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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**SHROPHAM QUARRY, NORFOLK  
PROPOSED EXTENSION**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
(FIELDWALKING & METAL DETECTING SURVEY)**

Authors: Matthew Adams MA Gary Brogan BSc	
NGR: TL 9900 9420	Report No. 3177
District: Breckland	Site Code: 38228.SHM
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 2800
Signed:	Date: April 2009

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Proposed Extension, Shropham Quarry, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation (Field Walking &amp; Metal Detecting Survey)</i>		
<p><i>In September and November 2008 and March 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted an archaeological fieldwalking and metal detector survey at two separate areas of land (Area A and Area B) at Shropham Quarry, Norfolk (NGR TL 9900 9420). An archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously undertaken (Doyle 2008). The assessment and field walking were undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement being prepared for the site, for proposed sand and gravel extraction.</i></p> <p><i>Previous archaeological investigations to the immediate west and north-west of the site revealed extensive evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and occupation on the hilltop, which possibly served as a ceremonial focus-point. Area B of the site is thought to have the highest potential for similarly-dated remains given its proximity to the known occupation evidence. The eastern area of the site, Area A, is known to have yielded finds of a single Neolithic pottery rim sherd and a Neolithic or Bronze Age flint knife. Little is known of the site in later periods, other than that it formed part of the Corporation of Norwich land located well-beyond the northern extent of Shropham village.</i></p> <p><i>The fieldwalking revealed two concentrations of flint, mostly burnt but some struck. The most obvious was in the south-west corner of Area B and the other was in the northern part of Area A. The distribution of the struck flint and burnt flint is directly comparable in both areas to geophysical anomalies that possibly represent rectilinear enclosures. Therefore there is the potential for archaeological remains at these parts of the site.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September and November 2008, and March 2009		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y		
P. number	2800	Site Code	38228.SHM
Type of project	<i>Fieldwalking and metal detector survey</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Burnt flint, struck flint, Roman sherd, post-med and modern pottery, CBM</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Shropham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>Area B 6.3 Ha. Area A 5.4 Has</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 9900 9420</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.30-40m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Matthew Adams</i>		
Funded by	<i>Ennstone Johnston Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Extension, Shropham Quarry, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation (Field Walking &amp; Metal Detecting Survey)</i>		
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Date (of report)	<i>April 2008</i>		

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## SHROPHAM QUARRY, NORFOLK PROPOSED EXTENSION

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (FIELD WALKING AND METAL DETECTOR SURVEY)

#### **SUMMARY**

*In September and November 2008 and March 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted an archaeological fieldwalking and metal detector survey at two separate areas of land (Area A and Area B) at Shropham Quarry, Norfolk (NGR TL 9900 9420). An archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously undertaken (Doyle 2008). The assessment and field walking were undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement being prepared for the site, for proposed sand and gravel extraction.*

*Previous archaeological investigations to the immediate west and north-west of the site revealed extensive evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and occupation on the hilltop, which possibly served as a ceremonial focus-point. Area B of the site is thought to have the highest potential for similarly-dated remains given its proximity to the known occupation evidence. The eastern area of the site, Area A, is known to have yielded finds of a single Neolithic pottery rim sherd and a Neolithic or Bronze Age flint knife. Little is known of the site in later periods, other than that it formed part of the Corporation of Norwich land located well-beyond the northern extent of Shropham village.*

*The fieldwalking revealed two concentrations of flint, mostly burnt but some struck. The most obvious was in the south-west corner of Area B and the other was in the northern part of Area A. The distribution of the struck flint and burnt flint is directly comparable in both areas to geophysical anomalies that possibly represent rectilinear enclosures. Therefore there is the potential for archaeological remains at these parts of the site.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During September and November 2008, and March 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out fieldwalking and metal detecting on land Area A and Area B) at Shropham Quarry, Norfolk (NGR: TL 9900 9420) (Figs.1-2). An archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously undertaken (Doyle 2008). The work was commissioned by David L Walker Chartered Surveyors on behalf of Ennstone Johnston Limited, and was conducted as part of the Environmental Statement being prepared for the site. The proposed extension is for two areas of sand and gravel extraction (planning application Ref. SP/C/3/2008/3002).

1.2 The project was conducted according to a specification prepared by AS (29<sup>th</sup> April 2008) and advice issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA; dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008). The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2001) and the East Anglian region's document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 This report presents the results of the archaeological field survey only. The brief also required the compilation of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Doyle 2008) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2008). The results of these elements of the project are presented separately.

1.4 The report was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16), which is widely applied by local authorities. PPG16 (1994) applies to archaeology and states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, when necessary, the excavation of the site.

1.5 The principal aim of the field survey was to determine the location and extent of any artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil, in order to inform strategies for any required further archaeological mitigation.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Shropham Quarry is located within the parish of Shropham, which lies within the district of Breckland, Norfolk (Fig. 1). It is *c.* 5km west of Attleborough and approximately 13km north-east of the large town of Thetford. The village of Shropham is situated 1km to the south-south-west of the site, whilst Lower Stow Bedon lies 2km to the west and the hamlet of Mount Pleasant only 700m to the north-north-east. Whilst the village of Shropham has evolved along the crossroads of the Watton/Hargham Road and Rocklands Road, the quarry is situated along the course of Rocklands Road.

