

Report 2014/1262

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Archaeological Watching Brief on the Anglian Water Sheringham Water Pipeline, Sheringham, Norfolk

ENF135561



Prepared for
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February 2015

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Location: Sheringham and Old Sheringham, Norfolk
District: North Norfolk
Grid Ref.: 615415,341839 – 614544,343203
HER No.: ENF135561
OASIS Ref.: 196551
Client: Anglian Water Services Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork: 12 November–9 December 2014

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the laying of a water pipe at Sheringham and Old Sheringham, Norfolk.

The easement was stripped of topsoil revealing, over most of the route, natural yellow sands, gravels or clays. However, in a number of places, especially where the route followed the base of a valley running north from Upper Sheringham, a layer of subsoil was uncovered. The subsoil was probably colluvium, the result of material moving downhill from the slopes above.

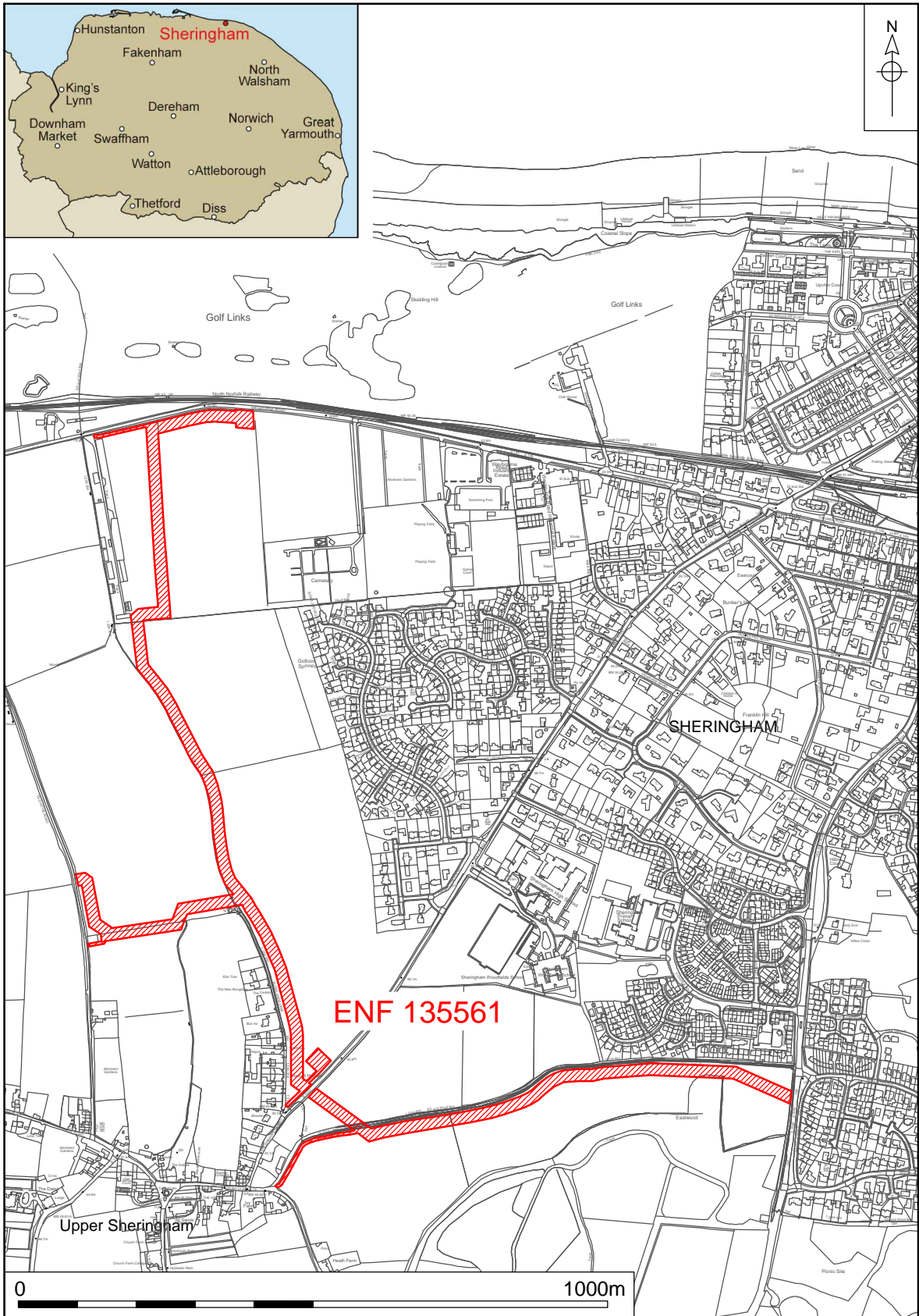
The only significant feature recorded was a spread of burnt flints (so-called 'pot-boilers') at the base of a valley running north from Upper Sheringham. This feature comprised a layer of dark, burnt-flint-rich subsoil beneath the topsoil. The topsoil also contained a large amount of burnt flint fragments, suggesting that post-depositional ploughing has disturbed the flint. The burnt flint is likely to be Late Neolithic–Bronze Age in date, and perhaps the result of a small-scale industrial process such as cloth manufacture or dyeing.

