

Report 2013/1215



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**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for
Acle Cemetery Extension, Pyebush Lane, Acle, Norfolk**



Prepared for
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Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Government policy	3
2.1 Regulatory and Advisory Framework for Cultural Heritage.....	3
2.2 Local Government Policy.....	4
2.3 Site Specific Designations	5
3.0 Location, Geology and Topography	5
4.0 Sources Used in the Assessment	5
4.1 NHE records.....	5
4.2 Cartographic Evidence	6
5.0 Archaeological Evidence.....	6
5.1 Sites within the development area.....	6
5.2 Sites within the study area (500m radius).....	6
6.0 Cartographic Evidence.....	16
7.0 Site Potential.....	20
7.1 Valuing the Archaeological Resource.....	21
7.2 Likely condition of archaeological remains	21
7.3 Development Impacts.....	22
7.4 Development Effects	22
8.0 Conclusions	23
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	25
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i>	25
Appendix 1: Archaeological Evidence.....	26

Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Prehistoric and Roman NHE records within 500m of the site
- Figure 3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval NHE records within 500m of the site
- Figure 4 Post-medieval NHE records within 500m of the site
- Figure 5 Buildings (listed & unlisted) within 500m of the site
- Figure 6 Second World War, Undated and Negative NHE records within 500m of the site
- Figure 7 NMP data within 500m of the site
- Figure 8 Faden's Map of Norfolk, 1797
- Figure 9 Bryant's Map of Norfolk, 1826
- Figure 10 Ordnance Survey, 1st edition, 1880s

Tables

- Table 1 NHER data within 500m of the development area
- Table 2 Criteria for assigning value to the archaeological resource
- Table 3 Criteria for assessing the magnitude of the impacts of the proposed development
- Table 4 Significance of Effects Matrix

Location: Acle Cemetery Extension, Pyebush Lane, Acle
District: Broadland
Grid Ref.: TG 4004 1103
Client: Alan Irvine

Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment was conducted for Alan Irvine ahead of development of Acle Cemetery Extension, Pyebush Lane, Acle, Norfolk.

Acle is located close to the Norfolk Broads, in an area of low-lying land, in which it is set on a small promontory above marshland. The area is one that is likely to have been utilised throughout the past, however it is thought that the main period of activity, prior to the recent past, is likely to have occurred in the Roman period. Parts of what is now occupied by The Broads was at that time an estuary with Acle located at its western end, making it an ideal location for maritime activity and settlement.

One excavation close to Acle recorded evidence for the hinterland of a probable Roman small settlement and included the presence of a possible kiln or corn dryer and a large rubbish pit. It is believed that the focus of settlement at Acle is likely to lie underneath the present town.

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area is almost non-existent, with only one or two find spots recorded. However it should be noted that the area is one in which some kind of prehistoric presence might be expected. Anglo-Saxon and later material is recorded in the area, thus hinting at activity of Early, Middle and Late Saxon date. Medieval and post-medieval activity is also evidenced.

Acle was a reasonably sized settlement in 1086 at the time of the Domesday Book and there was a Royal estate here with woodland and a large amount of livestock.

The estuary began to silt up in the medieval period and peat digging created the Broads in the form that is apparent today.

The area defined by the development site is likely to have been in arable cultivation for some time and no development is apparent on maps from the late 18th century through to the modern day.

Acle was of strategic importance in the Second World War, acting as a defensive point if Germany invaded and many defences were put in place around the town and its hinterland. The defences around Acle are considered to be of national importance and have been reasonably well mapped from aerial photography of the immediate post-War period. None of these defences are apparent within the boundary of the development site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological desk-based assessment has been commissioned to assess the archaeological potential of a proposed extension to Acle Cemetery at Pyebush Lane in Acle (TG 4004 1103; Fig. 1). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-14-2-1258/JB).

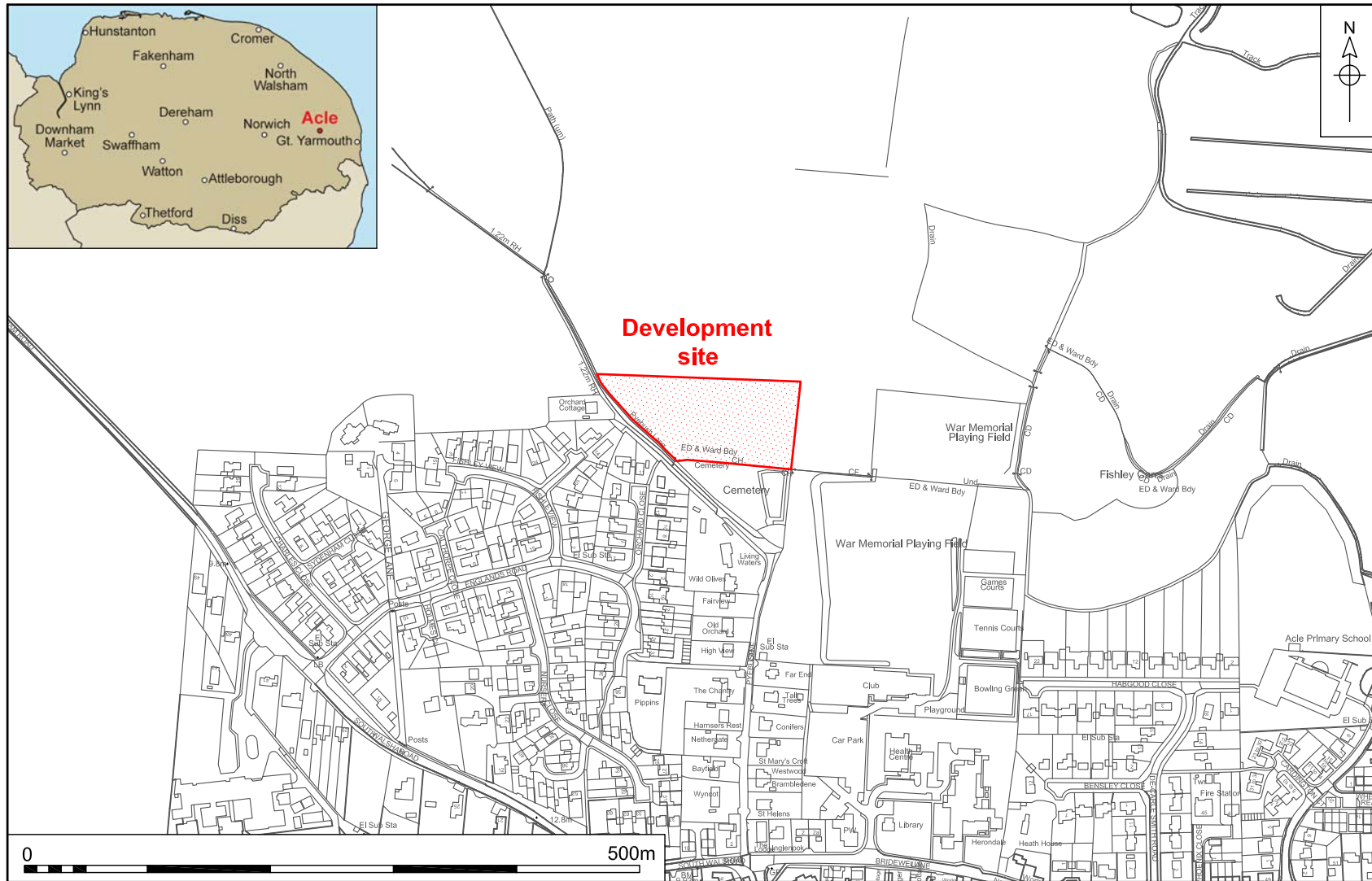


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

The site is currently in use as part of an arable field. It is bounded to the west by Pyebush Lane and to the south by the existing cemetery and playing fields.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, and also the value of any such remains, following the guidelines set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will assist decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by the proposed development.

