excavation was required on the footprint of a new Dutch barn on land to the south of Hall Farm, Tasburgh (Fig. 1). The footprint measured 24m east to west by 17m north to south. The presence of a number of cropmarks, including Bronze Age round barrows to the south-west of the barn's location required this particular level of archaeological intervention.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by South Norfolk District Council (Pre-planning). The project was undertaken by NPS Archaeology in line with guidance issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES), though no formal brief was written. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. PD ref Reference No: 01-04-14-2-1274). This work was commissioned by Small Fish and funded by Sarah Barnes of Hall Farm, Tasburgh.

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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

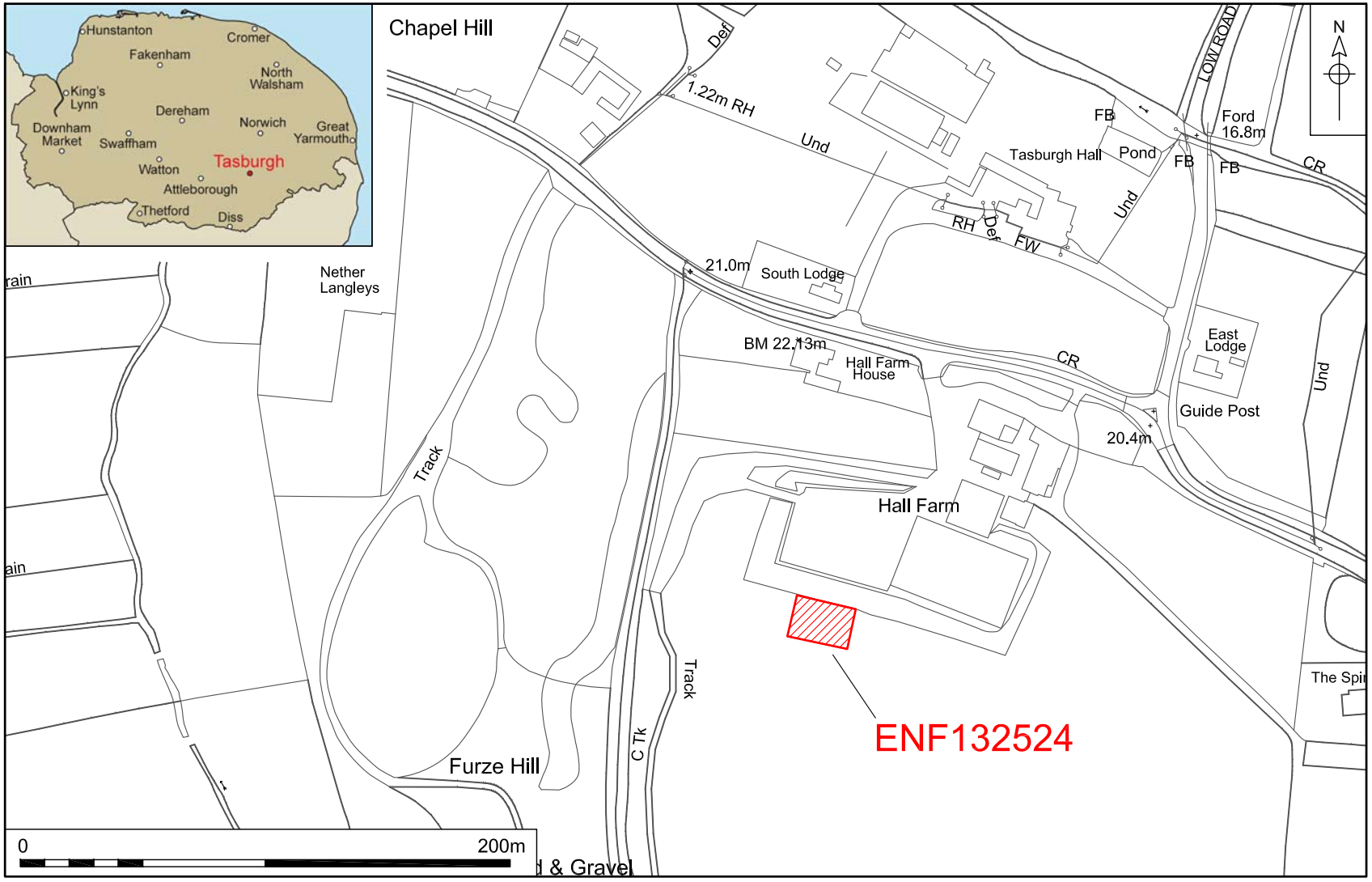

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

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

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying solid geology is Cretaceous Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver Chalk Formations. The superficial deposits are sand and gravel (Lowestoft Formation) formed in the Quaternary Period (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)

The site specific topsoil was loose mid grey sandy silt with moderate to frequent flint gravel. It ranged in thickness between 0.40m to 0.50m. There was no definite subsoil across the site although there was a 'zone' of mixing between the topsoil and natural where there was frequent gravel present. The natural sand and gravel was very loose and light yellowish brown in colour.

