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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND OFF BRANDON ROAD AND WATTON  
ROAD, SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
(FIELD SURVEY)**

Authors: Steve Quinn (Field work & report) Andrew Peachey (Desk-based research)	
NGR: TF 8238 0759	Report No.4025
Parish: Swaffham	Site Code: ENF 127896
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4492
Signed:	Date: Feb 2012

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<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk</i>		
<i>During September 2011 and February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation (field survey) on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk (NGR TF 8238 0759). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority in advance of the submission/determination of a planning application for residential development on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, (NGR TF 8238 0759) (Breckland District Council).</i>			
<i>The site comprises a c.19.6ha field on the edge of Swaffham. Finds of Roman and medieval date are known from the area. Surface finds from the vicinity have included Roman jewellery and Roman and medieval coins. Excavations in advance of development to the immediate south of the site revealed Roman enclosures/field boundary ditches, elements of which may continue into the proposed development site. Prehistoric features were also identified.</i>			
<i>The field walking recovered a total of 58 flakes (551g) of struck flint and 38 fragments (837g) of burnt flint (Struck Flint Report below). The struck flint appears to range from later Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date, but is dominated by scrapers, piercers and debitage whose technology suggests an earlier Neolithic origin. The struck flint was present across the site with possible clusters in the centre of the site (Grid Squares 37 &amp; 47) and north west corner (Grid Squares 17 &amp; 18). A single body sherd (11g) of Roman pottery was found, and three medieval sherds. The sherds may be the result of manuring though two medieval were contained in the same grid square (No.25). A silver coin, a half groat, likely dates from 1582-1600.</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>September 2011, February 2012</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>Y</i>		<i>TBC</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>P4492</i>	<b>Site Code</b>	<i>ENF 127896</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>Fieldwalking and metal detector survey</i>		
<b>Site status</b>			
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>Residential Development</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>Prehistoric struck flint (Neolithic)</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Swaffham</i>
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>c.19.6ha</i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TF 8238 0759</i>		
<b>Height AOD (max/ min)</b>	<i>c.50/60m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Service</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Steve Quinn</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>Abel Homes Ltd</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>Land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation (Field Walking)</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Steve Quinn</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>4025</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>February 2012</i>		

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# LAND OFF BRANDON ROAD AND WATTON ROAD, SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (FIELD SURVEY)

### **SUMMARY**

*During September 2011 and February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation (field survey) on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk (NGR TF 8238 0759). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority in advance of the submission/determination of a planning application for residential development on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, (NGR TF 8238 0759) (Breckland District Council).*

*The site comprises a c.19.6ha field on the edge of Swaffham. Finds of Roman and medieval date are known from the area. Surface finds from the vicinity have included Roman jewellery and Roman and medieval coins. Excavations in advance of development to the immediate south of the site revealed Roman enclosures/field boundary ditches, elements of which may continue into the proposed development site. Prehistoric features were also identified.*

*The field walking recovered a total of 58 flakes (551g) of struck flint and 38 fragments (837g) of burnt flint (Struck Flint Report below). The struck flint appears to range from later Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date, but is dominated by scrapers, piercers and debitage whose technology suggests an earlier Neolithic origin. The struck flint was present across the site with possible clusters in the centre of the site (Grid Squares 37 & 47) and north west corner (Grid Squares 17 & 18). A single body sherd (11g) of Roman pottery was found, and three medieval sherds. The sherds may be the result of manuring though two medieval were contained in the same grid square (No.25). A silver coin, a half groat, likely dates from 1582-1600.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During September 2011 and early February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation (field survey) on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk (NGR TF 8238 0759; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority in advance of the submission/determination of a planning application for residential development on land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, (NGR TF 8238 0759) (Breckland District Council).

1.2 A geophysical survey was also undertaken as part of the evaluation (Stratascan 2011).

1.3 The project adhered to an updated brief for an archaeological evaluation issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011), *Updated Brief for Archaeological Evaluation By Geophysical Survey and Field Walking at Land off Brandon Road and Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk* (ref CNF 41975), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 20/07/11).

1.4 The project complied with the appropriate sections of Gurney, D, 2003, 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper* 14. The evaluation was also conducted according to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 2008).

1.5 The principal aim of the field survey was to determine the location and extent of any artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.6 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The town of Swaffham is situated c.20km east of Kings Lynn and c.50km west of Norwich in the Breckland district of Norfolk. The evaluation site comprises a slightly irregular parcel of land including four agricultural fields on the south side of the town. Brandon Road (A1065) forms the western boundary of the site and Watton Road (B1077) the east. It is bounded to the north and west by residential suburbs of the town and factory buildings are situated adjacent to the south-west corner. The remaining surrounding land comprises agricultural fields.