One surprising aspect of this project was a complete absence of Roman evidence, especially as a Roman pottery kiln (NHER 6295) is known to be located 75m west of Field 1.

INTRODUCTION

Figure 1

- 1 The installation of a new 2.9km-long water pipeline to the west and south of the town of Sheringham required a programme of archaeological monitoring on its associated groundworks.
- 2 The work was undertaken to fulfil a request by Anglian Water Services Ltd and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-15-2-1262). The work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.
- 3 The 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.
- 4 The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5 The underlying geology consisted of Quaternary glacial tills and colluviums including clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Sheringham Cliffs Formation, Head clays, silts, sands and gravels, the Briton's Lane Sand and Gravel Member and diamicton of the Bacton Green Till Member, all lying above Quaternary sands and gravels of the Wroxham Crag Formation.¹
- 6 The pipe route passed through rolling countryside on the north edge of the Cromer Ridge, lying at a height of 18.60m OD on Weybourne Road, 40.70m OD at Old Sheringham and 56.00m OD on the south edge of Sheringham at Hollowway Road. Most of the pipe route was through arable fields.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 7 The sources used during the writing of this section of the report include information from a search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and Norfolk County Council's online historical map resource, *Map Explorer*.² The information presented below that is sourced from NHER remains the copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

Figure 2

Field 1

- 8 Field 1 is towards the base of a valley draining north to the sea.
- 9 Roman coins and brooches, Early–Late Saxon objects and medieval metalwork, including an early 14th-century Flemish coin, part of a book fitting and a set of tweezers, have been found in Field 1 by metal-detecting (NHER 28047).
- 10 The chamber and part of a stoke-hole of a Roman pottery kiln were dug out when a fence was constructed 75m west of Field 1 in 1956 (NHER 6295). The site was subsequently excavated completely. The kiln was probably in use between AD 100 and AD 140, the floor was formed of a series of radiating clay firebars, and it was used to fire greyware storage jars, platters and beakers.
- 11 Metal-detecting 135m west of Field 1 recovered an 11th-century strap end and the front plate of a medieval belt chape (NHER 25894).