The site slopes downwards from around 31.40m OD in the south to 30.70m OD at its northern edge, with the angle of slope increasing slightly towards the north. There appeared to be a slight flattening towards the southern edge of the site which could be described as the edge of a terrace. The excavated footprint lay just to the south of a steep artificial slope, created as land was excavated for the creation of previous barns at the farm.

The River Tas runs through the area, several hundred metres to the north and there is a small stream between the farm and Parkes Lane to the west. The underlying loose gravel natural meant that drainage is very good.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following information is based largely on information held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and has been used in conjunction with in *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* (Ashwin and Davison 2005) and other relevant archaeological reports.

It has been noted by many archaeological commentators that the river valleys to the south of Norwich such as those of the Yare and Tas were considerably exploited in the earlier periods of settlement in the region. Early inhabitants of this landscape were certainly attracted by the well-draining soils often above sands and gravels, and in all likelihood by the proximity to a good supply of water. Activity focused on confluences of river valleys and seems to take on a more ritual tone, for example several miles to the north, there is the location of Arminghall henge (henges are a rarity in Norfolk).

In *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* it is stated that 'Neolithic communities seem to have preferred Norfolk's light soils and well-drained river valley tracts, rather than the heavily wooded central claylands, although these were probably occupied to some extent and also exploited for hunting and foraging (Ashwin 2005a,17)

For the earlier prehistoric period, activity has been evidenced largely as 'background noise' derived from the presence of unstratified artefactual material found as part of field walking or chance discoveries. There have only been a small number of finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date, and those not close or relevant to the current site.

The most important NHER entry for the current project is the presence of site NHER16838 around 100m to the south-west of the barn where there are at least three ring ditches of probable Bronze Age date with possible associated ditches observed as crop marks. Such monuments are relatively numerous in Norfolk (Ashwin 2005b and 2005c) and their topographical setting, favouring the slopes that overlook the River valley, is fairly typical. Several appear to have lain along the sides of the valley in question and it is more than possible that these were once part of a larger group of monuments. This collection of monuments appears to have been a focus for later activity, and metal detecting projects have unearthed a range of multi-period finds including prehistoric flints, an Iron Age terret, Roman coins, Early Saxon brooches, an Early Saxon girdle hanger, a Late Saxon brooch and pottery, medieval coins, pottery and metal finds, and post-medieval coins and metal finds.

The area continued to be exploited into the Iron Age for the same reasons that earlier peoples had been brought to the Tas valley, though the focus in the area at this time appeared to be located at site NHER 2258, around 500m north of the present site at the Iron Age hillfort (which is a scheduled monument). The fort is recorded as having a single 3m high rampart and enclosed an area of about 20 acres. Such a large defensive area became attractive in later periods and excavations in the 19th century have revealed large amounts of Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery. The Late Saxon fortifications found at the site appear to confirm that this was a ‘burgh’ at this time which probably gave its name to the settlement at Tasburgh.

There have been a reasonably large amount of Roman remains found in the vicinity of Tasburgh - although often found as stray finds and not very close to the current site. These finds are most likely a result of major Roman road (the Pye Road NHER 7947) running through the parish. This road partially follows the line of the current A140, south from the town of *Venta Icenorum* at Caistor St Edmund to the Roman small town at Scole (Gurney 2005). The distribution of Roman finds either side of the Pye Road also seemed to focus on the River Tas (Watkins 2008).

More specific Roman activity (NHER 9976) lay around 300m to the north-west of the current site. The finds here included pottery of Roman date including amphora fragments and metalwork of Roman date. Later medieval finds were also found here, possibly focused on the site of a medieval chapel. A survey in 1997 recorded various earthwork features and the site is now preserved under pasture.

There have been several stray finds of medieval date found in the vicinity of the site. These included two copper alloy objects found whilst metal detecting, whose purpose remains unknown (NHER 34384)

Immediately to the west of site NHER 9976 is NHER 9977 which records the site of St Michael's Chapel. There is some doubt as to which hill this chapel was located on, as the finding of flint building material and a number of building platforms with drainage ditches seems to suggest this hill top had some elements of domestic settlement. As previously mentioned, site NHER 9976 may have been the chapel location.

There are several historic properties recorded for the village of Tasburgh, though they are not relevant for the present work as Hall Farm itself lies reasonably far from the centre of the village.

NHER 12555 records the presence of a post-medieval lime kiln. The structure has a large tunnel and brick barrel vault with arched lime chutes and is a currently designated bat roost.

The site at NHER 18272 states that field-walking was undertaken in 1982, when sherds of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered north-east of Grove Cottage.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this strip map and sample excavation 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 footprint of the Dutch barn to be constructed at he site.

The NHES stipulation required that the entire footprint of the new barn be excavated so that any features could be excavated and preserved by record.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator (a French-built Manitou) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision (Plate 1). The machine was operated by Arran Barnes and supplied by the farm.