### **3 METHODOLOGY (DESK BASED RESEARCH)**

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

#### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within Cambridgeshire comes from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NCC HER). Significant entries within a 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

#### **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Norfolk Record Office (NRO, Norwich). Relevant documents are discussed in Section 4.2 and listed in Appendix 2.

#### **3.3 Secondary sources**

The principal sources of secondary material were Norfolk Record Office (NRO, Norwich), as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

#### **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Topography, Geology & Soils**

4.1.1 The evaluation site is situated in the gently undulating Breckland landscape c.7km to the south of the River Nar. It is situated on a shallow slope rising from c.50m AOD on its eastern edge to c.60m AOD on its western edge.

4.1.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises Upper Cretaceous Chalk overlain by clay, silty clay and sandy silt soils

## 4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

### *Prehistoric*

4.2.1 The area of Swaffham to the north of the evaluation site, now occupied by residential suburbs has produced a sparse distribution of Neolithic artefacts including a flint axehead and scrapers (HER 2652), flint tools (HER 25140) and a retouched flake (HER 36282).

4.2.2 Excavations on land adjacent to the south of the evaluation site recorded a single late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit in the north-western corner of the investigated area, c.60m from the edge of the evaluation site (HER 41938; Albion Archaeology 2005). Low quantities of early to middle Iron Age pottery were also recovered from a single ditch, although this feature was subsequently demonstrated to be Roman (Albion Archaeology 2006).

### *Roman*

4.2.3 The evaluation site is situated a short distance to the north-west of the site of a known Romano-British settlement (HER 17420 and 28566), which has to date only been characterised by surface finds including metal, coins and pottery. Fieldwalking and metal detecting on land to the north of the evaluation site have also recovered a scatter of Roman artefacts (HER 28213 and 29724).

4.2.4 Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to the south of the evaluation site (Albion Archaeology 2005 and 2006) recorded two Roman ditches whose alignments suggest they continue into the evaluation site, as well as a Roman quarry pit and drying oven (HER 41938). These features were situated in the north-eastern part of the investigated area, with one ditch aligned north-south and a second, branching from the first on a northwest-southeast alignment. Both appear to continue into the central-western area of the evaluation site. They have been interpreted as a rectangular field/enclosure system and associated activity on the periphery of a rural settlement of unknown extent to the east.

### *Medieval*

4.2.5 The place-name Swaffham derived from the Old English for 'homestead of the Swabians', a tribal group that may have arrived with the Angles and Saxons. By the time of the Domesday Book three manors were associated with Swaffham, and by the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century a Benedictine monastery had been founded. To the north of the site numerous Saxon and medieval finds, including metalwork and pottery have been recovered by fieldwalking and metal detecting (HER 28213, 28217, 29724 and 2652). By the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries Swaffham flourished based largely on the sheep and wool industry, forming the basis for a stable post-medieval town.



### *Post-medieval*

4.2.6 In the post-medieval period the evaluation site remained in the agricultural hinterland to the south of Swaffham, as illustrated by the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1880s) Ordnance Survey map. The OS map depicts the only development in the vicinity of the site as the 'Swans Nest' house adjacent to the north-east of the site, where it remains extant in the present day. Also depicted further north, on the eastern side of Watton Road is the Swaffham Union Workhouse (HER 38034), which was built in 1836 and demolished in 1926.

## **5 METHODOLOGY (FIELDWALKING)**

5.1 The area of proposed development was subjected to an archaeological field survey by fieldwalking and metal detecting (Figs. 2 & 3). The field walking was based on a line walking system with transects at 20m intervals. It adhered to the methodology devised by Essex County Council Archaeological Advisory Group (now ECC HEM), and was conducted according to the techniques described by Medlycott (1992).

5.2 The site was divided into kilometre squares, hectares and 20m squares within which 2m wide transects were scanned for finds. Each kilometre was assigned a letter and then sub-divided into hectare blocks, numbered from 1-100, beginning with 1 at the south-western corner of each kilometre. Each hectare was then sub-divided into 20m squares, each of which was assigned a letter, starting with 'A' in the south west corner. When walking each transect, a width of 2 metres was studied, allowing for a 10% sample of the area walked.

5.3 Each finds type (as appropriate) was plotted (Fig..3).

5.4 A programme of systematic metal detecting was carried out in tandem with the fieldwalking survey, utilising the same survey grid.

