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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**MANGREEN HALL FARM, SWARDESTON,  
NORFOLK**

**MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

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NGR: TG 218 030	Report No: 3131
District: Norfolk	Site Code: 37649.SWD
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 1794
Signed:	Date: July 2008

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk: Monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control.</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>Between May and July 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk, (TG 218 030). The monitoring was undertaken in advance of mineral extraction.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to monitoring, a trial trench evaluation (Keir &amp; Roberts 2003) was undertaken revealing a low density of undated ditches, gullies and sparse pits which remain undated. A desk based assessment (Prosser 2002), a programme of field walking (Grant 2003) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003) have also previously been carried out on the proposed area.</i></p> <p><i>The current programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken to the north and north east of Mangreen Hall Farm. A small quantity of archaeological features consisting of seven pits, two postholes and four ditches were identified. The ditches may be of post-medieval date but dating evidence is sparse indicating that this can be nothing more than a tentative suggestion. The pits appear to be of prehistoric date, most probably Iron Age although Bronze Age and early Roman pottery was also recovered in small quantities from these features.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>1794</i>	Site code	<i>37649.SWD</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric pits, a posthole and a ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, Animal Bone, struck flint</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>Swardeston</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TG 218 030</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>40m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>W. McCall, L. Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Lafarge Aggregates Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk: Monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control.</i>		
Authors	<i>L. Smith</i>		
Report no.	<i>3131</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2008</i>		

## MANGREEN HALL FARM, SWARDESTON, NORFOLK

### MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

#### **SUMMARY**

*In May and July, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk, (TG 218 030). The monitoring was undertaken in advance of mineral extraction.*

*Prior to monitoring, a trial trench evaluation (Keir & Roberts 2003) was undertaken revealing a low density of undated ditches, gullies and sparse pits which remain undated. A desk based assessment (Prosser 2002), a programme of field walking (Grant 2003) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003) have also previously been carried out on the proposed area.*

*The current programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken to the north and north east of Mangreen Hall Farm. A small quantity of archaeological features consisting of seven pits, two postholes and four ditches were identified. The ditches may be of post-medieval date but dating evidence is sparse indicating that this can be nothing more than a tentative suggestion. The pits appear to be of prehistoric date, most probably Iron Age although Bronze Age and early Roman pottery was also recovered in small quantities from these features.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Between May and July 2008, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording of land at Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston, Norfolk (NGR TG 218 030) (Figure1). The monitoring was commissioned by Lafarge Aggregates Ltd in advance of proposed mineral extraction. It was undertaken as part of a planning requirement following advice from the local planning authority (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology). The monitoring followed a trial trench evaluation (Keir & Roberts 2003), desk based assessment (Prosser 2002), a programme of field walking (Grant 2003) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (dated January 2005) and a specification compiled by Archaeological Solutions (dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006). The project complied with the brief and the *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk* (NLA 1998) and Gurney, D. 2003 '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*', *EAA Occasional Paper 14*. The project was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001). The previous reports relating to archaeological work on the site (eg Keir and Roberts, 2003, *Mangreen Hall Farm, Swardeston Norfolk; An Archaeological Evaluation*, AS Report 1406) were consulted.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Mangreen Hall Farm is located approximately 6.5 km south –east of Norwich in the relatively flat countryside around the course of the rivers Yare and Tas. The land lies at 40m AOD. It is situated on a narrow lane extending between Swardeston village, some 1.5 km to the west and the main A140 trunk road, which joins the A47 just to the north of the assessment area.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS**

3.1 Central Norfolk forms a high Boulder Clay plateau with varied but generally poorly drained soils with limited fertility before the advent of modern drainage and artificial improvement. The predominant local soils are the chalky tills and glacio-fluvial drifts of the Burlingham 3 Association which comprise deep and fine loamy, often sandy soils with slight seasonal waterlogging, generally suitable for arable cultivation (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

3.2 The geotechnical profile of the site confirms the presence of sands and gravels to some depth, generally present in interspersed silty bands overlying a deposit of Boulder Clay at a horizon of between 4.7 and 5.2 metres. There is some variation across the area, with silty and gravely sub-soils to the north and sands and silts within the generally clayey matrix around the farm and across the centre, extending southwards. This composition reflects the general homogeneity across the site, with localised but minor variations in gravel deposits resulting in minor differences in drainage and possible soil fertility.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Prosser 2002) which demonstrated little concentrated prehistoric activity and ephemeral rural Roman settlement despite the presence of major occupation at nearby Caistor St. Edmund to the east. Mangreen emerged into the historical record as a constituent estate of Swardeston. Later documents place it in the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped parkland before being sub-divided into fields and paddocks in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Aerial photography has revealed a series of possible linear features extending into the assessment site, with significant concentration of activity (further cropmarks of enclosures and ring ditches) beyond the site to the immediate east of the A140.