Plate 1. Machining looking north-east

The machining of the site was made difficult by the loose character of the natural sand and gravel. As the site was machine-excavated from east to west ‘against’ the angle of slope, the lowest part of the slope had to be machined in such a way so that a ledge was left where the natural was taken down to a slightly lower level, to thoroughly check for archaeological features (Plates 2 and 3).

As prehistoric features in particular can often be pale and difficult to find, the footprint of the barn was cleaned with hoes after machining, in order to more fully check for their presence.

Plate 2. The site looking north-east

Plate 3. The site looking north-west

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

Environmental samples were taken from two well sealed and dated contexts ([5] and [12]).

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Known heights above sea level used during the course of this work were transferred from Topographical Survey belonging to Hall Farm. A benchmark with a value of 31.44m OD was created and located adjacent to the site strip.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine and warm weather.

5.0 RESULTS

Features were loosely concentrated on the south and west sides of the site with a single pit ([24]) on the northern side of the barn's footprint.

A large pit ([10]) was observed to partly extend beyond the southern limit of the excavation (Figs 2 and 3 section 2, Plates 4 and 5). It measured at least 2.0m north to south in extent and had a width of 2.0m. The pit had a roughly oval shape in plan and its recorded depth was 1.54m. The sides sloped gently and the top but towards the centre the angle of the sides became steeper to a rounded base.

Plate 4. Pit [10], looking west

There were seven discernable fills within the pit (deposits [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8] and [9]) which are discussed below, starting with the earliest.

Deposit [9] was confined to the central and deepest part of the feature. It was 0.30m deep and consisted of dark orange brown silty sand with frequent flints which was probably the result of natural slippage into the base of the feature, possibly soon after it was originally excavated. Layer [8] appeared to be the next deposit, which had built up on the edges of the cut on its south eastern side. It was composed of mixed light brown and orange sand, essentially a 'dirty' natural which had probably built up through natural processes and down one side. It was

