

2015/1192

**Retail Area, East of Chalk Lane,
Narborough, Norfolk, PE32 1SR**

Archaeological Evaluation



**Prepared for:
Blubird Land and Planning**

Planning Ref: Pre-application

HER:ENF138824

September 2015

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Overview	David Adams	
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Edit	Andrew Crowson	17-09-2015
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Peter Eric Crawley, BA, ACIFA

Author

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nps archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150
F 01603 756190
E nau.mail@nps.co.uk
W nau.nps.co.uk

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Table 1 Site archive quantification

Client:	Blubird Land and Planning
Location:	Retail area, land east of Chalk Lane, Narborough
District:	Breckland
Planning Reference:	Pre-application
Grid Reference:	TF 75095 12209
HER No.:	ENF 138824
OASIS ID:	norfolka1-221016
Dates of Fieldwork:	3 September 2015

Summary

NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Blubird Land and Planning to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of proposed new retail development on land east of Chalk Lane Narborough (TF 75095 12209).

The project was undertaken pre-application to support a planning application and fulfil the requirements of a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Previous archaeological works on land to the west of Chalk Lane uncovered evidence of prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity, suggestive of high archaeological potential. It is thought that the Devils' Dyke—an ancient linear earthwork—passes close to the evaluation site, where it bears the name Bichamditch.

The evaluation consisted of three trial trenches, two of which measured 30m x 1.80m, and one 20m x 1.80m. The trenches were positioned to maximise east–west coverage and provide the best opportunity to locate the Bichamditch, but no archaeological features were observed and no archaeological materials were recovered.

The absence of evidence for the Bichamditch suggests that this large landscape feature passes either to the east of the evaluation site, or that it may follow the line of Chalk Lane to the west.

INTRODUCTION

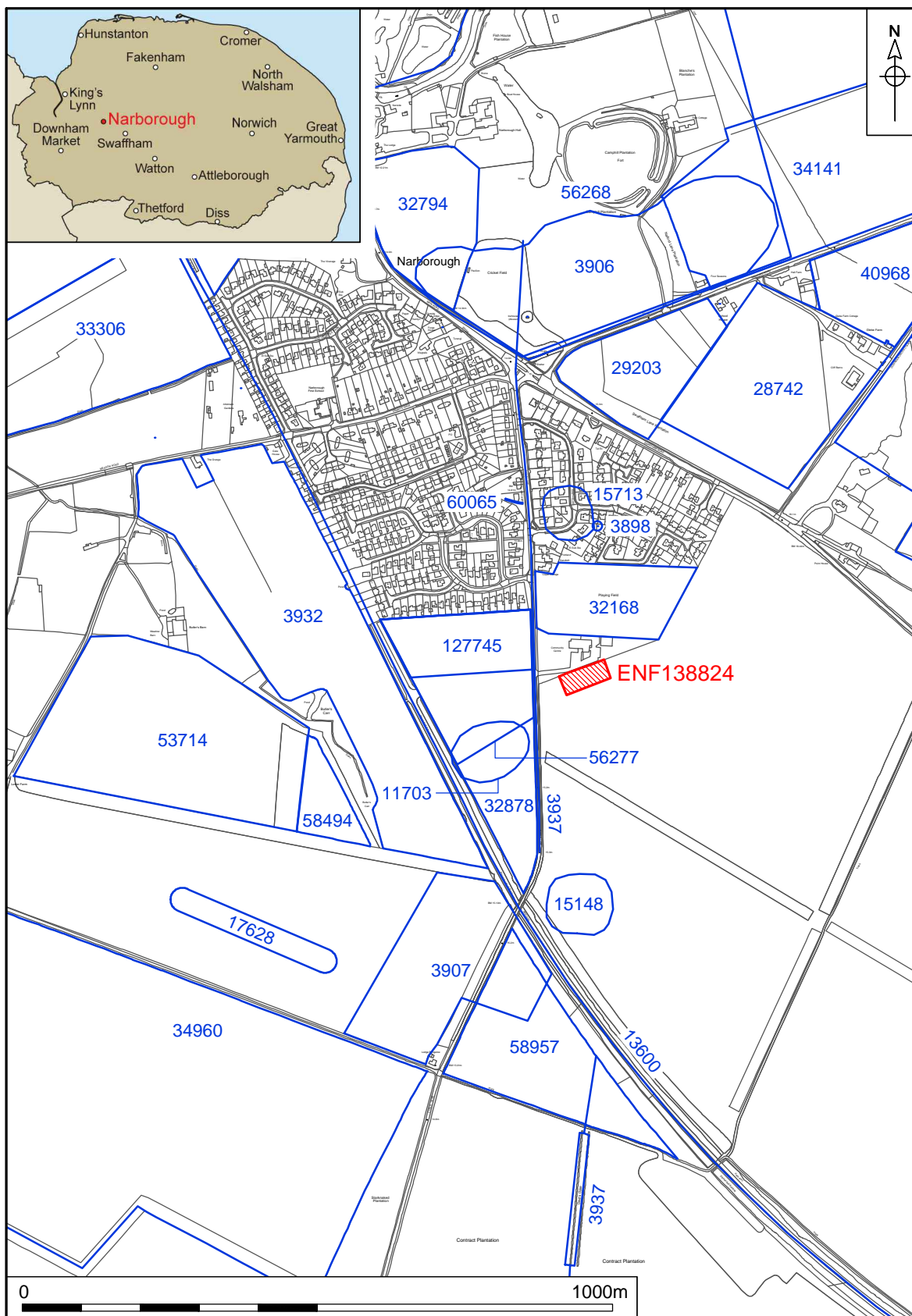
Figure 1

Project Background

- 1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Blubird Land and Planning and funded by Gooderstone Property Developments Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land east of Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk, PE32 1SR, to the south of the village centre.
- 2 The development site comprised an area of 2,720m². Three evaluation trenches were excavated, two of which measured 30m x 1.80m, and one 20m x 1.80m, in order to excavate a 5% sample of the proposed development.
- 3 The site had not been subject to previous archaeological investigation or desk based study.

