

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 1038

**An Archaeological Desk Based Survey of land at
31-37 School Road, Drayton**

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Location: Land at 31-37 School Road, Drayton
District: Broadland
Grid Ref: TG 1801 1382
Date of work: December 2004

Summary

This desk based survey of land at School Road, Drayton, suggests that the majority of the development area lies within a former chalk quarry, clearly seen on the OS maps of the 1880s, or has been extensively landscaped in the recent past.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

The survey area is a plot proposed for development at 31-37 School Road, in the village of Drayton, consisting of two adjacent properties.

This report was commissioned by Frank Davey of Arnolds Chartered Surveyors on behalf of their client, Mr T Grint.

This archaeological deskbased assessment was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Ref: 1907/KJP) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH 08.011.04).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

2.0 Geology and Topography

(Fig.2)

The site lies within the village of Drayton, immediately north of the church of St Margaret, and on the slopes running up from the Wensum river valley. It is situated on the edge of a region of Boulder Clay with overlying gravels, but the valley sides expose the underlying Chalk before giving way to the valley alluvium, on the floor of the valley. Above the sides of the valley, below the Boulder Clay, Chalk has been quarried at several places locally for building material.

To the immediate south of the church lay a large pond, evident on maps until at least 1938 but filled in soon after World War II.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

(Fig. 2)

Drayton is one of several villages along the middle reaches of the River Wensum, upstream of Norwich. The river is substantial in this area with navigational potential.

The place name *Drayton* appears to come from either of two possible meanings, derived from the element *dray*, meaning to drag or pull, either: referring to the portage of boats from the river, or from a stiff hill (Ekwall 1971, 150-1). Either

possibility seems appropriate for Drayton, close to the river and at the foot of the slopes here. The *ton* element might suggest a subsidiary place, possibly of later Saxon origin.

One might note that the slopes along the Wensum valley, especially about 1.5km to the southeast of this site, have produced evidence of early prehistoric activity, although quarrying has reduced potential on the present site.

Domesday Book (Brown 1984) shows that Drayton was held as a single manor, with a church, therefore presumably the precursor to St Margaret and probably on the same site. Drayton continued as a single manor, but usually with an absentee landowner (Blomefield 1809, 409-413). The manor was probably run by a bailiff, possibly based at Manor Farm (or its precursor) to the north, next to the parsonage. The development site lies between the church and the manor farm/parsonage. Where the focus of settlement was in this small place can only be presumed from the present study, although it is likely to have been close to the church and the main through route along the valley.

No archaeological investigations have taken place within the village centre and archaeological knowledge rests on evidence from casual finds and standing buildings (Fig. 2). The following are the most relevant records in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER).

Norfolk Historic Environment Record	Description
7852	Finds of two Romano-British coins
7906	St Margaret's church
7855	Remains of a cross
7898	Lodge Farm, probably 17th century
12407	Red Lion Inn, 1678
13637	Manor Farm, 1666
21900	Stower Grange, 17th century,

It is probable that Manor Farm, the church and the rectory or parsonage house probably help define the historic core of Drayton, whose focus may have been the main through road rather than the short north-to-south spur leading up to the manor site. The pond next to the church may also have provided a focus for activity here.

4.0 Methodology

This objective of this project was to undertake a desk-based survey of the development area. No detailed fieldwork has been carried out in connection with this study, nor has reference been made to Listed Buildings information or other present planning constraints.

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and Norfolk Air Photograph library (NAPLIB) were consulted. Maps were also viewed at Norfolk Heritage Centre, (the Norfolk Heritage Centre is housed at the Forum, Norwich and combines the Norfolk Studies Department with a duplicate Norfolk Records Office microfilm search room).

5.0 Cartographic Evidence

(Figs 3, 4, and 5)

The maps and air photographs show that the development plot lies in open fields on the steep slopes to the north of the church in the 19th century, and that in the later 19th century quarrying removed much of the development plot.

The earliest maps consulted were Faden's map of 1797 and Bryant's map of 1826, although these are at such a small scale that little more than the schematic representation of the church is shown.

The OS 1" map 1st Edition of 1838 (revised) adds a little more, and shows a track or lane between the church and the development plot, at the foot of the slope, and in effect, a continuation of Hall Lane to the east. This map depicts the 'Parsonage' and the buildings of Manor Farm adjacent (Fig.3).

The Tithe Map of 1839 (not illustrated) shows this area to the north of the church as open fields with the present east-to-west boundary between the churchyard and the development plot, and the long north-to-south boundary as then existing, with the pond to the south of the churchyard. North of the church, there existed only the parsonage and adjacent Manor Farm.