## **6 RESULTS Fig.3**

6.1 The field walking recovered a total of 58 flakes (551g) of struck flint and 38 fragments (837g) of burnt flint (Struck Flint Report below). The struck flint appears to range from later Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date, but is dominated by scrapers, piercers and debitage whose technology suggests an earlier Neolithic origin. A post-medieval gun flint was also recovered. The struck flint was present across the site with possible clusters in the centre of the site (Grid Squares 37 & 47) and north west corner (Grid Squares 17 & 18).



6.2 A single body sherd (11g) of Roman pottery is from Find Spot 108, and comprises Wattisfield/Waveney Valley reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184) that may have been produced between the late 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Roman Pottery Report below).

6.3 The post Roman pottery comprises 23 abraded sherds, weighing 407g (Pottery Report below). Two heavily abraded medieval sherds with vestiges of green glaze from Find Spots 187 & 212 are probably Grimston wares. The Find Spots were both contained in Grid Square 25. A medieval sandy coarse ware sherd also came from Find Spot 592.

6.4 A silver coin from Find Spot 287 was found (Coin and Metalwork Report below). The coin is a hammer-struck half groat of Elizabeth I. Elizabeth I issued coins throughout her reign of 1558-1603, and this coin was probably part of the fifth issue in 1582-1600. Excepting the coin no metal finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of artefacts within the ploughsoil during the field survey. The latter was carried out in conditions of good visibility. The field had been harrowed and had weathered. The metal detector survey was effective in locating metal items (albeit of modern date).

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The field walking found struck flint, predominantly Neolithic. The area of Swaffham to the north of the evaluation site, now occupied by residential suburbs has produced a sparse distribution of Neolithic artefacts including a flint axehead and scrapers (HER 2652), flint tools (HER 25140) and a retouched flake (HER 36282). The struck flint was present across the site with possible clusters in the centre of the site (Grid Squares 37 & 47) and north west corner (Grid Squares 17 & 18).

8.2 A single Roman sherd was found, and may be the result of manuring. The evaluation site is situated a short distance to the north-west of the site of a known Romano-British settlement (HER 17420 and 28566), which has to date only been characterised by surface finds including metal, coins and pottery. Fieldwalking and metal detecting on land to the north of the evaluation site have also recovered a scatter of Roman artefacts (HER 28213 and 29724). Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to the south of the evaluation site (Albion Archaeology 2005 and 2006) recorded two Roman ditches whose alignments suggest they continue into the evaluation site, as well as a Roman quarry pit and drying oven (HER 41938). Both ditches appear to continue into the central-western area

of the evaluation site. They have been interpreted as a rectangular field/enclosure system and associated activity on the periphery of a rural settlement of unknown extent to the east.

8.3 To the north of the site numerous Saxon and medieval finds, including metalwork and pottery have been recovered by fieldwalking and metal detecting (HER 28213, 28217, 29724 and 2652). Three medieval sherds were found and may be derived from manuring, though two were contained in the same grid square (No.25).

## **9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE**

9.1 The archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museum Service.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd is grateful to Abel Homes Ltd for their co-operation and funding the field survey (in particular Mr Paul Legrice for facilitating access).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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Strastascan, 2011. *Land off Brandon Road & Watton Road, Swaffham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation*

The Viatores 1964 *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*. Gollancz, London

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NCC HER).

HER	NGR SP	Description
<i>Prehistoric</i>		
2652	TF 82 08	Neolithic axehead, Late Saxon and medieval pottery sherds, post medieval hinge. In 1959 a small chipped flint axehead and two scrapers were recovered from this area. In 1989 a small number of Late Saxon and medieval pottery sherds were also recovered, as well as a post medieval hinge.
25140	TF 8251 0802	Neolithic flint tools, Roman pottery sherd. In 1989 a small number of Neolithic flint tools and a sherd of a Roman bowl were recovered from a building site here.
41938	TF 82328 07307	Multi-period features and finds, Land off Brandon Road. Archaeological investigations in 2005 and 2006 revealed a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit, Iron Age or Roman ditches, and a Roman field/enclosure system, with evidence for agricultural processing, including a kiln, and possibly quarrying.
36282	TF 81872 08017	Prehistoric retouched flint flake. Before 2001 an undatable prehistoric retouched flint flake was recovered from this site. It was steeply retouched along the right edge, and may have been used as a knife.
<i>Roman</i>		
28213	TF 82 08	Metal detecting between 1991 and 1997 recovered a number of objects from the Roman to post medieval periods. These include Roman coins, pottery sherds from the Middle and Late Saxon periods, and Late Saxon tweezers.
29724	TF 82 08	Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and post medieval objects. Fieldwalking and metal detecting in 1993 and 1997 recovered a number pottery sherds from the medieval and post medieval periods, as well as objects from the Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and post medieval periods.
<i>Medieval</i>		
28217	TF 82 08	Medieval objects. Metal detecting in 1990 recovered a medieval penny, a 14th century tanged belt slide, a gilt uniform mount and a papal bull of Innocent VI in very fine condition. In 1993 a number of medieval pottery sherds were also recovered.