Planning Background

- 4 The current work was conducted pre-planning ahead of retail development to fulfil requirements contained in a *Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCCHES) (Hamilton 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-16-2-1192/Bown and Crawley 2015).
- 5 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, following principles in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 6 The results of the evaluation will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the future treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 7 The recipients of this report will be Blubird Land and Planning, Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service and Breckland District Council.



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Figure 1. Site location with HER data. Scale 1:10,000

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 8 The solid geology of the area around Chalk Lane comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk (West Melbury marly chalk and Zigzag chalk formations) overlain by unrecorded ('undivided') pre-Quaternary superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2015; Moro 2015)
- 9 This area of west Norfolk lowlands consists of poor, acidic soils formed in Cretaceous sands, low-lying waterlogged peat and small patches of clay (Williamson 2005).
- 10 There are no known palaeochannels or geological features recorded in the vicinity of the site.
- 11 The topsoil **01** at the evaluation site consisted of loose light brown silty sand, which varied in thickness between 0.40m and 0.50m. There was a little mixing at the base of the topsoil with the underlying natural geology below, although no distinct subsoil was evident.
- 12 The natural geology **02** consisted of mottled yellow, orange and brownish orange sand with patches of white chalky sand. Plough scars were visible in the surface of the geological horizon, presumably due to the relatively shallow topsoil.

Topography

- 13 At the time of the work, the evaluation site occupied part (2,720m²) of a large arable field that was relatively level at c. 15.00m OD. It lay to the south of a thick hedge situated on the north boundary of the field, which separated the evaluation site from a community centre.
- 14 The Nar River flows through the village of Narborough from east–west c. 700m to the north of the site. Butler's Carr, a marshy area fed by a small stream, lies c.250m to the west of the site. The large arable field is surrounded by narrow tree belts to the south and east, and a larger plantation beyond.
- 15 Prior to the evaluation, a cereal crop had been harvested and short stubble remained.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sources

- 16 The primary source for archaeological evidence in the county of Norfolk is the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the proposed development site, HER record data was purchased from NCCHEs for a 750m radius centred on TF 75095 12209. This exercise returned 36 individual records, including scheduled monuments, other monuments, spot finds and buildings, containing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric–post-medieval periods.
- 17 The *Map Explorer* website (Norfolk County Council 2015), which hosts digital versions of Tithe and First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps was examined, although no extra detail for the area of the site was recorded. No Enclosure maps for the area of the site were available.
- 18 A reference table listing dates for historical periods described in this report is provided in Appendix 2.

HER data

Figure 1

- 19 The HER data that are most relevant to the current work are referenced and summarised below, along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. The information presented that is sourced from Norfolk Historic Environment Record remains copyright of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

Prehistoric

- 20 Possible Bronze Age ring-ditches are recorded by NHER 11703 to the south and NHER 3906 to the north, and a possible Iron Age hillfort is recorded at Narborough Hall Park to the north NHER 3975.
- 21 Two Neolithic axe heads NHER 3898 and 57868, and a Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead NHER 15713 have been found in the 750m record search area.
- 22 NHER 56277 refers to a possible Early Iron Age inhumation found by an NPS Archaeology evaluation a short distance to the southwest, close to the Bichamditch (Ames 2011).
- 23 Many finds of prehistoric date have been found as components of multi-period finds scatters by metal-detecting and field-walking surveys. Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints were found at NHER 32168, 32878, 3932, 3906, 28742 and 34960. An Early Neolithic flint laurel leaf point is recorded by NHER 29851 and a Neolithic leaf arrowhead by NHER 29852. Metalwork, such as a Late Bronze Age ring NHER 3932, and a Bronze Age copper-alloy axe head NHER 28742 is also known from the search area. Bronze Age pottery fragments were recorded north of the evaluation site NHER 3906.
- 24 Iron Age material occurs locally amongst multi-period finds collections. An Iron Age ring is recorded by NHER 3932, coins by NHER 28742 and a brooch by NHER 3907. An Iron Age fitting from a box or dagger sheath is recorded by NHER 34141.

Roman

- 25 All of the Roman material recorded in the 750m search area was found amongst objects of other dates by metal-detector and field-walking surveys. NHER 3907 marks the site of a Roman temple and villa, from where pottery, coins (including four of silver), building material and other objects have been collected. Finds indicative of a high status dwelling include flue tile fragments, brooches, a finger-ring, a nail cleaner and a military strap-end NHER 58957.
- 26 Roman coins and brooches (often found together) are relatively common amongst finds scatters recorded by NHER 32878, 58494, 33306, 17628, 29851, 31173, 15148, 28742 and 29852. Pottery was found at NHER 3906, 32168, 15148, 3932 and 34960. Finds of rings are noted by NHER 40968 and 34141 and a finger-ring and a bracelet converted into a finger-ring by NHER 32168.

Anglo-Saxon

- 27 A large linear earthwork known variously as Bichamditch or Devil's Dyke NHER 3937, which runs for 11km between the Nar River at Narborough (at the Iron Age fort) and a tributary of the Wissey River at Beachamwell, has been traditionally thought of as an Anglo-Saxon feature, although it could be of Iron Age date. The north end of the earthwork has proved elusive, with an excavation on its projected line in Narborough (Percival 2000) failing to find the feature NHER 60065. Where it has been recorded further south, it had a bank up to 2.50m high and a ditch. If the earthwork is of Iron Age date it may be associated with the Iron Age fort at Narborough (NHER 3975). An Early Saxon pit or sunken-featured building were found by an archaeological evaluation close to the line of the Bichamditch (Ames 2011; NHER 56277). Other earthworks, originally thought to be related to the Bichamditch are, as result of the evaluation, thought to be medieval and post-medieval banks.
- 28 Many finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been discovered by metal-detecting. Coins and brooches are recorded by NHER 32878, 34960, 34141, 28742 and 29852. Late Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were found at NHER 3932, 3906 and 3907. More unusual finds include an Early Anglo-Saxon staple NHER 34960, a fragment of a mount from a hanging bowl, a Middle Anglo-Saxon pin, strap end and tweezers, a Middle–Late Anglo-Saxon hooked tag and strap-end NHER 34141, a Late Anglo-Saxon pin NHER 3907, and a Late Anglo-Saxon hooked tag NHER 29852.

