

NORWICH ROAD, WATTON, NORFOLK

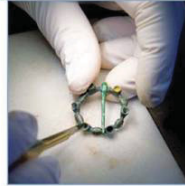
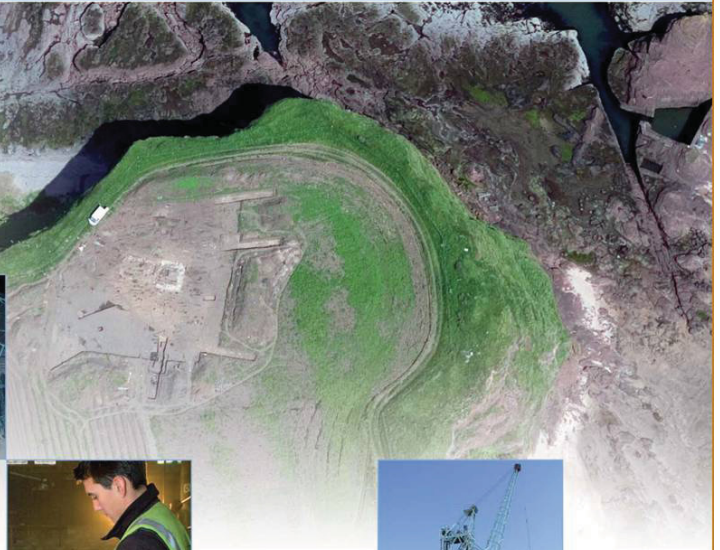
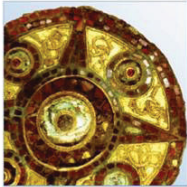
An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application Number: Pre-Application
National Grid Reference Number: TF 9184 0070

AOC Project no: 30206

NHER Number: 51886

Date: January 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

NORWICH ROAD, WATTON, NORFOLK

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: **Pinnacle Consulting Engineers**
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National Grid Reference (NGR): TF 9184 0070

AOC Project No: 30206

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by AOC Archaeology on behalf of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers between 15th December 2008 and 9th January 2009 at Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 6 trenches, four measuring 20m x 2m, one 8m x 2m and another 23m x 2m at base. These were excavated in two phases; the first phase, in December 2008, consisted of Trenches 1-4, and the second, in January 2009, consisted of Trenches 5-6.

Natural sands were recorded at a height between 55.76 and 51.86mOD. The evaluation trenches demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil deposits were present across the north-eastern area (Trenches 1-4) and the south-eastern area (Trench 6), but that there had been horizontal truncation over the area of the existing store car park (Trench 5).

Trenches 1-4 all contained archaeological features, which comprised a number of 19th century postholes, two animal burials, and an undated posthole. Trench 5, in the existing car park, had no archaeological deposits which is very probably due to the heavy truncation there. Trench 6 contained a buried soil, a posthole, and a gully, which are dated to the medieval period.

In the north-eastern area (Trenches 1-4) the archaeological deposits are of low significance, probably being the remains of late 19th century structures. The medieval deposits in the south-eastern area (Trench 6) are potentially of greater significance.

No remains that were older than the medieval period were present. In particular no remains of Roman or Saxon date were found.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on an Archaeological Evaluation undertaken at Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk (Figure 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 9184 0070 and is within land bounded by Norwich Road to the north, Memorial Way to the west, residential properties to the east and parkland to the south. The site is irregular in plan (Figure 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 0.33 hectares (3341m²).
- 1.3 The central area of the site is currently occupied by a retail store (Tesco) with associated car parking and landscaping, the northeast area by a disused light industrial yard, and the south area by open grass. The proposed development is for an extension to the store with extra car parking and landscaping.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Breckland Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.
- 2.2 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of Ken Hamilton, an archaeological investigation was carried out as a requirement before planning consent is granted.
- 2.3 The other relevant policies relating to this decision are:
 - Breckland Council's *Breckland District Local Plan Adopted Version (September 1999). Policies ENV 15-18*
 - East of England Regional Assembly: *East of England Plan: Draft Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (December 2004) Policy ENV5: The Historic Environment*
- 2.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared as a preplanning requirement (AOC 2008). This report will be submitted with the planning application.
- 2.5 The application site does not fall within a designated area of archaeological importance or within a Conservation Area.
- 2.6 The proposed scheme is a commercial development involving the extension of the existing store on the site, and the construction of a new car park and landscaping.
- 2.7 The proposed extension to the store will not contain a basement. The design involves the use of pads to support the frame of the extension. Apart from the pads, the formation level will not be deeper than the existing made ground in this area, which is existing car park. This means that the impact will affect a modest proportion of the footprint of the extension.
- 2.8 The archaeological investigation was required to inform the planning decision about an appropriate mitigation strategy, in relation to the destruction of the potential archaeological resource.
- 2.9 A Brief defining the specification of archaeological work was prepared by Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA 2008). The WSI and this report conform to the requirements set out in the Brief.

- 2.10 A Desk Based Assessment was not required as part of this process. The WSI fulfilled the requirement for a detailed archaeological project design for the first stage in the process, Evaluation by trenching.

3. Geology & Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet South 3rd Edition) indicates that the site is situated upon solid geology of chalk, including red chalk. A series of boreholes conducted by SIC (East Anglia) Ltd in 2006 revealed made ground up to a depth of 1m, over Glacial Sandy Clay which in turn overlays Glacial Till.
- 3.2 The site itself lies on an area of high ground at around 55mOD, above marshland stretching eastwards to Scoulton Mere, and on the south side of a tributary of the River Wissey that drains fenland to the west in to the Great Ouse. The local soil has been noted as very dry, and was historically only good for growing rye grass, suitable as a forage crop and thereby sustaining livestock.

4. Archaeological and Historic Background

4.1 The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 4.1.1 A number of findspots indicate a prehistoric presence in the Watton Area. Flint flakes of prehistoric date have been found at Lovell Gardens, almost a kilometre east of the site (NHER 40428), but these have not been dated. The earliest find from the parish of Watton is a Mesolithic stone macehead.
- 4.1.2 Prehistoric activity from the Neolithic period is represented in the local area by two axe heads found in a field and an arrowhead at a school, west of the site. Bronze Age activity is limited to a Barrow at RAF Watton, south east of the site on higher ground. The barrow contained a cremation urn, and possibly an inhumation. Seven bronze socketed axeheads have also been found at the airfield, not all of these were finished and they may be evidence of a manufacturing site. Bronze Age settlements are few in Norfolk, but the Breckland area has more evidence than elsewhere (Glazebrook 1997).
- 4.1.3 The lack of settlement activity in the pre-Roman period may be caused in part by the presence of poor cultivation soils. It has been suggested that the woodland was not cleared in the area until the 6th century BC (*ibid*). One archaeological feature, a pit, has been found off the Norwich Road, which may be of Iron Age date, but also may be Romano-British.

4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.2.1 The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) identifies Norwich Road, which runs east-west directly north of the site as a probable Roman road. However, excavations have failed as yet to prove this. No features of Roman date have been excavated, but find spots of coins, brooches and rings indicate a general presence in the area during the Roman period.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon (c. 451 – 1065)

- 4.3.1 Watton seems to have its origins in the Saxon period. The name Watton derives from the Saxon 'Wadetuna', probably identifying the homestead of Wade. The town was recorded in the Domesday Survey. The exact location of the core of the town has yet to be found, but Saxon presence has been proved by the discovery of a Saxon burial in the 1950s; within the grave was a piece of early Saxon pottery. This burial lay within 150m of the site, to the east. Little other Saxon evidence has been identified, with finds but no evidence for structures or dwellings present, the finds include part of a girdler-hanger, brooches, a single coin and part of a bridle fitting.

4.4 Medieval (c. AD 1066 - 1485)

- 4.4.1 The Domesday Book records Watton as having a church, manor house and settlement. However, much of the town was destroyed during a fire in 1674, and very little survives. A possible location for the centre of the medieval town is Watton mount, higher ground to the northeast. It is possible that the Saxon settlement was located around the same focus. The oldest building in the town, St Mary's Church, has a 13th century nave and tower, somewhat obscured by later alterations.
- 4.4.2 The town was granted a market charter in 1202 by King John to John de Vaux, reflecting its growth and importance as a trading centre. This important market place has been tentatively identified through metal detecting, and lies south of the current centre of town. The town's prosperity derived from the wool trade and attendant clothing industry. The market provided a focus for the expansion of the town during this period.
- 4.4.3 Norwich Road was certainly present in the medieval period, and Memorial Way also dates to the medieval period. The core of the town may have developed around the crossroads formed by these two roads.
- 4.4.4 The town was served by three medieval manors. Rokeles Hall may date to as early as the 13th century, although the current building is of post-medieval date. A moated site can be seen in aerial photographs north of the town, so these may suggest the location of a second manor.

