

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 254

**Report on a fieldwalking/metal detector survey at Decoy Farm,
Hockwold cum Wilton**

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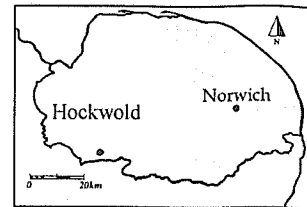
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Location:	Decoy Farm, Hockwold cum Wilton
NGR:	TL 6505 8658
Date of Fieldwork:	6-16 May 1997
SMR references:	19899, 32779



Summary

The fieldwork area consisted of twelve hectares of arable land beside the River Little Ouse in the parish of Hockwold cum Wilton. The site lay on the southern tip of a large sandhill on the edge of the black peat fen; such sandhills have been a focus of human activity since the Mesolithic period and are rich in prehistoric flint, stone and copper alloy artefacts. A fieldwalking and metal detector survey of the site produced flint tools of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date; Bronze Age, Saxon and Medieval pottery and a cast copper alloy axe of the Early Bronze Age were found. Excavation showed no evidence for surviving prehistoric features.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The site of the present fieldwork occupied twelve hectares proposed for development for an agricultural reservoir. The fieldwork was commissioned by British Field Products Ltd. and was carried out according to a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA). The boundary dividing the county of Norfolk from Cambridgeshire (Fig.2) cuts the south western corner of the site; all fieldwork was specified and monitored by NLA by agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council. The site lay on the southern tip of a large glacial sandhill on the edge of the black peat fen 500m south of the present course of the Little Ouse (TL 6505 8658); 1200m to the south-east a large roddon indicates the river's former course and marks the present border between Norfolk and Suffolk. The site lies at a height of 1.2m OD and overlies sand and fen clay but does not impinge onto marine clay deposits which terminate 300m further to the south. The sand and clay are overlain by c.400mm of peat-rich topsoil.

1.2 The south-eastern Fen edge has a long history of archaeological exploration and numerous Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts of have been recovered. Amateur collectors have produced extensive assemblages of objects which have formed the basis of research (Healy 1991, Bamford 1982) and prompted extensive fieldwork projects to investigate the survival of archaeology in the Fenland (Silvester 1991, 116). The present fieldwork site lies to the south-west of the majority of previously known sites (Healy 1996, fig.3) which occupy the higher ground at the base of the chalk ridge close to the present villages of Hockwold and Feltwell.

1.3 The Norfolk Fens have a complex hydrological history, with glacial sandhills and clays being overlain by deposits laid down by several phases of marine inundation, followed by peat growth as the sea water retreated and natural drainage through the river channels was impeded. The Fen margins are characterised by glacial sandhills, which once formed islands within the wetlands and are particularly rich in artefacts. The sandhills were occupied until the Later Bronze Age when they were often engulfed by encroaching peat growth (Silvester

1986, 59). Prehistoric artefacts are often recovered as de-watering combined with intensive agricultural activity exposes ancient material previously protected by peat coverage

1.4 The survey area contained a number of archaeological sites discovered by field-walking undertaken as part of the Fenland Project (Silvester 1991). The sites are described under the following Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) numbers:

SMR Number	NGR	Description of Artefacts Recovered
19892	TL 6482 8635	Single straight edge flint flake knife
19893	TL 6489 8632	Burnt flint scatter to west, flint flakes and blades to east
19898	TL 6491 8637	Scatter of burnt flints and flint tools on sand island. Medieval sherds
19899	TL 6503 8649 TL 6496 8651	Context 1: flint scatter Context 2: scatter of burnt flint and dispersed worked flints

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The fieldwalking and metal-detector survey was undertaken using a 20m grid. Areas of artefact density were further examined using a 5m grid. The field had a light covering of weed growth and was well weathered.

2.2 Trenches 615m long in total and 1.9m wide were excavated to investigate the survival of archaeological features beneath the plough zone. Three trenches (T1-T3) were situated running east to west in the area to be disturbed by the construction of the reservoir. A fourth trench (T4) running north-to-south was placed at right-angles to the most northerly trench (T1) to investigate a scatter of burnt flint (Fig.1)

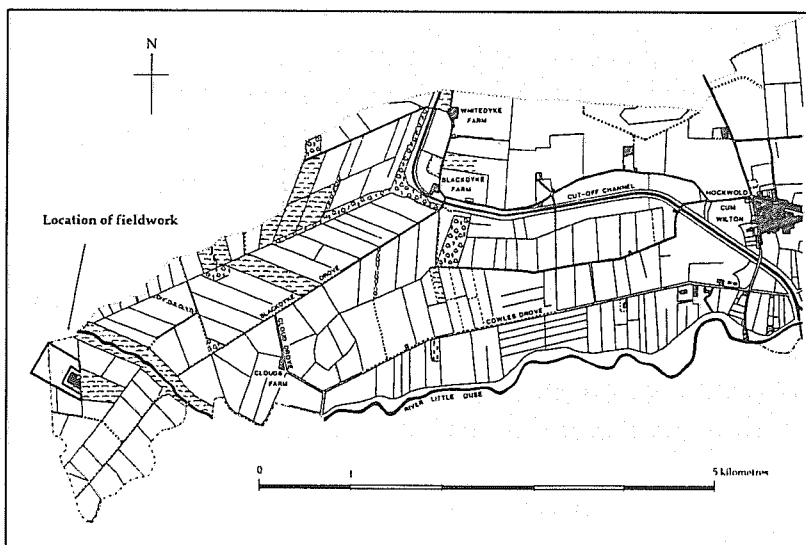


Fig. 1 The parish of Hockwold cum Wilton, showing the location of fieldwork (shaded).
(Silvester, 1991 fig. 28)

3.0 Results of field walking/metal detector survey

3.1 Struck flint, burnt flint and pottery were recovered. (Table 1). Two concentrations of flint and burnt flint were located on the higher ground to the north of the sandhill, and coincided with concentrations previously located by the Fenland Survey (Fig. 2). A scatter of medieval pottery was located to the north-west of the site adjacent to the present track. A single sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware was recovered from the south-western corner of the site. The remaining artefacts showed a dispersed distribution (Fig. 2).

3.2 The metal-detector survey produced numerous modern objects representing the recent agricultural use of the fields; these were discarded. A large copper alloy axe dating to the early Bronze Age was recovered from the area of the sandhill.