4.2 The Tas valley has been settled and exploited since the early prehistoric period. Isolated Mesolithic flints have been found in the vicinity, most notably with other flints of later date at Dunston to the east of the A140 (SMR 31820). Field-walking and metal detecting in advance of a possible golf course extension at Dunston recovered sherds of Neolithic pottery, implying some permanent settlement in the area (SMR 21820). Within the immediate area, there are few signs of occupation during the Bronze Age, though, as noted above, air reconnaissance to the east has revealed the presence of at least four ring ditches (SMR 9473), which together with the others identified to the north suggest the presence of Bronze age burial mounds in discrete

clusters. At least two skirt the A140, while others appear close to the southern bypass (SMR 11691). Metal detecting has supplemented the evidence with a scatter of objects, including an axe and bronze rapier in this general area (SMR 28718, 290060).

4.3 The Iron Age remains a poorly understood and under-represented period of prehistory at a national level, and evidence in Norfolk is particularly sparse. Locally, works in advance of an expansion of Dunston golf course in the 1990s uncovered significant remains dating from the Iron Age, including post-holes, pits, pottery sherds and other features (SMR 31820, 31856, 31858).

4.4 Perhaps the most important regional monument is the Romano-British town at Caistor St. Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*), approximately 1.5 km to the east of the site. This settlement, whose name means ‘the market of the Iceni’ is indicative of a deliberate act of Romanisation, whereby the tribal areas were transformed into *civitates* or ‘city states’. *Venta* was probably founded around 70 AD and possessed a regular street plan with a forum, basilica, bath-house, temples, town-houses and an amphitheatre. Industrial manufacture, including pottery, metalworking and glass-ware is also attested, though there is some disagreement whether this *civitas* capital bears any relation to any pre-existing pattern of settlement or activity (Wacher 1996, 243). The presence of *Venta* presupposes a local rural population and an economic catchment to provide food for the town and to act as an outlet for its products. To the east of the A140, just beyond the limits of the assessment area, a double-ditched rectangular enclosure was noted on air photographs several years ago. In shape it is typical of the outlined plans of Roman temples, and has been proposed as a site of a shrine or religious centre located on the slopes of the hill overlooking the river and the site of *Venta*. Fieldwalking and metal-detecting in the vicinity has recovered a scatter of Roman material, including coins and a metal box (SMR 9743). To the south, at the fringes of Dunston, a more concentrated spread of material suggests the location of a settlement, or at least buildings, though the exact nature of the site can not be quantified from the coins, several of which impinge on the assessment area (SMR 30476); the rest are clearly the result of a comprehensive metal-detecting sweep of the surrounding fields to the north (SMR 24794, 35022, 24795).

4.5 Settlement in the immediate post-Roman period is apparently limited to one possible *grubenhuis* tentatively identified among the crop-mark complex to the east of the A140. Stray finds of the mid to late Saxon period, again recovered through metal-detecting activities have been found to the east of the site (SMR 24794) and on the bypass route to the north (SMR 28869). However, the area surrounding Mangreen comprises a number of parishes and settlements with recognisably early English names, which were probably in place as estates by the later Saxon period. By 1066, Mangreen was a distinct, if small estate. The place-name is particularly revealing, derived from the Old English *Gemoeniggrene*, representing both an early ‘green’ name, indicative of peripheral or secondary settlement, and the presence of land considered as ‘common’. Of considerable importance is the fact that Mangreen is one of the few which can demonstrate pre-Conquest origin.