In order to achieve the assessment aims a range of source material was examined. The material included unpublished reports on previous archaeological work, maps, published material, online material and information held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and the Norfolk Record Office (NRO).

The work was commissioned and funded by Alan Irvine on behalf of his client, Acle Parish Council.

2.0 GOVERNMENT POLICY

2.1 Regulatory and Advisory Framework for Cultural Heritage

The treatment of archaeological remains and the Historic Environment is regulated by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This policy replaces *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (2010) and provides advice to planners and developers alike on the treatment and consideration of Heritage Assets.

The *Framework* states that 'Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'.

It also states (Section 12.128):

'In determining applications...should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.'

The *Framework* goes on to discuss the importance of understanding the importance and impact a development may have on any archaeological remains or Heritage Assets within a site.

There is also some weight given to 'undesigned' assets, that is, those that are unknown and therefore not assigned a status, such as a Scheduled Monument or a Listed Building. Conservation is the great watchword with those which ARE designated.

'Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets (Section 12.139).'

2.2 Local Government Policy

2.2.1 Joint Core Strategy

The principal development policy plan for the Broadland area is the Joint Core Strategy (adopted March 2011), which names Acle as a 'Key Service Centre', a market town of moderate importance.

Spatial Planning Objective 9 of the JCS provides an outline of the approach to the Historic Environment in the district:

'To protect, manage and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, including key landscapes, natural resources and areas of natural habitat or nature conservation value'

In section 5.4 of the document this is expanded upon:

'The area has a wealth of environmental assets ranging from international and national status, to those of local importance. These must be safeguarded and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations. These assets include biodiversity (wildlife and habitats), built heritage and the wider historic environment, ancient monuments and archaeological assets, geodiversity (geological features), landscape and historic landscape character; as well as more general aspects such as the countryside and rural character, the setting of Norwich, towns and villages and the Broads. Assets of local importance, such as County Wildlife Sites are valuable in their own right, and in combination provide a significant resource.'

2.2.2 Broadland District Local Plan

The Broadland District Local Plan (Replacement) was adopted in May 2006 and updated in March 2011 after the adoption of the JCS.

Policy ENV17 refers to nationally important archaeological sites and ancient monuments:

'Development which would adversely affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument or other nationally important archaeological sites and monuments, or their settings, will not be permitted.'

Policy ENV18 refers to less important archaeological sites, but is somewhat out of date as it refers to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, who are now Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) and also uses the now obsolete government policy of PPG16 as its basis:

'Where there is no overriding case for preservation of a site of archaeological importance, development which affects the site will only be permitted when an agreement has been reached to provide for the evaluation, recording and where desirable, the excavation of the site. On other sites of archaeological interest developers will be expected to allow a "watching brief" to be undertaken by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology while work likely to cause damage is in progress. Where it is considered appropriate by the planning authority, in consultation with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, developers will be expected to seal archaeological layers before construction. Where possible the archaeological remains should be preserved through careful layout, siting and design of the new development.'

Policy ENV20 states:

'All sites of development proposals which appear to raise archaeological issues will be subject to an evaluation of their archaeological significance. Any planning permissions granted will be subject to appropriate conditions.'

2.2.3 Broads Authority LDF

The Broads Authority Local Development Framework (adopted September 2007) has policies on archaeology:

'Policy CS6 The archaeology of the Broads will be better understood, protected and enhanced by:

- (i) Protecting existing archaeology from inappropriate development or change;
- (ii) Raising awareness of potential archaeology through the identification of likely sites/finds;
- (iii) The adoption of methodology and procedures for the notification, recording and interpretation of unanticipated finds; and
- (iv) Encouraging the interpretation of archaeology.'

The current development site lies just within the Broads Authority jurisdiction.

2.3 Site Specific Designations

There are no known designations within the area of the proposed cemetery extension.

3.0 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Acle is a small town close to the Broads area of Norfolk. The site itself lies 1,350m to the west of the River Bure, on the eastern side of Pyebush Lane, 480m south of St Mary's church in the parish of Upton and Fishley. The site covers just over 9,000m², and slopes eastwards down towards the river from a height of around 10m AOD in the centre of the site.

The bedrock geology of the development area is Crag Group (sand and gravel). The superficial geology consists of Lowestoft formation - diamicton¹.

4.0 SOURCES USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

4.1 NHE records

The primary source for archaeological evidence in Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the site, data was collated from all NHER information held for a 500m radius of the site. This search returned 45 records in total. The results of the search are synthesised in Table 1, below.

Record type	No. within study area
Find spot	18
Site of archaeologically or historically significant structure or place	11
Listed building	10
Cropmarks	6
TOTAL	45

Table 1. NHER data within 500m of the site

¹ <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>

4.2 Cartographic Evidence

A range of maps were examined in order to establish the nature of more recent land-use within the proposed development area. The earlier maps were also of some use in tentatively reconstructing the character of the medieval and early post-medieval landscape.

Some maps were consulted at the Norfolk Record Office (NRO), and some online, at Old Maps (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>) and Historical Maps of Norfolk (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>). The following maps were examined in detail:

- Faden's Map of Norfolk, 1797
- Bryant's Map of Norfolk, 1826
- Tithe Map
- Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s onwards

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

(Figures 2-7)

5.1 Sites within the development area

Only one site partly overlies the development area, and that is related to cropmarks recorded from aerial photographs (NHER 18129). These features have been mapped by the Norfolk Mapping Programme, and can be seen in Figure 7 of this report. Only one of the mapped features actually falls within the proposed cemetery extension itself. It appears to be a short north-west to south-east aligned linear feature (possibly a field boundary) which may be associated with other, similarly orientated undated cropmarks to the north-west.

5.2 Sites within the study area (500m radius)

5.2.1 Prehistoric Evidence

(Figure 2)

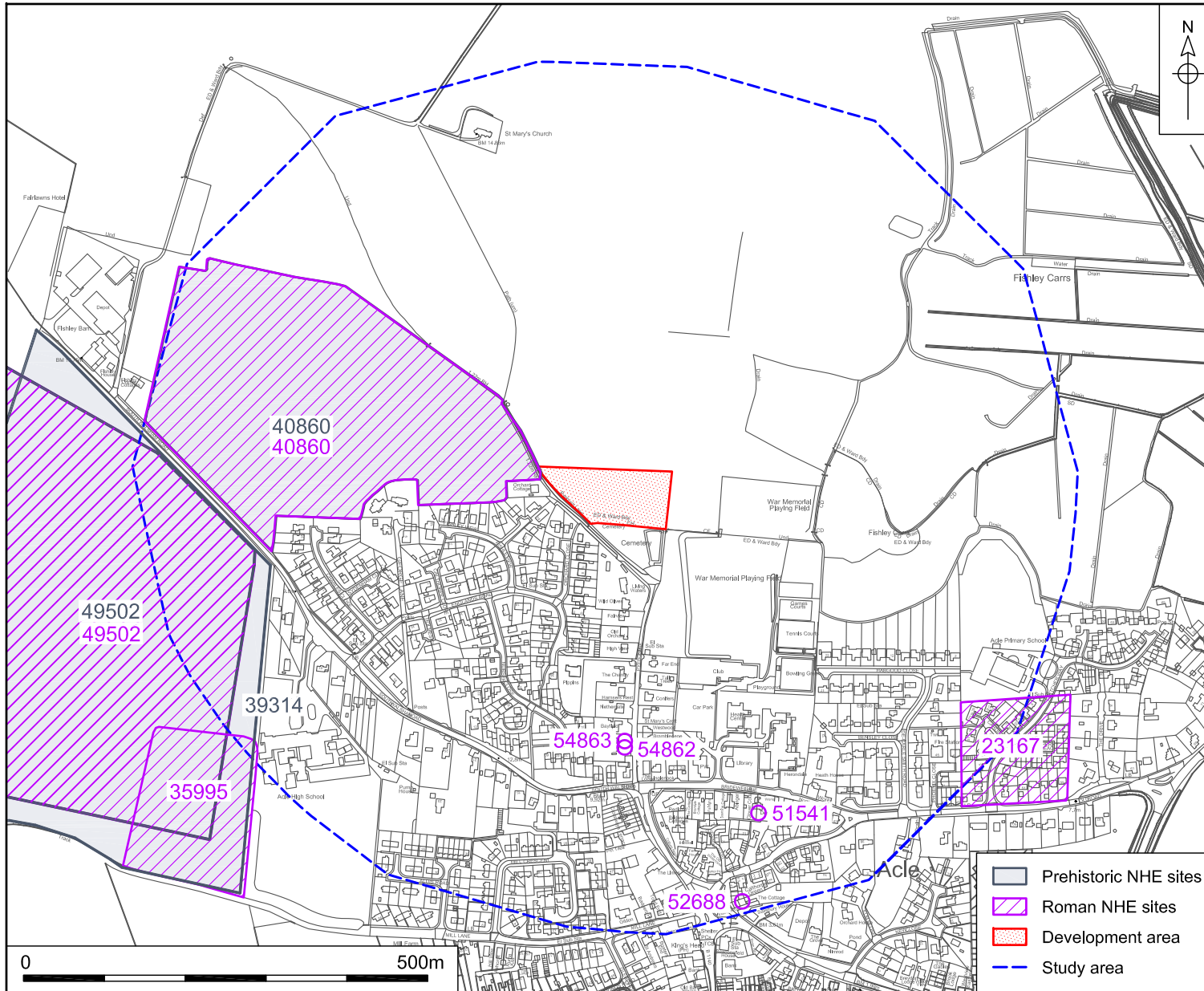
Three sites within the NHER search results contained prehistoric evidence. One of the sites was an area of cropmarks to the west of the study area (NHER 49502); and the other sites were find spots of a Neolithic flaked flint axehead (NHER 39314) and a flint flake (NHER 40860).