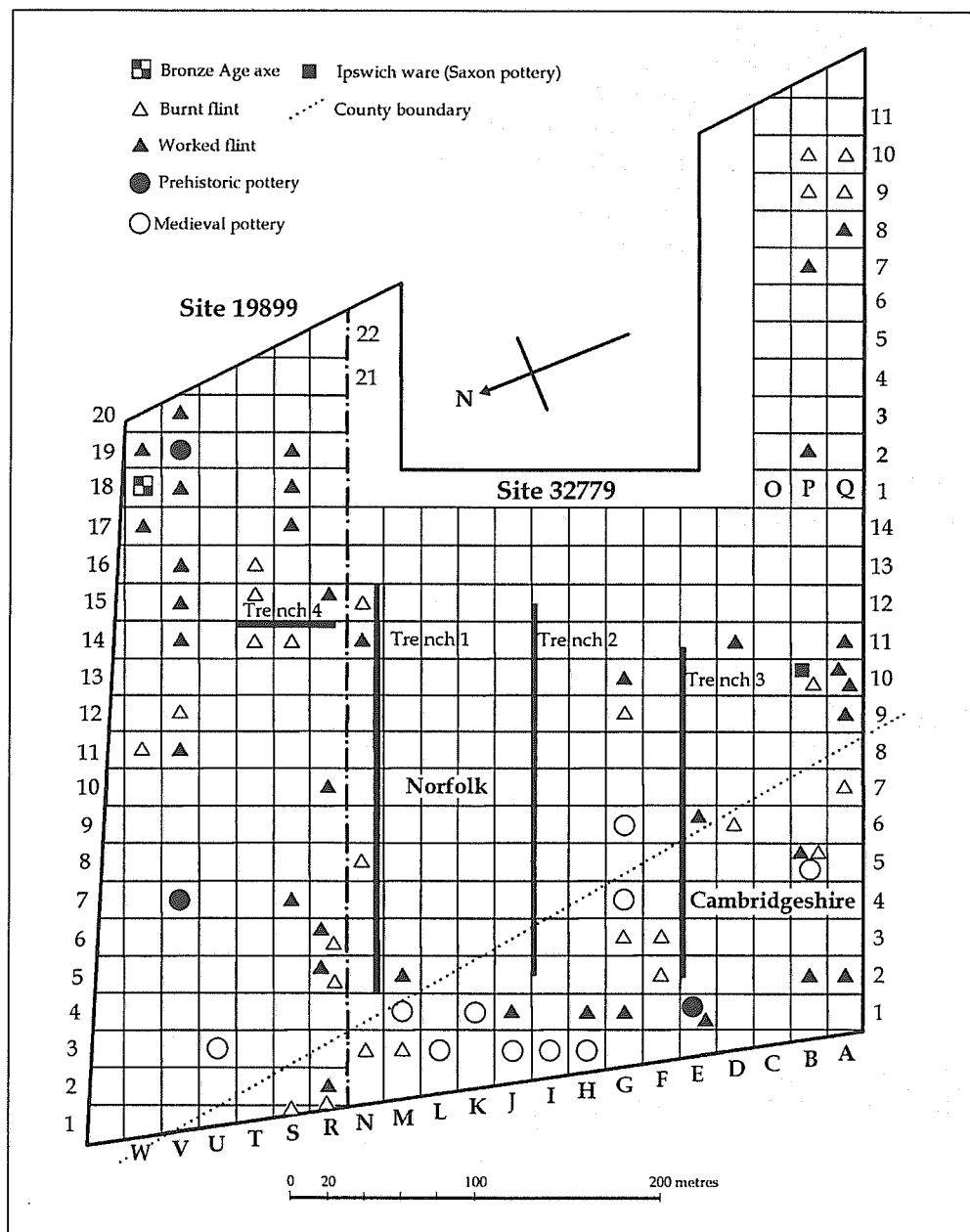


Fig. 2 Distribution of finds and location of Trenches 1-4. NB north to left. Scale 1:2000

4.0 Results of excavation

4.1 Trench 1 lay to the north of the reservoir site adjacent to a former field boundary (Fig.2). Topsoil 300mm deep was removed, revealing a clean, yellow sand subsoil marking the southernmost extent of the sandhill. The fieldwalking survey had recovered worked and burnt flint and medieval pottery from the western end of the trench, but no features containing evidence of prehistoric or medieval occupation were observed. Twelve linear features running north-to-south were seen dispersed across the trench (Fig.3) These were interpreted as subterranean field drains as they often contained pieces of ceramic drainage pipes.

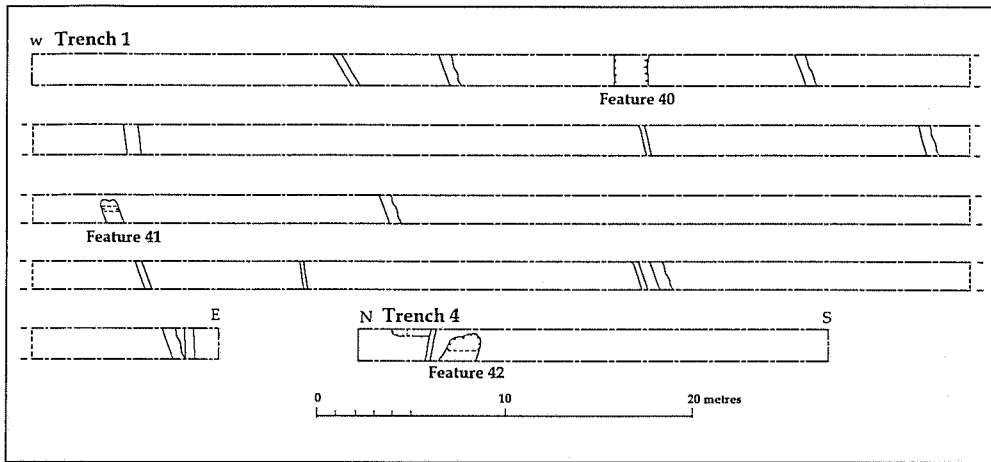


Fig. 3 Plan of Trenches 1 and 4. Scale 1:400

4.2 Trench 2 was situated across the centre of the site (Fig.1). Topsoil 300mm deep overlay orange-grey clay subsoil. The trench contained the remains of twenty-five field drains on a north-to-south alignment. Interspersed between the field drains were fourteen rectangular pits, 1m wide by 2m long aligned north to south and containing c.200mm-400mm of peaty topsoil (Fig.4). Excavation of the pits showed that they had been carefully dug, with straight sides and a flat base. The pits were cut by the field drains and therefore clearly predated them. The alignment of the pits corresponded with that of the modern field boundaries, suggesting that were not of prehistoric or medieval origin. No dating evidence was found within the fills of the pits.

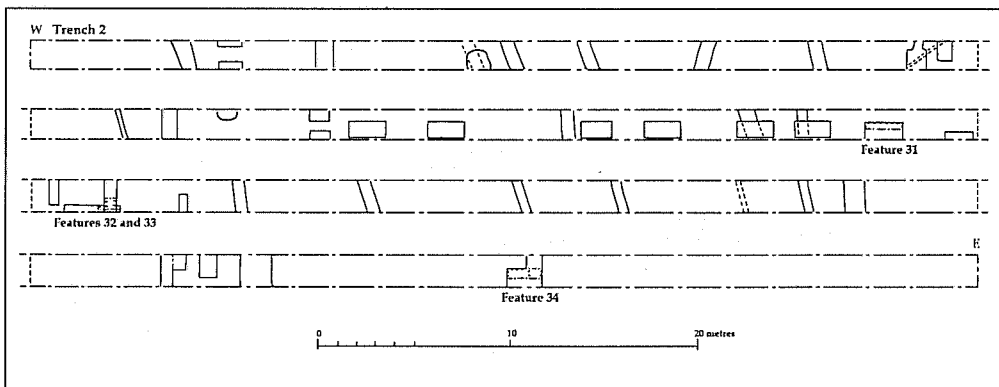


Fig. 4 Plan of Trench 2. Scale 1:400

4.3 Trench 3 lay on the southern edge of the development, in an area which prior to recent field amalgamations formerly lay within a different field to the previous trenches (Fig.1). The topsoil overlying the trench was 300mm deep and overlay mixed grey and orange clays. An area of burnt flints had been located by the Fenland Survey at the eastern end of the trench. The trench contained six field drains and seventeen shallow, irregular hollows dispersed throughout its length (Fig.5). The hollows were each c.250mm deep and contained mixed peaty loam and clay; the sides sloped gently to an irregular base which was often disturbed by roots and animal burrowing. No artefacts were found within the excavated deposits.

