

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 837

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at a residential
development to the rear of stores, Loddon Road,
Ditchingham, Norfolk**

39447 DTC

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July 2003

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Location: Rear of stores, Loddon Road, Ditchingham

Grid Ref: TM 3401 9111

HER No.: 39447 DTC

Date of work: 23rd June 2003

Summary

An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out in association with a residential development to the rear of stores on Loddon Road, Ditchingham. Two trenches were excavated and a third trench containing a water drain was examined.

No archaeological features or finds were present.

1.0 Introduction

Fig. 1

The site was located in an area of proposed residential development to the rear of stores, Loddon Road, Ditchingham.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: 2003/0192/EJR/4th April 2003).

The objective of this work was to record any archaeological evidence revealed that may have been disturbed by any ground works associated with this development.

The Brief required that two trenches be excavated where possible to identify and record any archaeological evidence revealed during these works.

The work was commissioned by Sprake and Tyrrell on behalf of their client.

The site archive will be held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site lay to the north of Loddon Road, Ditchingham, on the north side of the Wavney Valley and was generally level at c.11m OD.

The underlying geology is valley gravel with areas of glacial sand and gravel.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Fig.1

The site lay within the southern part of the parish of Ditchingham in area known as Pirnhow or Pirnough, which is an area of great archaeological interest (Hobbs 2001; Tremlett 2001; Tremlett 2002). The use of this locale in the prehistoric period is attested by the Neolithic and Bronze Age earthworks on Broome Heath, a short distance to the north-east of the site. Close-by to the south of the site is Station Road, the origins of which lie in the Roman period when this important route was known as Stone Street (Norfolk Historic and Environmental Record (HER) site number 10636). In the Late Saxon period the area is likely to have become a satellite to the more substantial settlement at Bungay which was probably an important defended place during this period (Penn 1998).

4.0 Methodology

Fig. 2

Two trenches, both measuring c.5m by 1m, were excavated to the east (Trench 1) and north-east (Trench 2) of the plot totalling 23% sample of the development area. A water drain trench, measuring c.1m by 1m, was also examined (Trench 3).

Spoil and exposed surfaces were scanned with a metal detector.

Plan and section drawings were recorded at a scale of 1:20.

Site conditions were generally good though the weather was rain, heavy with storms at times.

5.0 Results

Figs 2 & 3

Two c.5m by 1m trenches were excavated to the east and north-east of the building. These were the only locations suitable due to the presence of underground services and surface obstructions. They were excavated to a maximum depth of c.1m (to c.10m OD) and revealed a dark brown silty sand topsoil, deepest in the northern end of Trench 1 that probably represented a previous levelling-event of the site. Topsoil overlay a mid orange brown sandy gravel (Fig. 3). Three modern nails were recovered during metal detecting of the trenches and surrounding area, and were discarded. No archaeological features or finds were present.

A water drain trench that remained partially open at the southern edge of the site (Trench 3) was visually inspected and scanned by metal detector. Topsoil and subsoil as identified in Trenches 1 & 2 was seen. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

6.0 Conclusions

Although situated in an area of significant archaeological interest, no deposits or finds were present.

Acknowledgements

The trenches were monitored and site recording was carried out by Chris Birks. The report was written, and figures were digitised by Chris Birks. The report was illustrated and produced by Maggie Footitt and edited by Alice Lyons.

Many thanks to Jan Allen and staff at the Norfolk Historic Environment Record office at Gressenhall and to Tony Sprake for his assistance during the project.

Bibliography

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Tremlett, S., 2001 *Land off Station Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk: Report on an Archaeological Desktop Survey*, NAU Report 595 (unpublished)

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Penn, K., 1998 'From the Beginning: Bungay and its Early History', *The Quarterly. The Journal of the Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group* 29