<i>Post-medieval</i>		
38034	TF 82401 08105	Site of Swaffham Union Workhouse. This is the site of Swaffham Union Workhouse, which was designed by Donthorne on the unusual plan of a Y-stem within a polygon. It was built in 1836 and demolished in 1926, although some fragments are thought to survive on the site, which is now a housing estate.
50197	TF 82073 08157	Swaffham Cemetery and Chapel. The Chapel was constructed in 1924, which is presumably therefore the date of the cemetery as well, as it is not shown on earlier maps. Rectangular plan with a grid pattern of paths. One half provided for Anglican burials, the other for Roman Catholic and Nonconformist, but the ground is owned by the town council. At the centre is a chapel in the form of a Greek cross, each gable having a pointed door between two traceried windows. Some of the gables are glazed above. Recessed angles with canopies. Central fleche. Designed by O.W. Parry and restored in 1989.

## APPENDIX 2      CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Description	Scale	Location
1880s	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	25": 1 mile	NRO

### APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

ENF127896, Swans Nest FW  
Concordance of finds by feature

Find spot	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Str. Flint	B. Flint (g)	Other
2				(1) 5g		
3				(2) 11g		
6				(1) 10g		
10				(1) 5g		
14	17th-18th	(1) 6g				
18				(1) 10g		
19				(1) 11g		
20				(1) 5g		
21				(2) 26g		
22				(1) 9g		
24				(3) 46g		
27	17th-18th	(1) 4g				
27				(1) 10g		
29				(2) 81g		
30				(1) 4g		
31				(1) 4g		
33				(1) 27g		
35				(1) 34g		
37				(1) 8g		
41					23	
42	17th-18th	(2) 14g				
45				(1) 15g		
47				(1) 25g		
48	18th-19th	(1) 14g				
59	16th-18th	(1) 6g				
64	Late 16th-18th	(1) 2g				
78	16th-18th	(1) 24g				
87	16th-18th	(1) 5g				
92	12th-14th	(1) 5g				
98					64	
98				(1) 4g		
105				(1) 7g		
106					10	
107					4	
108	Late 1st-4th C	(1) 10g				
111				(1) 3g		
115					17	
120	17th-18th	(1) 21g				
131					16	
131				(1) 8g		
132				(1) 17g		
133				(1) 13g		
135				(1) 3g		

145				(2) 4g		
147				(2) 10g		
148				(1) 8g		
150				(1) 5g		
172				(1) 13g		
173					128	
186					14	
187	Late 12th-14th	(1) 22g				
188	15th-17th	(1) 5g				
190				(1) 3g		
193	17th-18th	(1) 3g				
207				(1) 3g		
208					37	
212	Late 12th-14th	(1) 11g				
213					10	
214					5	
217					2	
225					48	
226					33	
227				(3) 11g		
234				(1) 14g		
247					36	
252					35	
255				(1) 3g		
256					16	
257					26	
267				(1) 3g		
269					36	
273	17th-18th	(1) 26g				
287						SF1 - Coin (Elizabethan half groat) - 2g
351				(3) 4g		
356	16th-18th	(1) 188g				
384					50	
388				(2) 28g		
403					15	
405	16th-18th	(1) 3g				
421					56	
427				(1) 4g		
430				(1) 7g		
431				(1) 13g		
432					7	
440				(1) 10g		
464	17th-19th	(1) 2g				
470					50	
507				(1) 52g		
510	17th-18th	(1) 7g				
526				(1) 12g		
528				(1) 9g		
588					59	
589				(1) 11g		

608				(1) 11g		
659	18th-19th	(1) 6g				
662					40	
667	Late 18th-19th	(1) 24g				
668				(1) 3g		



## APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Struck Flint

*Andrew Peachey*

The field walking recovered a total of 58 flakes (551g) of struck flint and 38 fragments (837g) of burnt flint. The struck flint appears to range from later Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date (Table 2), but is dominated by scrapers, piercers and debitage whose technology suggests an earlier Neolithic origin. A post-medieval gun flint was also recovered.