4.6 At the time of Domesday, the Mangreen estate lay in the hands of Roger Bigod, and is later recorded in the possession of Osbert of Mangreen and William of Mangreen, who may have been manorial tenants. During the 14<sup>th</sup> century a few owners are recorded, including Emma de la Penne and Peter Plumstede. The le Neve

family possessed it for much of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the farm subsequently disappears from the record for over a century. From the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, the house emerges as a property of some pretence when Thomas Aldrich, mayor of Norwich in 1507 is recorded in possession. It has been asserted that traces of a moat survive at the farm, though as a decorative or garden feature. These are common in areas throughout the region and can be medieval or post-medieval in date. Later the Davy family purchased the land, and the existing house is believed to have been constructed for Henry Davy in *c.* 1700 (Pevsner 1994, 689). By the later 18<sup>th</sup> century much of the surrounding area had been landscaped. Faden's map of 1797 is copied on the later map by Bryant of 1826, showing the existing complex at the centre of a large park, with an impressive central avenue of trees extending north. At least part of the site was included in this parkland. By the time of the tithe survey of 1845 much of the original park had been sacrificed to arable cultivation and the avenue partly cut down. For the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century little change is recorded on the site suggesting that the landscape and settlement pattern had assumed much of its existing form.

4.7 A programme of field-walking and metal detecting (Grant *et al.* 2002) revealed scatters of prehistoric burnt and struck flint including core fragments and tools of a probable later Bronze Age date. The main cluster of struck flint was situated in the south western part of the site, though there were less dense concentrations noted in the south western part of Area 1 and the eastern part of Area 2. Several scatters of post-medieval tile were also identified. Pottery sherds were generally of a post-medieval date and are likely to have derived from manuring. No evidence of Roman or Saxon activity was recorded. There were few metal finds of pre-modern date.

4.8 Subsequent geophysical survey (magnetic susceptibility followed by detailed magnetometry) in January 2003 (Stratascan 2003) revealed the presence of sparse linear and discrete anomalies, many thought to be of natural or agricultural origin in Areas 1-3. Broader linear features thought to be of archaeological origin were recorded to the south (In Areas 7 and 8, not part of the current proposals).

4.9 A trial trench evaluation consisting of 33 trenches excavated across Areas 1-3 revealed a low density of mostly undated ditches, gullies, and sparse pits (Keir and Roberts 2003). Further investigation through monitoring may provide further evidence to determine the date of these features.

## 5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 Topsoil and subsoil were separately stripped from Areas 1, 2 and 4 of the Mangreen Hall Farm site (Figure 2 DP1) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Thereafter, all further investigations were undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Site visits to monitor the topsoil and subsoil stripping were conducted between the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The site at Mangreen Hall Farm is divided into four separate 'areas'. These 'areas' are terms used to by the developer to distinguish between different areas of the site as a whole. Ground reduction occurred within Areas 1, 2 and 4 but did not encompass the entirety of these areas.

### 6.1 Area 1: Sample Section 1

### Figure 2 DP2

0.00 – 0.35m	L2000. Topsoil. Mid grey/brown clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles.
0.35 – 0.67m	L2001. Subsoil. Mid orange/brown sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.
0.67 – 0.70m+	L2002. Chalk Natural. Mid yellowish white sandy silt with frequent nodes of flint and frequent fragments and flecks of chalk

6.1.1 After the topsoil was stripped within Area 1 a modern field drain, an irrigation ditch and the remains of a tree line representing a field boundary were identified (Figure 2). All of these features were aligned parallel with one another orientated roughly north to south.

### 6.2 Area 1: Sample Section 2

### Figure 2

0.00 – 0.35m	L2000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.35 – 0.68m	L2001. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.68 – 0.88m+	L2002. Chalk Natural. As above Sample Section 1

*A ditch (F2003) was present in Area 1.*

6.2.1 Ditch F2003 (Length >90.0m x Width x 1.15m x Depth 0.38) was identified running across the western extent of Area 1 on a north to south alignment. It was u-shaped in profile with gradual sloping sides and a concave base (Figures 2 and 3, DP3). Its fill (L2004) was a mid reddish brown sandy clay with moderate flint nodes and frequent medium fragments and flecks of chalk. A struck flint (9g), possible Roman pottery (<1g), an iron (Fe) nail (3g) and animal bone (16g) were recovered from this deposit.

### 6.3 Area 2: Sample Section 3

### Figure 2

0.00 – 0.40m	L2000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.40 – 0.66m	L2001. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.66m+	L2030. Gravel Natural. As above Sample Section 1

*A ditch (F2012), three pits (F2005, F2008 and F2014) and a posthole (F2010) were present in Area 2.*

6.3.1 Ditch F2012 (>170.0m x 0.76m x 0.18m) was seen aligned NE/SW across the part of Area 2 subject to ground reduction (Figures 2 and 3). It was V-shaped in profile with a narrow base. Its fill (F2013) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, moderate rounded and angular gravel and pebbles and flint



nodes. Late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (3g) and animal bone (12g) was recovered from this fill. Ditch F2012 cut earlier Pit F2014. This ditch was initially identified as F2033 Trench 11 during the preceding Trial Trench Evaluation (Keir & Roberts, 2006).