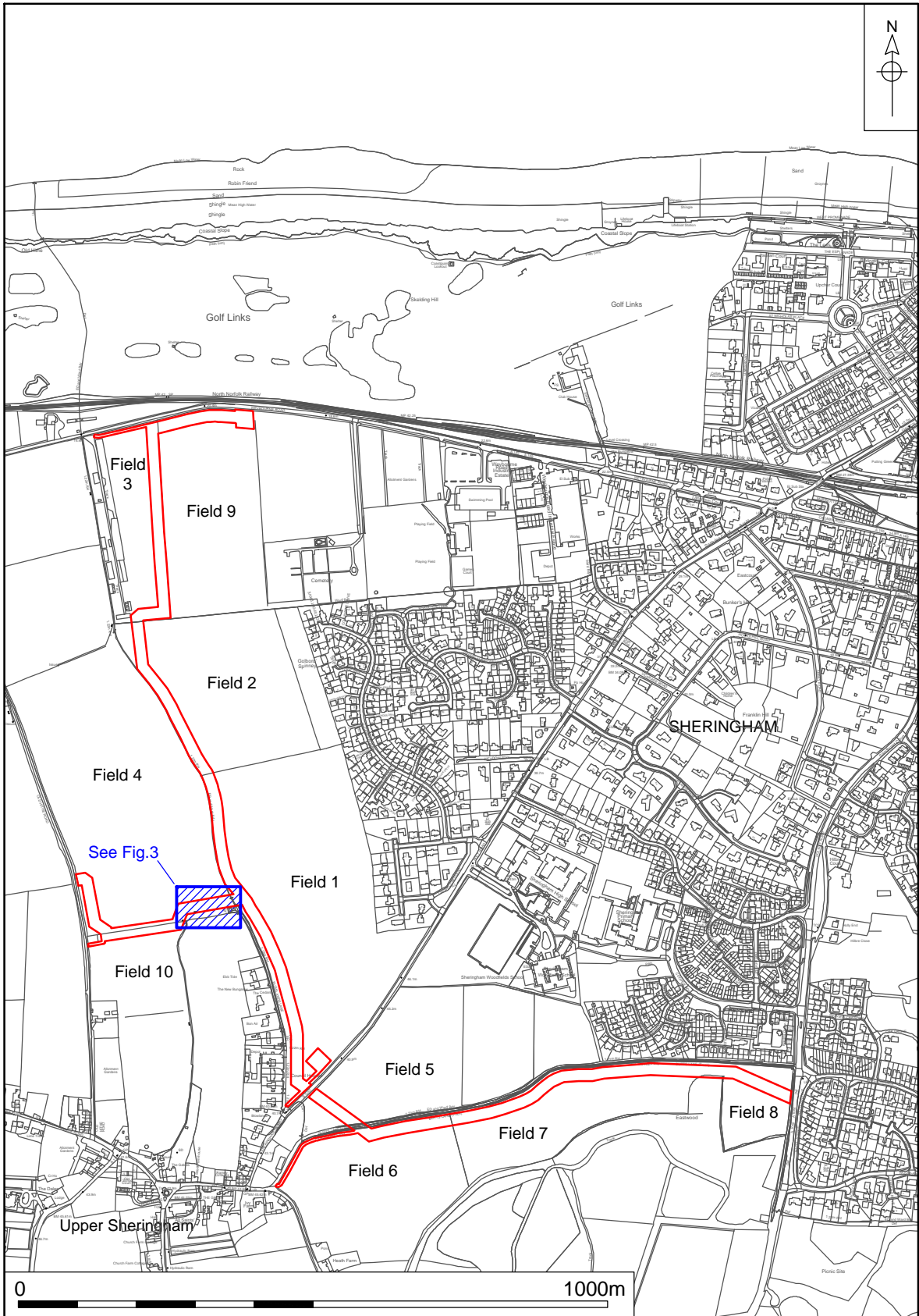
Field 2

- 12 Field 2 is near the base of a valley draining north from Upper Sheringham towards the sea.
- 13 Metal-detecting in Field 2 has produced Roman coins, medieval coins and medieval and post-medieval finds (NHER 44740). The field also contains a group of linear crop-marks of undated ditches (NHER 38257).

Field 3

- 14 Field 3 is at the north end of the pipeline route, adjacent to the coast road.
- 15 At this point the coast road runs parallel to the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway, this section of which was opened in 1887 and closed in 1964, before reopening as the North Norfolk Railway in the 1970s (NHER 13584).
- 16 The south part of this field contains a group of crop-marks of ditches of unknown date recorded on aerial photographs (NHER 38257).
- 17 A World War Two type-24 pillbox, visible on 1946 RAF aerial photographs, lies 290m west of Field 3 (NHER 32510).

² <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>



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Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:10,000

- 18 Metal-detecting in the field 290m west of Field 3 recovered five Roman coins, an early post-medieval buckle frame and part of a post-medieval spur fragment (NHER 32208).
- 19 A medieval buckle frame, four medieval coins, an early post-medieval buckle frame, and part of a post-medieval spur fragment were collected by metal-detectorists 250m west of Field 3 (NHER 32207).

Field 4

- 20 Field 4 is in the base of a valley draining to the north towards the sea.
- 21 An undated ditch is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs taken in 1946 in the area of the pipeline route (NHER 38256).
- 22 A group of linear crop-marks relating to ditches of unknown date are visible on aerial photographs 135m north of Field 4 (NHER 38257).
- 23 Linear crop-marks and a possible trackway of unknown date are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1995, 25m west of Field 4 (NHER 38260).

Field 5

- 24 Field 5 is located on the east edge of Upper Sheringham
- 25 Metal detecting in Field 4 recovered medieval and post-medieval metalwork, including coins, jettons including a 14th-century example from Gelderland, a strap end and buckles (NHER 28046).
- 26 A Roman dolphin brooch was found in 2011 (NHER 58318).

Field 6

- 27 Field 6 is located on the east edge of Upper Sheringham.
- 28 Aerial photographs from 1946 show evidence of World War Two practice trenches in woods to the southeast of Field 6 (NHER 38238).
- 29 An earthwork bank of probable post-medieval date (NHER 38254), and a group of earthwork pits, possibly relating to Late Saxon or medieval iron-working (NHER 38253), are visible to the west of Field 6 on aerial photographs.

Field 7

- 30 Field 7 is the highest point of the pipeline route, situated on the north edge of the Cromer Ridge.
- 31 To the south of Field 7, various banks and ditches are visible on aerial photographs of the Cromer Ridge in Sheringham Wood (NHER 9872). They are thought to be post-medieval boundaries.
- 32 Royal Air Force aerial photographs from 1946 appear to show many World War Two practice/slit trenches in the form of very small earthworks dotted in clusters Sheringham Wood (NHER 38238).

