

**NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

Report No. 845

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Clover Farm, Mundford, Norfolk**

39532 MDF

Chris Birks  
August 2003

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Location:	Clover Farm, Mundford, Norfolk
Grid Ref:	TL 8074 9328
HER No.:	39532 MDF
Date of work:	19th February 2003 & 14th July 2003

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## **Summary**

*No archaeological finds or features were discovered during an archaeological watching brief of residential development works at Clover Farm, Mundford.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

The site examined was in an area of proposed residential development at Clover Farm, Mundford centred at grid reference TL 8074 9328 (Fig. 1). It measured approximately 82m by 60m and was reasonably level at c. 25m OD. Pasture lay to the north and west of the site, and primarily coniferous woodland to the east and south. Current land use associated with this site included pheasant-rearing immediately to the north. The site lies in Central Breckland and displays a geology of sands overlying a broad chalk outcrop.

The work was commissioned and funded by Mrs L Way and Mr G Smith.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: EJR/10th May 2002) and a Method Statement for watching briefs prepared by Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

The watching brief was carried out due to the presence nearby of a multi-period finds scatter indicating past human activity in the area.

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during ground works associated with the residential development of the site. The Brief also required that one member of the contractor's staff be dedicated to the metal detecting of the site.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norfolk Archaeological Unit's *pro-forma* sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

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

Site conditions and access were good and the weather was sunny with high temperatures.

## **2.0 Observations**

Groundworks included the excavation of a pit for a septic tank and associated trench, and footings trenches for a house and garage (Fig. 2).

A grass-covered mid to dark brown slightly humic topsoil measuring c. 0.3m in depth overlaid a mid brown orange silty fine sand subsoil. Areas of chalk containing frequent medium to large flint nodules were identified within all footing trenches. This underlaid the subsoil and was interspersed with fine sands, see Fig. 3 for a sample section drawing. These probably represented ridges of chalk formed by fragmentation through freeze-thaw conditions in a peri-glacial climate alongside troughs infilled with sands. They take the form of polygons or stripes and are often referred to as 'patterned ground' (Sussams 1996).

No archaeological features or finds were identified. A small quantity of obviously modern iron objects (nails, tin can, cigarette packet) were recovered through metal detecting of spoil, trenches and the ground surface of the development area.

## **3.0 Conclusions**

No archaeological features or finds were identified.

## ***Acknowledgements***

Fieldwork was carried out by Chris Phillips and Chris Birks. Report writing and digitising was by Chris Birks and the report was illustrated and produced by Maggie Footitt. Editing was by Andy Shelley. Many thanks to Jan Allen and staff at the Norfolk Historic and Environment Records office at Gressenhall.

The work was funded by Mrs. Way and Mr. Smith.

## ***Bibliography***

Sussams, K.	1996	<i>The Breckland Archaeological Survey 1994-1996</i> , Suffolk County Council
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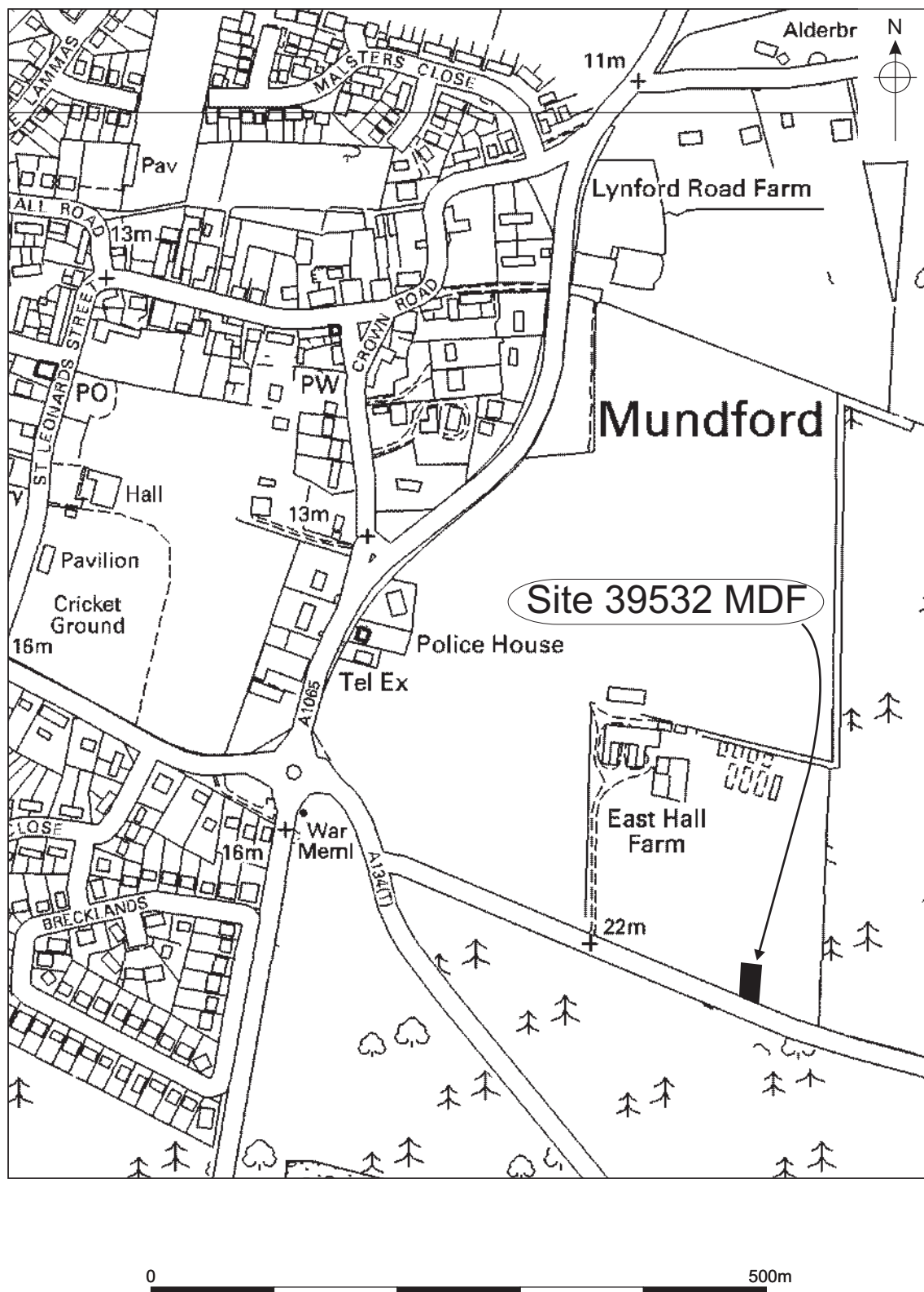