Medieval

- 29 On the north edge of Narborough village an area of earthworks has been recorded NHER 32794. They are thought to represent medieval house platforms. Pottery of various dates has been found here suggesting that the house platforms were used over a long period. A medieval moated site is located by NHER 41952.
- 30 All Saints' church has a Norman north door NHER 3942. It has little direct bearing on the current work, but would have provided a focus of contemporary activity. A hollow way NHER 41953 has been noted running between the moated site 41952 and All Saints' church.
- 31 An earthwork thought to have been linked with the Bichamditch NHER 3937 is now identified as a medieval bank situated close to a post-medieval wood bank (Ames 2011; NHER 56277).

- 32 Further traces of settlement activity are located by NHER 17638. Ridges and ditches are thought to be ploughed-out pits and drainage ditches. Some human remains, with nails and pottery fragments have been unearthed. Many earthworks in Narborough Hall Park NHER 56268 are also indicative of medieval settlement
- 33 A medieval stone recorded by NHER 25294, and re-used in an 18th- or 19th-century smithy, suggests the former presence of a medieval stone building close-by. Fragments of medieval roof tile, floor tile and brick are indicative of the site of a medieval building NHER 3932, from which many small personal metal objects have been found.
- 34 Metal-detecting to the northwest of the evaluation site recovered a medieval gold finger-ring NHER 35986. Finds of medieval pottery, coins, buckles, brooches and jettons are recorded by NHER 32168, 32878, 3907, 34960, 53714, 17628, 29851, 28742, 29852, 40968, 29203, 34141, 3906, and 31173. Dress accessories were found at NHER 34960 and 31173, and at 34141, along with an apothecary's weight, balance, and seal matrix. A harness fitting and finger-ring were found at NHER 3907.

Post-medieval

- 35 An earthwork thought to have been linked with the Bichamditch NHER 3937 was tested during an archaeological evaluation and is now identified as a post-medieval wood bank (Ames 2011; NHER 56277).
- 36 Post-medieval pottery, coins, jettons, tokens, buckles were found in varying numbers at NHER 3932, 3907, 58957, 34960, 53714, 17628, 29851, 28742, 29852, 40968, 29203, 34141, and 15148. Dress accessories, a spindle whorl, a cloth seal, a ferrule, a thimble and a weight were amongst the finds from NHER 3932. Dress accessories were found at NHER 53714, along with bells and a lead cloth seal. Copper-alloy cooking vessel fragment, a crotal bell, a finger-ring and a thimble were recorded at NHER 17628. Later post-medieval musket balls and pottery at the medieval site NHER 17638 indicate its use into the post-medieval period.
- 37 A former school on West Acre Road is recorded by NHER 55247. The collapsed remains of a large brick ice house are recorded by NHER 3905.
- 38 The route of the Lynn and Dereham Railway (later Great Eastern) was one of the most of the most important local foci of activity of this period and ran 250m west of the evaluation site NHER 13600.
- 39 A trench excavated to the north of the site at 1-3 Chalk Lane, revealed pits and post-poles of later 19th-century date (Percival 2000). Finds included bottles, teapots, prams and other metal waste items NHER 60065.

Previous archaeological investigations

There is no documented previous archaeological investigation of the current site, although a number of archaeological works have taken place close-by to the west, prior to housing construction. Following a geophysical survey ENF134359 (Harrison 2011), there have been several separate evaluations ENF127745 (Ames 2011), ENF128439 (Ames 2012) and ENF135844 (Moro 2015), which collectively have recorded evidence of prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Anglo-Saxon, and medieval activity.

METHODOLOGY

General

- 40 Methodology for the evaluation followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (01-04-16-2-1192/Bown and Crawley 2015), where the mitigation strategy for the works is presented in full (Appendix 4).
- 41 Archaeological procedures conformed to guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and the evaluation was conducted within the context of the relevant regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).

Objectives

- 42 The objective of the evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 43 The archaeological project aimed to provide appropriate and adequate data to permit informed decisions regarding any requirement for future archaeological mitigation work on the land east of Chalk Lane, Narborough, and to make the results of the work accessible.

Methods

- 44 The NHES Brief required that 5% of the proposed development was sample excavated by trial trenching. Trenches were situated according to the agreed plan (01-04-16-2-1192/Bown and Crawley 2015) and were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches were positioned east–west following advice from NCCHEs, and were distributed to maximise prospects of finding the Bichamditch NHER 3937.



Plate 1. Machine excavation, looking south

- 45 Prior to mechanical excavation, each trench location was scanned with a CAT to check for buried services. The areas to be stripped of topsoil were examined for surface features and for archaeological artefacts prior to any excavation.
- 46 Machine excavation was carried out by a 13-tonne hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.
- 47 Upon completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.
- 48 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. No artefacts were recovered as a result.
- 49 Due to the absence of suitable deposits no environmental samples were taken.
- 50 The negative trenches were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma Trench Sheets, which record dimensions and depths of deposits and other pertinent details. Trench locations and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Black-and-white 35mm negatives and digital photographs were taken of all relevant deposits where appropriate. Two contexts were allocated, to topsoil and natural geology.
- 51 A Ordnance Survey datum of 15.20m OD, located on Chalk Lane to the south, was used during the evaluation.
- 52 Site conditions were good and the work took place in fine weather.
- 53 All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. Hard hats, high-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times.