Field 8

- 33 Field 8 marks the southeast end of the part of the pipeline that was subject to archaeological monitoring.
- 34 Field 8 contains a small complex of probable World War Two military buildings that were recorded from RAF aerial photographs of 1946 (NHER 38243).
- 35 Various banks and ditches survive in Sheringham Wood to the south of Field 8 (NHER 9872). They are visible on aerial photographs taken between 1946 and 1988 and are probably boundary banks and ditches predating the woodland.
- 36 There is a group of approximately five small buildings and linking tracks on the RAF 1946 aerial photographs 160m south of Field 8 (NHER 27974). It seems likely that these are military structures from World War Two.
- 37 In 1990, a metal-detectorist found part of a Bronze Age palstave 155m north of Field 8 (NHER 25956).

Field 9

- 38 Field 9 is at the north end of the pipeline route adjacent to the coast road.
- 39 Aerial photographs show the remains of a group of Bronze Age round barrows, consisting of three ring-ditches and a D-shaped enclosure, as well as a trackway and boundary ditches in allotments to the east of Field 9 (NHER 29763).
- 40 To the south of the allotments, in Sheringham Cemetery, a complete Beaker pot was found during the excavation of a new grave (NHER 34486). As it was found intact, it is probable that it came from a Beaker-period inhumation.

Field 10

- 41 Field 10 is to the south of Field 4 in the base of a valley draining north from Upper Sheringham to the sea.
- 42 Metal-detecting in the field to the south of Field 10 yielded artefacts including a Bronze Age dagger or spearhead fragment, a Middle Saxon strap end, and a Late Saxon box mount (NHER 30018). Iron Age, Roman and medieval coins, and a medieval or post-medieval token were also found.
- 43 A Roman coin minted between AD 82 and AD 96 was found in 1957, 130m southwest of Field 10 (NHER 6294).
- 44 Metal-detecting 130m west of Field 10 recovered a medieval strap end, a lead ampulla, a copper-alloy seal matrix and a possible early post-medieval sword belt fitting (NHER 32214). Roman and medieval coins and a 17th-century token were also found.

Cartographic Evidence

- 45 The c. 1840 Tithe Award map, the c. 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey and 1946 aerial photography all show the pipeline route as agricultural land. The field boundaries to the west of Holt Road are suggestive of Parliamentary Enclosure, while those to the east of Holt Road appear to be earlier.³

METHODOLOGY

- 46 The objective of the watching brief 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.
- 47 The Brief required that all groundworks be monitored.
- 48 Machine excavation was carried out by a 13-tonne hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 49 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those that were obviously modern were retained for inspection.
- 50 One environmental sample was taken from burnt mound deposits **21** in Field 4.
- 51 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.
- 52 Site conditions were variable, with the work taking place in mixed weather.

³ <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>

RESULTS

Figure 2

Field 1

- 53 The easement in Field 1 was stripped of topsoil on 19 November 2014, revealing (probably) colluvial pale brown silty sand subsoil, with occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal. The topsoil 1 was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. Post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material fragments, as well as possibly prehistoric burnt flint (so-called 'pot-boilers'), were collected from the topsoil 1.
- 54 The pipe trench was excavated during 1–9 December. The subsoil was found to be only 0.20–0.25m deep, but no further archaeological features or artefacts were visible.



Plate 1: Field 1 easement strip facing north

Field 2

- 55 The topsoil was stripped from the easement in Field 2 on 20–21 November 2014, revealing (probably) colluvial pale brown silty sand subsoil, with occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal. The topsoil 2 was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel, and it yielded two sherds of post-medieval pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery.
- 56 The pipe trench was dug on 1 December, revealing that the subsoil here was 0.30–0.45m deep. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.



Plate 2: Field 2 easement strip facing southeast

Field 3

- 57 Topsoil was stripped from the easement in Field 3 on 21–22 November 2014, revealing an intermittent layer of (probably) colluvial pale brown silty sand subsoil, with occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal. The topsoil **3** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. No datable artefacts were found.
- 58 The pipe trench was excavated in Field 3 on 27 November, revealing that the subsoil was 0.30–0.45m deep. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were noted.



Plate 3: Field 3 easement strip facing north

Field 4

Figure 3

- 59 The easement in Field 4 was topsoil-stripped on 2 December 2014, revealing an intermittent layer of (probably) colluvial pale brown silty sand subsoil, with