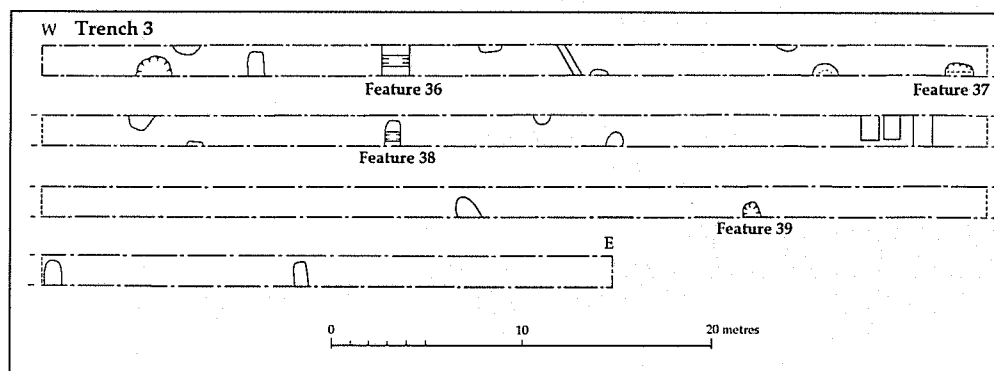


Fig. 5 Plan of Trench 3. Scale 1:400

5.0 Artefacts

All artefacts were collected from the ploughsoil during fieldwalking and by metal detecting.

5.1 The Prehistoric Pottery

5.1.1 Five sherds of prehistoric pottery were found. Two sherds were small and abraded, were light buff-coloured with a dark grey core, and contained calcined flint and crushed pottery (grog) inclusions. They could not be assigned with certainty to any period type. Two body-sherds, probably from the same vessel, were found in the area of the sandhill (Site 19899 context [19]). They were from a large, thick-walled vessel and were decorated with an impressed herringbone motif. The sherds contained large quantities of grog and were abraded and crumbly. The characteristic decoration and fabric of these sherds suggest that they were of Bronze Age (c.2100-1500BC; Healy 1996, 115) type possibly from a Food Vessel similar to that found close by at Plantation Farm, Shippea Hill (Clark 1933, 266-296).

5.1.2 One sherd in a dark grey/black, flint gritted Neolithic or Iron Age fabric was also found.

5.2 The Roman Pottery (identified by Andrew Rogerson)

5.2.1 One sherd of possible Roman pottery was found during fieldwalking. The sherd was in a sandy grey fabric but was too fragmentary to be assigned to a vessel form. Evidence of Roman occupation of the late third to early fourth centuries has been observed at Blackdyke Farm (Fig.1) and Grange Farm (TL 701 885) to the north

of the Little Ouse, but little has been found to the south, suggesting that only casual use was made of the area at this time (Silvester 1991, 57).

5.3 *The Saxon Pottery (identified by Andrew Rogerson)*

5.3.1 A single sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware was collected during fieldwalking. The sherd was a simple slightly everted rim from a jar in a pale, sandy fabric with a characteristic smoothed surface. This type of pottery was used during the 7th-9th centuries and is found throughout East Anglia and around the Wash (Jennings 1981, 12). Numerous examples have been recovered from the Fens but it is unusual within the parish of Hockwold, where examples have been found at only one other site (SMR 17102, TL 7340 8780).

5.4 *The Medieval Pottery (identified by Andrew Rogerson)*

5.4.1 Twenty-four sherds of medieval pottery were found, all from ploughsoil contexts. The assemblage included eight sherds of Grimston type ware, both glazed (six sherds) and unglazed, one sherd of Hedingham-type ware, and three sherds of a glazed ware with profuse white inclusions, commonly found in the Cambridgeshire region (A. Rogerson *pers. comm.*). The remainder of the assemblage consisted of local glazed and unglazed wares from domestic cooking and storage jars.

5.4.2 The scatter was concentrated to the west of the site beside the track, and had been observed in previous fieldwork (SMR 19898, TL 6491 8637).

5.5 *The Flint (Sarah Bates)*

5.5.1 Fieldwalking contexts from Site 19899 produced 51 pieces of flint, mostly struck flakes. Some of these were retouched and utilised and some unmodified. A small group of blades of probable Mesolithic date were identified and a few recognisable tools (mostly scrapers) were found, but most of the assemblage could not be closely dated.

5.5.2 Most of the flint was dark grey or brownish-grey in colour; the raw material included nodules and pebbles. One 'honey-coloured' flake was recovered context [28]. Also noted were several pieces which show the utilisation of already patinated flakes, in particular a triangular flake context [30], flakes from the sandhill context [30] and a scraper context [23]. This utilisation of already-formed suitable flakes may indicate a later prehistoric (Bronze Age) date for these pieces. No burnt flint was present in the worked flint assemblage.

5.5.3 The most interesting aspect of the assemblage are six long blades context [30]. The largest of these is a crested blade, almost certainly of Mesolithic date. All of the these blades show the battered or abraded platforms characteristic of core preparation for the production of blade tools during the Mesolithic period. Another of the blades has been retouched along both edges to form a doubly-serrated blade or saw. such pieces may be early Neolithic or Mesolithic in date; considering its association with the other blades the latter seems more likely.

5.5.4 Interestingly, concentrations of Mesolithic material are known from sandhills approximately 1km to the east on the other side of the Little Ouse River (Silvester 1991, figs 45 and 70).

5.5.5 The only other pieces from this site which may be diagnostic are a small 'thumbnail' scraper context [4], probably of Early Bronze Age date, and part of a serrated blade context [140] of early Neolithic or Mesolithic type. The remaining assemblage can be assigned a general Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

5.5.6 Site 32779 produced twenty-two pieces of flint, all grey or grey-brown with both nodules and pebbles represented. The assemblage contained very few diagnostic pieces; these included a utilised blade context [20] which has an abraded platform characteristic of Mesolithic flint-working, an end scraper of probable Neolithic date context [31] and a small scraper context [27] of Bronze Age type.

5.5.7 The utilisation of ready-formed flakes is represented contexts [12] and [21] where both pieces were patinated before being struck or retouch. These are probably of Bronze Age date. For the rest of the material from the site only a general date range of Neolithic/Bronze Age date range can be suggested.

5.6 *The Copper Alloy Axe (Alan West)*

5.6.1 This was recovered using a metal-detector at a depth of 100-150mm within the ploughsoil. It is a flat axe with a thin arched butt narrowing to 4.4cm before expanding out to a bevelled edge showing little sign of wear (fig. 6). One face is slightly concave from just above a low stop-ridge to three quarters of the way down the axe. Decoration consists of a herringbone pattern which extends both sides of the low stop-ridge on both faces of the axe. On one side the pattern changes direction above the stop ridge, and becomes more random. The surface condition is generally good, with indications of plough damage on one side. The axe is 18cm long and 8.3cm wide at the blade; it weighs 665g.