6.3.2 Pit F2014 was identified during the excavation of F2012 (Figures 2 and 3). It was seen on the northern edge of Ditch F2012 as oval in plan (3m x >0.6m x 0.21m). In profile it had gradually sloping sides; all other dimensions had been destroyed by later Ditch F2012. Its fill, L2015 resembled redeposited natural and consisted of a light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent rounded medium to small pebbles and angular gravel. Struck flint (<1g), Iron Age pottery (134g) and a fragment of glass bottle (<1g) were recovered from this deposit.

6.3.3 Pit F2008 (0.71m x 0.7m x 0.14m) was seen to the north of Ditch F2012 in the north-eastern corner of the part of Area 2 subject to ground reduction (Figures 2 and 3, DP6 and 8). In plan it was sub rectangular, aligned east to west. It had a U-shaped profile with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L2009) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional fragments of flint and frequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. A large quantity of Iron Age pottery (615g) was present in this deposit.

6.3.4 Shallow Posthole F2010 (0.45m x 0.45m x 0.11m) was identified as circular in plan to the north of Ditch F2012 (Figures 2 and 3). It was u-shaped in profile with a flat base. Its fill, L2011, was a dark greyish brown silty sand. No finds were present.

6.3.5 A sub oval pit (F2005) was identified near the eastern extents of part of Area 2 subject to ground reduction (Figures 2 and 3, DP5). It was aligned north to south with an irregular profile. Its northern edge was gradually sloping, its southern edge was stepped and the feature displayed a concave base. It contained two fills; its lower fill (L2007) was a mid yellowish brown clay with occasional flint nodes, chalk and charcoal flecks. Its upper fill (L2006) was a dark greyish black silty clay with moderate nodes and fragments of flint and frequent chalk and charcoal flecks. Three pieces of struck flint (total weight 4g) and late Iron Age to Roman period pottery (118g) were present in this deposit.

#### 6.4 Area 4: Sample Section 4

**Figure 2**

0.00 – 0.60m	L2000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.60 – 0.75m	L2001. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.75m+	L2002. Natural. As above Sample Section 1

*Two ditches (F2016 and F2028), four pits (F2018, F2020, F2022 and F2026) and a posthole (F2024) were present in Area 4.*

6.4.1 Ditch F2016 (>22.0m x 1.55m x 0.37m) was seen as linear in plan running on a NE/SW alignment across the south eastern corner of that part of Area 4 subject to ground reduction (Figures 2 and 3, DP4). It had a u-shaped profile with a concave base. Its fill (L2017) was a light brownish grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent rounded and angular flint. A single sherd of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>

century pottery (32g), post-medieval CBM (499g) and oyster shell (28g) were present within F1016.

6.4.2 Pit F2018 (0.70m x 0.56m x 0.20m) was sub circular in plan and lay in close association with Pits F2020 and F2021 (Figures 2 and 3). Upon excavation it was seen to have a U-shaped profile with a flat base. It had been slightly truncated by machine. Its fill (L2019) was a dark greyish black sandy clay with frequent fragments and flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments and nodules of flint. A single piece of struck flint (3g) was recovered from L2019.

6.4.3 F2020 (0.54m x 0.33m x 0.13m) was identified as an oval pit to the northwest of Pit F2018 (Figures 2 and 3). It was u-shaped in profile with a concave base. Its fill (L2021) was a dark greyish black sandy clay with frequent fragments and flecks of charcoal and angular flint. No finds were present.

6.4.4 Pit F2022 (0.77m x 0.60m x 0.20m) was a sub rectangular pit with a square shaped profile and a flat base which was identified to the north west of Pits F2018 and F2020 (Figures 2 and 3). Its fill (L2023) was a dark greyish black sandy clay with fragments and flecks of charcoal and occasional angular and rounded flint nodules. It contained a single piece of struck flint (1g) two sherds (54g) of mid to late Iron Age pottery.

6.4.5 Pit F2024 was sub circular in plan (0.68m x 0.62m x 0.14m) with a u-shaped profile and a concave base. This pit was identified within Area 4 adjacent to Posthole F2026 (Figures 2 and 3). Its fill (L2025) was a dark greyish black sandy clay with frequent fragments and flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of chalk and flint. The feature yielded a piece of struck flint (25g) and pottery of unclassified prehistoric date (29g).