Archive

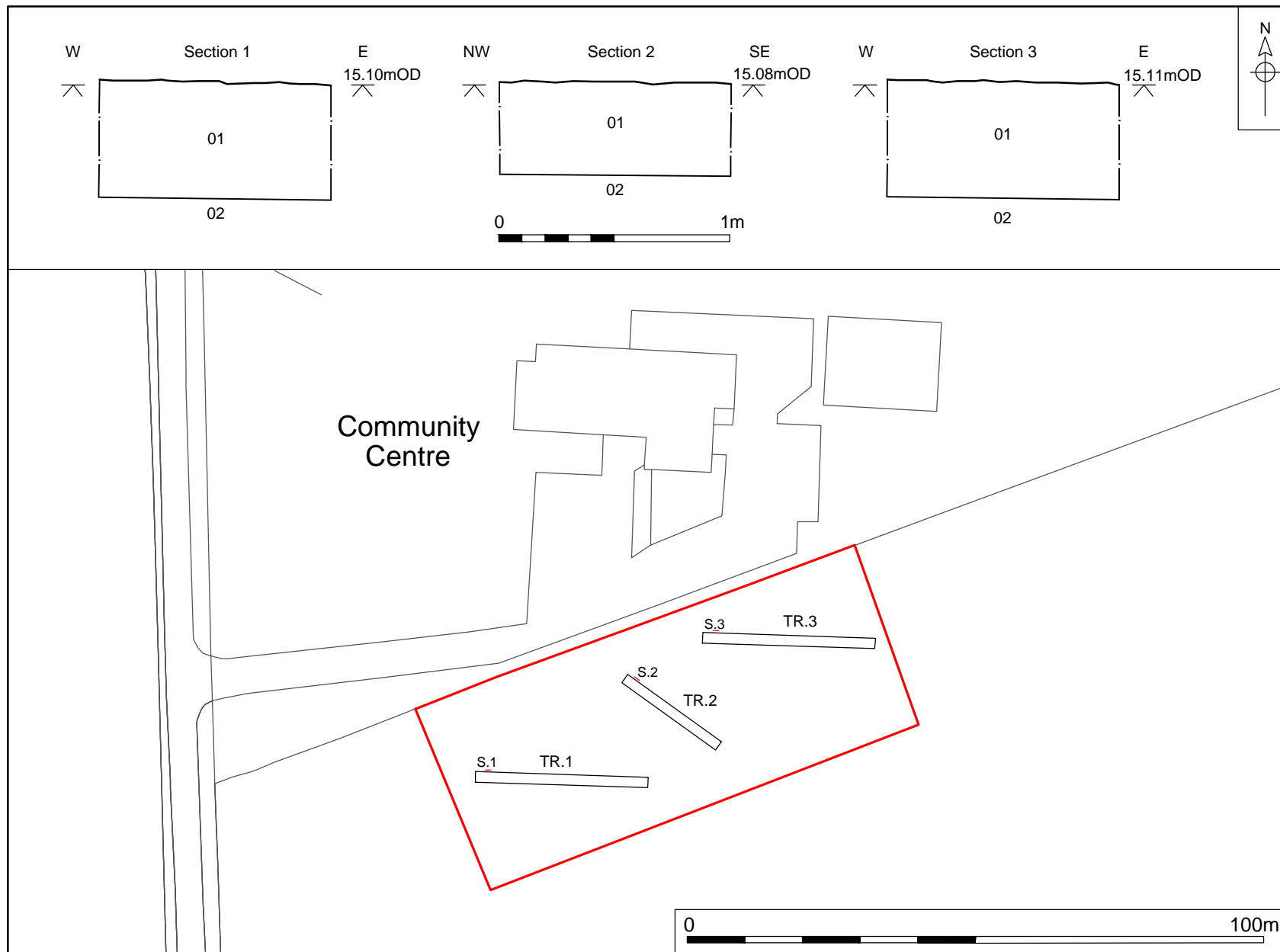
- 54 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology. Upon completion of the project, the documentary archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines obtained from the relevant Museum and relevant national guidelines (ClfA 2014b). The archive, consisting of all paper elements created during recording of the archaeological site, including digital material, will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service.
- 55 A summary form of the results of this project has been completed for Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) under the reference norfolka1-221016 (Appendix 3), and this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.
- 56 The contents of the site archive is summarised in Table 1.

Item	No.
Contexts	2
Trench sheets	3
Plan and section sheets	1
Photographs	6 colour digital images 1 black-and-white film
Finds	0

Table 1. Site archive quantification

RESULTS

Trench 1				
		Figure 2; Plate 2		
		Location		
		Orientation	East–west	
		East end	575085 312192	
		West end	575055 312194	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.50m	
		Levels		
East top	15.00m OD			
West top	15.10m OD			
Plate 2. Trench 1, looking east				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m	0.00–0.50m
02	Deposit	Natural geology	Unknown	0.50–
Discussion				
No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological materials were recovered from Trench 1.				



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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000. Sections 1-3 scale 1:25


Trench 2				
		Figure 2; Plate 3		
		Location		
		Orientation	Southeast–northwest	
		Southeast end	575097 312199	
		Northwest end	575081 312211	
		Dimensions		
		Length	20.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.40m	
		Levels		
Southeast top	15.16m OD			
Northwest top	15.08m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural geology	Unknown	0.40–
Discussion				
No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological materials were recovered from Trench 2.				

Plate 3. Trench 2, looking southeast


Trench 3				
		Figure 2; Plate 4		
		Location		
		Orientation	East–west	
		East end	575124 312216	
		West end	575094 312218	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.50m	
		Levels		
East top	15.03m OD			
West top	15.11m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m	0.00–0.50m
02	Deposit	Natural geology	Unknown	0.50–
Discussion				
No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological materials were recovered from Trench 3.				