It is the first editions of the OS maps, of the 1880s, that depict the quarry for the first time, marked as 'Marl Pit' on the 6" map of 1884 (Fig. 4). The quarry cut back into the hillside, and its shape has clearly helped determine the subsequent plot boundaries here when the area was developed. The edge of the quarry lay a little short of School Road and was reached from the lane to the immediate north of the church.

Subsequent maps show that the area was developed only post World War II.

An air photograph of the area taken in 1946 (RAF: NAPLIB TG 1813A) shows the overgrown nature of the quarry and the lack of development on the south side of School Road. The pond to the south of the church had also been filled in.

6.0 The Site Today

The site today lies in two adjacent properties, Nos 31 and 37 School Road. The development site lies entirely within the quarried area, except for the north part of No 37 (the house 'Firbanks'). When this was built, ground was dug away over its footprint, and to the immediate north to provide practical parking space. To the rear of the house, the garden has been extensively landscaped for fishponds etc. It is likely that any archaeological features have been removed from this part of the site also.

A visit to the garden of No 31 adjacent showed that the quarry extended further to the south on that property than is depicted on the OS maps, that is, the whole of the development site adjacent to the churchyard has been quarried.

It should be noted that, at present, access to the development plot is by foot only.

7.0 Conclusions

Due to extensive quarrying in the late 19th century followed by the construction of the present house and its landscaped gardens, all potential cultural deposits have almost certainly been destroyed.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Mr Frank Davey of Arnolds Chartered Surveyors for commissioning this report. We are also grateful to Mr Terry Grint and Mrs Shirley Hunter, the landowners, for information about the site and access.

Thanks to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology who permitted access to the NHER and NAPLIB.

The report was illustrated, formatted and produced by David Dobson and edited by Alice Lyons.

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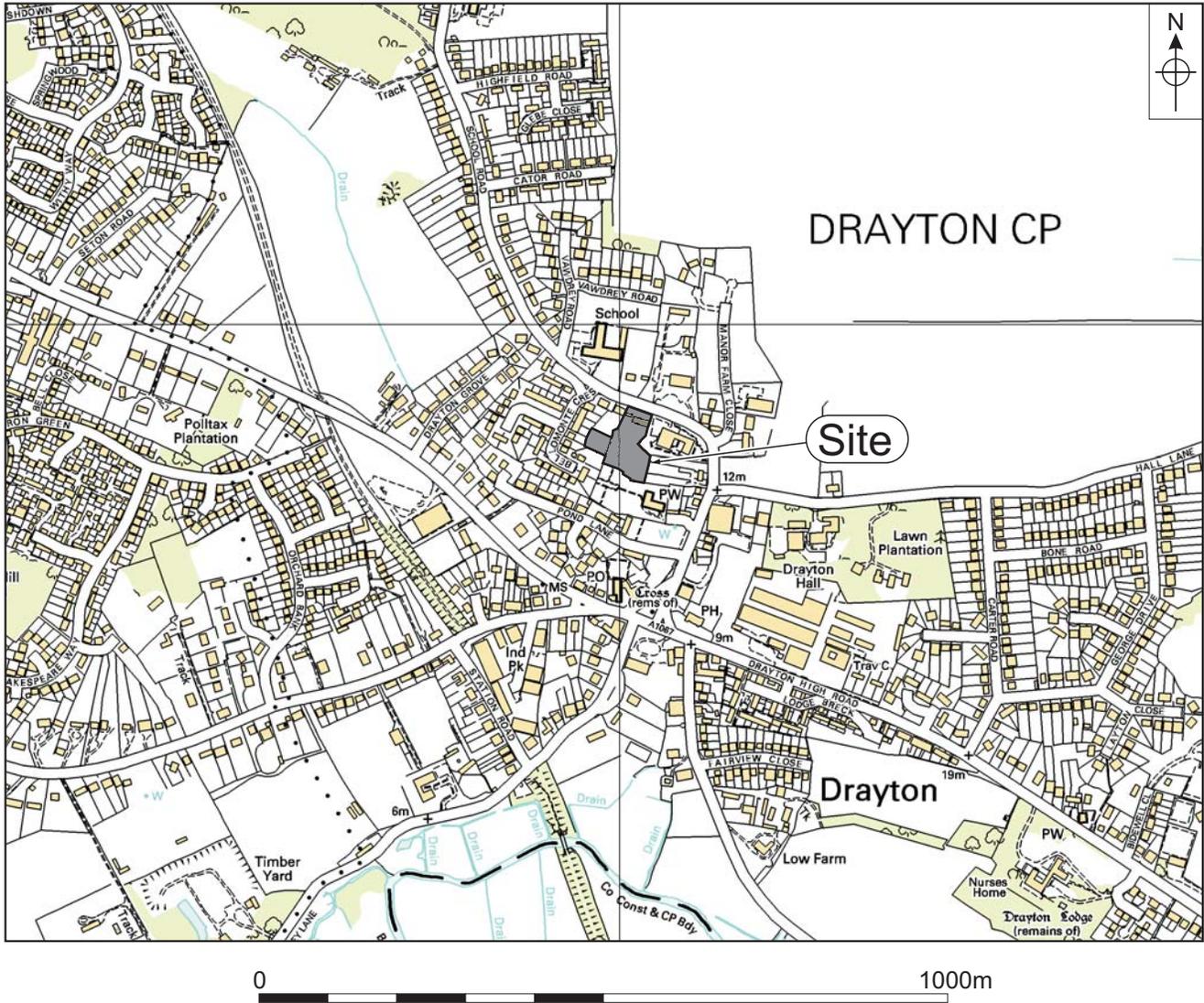