2.2 The western half of Shropham parish is located within the Breckland Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), as defined by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF, now DEFRA; ADAS 1995) in 1988, and used as the basis for the Breckland Archaeological Survey (Sussams 1996), although the site lies 3km to the east of the Breckland Environmentally Sensitive Area. Previous archaeological investigations to the immediate west of the site reveal that both areas of the site lie within a potentially archaeologically significant area. The proposed development is for the extension of Shropham Quarry and will comprise two areas of sand and gravel extraction, which will be recovered over a six year period.

2.3 This report concerns the fieldwalking and metal detecting of two separate areas at Shropham Quarry, hereafter identified as Area A to the east of Rocklands Road, and Area B to the west (Fig. 1). Area A is two rectangular fields located north of Spong Lane. It comprises an area of 5.4 hectares of agricultural land and is bound to the north-west and east by field boundaries. Area B is an irregular plot of land with a southern arm reaching south-eastwards to Rocklands Road. It covers an area of *c.* 6.3 hectares and comprises sections of three agricultural fields.

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

3.1 The site is situated in a predominately agricultural area (Fig. 1) of the Brecklands, which comprises an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) crossing both Norfolk and Suffolk. Shropham Quarry lies in an area of gently sloping relief, which declines in the north and east toward the River Thet valley. The course of the River Thet flows 150m to the north of Area B, and 400m to the north of Area A, whilst a series of gravel pits lie 600m to the east. Both areas of the site have a gently sloping relief, with Area B located at 42m AOD at its western boundary, down to 30m AOD to its north and east. Area A, however, is centred upon a small hill at *c.* 42m AOD, dropping to 35m AOD in its north-western and north-eastern corners.

3.2 Two recent site investigations confirm that the site is located upon a solid geology of Cretaceous Upper Chalk, which is overlain by Anglian Pliocene sands and gravels, which are of marine and glacial origins (Gibb 2006; Walker 2008). A series of trial pits dug within the site in 2006 revealed that it lay on a base of sand/sand and gravel marked by a soft brown boulder clay or firm boulder clay with chalky fragments (Gibb 2006). Area B was also overlain by 0.4 – 0.65m of brown silty topsoil with occasional gravel, whilst the same overburden in Area A measured 0.4 – 0.6m. Most recently, a trial pit investigation of the quarry suggested that Area A was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil (Walker 2008).

3.3 The site is known to lie on the cusp of several different soil associations (SSEW 1983). Area A of the site and the central section of Area B are thought to lie upon soils of the Worlington Association, which are described as deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acidic with subsurface pan, with widespread small-scale polygonal soil patterns and at risk of wind erosion (*ibid.*). The southern extent of Area B, however, lies upon soils of the Ollerton Association, which comprises a deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soil affected by groundwater, with some coarse loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal water logging. Soils of the Isleham 2 Association are also noted in Area B's northern section.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The detailed archaeological background to the site has been presented in an archaeological desk-based assessment (Doyle 2008). The site has a varied but significant potential for archaeological remains.

4.2 The site has only a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods as no finds of that date have been documented in the surrounding area. Previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area, however, have revealed extensive evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and it is known that Neolithic and Bronze Age finds have been found within Area A of the site. There is thus a high potential for further Neolithic and Bronze Age remains to be found within the site. Cartographic sources have also suggested that earthworks suggestive of barrows lay to both the east and west of the site.

4.3 The Iron Age is only moderately represented in the area surrounding the site. Iron Age remains are known only in the wider area and thus the site has only a low to moderate potential for such remains. There is a moderate potential for Romano-British remains to be found, particularly given the discovery of Romano-British pottery on Honeypots Plantation Hill and further finds close to the site.

4.4 An important early Saxon cremation cemetery is known to exist in proximity to the site and has yielded finds of cremation urns, human remains and grave goods. There is thus a moderate to high potential for further Anglo-Saxon remains to be found, although the site is known to have stood well beyond the northern extent of the known occupation area of Shropham. Similarly, there is only a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval, post-medieval, early modern and modern periods given its rural character and distance from any known area of occupation.

4.5 In general, the two areas of the site have a very similar potential for archaeological remains dating from specific periods. It is notable, however, that Area B of the site lies to the immediate east of the Neolithic and Bronze Age remains revealed during the AS monitoring and recording (Hogan, Woolhouse, Barlow & Grassam 2007) and in a contiguous field to the south-east, occupation evidence found by excavation (NAU 2005). Area B is thus most likely to reveal further evidence of the Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation and hilltop ceremonial activity. Area A, however, is known to have yielded finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, but lies almost 1km from the previous archaeological investigation.

## **5 FIELDWALKING METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The areas outlined for the extension were subject to fieldwalking and metal detecting (Figs. 1-2). The fieldwalking 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 20 m squares within which 2m wide transects were scanned for finds. Each kilometre square was assigned a letter (A) and then sub-divided into hectare blocks, numbered from 1-100 starting at the south-west corner. Each hectare was then sub-divided into 20 m 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 at 1:2000 (Figs. 3-5).