Implement/Flake Type	Probable Date	Frequency	Weight (g)
Burin	Mesolithic	1	3
Platform Rejuvenation Flake	Mesolithic/E. Neolithic	1	23
Blade	L. Mesolithic/E. Neolithic	5	26
End/Side/Horseshoe Scraper	E. Neolithic	6	96
Side Scraper	Neolithic-Bronze Age	4	143
Piercer	E. Neolithic	2	11
Debitage	Neolithic-Bronze Age	38	246
Gun Flint	Post-Medieval	1	3
Burnt Flint	?Prehistoric	38	837
<i>Total</i>		96	1388

Table 2: Quantification of struck flint implement and flake types

### Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

## Commentary

The raw flint present in the assemblage is predominantly very dark grey with an off-white, powdery cortex that suggests it was sourced from local, primary chalk contexts. However also present is mid to dark grey flint with cortex stained pale orange or thin grey-brown, suggesting surface and marines gravels were also exploited. The raw flint is all of relatively high quality regardless of colour and cortex. As would be expected of flint recovered from the topsoil by field-walking, the preservation of the flint varies considerable with sparse fragments exhibiting heavy, medium or slight degrees of white patination due to weathering and re-deposition but the bulk of the assemblage retains slightly abraded, un-patinated surfaces.

Potentially the earliest flakes of struck flint recovered are of Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic date. A burin (Find Spot (FS) 190) with a right-angled truncation is a typically Mesolithic implement, although burins also continue into the earlier Neolithic. A platform rejuvenation flake (FS 388) and five blades (FSs 3, 10, 29, 227 & 528) are probably of earlier Neolithic origin. However, the platform rejuvenation flake appears to have been struck from a well-maintained, abraded cube-shaped core that could be Mesolithic, while a single long-blade (FS 29) would also be typical of later Mesolithic flint technology.

Six scrapers in the assemblage exhibit technological traits that suggest they were produced in the earlier Neolithic, including neat, regular abrupt retouch, soft-hammer struck flakes and little if any extant cortex. An end scraper (FS 22) was formed on a blade; two side-scrapers (FSs 45 & 133) were formed on blade-like flakes, while three horseshoe scrapers (FSs 35, 47 & 225) may have been formed on soft-hammer struck flake blanks.

The remaining scrapers include two side scrapers (FSs 24 & 33) and a horseshoe scraper (FS 132) formed on recycled, patinated flakes, a trait typical of later Neolithic to Bronze Age flint work. A further side scraper (FS 29) was formed on a thick, broad flake typical of those produced in the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

The only other prehistoric implements in the assemblage comprise two piercers (FSs 19 & 30) that were formed by the application of retouch to the lateral edges and tips of blades, suggesting they were produced in the earlier Neolithic period. The debitage in the assemblage is also predominantly blade-loke in character, and limited to relatively small tertiary and un-corticated flakes that are the typical bi-products of earlier Neolithic core reduction. Sparse slightly irregular flakes of debitage are also present, but none exhibit the broad, squat proportions of flakes typical of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age debitage. Almost all find spots were limited to a single flake of debitage, with rare locations (FSs 21, 24 & 351) producing 2-3 flakes of debitage.

On addition to the prehistoric flint, a single post-medieval gun flint (FS 427) was also present in the assemblage. This prismatic flint would have formed a key component in the flintlock striking mechanism of a musket or rifle in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. One end of the gun flint exhibits light burn marks from wear it was used, but the gun flint is not broken, therefore it may have been lost by being poorly-fastened and springing loose during firing.

The burnt flint in the assemblage is limited to small fragments (average weight 22g) that exhibit no evidence of being struck before or after burning, and are of probable prehistoric date although this remains a tentative conclusion.

### Bibliography

Andrefsky, W.	2005	<i>Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)</i> . Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
Healy, F	1988	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the Seventh to Second Millennium BC</i> . East Anglian Archaeology No. 39

### **The Roman Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

The field walking recovered a single body sherd (11g) of Roman pottery from Find Spot 108. It comprises Wattisfield/Waveney Valley reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184) that may have been produced between the late 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

### **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The field walking recovered 23 abraded sherds of pottery weighing 407g. The pottery has been quantified by Find Spot below (Table 1).

Two heavily abraded medieval sherds with vestiges of green glaze from Find Spots 187 & 212 are probably Grimston wares. A medieval sandy coarse ware sherd also came from Find Spot 592. Find Spot 356 produced the base angle from a large, heavy storage-type jar in a quartz sandy fabric containing black iron mineral that could be medieval, but the vessel is probably post-medieval.

The remaining finds are all post-medieval red earthenwares or post-medieval black glazed wares, with the exception of a stoneware jar or jug neck in good condition from Find Spot 667, which is probably Victorian in date.

