

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 974

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Plot 3, Primrose Farm,
Bunwell, Norfolk**

36220 BWL

Chris Phillips

July 2004

© Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Contents

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Figures

- Fig.1 Site location
- Fig.2 Trench location

Location: Plot 3, Primrose Farm, The Street, Bunwell
District: South Norfolk
Grid Ref: TM 1168 9391
HER No.: 36220
Date of fieldwork: 17th September 2003

Summary

A watching brief was undertaken at Primrose Farm, Bunwell on the site of a demolished early post-medieval timber framed building, to monitor the excavation of footings for a proposed dwelling.

The footings cut through an area of dark soil in the south-west corner, and an area of building rubble in the south-east corner, of the groundworks. The rubble was also observed during an earlier archaeological evaluation (Penn 2004) and was probably the remains of the building which was demolished to make way for the development.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

The development site lies on The Barns, set back from Bunwell Street, Bunwell and on the former common edge. The site is the location for a proposed dwelling, on approximately the same spot as the demolished Primrose Farm.

The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Paul Freeman of Mulbarton.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: 01/04/03/ARJH).

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

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located in Bunwell in central Norfolk in an area of Boulder Clay. It lies on a slight slope, dipping gently to the north-west and lies at a height of around 68m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Barns road crosses a former small green or common, extending west out of Bunwell Great Green; the older buildings lie on the edge of the former green, rather than along The Barns, which represents a later addition to the landscape. Several old buildings stand around the former common, including:

- Norfolk Historic and Environment Record (HER) Site 24106, Crown House; 17th-century timber-framed building.
- HER Site 10037, Bunwell Manor Hotel; 16th-century house in earlier moat.
- HER Site 36213, 22 Bunwell Street; 15th-century hall-house.

- Primrose Farm, a timber-framed building that stood on the development site until recently, was at least of mid 16th-century origin. Its western cell was of this date, with a stack on its east wall, but was extended to the east by the addition of another cell in the mid-17th century. Primrose Farm was clad in brick in the 19th century.

4.0 Methodology

(Fig. 2)

Contractors used a wheeled digger fitted with a toothed bucket to excavate the foundation trenches, which measured 0.6m in width and reached a maximum depth of approximately 1.1m. The trenches were fully excavated prior to this watching brief being undertaken.

5.0 Results

The foundation trenches for the proposed new dwelling covered an area measuring c. 192 sq.m. The topsoil was a heavily disturbed layer, under which was a silty-clay subsoil which overlies the chalky clay natural. Two areas of potential archaeological evidence were observed, consisting of some building rubble and a patch of dark soil.

The dark layer of soil exposed in the south-west corner of the groundworks measured c. 0.38m deep, and consisted of a relatively organic content. A small amount of very small red brick fragments were observed in the deposit.

The building rubble exposed in the south-east corner of the groundworks was excavated to a depth of c. 1.2m and consisted of broken red bricks and mortar and some fragments of glazed ceramic waste pipe.

A scan of the excavated soil with a metal detector revealed a small number of 20th-century iron nails and hinges, as well as tin cans and aluminium foil, all of which was discarded.

6.0 Conclusions

The dark deposit in the south-west corner may be associated with the demolished early post-medieval building which stood on the site. While the area of building rubble exposed was highly likely to be the demolished remains of that building.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Paul Freeman for commissioning this work. The work was carried out by the author. The report was edited by Alice Lyons and illustrated, formatted and produced by Maggie Footitt.

Bibliography

Penn, K., 2004 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 3, Primrose Farm, Bunwell, Norfolk*, NAU Report 834