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

Local Authority No.100019340

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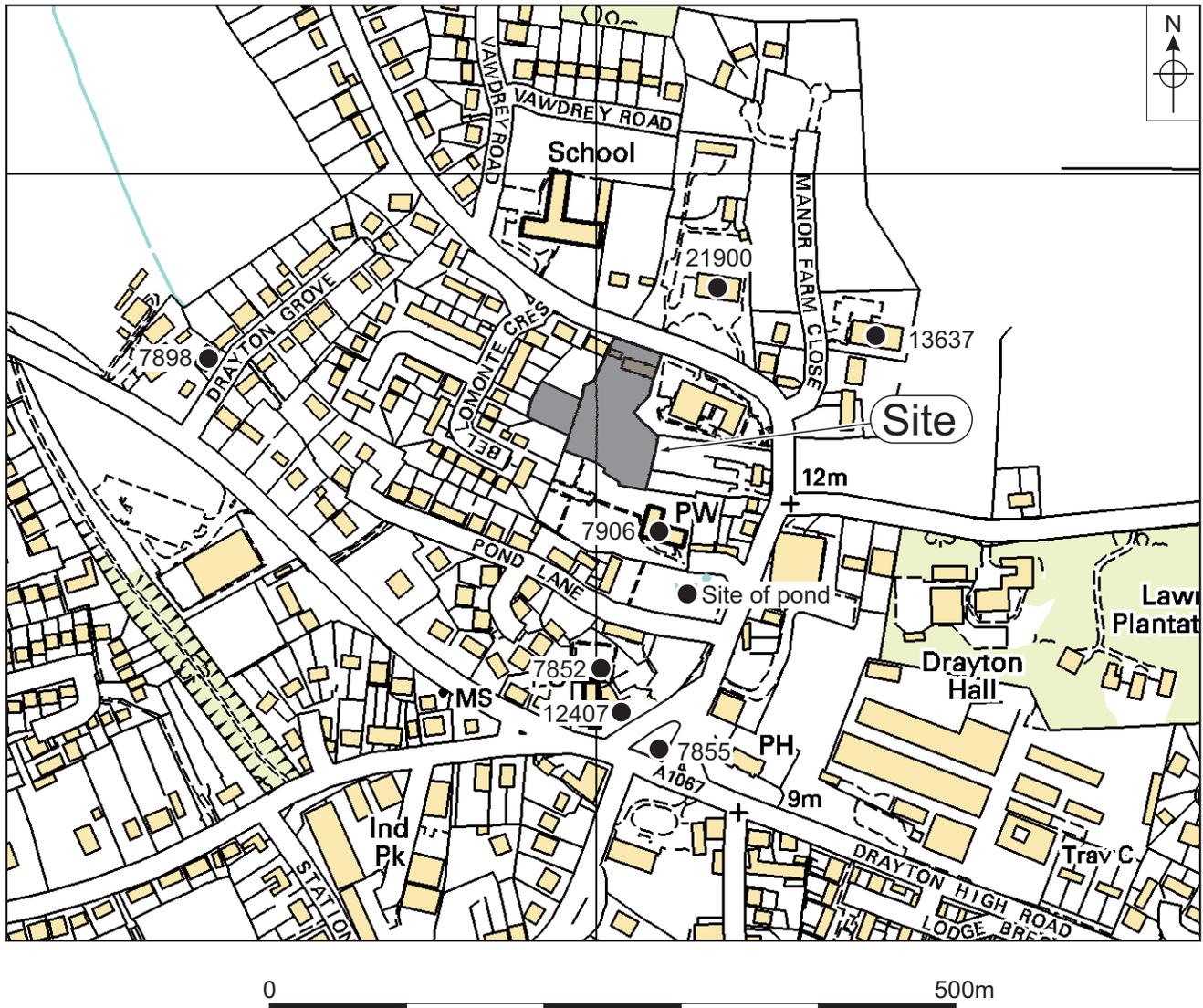


Figure 2. Selected sites recorded on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. Scale 1:5000

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Figure 3. OS 1" map of 1838 (revised)
detail, enlarged



Figure 4. OS 6" map of 1884, detail, enlarged

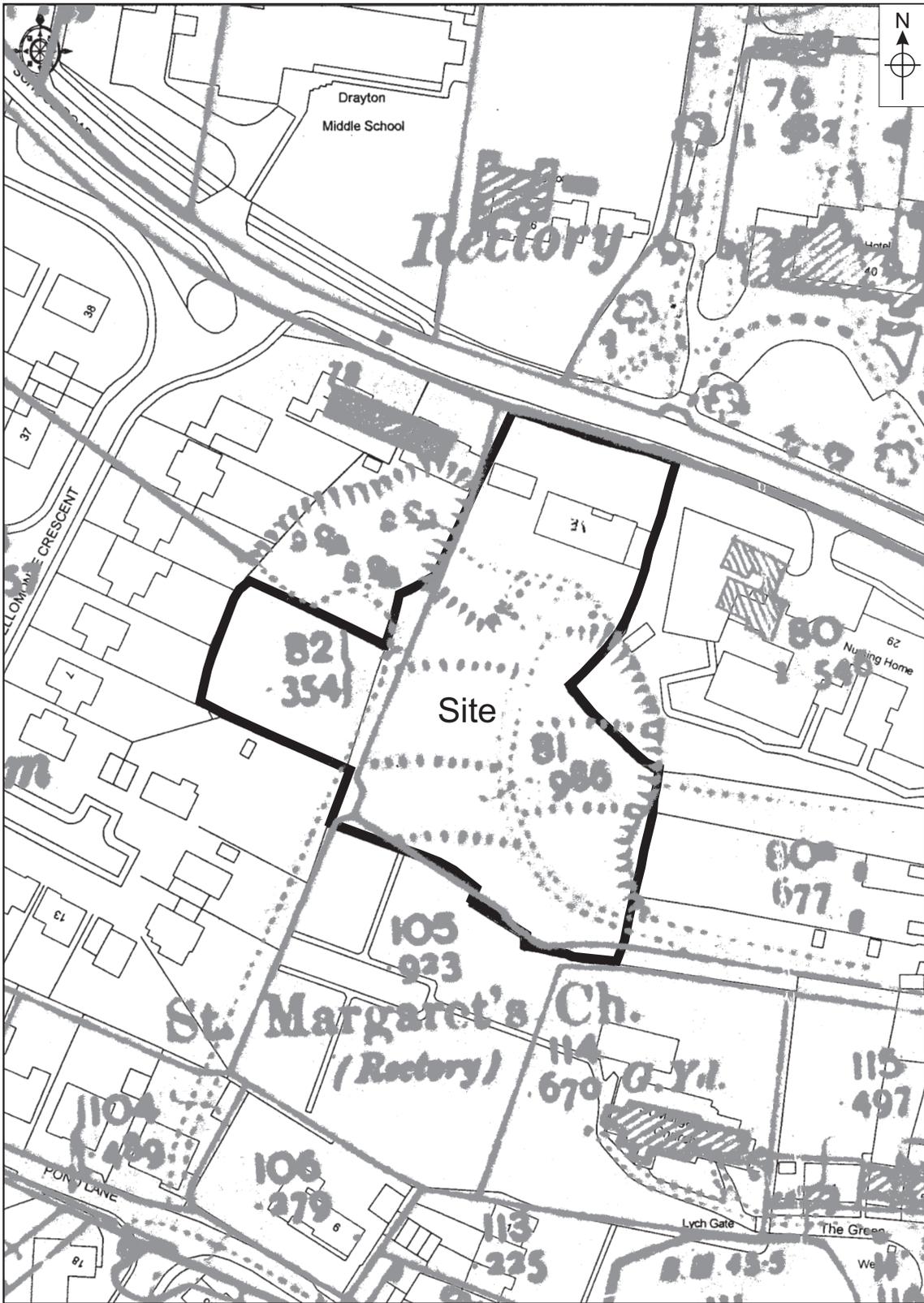


Figure 5. Development area, with extract from OS 25" map of 1907 superimposed (in grey)