4.5 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1485 - modern)

- 4.5.1 Watton still retains some buildings from the late 17th and early 18th centuries along the High Street, Dereham Road and Harvey Street, likely to have been built in response to the fire of 1674. The most notable house is Harvey House, dating to 1720. A second interesting post-medieval structure is Clock House, a tower built in 1827 and incorporating parts of two medieval market crosses.
- 4.5.2 Other structures of post-medieval date include the New Inn in the centre of town, which has some 17th century elements, and a brewery from 1853.
- 4.5.3 Archaeological excavation has revealed property boundaries from the post-medieval period. An additional industry has been revealed by the discovery of two saw-pits, which indicate timber working: the conversion to planks for buildings.
- 4.5.4 A significant alteration to Watton was the introduction of the Watton-Swaffham railway line in 1869. This closed in 1967, but the coming of the railway brought new industries, and an economic upturn in the late 19th century.
- 4.5.5 The most recent impact on Watton was the creation of RAF Watton, used in the Second World War for British and American aircraft. Two pill-boxes remain, but much of the airfield has now been built over. The airfield continued in use during the Cold War; it was a control centre of Bloodhound missiles from 1959 to 1963, air traffic control from 1966 to 1978, it was decommissioned in 1989.
- 4.5.6 The site is shown on the available historic maps in some detail. In 1884, the site is depicted as undeveloped land on the east side of Watton. Nos 22 – 30, Norwich Road have been built, but the rest of the area is shown as fields. By 1905, land to the southeast of the site holds a cricket ground with a pavilion. By 1952, a large building, 34 Norwich Road has been erected, which is still standing.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined (AOC 2008) as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable NLA to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

5.2 Specific aims of the evaluation included (AOC 2008):

- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to the Early Saxon Inhumation
- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to the development of early Watton

5.3 Relevant regional research agendas have been set out (Glazebrook 1997, Brown & Glazebrook 2000) and included:

- Sex ratios and age of death studies of Anglo Saxon burials
- The establishment and development of towns in East Anglia from the Saxon period onwards.
- The topography, buildings and below ground features of Saxon – medieval towns.
- The interaction of communities in the local community and rural hinterland.

5.4 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Strategy

6.1 Fieldwork procedures followed Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the Museum of London's Archaeological Site Manual (MOL 1994).

6.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998a).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute of Field Archaeology – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 1992).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

6.3 All works were informed by:

- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).

6.4 Insurances, copyright and confidentiality and standards are defined in the WSI.

6.5 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, an HER number was obtained and an OASIS online form was initiated. Ken Hamilton of the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) was informed of the commencement date of fieldwork and opportunities for monitoring.

6.6 The Evaluation was monitored by the Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology on the behalf of Breckland Council and Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Divisional Manager, for AOC Archaeology.

7. Evaluation Methodology

7.1 The Evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches in three areas with selected hand excavation of archaeological features where present:

- Area 1 Car Park extension to the northeast Four 20m x 2m trenches
- Area 2 Store Extension One 8m x 2m trench
- Area 3 Additional land to southeast One 23m x 2m trench

7.2 The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might have been better excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might have warranted preservation *in situ*, were not compromised.

7.3 The trial trenches were situated as shown in Figure 2.

7.5 The entire site was visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation. This included the examination of any available exposures (e.g. recently cut ditches and geotechnical test pits). The area was CAT scanned prior to excavation.

7.6 All machining was carried out using a JCB 3CX under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. A 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used, except where was impractical. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

7.7 Upon completion of machine excavation, all trenches were Heras fenced.

7.8 Should it have been necessary to excavate below 1.2m (or less if the deposits are unstable), the trench would have been stepped to achieve the required dimensions at base, and to ensure safe access.

7.9 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of their spatial distribution.

7.10 A Temporary Benchmark (TBM) was set up on the site; it had a value of 55.99mOD.

7.11 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (Museum of London Archaeology Service 3rd edition 1994).

- 7.12 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. A block of numbers in a continuous sequence were allocated for the each trench. The following registers were kept on standardised forms: contexts; sections; plans, and photographs.
- 7.13 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets. Where stratified deposits are encountered a 'Harris'-type matrix was compiled during the course of the excavation.
- 7.14 Plans were normally drawn at a scale of 1:20. Sections of features or short lengths of the trench were drawn at 1:10. All sections were accurately related to Ordnance Datum.

8. Results

8.1 Trench 1

Context	Thickness	Description
101	0.28m	Modern Tarmac Surface
102	0.25m	Made Ground
107	0.10m	Natural

- 8.1.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3) was situated in the northeast of the site and was aligned north-south. Natural yellowish brown clayey sand (107) was observed at a height of 55.76mOD. Cut into the natural were two rectangular postholes [104] and [106]; both of these features ran under the baulk and so their full extent could not be recorded. Posthole [104] was 0.60m long, 0.40m wide and 0.35m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by (103), firm mid grey clayey sand, which contained iron nails and post-medieval peg tile. Posthole [106] was very similar to [104]; it was rectangular with vertical sides and a flat base and was 0.55m long, 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a fill (105) very similar to (103). These postholes were situated at opposite ends of the trench but given their similarity, they are likely to be associated.
- 8.1.2 The features were sealed by (102) a layer of soft dark grey sandy clay 0.25m thick. This layer is interpreted as made ground, probably associated with the construction of the car park above. The made ground was overlain by a layer of tarmac forming the modern car park surface (101), which was 0.28m thick.

8.2 Trench 2

Context	Thickness	Description
201	0.18m	Base of building
202	0.45m	Made Ground
203	0.30m	Subsoil
204	0.35m	Natural
205	0.40m	Natural

- 8.2.1 Trench 2 (Figure 4) was located in the north of the site and was aligned north-south. Natural pale yellowish grey clayey sand (205) was observed at a height of 55.22mOD and was visible only in the sondage at the southern end of the trench. This was sealed by a second layer of mid brownish yellow sand (204) 0.35m thick and interpreted as a second layer of natural.

- 8.2.2 Layer (204) was cut by three sub-circular postholes [207], [209] and [211]. Posthole [207] was 0.42m long, 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep, vertical sided with a concave base. The posthole fill (206) was mid brownish grey sand. Posthole [209] had vertical sides and a concave base and was 0.45m long, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep. The fill of [209] was mid brownish grey clayey sand (208). Posthole [211] was 0.40m long, 0.35m wide and 0.12m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The posthole fill (210) was very similar to (206). These three postholes were aligned approximately north-south and may represent a structure.
- 8.2.3 The features were sealed by mid brownish grey clayey sand subsoil (203) which was 0.30m thick. This layer was cut by a system of modern drains at the northern end of the trench. The drains were sealed by a layer of blackish grey sandy silt made ground 0.45m thick (202). This was overlain by a concrete building slab (201) which was 0.18m thick.