5.6.2 The axe is similar to Megaw and Hardy's type I (Megaw and Hardy, 1938, 272) and Harbinson's Ballyvalley type (Harbinson 1969, 32). This type of axe occurs mainly in Ireland, with English finds being concentrated in the Yorkshire Wolds. They have been found associated with Bush Barrow material (Harbinson 1969 78, Abercromby 1912 Pl.CX, 0.34) which would date it to c.1800-1600 cal.BC).

6.0 *Conclusions*

6.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of burnt flint and utilised flint artefacts was recovered from across the entire area of the twelve-hectare development. Two scatters of burnt flint were observed (Fig.2), but these were spread sparsely within the ploughsoil and did not constitute a dense concentration or burnt mound. Prehistoric burnt mounds have been excavated at Northwold and Feltwell (Crowson forthcoming, Bates forthcoming) and have been found to have contemporary features preserved beneath them. No such features were located by his excavation, however.

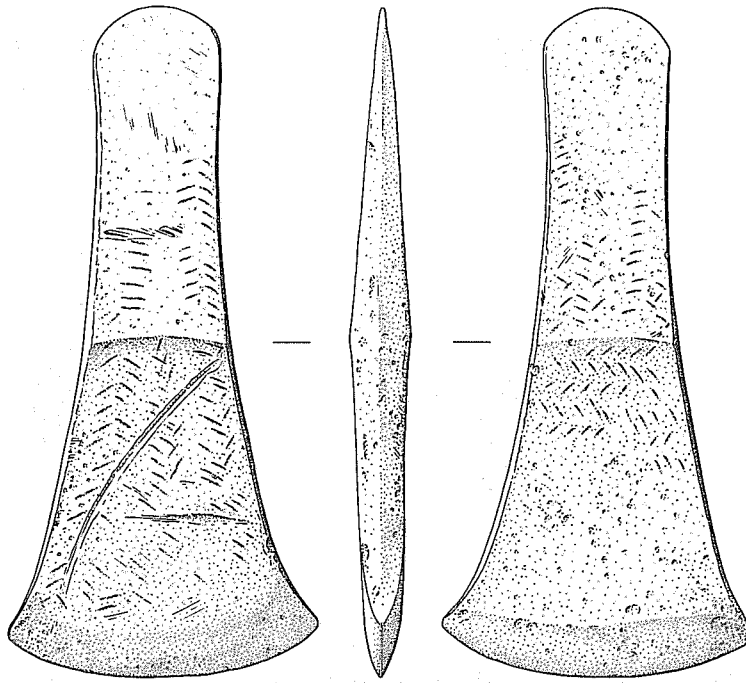


Fig. 6 Copper alloy axe. Scale 1:2. Drawn by Steven Ashley

6.2 A notable concentration of prehistoric material was observed on a sandy rise in the north-east corner of the site. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts, sherds of Bronze Age Food Vessel and the Early Bronze Age flat axe were all found in the area centred on TL6505 8658. Examination of the aerial photographic evidence shows two circular crop-marks in the north-east corner of the field which may represent ring-ditches (AP 76 127 538). Extensive metal-detecting of the rise did not produce any other metal objects, suggesting that the axe was not part of a hoard. Fourteen flat axes have previously been found in the area of the Little Ouse and Wissey basin (Healy 1996, 43) and within the parish of Hockwold an axe of similar date was discovered to the north of the development area (Site 17541, TL6929 8763; Healy 1996, fig.26, M2) with a second example being recovered nearby from Shippea Hill (Frances Healy *pers. comm.*). Early Bronze Age metalwork has been found extensively in the Fenland suggesting that a major metalworking centre existed there at that time. Production may have been linked with the practice of deliberate deposition of precious metal objects in wet places for ceremonial or religious purposes (Healy 1996, 47-48).

6.3 Occupation of the area beside the Little Ouse during the Roman period appears to have been limited and only one sherd of Roman pottery was found. The single Middle Saxon sherd suggests that during the 7th-9th centuries activity was also sparse, finds like these perhaps representing trade passing along the river (Silvester 1991, 57). The lack of habitation sites dating to the late Roman and Saxon period may reflect the deteriorating drainage conditions in the low lying peat fen, with settlement concentrated on the chalk ridges beside the present villages of Hockwold and Feltwell. The small concentration of medieval pottery sherds observed beside the trackway may indicate a farmstead on the edge of the sandhill by this later period, the associated pottery being dispersed onto the nearby fields during manuring.

6.4 The field drains and rectangular pits observed in the excavated trenches belong to the post-medieval period and reflect increased drainage and agricultural production. The pits observed in Trench 2 may be the remains of settings for fruit trees; similar pits can clearly be seen on aerial photographs of the area (AP 76 127 538).

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Colin Brown and Jeremy Higgs of British Field Products for their co-operation during the excavation. Andrew Crowson of Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Edwin Rose, Andrew Rogerson and David Gurney of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology provided helpful comments and interpretation. Sarah Bates and Alan West provided reports on the flints and copper alloy axe respectively.

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PROPOSED RESERVOIR
AT

HOCKWOLD CUM WILTON
NORFOLK

(PLANTATION FARM
SHIPPEA HILL
ELY
CAMBS)

PLANNING AUTHORITY: King's Lynn & West Norfolk
and
East Cambridgeshire

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 97/0438/AG (KL & W Norfolk)

SMR SITE: 19898, 19899, 19892, 19893
L.A.S. REF: 541

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

Prior to the submission of a Planning Application, an Archaeological Evaluation involving field survey (fieldwalking and metal-detecting) and trial trenching is to be commissioned. This may confirm the need for the submission of a planning application or not, as the case may be, and indicate a need for further work if remains of importance are found.

Background

The location of the proposed reservoir is shown on the attached plan in an area which is cultivated agricultural land.

Application has also been made to East Cambridgeshire District Council as the mutual boundary for both councils runs through the site of the proposed reservoir.

The Archaeological Curators for Cambridgeshire have been consulted, and have agreed that Norfolk Landscape Archaeology will be the lead body in the formulation of the Archaeological Evaluation Brief (this document), approval of Project Specifications or Method Statements and monitoring of the project.

An area of around 5 acres is affected, with a proposal to construct a winter storage agricultural reservoir with balanced cut and fill earth embankments plus an associated single storey pump house.

This is in an area of archaeological interest and potential, with the 12-hectare parcel including four known archaeological sites, comprising finds of potboilers (burnt flints), prehistoric flint scatters and medieval pottery.

It is therefore an area with significant potential for the discovery of archaeological remains, particularly of the prehistoric periods and, possibly, related environmental evidence.

An Archaeological Evaluation should be commissioned to meet the Project Objectives (see below), by means of a field survey (fieldwalking and metal detecting of the field surface in appropriate conditions) and trial trenching.

Project objectives

These should be to establish the presence/absence, extent and state of preservation of archaeological features within the area indicated, and to assess the artefact content of the ploughsoil and the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

Brief

The Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement should:-

1. Provide a clear statement of the project's aims and objectives.
2. Indicate the range of background, documentary and cartographic research to be undertaken.
3. Present a strategy to assess the artefact content of the topsoil by fieldwalking and metal-detecting.

The methods of artefact recovery to be employed should be specified e.g. hand-picking, sieving, metal-detecting.

The 12 ha sites should be examined, but survey should focus on the 5 ha site of the proposed reservoir.

4. Include a scale plan showing the proposed extent of the field survey.

5. Include a scale plan showing the proposed locations of trial trenches. These should examine not less than 2% of the 5 ha site proposed for the reservoir.
6. Include details of:-
 - i) projected duration on site
 - ii) details of the appropriate knowledge, experience and skills of the project team.