Two of these sites (NHER 39314 and 49502) were close to the western edge of the survey area and to each other, but around 400m away from the development area. The cropmark site was not certainly dated, but may be Iron Age to Roman field boundaries. The flint flake was found in a large area of multi-period finds adjacent to the proposed cemetery extension on its north-west side (NHER 40860).

5.2.2 Roman Evidence

(Figure 2)

Eight NHE records contained evidence for Roman activity, with most of the records pertaining to finds spots only. It is clear that there was Roman settlement in the vicinity of Acle however the only tangible evidence for this within the 500m



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Figure 2. Prehistoric and Roman NHE records within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500

search zone is the find of a possible Roman floor made up of bricks and tiles (NHER 52688) recorded in the garden of Elmtree House during construction of a soakaway in the 1970s. The possibility of cropmarks to the west of the area (NHER 49502) being of Roman date is also intriguing.

Find spots of Roman pottery are reasonably common in the area, and have been found during test pitting (NHER 54862 and 54863), metal detecting (NHER 23167 and 40860), fieldwalking (NHER 35995) and as casual finds (NHER 51541). A reasonable amount of Roman coins were also recovered during metal detecting to the north-west of the development site (NHER 40860).

Acle is situated where a port was at the head of a large estuary named *Gariensis* 'A large eastern estuary brought open sea as far in-land as Acle' (Gurney 2005) and may have thrived due to its connection by water and presumed trade networks to two settlements and the Saxon Shore Forts of Caister on Sea and Burgh Castle. Boats from Acle may have been guided up the channel of the estuary by a 'pharos' or lighthouse reputed to have been built by the Romans at Reedham to the east, though this has never been substantiated. The core of the Roman activity appears to have been focused on the higher ground overlooking the estuary. An open access excavation at Springfield located just outside the south-eastern edge of the survey area (NHER 50513, not illustrated) by NPS Archaeology and Acle High School between 2008 and 2012 recorded perhaps the edge of a small Roman settlement. This site revealed features probably more associated with the hinterland of a settlement, rather than the core, and included a large rubbish pit, possibly originally dug for mineral extraction purposes. Also recorded were a possible kiln/oven and ditches and pits.

It is possible, therefore, that the development area, being on reasonably high ground (for the area), would be an ideal location for settlement activity of Roman date.

5.2.3 Anglo-Saxon Evidence

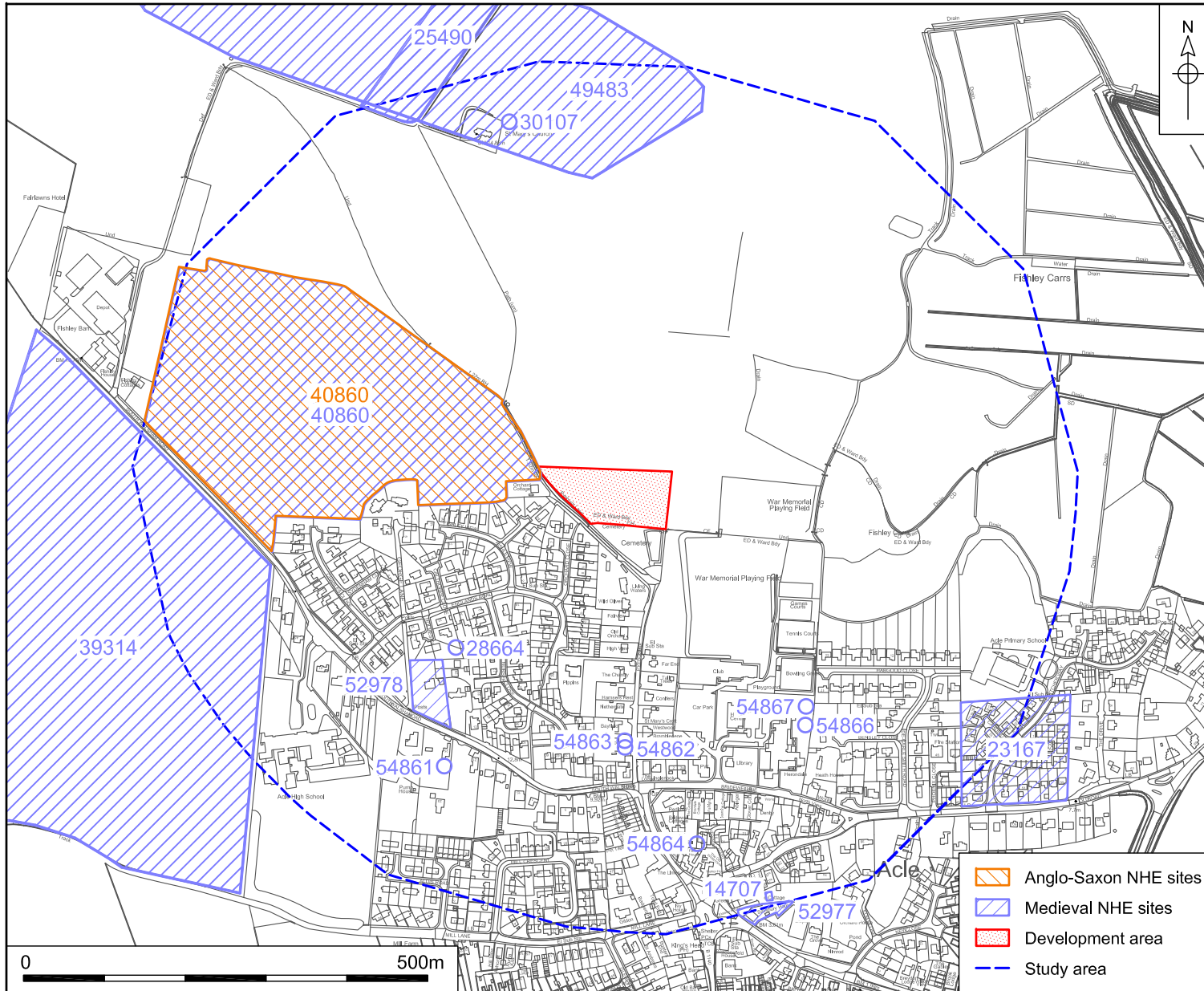
(Figure 3)

Evidence for the period after the Romans left is sparse in the area, with only one site producing any evidence. Adjacent to the development site, to the north-west, metal detecting produced finds of Early and Middle Saxon pottery, Early Saxon brooches, a Middle or Late Saxon pin and a Late Saxon openwork strap end (NHER 40860). The area was clearly utilised throughout the Saxon period, with evidence coming from the Early, Middle and Late Saxon periods.