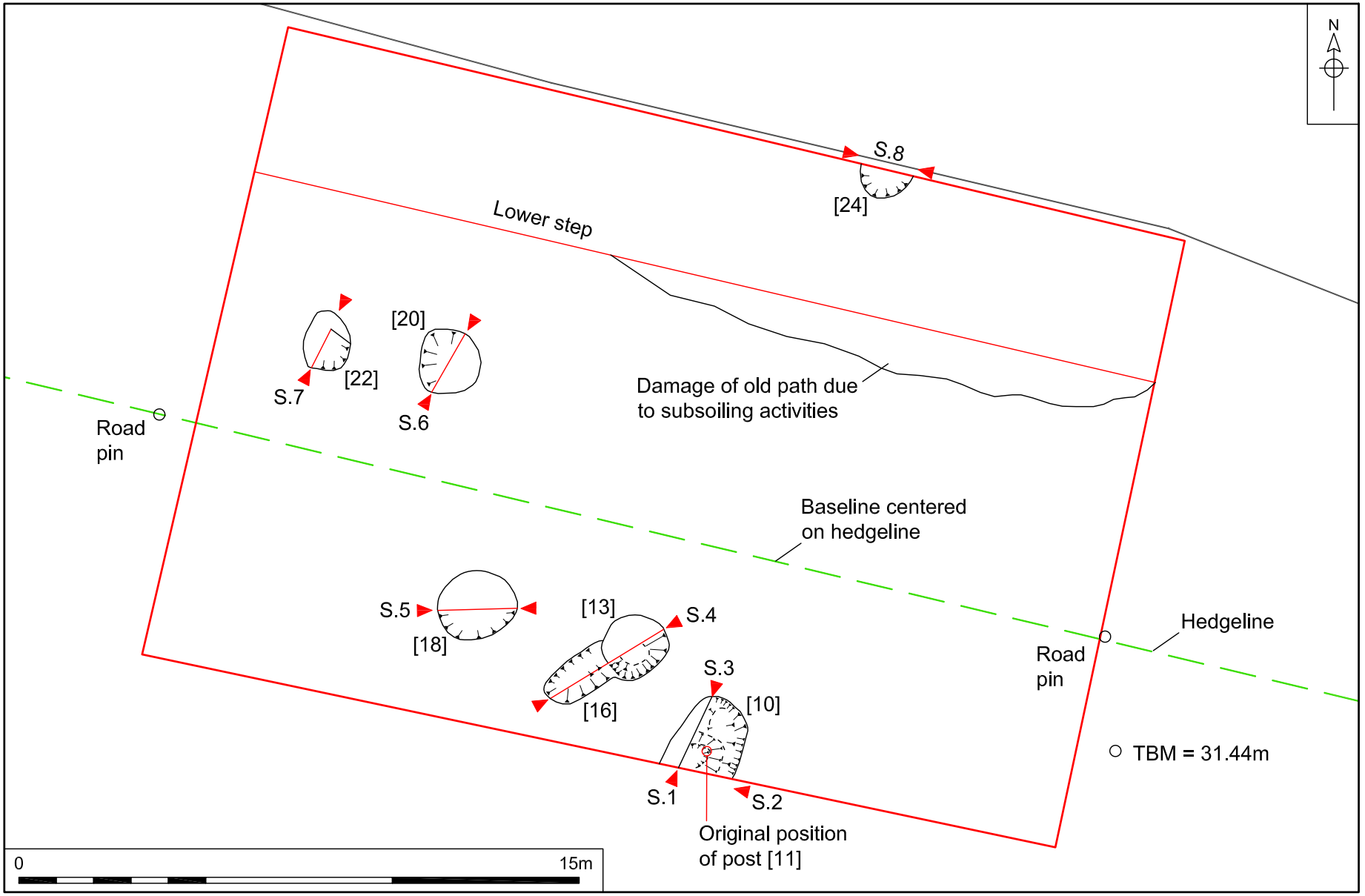

Figure 2. Plan of site. Scale 1:150

0.30m deep at its thickest point. The lower central part of the pit contained a 0.30m thick deposit ([7]) of mid brown silty sand which contained occasional small and medium flints as inclusions. Its profile in section also indicated that it had possibly built up through natural processes, perhaps weathering. There was a mix of gravel and light brown sand ([6]) which in a similar way filled the centre of the feature - it was next in the sequence, was 0.16m deep and extended 1.0m in each direction, though it was more difficult to ascertain the method by which this fill had been deposited. It contained occasional large flints which were on average 500mm across. Above [6] was a 0.24m-thick layer of sandy gravel [5] capped with a 0.05m-thick charcoal-rich lens. The rounded profile in section, and the presence of the charcoal lens indicated that it had almost certainly been dumped into the centre of the pit, and inspection of a sample of this charcoal-rich lens (Sample <1>) suggested that it was partially a dump of hearth material.

Plate 5. Pit [10], looking south

It was at this point in the sequence, where layer [5] had been cut by a 0.70m deep post-hole ([11]) which had a 0.52m diameter and very clear edges (Figs 2 and 3 section 1, Plate 6). Its fill ([12]) was a similarly dark charcoal rich deposit which was processed as environmental Sample <2>. Fragments of burnt wood were almost certainly the burnt fragments of the original post within the post-hole.

The next deposit within the sequence was a very thick (0.70m) layer of sandy gravel ([4]). Its appearance in section suggested that it may have been dumped