Plate 4. Trench 3, looking east

CONCLUSION

- 57 The evaluation carried out by NPS Archaeology on land proposed for retail development east of Chalk Lane, Narborough, revealed no archaeological features or finds.
- 58 The evaluation trenches were arranged to maximise east–west coverage across the site with the aim of identifying, if present, the ancient north–south linear earthwork known as Bichamditch. Neither this, nor any other archaeological features were present in the excavated areas.
- 59 One explanation for the evaluation findings might be that, when the known position of the Bichamditch bank and ditch is plotted on modern maps, the north part of the feature may plausibly adopt either of two suggested lines: just to the east of the current site, or perhaps directly along the straight line of Chalk Lane to the west of the site.
- 60 Recommendations for further archaeological mitigation work (if required, based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

NPS Archaeology would like to thank Jamie Bird of Blubird Land and Planning for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and Gooderstone Property Developments Ltd for funding the work. Thanks also to Carl of Bryn Williams Civil Engineering for operating the mechanical excavator.

James Albone monitored the project on behalf of NHES. Heather Hamilton of NHES provided an event number and HER search.

The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by the author and the project managed for NPS Archaeology by David Adams.

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

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Deposit			Topsoil	Unknown	1, 2 and 3
02	Deposit			Natural geology	Unknown	1, 2 and 3

Appendix 2: Historical Periods

Period	Date From	Date To
Prehistoric	-500,000	42
Early Prehistoric	-500,000	-4,001
Palaeolithic	-500,000	-10,001
Lower Palaeolithic	-500,000	-150,001
Middle Palaeolithic	-150,001	-40,001
Upper Palaeolithic	-40,000	-10,001
Mesolithic	-10,000	-4,001
Early Mesolithic	-10,000	-7,001
Late Mesolithic	-7,000	-4,001
Late Prehistoric	-4,000	42
Neolithic	-4,000	-2,351
Early Neolithic	-4,000	-3,001
Middle Neolithic	-3,500	-2,701
Late Neolithic	-3,000	-2,351
Bronze Age	-2,350	-701
Early Bronze Age	-2,350	-1,501
Beaker	-2,300	-1,700
Middle Bronze Age	-1,600	-1,001
Late Bronze Age	-1,000	-701
Iron Age	-800	42
Early Iron Age	-800	-401
Middle Iron Age	-400	-101
Late Iron Age	-100	42
Roman	42	409
Post Roman	410	1900
Saxon	410	1065
Early Saxon	410	650
Middle Saxon	651	850
Late Saxon	851	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1900	2050
World War One	1914	1918
World War Two	1939	1945
Cold War	1945	1992
Unknown	--	--

after *English Heritage Periods List*, recommended by Forum on Information Standards in Heritage available at: <http://www.fish-forum.info/inscript.htm>

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-221016

Project details

Project name	Retail Area, Chalk Lane, Naborough
Short description of the project	NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Blubird Land and Planning to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a new retail development on land east of Chalk Lane Narborough (TF 75095 12209). The project was undertaken pre-application to provide supporting evidence and information to accompany a planning application and to meet the requirements of a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. Previous archaeological works on land to the west of Chalk Lane uncovered evidence of prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity, suggestive of high archaeological potential. It is thought that the Devils' Dyke-an ancient linear earthwork-passes close to the evaluation site, where it bears the name Bichamditch. The evaluation was undertaken on 3 September 2015 and consisted of three trial trenches, two of which measured 30m x 1.80m, and one 20m x 1.80m. The trenches were positioned to maximise east-west coverage and provide the best opportunity to locate the Bichamditch, but no archaeological features were observed and no archaeological materials were recovered. The absence of evidence for the Bichamditch suggests that this large landscape feature passes either to the east of the evaluation site, or that it may follow the line of Chalk Lane to the west.
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2015 End: 03-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	138824 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Pre-application

Position in the
planning process

Project location

Country England
 Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND NARBOROUGH Archaeological Evaluation
 Postcode PE32 1SR
 Study area 2720 Square metres
 Site coordinates TF 75095 12209 52.678842446064 0.590370727202 52 40 43 N 000 35 25 E
 Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 15m Max: 15.16m

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology
 Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology
 Project director/manager Peter Eric Crawley
 Project supervisor NPS Archaeology

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Retail Area, East of Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk, PE32 1SR. Archaeological Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor (s) Crawley, P.
 Other bibliographic details 2015/1364

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Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification



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2015/01-04-16-2-1192

**Retail Area, East of Chalk Lane,
Narborough, Norfolk PE32 1SR**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

**Prepared for:
Jamie Bird**

Planning Ref: Pre-application

August 2015

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QUALITY ASSURANCE		
Job Number	01-04-16-2-1192	
Location	Land east of chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk, PE32 1SR	
District	Breckland	
Planning Reference	Pre-application	
Grid Reference	TF 75093 12220	
Completed	Jayne Bown/Pete Crawley	02/09/15
<i>Issue 2</i>		

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nps archaeology
Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150
F 01603 756190
E nau.mail@nps.co.uk
W nau.nps.co.uk

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Archaeological evaluation

Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Proposals for a new retail development at Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk (TF 7490 1220) require a programme of archaeological works to support it through the planning process.
- 1.2 The proposed site is located on the east side of Chalk Lane, Narborough, to the south of the village. The proposed site lay to the east of a large field which had previously been evaluated and subject to archaeological excavation prior to a new housing development (NHER 56277). This archaeological project presented evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Saxon, and medieval activity. The area is also high in archaeological potential and it is thought that the Devils' Dyke runs through relatively close to the site a short distance to the west where it also bears the name Bichamditch (NHER 3937). Two evaluation trenches were excavated in 2012 to examine the nature of a bank previously thought to be a continuation of the devil's dyke (NHER 3937), although that fieldwork suggested that the bank belonged to a medieval feature. NHER 11703 represents a possible Bronze Age ring ditch which is visible on 1974 aerial photographs located tot the south west of the proposed site and the route of the Lynn and Dereham Railway 1846 to 1848 (later Great Eastern) NHER13600 also lay to the west.
- 1.3 Jamie Bird of Blubird land and Planning Ltd has requested that NPS Archaeology produce a fee quote and this Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological evaluation to satisfy the requirements of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).
- 1.4 The archaeological works are based on the Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) compiled by Ken Hamilton 24/9/2012. James Albone at Norfolk Historic Environment Service has discussed the archaeological requirement and has specified the number and length of the trenches to be excavated.