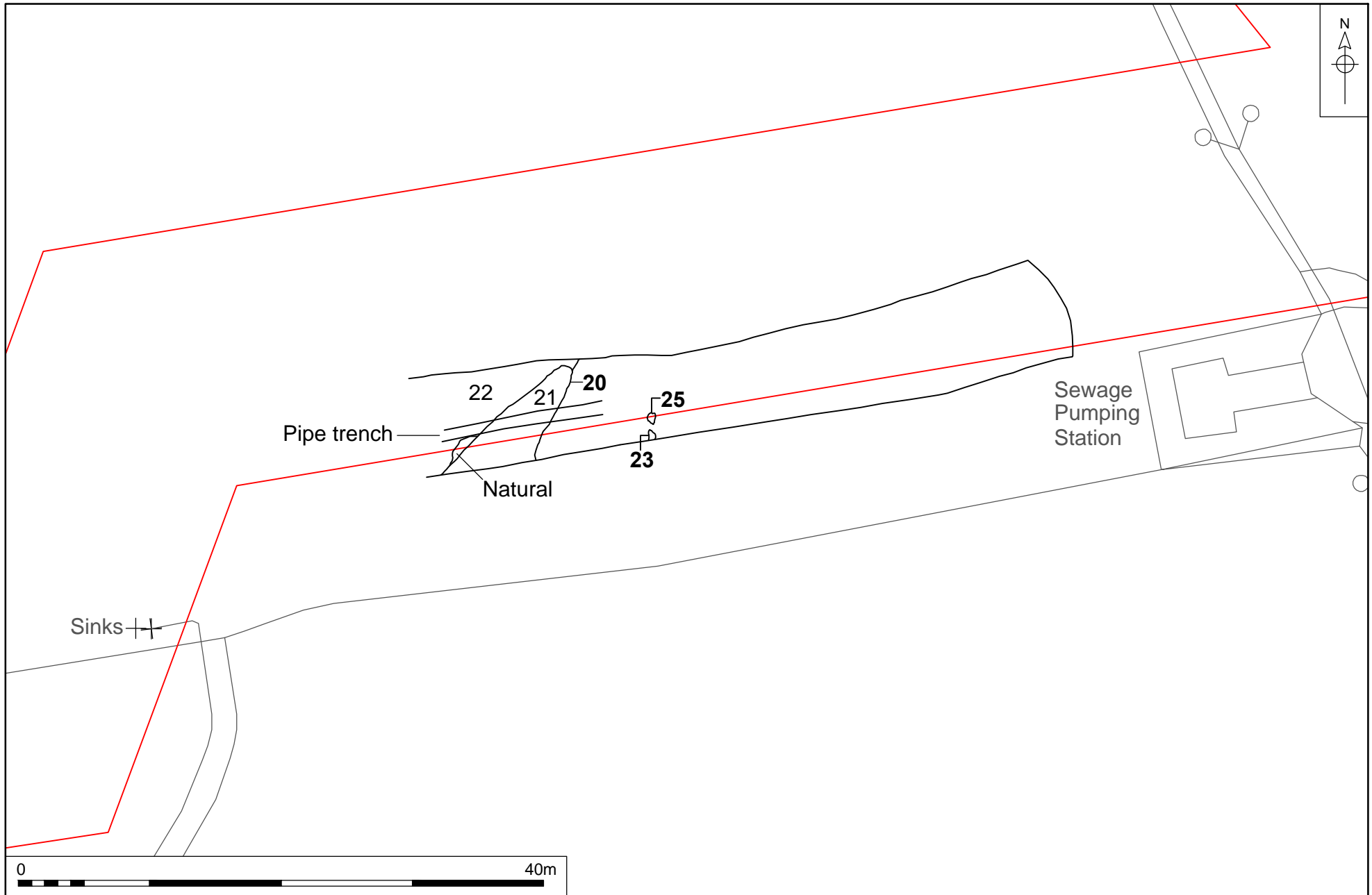


Figure 3. Field 4, burnt flint deposit. Scale 1:400

occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal. The topsoil **4** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. It produced no datable artefacts.

- 60** The lowest part of the valley contained a layer of what was interpreted as alluvial subsoil **22**, which was a pale mottled grey silty sand with rare flint gravel, 0.2–0.25m deep. Feature **20**, which appeared to be an elongated pit, but may have been the terminus of a later palaeochannel, cut layer **22**. It was 0.02–0.25m deep and its fill **21** was a black gravelly sand with frequent burnt flint ('pot-boiler') fragments. The deposit was sampled for palaeo-environmental remains (see *Environmental Evidence* below), but this produced very little information. Two further small, shallow, irregular features **23** and **25** had fills (**24** and **26** respectively) identical to **21**. It is thought that these features were remnants resulting from a process of truncation of feature **20**, which correspondingly may once have been much larger.
- 61** The pipe trench was excavated in Field 4 on 5 December, revealing that deposits **21** and **22** were 0.20–0.25m deep. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.



Plate 4: Deposit **21**, the gravelly material in the centre, facing southwest

Field 5

- 62** The easement was not stripped in Field 5, as the pipe was drilled from Field 1 to Field 6.

Field 6

- 63** The topsoil on Field 6 was stripped on 25 November 2014 revealing yellow sand with patches of weathered chalk natural; at the lowest point of the access track there was a layer of mid–dark greyish brown silty clay colluvial subsoil. The topsoil **6** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel, and it produced no datable artefacts.
- 64** No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.