8.3 Trench 3

Context	Thickness	Description
301	0.10m	Tarmac surface
302	0.04m	Levelling layer
303	0.17m	Made ground
304	0.17m	Made ground
305	0.26m	Buried Soil
306	0.15m	Natural
311	0.02m	Natural
316	0.10m	Levelling Layer
317	0.18m	Buried Soil

- 8.3.1 Trench 3 (Figure 3) was located in the east of the site and aligned east-west. Natural mid greyish brown clayey sand (311) was observed at a height of 55.39mOD in a sondage at the eastern end of the trench. This was overlain by a layer of natural brownish orange clayey sand (306) 0.15m thick. There was diesel contamination throughout much of the trench.
- 8.3.2 A pit, a posthole and a ditch were cut into the natural (306). The pit [315] was circular with vertical sides and a concave base; it was 0.60m in diameter and 0.22m deep. The pit fill (314) consisted of very dark grey sand with frequent flint inclusions and flecks of brick. The posthole [313] was sub-circular with vertical sides and a flat base and was 0.30m long, 0.20m wide and 0.12m deep. The posthole fill (312) was loose, very dark grey clayey silt.
- 8.3.3 The ditch [310] was aligned northeast-southwest and was 2.20m long, 0.80m wide and 0.27m deep, V-shaped in profile with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (309) which was firm mid greyish brown clayey sand, and it contained post-medieval pottery.
- 8.3.4 These features were overlain by a probable buried soil (305) 0.26m thick and brownish grey silty sand. This was overlain in the eastern half of the trench by a second possible buried soil (317); this was 11.00m long, 2.00m wide and 0.18m thick and mid brownish grey sandy clay. Layer (305) was overlain at the western end of the trench by a layer of made ground (304) which was 8.00m long, 2.00m wide and 0.17m thick and consisted of mid blackish grey sandy silt. Layer (304) was overlain by a second layer of made ground (303) which was 5.00m long, 2.00m wide and 0.17m thick, it consisted of crushed brick fragments in a matrix of brownish yellow sand.

- 8.3.5 Layers (303) and (317) were sealed by a levelling layer (302) which was 0.04m thick and consisted of orange sandy gravel. This was overlain at the eastern end of the trench by a second levelling layer (316) of grey gravelly sand 0.10m thick. This was overlain by a layer of tarmac (301) 0.10m which extended across the entire trench.

8.4 Trench 4

Context	Thickness	Description
401	0.12m	Concrete slab
402	0.11m	Tarmac
403	0.28m	Made ground
404	0.18m	Natural

- 8.4.1 Trench 4 (Figure 5) was located in the centre of the site and was aligned northeast-southwest. Natural brownish yellow sandy clay (404) was observed at a height of 54.98mOD. The natural was cut by two animal burials, two pits and ten postholes.
- 8.4.2 Burial pit [407] was irregular in shape, 0.28m long, 0.24m wide and 0.10m deep, it has been heavily truncated by later construction. The pit contained animal burial (406), a juvenile pig, on its right side, and only the ribs, spine and one forelimb remained intact. The burial fill (405) consisted of mid greyish brown sandy clay.
- 8.4.3 The second burial pit [426] was rather larger, at 0.80m long, 0.35m wide and 0.12m deep, it was sub-rectangular and again had been horizontally truncated. The burial (425) was aligned east-west; it was a juvenile pig on its left side, with the skull, ribs, forelimbs and spine intact. The burial fill (424) was very similar to that of burial (405).
- 8.4.4 Only half of pit [409] was visible in the trench. It was 2.30m long, 0.50m wide and 0.47m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The pit fill (408) consisted of mid brown sandy clay and contained brick fragments. The second pit [421] was circular, 0.51m in diameter and 0.40m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The pit fill (420) consisted of dark greyish brown sandy clay and contained sherds of 19th century pottery. Both of these pits are probably late post-medieval.
- 8.4.5 Posthole [428] was 0.27m by 0.27m and 0.20m deep, it was square with vertical sides and a flat base. The posthole fill (427) was mid greyish brown sandy clay. Posthole [430] was located 0.80m to the northwest of [428]. This posthole was very similar to [428] in shape and was 0.40m long, 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep. The posthole fill (429) was very similar to (427) but also contained a sherd of 19th century pottery. These two postholes are likely to be associated.
- 8.4.6 Postholes [411], [413] and [423] were all very similar in size and shape, all being circular and 0.20m in diameter, with vertical sides and a concave base. Posthole [411] was 0.26m deep and contained fill (410), a mid brown sandy clay with flint nodules used as packing. Posthole [413] was 0.17m deep, its fill (412) was very similar to (410) with flint nodules again used as packing. Posthole [423] was 0.23m deep, its fill (422) was similar to both (410) and (412) with flint used as packing. While these three postholes were not in a straight line or equidistant, it seems very likely that they were associated and may form a structure.
- 8.4.7 Postholes [415], [417] and [419] were all circular and 0.28m in diameter, they were located in the south-western half of the trench, postholes [417] and [419] were only 0.10m apart and were aligned

east-west, [415] was 0.90m to the south. Fills (414), (416), and (418), of [415], [417] and [419] respectively, were very similar, consisting of dark greyish brown sandy clay with flint nodules used as packing. Posthole [415] was 0.29m deep and contained 19th century pottery, posthole [417] was 0.20m deep, and posthole [419] was 0.18m deep. The similarity in these three postholes makes it probable that they were related.

- 8.4.8 Posthole [432] was located to the northeast of the other postholes, it differed from them in having sloping sides and a concave base. It was circular, 0.30m in diameter and 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill (431) consisting of dark greyish brown sandy clay. This posthole seems to be unrelated to the other features in the trench.
- 8.4.9 Posthole [434] was visible only in the south-eastern section of the trench, it was 0.10m wide and 0.27m deep with vertical sides, the base of the feature was not exposed. The posthole was filled with a decayed wooden post. This posthole was very likely to be modern.
- 8.4.10 The features were overlain by dark brown sandy clay made ground (403), which was 0.28m deep. The made ground was overlain by tarmac (402) which was overlain by a concrete slab (401).

8.5 Trench 5

Context	Thickness	Description
501	0.45m	Modern car park surface
502	0.10m	Natural

- 8.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the current Tesco car park in the centre of the site; it was aligned east-west. Natural yellowish brown sand (502) was observed at a height of 51.91mOD. This was overlain by the tarmac car park surface (501) which was 0.45m thick. The car park appears to have severely truncated the natural in this trench.

8.6 Trench 6

Context	Thickness	Description
601	0.40m	Topsoil
602	0.10m	Buried soil
603	0.30m	Subsoil
608	0.10m	Natural

- 8.6.1 Trench 6 (Figure 6) was situated in the south of the site and was aligned east-west; its position was altered slightly due to constraints on space. Natural yellowish brown sand (608) was observed at a height of 52.53mOD. Cut into the natural were two features, a posthole [607] and a gully [605].
- 8.6.2 The posthole [607] was circular with a diameter of 0.26m, it was 0.06m deep. The posthole fill (606) consisted of brownish grey silty sand.
- 8.3.3 The gully [605] was aligned north-south; it was 2.50m long, 0.48m wide and 0.10m deep. In profile had gradual sloping sides and a concave base, the gully fill (604) consisted of brownish grey sandy silt. Sherds of medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from this fill, as well as undatable sherds of CBM or coarse pottery.

- 8.3.4 The features were overlain by subsoil (603), 0.30m thick, which consisted of firm, pale brown silty sand and contained a single shed of medieval pottery. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (602) of mid brown silty sand 0.10m thick, which contained post-medieval finds and residual medieval CBM. This was overlain by topsoil (601) which was 0.40m thick and consisted of dark brown silty sand.

9. Finds

9.1 Pottery

- 9.1.1 Pottery was retained from contexts (309), (408), (414), (420), (429), (601), and (603). The pottery sherds from contexts (309), (408), (420) and (429) were dated to the 19th century. A single sherd of red earthenware from topsoil (601) was dated to the 18th century. Red glazed earthenware dating to the mid 18th-19th centuries was recovered from context (414).

- 9.1.2 A single sherd of medieval pottery was retained from subsoil (603); the sherd was from a Grimstone-type vessel dating to the 13th-14th centuries.

9.2 Animal Bone

- 9.2.1 Animal bone was retained from contexts (406), (414) and (425). Contexts (406) and (425) were both animal burials, the bones were identified as belonging to juvenile pigs, a rib on burial (406) had been broken and had healed, no other taphonomy or pathology was noted. It is likely that these pigs died accidentally or of disease as they are old enough for human consumption.

- 9.2.2 A single bone was retained from context (414), this was an unfused radial epiphysis belonging to a juvenile cow or ox.

9.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 9.3.1 CBM was retained from contexts (103), (309) and (602) and (604). Two abraded fragments of CBM were recovered from gully fill (604); these have been dated to the medieval period. Two undated sherds of either very fine CBM or coarse local pottery were also recovered from this context.

- 9.3.2 A single sherd of peg tile was retrieved from layer (602) which along with some highly abraded CBM fragments, have been dated to the medieval period. However, these finds are considered residual as other finds dating to the post-medieval period were also recovered from this context.