6.4.6 A shallow sub rectangular posthole (F2026) was identified to the south west of Pit F2024 in Area 4 (Figures 2 and 3). It measured 0.40m x 0.35m x 0.08m with a u-shaped profile and a concave base. Its fill (L2027) was a dark greyish black sandy clay with frequent chalk fragments and moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and flint nodes. F2026 was found to contain two sherds (5g) of possible Iron Age pottery.

6.4.7 Ditch F2028 (>88.70m x 1.40m x 0.37m) was seen running on a north to south alignment within the area of ground reduction in Area 4 (Figures 2 and 3, DP7). Its profile was U-shaped with a concave base. It was filled with a mid yellowish brown sandy clay with moderate chalk fragments, occasional flecks of charcoal and CBM and frequent large flint nodes. No finds were present.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 A layer of topsoil (L2000) consisting of a mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate flint nodules was seen across the entire site which had up to this point been used as agricultural land. It had a fairly consistent depth varying between 0.35m and 0.40m below the ground surface. In Area 1, the topsoil sealed a modern irrigation ditch, field drain and hedge boundary. In all other areas the topsoil directly covered the subsoil (L2001).

8.2 The Subsoil, L2001, was identified as a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional flint and chalk. It was seen at a depth of up to 0.68m below the ground surface after the removal of topsoil across the entire site. The subsoil sealed all archaeological features.

8.3 The Chalk Natural, L2002, was seen after the removal of subsoil across the majority of the site. This was identified as an overburden layer and consisted of a mid greyish white sandy clay with frequent nodes of flint and fragments and flecks of chalk. It was encountered at a depth of 0.66m below the ground surface at the western edge of the site. The site as a whole sloped gradually from west to east.

8.4 On the eastern extents of the site a layer of natural gravel was seen after the removal of L2001 indicating a change in the underlying geology. This was allocated L2030 and was identified as a mid reddish brown silty sand with moderate amounts of angular and rounded gravel, pebbles and flint. It was seen at a depth of 0.66m below the ground surface.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 Summary of the archaeology**

9.1.1 A small number of features were identified during this phase of work comprising four ditches, seven pits and two postholes. Only one of these features, F2012, was identified as representing a feature recorded during the preceding trial trench evaluation (Keir & Roberts 2003). Ditch F2012 was initially identified as F2033 within Trench 11. Ditch F2033 was identified as containing two fills, L2034 and L2035. The basal fill yielded struck flint (15g) and cinder (1g) while the upper fill was found to contain struck flint (11g), a clay pipe stem fragment (1g) and cinder (<1g). As a result of the minimal dating evidence the feature was left undated. The presence of a single sherd of late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery within F2012 indicates that the feature may of post-medieval date but this is far from secure dating evidence for the feature. F2033 was considered to represent a continuation of Ditch F2039 which was recorded in Trench 12 to the east (Keir & Roberts 2003).

### **9.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history**

9.2.1 The dating of the four ditches (F2003, F2012, F2016 and F2028) is far from secure. F2016 is perhaps the most securely dated having yielded post-medieval pottery and CBM. It is possible that all of the ditches were associated and represent former field boundaries. The dating evidence does nothing to support this theory,

however; F2003 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, F2012 produced a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and F2028 contained no finds.

9.2.2 The seven pits and two postholes that were recorded form two loose clusters; F2008, F2010 and F2014 were located in the north eastern corner of the stripped area while F2018, F2020, F2022, F2024 and F2026 lay close to the south-eastern corner of the stripped area. Pit F2005 was the only isolated feature, located approximately midway between these two clusters. Those features that contained dateable finds from these groups of features would appear to be of Iron Age date; it may be tentatively considered that undated features are of a similar date due to the proximity. F2024, however, is less securely dated to the Iron Age due to the presence of possible Bronze Age pottery within its fill.

## **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

AS would like to thank Lafarge Aggregates Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the investigations.