5.2.4 Medieval Evidence

(Figures 3 and 5)

Seventeen NHE records containing medieval evidence were recorded within the survey area, almost all of which related to finds spots; there was one cropmark site and one listed building. A series of test pits have been dug in Acle, all of which recovered medieval pottery (NHER 52977, 52978 and 54861-7). A good quantity of medieval finds were recovered during metal detecting (NHER 40860) to the north-west of the development. A silver penny dating to the reign of King John (1199-1216) was found south of the development (NHER 28664), and other find spots are also recorded (NHER 23167, 25490, 30107 and 39314). Some possible



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Figure 3. Anglo-Saxon and medieval NHE records within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500

medieval architectural fragments re-used in a post-medieval barn (NHER 14707) may have come from Weybridge Priory (located away from Acle to the north-east).

The cropmarks which are thought to be at least in part of medieval origin are located in the northern edge of the study area (NHER 49483), close to St Mary's church in the parish of Upton-with-Fishley (NHER 8520) with some possibly associated with the church itself. St Mary's is located around 425m to the north of the development, and has a Norman tower, with 12th-century elements and later additions and renovations.

The settlement at Acle was probably well-established by the Late Saxon period, with the Domesday Book recording it as a large royal manor. The Domesday survey of 1086 mentions fifteen plough teams, a mill, beehives, and a large area of woodland which lay to the south of the current town. The woodland was largely cleared in one episode in the 17th century, during which 480 oaks were felled (NHER Parish Summary for Acle <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1>). The name 'Acle' is supposedly derived from the Old English for 'oak clearing' which shows the importance of this large woodland resource. The settlement began to thrive in the medieval period and was granted a market in 1253. The extensive marsh to the east of the town, in the former estuary, was utilised at this time and in 1382 the inhabitants of Acle were granted the right of turbarry, allowing them to remove turf or peat for fuel. This activity was part of the extensive peat digging in this part of Norfolk the flooding of which ultimately created the Broads.

There was a priory, founded by the Bigod family (Earls of Norfolk) for the Augustinian Canons, within the parish in the early 12th century, although it was some distance to the north-east of Acle itself. It was known as Weybridge Priory (NHER 8601; not illustrated here) and was positioned next to an important crossing of the River Bure. The priory was dissolved in 1536. The site of a medieval hermitage lay to the east of the town (NHER 15130; not illustrated here) and is depicted on Faden's map of 1797.

5.2.5 Post-medieval Evidence

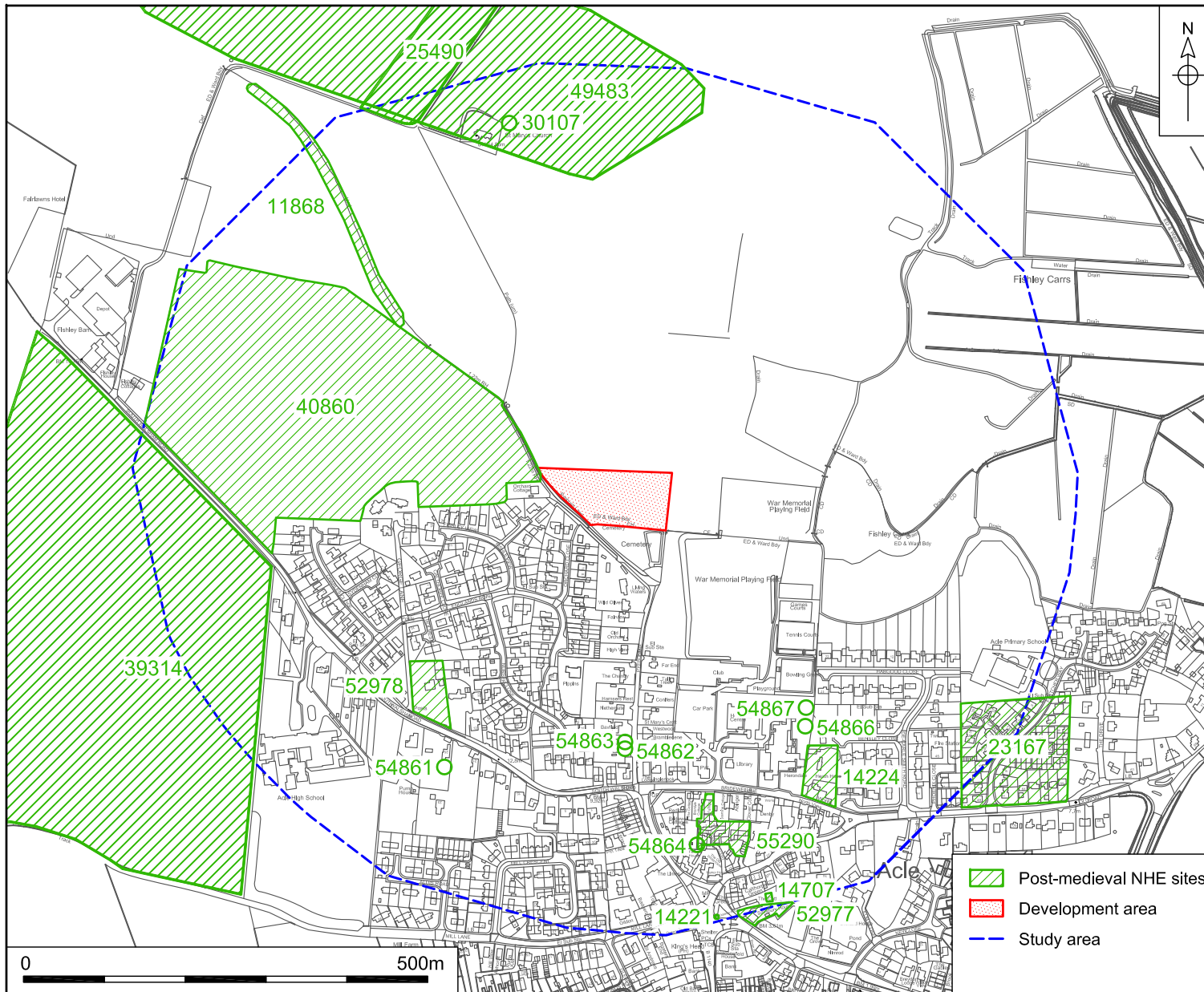
(Figures 4 and 5)

Seventeen NHE records recorded post-medieval evidence along with a further nine records for listed or unlisted buildings.

The majority of the records for the area present finds evidence, such as the series of test pits in the town that produced post-medieval pottery (NHERs 52977, 52978, 54861-64, 54866 and 54867) and other metal detecting or fieldwalking sites (NHERs 23167, 25490, 30107, 39314 and 40860). A possible medieval or post-medieval architectural stone fragment was recorded re-used in a barn (NHER 14707).