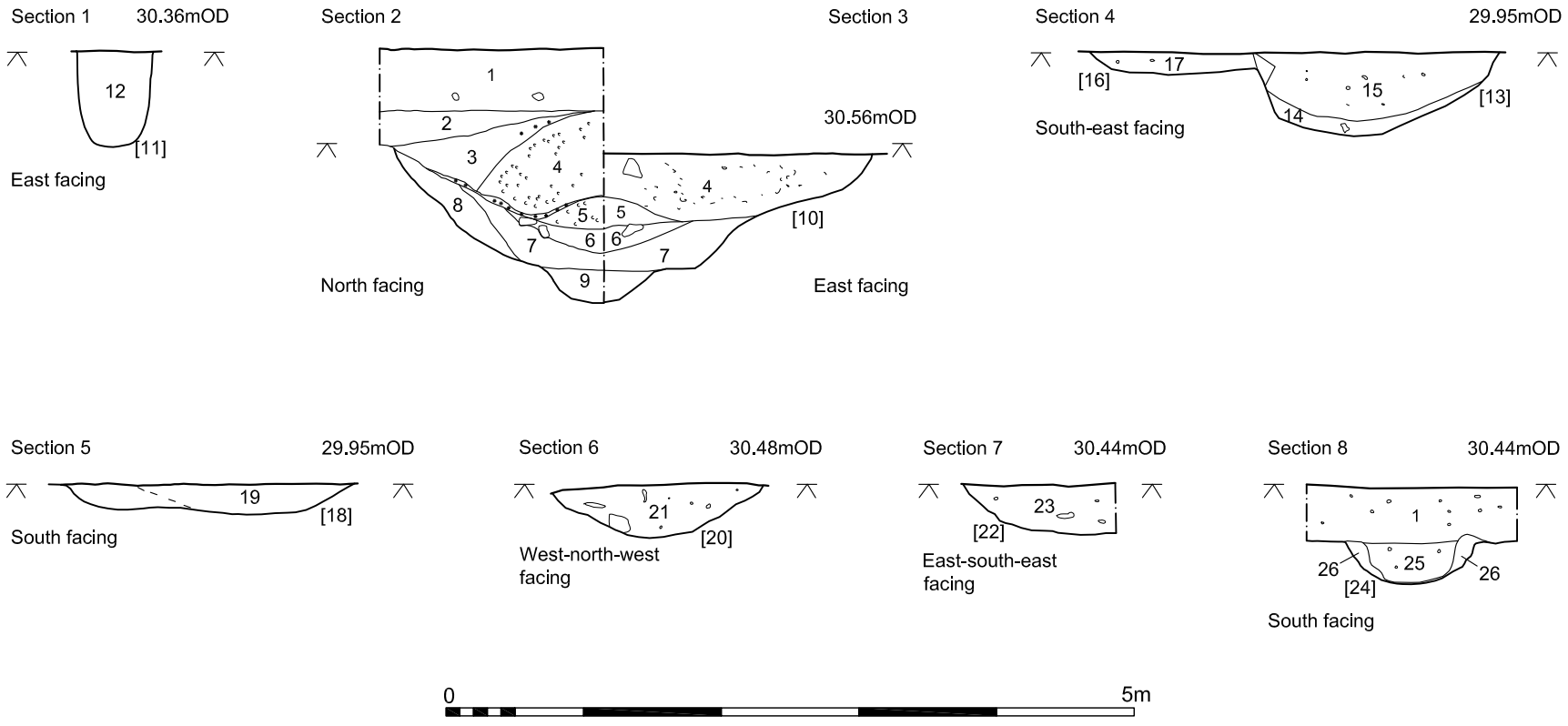

Figure 3. Sections. Scale 1:50

and was the largest deposit by volume. The penultimate ([3]) was friable brown silty sand containing several struck flints of Neolithic/Bronze Age date and may have been deliberately placed to raise the level of the fill to the top of deposit [4. Pit fill [3] was 0.40m thick at its deepest point, tapering to nothing at the top of fill [4] and extending for 1.0m but only on the south-eastern side of pit [10]. The uppermost fill ([2]) was brown silty sand containing moderate amounts of flint.

Plate 6. Post-hole [11], looking west

A short distance to the west intercutting pits [13] and [16] (Figs 2 and 3 section 4, Plate 7) were located with the earliest of the two ([16]) appearing to be broadly contemporary with pit [10].

Plate 7. Pits [16] and [13], looking north-west

Pit [16] had an elongated oval shape in plan and quite a regular appearance. It was 0.16m deep and extended 2.0m in a north-east to south-west direction and measured 1.0m across north-west to south-east. The sides gently sloped and the base was flat. The fill ([17]) consisted of a loose light brown silty sand which contained moderate flint gravel and Neolithic pottery (a medieval sherd also present was probably intrusive). The second half of the fill was also removed in order to recover any further dating evidence. The fill was probably the result of a combination of natural weathering and some dumping.

Pit [16] was in-turn truncated by a reasonably deep, roughly circular pit ([13]) on its north-eastern side. Pit [13] had steep sides at its top which became shallower towards the base which was rounded. This pit contained two fills ([14] and [15]) of which [14] was the earliest. Deposit [14] comprised loose 'dirty' sand which had probably built up through natural processes. Secondary fill [15] consisted of dark grey sandy silt which was probably a redeposited topsoil. The fragment of tile recovered from the fill suggested that the feature was of a reasonably late, perhaps post-medieval or modern date.

Shallow pit [18] of similar size to pit [13] was observed a short distance to the west (Figs 2 and 3 section 5, Plate 8). It was roughly circular and measured 2.20m east to west by 1.80m north to south. The recorded depth was 0.20m and it had sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill ([19]) consisted of light brown silty sand which included moderate amounts of flint gravel and some struck flints. The fill, despite the inclusions of struck flint was probably the result of natural infilling.