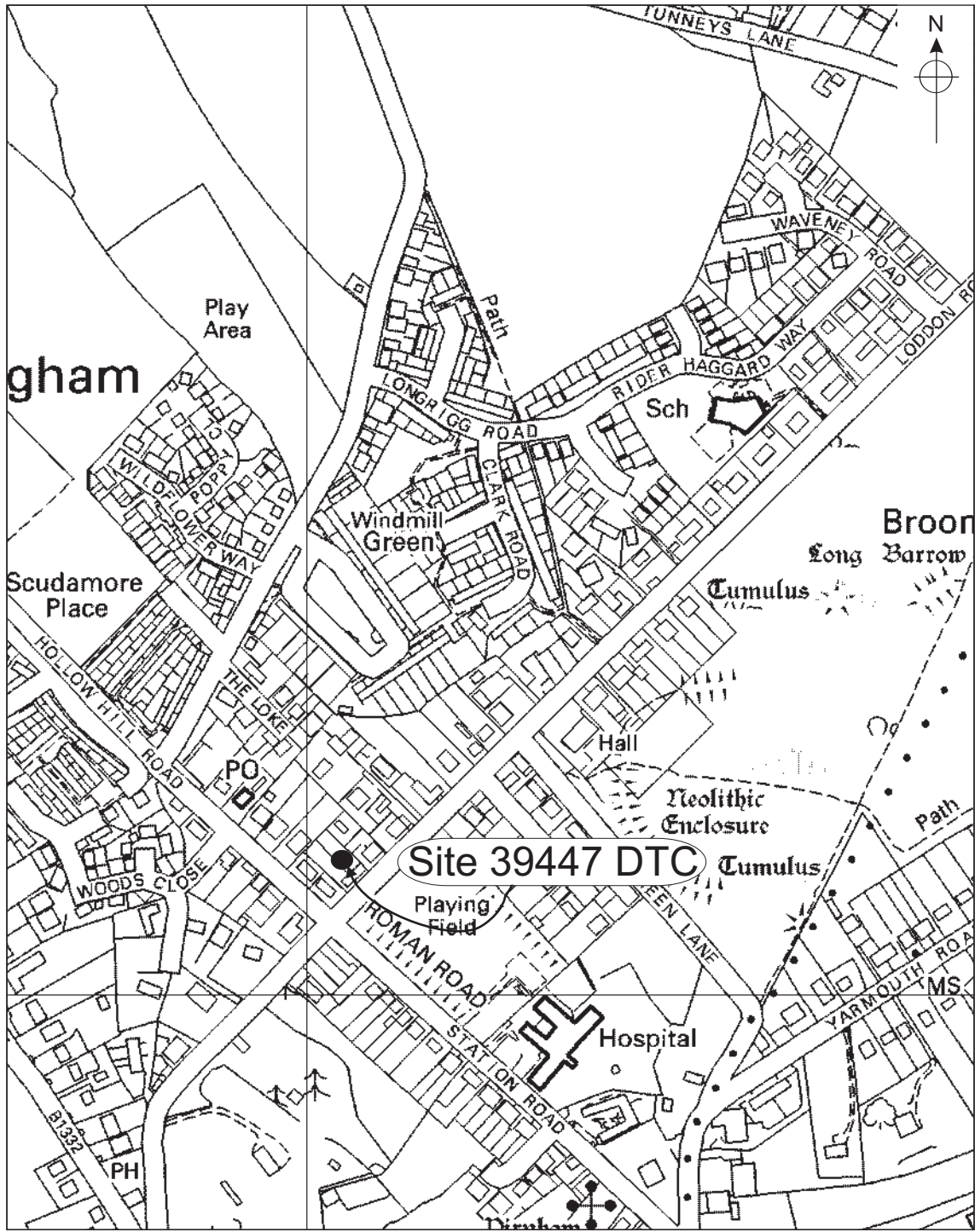


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1:5000

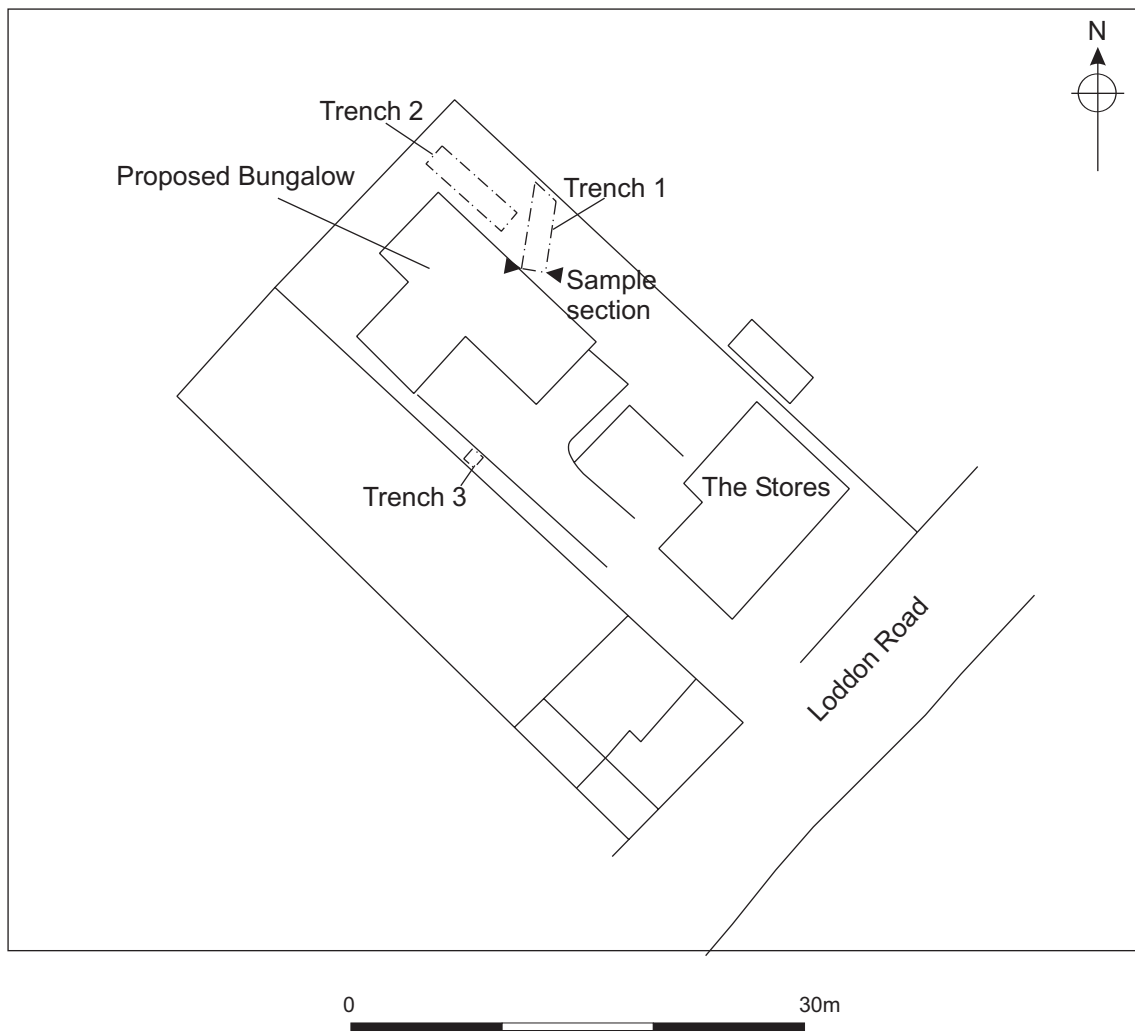