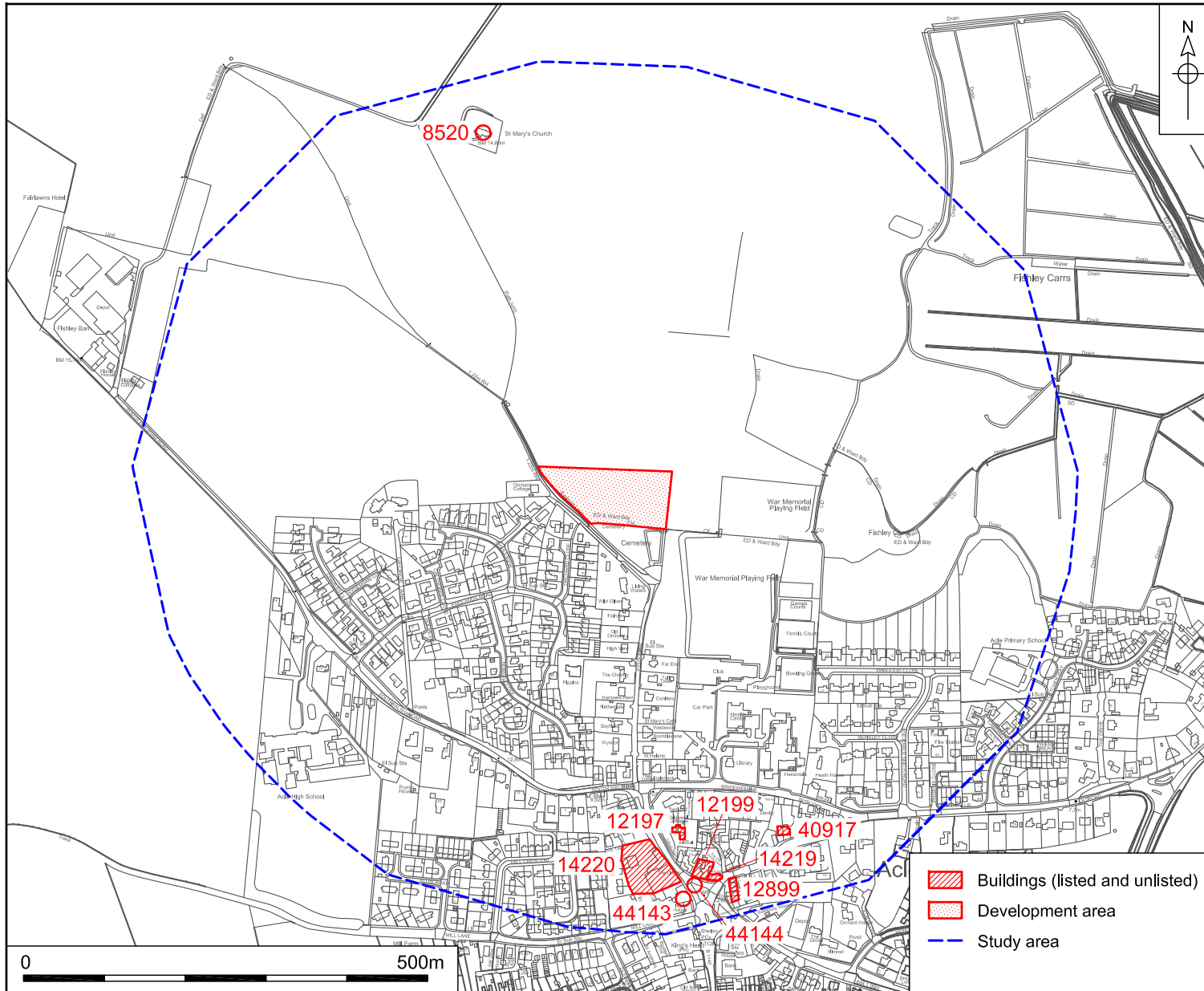
Of the more substantial records in the area are two cropmark sites, one of which represents a possible post-medieval trackway (NHER 11868) which aligns with the parish boundary between Acle with Upton-with-Fishley and the other is cropmarks of boundaries NHER 49483) which may be medieval and post-medieval in date.

The site of a foundry (NHER 55290) is recorded within Acle, located around 400m to the south of the development site. The business came to Acle in around 1890 after the closure of the Smithdale St Ann works in Norwich. The building was



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Figure 4. Post-medieval NHE records within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500



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Figure 5. Buildings (listed & unlisted) within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500