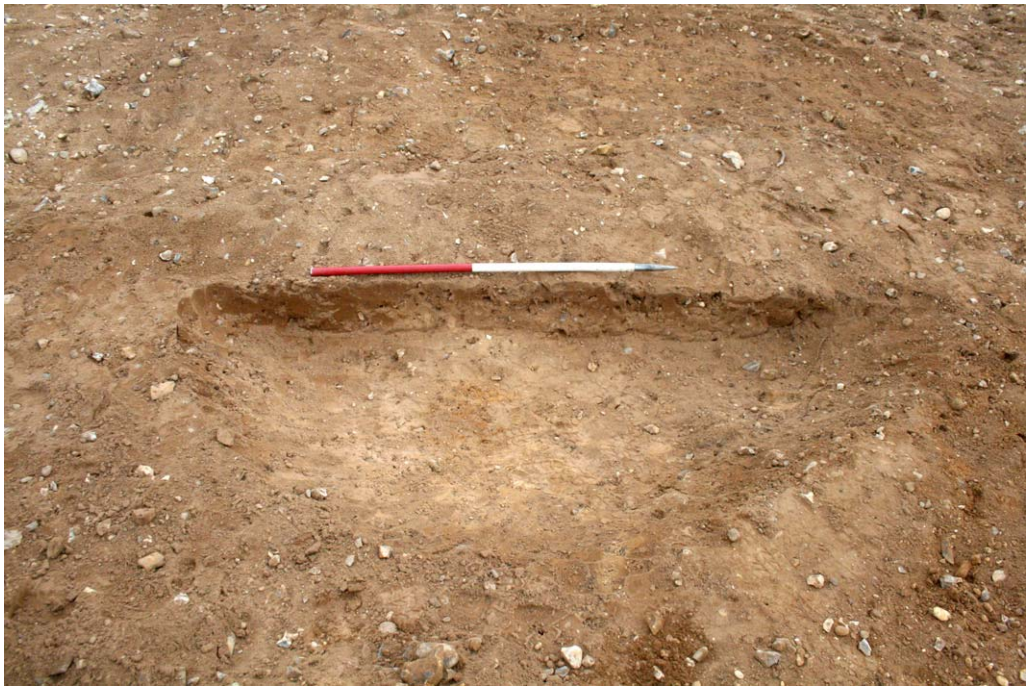

Plate 8. Pit [18], looking north

Pit [22] was located 6.5m to the north-west and it also had a sub-circular shape in plan, with a diameter of 1.50m (Figs 2 and 3 section 7, Plate 9). It was 0.36m deep and had a rounded shape in profile. There was a single fill ([23]) present which consisted of a mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel. The feature had probably infilled through natural agencies. The pit was undated.

Plate 9. Pit [22], looking west

Another undated pit ([20]) was located a short distance away (Figs 2 and 3 section 6, Plate 10). It also had a roughly circular shape in plan. Pit [20] measured 1.50m across and had a depth of 0.40m; the sides were sloping and the base was very slightly rounded. The single fill ([21]) consisted of dark brown silty sand which included moderate amounts of flint gravel.

Plate 10. Pit [20], looking east

At the northern edge of the site was pit [24] which was appeared to be circular in plan – it extended beyond the edge of excavation (Figs 2 and 3 section 8, Plate 11). It had a diameter of 0.90m and a depth of 0.30m. The sides and base were

rounded. There were two fills within the pit ([25] and [26]), of which [26] was the earliest. Fill [26] was located at the sides of the pit and was possibly caused by initial slumping or weathering. Fill [25] which filled the main part of the feature comprised dark grey sandy silt which was free of inclusions and dating evidence.

Plate 11. Pit [24], looking north

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is presented below organised by material.

A list of finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered six sherds (66g) of prehistoric pottery and a single sherd (4g) of early medieval pottery, all from a single feature - pit [16] (fill [17]).

The prehistoric pottery comprises cross-joining sherds from a single vessel, manufactured in a mottled black to orange-brown fabric tempered with common to abundant calcined flint (typically <1mm but occasionally to 4mm). The vessel, probably a bowl, had a shallow neck and rounded shoulder with a polished exterior. Although based on limited diagnostic characteristics, it is highly likely that the vessel was an earlier Neolithic Mildenhall ware bowl.

The remaining sherd from pit [16] comprised a single small body sherd of early medieval, reduced sandy ware. The body sherd is non-diagnostic but would have been manufactured in the 11th-13th centuries AD. It is considerably more abraded than the prehistoric pottery, suggesting it may be intrusive.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Andrew Peachey

A single small and highly abraded fragment (3g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was contained in pit [13] (fill [15]). The fragment is fully oxidised orange red, and tempered with common coarse sand, suggesting it was manufactured in the post-medieval period, probably as a peg tile.

6.3 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 27 fragments (496g) of struck flint in a fresh, un-patinated condition, and two fragments (71g) of burnt flint (Appendix 3). The assemblage predominantly comprises a core, a scraper and flakes with close affinities to Bronze Age un-systematic core reduction and flake/implement production, although a rare blade suggests evidence of earlier prehistoric activity may also be present (Table 1). The entire assemblage was manufactured using good quality mid to dark grey raw flint with, where extant, a white powdery cortex that suggests it was sourced from the primary chalk deposits that run down through central Norfolk.

Implement/Flake Type	**Struck Flint**	
	No.	**Wt.**
Core	1	230
Scraper	1	18
Blade	1	1
Debitage	24	247
Burnt Flint	2	71
Total	***29***	***567***

Table 1. Quantification of Struck Flint (F: frequency, W: weight in grams)

6.3.1 Methodology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

6.3.2 Commentary on Flint

The assemblage included a single blade, contained in pit [13]. The blade is very small (<20mm in length) and may be regarded as a micro-blade or bladelet, such as those produced in the later Mesolithic, although similar blades may have been produced as debitage in the earlier Neolithic.

The remainder of the assemblage is characterised by debitage flakes with a slightly irregular profile, including a scraper formed on such a flake, as well as a core utilised to produce them. Pit [10] contained a small concentration of 13 pieces of struck flint including a core, while further debitage flakes were contained in pits [16] and [18], with a scraper recovered as unstratified material ([27]). The core was multi-platform (Healy's Type C (1988, 84)), if indeed any platform was consistently used, and appears to have been reduced unsystematically with a hard hammer to produce flakes. This may represent the simple exploitation of a pebble core or possibly the trimming of a nodule, although the former appears more likely. The debitage flakes recorded are typically secondary and tertiary (i.e. with substantive degrees of cortex extant) although primary and un-corticated flakes were also present. These, slightly irregular flakes appear to have been the deliberate produce of flint reduction on the site, and one such flake was subject to very limited abrupt retouch at its bulbar end to form a relatively crude side scraper, recorded as un-stratified material. The debitage and scraper are of a relatively consistent size, albeit relatively large (average weight 10.6g), reflecting the low degree of skill in their production. The reduction in the level of skill in all but the finest-finished flint implements is characteristic of later Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint technology, and such is the relative crudeness of these flakes it seems likely they represent very late prehistoric utilisation of flint, probably in the Bronze Age, or possibly even in the early Iron Age.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Val Fryer

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two deposits; a fill within pit [10] (Sample <1> context [5]) and the fill of post-hole [11] (Sample <2> context [12]).