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**APPENDIX I  
CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
2000	Topsoil	19th Century +	(5), 228g				Struck Flint (2), 30g Lead Weight (1), 26g Glass Bottle Fragments (2), 14g Fe Buckle (1), 60g
2001	Subsoil						Lead Weight (1), 54g
2003	Ditch Fill	Roman?	(1), <1g			16	Struck Flint (1), 9g Fe Nail (1), 3g
2005	Pit Fill	LIA - Roman	(21), 161g				Struck Flint (3), 4g
2008	Pit Fill	Mid - Late Iron Age	(133), 615g				
2012	Ditch Fill	Late 16th - 18th	(1), 3g			12	
2014	Pit Fill	Iron Age	(31), 134g				Struck Flint (1), <1g
2016	Ditch Fill	Mid 18th - 19th	(1), 32g	485			Oyster Shell (1), 28g
2018	Pit Fill						Struck Flint (1), 3g
2022	Pit Fill	Mid - Late Iron Age	(2), 54g				Struck Flint (1), 1g
2024	Pit Fill	Prehistoric	(6), 29g				Struck Flint (1), 25g
2026	Posthole Fill	Iron Age?	(2), 5g				

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS REPORTS

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey*

Archaeological monitoring and recording produced 5 fragments (44g) of struck flint. The struck flint is in an un-patinated and fresh condition and is comprised of a core fragment and debitage

#### *Methodology*

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) and is fully described below. 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 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

#### *Commentary*

The raw material used for the struck flint in this assemblage is off poor quality exhibiting a relatively high density of inclusions. The colour of the flint varies between mid grey to dark grey-brown with a thin pock-marked off cortex. These characteristics suggest the flint was sourced from local surface gravels.

Pit F2024 (L2024) and Topsoil L2000 included core fragments with parallel flake scars on their dorsal faces and single discernable striking platforms. The fragments probably represent the rejuvenation of a core, although they are of too limited size to speculate on the methods of the object cores reduction, or whether it had single or multiple striking platforms. Topsoil L2000 also included a single tertiary flake (2g) in a dark-grey brown flint comparable to that of the core fragment.

Further debitage was present as a single secondary flake (9g) in Pit F2005 (L2006), as two uncorticated flakes in Pit F2005 (L2006), and as single uncorticated flakes in Pits F2014 (L2015), F2018 (L2019) and F2022 (L2023). All the uncorticated flakes are small, ranging from 1-3g, and slightly broad and squat in shape. The size and shape of the debitage fragments are comparable to the dorsal scars on the core fragments suggesting that one homogenous phase of flint working is present. Very tentatively this flint assemblage may have affinities with the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age flint assemblage from Spong Hill (Healy 1988, 46-7), however the low quantity of fragments and absence of implements limits this conclusion, and the assemblage may conceivably date from the later Neolithic to the end of the Bronze Age.

#### *Bibliography*

Andrefsky, W. 2005 *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Healy, F. 1988 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the Seventh to Second Millennium BC*. EAA 39

## **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The monitoring recovered 298 sherds weighing 1.814 kg. Most of the assemblage (97%) is prehistoric (but also includes 2 or 3 possibly early Roman sherds) in poor condition comprising mainly abraded and often very small sherds.

Pit F2008 (L2009) contained remains of two probably originally complete vessels. One comprising 142 sherds contained flint temper and had an ovoid profile with a simple everted rim. It contained dispersed vertical line decoration down the body. A similar example came from Bittering 13023 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC (Percival 1999, 248 and P23). The other vessel comprised base sherds with some of the broken wall sherds pressed down onto it. The fabric consisted of fairly fine sand with organics, which is in keeping with a later Iron Age development.

Pit F2022 (L2023) contained two flint tempered sherds with profuse random finger cordon decoration also similar to Bittering 13023 (Percival 1999, 248 & P34 and Percival 2000, 182)

Pit F2005 (L2006) contained 41 Iron Age flint tempered sherds with one tiny sherd from the residue, in fine sandy oxidized fabric with rare flint, which is probably either Late Iron Age or Roman. Ditch F2007 (L2008) contained a tiny indeterminate grey ware sherd which is probably Roman, though a possible Late Saxon/Early Medieval date is possible.

The remaining prehistoric features are probably all Iron Age, although some earlier sherds might be present. Most notably Pit F2024 included two grog tempered sherds probably of Bronze Age date.

## *Bibliography*

Percival 1999 *The Launditch and its Setting*. Norfolk Archaeology

Percival 2000 *Land of the Iceni Studies in East Anglia History*

## **The Ceramic Building Material**

*Andrew Peachey*

Ditch F2016 (L2017) contained two cross-joining fragments (499g) of late post-medieval to early modern pantile. This roof tile is in an oxidised orange fabric with common medium sand temper and sparse flint fragments. Pantiles were introduced in the early to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century with types such as this continuing through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## **Animal Bone**

*Carina Phillips*

Animal bone was hand excavated from ditches F2003 (L2004) and F2012 (L2013). All the animal bone is highly eroded. A single sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra* sp.) tibia was recovered from F2003. F2013 contains the partial remains of an immature hare (*Lepus* sp.), consisting of bones from the front legs and part of the pelvis.