Figure 2. Site Plan, showing trench location. Scale 1:500

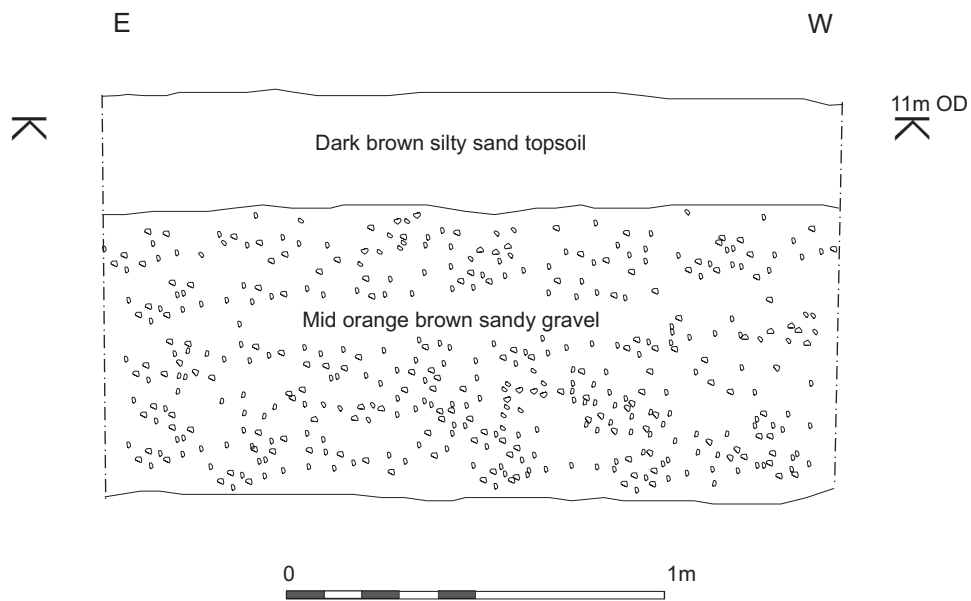


Figure 3. North-facing Sample Section. Scale 1:20