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

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of artefacts within the areas of ploughsoil surveyed by fieldwalking/metal detector survey. It was carried out in conditions of good visibility. The metal detector survey was effective in locating metal items (albeit of recent date).

6.2 The northern edge of the west field in Area A was unsuitable for fieldwalking due to a crop and slurry dump, and the northern edge of Area B was also unsuitable for survey because of a partial grass and crop coverage. The north-west corner of Area B (including grid A65, parts of grids A64, A74 and A75) looked as though it had been previously quarried and the ground reinstated.

## 7 RESULTS

7.1 Area A (Fig. 3)

7.1.1 The distribution of all finds noticeably occurs in the northern half of the area. It is clear that the occurrence of burnt flint especially is located in relative high numbers in grid B41 and into grid B31. However there is only one struck flint, a blade in B31V, that corresponds to this localised concentration of burnt flint. Two flint flakes were recovered 100m to the west in B21V. In total 6 fragments (46g) of struck flint and 14 fragments (352g) of burnt flint were recovered.

7.1.2 Pottery finds were very few and again concentrated in the northern half of the area. A single sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Century pottery was recovered from B31V. The remainder of the pottery was post-medieval or early modern and were most common in grid B41.

7.1.3 Ceramic Building Material was concentrated toward in the northern and western parts of the area. The earliest comprised small fragments of Romano-British tegula roof tile in B11X and B21W, both located in the north-west corner of Area A. Grid B11X also contained three small fragments of post-medieval peg tile, while further single fragments of post-medieval peg tile were recovered from B21R, B31S, C29F and C40A. The post-medieval peg tile probably accounts for the bulk, if not all, of the remaining miscellaneous CBM.



7.1.4 The metal detecting survey located a concentration of iron fragments in the extreme north-west corner of Area A (grids B11Y, B12U and B22J) and one iron fragment in the south-east corner of the area (C59E). It is likely that these objects derived from broken modern farm machinery.

## 7.2 Area B (Figs 4 and 5)

7.2.1 A total of 20 fragments (123g) of struck flint, 55 fragments (737g) of burnt flint and a single fragment (41g) of burnt quartzite were located in Area B. There was a very discernable concentration of flint in the south-west corner of the area (Fig 5). Most of it was burnt and located in grids A52, A53, A62 and A63, but there is a corresponding concentration of struck flint (including a piercer and parts of four blades and four scrappers) within the same grids. There was a lesser scatter of burnt flint and struck flint flakes eastward across the site from the south-west corner. However the apparent lack of flint in grids A64, A65 and A75 may be artificial as it is likely that these grids had previously been quarried (see 6.2 above).

7.2.2 There were only two sherds of pottery recovered. The earliest was a highly abraded late Bronze Age / early Iron Age sherd located in grid A62V. The other was 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century and was located in A75A (possibly within the landscaping associated with previous quarrying).

7.2.3 Ceramic Building Material was located sparsely across the area. There was no discernable pattern to the spread, and only 6 fragments were located. A single fragment of baked clay (4g) was recovered from A63A. The fragment was moderately abraded and was tempered with coarse sand and organic material. It may have originated as daub in the prehistoric or medieval periods but is too insubstantial to allow any further conclusions. Of the other fragments there was one fragment of post-medieval peg-tile (grid 74X) and one modern brick (grid 84V).

7.2.4 Only three small iron fragments were located by the metal detector survey.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The most obvious concentration of artefacts was that of the flint, both burnt and struck, in the south-west corner of Area B. This is the area located south and east of the previous excavation at the site by NAU (see 4.5 above) and it also corresponds with a geophysical anomaly that is likely to be a rectilinear enclosure (Stratascan 2008). Given the relatively large scatter of flint in this area, especially grid A53 which is over the anomaly, it is possible that it is of prehistoric date. A single sherd of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery was recovered 160m south-east of the anomaly.

8.2 A further, although less obvious, concentration of burnt flint was located in Area A. This was located at the top of the localised hill in grid B41 and part of B31. Again, this area corresponds to a number of geophysical anomalies that are likely to represent one and possibly two rectilinear enclosures. However, there is also a relative

concentration of post-medieval pottery and CBM in this area, so a possible prehistoric date for these anomalies cannot be assumed.

8.3 Evidence for Roman activity is restricted to a single pottery sherd (Area A grid B31V) and small fragments of Romano-British tegula roof tile (B11X and B21W, both Area B).

8.4 Away from the two flint concentrations noted above in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 there were no other concentrations artefacts, suggesting that the remaining parts of the site remained undeveloped in the medieval and post-medieval periods. It was apparent on site that the north-west corner of Area B has already been quarried and reinstated.