## **Shell**

*Carina Phillips*

A single oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell was hand excavated from L2017 (F2016). The shell consists of an upper bivalve and exhibits evidence of worm parasites.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1 Area 1: Topsoil stripping, view south-west



DP2 Sample Section 1, view west



DP3 Ditch F2003, view south



DP4 Ditch F2016, view north-east



DP5 Pit F2005, view west



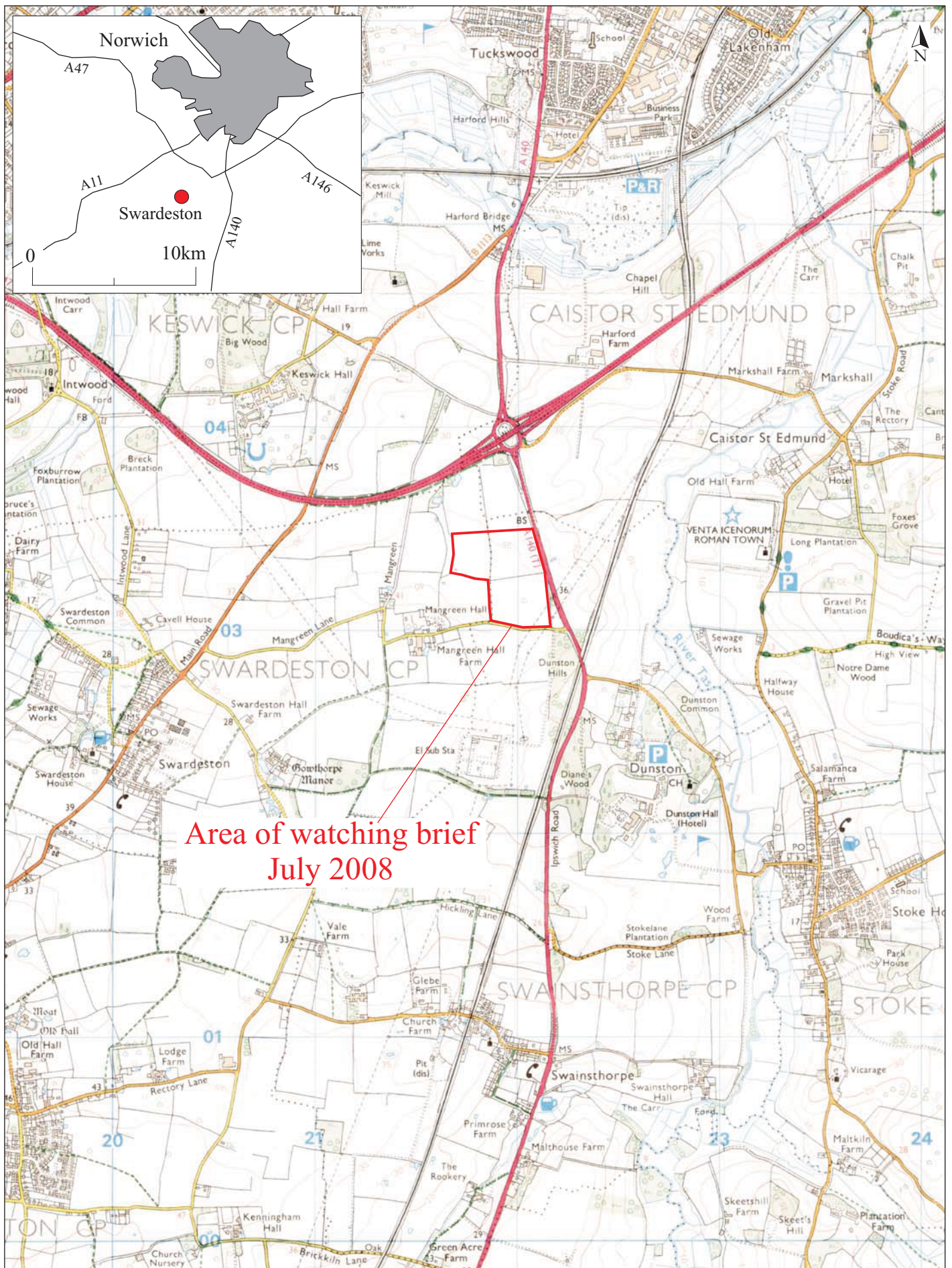
DP6 Pit F2008, view north-west



DP7 Ditch F2028, view north



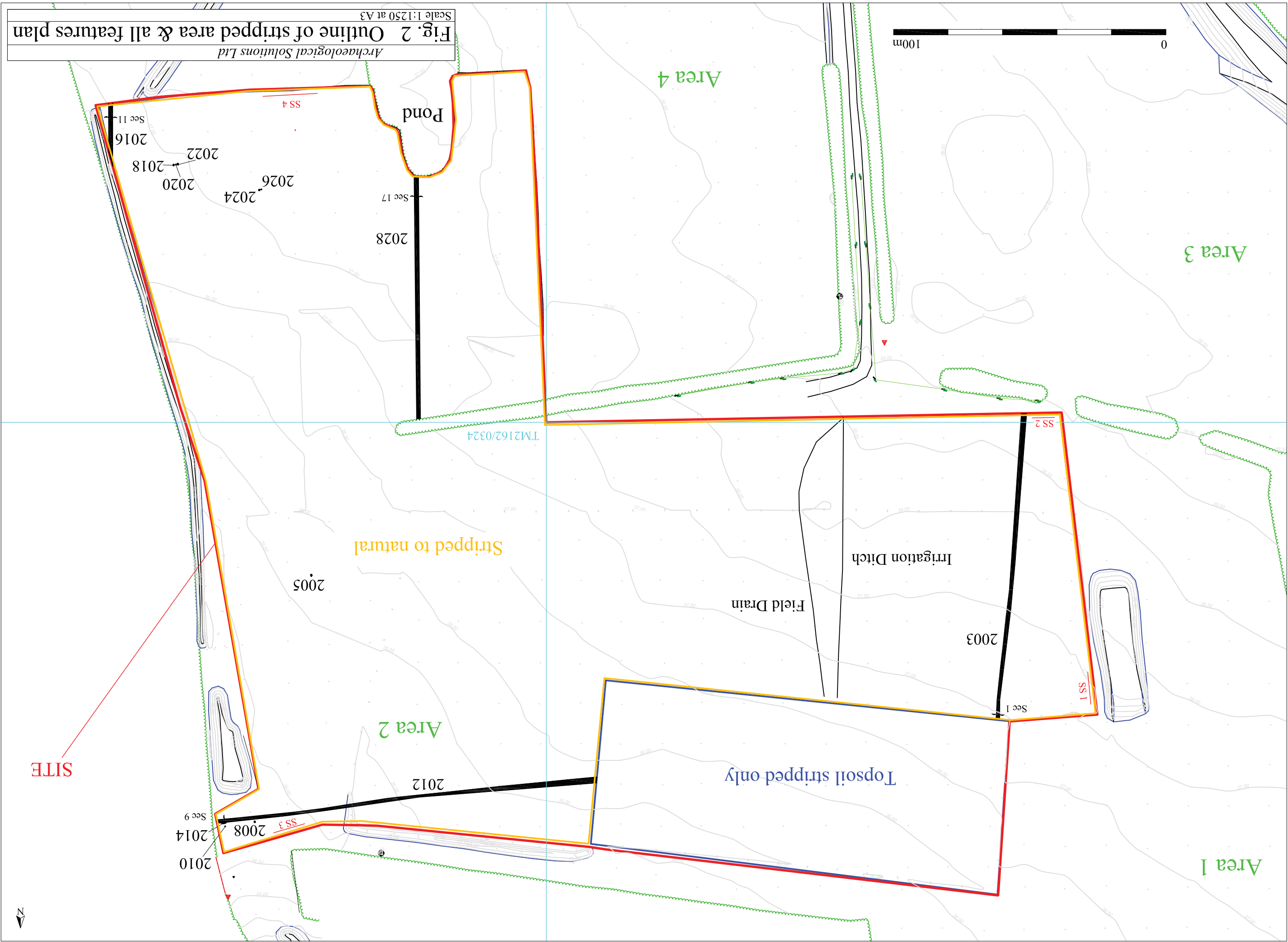
DP8 Pottery from F2008



Area of watching brief  
July 2008

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



Scale 1:1250 at A3  
**Fig. 2 Outline of stripped area & all features plan**  
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