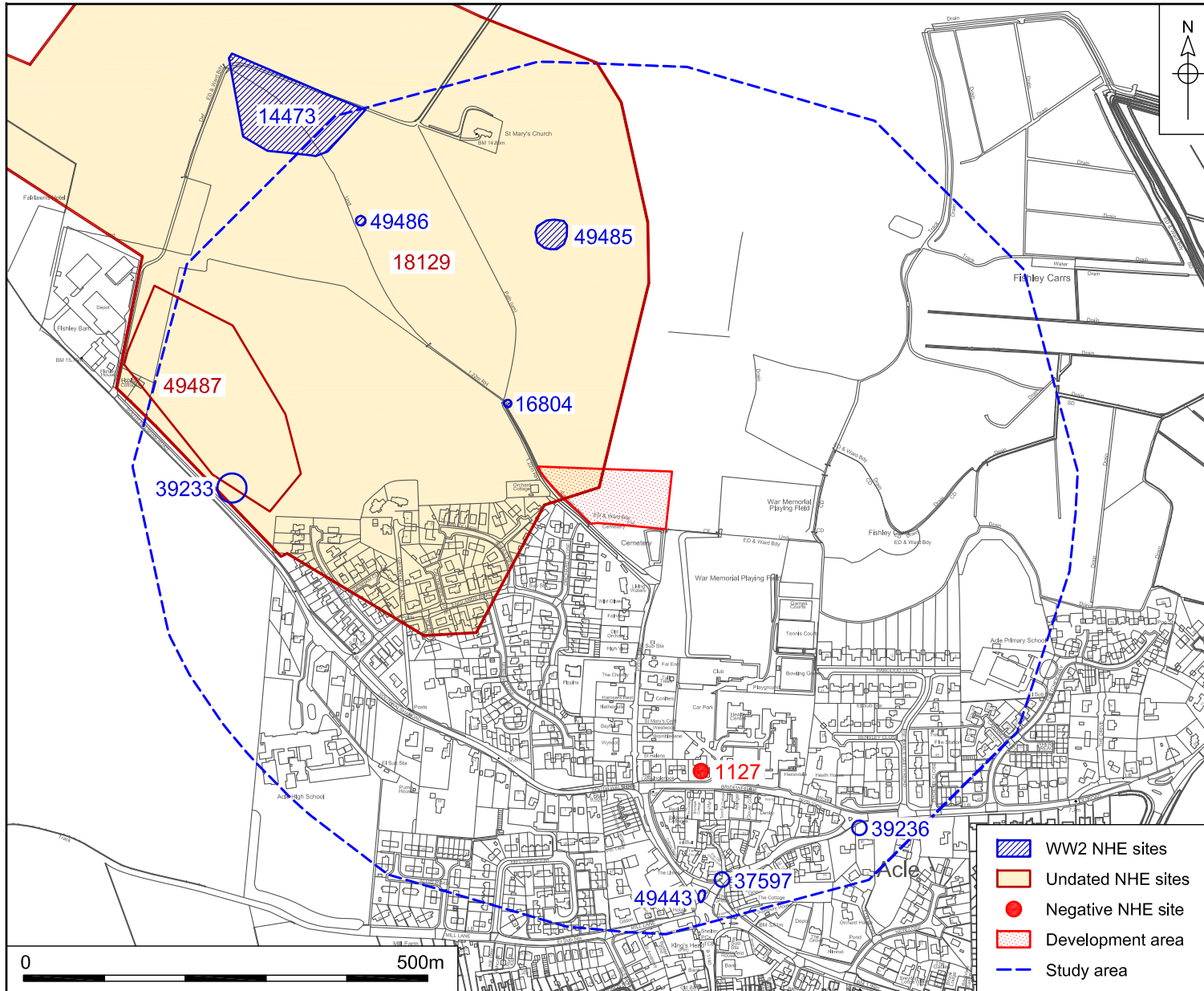
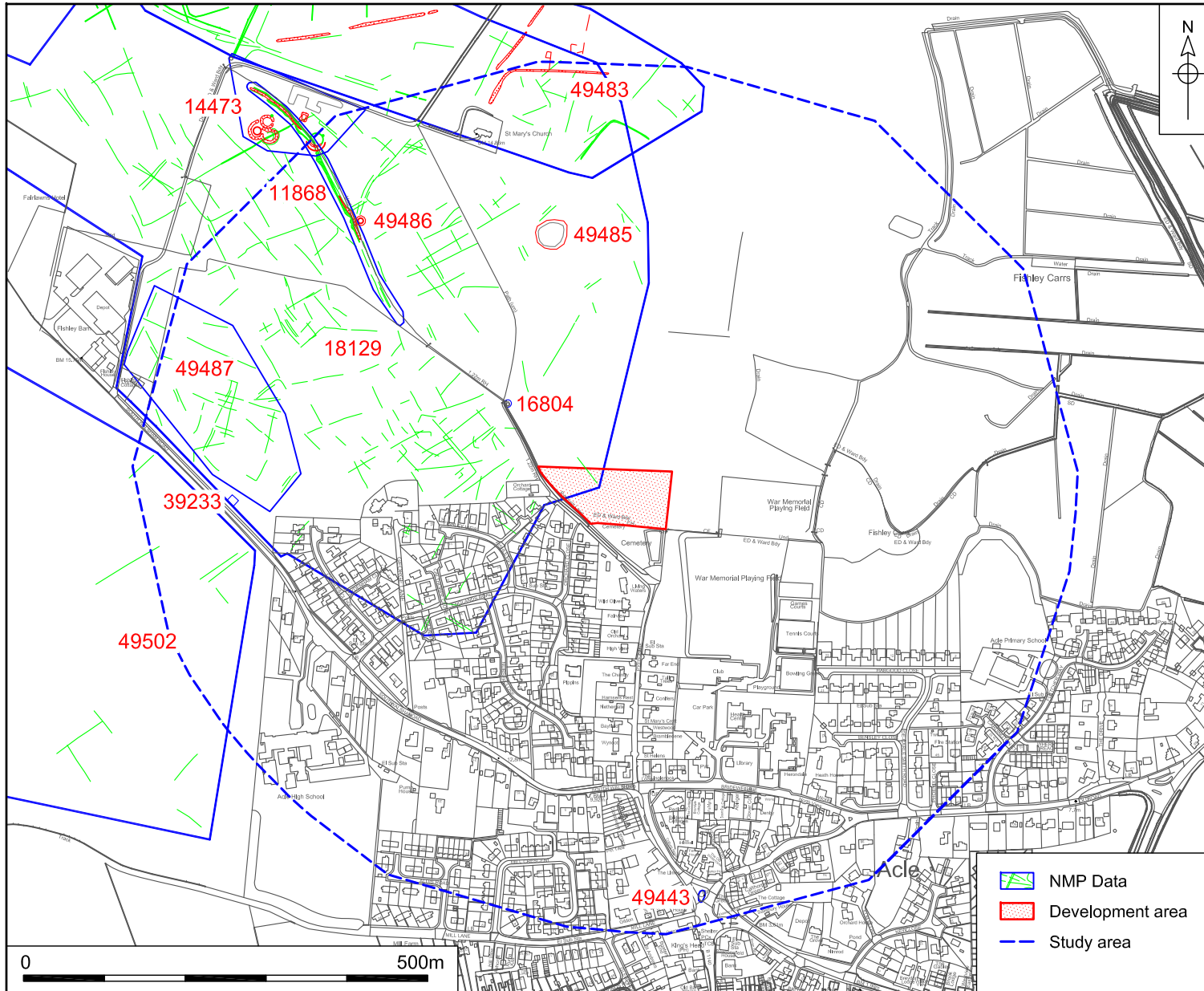


Figure 6. Second World War, undated and negative NHE records within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500



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Figure 7. NMP data within 500m of the site. Scale 1:7500

formerly a slaughterhouse and was converted in 1890 to make iron machinery and parts and employed men for 'call out' duties, to repair and service the machinery made by them. In the early 1900s the business contracted, although it was revived by the First World War, when it was commissioned to manufacture tank and artillery parts. The works completely closed in 1974, and the site has been subsequently re-developed for housing.

None of the listed (or unlisted) buildings lie close to the development site; most are concentrated to the south within the core of the town, with one (St Mary's church NHER 8520) to the north, discussed in 5.2.4, above.. An important building in Acle is the Bridewell, a prison which was recorded as being 'newly built' in 1574, and described as 'ruinous' by 1783. The Victorian jubilee memorial (NHER 14221) dating to 1887 is also worthy of note.

5.2.6 Second World War Evidence

(Figures 6 and 7)

Eight records relating to Second World War activity were recorded within the area; and Acle itself was acknowledged as being of strategic importance in the event of a German invasion. The complex series of surviving defences were once part of a much wider network and are of national importance.

Most of the records within the search area were recorded from aerial photographs taken after Second World War. The most significant of these nationally important remains from Acle is the large searchlight battery, whose size and presence of more than one light signifies troop headquarters (NHER 14473). This site is located to the north-western edge of the study area. A type 22 pillbox was located to the north-west of the development, only 90m away (NHER 16804). A parchmark located to the south-east of the searchlight battery has been interpreted as a possible gun emplacement (NHER 49486), and an area of possible training or defences is visible within a small quarry (NHER 49485). To the west of the development site, around 400m away, was another pillbox (NHER 39233).

To the south-east of the survey area, nearer to the centre of Acle are three records of Second World War defences. A spigot mortar emplacement was present here (NHER 39236) along with three concrete anti-tank traps, seen during gas main laying (NHER 37597) and the alleged site of a pillbox (NHER 49443). The pillbox was said by local information to have been on Acle Green and was camouflaged with the Jubilee Memorial on top of it.

5.2.7 Undated Evidence

(Figures 6 and 7)

Both of the undated sites recorded within the study area are cropmarks of unknown date.

One of the sites partly overlies the development area (NHER 18129), and consists of field systems and enclosures. The second site is of more field boundaries and enclosures (NHER 49487) also located to the north-west of the survey area.

5.2.8 *Negative Evidence*

(Figure 6)

One site within the survey area produced negative evidence. This area was located on the north side of the Bridewell (NHER 1127) and was cleared in 1973 prior to building work. No archaeological finds or features were recorded here.

6.0 **CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

(Figures 8-10)

The earliest map consulted as part of this assessment is Faden's map of Norfolk (Fig. 8) printed in 1797 (Barringer 2004a). This map is not sufficiently detailed to include accurate field boundaries but does give an indication of the area at the time, the road layout and general topography. Acle lies at the edge of a great area of marshes in Faden's time, entitled on his map 'Acle, Tunstall, Halvergate and Wickhampton Marshes', and to the west of this is an area named 'Acle Wet Common'. On the edge of this common is the aforementioned Hermitage, lying close to what is now the A1064 Old Road. The site itself is situated to the north-west of Acle, adjacent to Pyebush Lane, which, unlike today, continues northwards to the hamlet of Fishley. St Mary's church in Fishley is depicted to the north of the development site. The small area of woodland to the east of the development, known as Fishley Carr, is depicted on Faden's map and is of a similar form today. The T-junction of roads that make up the centre of Acle, namely Norwich Road and The Street, are clearly depicted on Faden's map, with the church in the angle formed between the two. There is one road that appears on Faden's map but does not seem to correspond with any modern roads. It is located to the south of the proposed development area, branching eastwards from Pyebush Lane, possibly running through where there are currently playing fields and modern housing.