It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief. It is therefore not a requirement that the number of staff to be deployed should be specified.

Contactors may find it helpful to seek the advice of the local curator on the number of person-weeks to be allocated to the fieldwork phase of the project, but the level of resourcing is ultimately the contractor's decision.

7. Provide a provisional programme outlining post-excavation analysis, specifying what staff and time resources have been provisionally allocated to the project. This programme may be subject to review when the excavation results are assessed.
8. Indicate what opportunities are proposed for project monitoring within the project's stages of:-
 - i) fieldwork/survey/trial trenching
 - ii) assessment
 - iii) analysis and report preparation
 - iv) completion of archive, deposition of archive and finds and dissemination of resultsso that monitoring officer(s) are able to examine and discuss work in progress to ensure that all work is being carried out to appropriate professional standards.
Proposed monitoring points should be specified in any timetable submitted.
9. Include an estimate of the time and resources required for the completion of the project archive and for the production of an Evaluation Report for the client (and for inclusion in the SMR (see Results 6. below) and for submission to the planning authority if appropriate).
10. Show what provision has been made for the identification of artefacts, including specialist reports if appropriate.
Include a list of specialist consultants who might be required to advise or report on finds or other aspects of the investigation.
Finds work should be to accepted professional standards, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Guidelines for Finds Work adhered to.

11. Show what provision will be made for inclusion of the results of the project in the County SMR.
12. Indicate that all Site and Context numbering used will be compatible with the Norfolk SMR.
13. Show what provision has been made for conservation. Specify the number of conservator days/weeks allocated to the project and what facilities will be available.
14. Show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site. Specify the number of environmentalist days/weeks allocated to the project and what facilities will be available. Describe the proposed environmental sampling strategy. Where specifications include a research design for environmental archaeology, this must be submitted to and approved by Peter Murphy, Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 1TJ.

All sampling should follow the procedures in A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994).

15. Provide a summary of agreements reached with:-
 - i) the landowner
 - ii) an appropriate museumover the donation and deposition of cultural material and project records in a permanently accessible form and in an acceptable form. Account must be taken of any reasonable requirements the museum may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive. In this instance, deposition with the Norfolk Museums Service is appropriate. The finds and archive should usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project.

Archiving should follow the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (first draft, June 1994) and any additional local requirements (guidelines available upon request).

16. Indicate that provision has been made for the microfilming of the archive in accordance with R.C.H.M.E. guidelines and to their specification, for the deposition of the silver master with R.C.H.M.E., and for the deposition of a diazo copy with the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record.

17. Indicate if publication is envisaged, and confirm that the cost implications of editorial and reprographic work have been adequately built into the project.
18. Indicate what contingency arrangements have been made to deal with the unforeseen.

The Evaluation Report

1. Style and format of the Evaluation Report may be determined by the archaeological contractor.
2. Plans at appropriate scales showing survey areas and trench locations, all features and findspots must be included.
3. The Evaluation Report should include an assessment of the finds, and should present an overview of the quality and potential of the finds assemblage.
4. The Evaluation Report should include an assessment of the environmental potential of the site.
5. A scale plan of actual and where possible predicted archaeological deposits should be included.
6. A copy of the Evaluation Report will be supplied to the Norfolk SMR and the Cambridgeshire SMR within six months of the completion of the project on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).
7. The Evaluation Report should not give an opinion on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate.

The Norfolk Museums Service Landscape Archaeology Section will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The archaeological contractor will give the Landscape Archaeology Section not less than two week's written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward any 'Detailed Project Specification' or 'Method Statement' to the Norfolk Museums Service Landscape Archaeology Section for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

Any subsequent variation to the Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement must be agreed with the Landscape Archaeology Section prior to its implementation.

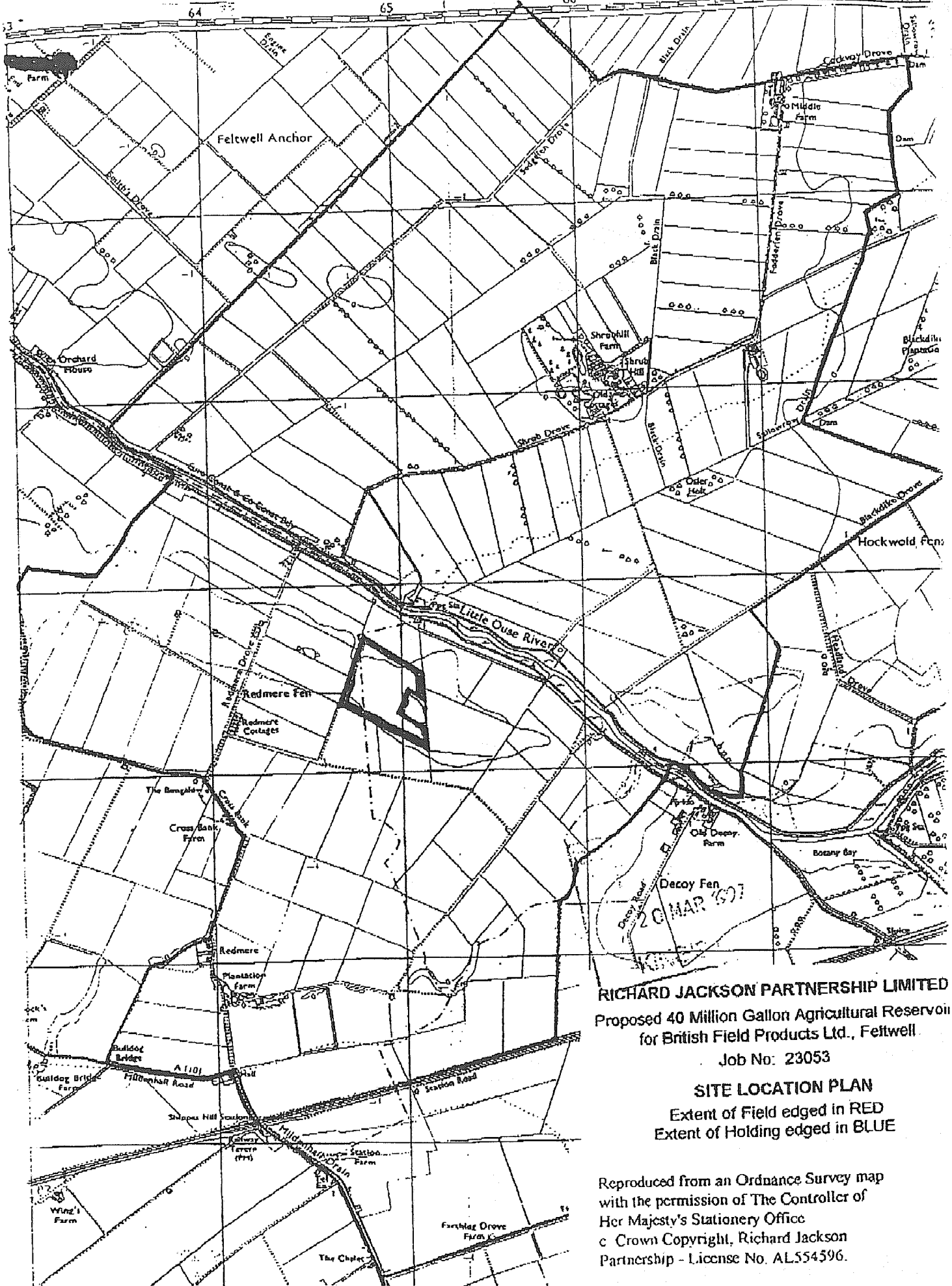
This brief is valid for a period of one year from the date shown below. After that time, it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