Plate 5: Field 6 easement strip facing west

Field 7

- 65 The easement was stripped of topsoil on 26 November 2014, revealing yellow sand, gravel and clay natural, but no subsoil. The topsoil **7** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel, 0.40m thick. A few fragments of post-medieval roof tile and pottery, probably representing spread manure, were collected from **7**.
- 66 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.



Plate 6: Field 7 easement strip facing west

Field 8

- 67 Topsoil was stripped in Field 8 on 1–2 December 2014, exposing yellow gravelly clay natural with no subsoil. The topsoil **8** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel, 0.40m thick.
- 68 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.



Plate 7: Field 8 easement strip facing west

Field 9

- 69 The topsoil on Field 9 was stripped on 25 November 2014 revealing yellow sand natural with no subsoil. The topsoil **9** was dark brown sand with occasional flint gravel, 0.45m thick. No datable finds were recovered.
- 70 The pipe was laid on 27 November 2014. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.



Plate 8: Field 9 easement strip facing west

Field 10

- 71 Topsoil was stripped from the easement in Field 10 on 2 December 2014. The topsoil **10** was dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. No datable artefacts were recovered.
- 72 The pipe trench was dug on 27 November. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.



Plate 9: Field 10 easement strip facing east

ARTEFACTS

By Rebecca Sillwood

- 73 Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each category was considered separately and is presented below, organised by material. Appendix 2a contains a list of finds in context number order.
- 74 All of the items collected were unstratified in topsoil contexts from Field 1: **1**, Field 2: **2**, and Field 7: **7**.

Pottery

- 75 Twelve pieces of pottery weighing 101g were recovered from three contexts. One piece was medieval and the rest were of post-medieval date.
- 76 The medieval fragment came from **2**. It is a much abraded body sherd, probably of Grimston-type ware, but without any of the typical green glaze.
- 77 The post-medieval material consists of utilitarian pieces of pottery including Glazed red Earthenware (16th–18th century), German stoneware and refined whiteware (17th–19th century). These sherds came from **1**, **2**, and **7**.

Ceramic Building Material

- 78 Three pieces of ceramic building material weighing 43g were recovered from two contexts, **1** and **7**. The pieces comprise two fragments of black glazed roof tile **1** and one piece of plain roof tile **7**.

Burnt Flint

- 79 Two pieces of burnt flint weighing 27g were recovered from context **1**. The pieces may be associated with the heating of stones to rapidly warm liquids, but it is not possible to be certain. The precise date of the pieces cannot be readily determined however given they could quite likely be of prehistoric date. These flints have not been retained.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Val Fryer

Plant Macrofossils

Introduction and method statement

- 80 Archaeological monitoring at Sheringham recorded the remains of a burnt flint mound of probable prehistoric date. A sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the black gravelly sand and burnt stone which constituted part of the mound material.
- 81 The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed Appendix 3. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, chaff and arthropod remains were also recorded.
- 82 The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts were not recorded, but a large quantity of burnt stone was retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

- 83 The recovered plant macrofossil assemblage is extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and almost entirely composed of highly abraded charcoal/charred wood fragments and splinters of heat shattered stone. One small fragment of indeterminate charred root/stem is also recorded along with a fragment of black, porous material, the latter almost certainly being a residue of the combustion of an organic remain (possibly wood or stem) at a very high temperature.

Plant macrofossil conclusions

- 84 In summary, although the black colour of the deposit suggested that it might include a high organic content, plant macrofossils are, in reality, extremely scarce. Those which are recorded are very poorly preserved and would appear to have been exposed to the elements for a very prolonged period of time. Because of this and the risk of post-depositional contamination, it is not possible to provide any meaningful data about the function of the mound.
- 85 As the assemblage does not contain a sufficient range or density of material for quantification, no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

CONCLUSIONS

- 86 Surprisingly, only one significant feature was discovered during the monitoring project however the distribution of subsoil was also of interest. The absence of Roman evidence is especially noteworthy given that a known Roman pottery kiln (NHER 6295) was recorded only 75m west of Field 1.
- 87 The only significant feature uncovered was the spread of burnt flints (so-called 'pot-boilers') at the base of the valley running north from Upper Sheringham in Field 4. The feature comprised a layer of dark, burnt-flint-rich subsoil beneath the topsoil. The overlying topsoil also contained a large quantity of burnt flint fragments, suggesting that the deposit has been significantly disturbed by post-depositional ploughing.
- 88 The date of the dark deposit has not been determined, but by comparison with other similar deposits of mounds of burnt flint, a Late Neolithic–Bronze Age date seems likely as such features have a restricted chronology (Crowson 2004, 37). The flints were almost certainly sourced locally and, to judge from the abundance of charcoal and charred wood remains from the environmental sample of the deposit, the fuel used for the fire that heated the flints was wood, which is common in comparable sites (Crowson 2004, 34). Investigation of burnt flint mound sites has shown that a ready water supply was important to whatever process the heated flint was part of, and most-always it is suggested that the flints were used for heating water. Burnt flint mounds have been viewed as cooking places, but more contemporary theories as to what processes the heated water were used in have varied from 'sweat lodge' to the perhaps more plausible cloth manufacture in which hot water would have been used for laundering, dyeing and fulling (Crowson 2004, 35); modern experiments in Ireland have proved this to be possible.
- 89 The relatively small size of the burnt flint deposit at Sheringham when compared to larger mounds found elsewhere in Norfolk, for example at Scole in the Waveney Valley and Northwold and Feltwell in the eastern fens (Crowson 2004), suggests that this site may only have been used a small number of times.