## 9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Castle Museum, Norwich. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual data.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd is grateful to Ennstone Johnston Limited for funding the works and to their agents, David Walker Associates, for their assistance (in particular Mr Dan Walker).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr David Gurney and Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

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CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AREA A

Find Spot	Metal Detector	Bo x Km	Transec	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	B.Flint	S.Flint	Other
		B 41	B	41			(1) 28		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 20		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 12		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 31		
		B 41	B	41			(2) 52		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 29		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 37		
		B 41	B	41			(2) 53		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 27		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 19		
		B 41	B	41			(1) 17g		
		B 41	B	41			(3) 11g		
		B 41	B	41			(2) 1g		
		C 49	N	16th - 18th		(1) 1g	31g		
		C 50	P	Late 16th - 18th		(1) 19g			
		C 50	Y						Clay Pipe Stem (1) 1g
		C 59	E						Fe Fragment (1) 11g
		C 60	B	Late 18th - 19th		(1) 1g			
		C 60	F				(1) 1g		
		C 60	W	18th - 19th		(1) 1g			
1		C 20	B						(1) 16g
2		C 20	B				(1) 24g		
3		B 21	R			24			
4		C 20	F			8			

5	B	11	I						
6				Stone: Discarded					
7				Iron stone fragment: Discarded					
8	B	11	X			54			
9				Iron stone fragment: Discarded					
10	B	11	X			58			
11				Iron stone fragment: Discarded					
12	B	11	S				(1) 48g		
13	C	20	M			36			
14	C	20	N			14			
15	C	20	L				(1) 48g		
16	C	20	J			428			
17	C	20	Y			38			
18	C	30	E			6			
19	C	20	T			10			
20	C	29	F			43			
21	C	30	O			14	(1) 8g		
22	C	30	O			8			
23	B	21	R			28			
25	B	21	W	18th - 19th Century	(1) 36g	56			
26	B	21	V				(1) 6g	(2) 2g	
27	B	31	S			80			
28	B	31	W			<1			
29	B	31	V	1st - 3rd Century	(1) 6g				
30	C	40	W						
31	C	40	R			30			
32	C	40	A						
33	C	40	H						(1)



						A	53	O	(1), 38g			
						A	53	P	(1), 8g			
						A	53	Q	(1) 2g			
						A	53	U	(1) 8g			
						A	53	V	(1) 2g (1) 1g			
						A	62	B	(2), 10g			
						A	62	C	(1), 6g			
						A	62	D	(1), 2g			
						A	62	E	(1), 2g (2) 22g			
						A	62	F	(1), 4g			
						A	62	G	(2), 6g (1) 8g			
						A	63	A				
						A	63	N	(2) 12g			
						O	63	O	(2) 10g (1) 1g			
						Y	61	Y	(1) 18g			
35						A	72	A	(1) 2g			
36						U	73	U	(1) 4g			
37						V	84	V	(1) 4g			
38						V	84	V	(1) 4g			
39						V	84	V		870		
40						E	94	E	(1) 4g			
41						W	84	W	(1) 22g			
42						F	83	F	(1) 24g			
43												Iron stone fragment: Discarded
44						O	72	O		6		
45						B	72	B	(1) 16g			
46						F	72	F	(1) 12g			

47	62	V	Late bronze age / early Iron age	(1) 1g			
48	62	T					Clay Pipe Stem (1) 3g
49	73	A		(1) 2g			
50	73	M		(1) 14g			
51	73	Y		(1) 12g			
52	84	A		(1) 26g			
53			Stone: Discarded				
54	84	J		(1) 10g			
55	84	Y		(1) 4g			
56	84	P		(1) 84g			
57			Stone: Discarded				
58	84	H		(1) 14g			
59	85	F		(1) 2g			
60	83	F		(1) 42g			
61	74	V		(1) 46g			
62	62	N		(1) 2g			
63	74	Q		(1) 46g			
64	74	X			22		
65	75	V		(1) 4g			
66	74	F		(1) 4g			
67	75	A			38		
68	75	A	17th - 18th Century	(1) 4g			
69			Stone: Discarded				
70	65	K					Mortar (1) 27g
71			Metal staple: Discarded				
72	64	L			8		
73	64	S		(1) 4g			
74			Stone: Discarded				
75	74	B		(1) 48			



76									Stone: Discarded
77									Stone: Discarded
78									Stone: Discarded
		9							Stone: Discarded
		10							Stone: Discarded
		11	84	M					Stone: Discarded
		12							Iron stone fragment: Discarded
		13							Iron stone fragment: Discarded
		14							Metal staple: Discarded
		15							Stone: Discarded
		16	62	T					
		17	54	U					
									Fe Fragment (1) 3g
									Fe Fragment (1) 14g

## **APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **AREA A**

#### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

Field walking recovered sparse fragments of abraded CBM of which very few forms could be identified.

The earliest CBM comprised probable single, small fragments of Romano-British tegula roof tile in Boxes B11X (58g) and B21W (57g).

Box B11X also contained three small fragments (54g) of post-medieval peg tile, while further single fragments of post-medieval peg tile were recovered from B21R (24g), B31S (80g), C29F (43g) and C40A (68g). The post-medieval peg tile probably accounts for the bulk, if not all, of the remaining miscellaneous CBM, however these fragments are unidentifiable and comprises very small, highly abraded and rounded miscellaneous fragments of oxidised, sand-tempered fabrics. The miscellaneous fragments are present in Boxes B11I, B31W, B41C, B41K, B41L, B41M, B41P, C20F, C20M, C20N, C20Y, C30E, C30O C40R and C49N.

A single fragment (428g) of modern machine cut brick was recovered from Box C20J.

#### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey*

Field walking collected a total of 6 fragments (46g) of struck flint and 14 fragments (352g) of burnt flint. The struck flint is in a fresh, sharp condition and is generally unpatinated. The struck flint is almost entirely comprised of the high quality dark grey (near black) flint with a white cortex, while a single orange-brown fragment was also present. The dark grey flint occurs naturally in the main flint belt that runs down through central Norfolk (Orna & Orna 1984, 2) and over which Shropham is located, therefore was certainly sourced locally, whilst the orange-brown fragments probably represents a nodule collected from local tertiary, surface gravels.

#### *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.

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. 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).

## **AREA B**

### **The Daub and Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

A single fragment of baked clay (4g) was recovered from Box A63A. The fragment is moderately abraded and was tempered with coarse sand and organic material. It may have originated as daub in the prehistoric or medieval periods but is too insubstantial to allow any further conclusions.

The remaining CBM includes a single fragment (22g) of post-medieval peg tile recovered from Box 74X, while an abraded fragment of modern, machine cut brick (870g) was recovered from Box 84V. The remaining miscellaneous fragments are too small to allow any form type to be identified and could feasibly have their origins in a time span ranging from the Roman to post-medieval periods, although the post-medieval period is most likely. These fragments were recovered from Boxes 64L, 72O and 75A.

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey*

Field walking collected a total of 20 fragments (123g) of struck flint, 55 fragments (737g) of burnt flint and a single fragment (41g) of burnt quartzite. The struck flint is in a fresh, sharp condition and is generally unpatinated although three fragments exhibited minor patination resulting from weathering. The struck flint is entirely comprised of the high quality dark grey (near black) flint with a white cortex. This type of flint occurs naturally in the main flint belt that runs down through central Norfolk (Orna & Orna 1984, 2) and over which Shropham is located, therefore was certainly sourced locally.

#### *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.

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. 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).

### Discussion

This small assemblage included 9 small utilised flakes and only two fragments of debitage (Table 1) that taken as a group may tentatively suggest activity in the Neolithic period.

Implement/Flake Type	Frequency
Scrapers	5
Blades	4
Piercer	1
Debitage	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>20</i>

Table 1: Composition of the struck flint

The scrapers include four side scrapers (in A53D, A53U, A62E and 72B) and a double side scraper (in A62G). The example in A62E is notable as it comprises a thick flake with steep unilateral retouch. The remaining scrapers are all formed on thinner tertiary or uncorticated flakes with limited medium to fine retouch to sharpen the edges. The side scraper in A62E was recovered alongside a retouched blade that was 50mm in length and 10mm in width and had been subject to bilateral, fine retouch comparable to that on the other recorded scrapers. Of the remaining blades, two (in A52W and A53Q) had dimensions of 35mm in length and 10mm in width with a prismatic profile. The remaining blade (in A63O) was broken but was comparable in width and profile. The final implement, a piercer in A53J comprised a short point formed by the limited bilateral and bifacial retouch of the edges of a tertiary flake. Debitage flakes were generally quite thin with several examples bordering on blade-like. The debitage flakes were recovered from Boxes A53B, A53V, 62N, 72A, 73U, 74F, 84V, 84Y and 85F. The limited quantity and method of recovery cautions against any further conclusions, however the recorded fragments have tentative affinities with Neolithic flintwork. These fragments mitigate against any form of flint reduction in the vicinity and may represent casual loss or discard.