2. Aims

- 2.1 The Programme of Archaeological Work requested by Norfolk Historic Environment Service is required to recover, by archaeological evaluation, information relating to the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. A determination of the state of preservation of any features, deposits and structures is also required.
- 2.2 The aims of the archaeological work may therefore be summarised as follows:
 - i. *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area and whether the northern part of the site has been subject to prior archaeological investigation.*
 - ii. *To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the site and the possible impacts of the proposed development on them.*
 - iii. *Ensure that any archaeological features discovered during trial trenching are identified, sampled and recorded and, where it is desirable, recommendations for their preservation in situ are made.*
 - iv. *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature*

of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation

- v. *To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.*
- vi. *To explore evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.*
- vii. *To disseminate the archaeological data recovered by the evaluation in the form of a report which will provide a basis for any decisions regarding further archaeological intervention and mitigation proposals should they be necessary.*

3. Method Statement

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A three-stage evaluation strategy will be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. The stages of this strategy may be summarised as follows.

- i. *Trial Trenching.* Machine and manual excavation will be employed to investigate the presence, condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological deposits and features occurring within the site. Any archaeological features identified will be cleaned and sample excavated to determine function, form and relative date.
- ii. *Post-fieldwork Processes.* The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record will be cross-referenced and analysed to provide a synthesis of the results of the work. The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual and ecofactual materials recovered will be carried out throughout the duration of the fieldwork. The finds will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the archive requirements of the Norfolk Museums Service.
- iii. *Report and Archive.* The report will describe the results of the window sampling and trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

3.1.2 The procedures and methodology for each of the stages outlined above are described in detail below.

3.2 Trial Trenching

3.2.1 Trial trenching will be concerned with establishing the condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological features and deposits present. Guidelines set out in the documents *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be followed.

3.2.2 Three trenches, two measuring 30m x 1.8m, and one measuring 20m x 1.8m will be excavated to provide a 5% sample of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site (see Figure 1).

3.2.3 The trenches have been arrayed across the site to provide comprehensive coverage, although final trench locations may be determined on the basis of surface or below ground obstructions and Health and Safety considerations.

3.2.3 The trenches will be set out by NPS Archaeology and CAT-scanned prior to excavation.

- 3.2.4 Excavation will be by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket in 100mm spits until natural ground or archaeological deposits are identified.
- 3.2.5 Initial excavation will be undertaken to the top of any undisturbed archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural deposits, whichever is the highest. If neither is encountered it may be necessary to excavate deeper. This may be 1.2-1.5m below the present ground surface. If deep excavation is required, the trench sides may need to be locally stepped or shored. The requirement for and the scope of works below safe working depths will be determined by Norfolk Historic Environment Service and agreed and costed as a contingency.
- 3.2.6 If the deposits within the trenches are thought to extend too deep to evaluate safely or below the likely level of any development impacts a hand auger may be used to retrieve information about the nature of the lower deposits.
- 3.2.7 Areas of deep excavation will be fenced using Netlon high-visibility fencing and appropriate warning signage will be displayed.
- 3.2.8 Spoil from the trenches will not be removed from site. The trenches will not be backfilled by NPS Archaeology until agreement to do so is given by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This backfilling will not attempt consolidation or compaction over and above that possible with a mechanical excavator. Full surface reinstatement will not be attempted, but all trenches will be left in a safe and tidy condition.
- 3.2.9 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by hand and screened by metal detector. The metal detector will be utilised to scan excavated spoil and *in situ* horizons with the operator ensuring that it is used in a correct fashion. All artefactual and ecofactual materials will be collected and bagged by context.
- 3.2.10 Detailed strategies for levels of sampling of buried soils, structures, pits, post-holes and ditches will be determined on site. Allowance will be made for total recovery where appropriate; percentage sampling will apply in areas where complex stratified deposits are encountered. Buried soils will be sampled by sieving to determine artefact densities. In general, the feature/deposit sampling strategy will be employed throughout the evaluation in accordance with the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.2.11 Archaeological deposits, features and layers will be assigned individual context numbers and recorded on standardised forms employing the NPS Archaeology's pro forma recording system. The records will include full written, graphic and photographic elements with site and context numbering compatible with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Plans will be made at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings. Sections will be recorded at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 depending on the detail considered necessary. A monochrome photographic record in black and white and colour (digital) will be maintained of all archaeological deposits, layers and features to record their characteristic and relationships. Photographs will also be taken to record the progress of the evaluation.
- 3.2.12 If human remains are encountered they will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. If any human remains or burials are encountered which must be removed an application for a Licence For the Removal of Human Remains will be made in compliance with the 1857 and 1981 Burial Acts and within all relevant Ministry of Justice guidelines. Backfilling of features containing human remains will be done manually to ensure that the remains are appropriately protected from any damage or disturbance.
- 3.2.13 Soil samples for palaeoenvironmental materials will be collected if suitable sealed and well-dated deposits are encountered. Standard 10 litre bulk soil samples, column or monolith samples and Kubiena tins will be collected from such deposits as appropriate, in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science and

other consultant environmentalists. In all instances, sampling procedures will follow the guidelines set out in the document *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002). Full written, graphic and photographic sample records will be made using NPS Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Processes

3.3.1 The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record will be cross-referenced and analysed to provide a synthesis of the results of the work.

3.3.2 The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual materials recovered will be undertaken on completion of the trial trenching. All retained materials will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the Norfolk Museums Service.