The next available map was Bryant's map of Norfolk in 1826 (Fig. 9) (Barringer 2004b). This again has limited detail and does not show field boundaries. It is quite possible that the marshes are becoming more accessible at this time, as mills and roads are starting to appear along the edges of the River Bure. The only other changes noted between Bryant's map and Faden's map are that the road that branched eastwards from Pyebush Lane is no longer depicted and that Pyebush Lane ceases at the parish boundary (shown as a dashed line and co-incident with the location of the proposed cemetery extension). The parish boundary depicted on Bryant's map is different to that shown on the Tithe map and Ordnance Survey maps (*cf* Figures 9 and 10 in this report). The area occupied by the proposed development appears to be located within Acle parish in 1826 but in Upton-with-Fishley parish from the mid 1800s when the tithe map was prepared, through until the present day.

The tithe mapping for the development area could only be accessed online (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>) during the preparation of this assessment as the Norfolk Record Office was closed for stocktaking hence the Tithe Apportionment could not be consulted. The development site is located within large field numbered 34 on the map. Pyebush Lane, as it is now known is depicted on the Tithe Map as 'Nelborgate Lane'. The centre of Acle is shown as radiating outwards from what is probably the central green or possibly the market



Figure 8. Faden's Map of Norfolk, 1797



Figure 9. Bryant's Map of Norfolk, 1826

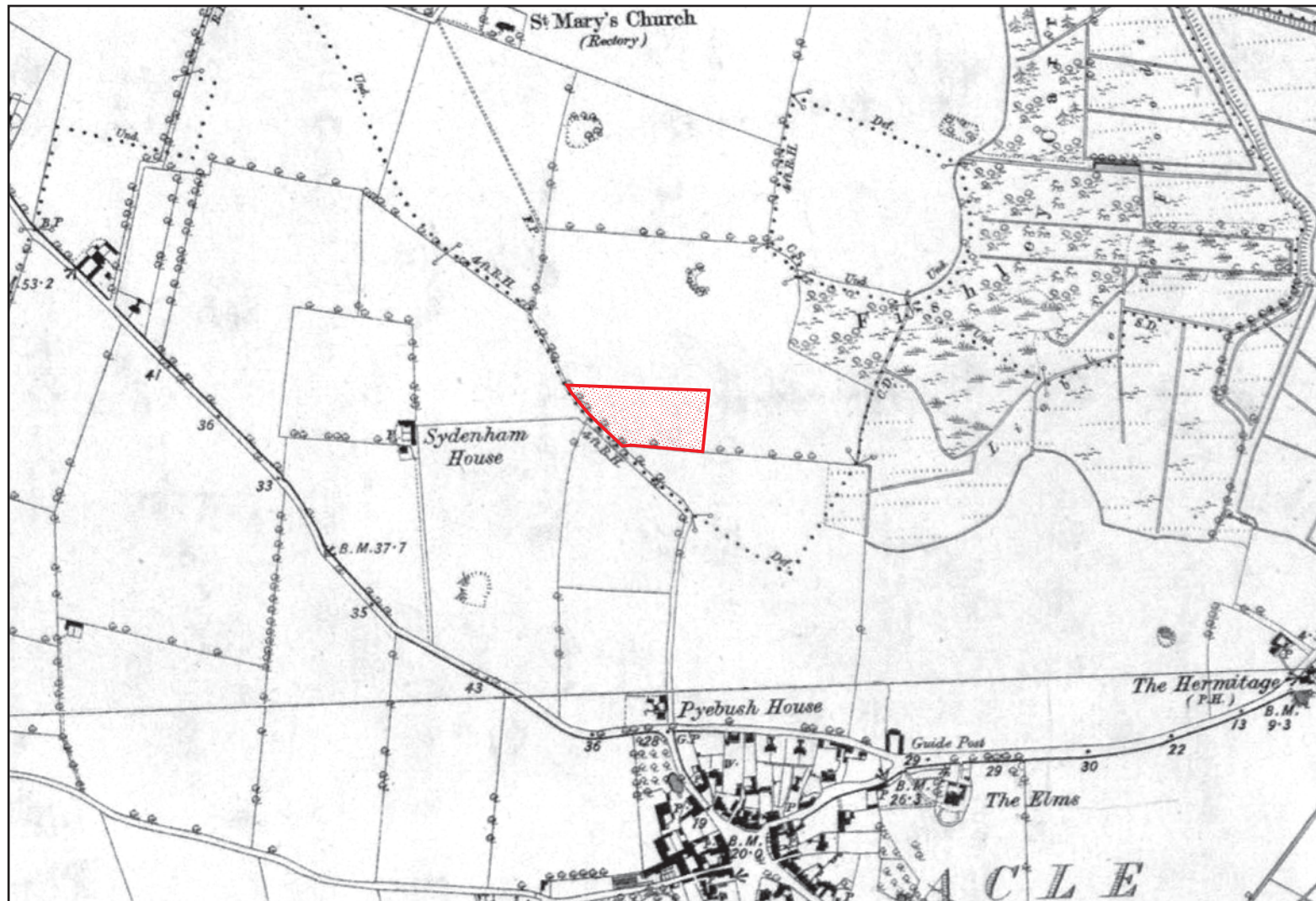


Figure 10. Ordnance Survey map, 1st Edition, 1880s

place. Pyebush House, for which the lane is clearly later named, is not present at the time of the Tithe map.

The next map consulted was the Ordnance Survey map from the 1880s, and it is on this map that Pyebush House is depicted, at the southern extent of Pyebush Lane where it meets South Walsham Road and Bridewell Lane. The parish boundary is clearly depicted here (stippled line). The field in which the proposed development site lies has been sub-divided at the time of this map and the southern boundary of the development site is as it is today located on the border between two fields. Sydenham House appears at this time to the west of the development site.

Few changes appear to have occurred in close proximity to the proposed development site on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps from 1907 through to 1957. An aerial photograph of the area taken in 1946 (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>) shows that the triangle of land that is the cemetery site has been taken out of the larger field. There may also be allotments in the field to the south of the development and some development along the southern end of Pyebush Lane has occurred. Maps produced in the 1970s show development along both sides of the southern end of Pyebush Lane, with Pyebush House still at its very southern end. The current cemetery is depicted on these maps in a small triangle of land within a larger field on the edge of Pyebush Lane. The area that is now playing fields to the south of the development site is depicted as 'Allotment Gardens'. More development around Acle in general is evident.

By 1988, aerial photographic evidence (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>) shows that the upgrading of the A47 is underway to the south of Acle. 'Blobs' that appear on these aerial photographs in the area occupied by the proposed cemetery extension and also to the north are most likely geological features.

Google Earth historical imagery is available from 1999 onwards and shows the site to be in the same condition in 1999, 2003, 2006 and 2007 as it is today i.e. under arable cultivation with no visible cropmarks.

7.0 SITE POTENTIAL

The site of the proposed cemetery extension lies to the north-west of the centre of Acle on its periphery and is located on reasonably high ground above marshy land that leads to the Broads and the coast.

The presence of an undated linear cropmark within the area defined for the proposed cemetery extension demonstrates that archaeological remains are likely to be present within this area (Fig. 7, site NHER 18129). It should be noted however that the complex of cropmarks appears to be significantly less dense in the area of the proposed cemetery extension.

Evidence of prehistoric activity is not prolific in the vicinity and is the least common period represented within the search area. However it should be noted that the landscape is one in which prehistoric settlement or activity might be expected to be represented.

The Roman period is more highly represented, unsurprising given that Acle is likely to be situated on or close to a settlement of this period, evidenced by

excavations in the parish. The location of Acle, close to crossing points of the river with access to marshland, higher ground and routes inland and to the coast makes it ideal location for settlement. Anglo-Saxon and later evidence mainly takes the form of finds material and is fairly ubiquitous and of interesting quality.