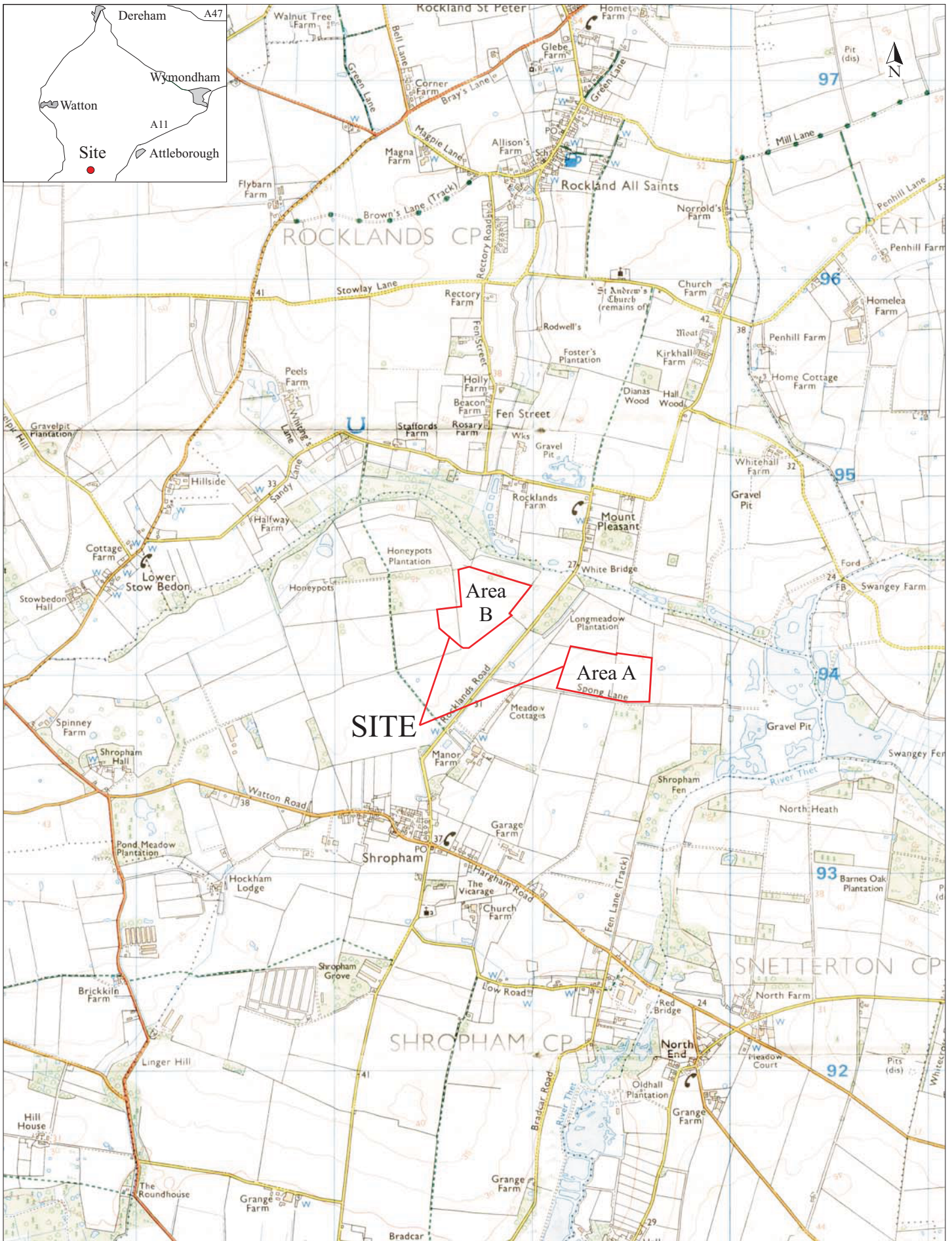
The burnt flint was entirely sourced from the same locally available dark grey flint (before burning) as identified for the struck flint. None of the burnt flint has been retouched, reduced or worked in any way after burning; however a single fragment (38g) in Box A53O comprises a broken fragment of a core with at least one striking platform still evident. The core may have been broken during burning removing any evidence of further platforms. Excluding this core fragment (and the fragment of burnt quartzite) the remaining burnt flint comprises relatively small fragments that are never present in any concentration. The single fragment of quartzite (41g) was recovered alongside a fragment of burnt flint in A52Y. Quartzite would have been locally

available in local river gravels (as well as regional coastal deposits) and is a viable alternative lithic material to flint although there is no indication of working here.

*Bibliography*

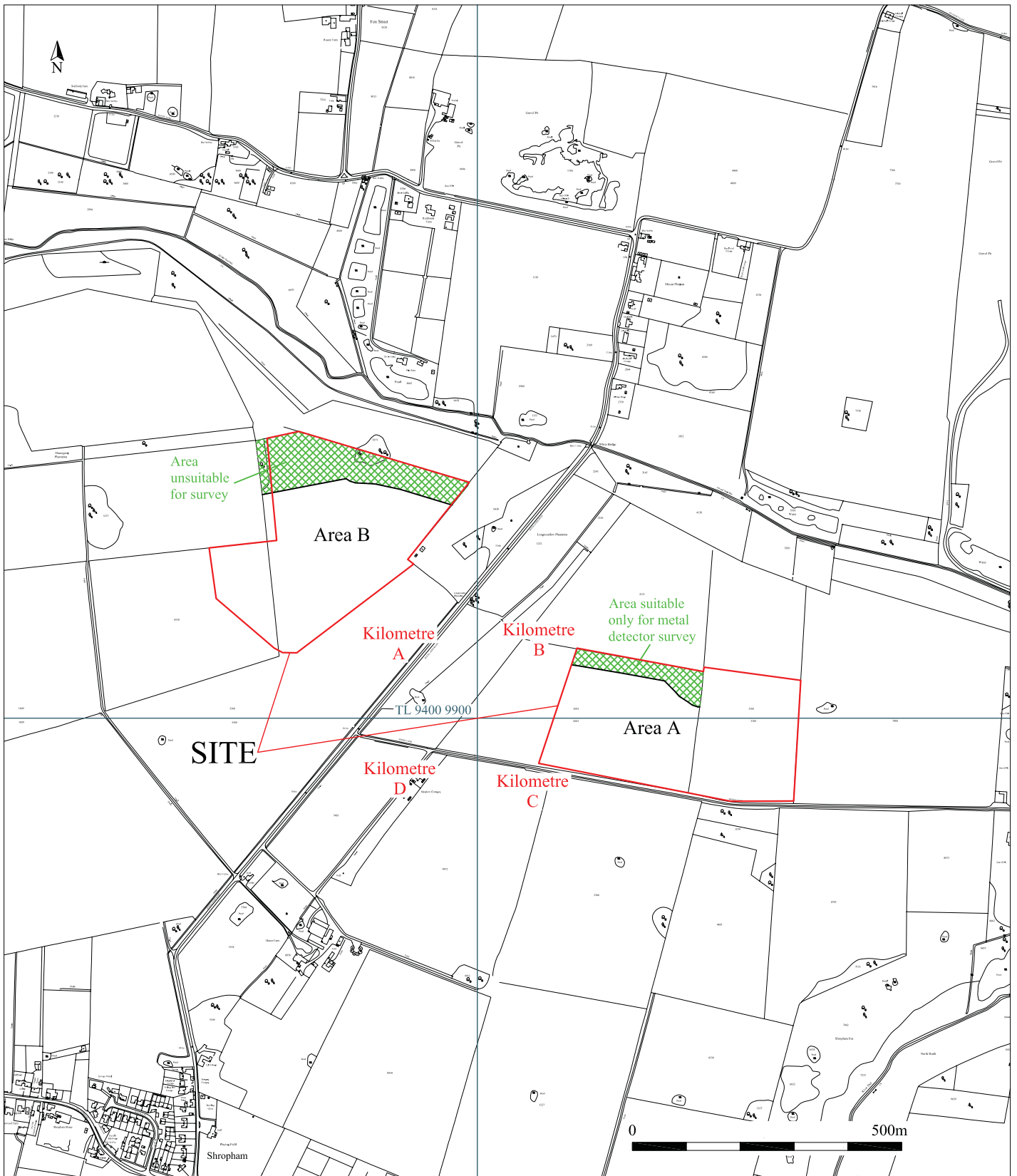
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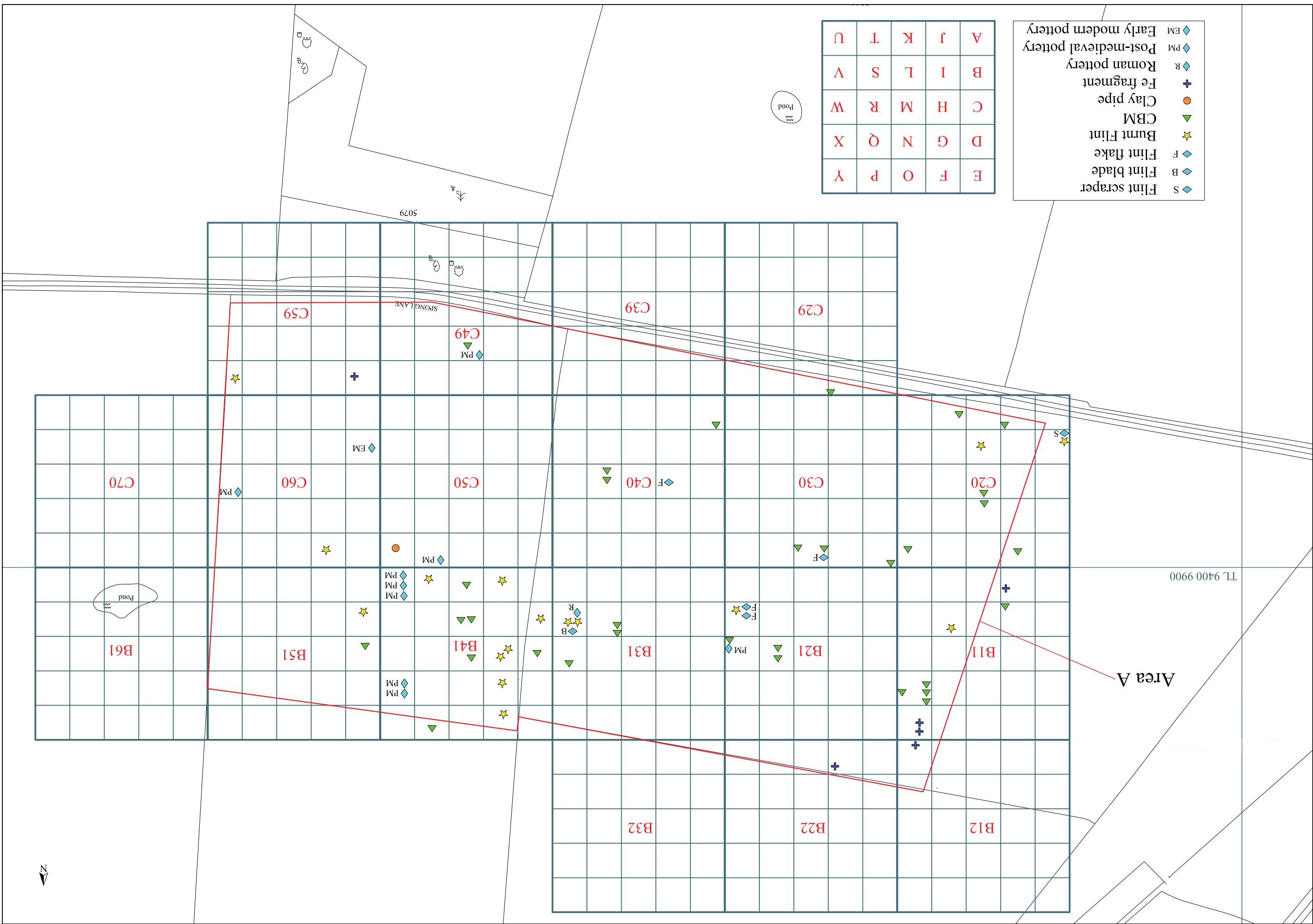
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1 : 25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