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 in Appendix 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots and seeds were also recorded.

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

7.1.2 Results

Both assemblages are moderately large (0.3–0.4 litres in volume) and are almost entirely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, some of which are

particularly robust (i.e. 20mm +). Most fragments are coated with fine silt particles, and while some are distinctly flaked (possibly suggesting combustion at very high temperatures), other pieces are very worn and abraded. Other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce, although small pieces of charred root or stem are recorded along with a single possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Other remains are also scarce; pieces of black porous material, possibly derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, are present within Sample <1>, while Sample <2> includes small splinters of heat shattered stone. A small piece of coal within the assemblage from Samples <1> is almost certainly intrusive.

7.1.3 Conclusions

In summary, the assemblage from Sample <1> would appear to be derived from a small quantity of charred detritus (possibly hearth waste) which was deliberately deposited within the fills of pit [10]. Sample <2> is of particular note as it contains numerous large fragments of charcoal/charred wood, and it is tentatively suggested that these may be indicative of *in situ* burning.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The strip, map and sample excavation of the footprint of a new Dutch barn at Hall Farm presented an opportunity to determine the nature of archaeological remains at the site and to examine part of the parish of Tasburgh.

Three features, pits [10], [13] and [18] appear to form a small cluster at the southern edge of the site, and they seemed to occupy the flattest part of the stripped area, the edge of a terrace above the steeper slope towards the River Tas. Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in eastern England can often be represented by pit clusters and it is known that in preferred areas such as the Yare and Tas valley, such well-draining terraces were highly sought after and often exploited.

The crude quality of the flints recovered from pit [10] suggests a later prehistoric date - Late Neolithic or Bronze Age – for these features and this could tie in with the Neolithic date for the pottery from nearby pit [16]. Though it has been suggested that the quality of the flints could stretch the date forwards into the Iron Age, the nature of the pit itself (with a possible central marker post) and the presence of other probable Neolithic pits close by may lend weight to the poor quality flint still being of Neolithic date (possibly worked by a less experienced knapper). The flints were found in the upper part of the pit [10] and so could still be of a later date without challenging an earlier date of the feature. The pits appear to be broadly contemporary.

Pit [10] appears to have been originally excavated and left open long enough for there to have been several naturally occurring slumps of material that have partially infilled it (fills [6], [7], [8] and [9]) although interestingly, these fills appear to have derived from different sources. After the pit had silted up to its halfway point there was a deliberate deposit of gravel ([5]) which appears to have had a lens of hearth-derived material placed on top of it. Possible marker post [11] was dug through this deposit, towards the centre of the pit, and a sample of fill [12] from the post-hole (Sample <2>) appears to suggest that it had been burnt *in situ* as fragments of burnt wood survived within the cut. Fill [12] appears to have been

dumped after the removal of the burnt post. Following this a very thick deposit of gravel ([4]) was deposited into the pit possibly in order to seal the burnt deposits. The distinct and separate dumped fills in pit [10] (specifically fills [3], [4] and [5]) could reflect the episodic or seasonal, settlement characteristic of a Neolithic nomadic lifestyle (Garrow 2006). Pits dated to the Bronze Age (and Neolithic) are often found in small clusters, and may have been originally excavated for ritual purposes possibly being connected with seasonal visits and the deposition of special artefacts (Ashwin and Bates 2000) rather than being merely for the disposal of rubbish. The pottery found within pit [16] and the hearth waste deposit within pit [10] does indicate that domestic activities had been undertaken close by at some point in this period.

Pits [13] and [24] contained fills which were very similar to the modern topsoil, which indicates that they are very recent in date and the fragment of ceramic building material from fill [15] in pit [13] seems to support this. It is not possible to say anything further about undated pits [20] and [22] as they could have belonged to any period.

The array of prehistoric features encountered at the site of a new Dutch barn at Hall Farm and the nature of those features appear markedly similar to the pre-Iron Age groups of features recorded during extensive excavations at Spong Hill in central Norfolk, more specifically the earlier Neolithic feature groups (Healy 1988 pp 5-18 and 105). The groups of features at Spong Hill are interpreted as perhaps each being '…the residue of a distinct, short-live, small-scale occupation, separated from the next by as much as a century' (*ibid,* 105). This similarity between the excavated evidence is enhanced by the presence of Mildenhall ware at both sites.