**Fabric Key:**

MCW: Medieval coarse ware – sandy matrix with moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded grey, clear and white quartz and occasional black iron mineral 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

GRIMG: Glazed Grimston ware late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

EPMRE: early post-medieval red earthenware 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

PMBL: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

ENGS: English stone ware 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Find Spot	Area	Quantification	Date	Comment
14	17J	1x6g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	
27	28B	1x5g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	
42	28N	2x13g PMBL	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	From 2 vessels x1 everted rounded rim
48	27D	1x15g PMBL	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Part of strap handle
59	28I	1x7g PMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Folded rim
64	28Q	1x3g PMBL	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Glazed both sides
78	28T	1x25g PMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Jar rim 12cm diam. Internal clear and green glaze, external streak of black glaze
87	27U	1x5g PMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Thickened everted rim
92	37O	1x5g MCW	12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
120	37U	2x22g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	x1 hollow bowl/dish rim with applied with slipped dots
187	25N	1x22g GRIMG	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Faint vestiges of glaze
188	26K	1x6g EPMRE	15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Folded rim to small bowl
193	26T	1x4g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> ?	Semi-vitrified surfaces but not core
212	35F	1x13g GRIMG?	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Very abraded rim, incised line and vestiges of green glaze on both sides
273	56T	1x26g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Expanded rim to dish or pancheon
356	47L	1x187g PMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> ?	Base angle of large, heavy storage jar. Fabric looks quite med and includes rounded black iron mineral
405	47O	1x3g PMRE	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Clear glaze both sides
464	47P	1x2g PMBL	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Simple everted rim to small bowl
510	47V	1x7g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Everted rim

659	57R	1x6g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	
667	66E	1x25g ENGS	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	ENGS: folded jar or jug rim 8-9cm diam