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1:5000

Local Authority No.076759

Fig.1 is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings' Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich (07/08/2003). **Reference copy: no further copies to be made**

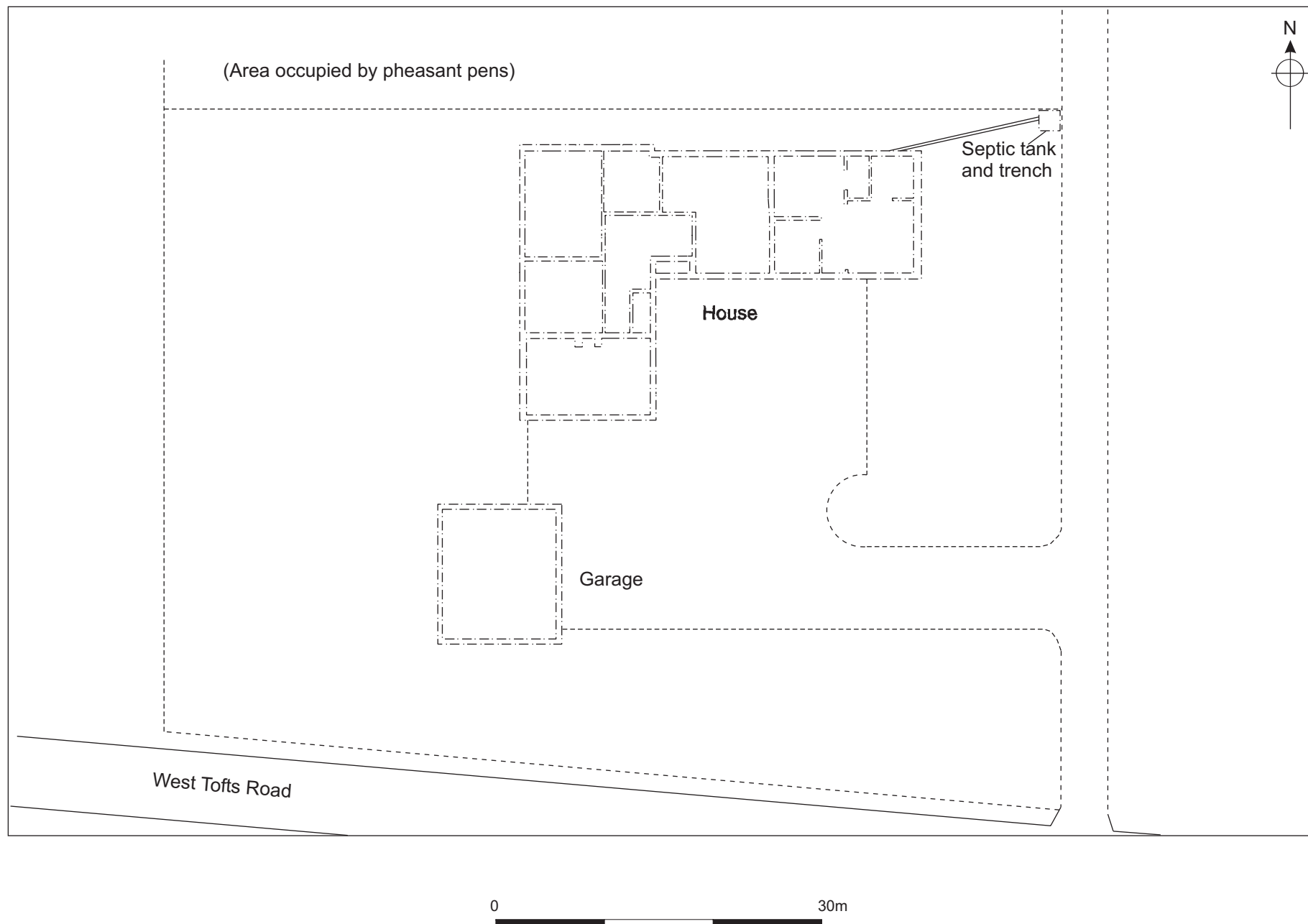


Figure 2. Trench Location. Scale 1:500

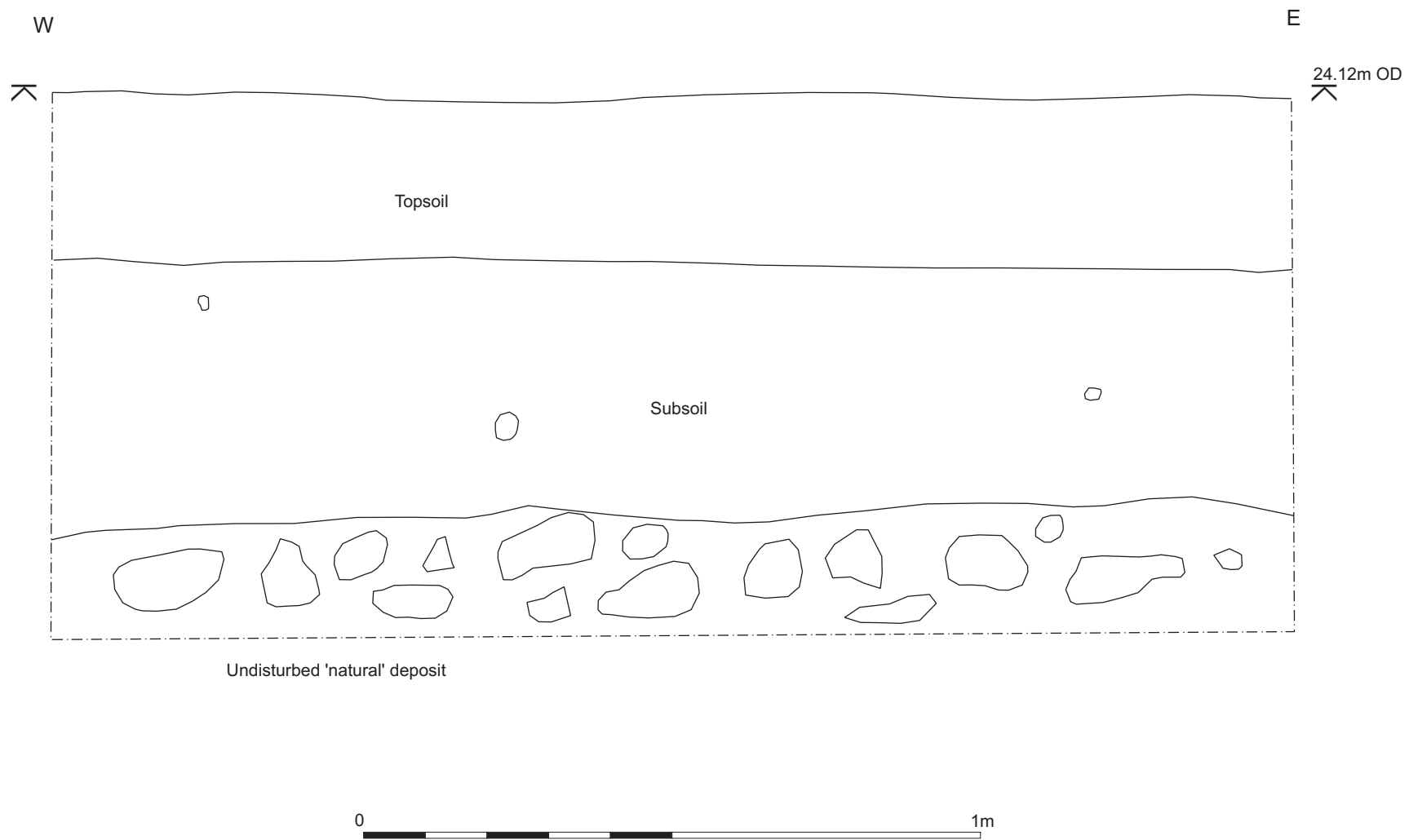


Figure 3. South-facing sample section. Scale 1:10