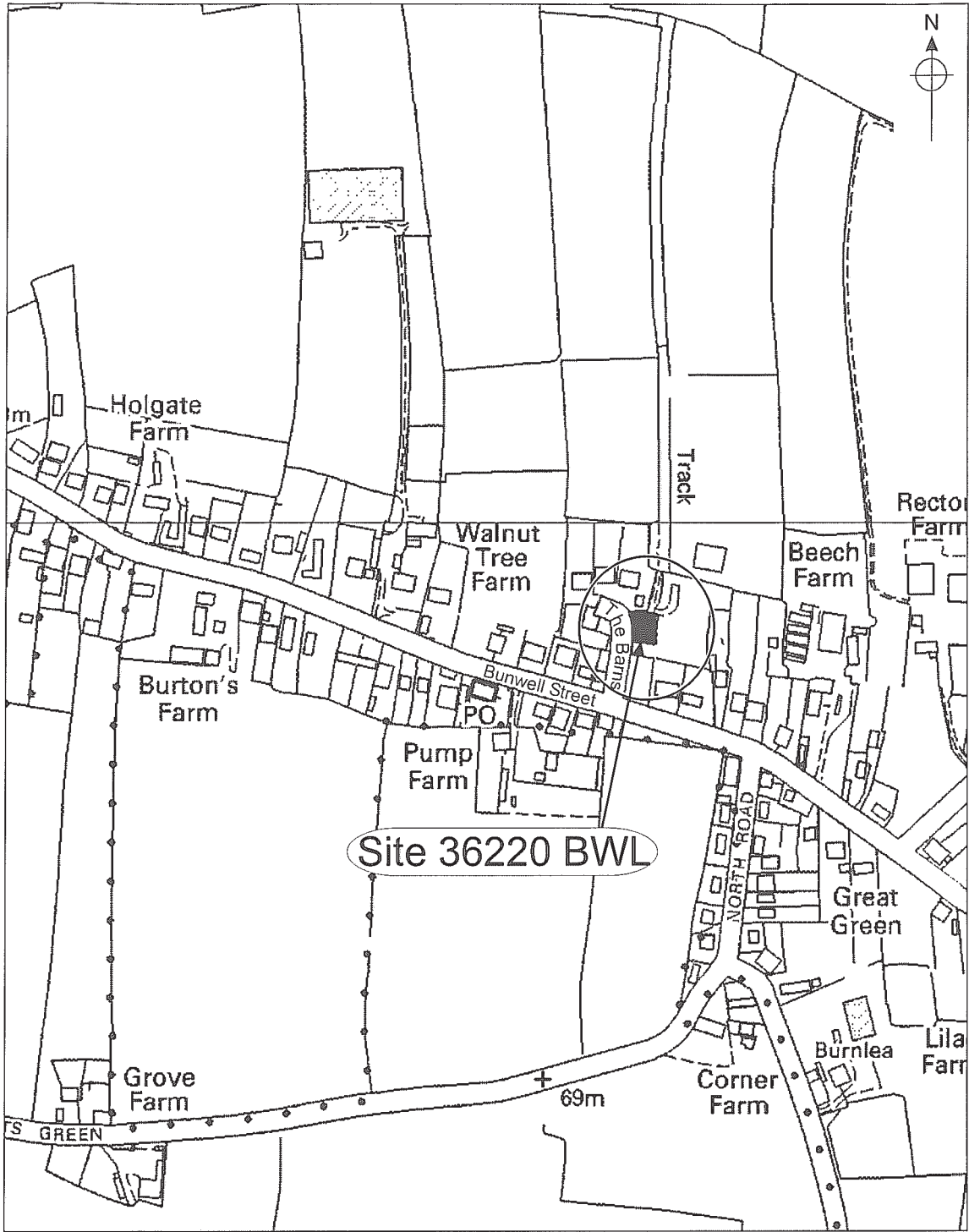


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

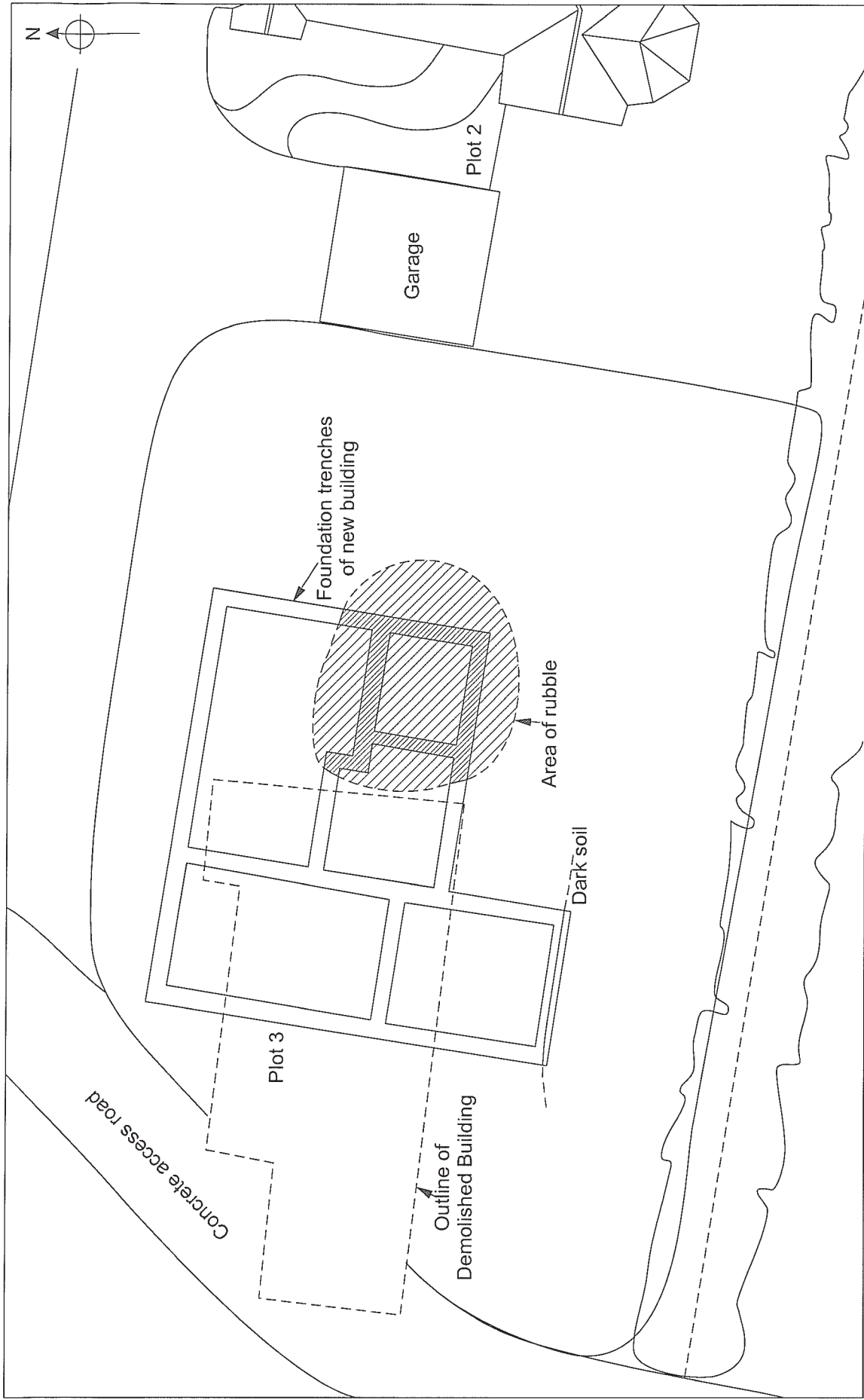


Figure 2. Trench location . Scale 1:200