- ◆ S Flint scraper
- ◆ B Flint blade
- ◆ F Flint flake
- ★ Burnt Flint
- ▼ CBM
- Clay pipe
- + Fe fragment
- ◆ R Roman pottery
- ◆ PM Post-medieval pottery
- ◆ EM Early modern pottery

A	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
B	I	L	S	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD

Area A

TL 9400 9900

5079

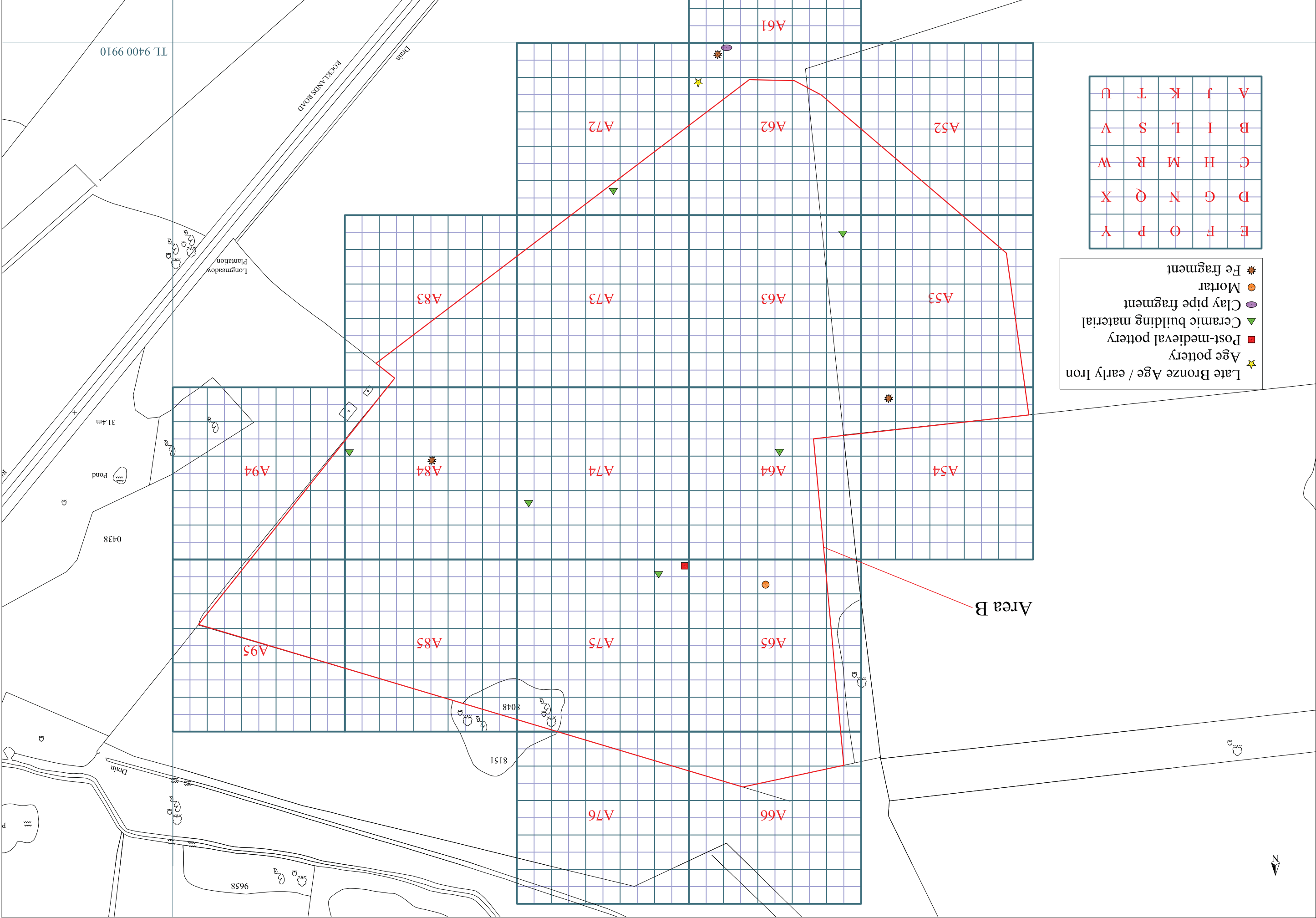
SPOGLANE

Pond

Pond







A	J	K	T	U
B	I	L	S	V
C	H	M	R	W
D	G	N	Q	X
E	F	O	P	Y

- ★ Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery
- ★ Age pottery
- Post-medieval pottery
- ▼ Ceramic building material
- Clay pipe fragment
- Mortar
- ✱ Fe fragment





A	f	K	T	U
B	I	L	S	V
C	H	M	R	W
D	G	N	Q	X
E	F	O	P	Y

- ★ Burnt Flint
- ◆ Flint flake
- ◆ Flint piercer
- ◆ Flint blade
- ◆ Flint scraper