Acknowledgements

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The finds were processed and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood and were reported on by Andrew Peachey. This report was illustrated by David Dobson after initial digitising by Michelle Bull and the author. It was edited by Jayne Bown.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern
2	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
3	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
4	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
5	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
6	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
7	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
8	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
9	Deposit		10	Fill of Pit [10]	Prehistoric
10	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric
11	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole within pit [11]	Prehistoric
12	Deposit		11	Fill of [11]	Prehistoric
13	Cut	Pit		Pit	Modern
14	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]	Modern
15	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]	Modern
16	Cut	Pit		Shallow pit	Prehistoric
17	Deposit		16	Fill of [16]	Prehistoric
18	Cut	Pit		Shallow pit	Prehistoric
19	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]	Prehistoric
20	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated
21	Deposit		20	Fill of [20]	Undated
22	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated
23	Deposit		22	Fill of [22]	Undated
24	Cut	Pit		Pit	Modern
25	Deposit		24	Fill of [24]	Modern
26	Deposit		24	Fill of [24]	Modern
27	Deposit			Loose Gravel (hoed)	--

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Prehistoric	Pit	3
	Post-hole	1
Modern	Pit	2
Undated	Pit	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
3	Flint – Burnt	2	71g	Prehistoric	
3	Flint – Struck	13	363g	Prehistoric	
15	Ceramic Building Material	1	3g	Post-medieval	
15	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	
17	Flint – Struck	5	24g	Prehistoric	
17	Pottery	1	4g	Medieval	11th-13th century
17	Pottery	6	66g	Early Neolithic	?Mildenhall ware
19	Flint – Struck	7	70g	Prehistoric	
27	Flint – Struck	1	18g	Prehistoric	

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	2
	Flint – Struck	27
Early Neolithic	Pottery	6
Medieval	Pottery	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1

Appendix 3: Flint Catalogue

Ctxt	Description	Struck		Burnt		Find/type	No	Wt	Patin	Retouch	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size (mm)			Comment
		No	Wt	No	Wt									L	W	D	
3	Fill of Pit [10]	13	363	2	71	Core	1	230	\	na	dark grey	white, chalky	\	60	55	50	Type C: multi-platform, un-systematic, struck directly with hard hammer
						Primary Flake (<50mm, slightly irregular)	1	20	\	\	dark grey	white, chalky	\	\	\	\	\
						Secondary Flake (<50mm, slightly irregular)	5	58	\	\	dark grey	white, chalky	\	\	\	\	\
						Tertiary Flake (<50mm, slightly irregular)	3	30	\	\	dark grey	white, chalky	\	\	\	\	\
						Uncorticated Flake (<50mm, blade-like)	3	41	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	\
						Burnt Flint	2	71	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
15	Fill of Pit [13]	1	1			Uncorticated Flake (<50mm, blade-like)	1	1	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	probably EN
17	Fill of Pit [16]	5	24			Tertiary Flake (<50mm, slightly irregular)											
						Uncorticated Flake (<50mm, slightly irregular)											
19	Fill of Pit [18]	7	70														
	Loose gravel hoed-up	1	18														
		8	***88***	***96***	***71***		***16***	***451***									

Appendix 4: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	**1**	**2**
Context No.	**5**	**12**
Feature No.	**10**	**11**
Feature type	**Pit**	**ph**
Plant macrofossils		
Corylus avellana L.		xcf
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	xxx	xxxx
Charcoal >10mm	xx	xxx
Charcoal >20mm		xx
Charred root/stem	x	x
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	
Burnt stone		x
Small coal frag.	x	
Sample volume (litres)	**10**	**20**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.3**	**0.4**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**25%**

Reference

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare ph = post hole

Appendix 5: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-161517

Project details

Project name	TASBURGH, HALL FARM, BUNGAY ROAD, SMS EXCAVATION
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was conducted for Small Fish ahead of the construction of a Dutch barn at Hall Farm, Tasburgh in Norfolk. Due to the presence of several historic sites within 300m of the development, including probable Bronze Age round barrows, this work necessitated that the footprint of the new barn be fully excavated. A total of seven pits were observed, excavated and recorded within the footprint of the barn. A cluster of three of the pits located at the southern edge of the site is likely to be Neolithic-Bronze Age in date. The findings link with the known prehistoric activity to the south-west of the farm and support the idea that the Tas valley was particularly attractive in the Neolithic and Bronze Age due to its well-draining soils and access to water. Two of the pits are likely to be recent in date and a further two were undated.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2013 End: 07-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF132524 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POST-HOLE Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Investigation type	'"Open-area excavation"'
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England

Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK TASBURGH TASBURGH, HALL FARM, BUNGAY ROAD
Study area	408.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1952 9556 52 1 52 30 47 N 001 14 07 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Peter Crawley
Type of sponsor/funding body	Agricultural
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hall Farm

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text","Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation at Hall Farm, Bungay Road, Tasburgh, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Craley, P. E.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2013/1274
Date	2013

Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
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OASIS: