Report 2561

nps group

nau archaeology

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land North of Goffes School House, Saham Toney, Norfolk

ENF125334

Prepared for
Mr and Mrs C Wincote

Peter Eric Crawley BA AIfA

October 2010

www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Peter Crawley	21/10/2010
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	29/10/2010
Edit Completed	Nigel Page	27/10/2010
Signed Off	Jayne Bown	29/10/2010
Issue 1		

NAU Archaeology
Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150 **F** 01603 756190 **E** jayne.bown@nps.co.uk www.nau.org.uk

BAU 2561

Contents

Figures

Plates

Location:	Land North of Goffes School House, Saham Toney
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TF 8995 0211
HER No.:	ENF 125 334
OASIS Ref.:	85279
Client:	Mr and Mrs C Wincote
Dates of Fieldwork:	13 October 2010

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Mr and Mrs C Wincote ahead of the construction of a new house on land north of Goffes School House in the village of Saham Toney. The site lay in an area of high archaeological potential close to the historic core of the village.

A gully, a post-hole, a possible beam slot/gully and a shallow pit, all of probable post-medieval date, were observed during the evaluation and a pit/tree hole and a fence-line consisting of five post-holes, of more recent 19th- to 20th- century date were also recorded.

A very worn Roman coin and a few stray sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were found within the topsoil, indicative of the background historical activity in the village. The lack of earlier archaeological features suggests that this side of the road was not settled and was probably parkland from the medieval period onwards.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site consisted of a small plot of development land situated immediately to the north of Goffes School House in Saham Toney, near Watton in Norfolk (Fig. 1). The development consists of a single dwelling. Due to the high archaeological potential of the area, an archaeological evaluation was necessary to inform the planning decisions.

The plot extends around 30m by 30m. Half of the total area was occupied by two large trees which were protected with Tree Preservation Orders, so archaeological trenching to sample the plot was situated down the eastern side only. The trench measured 15m by 1.80m and was located within the footprint of the new building.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Breckland District Council (Ref. 3PL/2007/1489/F) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (formerly Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) (Ref. Ken Hamilton 23 August 2010: CNF41343). The project was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2561/NP). It was commissioned and funded by Mr and Mrs C Wincote.

This programme of 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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the*

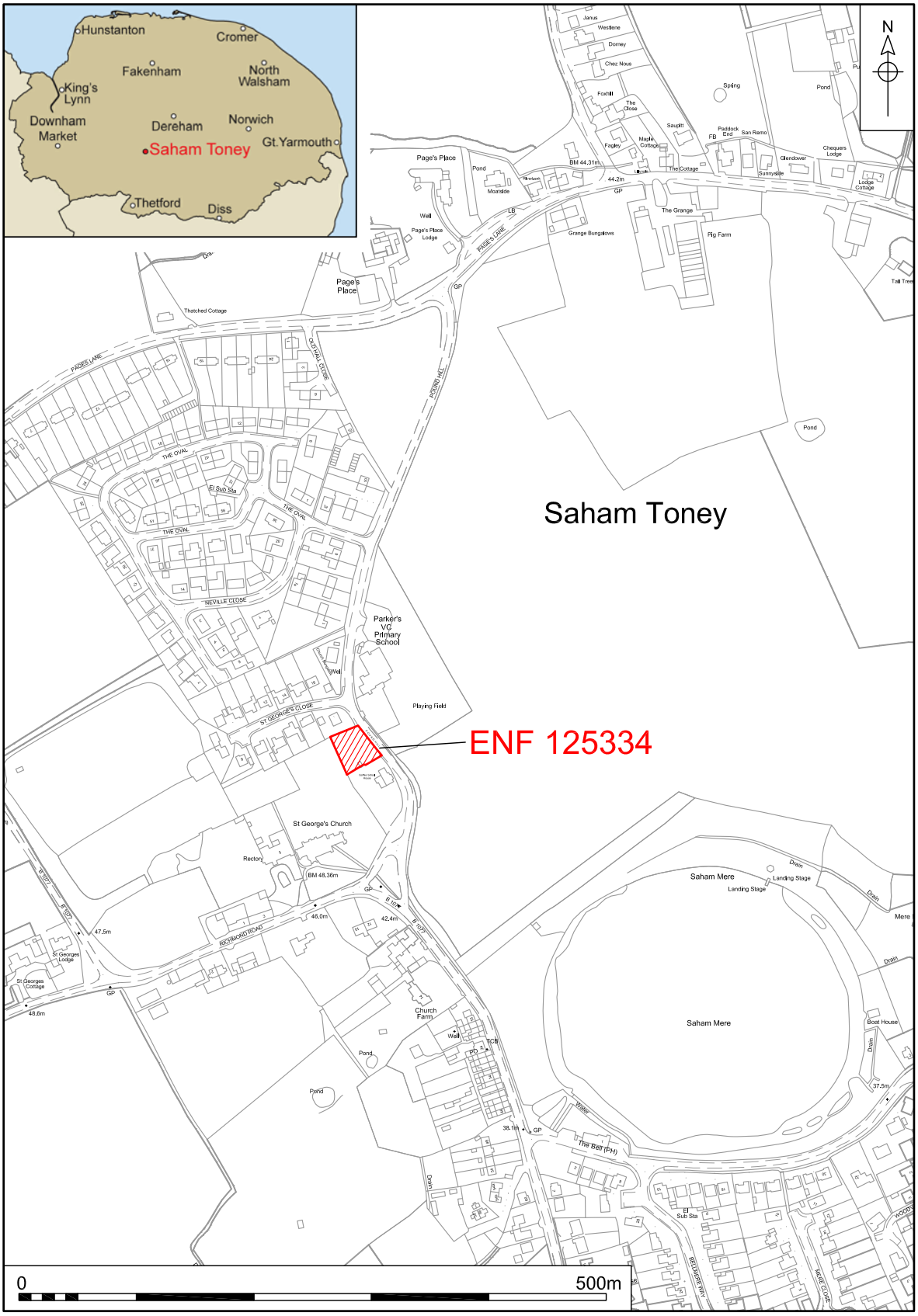

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology beneath the site is Upper Chalk. The upper geology of the village of Saham Toney has been described as laying at the edge of the Central Boulder Clay Plateau as it meets the area of Breckland, (Funnell 2005) and the soils have been characterised as Brown Rendzinas, in particular loamy and sandy chalky drift. (British Geological Survey)

The topsoil was 0.44m thick on average and consisted of a friable dark brown clayey silt. The topsoil was located directly above the natural substratum which was specifically a very firm mixed light brown chalky clay.

The site lay at *c*.50m OD in the south west corner of the village. The village and site were situated within a gently undulating landscape and the large topographic feature, Saham Mere lay to the south-east. The River Wissey lay within 1km to the west.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An HER search was undertaken and the most relevant entries presented below. The information is supplemented by extra detail from the parish summary by Thomas Sunley (NLA - 21 February 2007, heritage@norfolk.gov.uk).

Prehistoric to Roman

There are no sites of prehistoric date in the vicinity of the current development, although there are a series of find spots. Some pot boiler activity has been recorded north of Dye Farm on Long Road, which may indicate a focus of settlement (NHER 8715). A flint scraper of Palaeolithic date has been found within the parish (NHER 8731) and also a flint scraper (NHER 8731), though the majority of the earlier prehistoric finds are of Neolithic date. Axes (NHERs 8736, 8739 and 8741), an adze (NHER 4694) and arrowheads (NHER 14854) date to this period. Some metal finds of Bronze Age date have been found in the area around the site. A sword blade (NHER 31486) and a pin (NHER 12615) were found within the village. There have also been unconfirmed reports by antiquarians before 1856, of Bronze Age swords with the bones of red deer, found within the Mere at Saham Toney (NHER 8743).

In the fields to the east of the village pottery sherds of probable Early Bronze Age date were found whilst metal detecting (NHER 12064). Also to the east of the site NHER 8744 records the presence of Neolithic flit tools, Iron Age pottery fragments and Bronze Age swords (recorded prior to 1911).

There is an Iron Age and Roman site (NHER 4697) situated at Woodcock Hall in the parish. The site is situated 1km to the south-west of the village and the current site. Ongoing field walking and metal detecting surveys have uncovered many finds of Iron Age and Roman date since the site was first reported in the

19th century. The high status coins, studs and pommel rings (NHERs 32967, 32970 and 25146) suggest that this was an Iceni tribal centre. Around 1km to the north of the site, NHER 32012 records that an Iron Age coin was found whilst metal detecting along with a series of multi period finds. In the later Roman period, settlement shifted, and two main settlement centres have been found within the parish. A Roman road is also thought to have run through the parish (NHER 8714). The larger of the two sites (NHER 8747) lay to the south of Saham Wood, based on concentrations of metal detected finds. The other was south of Mere Farm, which lay to the south-east of the current development. From the parish generally there have been many finds of Roman date such as lead weights (NHER 32800) toilet implements (NHER 30947) seal boxes (NHER 31685) and quern stones (NHER 8708).

Another Romano-British site is recorded at Quidney Farm (NHER 29429) where investigations in 1995 uncovered a series of archaeological features including ditches, gullies, post-holes, cobbled flooring and metal-working debris. It appears to have been a significant site from the late Iron Age through to the 4th century.

In the south of the parish the presence of 1st-century Roman military finds suggest that there may have been an early Claudian fort designed to guard the river crossing. Several other enclosures suggestive of forts have been observed as crop marks or earthworks in the vicinity of the Peddars Way (NHER 8745) indicating that this was a strategic point.

An area of Roman settlement was recorded to the south-east of the site (NHER 31226). This area was metal detected in the 1950s after deep ploughing and revealed evidence of four Roman buildings and numerous Roman finds including lead weights, coins, stirrups and brooches suggesting a focus of Roman settlement closest to the site; archaeological evaluation in 1995 recorded the remains of two medieval/post medieval field boundaries here. In 1951 immediately to the north of the current development a Roman coin of the Emperor Valens was found in the grounds of the building (NHER 4695). Another Roman coin of Constantius II was found whilst metal detecting in 2002 amongst other multi period finds (NHER 37465). To the south of the site NHER 31254 records the presence of three Roman coins; one of Hadrian, one of Pescennius Niger and the other unidentified. They were found in a garden in the 1940s to 1950s.

Saxon to medieval

The Saham element of Saham Toney is thought to mean ‘homestead by the lake’ in Anglo Saxon, and the suffix ‘Toney’ was added following the allotment of the land to Ralph de Toeni, standard bearer of William I, after the Norman Conquest.

There is less evidence of Saxon activity in the parish. There were a few finds at Woodcock Hall (NHER 4697) which may indicate that following the Roman period this also became a focus for later settlement. Woodcock Hall is situated 1km south-east of the village. A Saxon cremation urn found at nearby Threxted in 1850 suggests that there may have been a cemetery here though this is difficult to confirm. Across the parish there have been single find spots including an iron spearhead (NHER 31694), a spangle (NHER 35636) and a decorated

bridle cheek-piece found to the north of Hill Farm (NHER 32020). To the north-east of the current site, two prestigious items were found (NHER 32019). They were a Late Saxon disc brooch decorated with a cruciform design and a gold coin.

The Domesday survey in 1086 indicated that there was a farmstead within the parish which is thought to have been situated at Page's Place (NHER 23739). To the north of the site there was also a medieval seal matrix and a medieval mount in the form of a fleur-de-lys found whilst metal detecting in 2000 (NHER 35769).

The settlement continued to expand during the medieval period, and this wealth was reflected by the construction of St George's church (NHER 4696). The majority of the structure is of the 13th to 15th century and like many churches it was altered and renovated in the 19th century. Inside the church there is a carved Norman priest's door showing the patron saint of the church, St George, fighting the dragon. The interior of the church contains a 15th-century pulpit and the carved wooden top to a 15th-century font. There is also a chapel in the parish, Little St Andrew's chantry chapel (NHER 30586), which was founded in 1281 to serve Wendling Abbey. It functioned as a church for the local population until its demolition during the Dissolution. To the east of the site the tofts and village green of this medieval settlement have been noted on the aerial photographs of 1946 (NHER 29689). There are indications from 16th-century maps of the parish that a deer park (NHER 14158) was located adjacent to the village. The name Park Farm also suggests the position of the park. A rectangular pilgrim badge fragment showing St Paul brandishing a sword has been found in the area (NHER 28496). Metal detecting in the village in 1996 recovered a medieval casket mount which had a fleur-de-lys depicted against a blue enamel background (NHER 31863). This was found to the north of the site on the edge of the village.

Immediately adjacent to the site, to the east, in March 2008 trial trench evaluation and desk-based assessment (NHER 51319) highlighted the potential for finds and features from several archaeological periods (Unger and Smith 2008). The evaluation trenches contained medieval ditches reflecting plot boundaries with medieval and later pottery. The plot boundaries fronted onto Pound Hill and suggest that the medieval settlement expanded into this area. Other gullies and post-holes were also identified.

Post-medieval to modern

NHER entry 30599 is of most relevance for the current site. It lay within an area of historic parkland which had once been the landscaped park of the former rectory (NHER 30599) dating to sometime before 1797. The parkland contains surviving earthworks, a ruined folly containing blocks of medieval limestone and now a commemorative monument in the shape of a Greek altar with an inscription, which had been erected by a local clergyman.

The several windmills in the vicinity of the parish suggest how the settlement thrived in the post medieval-period and include NHERs 8787, 8790, 15264, 15265 and 15266. Tower Mill (NHER 15264), was built in 1826 and rebuilt in 1960. Lime burning was undertaken within the parish (NHER 15245 and 15957) and also brick production (NHER 8744). The presence of the turnpike road

running from Watton to Dereham (NHER 8791) which was built in 1740 aided the transportation of goods and contributed to the area's wealth.

There are several buildings within the parish which reflect this prosperity. Within Richmond Road are the 18th-century, brick built residences, the Old Rectory (NHER 46199) and White Hall (NHER 46200). As previously mentioned the site sits within the park which had belonged to the Old Rectory (NHER 30599). Saham Hall (NHER 4712) had been located here until it burned down in 1960. Originally constructed in 1800 it was rebuilt in 1904 in the Queen Anne style. The Lodge to the hall is recorded as NHER 46306 and dates to 1724; it has 19th-century additions. Meadow Farmhouse built from red brick with some patterning in dark headers is recorded as NHER 46197 and dates to the early 18th century. To the south-east of the site a circular brick bread oven coated in lime hair and plaster was noted in the side of Chimney Cottage thought to be of 18th-century date (NHER 8785).

Thomas Shuckforth, a local gentleman decided not to be buried in the churchyard but instead selected a plot on the land now known as Burying Ground Green. His tomb had stone statues and carvings, though now no trace of that structure can be seen (NHER 15267). A burial at the crossroads (recorded as NHER 13171) is purported to be of a local man who had been unpopular for pouring beer and wine into the river.

World War Two remains are recorded within the parish including three airplane crash sites. An American B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed near to Saham Wood In 1944 (NHER 19201). Also in 1944 a Mosquito B mk IV aeroplane crashed, whilst on a reconnaissance mission (NHER 19357). Another British Aircraft crashed to the north-west of Saham Waite (NHER 28796) though further details are not known. An anti aircraft battery (NHER 31917) is recorded in an area called the 'The Bombing Ranges' by locals although this site has been destroyed through subsequent agricultural activity.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

(Fig. 2 and Plate 1)

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that 5% of the development area be sample excavated with a single 15m long trench. The trench was 1.80m wide. Due to the presence of the large trees on the west side of the plot, it was necessary to excavate the archaeological trench at the eastern side of the house footprint to avoid any damage to their extensive root system.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision by the author.

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

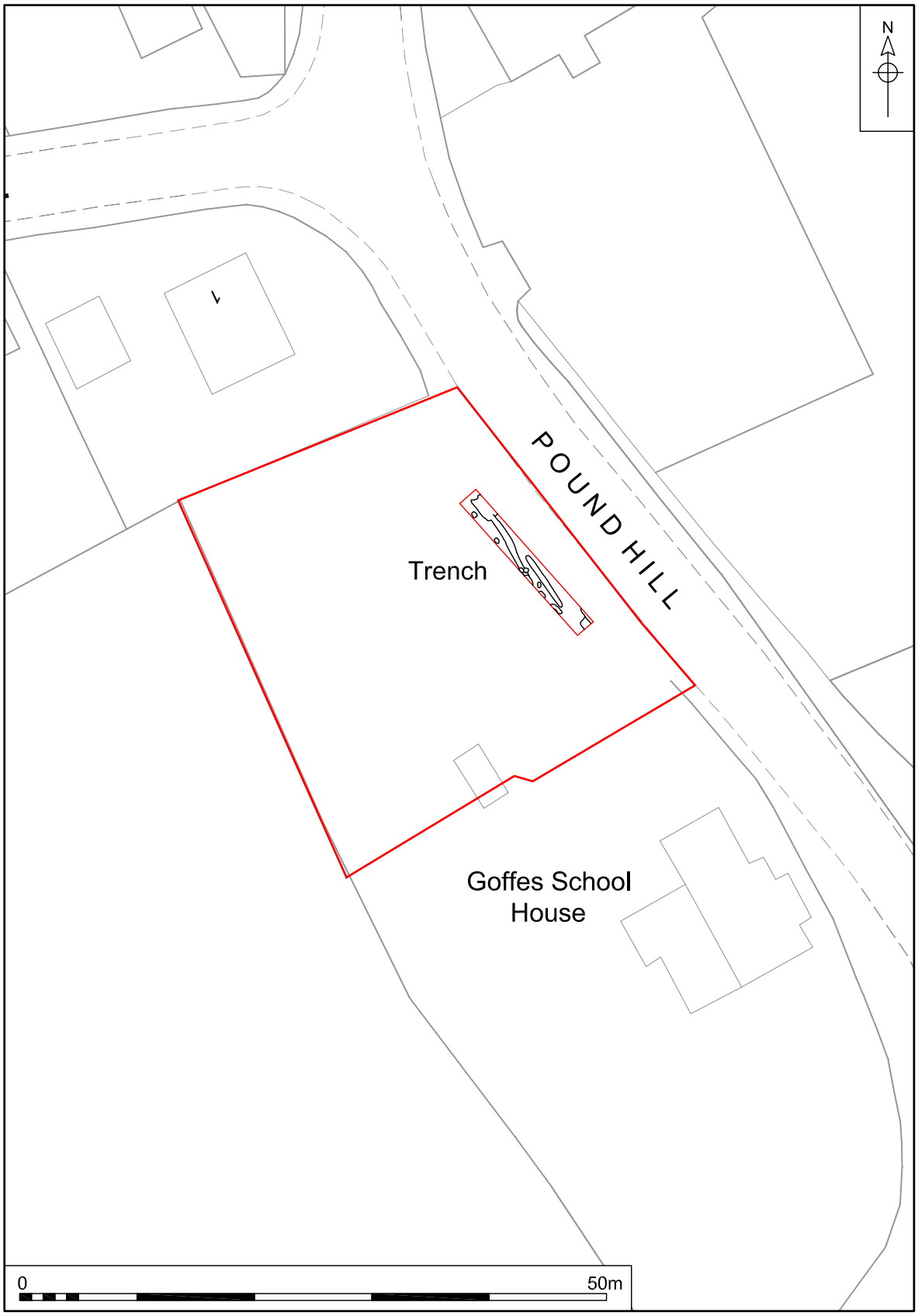

Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

Environmental samples were taken from four archaeological features; gully [9], post hole [21], gully/beam slot [11] and pit [19].

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmark (TBM) used during the course of this work was transferred from a known Ordnance Survey height located on Richmond Road, opposite St George's church, which had a value of 46m OD. The TBM with a value of 50.12m was established opposite the site.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

(Fig. 3 and Plates 2, 3 and 4)

Plate 1. Machining, looking north-west

Plate 2. Trench, pre- excavation, looking west

Plate 3. Trench, post-excavation, looking west

Plate 3. The trench post-excavation looking east

At the west end of the evaluation trench was a squared pit or tree hole [3] of relatively recent date (Plate 5). It measured 2.38m east to west and was at least 1.0m north to south. The depth was 0.43m. The edges were gradually sloping and slightly concave sides as was the base. The single fill ([4]) consisted of mid

Plate 5. Pit/tree hole [3], looking east

Plate 6. Post-hole [5], looking south

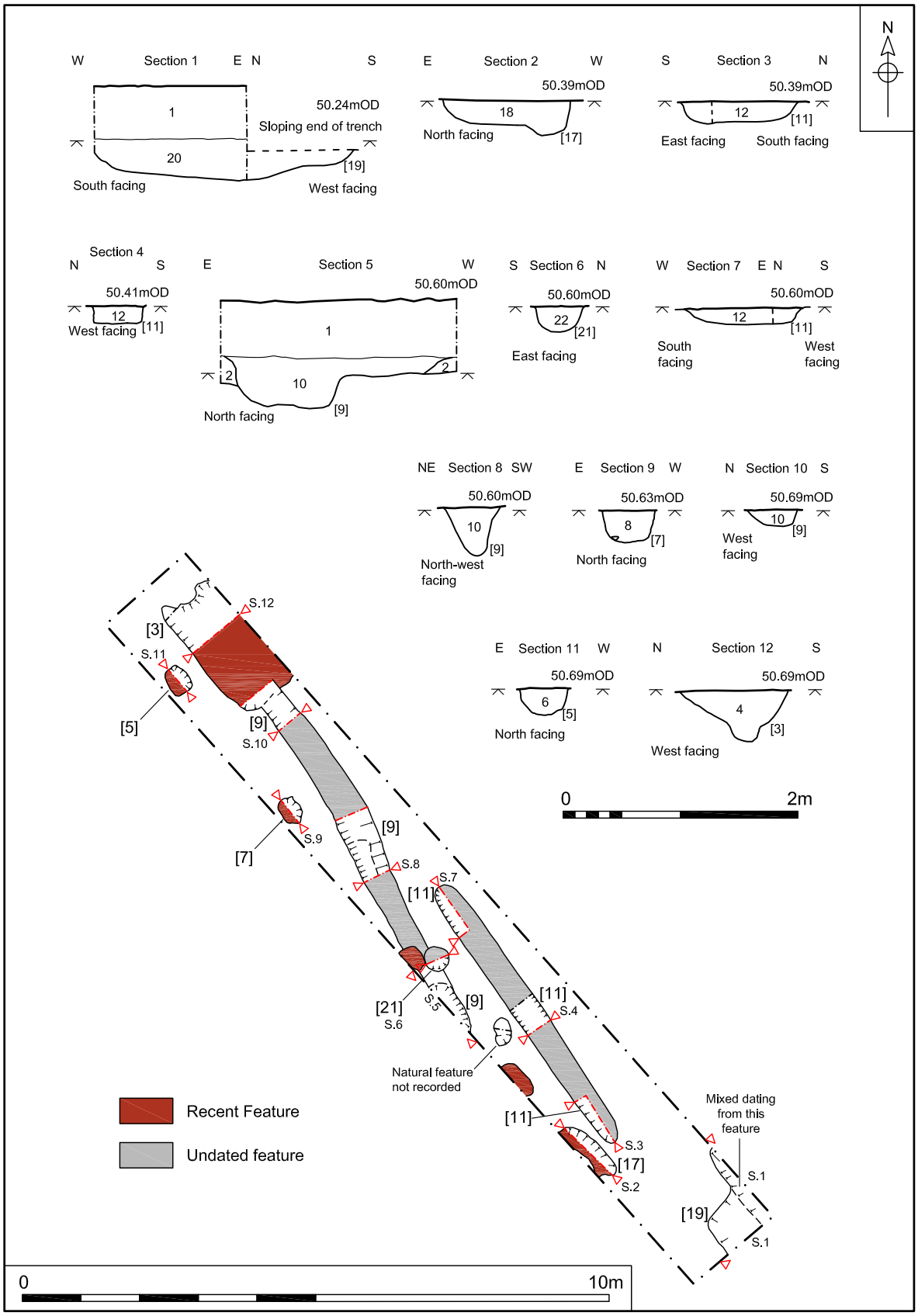

Figure 3. Trench plan and section 1 - 12.
Scale 1:100 and 1:50

brown clayey silt with no major inclusions. It truncated the undated gully [9] on its south side. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

Plate 7. Post-hole [7], looking south

A fence-line which consisted of five post-Victorian post-holes ([5], [7], [17] and two un-numbered) was situated at the south side of the trench. Two of the post-holes ([5] and [7]) at the western end of the trench were excavated to determine the date of the fence line (Plates 6 and 7 respectively), and a third ([17]) at the eastern end of the line. As the other two were identical and obviously part of the same feature they were left un-excavated. The post-holes measured on average 0.46m east to west by 0.36m north to south and had a sub-square shape in plan with depths between 0.22m and 0.27m; they were steep-sided with concave bases (Fig. 3. sections 2, 9 and 11). The fills of features [5] and [7] ([6] and [8]) consisted of very dark grey clayey silts whereas fill [18] was a light brown clayey silt. It is possible that fills [6] and [8] represent probable deliberate infilling once an original post had been removed and fill [18] resembled a naturally occurring fill. Although a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from fill [6] it was deemed to be residual as the other dating within the fills of post-holes [5] and [7] was of Victorian or post-Victorian date.

Curving and irregular gully [9] at the centre of the trench was orientated roughly east to west. Its width varied from 0.39m and 0.59m. The depth also varied between 0.41m and 0.15m. The observed length of the gully was 6.60m and it extended beyond the southern limit of the trench. It appeared to be shallower at the western end, and was not observed to extend beyond pit [3] which truncated it, implying that it had originally terminated at the position of pit [3]. The edges were steep and slightly concave and the base was roughly flat (Fig. 3, sections 5, 8 and 10). The fill ([10]) was mid brown clayey silt which was probably caused by natural silting. The gully was undated, though small coal fragments found

within environmental sample <1> suggested a post-medieval date, although these items could have been intrusive.

Plate 8. Gully [9], looking south-east

Plate 9. Post-hole [21], looking west

Post-hole [21] had a diameter of 0.41m and a depth of 0.21m and cut the north edge of gully [9]. It had steep and regular edges and a concave base. The fill

([22]) was a mid brown clayey and sandy silt and was probably represents silting following the removal of the original post. The post hole was undated.

Plate 10. Gully/beam slot [11], looking west

Gully or beam slot [11] (Plate 10) occupied the central south part of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, parallel to feature [9]. It measured 5.27m by 0.45m and it had a fairly consistent depth of 0.17m. The sides were concave and the base was roughly flat. The single fill ([12]) was composed of a mid to dark grey clayey and sandy silt, which had possibly been deliberately dumped into the feature, although it contained no major inclusions or dating evidence. Either end of the gully was rounded in plan which suggested that it was perhaps more likely to be a short section of rather than a beam slot. Fill [12] contained a similar amount of small coal fragments within environmental sample <3> as seen in sample <1> and which suggested a post-medieval date.

At the east end of the trench was shallow pit [19]. It had a visible extent of 0.97m by 1.59m and extended beyond the northern and western limits of the trench. In plan the pit had an 'L' shaped profile and it was 0.36m deep. The sides were concave and the base slightly concave. Its single fill ([20]) was a light brown clayey silt which had probably built up through natural silting actions. There was a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material and a piece of clay pipe recovered from the fill which suggested that the feature was of post-medieval date.

Plate 11. Shallow pit [19], looking east

6.0 THE FINDS

The finds recovered from the evaluation trench are summarised in Appendix 2a and described in more detail below.

6.1 Pottery

by Sarah Percival

6.1.1 Roman

A single micaceous sandy greyware rim sherd weighing 6g was recovered from topsoil [1]. The rim is from a straight-sided cup similar to examples found at Quidney Farm, Saham Toney dated to the late 1st century AD (Lyons 2000, 217).

6.1.2 Medieval

A total of three medieval sherds weighing 30g were recovered from two contexts. A rim from an unglazed bowl and a glazed Grimston bodysherd were found in topsoil [1] and a second glazed Grimston sherd came from the fill of post-hole [5]. The unglazed sherd is not closely datable being of a type produced from the 11th to the 14th centuries. A late 12th- to 14th-century date is likely for the glazed sherds.

6.1.3 Post Medieval

A large sherd from a late post-medieval unglazed earthenware flowerpot and a second unprovenanced earthenware bodysherd were recovered from topsoil [1].

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Sarah Percival

The small assemblage comprised four pieces of ceramic building material weighing 143g and all of post medieval or modern date. Two pieces of post medieval brick in dark-orange, medium-sandy fabric with sparse quartz inclusions were found in the fills of postholes [5] and [7]. A large piece of modern, machine-made pantile in fine, sandy fabric was recovered from the fill of posthole [17]. A further piece of cream-coloured tile came from the fill of posthole [19]. This fragment in poorly mixed cream and red fabric with few visible inclusions has one smoothed surface, suggesting that it may be from a post medieval floor brick.

6.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

by Sarah Percival

An undatable fragment from the stem of a clay tobacco pipe came from the fill of posthole [19].

6.4 Flint

by Sarah Percival

6.4.1 Prehistoric

A total of three pieces of prehistoric struck flint weighing 93g were found in topsoil [1]. The flint is dark grey with 'dirty' cream coloured cortex typical of flint removed from flint nodules (S Bates *pers. comm*.). The assemblage includes two small waste flakes with cortex and a large retouched flake, also with cortex, which has been snapped. The larger flint shows some damage perhaps from ploughing. The assemblage is probably of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age date.

6.4.2 Post medieval

A single trapezoidal gunflint was found in the topsoil [1]. Gunflints were made locally at Brandon from the mid 1600s.

6.5 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

A total of 12 metal finds were recovered from the site, all from topsoil [01]. The majority of the finds were of copper alloy, closely followed by lead, with one find of aluminium. The assemblage contains finds of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date and several undated objects.

6.5.1 Roman

A single copper alloy coin of Roman date was recovered, and although almost illegible, is thought to be of mid 4th-century date (AE4).

6.5.2 Medieval

Only one find was solidly dated to the medieval period, and consists of a fragmentary piece of strap end made of copper alloy.

Strap ends were a fairly common object during the period, being used on the end of straps to protect the tip from wear. The fragment found here comprises of only the very base of the object, where it splits into two, the two rectangular sheets have been riveted together, and form a V-shape. The object may have been very similar to one from Alms Lane, Norwich (Margeson, 1993, p.35, fig.20, no.228) dating from the late 13th- to 15th-centuries.

6.5.3 Medieval to Post-Medieval

A single fragment of a copper alloy vessel was found, and probably dates to this period. The piece is a body sherd, and therefore has no defining features. The object may have been part of a cooking vessel, although this is by no means certain due to the fragmentary nature of the piece.

6.5.4 Post-Medieval

A single find of post-medieval date came from the site, a copper alloy sheet vessel repair. The vessel repair or 'paper-clip rivet' (Margeson, 1993, p.92, fig.59, no.575) is another common medieval object, simply comprising of a sheet of copper alloy folded in such a way as to plug a hole in a vessel.

6.5.5 Modern

Two clearly modern metal objects were also found on the site, an aluminium plaque or plate reading 'Hoover', and a composite copper alloy and enamel button. Both of the objects are 20th century in date.

6.5.6 Undated

Six objects remain undated from the site; these include a lead weight, four pieces of lead waste and a copper alloy pierced sheet.

The lead weight is a fairly common metal-detected find, and is notoriously difficult to date, as they were in use from the Roman through to the post-medieval periods. Without any defining features, the weight remains undated. The object is cylindrical, with a central perforation, weighing 39g.

The lead waste may have come from the heating up of lead, possibly for industrial use, but is not in sufficient quantity to imply any large-scale activity.

An incomplete rectangular sheet, pierced with two holes was also found, and has no defining features to enable clearer cataloguing and dating.

6.6 Animal Bone

by Sarah Percival

A small piece of unidentified animal bone came from the fill of posthole [7]. The fragment was not identifiable.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Saham Toney, undertaken by NAU Archaeology, recorded a limited number of features. Despite this, samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples (<1>, <2>, <3> and <4> from features [9], [21], [11] and [19] respectively) were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were present throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Results

The flots were all extremely small and sparse, with all four being largely composed of coal fragments and pieces of black, porous material. The latter were very hard and brittle and were almost certainly a bi-product of the combustion of the coal. Orange/red vitreous globules, all of which were probable residues of high temperature combustion, were also noted within three of the four assemblages. Plant macrofossils were scarce; charcoal/charred wood fragments were present at a very low density throughout along with a possible small/immature rye (*Secale cereale*) grain and two further cereals, which were too fragmentary to be closely identified. Shells of a limited range of terrestrial molluscs were present within the assemblage from sample <4>, although all could have been intrusive within the fill of pit [19].

7.1.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the coal fragments and pieces of black porous material, which are common throughout, are most likely to be intrusive within the feature fills, with all possibly being derived from either the spreading of night soil in the post-medieval period or the more recent use of steam implements on the land. The charred plant remains are probably derived from scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. As this material is so scarce, it is assumed that the excavated features were peripheral to any focus of either domestic or agricultural activity.

Although charred plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Saham Toney, the density of material is extremely low and, at present, all are from undated contexts. With this in mind, further sampling may be unnecessary. However, should any further excavations within the immediate area record features which are clearly dated, it is recommended that additional plant

macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume be taken, as they may provide remains suitable for corroborative dating purposes.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The site lay in an area adjacent to known Roman settlement activity and close to the focus of the medieval settlement thought to be around the parish church. Pottery recovered from the topsoil and the Roman coin does indicate a general level of activity in the vicinity from the Roman period onwards. The finds may have been deposited and moved via manuring of open areas at the time.

Undated gullies [9] and [11] are thought likely to be of post-medieval date due to the presence of the coal fragments and associated black porous burning residues within the fill, though it should be borne in mind that these may be intrusive elements. Gully [9] had been truncated by the modern (20th-century?) fence line and may have originally had a drainage purpose, designed to carry water away from the roadside. The original function of gully/beam slot [11] is difficult to determine although it did have rounded termini/ends. If the coal fragments and black porous material are intrusive then gully [9] could just possibly be of medieval date due to its presence opposite an area of known medieval activity and close to the church.

The fence-line represented by post-holes [5], [7] and [17] and two un-numbered examples does not appear to correlate with any obvious boundaries shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, Tithe map, or 1946 aerial photographs. It could represent a sub-division of the plot, possibly erected and dismantled at some point between the execution of the mapping and the aerial photographs. It is however parallel with Pound Hill, a modern road.

The lack of medieval features is in marked contrast to the extensive and well-dated features found in the 2008 evaluation carried out across the road (NHER 51319). The present trial trench evaluation, though small, confirms that this side of the road may have been parkland or pasture, either for the village or for the church in the medieval period, and that this land later became more defined parkland in the post-medieval period. This evaluation also demonstrates that there is no Roman activity represented at the site and suggests that the focus for Roman period settlement is probably concentrated at NHER 31226 to the south-east.

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

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with Suzie Westall. The JCB was provided by the developer and supplied by Trell Plant Hire. Thanks to the JCB driver Sean O Reilly for helping with the project and undertaking some supplementary metal detecting. Thanks also to Chris Wincote for his help in setting up the project and contributing to its smooth completion.

The finds were washed and processed by Sarah Percival. The metal finds were analysed by Rebecca Sillwood and all other finds by Sarah Percival. David Dobson prepared the illustrations after initial digitising by the author. Jayne Bown edited the report

Bibliography and Online Sources

British Geological Society — http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience accessed 20/10/10

Funnell, B. 2005 'Geological Background' in *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk.* Ashwin, T and Davison, A. 4-5.

Lyons, A.L. 2000 'The Roman Pottery' in Bates, S., *Excavations at Quidney Farm, Saham Toney, Norfolk 1995, Britannia* XXXI 201-237

Margeson, S. 1993 *Norwich Households: Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey 1971-78.* East Anglian Archaeology No. 58

Unger, S and Smith, L. 2008 *Archaeological Solutions Archaeological Report No 3010*

Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Post-medieval
2	Deposit			Natural	Post-medieval
3	Cut	Tree Throw?		Probable Tree Throw	Post-medieval
4	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]	Post-medieval
5	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval
6	Deposit		5	Fill of [5]	Post-medieval
7	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval
8	Deposit		7	Fill of [7]	Post-medieval
9	Cut	Gully		Gully	Unknown
10	Deposit		9	Fill of [9]	Unknown
11	Cut	Beam Slot/Gully?		Possible beam slot or gully	Unknown
12	Deposit		11	Unknown	Unknown
13	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval
14	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]	Post-medieval
15	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval
16	Deposit		15	Fill of [15]	Post-medieval
17	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval
18	Deposit		17	Fill of [17]	Post-medieval
19	Cut	Pit		Irregular shallow pit	Post-medieval
20	Deposit		19	Fill of [19]	Post-medieval
21	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Unknown
22	Deposit		21	Fill of [21]	Unknown

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Pit	1
	Tree throw	1
	Post-hole	5
Unknown	Gully	2
	Post hole	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	Aluminium	1	5g	Modern	‘Hoover' plate
1	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Modern	Button with enamel
1	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Medieval	Strap end fragment
1	Copper-Alloy	1	14g	Med./Post-Med.	Vessel body fragment
1	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Post-medieval	Vessel repair
1	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Roman	Coin
1	Copper-Alloy	1	3g	Unknown	Pierced sheet
1	Flint – Struck	3	93g	Prehistoric	
1	Flint – Struck	1	4g	Post-medieval	Gun flint
1	Lead	4	47g	Unknown	Waste
1	Lead	1	39g	Unknown	Weight
1	Pottery	1	6g	Roman	
1	Pottery	2	17g	Medieval	
1	Pottery	2	157g	Post-medieval	
6	Ceramic Building Material	1	26g	Post-medieval	
6	Pottery	1	13g	Medieval	
6	Pottery	1	1g	Post-medieval	
8	Animal Bone	1	5g	Unknown	
8	Ceramic Building Material	1	26g	Post-medieval	
18	Ceramic Building Material	1	69g	Modern	DISCARDED
20	Ceramic Building Material	1	22g	Post-medieval	
20	Clay Pipe	1	6g	Post-medieval	Stem

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	3
Roman	Copper-Alloy	1
	Pottery	1
Medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
	Pottery	3
Med./Post-Med.	Copper-Alloy	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	3
	Clay Pipe	1
	Copper-Alloy	1
	Flint – Struck	1
	Pottery	3
Modern	Aluminium	1
	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Copper-Alloy	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	1
	Copper-Alloy	1
	Lead	5

Appendix 3: The Environmental Evidence

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Context No.	**10**	**22**	**12**	**20**
Feature No.	**9**	**21**	**11**	**19**
Feature type	**G**	**ph**	**BS/G**	**Pit**
Plant macrofossils				
Secale cereale L. (grain)				xcf
Cereal indet. (grain frags.)		x		x
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx	x	x
Other remains				
Black porous material	xx	x	xx	x
Bone	x			x
Burnt/fired clay	x		x	x
Eggshell				x
Small coal frags.	x	xx	x	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bones				xpmc
Vitreous globules		x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**14**	**14**	**14**	**14**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key to Table

x = 1–10 specimens xx = 10–20 specimens cf = compare pmc = possible modern contaminant
G = gully ph = post-hole BS = beam slot