Early Saxon brooches found close to the proposed site could signify a Saxon burial ground in the vicinity - they are more usually associated with grave goods (although not exclusively).

In the medieval and later periods it is likely that the development site was under cultivation; it was away from the centre of the village and no other development has taken place there since. Second World War activity in the area is well known, and reasonably easy to map with the aid of aerial photography from the immediate post-War period. No remains of this date were present within the development site itself.

The main archaeological potential for this site is likely to be evidence from the Roman period, although there is also the possibility of Anglo-Saxon, and perhaps later material. The undated cropmark located partially within the proposed cemetery extension may relate to any of these periods or perhaps be of prehistoric origin.

7.1 Valuing the Archaeological Resource

The categories used to assign a value to the archaeological resource are based on those outlined in Highways Agency's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/).

Value	Criteria
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
High	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives. Listed Buildings (including proposed buildings).
Medium	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.
Low	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.

Table 2. Criteria for assigning a value to the archaeological resource

It is thought likely that any archaeological remains within the proposed area for the cemetery extension will be of **medium** value, possibly relating to Roman activity.

7.2 Likely condition of archaeological remains

It is important to consider the condition and stability of any archaeological remains that may be present within the cemetery extension.

The site is likely to have been arable land for centuries, which in itself has its own set of issues for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains. Ploughing may have damaged or even completely removed some archaeological deposits, especially if the area has been subject to agricultural practices for some length of time. There are no known other factors that may have affected the archaeological potential of the proposed cemetery extension site.

7.3 Development Impacts

The extent of any likely impacts is set out in the table below. It is worth noting that the impacts can be either adverse or beneficial and direct or indirect. The criteria for the impacts are taken from Highways Agency’s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/). The impact of development on sub-surface heritage assets is generally adverse.

Impact	Description
Major adverse	Change to most or all key archaeological materials, such that the resource is totally altered. Comprehensive changes to setting
Moderate adverse	Changes to many key archaeological materials, such that the resource is clearly modified. Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the asset
Minor adverse	Changes to key archaeological materials, such that the asset is slightly altered. Slight changes to setting
Negligible	Very minor changes to archaeological materials, or setting
No Change	No change

Table 3. Criteria for assessing the magnitude of the impacts of the proposed development

Any below ground disturbance associated with development of the site will have a direct affect on archaeological remains in the area, and although, inevitably, the extent of the archaeological resource is currently unknown, it is likely that the development would have a **moderately adverse** impact on remains (should they be present).

It is considered that any adverse impact caused by the development on sub-surface remains can be mitigated by a programme of archaeological work approved by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).

7.4 Development Effects

An assessment of the significance of the effects of the development on the archaeological resource can be reached by combining the assessments of value (Table 2) and development impact (Table 3) using a matrix similar to that in Highways Agency’s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/) (Table 4, below).

The value of the archaeological resource is on balance considered to be **medium** and the impact to be **moderate** resulting in a **moderate** effect.

Value	Very High	Neutral	Slight adverse	Moderate/ Large adverse	Large/ Very Large adverse	Very Large adverse
	High	Neutral	Slight adverse	Moderate/ Slight adverse	Moderate/ Large adverse	Large/ Very Large adverse
	Medium	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate/ Large adverse
	Low	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight adverse	Neutral/ Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Slight/ Moderate adverse
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight adverse	Neutral/ Slight adverse	Slight adverse
	No change	Negligible adverse	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse	Major adverse	
Magnitude of Impact						

Table 4. Significance of Effects Matrix

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Acle lies at the western limit of the Norfolk Broads and is a small town located in east Norfolk between Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The proposed cemetery extension area considered here is to provide additional burial space for the extant cemetery located to the immediate south.

A search of a 500m radius around the proposed site produced historic environment records relating to prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and Second World War activity.

The most obvious period for which remains may be present is Roman as there is likely to have been a Roman settlement in the vicinity of Acle. Evidence obtained during excavation to the east of Acle recorded the hinterland of a settlement - a very large rubbish pit and a possible kiln or corn dryer, indicative of peripheral activity for a large population. A possible Roman floor has been found close to the centre of Acle indicating that there is settlement of this date beneath the modern town. It is possible that the area of the proposed cemetery extension will contain some Roman evidence as there is evidence in the vicinity and it occupies a reasonably elevated area.

Evidence of confirmed prehistoric activity is almost non-existent in the area although it is possible that there is unrecorded or unattributed activity relating to this period in the vicinity. The landscape is one which would be conducive to prehistoric activity, being located close to a water source and on rising ground.

Anglo-Saxon evidence is confined to finds although the Early, Middle and Late Saxon periods are represented suggesting that there is continuity of some level of activity in the general area. Early Saxon brooches are generally associated with cemeteries and therefore there is a possibility that an Early Saxon burial ground is located somewhere in the vicinity.

Acle developed as a Royal manor and was of reasonable size and prosperity at the time of the *Domesday Book* in 1086. The parish had a medieval hermitage and a priory, as well as its parish church, a market and a green. At this time it is likely that the development site was agricultural or possibly pastoral.

The proposed cemetery extension site lies at some distance from Acle's centre, and was under an arable regime in the post-medieval period. It has remained in agricultural for several centuries.

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Appendix 1: Archaeological Evidence

Key to colours:

□ Listed buildings

□ Cropmarks

□ Find Spots

□ Other Sites

Sites in **BOLD** are those located within the proposed development area

NHER No.	Description
1127	Area of no archaeological finds or features
8520	St. Mary's Church, Fishley – Grade II* listed – Norman tower with later additions and alterations
11868	Cropmarks of post-medieval trackway
12197	The Bridewell – Grade II listed – 16th century, with 20th century alterations
12199	Mitre House – Grade II listed – around 1600
12899	The Old Bakery/Calthorpe Cottages/Vine Cottage – Grade II row of listed buildings – mainly 18th century with some 17th century timbers
14219	The Manor House – Grade II listed – 17th century
14220	The Limes – Grade II listed – late Georgian
14221	Victorian jubilee monument and milestone – Grade II listed
14224	Site of post-medieval brickworks
14473	Site of pillbox and main Acle area searchlight battery
14707	Medieval or post-medieval architectural fragments reused in a barn
16804	Site of Second World War pillbox
18129	Cropmarks of a field system and enclosures of unknown date
23167	Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds found on spoil heaps of construction site, old recreation ground surface and metal detecting
25490	Fieldwalking and metal detecting recovered medieval and post-medieval objects
28664	Silver penny of King John found during fieldwalking here in 1991
30107	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found during fieldwalking in 1993
35995	Roman pottery found during fieldwalking here in 2001
37597	Three Second World War tank traps seen during gas main laying in 1990
39233	Site of a possible Second World War pillbox
39236	Second World War spigot mortar emplacement
39314	Neolithic flaked axehead, medieval and post-medieval pottery and undated metalworking debris found during metal detecting
40860	Multi-period finds spot, with prehistoric, Roman, Early, Middle and Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval material

NHER No.	Description
40917	35 & 37 Old Road – 18th century building
44143	Ivy House, The Green – Grade II listed – 18th century hiding a 16th century interior
44144	Jubilee Memorial – Grade II listed – 1887
49443	Possible site of Second World War pillbox
49483	Cropmarks of medieval and post-medieval boundaries
49485	Second World War training or defences
49486	Cropmarks of possible Second World War spigot mortar or gun emplacement
49487	Cropmarks of enclosures and field boundaries of unknown date
49502	Cropmarks of possible late Iron Age to Roman field boundaries
51541	Sherd of Roman pottery found in garden
52688	Possible Roman floor found in excavations for a soakaway in the garden of Elmtree House in the 1970s
52977	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in testpitting in 2009
52978	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in testpitting in 2009
54861	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54862	Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54863	Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54864	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54865	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54866	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
54867	Medieval and post-medieval pottery found in a test pit dug in 2010
55290	Site of Acle Foundry – late 19th century