- 9.3.3 The CBM from contexts (103) and (309) consisted of peg tiles dated to the 18th-19th century.

9.4 Metalwork

- 9.4.1 Nine metallic objects were retained from contexts (103), (208) and (602). Eight of these are either complete or fragmentary iron nails; the remaining artefact is a curved piece of iron sheet from context (103). None of the finds are diagnostic of a particular period.

9.5 Other Finds

- 9.5.1 A single sherd of 18th-19th century glass from a wine bottle and some coal were retained from layer (602).

9.5 Environmental samples

9.5.1 No environmental samples were taken from the site.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 10.1 The specific aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological remains dating to the Saxon and medieval periods. The evaluation achieved its aims in establishing the absence of Saxon archaeology. A single sherd of pottery and some CBM dates to the Medieval period.
- 10.2 Trench 6, the only trench in the southern area, revealed a subsoil that appears to be medieval in date, from a 13th–14th century pottery sherd, with two features below this. One of these, a gully, contained two CBM fragments dated to the medieval period, and so can be given this date with more confidence. The other, a posthole, had no datable material, but is probably also medieval for stratigraphic reasons. It is therefore likely that limited medieval remains are present within the southern area.
- 10.3 The investigation revealed significant post-medieval activity, with a number of postholes in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5. Many of these postholes are probably the remains of post-medieval structures, and as no structures are shown in the area on the 1894 Ordnance Survey Map it is likely that these structures are earlier.
- 10.4 The decision on whether further archaeological fieldwork is required rests with NLA.
- 10.5 If no further fieldwork is undertaken, publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to the relevant local journal. The archive will be stored with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

11. Bibliography

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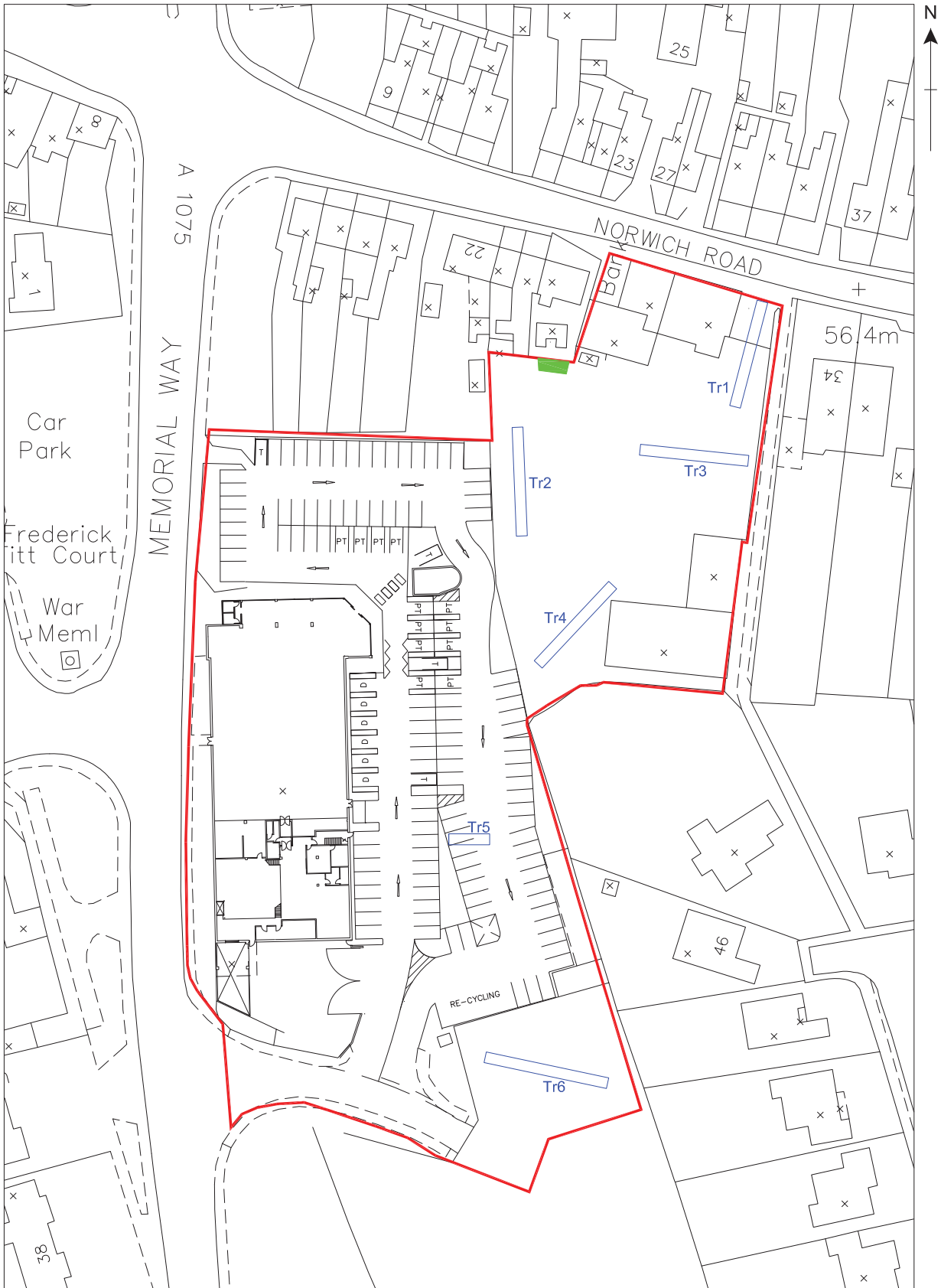
Norfolk Historical Environment Records [Available Online] <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>

www.historyofwatton.org.uk



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1996 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

Figure 1: Site Location



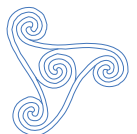
Based on the Plan Produced by Saunders Partnership Architects

■ Japanese Knotweed

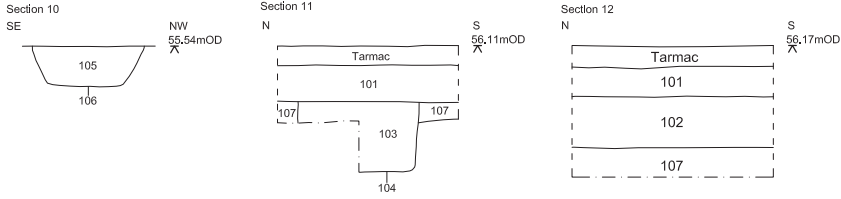
Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan



1:1000



Trench 1 Sections



Trench 3 Sections

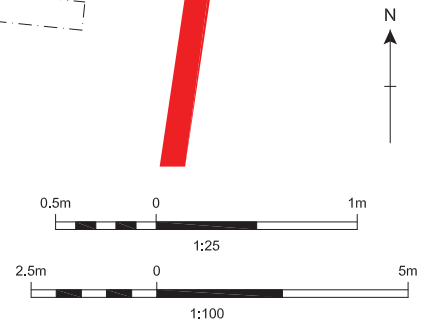
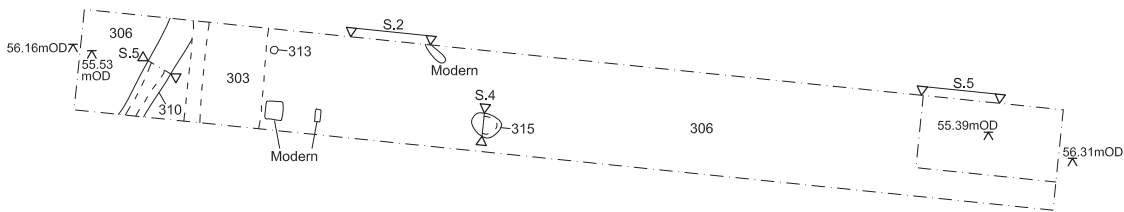
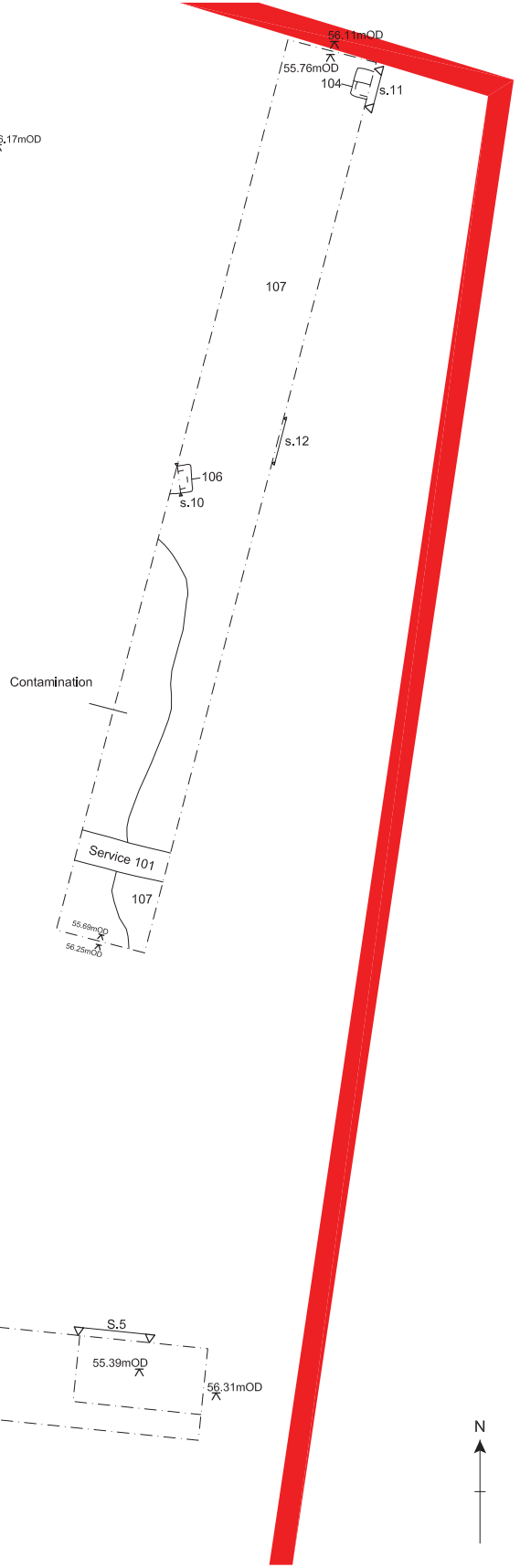
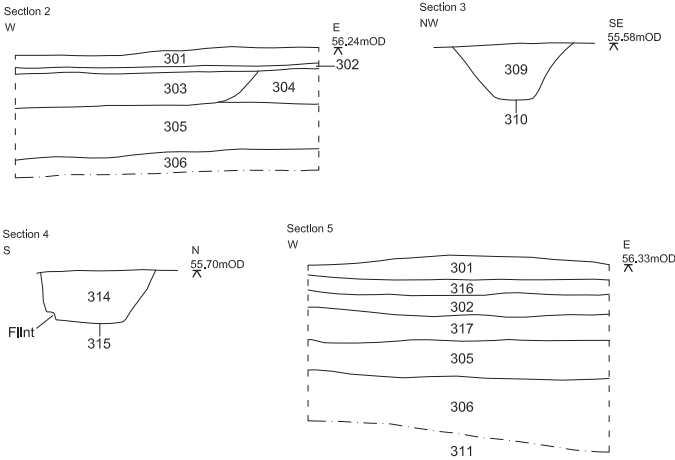


Figure 3: Trenches 1 & 3: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:25)

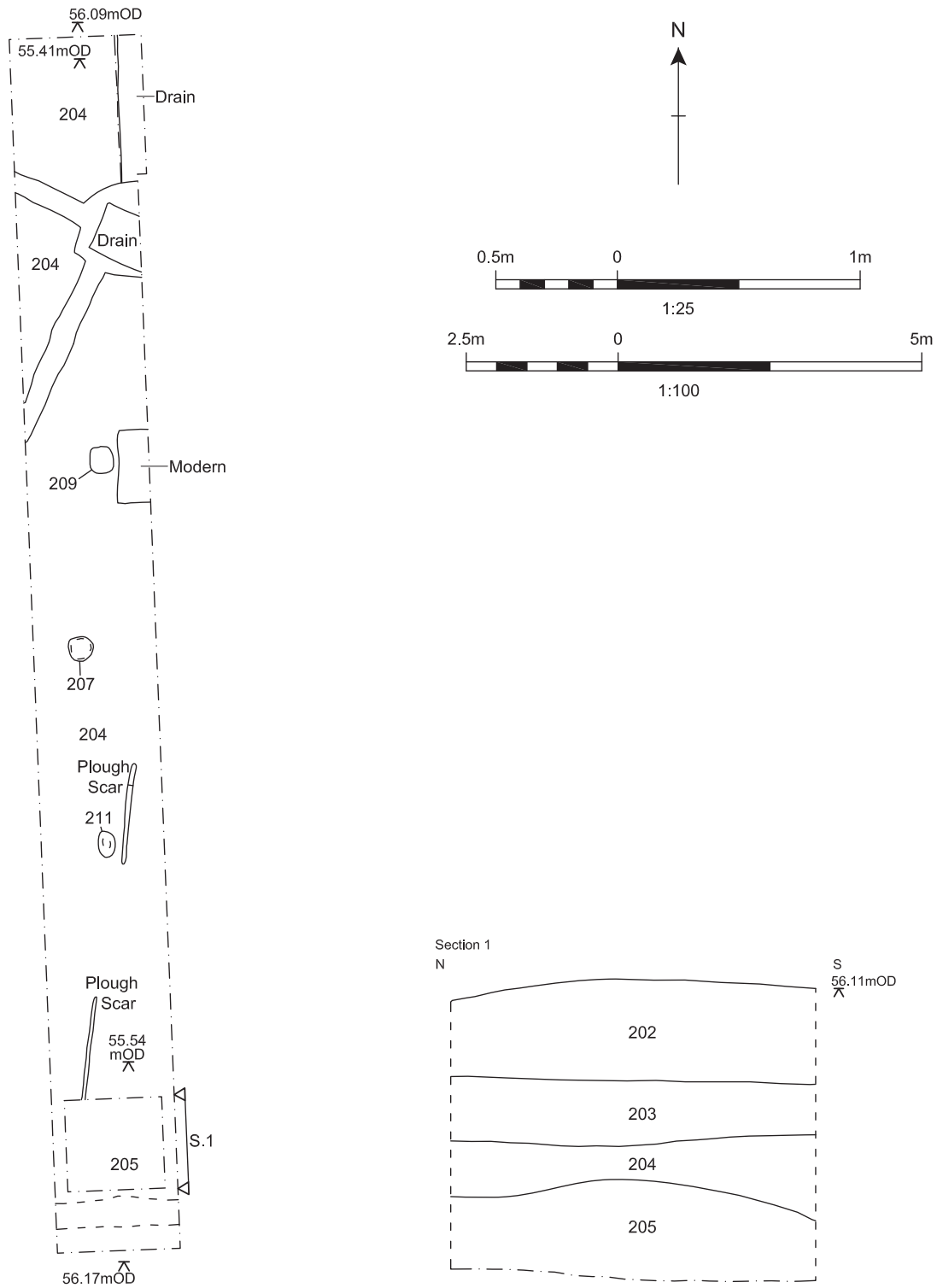


Figure 4: Trenches 2: Plan (1:100) & Section (1:25)