David Gurney
Principal Landscape Archaeologist
11 April 1997

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Norfolk NR20 4DR
Tel: 01362 861187
Fax: 01362 860951

SOUTH WEST NORFOLK CO CONST

ELLWELL CP



RICHARD JACKSON PARTNERSHIP LIMITED
 Proposed 40 Million Gallon Agricultural Reservoir
 for British Field Products Ltd., Feltwell
 Job No: 23053

SITE LOCATION PLAN
 Extent of Field edged in RED
 Extent of Holding edged in BLUE

Reproduced from an Ordnance Survey map
 with the permission of The Controller of
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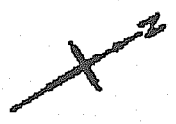
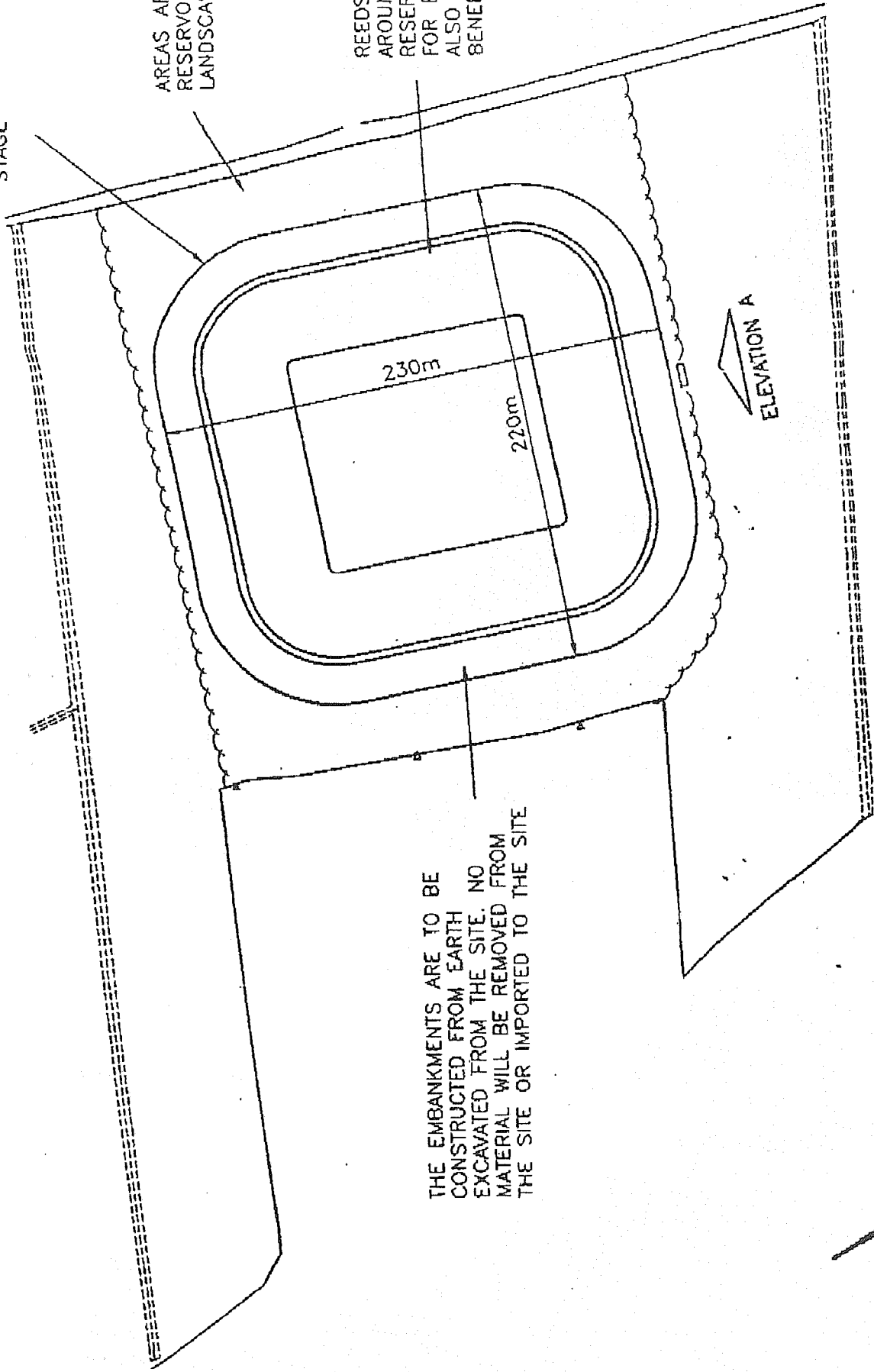
THE FINAL SIZE AND POSITION OF THE RESERVOIR WITHIN THE FIELD WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE DESIGN STAGE