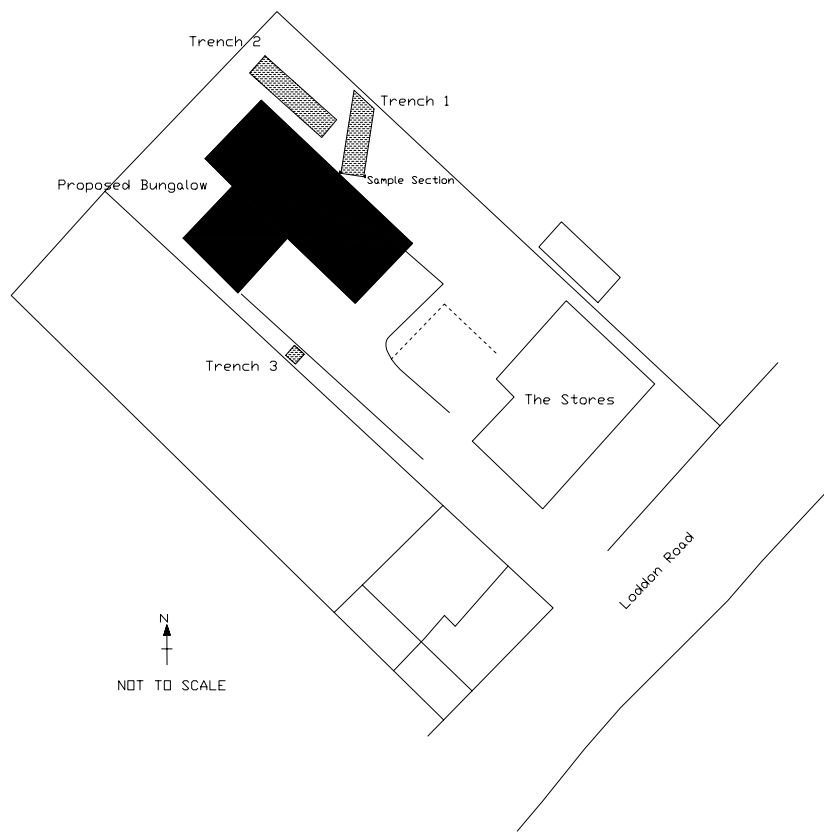


Fig. 2: Site Plan Showing Trench Location



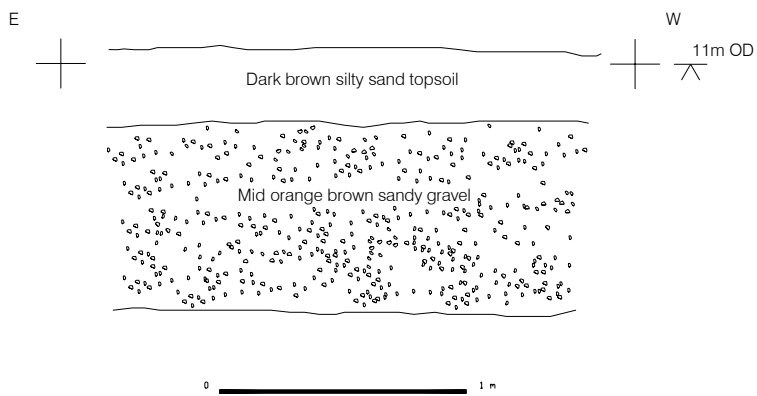


Fig. 3. North-facing Sample Section