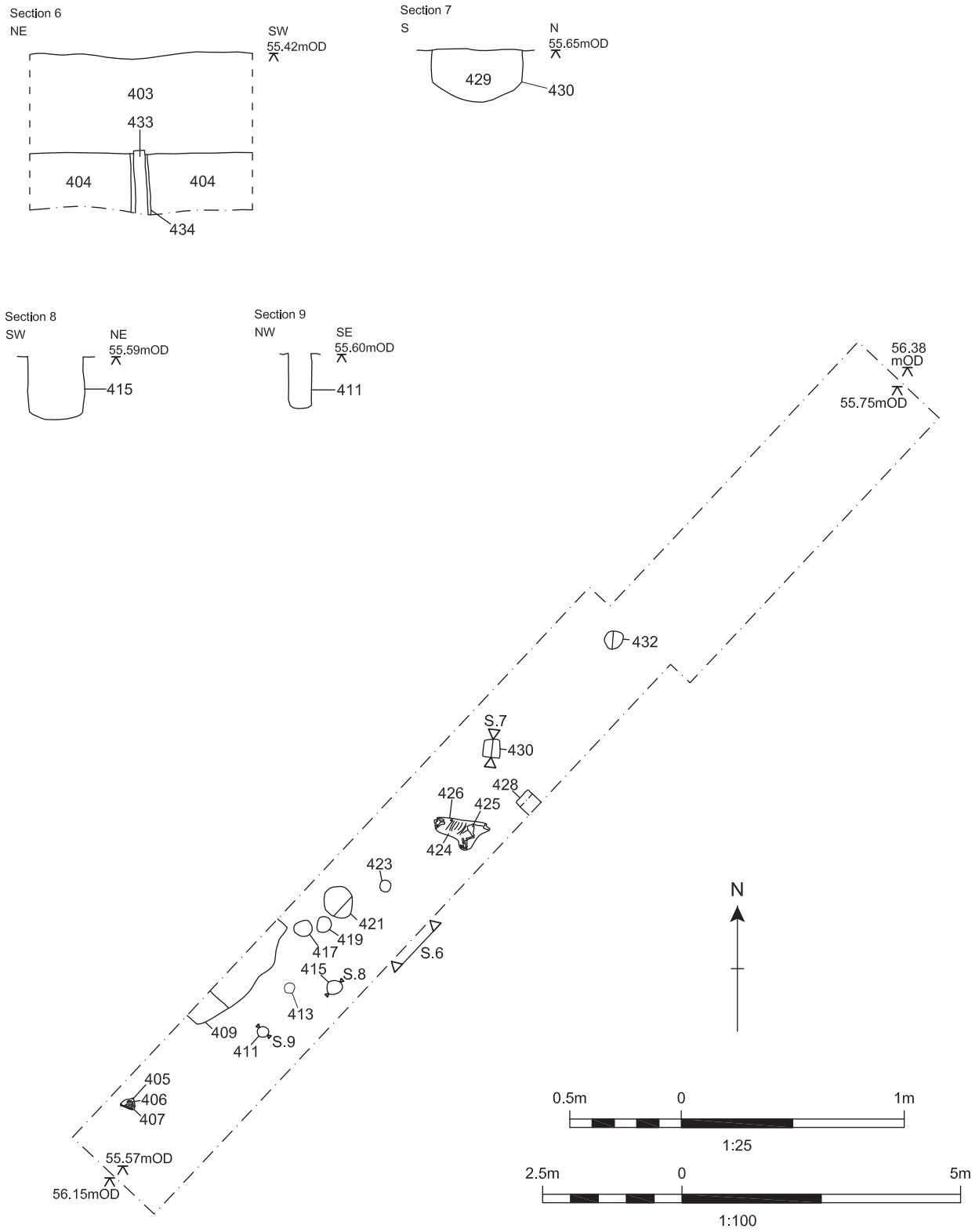


Figure 5: Trench 4: Plan (1:100) & Section (1:25)

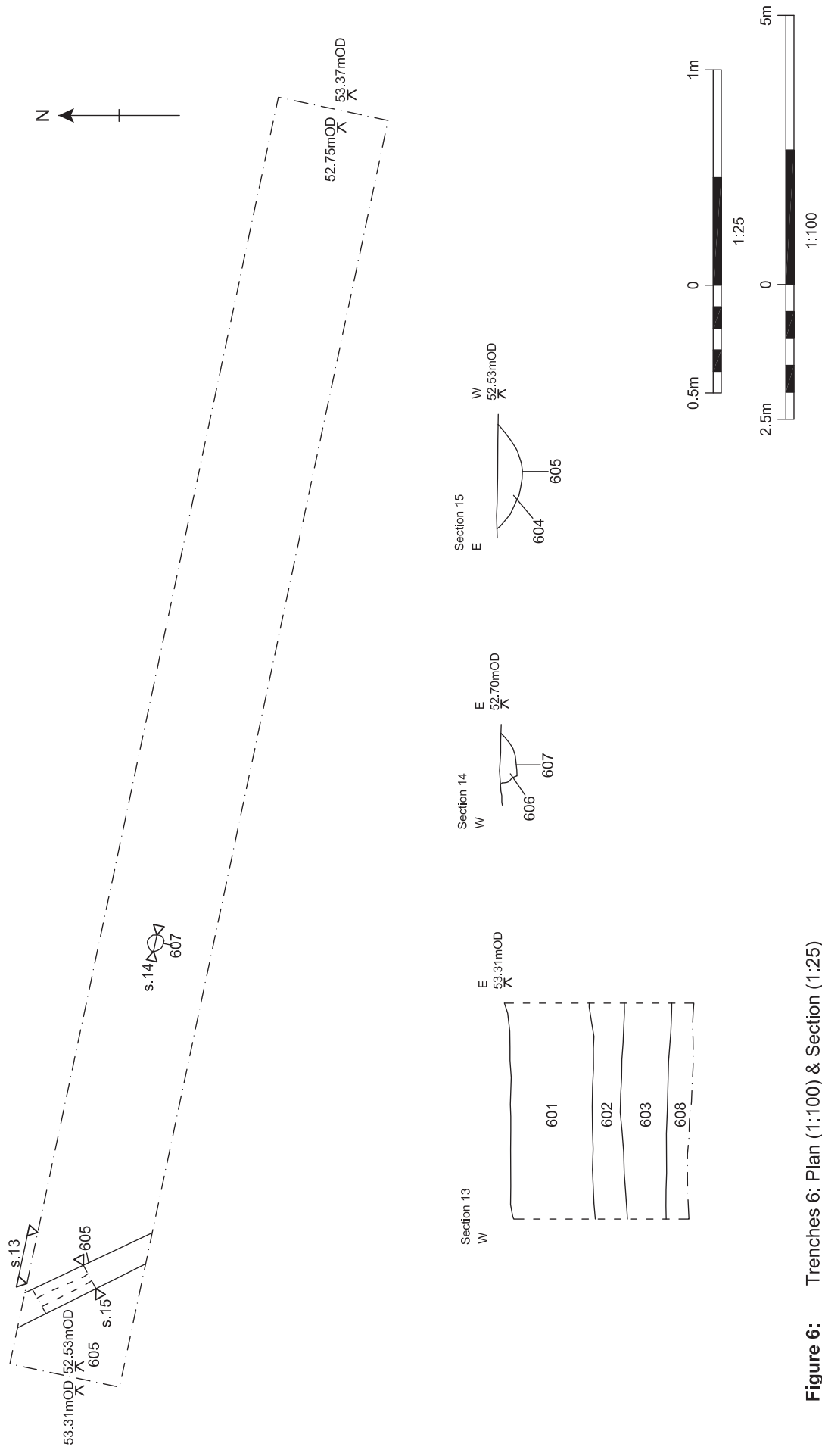


Figure 6: Trenches 6: Plan (1:100) & Section (1:25)