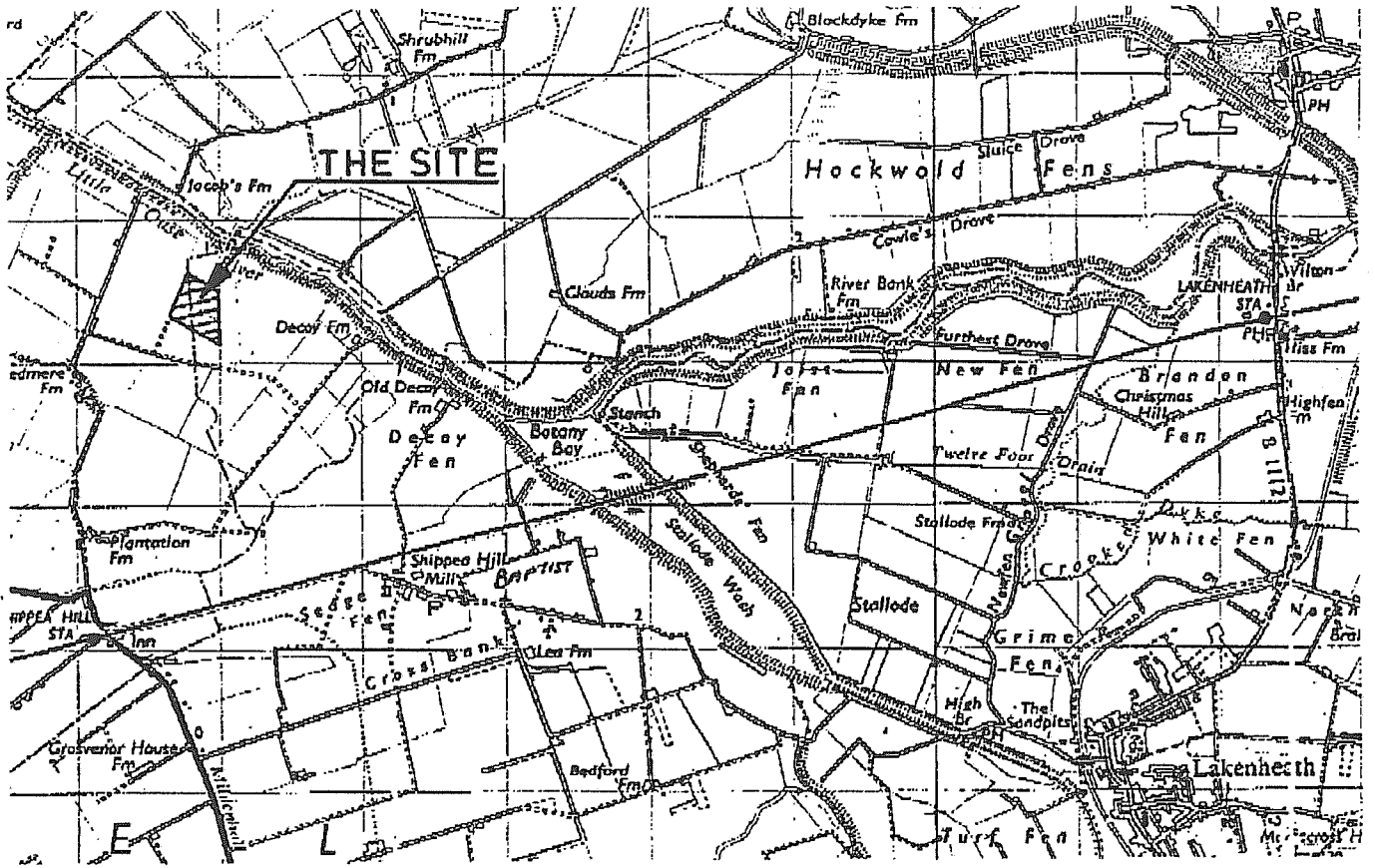
AREAS AROUND PROPOSED RESERVOIR TO BE LANDSCAPED

REEDS ARE TO BE PLANTED AROUND THE INSIDE PERIMETER OF RESERVOIR AT TOP OF EMBANKMENT FOR ENGINEERING PURPOSES AND ALSO FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

THE EMBANKMENTS ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED FROM EARTH EXCAVATED FROM THE SITE. NO MATERIAL WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE SITE OR IMPORTED TO THE SITE

DO NOT SCALE





SITE LOCATION PLAN
1:50,000

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Proposed Reservoir at HOCKWOLD CUM WILTON NORFOLK

Planning Authority: King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Planning Appl No: 97/0438/AG
NAU Ref: MS/Eval/97/362
LAS Ref: 541

METHOD STATEMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

An Archaeological Evaluation to allow a more precise determination of the site's potential has been requested by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology prior to development, and a Brief prepared (LAS Ref: 541). This Method Statement details how the Norfolk Archaeological Unit proposes to implement the requirements of the Site Brief.

AIMS

1. To determine, as far as possible, the land-use history of the proposed development area
2. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed area
3. To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
4. To establish the stratigraphical, artefactual, and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits or features present.

DESKTOP SURVEY PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

1. Background research will be undertaken using readily-available air photograph sources. A search will be made of the County Sites and Monuments Record and any associated secondary files.
2. All existing relevant oblique and vertical aerial photographs will be assessed; the procedures in the CBA Aerial Archaeology Committee's Aerial Archaeology Guidance Note will be adhered to for the assessment.
3. An accurate plot of the cropmarks visible on aerial photographs will be prepared at a scale of 1:2500 to enable the accurate subsequent location of trial trenches

FIELD SURVEY PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

1. Agreement will be sought with the landowner and/or tenant to ensure that the survey area is ploughed and allowed to weather prior to the start of fieldwork.
2. A fieldwalking and metal detector survey will be undertaken using a 20 metre grid within the 5 hectare area of the proposed reservoir. Less intensive survey will be undertaken within the larger surrounding 12 hectare land parcel. Provision will be made within the 5 hectare area for more-detailed survey using a 5 metre grid for those areas where concentrations of material are located in order to define more accurately the perceived boundaries of the concentrations.
3. Coverage within the survey areas will be based on walking and detecting a single transect through each grid square, giving a nominal 10% sample.
4. The finds will be located within the 20 metre grid and the data will be listed on proforma sheets. In order to conform with established strategy in Norfolk, any location of Middle Saxon material will be plotted on a single sherd basis to the nearest metre. This policy will be extended to other cover other discoveries of relatively rare material (such as neolithic pottery) but will not be implemented for more commonplace material such as medieval ceramics.
5. The field survey phase of the evaluation is anticipated to include 0.6 weeks' fieldwork
6. A separate field survey report will not be produced, the results being presented as part of the final evaluation report.

TRIAL TRENCHING PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

1. The exact location, dimensions and orientation of the trial trenches will be determined on site after consideration of surface obstructions and identified underground services. Any alteration to the total area to be excavated considered necessary after reviewing air photograph and surface scatter evidence will be agreed with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology at this stage.
2. Initial excavation will be by machine. This will remove topsoil under archaeological direction until natural ground or archaeological features are identified, and will be monitored by metal detector. Provision will be made for 'stepping' the excavation edges if excavation depth exceeds 1.5 metres from ground surface. Provision will be made for shoring the trial excavations as conditions require. Backfilling will be by machine without consolidation or surface reinstatement.
3. Details of those areas to be excavated to natural will be agreed with the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Section following initial excavation.
4. Detailed strategies for levels of sampling of buried soils, structures, pits, post-holes and ditches will be determined on site. Budget allowances will be made for 100% sampling where appropriate; percentage sampling will apply in areas of complex stratified deposits are encountered. Buried soils will be sampled by sieving to determine artefact densities, particularly of struck flints.
5. The staff structure will consist of staff at the following grades:
 - Project Manager
 - Finds Assistant
 - Research Assistant
6. The Project Manager will have experience of excavating and interpreting rural sites, and knowledge of sampling strategies. The Finds Assistant will be supported by the NAU Finds Officer (a Project Manager grade). Research Assistant staff will have experience of NAU recording and surveying procedures.
7. The trial trenching phase of the evaluation is anticipated to involve 2 to 3 weeks' work. It will comprise metal-detecting and excavation/recording.

Contingency arrangements concerning additional excavation will be made in the budget.

FIELDWORK RECORDING PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

1. Data collection and minimum recording to obtain as much information as possible will include:
 - distribution map of all metal-detected finds
 - detailed recording of all visible archaeological features
 - linear features will be sectioned to determine form and relationships

- pits will be initially half-sectioned
 - late post-medieval and modern features will be dealt with summarily.
2. The site will be located within the Ordnance Survey grid using appropriate technology. Recording of features and deposits will be undertaken with the aid of proformas (examples deposited in F.A.D. library at Gressenhall). Finds, both hand-collected and sieved, will be processed and recorded during the course of the excavation as far as possible to enable speedy assessment of the material.
- Overall plans will be made at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings as appropriate. All sections of small features will be recorded at 1:10, others at 1:20 depending on detail considered necessary. Photographs will be taken for the following reasons:
- to record archaeological relationships
 - to record the specific nature of archaeological features
 - to record spatial relationships
 - to record regular progress of the excavation.
3. Note will be taken of any contexts already used by the SMR. All further numbering of the site and individual contexts will be compatible with the Norfolk SMR.
4. Conservation will be undertaken within the Conservation Department at Norwich Castle Museum. The NAU maintains liaison with the Department and allocates resources to conservation within each of its budgets according to a formula agreed with the Conservation Department. This ensures that all necessary conservation will be undertaken using the facilities available at Norwich Castle Museum. Any additional conservation costs necessitated by the use of specialist facilities elsewhere is also covered by the available budget.
5. An assessment to establish an environmental sampling procedure will be undertaken in consultation with the Environmental Archaeologist at the Centre of East Anglian Studies at the University of East Anglia. Resourcing of environmental work is provided by formula in a similar way to that outlined for conservation (Paragraph 4 above).