*Table 1: Quantification of pottery by Find Spot*

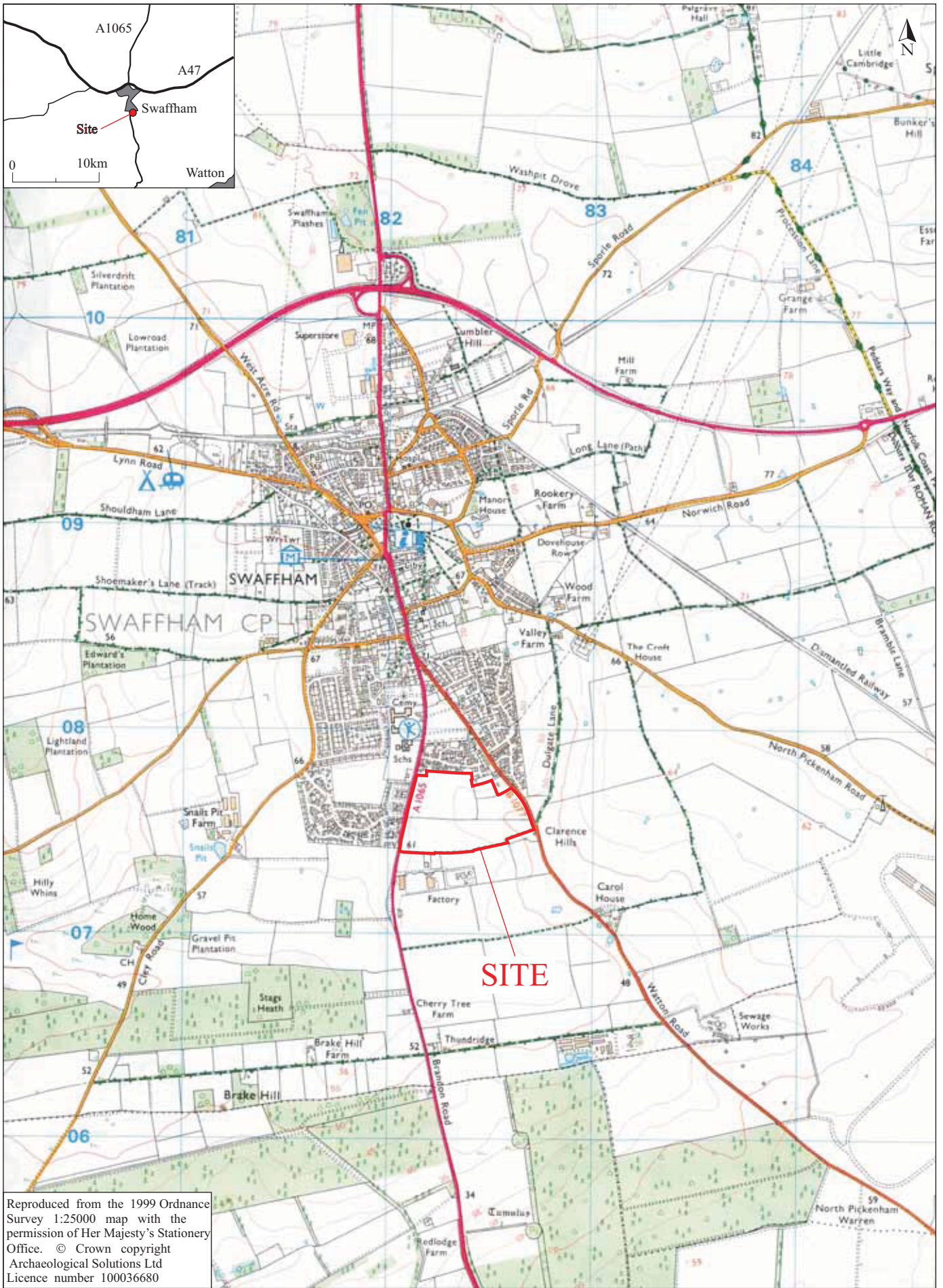
## **The Coin & Metalwork**

*Andrew Peachey*

The field walking recovered a silver coin from Find Spot 287. The coin is a hammer-struck half groat of Elizabeth I. The coin has a diameter of 17mm, does not exhibit a mint mark or rose, but two pellets are visible behind the bust. Elizabeth I issued coins throughout her reign of 1558-1603, and this coin was probably part of the fifth issue in 1582-1600.

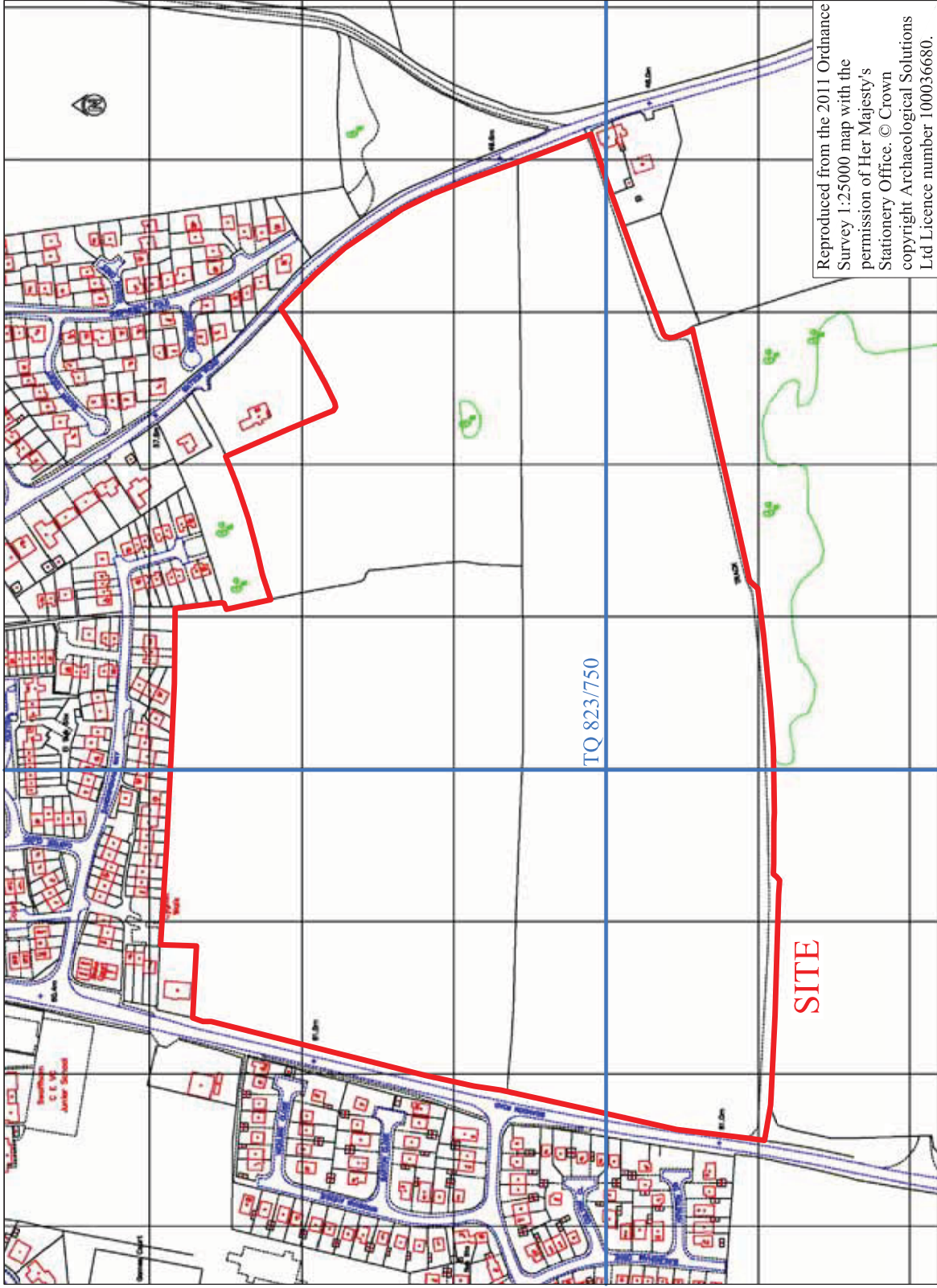
Excepting the coin no metal finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered.