Appendices

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
101	Modern Tarmac Surface	20.00m	2.00m	0.28m	1	12
102	Made Ground	15.00m	2.00m	0.25m	1	12
103	Posthole Fill	0.60m	0.35m	0.30m	1	11
104	Posthole	0.60m	0.35m	0.30m	1	11
105	Posthole Fill	0.55m	0.45m	0.20m	1	10
106	Posthole	0.55m	0.45m	0.20m	1	10
107	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.10m	1	12
201	Concrete Slab	20.00m	2.00m	0.18m	2	no
202	Made Ground	20.00m	2.00m	0.45m	2	1
203	Subsoil	20.00m	2.00m	0.30m	2	1
204	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.35m	2	1
205	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.10m	2	1
206	Posthole Fill	0.42m	0.40m	0.25m	2	no
207	Posthole	0.42m	0.40m	0.25m	2	no
208	Posthole Fill	0.45m	0.40m	0.20m	2	no
209	Posthole	0.45m	0.40m	0.20m	2	no
210	Posthole Fill	0.40m	0.35m	0.12m	2	no
211	Posthole	0.40m	0.35m	0.12m	2	no
301	Tarmac	20.00m	2.00m	0.10m	3	2, 5
302	Levelling Layer	20.00m	2.00m	0.04m	3	2, 5
303	Made Ground	5.00m	2.00m	0.17m	3	2
304	Made Ground	8.00m	2.00m	0.17m	3	2
305	Buried Soil	20.00m	2.00m	0.26m	3	2
306	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.15m	3	2, 5
309	Ditch Fill	2.20m	0.80m	0.28m	3	3
310	Ditch Cut	2.20m	0.80m	0.28m	3	3
311	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.10m	3	5
312	Posthole Fill	0.30m	0.20m	0.12m	3	no
313	Posthole Cut	0.30m	0.20m	0.12m	3	no
314	Pit Fill	0.60m	0.60m	0.27m	3	4
315	Pit Cut	0.60m	0.60m	0.27m	3	4
316	Levelling Layer	8.00m	2.00m	0.10m	3	5
317	Soil Horizon	11.00m	2.00m	0.18m	3	5
401	Concrete Slab	20.00m	2.00m	0.12m	4	no
402	Tarmac	20.00m	2.00m	0.11m	4	no
403	Made Ground	20.00m	2.00m	0.28m	4	6
404	Natural	20.00m	2.00m	0.18m	4	6
405	Burial Fill	0.28m	0.24m	0.10m	4	no
406	Animal Skeleton	0.28m	0.22m	N/A	4	no
407	Burial Cut	0.28m	0.24m	0.10m	4	no
408	Pit Fill	2.30m	0.50m	0.47m	4	no
409	Pit Cut	2.30m	0.50m	0.47m	4	no
410	Posthole Fill	0.20m	0.20m	0.26m	4	9
411	Posthole Cut	0.20m	0.20m	0.26m	4	9
412	Posthole Fill	0.20m	0.20m	0.17m	4	no
413	Posthole Cut	0.20m	0.20m	0.17m	4	no
414	Posthole Fill	0.28m	0.28m	0.29m	4	8

415	Posthole Cut	0.28m	0.28m	0.29m	4	8
416	Posthole Fill	0.28m	0.28m	0.20m	4	no
417	Posthole Cut	0.28m	0.28m	0.20m	4	no
418	Posthole Fill	0.28m	0.28m	0.18m	4	no
419	Posthole Cut	0.28m	0.28m	0.18m	4	no
420	Pit Fill	0.51m	0.51m	0.40m	4	no
421	Pit Cut	0.51m	0.51m	0.40m	4	no
422	Posthole Fill	0.21m	0.21m	0.23m	4	no
423	Posthole Cut	0.21m	0.21m	0.23m	4	no
424	Burial Fill	0.80m	0.35m	0.12m	4	no
425	Animal Skeleton	0.75m	0.35m	N/A	4	no
426	Burial Cut	0.80m	0.35m	0.12m	4	no
427	Posthole Fill	0.27m	0.27m	0.20m	4	no
428	Posthole Cut	0.27m	0.27m	0.20m	4	no
429	Posthole Fill	0.40m	0.30m	0.14m	4	7
430	Posthole Cut	0.40m	0.30m	0.14m	4	7
431	Posthole Fill	0.30m	0.30m	0.08m	4	no
432	Posthole Cut	0.30m	0.30m	0.08m	4	no
433	Wooden Post	N/A	0.10m	0.27m	4	6
434	Posthole Cut	N/A	0.10m	0.27m	4	6
501	Car Park Surface	8.00m	2.00m	0.45m	5	no
502	Natural	8.00m	2.00m	0.10m	5	no
601	Topsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.40m	6	13
602	Activity Horizon	24.00m	2.00m	0.10m	6	13
603	Subsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.30m	6	13
604	Gully Fill	2.50m	0.48m	0.10m	6	15
605	Gully Cut	2.50m	0.48m	0.10m	6	15
606	Posthole Fill	0.26m	0.26m	0.06m	6	14
607	Posthole Cut	0.26m	0.26m	0.06m	6	14
608	Natural	24.00m	2.00m	0.10m	6	13

Appendix B Pottery Assessment

Luke Barber

The evaluation produced 20 pieces of pottery, weighing 785g, from seven individually numbered contexts. On the whole the material is in good condition with little signs of having been reworked. This is particularly the case with the late post-medieval material where some sherds are quite large (over 100mm across). The earlier material shows more signs of reworking.

The earliest piece of pottery from the site consists of a decorated bodysherd (13g) from a Grimston-type ware jug of mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date (subsoil [603]). The sherd is in a fine sand tempered fabric, reduced dark grey, with applied vertical brown clay strips under a pale green glaze. The piece shows signs of abrasion on its edges suggesting it has been reworked in this deposit. A sherd of 18th century glazed red earthenware (2g), with all over iron-flecked glaze, was recovered from the topsoil [601] in this trench.

The remainder of the assemblage can be placed in the 19th century. Ditch [310], fill [309] produced a sherd of English stoneware bottle (probably ginger beer) and the base of a possible small blacking pot in refined white earthenware ('china'). A mid to late 19th century date is likely.

The majority of the late pottery assemblage was recovered from Trench 4. Part of the foot-ring from a large bowl in English stoneware and a sherd of red glazed moulded refined white earthenware were recovered from pit [409], fill [408] suggesting a similar date to the material in [309]. Post-hole [415], fill [414] yielded a single sherd of mid 18th- to 19th- century glazed red earthenware with all over glaze and post-hole [430], fill [429] produced a single sherd of 19th- century unglazed earthenware flower pot. Pit [421], fill [420] produced the largest context assemblage from the site: 12 sherds, weighing 531g. The material includes the large part of a ½ pint tankard in banded industrial slipware (blue central zone bordered by black bands) complete with measure mark of 1871 (VR 71). Another piece of industrial slipware is also present, with a brown central zone of slip, along with a small chip of pearlware plate. The other pottery from this fill consists of four pieces from the base of a large English stoneware beer bottle with Bristol-type glaze and a single sherd from a salt-glazed ginger beer/ink bottle. All in all a date in the last quarter of the 19th century is suggested by the assemblage.

Potential

The pottery from the site is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis.

Appendix C Ceramic Building Material Assessment

Sarah Porteus

A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 152g was recovered from four contexts during the evaluation. The assemblage is highly fragmented and abraded.

Medieval

Contexts: [602] (residual), [604].

Late Medieval peg tile of orange fabric with abundant coarse quartz and sparse white calcareous inclusions with irregular sanding on the underside is probably of 14th to 16th century date, seven abraded fragments of this fabric were present in context [602] and are likely to be residual. Context [604] contained two very abraded heat affected fragments of similar fabric to the above and are probably of medieval date. Abraded flakes of a poorly mixed CBM fabric with silt banding and moderate to coarse quartz inclusions from context [602] are broadly medieval in date and are residual to the context.

Post-medieval

Contexts: [103], [309], [602].

Post-medieval peg tile of reddish orange coarse fabric with abundant quartz inclusions up to 1mm and sparse fine white calcareous inclusions and regular sanding on the underside is of 18th to 19th century date, and was represented by a single fragment from each of contexts [103], [309] and [602]. A circular peg hole was present in the single fragment from context [602]. A single flake of post-medieval peg tile of fine sandy fabric with sparse fine iron rich inclusions was also present in context [602] and is likely to be of 18th to 20th century date.

Undated

Context [604] contained two conjoining fragments of an orange fabric with fine white mica inclusions, sparse iron rich inclusions and moderate pale orange silt inclusions. The fragments weighed 4g in total and had a thickness of 6mm. A possible slight curve was present in the fragments. These fragments may represent a coarse local pottery fabric or an unusually fine CBM fragment and are of unknown date.

Also present in the assemblage were a small corroded iron fragment of 2g weight and an abraded flake of fine white lime plaster of 2g weight both from context [602].

Significance and potential

The assemblage is small and fragmentary and holds little potential. The date and function of the unusual fragments of possible pottery or CBM from context [604] may be identifiable if larger quantities of similar fabrics become known. Otherwise no further work is required.

Appendix D Glass Assessment

Elke Raemen

A single piece of glass was recovered from layer [602]. The fragment is of late 18th to 19th century date and consists of a green wine bottle sherd.

Significance and Potential

As the excavations produced just one sherd, its only potential lies in providing dating evidence for layer [602]. No further work is required.

Appendix E Animal Bone Assessment

Jennifer Thoms

Factual data

Three bags of bone from three contexts were submitted for assessment.