Figure 4

- 90 The easement was stripped of its topsoil revealing, over most of the route, natural yellow sands, gravels or clays. However, in a number of places, especially where the route followed the base of the valley running north from Upper Sheringham, a layer of subsoil was uncovered. Subsoils can have a number of origins. Most interesting from an archaeological standpoint is that they may originate from intensive arable land-use, ploughing and intensive manuring. In this case though, the subsoil occurred in valley bottoms: even that in Field 7 was at the base of a shallow dry valley. The subsoil is therefore most likely to be colluvium, which is the result of material moving downhill from slopes above.

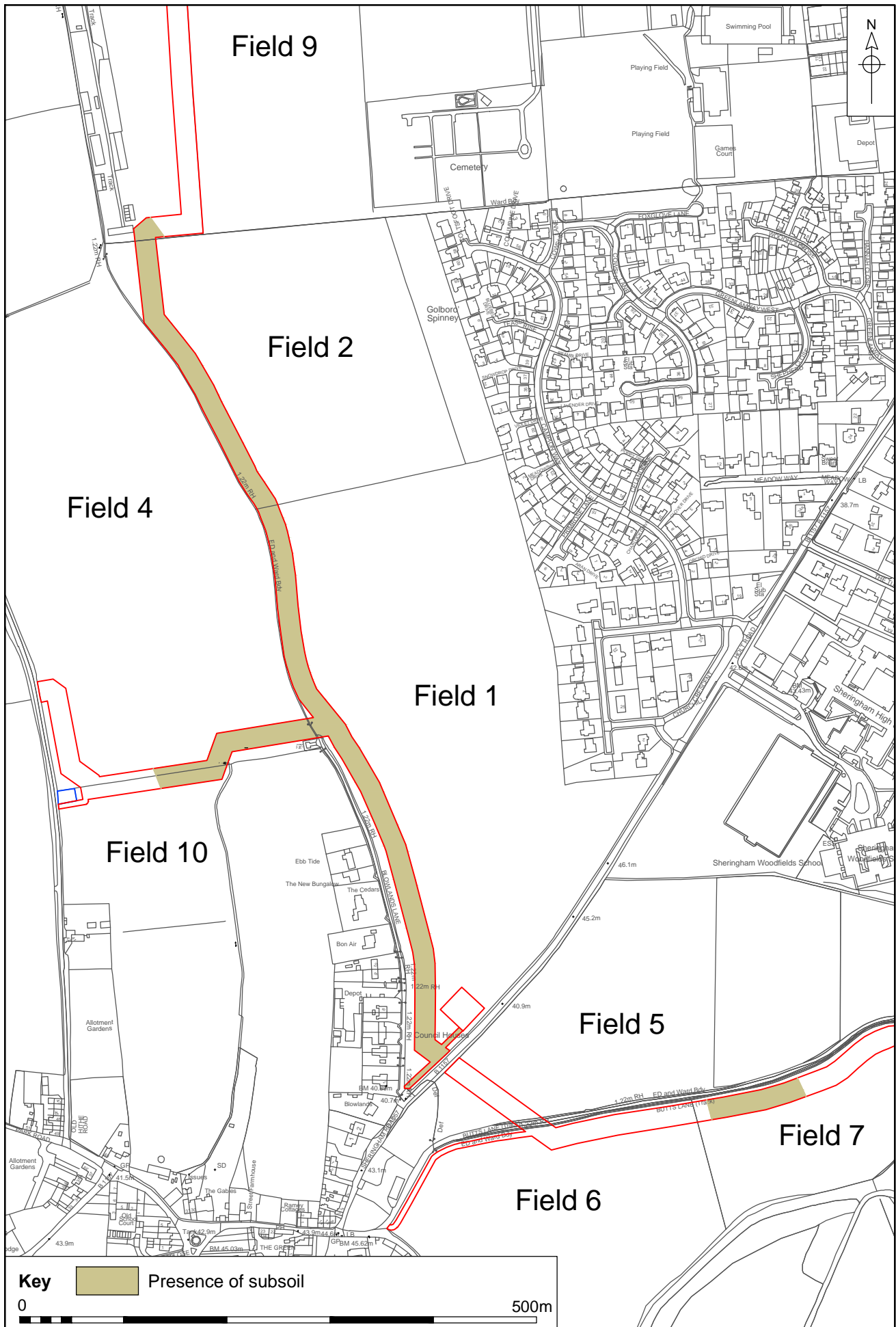


Figure 4. Distribution of subsoil. Scale 1:5000

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The author would like to thank Mike Rice of Balfour Beattie and his staff for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of the project