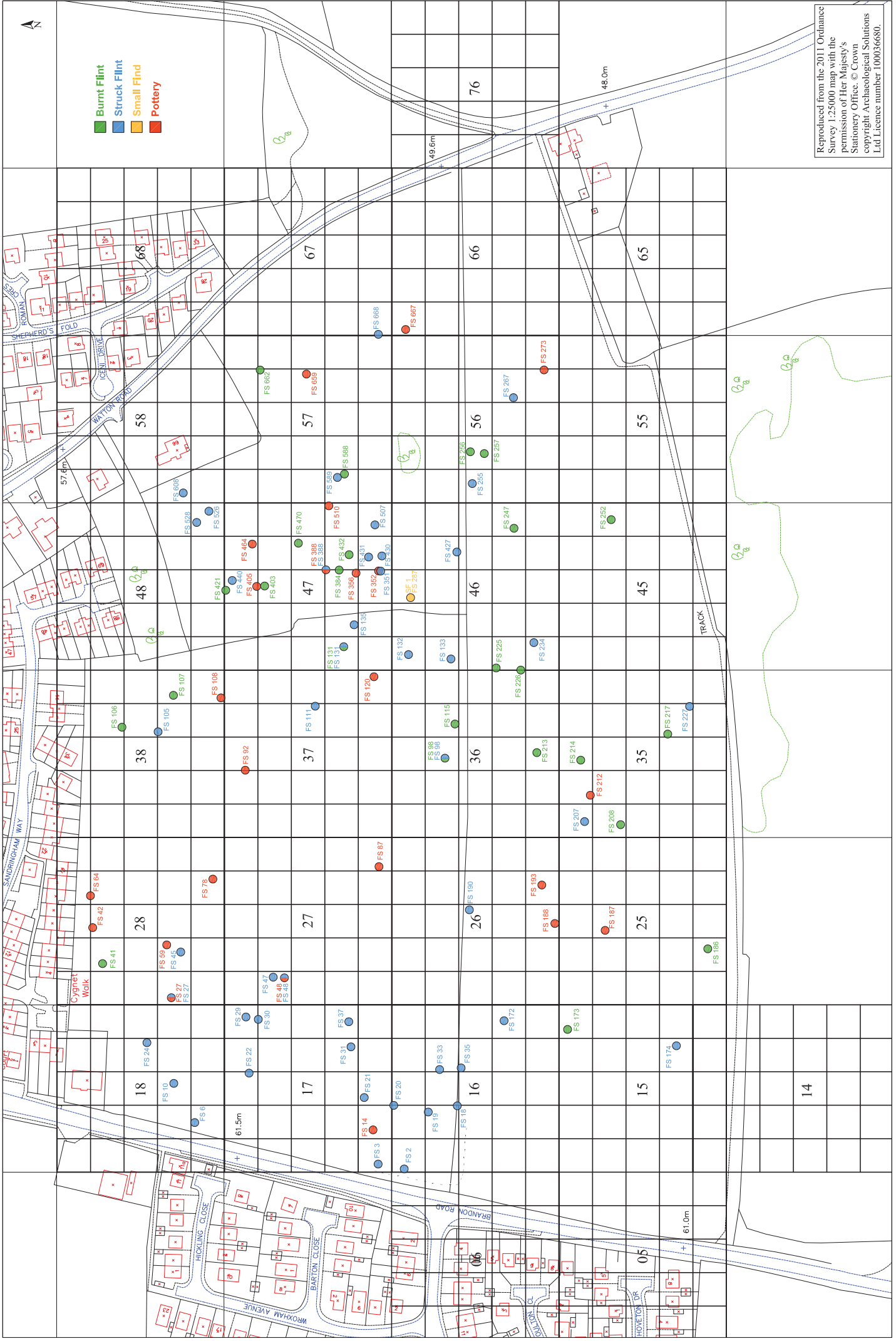
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:4000 at A4





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**Fig. 3 Finds plots**  
 Scale 1:2000 at A3