Context [414] contained only one bone, the unfused distal epiphysis from a left radius of a cow or ox. It bore no taphonomic indicators and appears to be from a juvenile but not neonatal calf.

Context [425] contained between 200 and 300 bones, all from one young pig. The find was described as an articulated burial, on excavation, and indeed, the scapulae and pelvis; most of the fore-limbs; and the rib cage and vertebrae appear to be present, with many of the long bones complete and in good condition. The hind limbs are absent, as is most of the skull apart from part of the right mandible. Context [406] was also described as an articulated burial, less of this animal has survived however, with a fragment of one distal humerus; a fragment of distal radius; most of one ulna; the distal end of both femurs and one complete tibia. Ribs and vertebrae are also present, though not the whole rib cage and backbone. In both burials all bones were unfused, including the vertebrae.

The burials are of two different individuals. Burial [406] was slightly smaller at the time of death than was burial [425]. One example of pathology was noted, burial [406] had a broken rib, which had healed before death.

The burials were of young, but not neonatal pigs. They had attained a size at which they could have been eaten as suckling pig, but their presence as articulated burials suggests death from disease or accident, rather than their use for human consumption.

No marks from butchery or from carnivore gnawing were apparent on the bones. None of the bones had been charred or burned.

Methodology

The bones were removed from their packaging and laid out in anatomical order to assess their general condition and the number of individuals represented in each burial. All vertebrae and rib fragments were grouped together then received no further attention. The larger bones were inspected briefly by eye to check for taphonomic markers.

Statement of Potential

The assemblage represents two pig burials and one isolated bone find. The young pigs are probably the victims of disease or accident, rather than having been slaughtered for food.

Significance of data

The material is probably of little significance even at local level, although it is difficult to say this with any certainty without the data from the rest of the site. The burials are currently believed to be of late post-medieval date. The element representation indicates two separate burials of two young pigs. The cattle bone is likely to be a chance find.

Revised research aims

It is not advised that any further research be conducted on this assemblage, although a full catalogue could be produced if required.

Curation and storage

The material is dry and stable and well suited for storage. If it is deemed to be of little or no archaeological significance it could be useful as reference material for the analysis of other assemblages.

Appendix F Metalwork Assessment

A Heald

Summary of Material

There are 9 iron objects. None have been conserved; shape and form are only discernible through x-ray. Where discernible, the majority of the objects are nails, either parts or complete (table 1). The remaining object is a miscellaneous curved sheet. From a typological point of view none of the material is diagnostic of a particular period. All of the objects are from post-medieval contexts.

Context	Spot date	General description
103	post-med	?Nail shaft
103	post-med	Nail shaft
103	post-med	Curved piece of iron sheet; unrecognisable
208	post-med	Nail, shaft, and ?head
602	post-med	Nail head and shaft
602	post-med	Nail head and shaft
602	post-med	Nail shaft
602	post-med	Nail shaft
602	post-med	Nail head, shaft and tip (in two pieces)

Table 1: Finds description by context

Significance of the Data

The limited nature of the material and the probable post-medieval contexts suggests that the assemblage's significance goes no further than the local area.

Recommendations for Future Work

No further work is recommended.

Appendix G Conservation Assessment

Summary

A small assemblage comprising of 3 iron objects was brought to AOC Holdings Conservation department for conservation assessment. The items were x-rayed for recording and interpretation purposes, and conservation requirements were identified.

Work requested

- X-radiography
- Conservation assessment

Description

The assemblage consists of 3 bags of iron. Bags 208 and 602 can be identified as nails and nail fragments. Also two of the three pieces in bag 103 are fragments of nails, whilst the largest item remains unidentified.

Condition

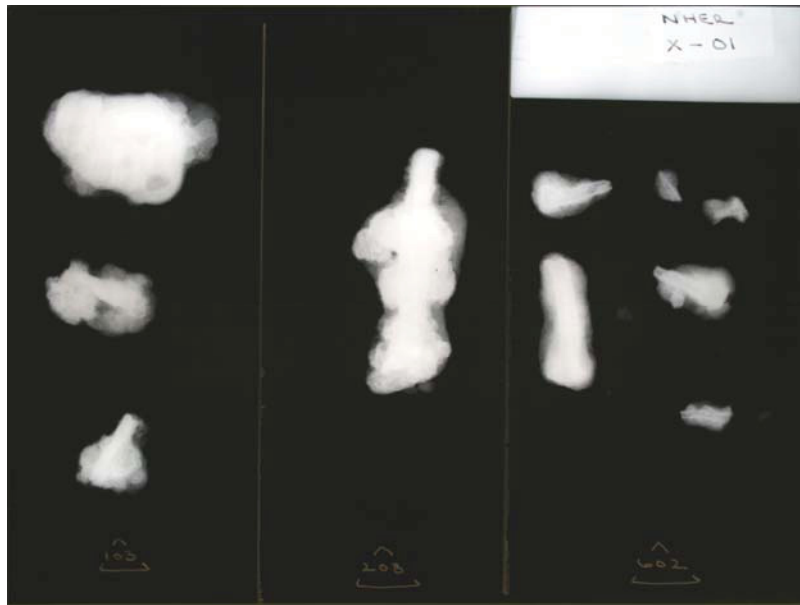
The finds are considered to be stable at present, but it must be ensured that they are packaged according to current museum standards in a sealed environment with silica gel.

List of artefacts:

Finds No	Site code	Context no.	Description	X-ray No.
103	NHER		Unidentified iron and nail fragments	01
208	NHER		Nail	01
602	NHER		Nail fragments	01

X-ray catalogue:

X-Ray No	Volts(KeV)	Time (mins)	Finds no.
01	60	3.5	102, 208, 602



X-radiograph 1

Recommended treatment

As the items are stable, it is not considered necessary to carry out stabilisation treatments. However, for interpretation purposes, the unidentified fragment in 103 would benefit from investigative cleaning, should the archaeological specialist consider further work was warranted.

If required the cleaning of the find should be carried out using an air-abrasive machine and 53 μ aluminium oxide powder. If active corrosion is noted during cleaning, stabilisation should be carried using a 2% aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, followed by rinsing in deionised water and drying. The objects should then be lacquered with a 10% solution of Paraloid B72 in acetone with the addition of Gasil as a matting agent.

As stated above, all of the iron should be repacked according to current standards and stored in a sealed box with silica gel.

Appendix H Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-50977

Project details

Project name Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk

Short description of the project The first phase of evaluation comprised four machine excavated trenches. All four trenches were recognised as containing archaeological features. These features comprised numerous 19th century postholes, two animal burials, and a posthole.. The second phase of work comprised the machine excavation of a further two trenches. While one of the trenches had been heavily truncated, a posthole and a gully were recorded in the other trench. The evaluation trenches also demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil deposits were present across much of the remaining area of the site. Overall, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the remainder of site is good, of a low to moderate intensity. This is combined with the high level of preservation of the archaeological horizon across the majority of the site.

Project dates Start: 15-12-2008 End: 09-01-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 30206 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference 51886 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type POSTHOLES Uncertain

Monument type POSTHOLES Post Medieval

Monument type DITCHES Post Medieval

Monument type PITS Post Medieval

Monument type GULLY Medieval

Monument type ANIMAL BURIALS Uncertain

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Uncertain

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds COAL Uncertain

Significant Finds IRON NAILS Uncertain

Significant Finds CBM Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY/CBM Uncertain

Methods & 'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
techniques

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the Pre-application
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND WATTON Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk

Postcode IP25 6BQ

Study area 3341.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 9184 0070 52.5698018148 0.831100377579 52 34 11 N 000 49 51 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 51.86m Max: 55.76m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group
Organisation

Project brief Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
originator

Project design Chris Pole, AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive Norfolk Museums and archaeology Service
 recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'

Digital Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
 recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
 available

Paper Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
 recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
 available

**Project
 bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an
 Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pole, C.

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology London

Description A4 28 pages 2 illustrations

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aocarchaeology.com)

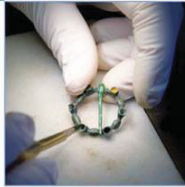
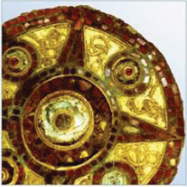
Entered on 30 January 2009

OASIS:

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