3.3.3 Post-fieldwork analyses will start upon completion of the finds processing and will involve the identification and description of the artefactual materials recovered by the relevant specialists. In general, the following strategies will be employed in the analysis of the artefactual materials recovered:

- *Pottery*. Analysed to determine date and tabulated by context unit.
- *Worked flint*. Sorted and tabulated by context unit.
- *Metal artefacts*. Assessed for dating and significance, catalogued by context unit and where necessary conserved within four weeks of completion of fieldwork, in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- *Faunal Remains*. Sorted and tabulated by context unit. Assessed for the potential for further analysis and for sieving for the recovery of smaller bird and fish bones.
- *Environmental Samples*. Processed and assessed for content and significance.
- Other categories of artefactual materials will be analysed in a similar fashion.

3.3.4 All finds work will follow the procedures set out in the document *Standards and Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute for Archaeologists 2001). Finds data will be stored on a database to aid analysis and report preparation.

3.4 Report and Archive

3.4.1 An evaluation report will be prepared that presents the stratigraphic, structural, artefactual and environmental evidence and analyses, and a synthesis of the results of the trial trenching. It is likely that the synthesis will be undertaken in reference to relevant research agendas identified by Medlycott (2011)

3.4.2 The report will present data in tabular, graphic and appendix form. A list of archive components generated by the work will also be included in the report. Copyright of the reports will be retained by NPS Archaeology.

3.4.3 Multiple copies of the report will be produced as appropriate and presented to NPS for their client. Three bound copies and a digital version will be supplied to Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

3.4.4 An online OASIS record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This record will include uploading a pdf version of the final report.

3.4.5 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker

1990), and in accordance with the Norfolk Museums Service's own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.

- 3.4.6 The archive will be fully indexed and cross-referenced. It will also be integrated with the Norfolk Museums Service's Project accession number and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Deposition of the archive and finds (by prior agreement with the landowners) will take place within six months of the completion of the final report and confirmed in writing to the Norfolk Museums Service (NMS). A full listing of archive contents and finds boxes will accompany the deposition of the archive and finds. If NMS are not making new archive accessions and there is no confirmation of when new archives will be accepted, NPS Archaeology reserve the right to make alternative arrangements,
- 3.4.7 All archaeological materials, excepting those covered by the *Treasure Act, 1996*, will remain the property of the landowners. NPS Archaeology will seek to reach a formal agreement with the landowners for the donation of the finds to the Norfolk Museums Service.

4. Timetable

- 4.1 The timetable for fieldwork assumes that there are no major delays to the work programme caused by vandalism, repeated plant breakdown, restricted access, programme changes by the client or periods of adverse weather conditions.
- 4.2 It is estimated that the fieldwork will take up to 5 days with a team of four archaeologists.

5. Staffing

- 5.1 The project will be co-ordinated by a Project Officer who will be dedicated to the project throughout its duration. The Archaeology Manager will assume responsibility for all aspects of the project including finance, logistics, standards, health and safety, and liaison with the client and curators. The Project Officer will have substantial experience in large area trench evaluation and post-excavation analysis.
- 5.2 Other members of staff involved in the project will be the Experienced Excavators and Finds Co-ordinator staff. Experienced Excavator staff will have experience in excavation and experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system or similar systems. The Project Officer and/or Experienced Excavator staff will be experienced metal detector users. The fieldwork is expected to take 1 week with two staff.
- 5.3 NPS Archaeology staff associated with the project will be as follows:

Project Management	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown

Project Staff	
Senior Project Officer	Peter Crawley
Finds Officer	Becky Sillwood
Experienced Excavators	To be nominated

- 5.4 NPS Archaeology reserves the right, because of its developing work programme, to change its nominated personnel at any time. This will be in consultation with Norfolk Historic Environment Service
- 5.5. The analysis of artefactual and ecofactual materials will be undertaken by NPS Archaeology staff or nominated external specialists. Nominated NPS Archaeology and external specialists and their areas of expertise are as follows:

5.5.1 Specialists used NPS Archaeology

Specialist	Research Field
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman Pottery, CBM, human remains
Andy Barnett	Metal-detectorist, Numismatic Items
Sarah Bates	Worked Flint
Julie Curl	Faunal Remains
Debbie Forkes	Conservation
Val Fryer	Macrofossil analysis
Frances Green	Palaeoenvironmental
Andy Peachey	Prehistoric and Roman Pottery, Fired Clay, worked flint

6. General Conditions

- 6.1 NPS Archaeology will not commence work until a written order or signed agreement is received from the Client. Where the commission is received through an Agent, the Agent is deemed to be authorised to act on behalf of the Client. NPS Archaeology reserve the right to recover unpaid fees for the service provided from the Agent where it is found that this authority is contested by said Client.
- 6.2 NPS Archaeology would expect information on any services crossing the site to be provided by the client.
- 6.3 A 7.4 hour working day is normally operated by NPS Archaeology, although their agents may work outside these hours.
- 6.4 NPS Archaeology would expect the client to arrange suitable access to the site for its staff, plant and welfare facilities on the agreed start date.
- 6.5 NPS Archaeology would expect any information concerning the presence of TPOs and/or, protected flora and fauna on the site to be provided by the client prior to the commencement of works and accept no liability if this information is not disclosed. No excavation will take place within 8m or canopy width (whichever is the greater) of any trees within or bordering the site.
- 6.6 NPS Archaeology shall not be held responsible for any delay or failure in meeting agreed deadlines resulting from circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Such circumstances would include without limitation; long periods of adverse weather conditions, flooding, repeated vandalism, ground contamination, delays in the development programme, unsafe buildings, conflicts between the archaeological excavation method and the protection of flora and fauna on the site, disease restrictions, and unexploded ordnance.
- 6.7 Whether or not CDM regulations apply to this work, NPS Archaeology would expect the client to provide information on the nature, extent and level of any soil contamination present. Should unanticipated contaminated ground be encountered during the trial trenching, excavation will cease until an assessment of risks to health has been undertaken and on-site control measures implemented. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to the collection and analysis of soils or other assessment methods, on-site control measures, and the removal of contaminated soil or other materials from site.
- 6.8 Should any disease restrictions be implemented for the area during the evaluation, fieldwork will cease and staff redeployed until they are lifted. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to on-site disease control measures and for any additional costs incurred to complete the fieldwork after the restrictions have been removed.
- 6.9 NPS Archaeology will not accept responsibility for any tree surgery, removal of undergrowth, shrubbery or hedges or reinstatement of gardens. NPS Archaeology will endeavour to restrict the levels of disturbance of to a minimum but wishes to bring to the

attention of the client that the works will necessarily alter the appearance of landscapes and especially gardens.