POST-FIELDWORK PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

1. The proposed post-excavation programme consists of the following:
 - Archive
 - Assessment & Analysis
2. Resources will be allocated to enable completion of the archive, the production of a report and the deposition of the archive.

3. Provision will be made for specialist reports (subject to the agreement of the named individuals) as follows:
 - flints (John Wymer/Peter Robins)
 - prehistoric ceramics (Sarah Percival/Trevor Ashwin)
 - Pre-Roman & Roman coins and artefacts (John Davies)
 - Roman ceramics (Alice Lyons)
 - Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval small finds (Julia Huddle)
 - Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval pottery (Irena Lentowicz)
 - soils/micromorphology (Richard Macphail/C. French)
 - environmental (Peter Murphy)
4. A small contingency sum will be set aside for any further reports which become necessary. All work on finds is co-ordinated by the NAU Finds Officer. The NAU has a policy of adhering to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Guidelines for Finds Work*.
5. Budgetary provision will be made for an evaluation report which will be produced with appropriate figures drawn to appropriate scales. Multiple copies will be produced as appropriate for distribution to the client and the Landscape Archaeology Section. Copyright will be retained by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.
6. A copy of the report will be sent to the County SMR together with an AM107 form. This will include a reference to the archive and the intended place of deposition of the archive.
7. The excavation archive will be prepared in such a form that it can be microfilmed by the RCHME.

Brian Ayers
Principal Field Archaeologist
21 April 1997

Appendix C: List of Contexts

Site and context number	Type
Site 32779	
1-39	fieldwalking collection units
40-49	excavated contexts
40, 41	Trench 1
43- 44	Trench 2
45- 49	Trench 3
42	Trench 4
Site 19899	
1-30	fieldwalking collection units

Appendix D: Summary Catalogue of Finds

site code	context	grid square	material/comment	quantity	weight (g)
32779*	1	A2	flake	1	8
32779*	2	A7	burnt flint	1	32
32779	3	A9	utilised flake	1	6
32779	3	A9	flake	1	28
32779	4	A10	utilised flake	1	4
32779	4	A10	flake	1	8
32779	5	A11	utilised flake	1	6
32779*	6	B2	utilised flake	1	2
32779*	7	B5	burnt flint	1	26
32779*	7	B5	prehistoric pottery	1	24
32779*	7	B5	flake	1	8
32779	8	B10	Middle Saxon Ipswich ware	1	2
32779	8	B10	burnt flint	1	20
32779	9	D6	burnt flint	1	6
32779	10	D11	flake	1	6
32779*	11	E1	prehistoric pottery	1	1
32779	12	E6	flake	1	16
32779	13	E8	utilised flake	1	2
32779*	14	F2	burnt flint	2	160
32779	15	F8	lead strip	1	26
32779*	16	G1	burnt flint	1	2
32779*	17	G4	post medieval pottery (GRE)	1	4
32779	18	G6	post medieval pottery (GRE)	1	8
32779	18	G6	medieval glazed pottery (Cambridge type)	1	1
32779	19	G9	burnt flint	1	22
32779	20	G10	retouched blade	1	4
32779*	21	H1	utilised flake	1	16
32779*	21	H1	medieval unglazed pottery	1	2
32779*	22	I1	medieval unglazed pottery	1	2

site code	context	grid square	material/comment	quantity	weight (g)
32779*	22	I1	medieval glazed Grimston type pottery	4	12
32779*	22	I1	post medieval pottery (GRE)	1	2
32779*	23	J1	flake	1	10
32779*	23	J1	medieval unglazed pottery (x2 Cambridge type)	8	58
32779*	23	J1	Hedingham type pottery	1	2
32779*	23	J1	lead	1	64
32779	24	J4	flake	1	2
32779	25	J13	utilised flake	1	5
32779	25	J13	medieval glazed pottery	1	2
32779*	26	K2	medieval glazed pottery	1	10
32779*	27	L1	flint scraper	1	8
32779*	27	L1	medieval unglazed pottery	2	6
32779*	27	L1	medieval glazed pottery	1	2
32779*	27	L1	medieval Grimston type pottery	1	2
32779*	27	L1	post medieval pottery (GRE)	3	20
32779	28	L4	medieval unglazed pottery	1	2
32779	29	L7	medieval pottery	1	2
32779*	30	M1	medieval Grimston type pottery	1	6
32779*	30	M1	post medieval pottery (GRE)	1	2
32779*	31	M2	flint end-scraper	1	18
32779	32	M4	burnt flint	1	6
32779	33	M12	flint flake	1	2
32779	33	M12	flint side-scraper	1	20
32779	34	M13	burnt flint	2	50
32779	35	O15	burnt flint	1	2
32779	36	P2	retouched straight edge flint scraper	1	12
32779	37	P7	utilised flint flake	1	20
32779	38	P9	burnt flint		

site code	context	grid square	material/comment	quantity	weight (g)
32779	39	Q8	flint flake	1	24
19899*	3	R1	burnt flint	5	92
19899*	4	R2	retouched flint flake	2	26
19899*	4	R2	flint scraper	1	4
19899	5	R4	flint flake	1	1
19899	5	R4	burnt flint	1	4
19899	6	R5	utilised flint flake	1	20
19899	6	R5	burnt flint	1	6
19899	7	R10	flint flake	1	6
19899	7	R10	retouched flint flake	1	8
19899	8	R15	flint flake	1	2
19899	8	R15	retouched flint flake	1	4
19899*	9	S1	burnt flint	2	16
19899	10	S6	flint flake	1	20
19899	11	S13	burnt flint flake	27	200
19899	12	S14	burnt flint	18	80
19899	13	S17	retouched flint flake	1	1
19899	14	S18	flint flake	1	2
19899	15	S19	retouched flint flake	1	2
19899	16	T16	modern coin	1	6
19899	17	T17	burnt flint	7	72
19899	18	U3	medieval unglazed pottery	1	2
19899	19	U7	prehistoric pottery	2	6
19899	20	V11	flint flake knife	1	28
19899	21	V12	burnt flint	2	26
19899	22	V14	flint flake	3	4
19899	22	V14	retouched flint flake	2	12
19899	23	V15	flint flake	1	2
19899	23	V15	flint scraper	1	30
19899	24	V16	burnt flint	1	4
19899	25	V17	flint flake	1	20
19899	25	V17	retouched flint flake	1	32
19899	26	V19	flint flake	1	4
19899	26	V19	bronze age pottery	2	22

site code	context	grid square	material/comment	quantity	weight (g)
19899	27	W11	burnt flint	14	282
19899	28	W17	retouched flint flake	1	4
19899	29	W18	flint borer	1	4
19899	29	W18	flint spall	3	2
19899	30	W14-U20	flint flake	9	28
19899	30	W14-U20	retouched flint flake	4	116
19899	30	W14-U20	flint blade	3	12
19899	30	W14-U20	retouched flint blade	4	24
19899	30	W14-U20	copper alloy axe	1	665

contexts marked * are in Cambridgeshire, all others are in Norfolk