The finds were processed by Louise Weetman, and recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

The environmental sample was processed by Rob Fryer and reported on by Val Fryer.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

| Context | Category | Cut Type | Fill Of | Description |
|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 1 |
| 2 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 2 |
| 3 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 3 |
| 4 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 4 |
| 5 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 5 |
| 6 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 6 |
| 7 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 7 |
| 8 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 8 |
| 9 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 9 |
| 10 | U/S Finds | | | Finds from Field 10 |
| 20 | Cut | Feature | | spread of pot-boilers |
| 21 | Deposit | | 20 | |
| 22 | Deposit | | | alluvium |
| 23 | Cut | Feature | | small pit |
| 24 | Deposit | | 23 | |
| 25 | Cut | Feature | | small pit |
| 26 | Deposit | | 25 | |

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

| Period | Category | Total |
|---------|--------------------|-------|
| Unknown | Burnt flint spread | 1 |

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

| Context | Material | Qty | Wt | Period | Notes |
|---------|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 35g | Post-medieval | Glazed tile fragments |
| 1 | Flint – Burnt | 2 | 27g | Unknown | DISCARDED |
| 1 | Pottery | 7 | 52g | Post-medieval | |
| 2 | Pottery | 1 | 4g | Medieval | |
| 2 | Pottery | 2 | 16g | Post-medieval | |
| 7 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 8g | Post-medieval | |
| 7 | Pottery | 2 | 29g | Post-medieval | |

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

| Period | Material | Total |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Medieval | Pottery | 1 |
| Post-medieval | Ceramic Building Material | 3 |
| | Pottery | 11 |
| Unknown | Flint – Burnt | 2 |

Appendix 3: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Sample No. | 1 |
| Context No. | 21 |
| Charcoal <2mm | xxx |
| Charcoal >2mm | x |
| Charred root/stem | x |
| Black porous 'cokey' material | x |
| Burnt stone | xx |
| Sample volume (litres) | 27 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | <0.1 |
| % flot sorted | 100% |

Key to Table:

x = 1 – 10 specimens

xx = 11 – 50 specimens

xxx = 51 – 100 specimens

Appendix 4: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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| Project name | Sheringham Water Pipeline, Norfolk |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the laying of a water pipe at Sheringham and Old Sheringham, Norfolk. The easement was stripped of topsoil revealing, over most of the route, natural yellow sands, gravels or clays. However, in a number of places, especially where the route followed the base of a valley running north from Upper Sheringham, a layer of subsoil was uncovered. The subsoil was probably colluvium, the result of material moving downhill from the slopes above. The only significant feature recorded was a spread of burnt flints (so-called 'pot-boilers') at the base of a valley running north from Upper Sheringham. This feature comprised a layer of dark, burnt-flint-rich subsoil beneath the topsoil. The topsoil also contained a large amount of burnt flint fragments, suggesting that post-depositional ploughing has disturbed the flint. The burnt flint is likely to be Late Neolithic-Bronze Age in date, and perhaps the result of a small-scale industrial process such as cloth manufacture or dying. One surprising aspect of this project was a complete absence of Roman evidence, especially as a Roman pottery kiln (NHER 6295) is known 75m west of Field 1. |
| Project dates | Start: 12-11-2014 End: 09-12-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 135561 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined |
| Monument type | BURNT FLINT SPREAD Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | CERAMIC Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CERAMIC Medieval |
| Investigation type | ""Watching Brief"" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

Country England

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|------------------|---|
| Site location | NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK SHERINGHAM Sheringham Water Pipeline, Norfolk |
| Study area | 0 Kilometres |
| Site coordinates | 0 0 615415 00 00 N 341839 00 00 E Point |
| Site coordinates | 614544 343203 614544 00 00 N 343203 00 00 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | NPS Archaeology |
| Project brief originator | Norfolk Historic Environment Service |
| Project design originator | NPS Archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Steve Hickling |
| Project supervisor | NPS Archaeology |

Project archives

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|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | NPS Archaeology |
| Digital Contents | "other" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Paper Contents | "other" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Drawing","Report" |

Project bibliography 1

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Watching Brief on the Anglian Water Sheringham Water Pipeline, Sheringham, Norfolk |
| Author(s)/Editor (s) | Hickling, S. |
| Other bibliographic details | 2014/1262 |
| Date | 2015 |
| Issuer or publisher | NPS Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Norwich |

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