7. Quality Standards

7.1 NPS Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Archaeological Organisation and fully endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*. All staff employed or subcontracted by NPS Archaeology will be employed in line with The Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Practice*.

7.2 The guidelines set out in the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be adhered to. Provision will be made for monitoring the work by Norfolk Historic Environment Service in accordance with the procedures outlined in the document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). Monitoring opportunities for each phase of the project are suggested as follows:

- during Trial Trenching
- during Post-Fieldwork Analysis
- upon completion of the archive
- upon receipt of the Evaluation Report

7.3 A further monitoring opportunity will be provided at the end of the project upon deposition of the integrated archive and finds with the Norfolk Museums Service.

7.4 NPS Archaeology operates a Project Management System. Most aspects of this project will be co-ordinated by a Project Officer who is responsible for the successful completion of the project. The Project Manager retains responsibility for the delivery of the project. The Archaeology Manager has the responsibility for all of NPS Archaeology's work and ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 NPS Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (SCAUM 2007).

8.2 A risk assessment will be prepared for the fieldwork. All staff will be briefed on the contents of the risk assessment and required to read it. Protective clothing and equipment will be issued and used as required.

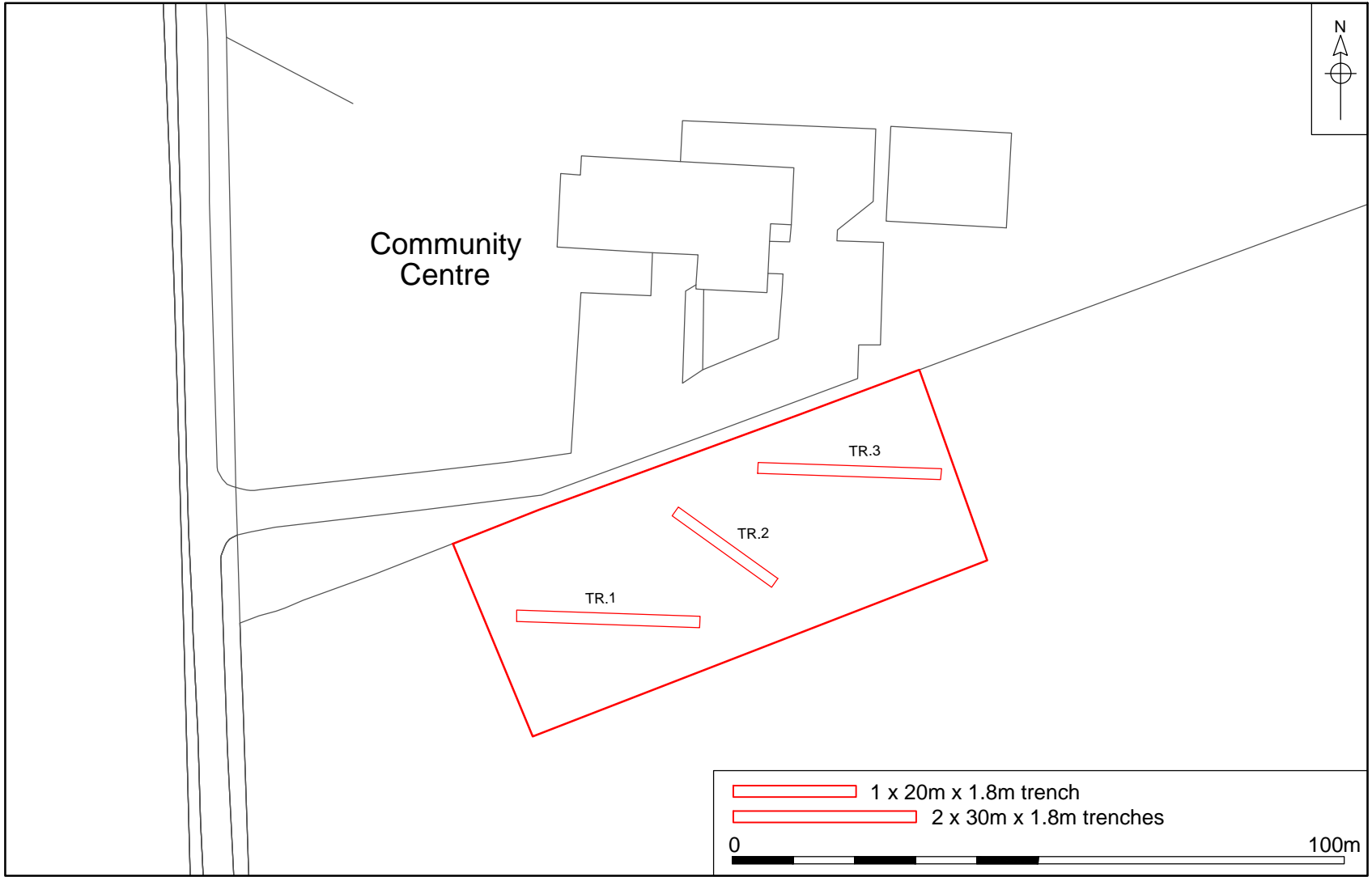
8.3 NPS Archaeology will provide copies of NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety policy on request.

9. Insurance

9.1 NPS Archaeology's Insurance Cover is:

Employers Liability	£ 5,000,000
Public Liability	£50,000,000
Professional Indemnity	£ 5,000,000

9.2 Full details of NPS Archaeology's Insurance cover can be supplied on request.



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01-04-16-2-1192 (Retail) Chalk Lane, Narborough. Proposed trench locations. Scale 1:1000 at A4