
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**89 LODDON ROAD,
DITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Authors: Lisa Smith (fieldwork) Pete Thompson (DBA report) | |
| NGR: TM 3427 9132 | Report No. 3563 |
| Parish: Ditchingham | Site Code: ENF 124654 |
| Approved: C. Halpin MIFA | Project No. P3912 |
| Signed: | Date: June 2010 |

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

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| Project details | | | |
| Project name | 89 Loddon Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk. Monitoring and Recording | | |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| <p><i>In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of continual archaeological monitoring and recording at 89 Loddon Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk. The project comprised the continual monitoring of all groundwork, principally the excavation of foundation and service trenches for two new detached bungalows.</i></p> <p><i>Broome Heath, to the south and east of Loddon Road, is an area of prehistoric occupation which includes a Neolithic settlement (NHER 10602) and long barrow (NHER 10957), and Bronze Age round barrows (NHER 10611, 10632 and 43778). The heath was also used for World War I and II military training (NHER 43776). A Tower Mill, demolished in 1955, was located c. 100m to the south-west of the site (NHER 10649).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were present</i></p> | | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | 1 st -2 nd June 2010 | | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | N | Future work (Y/N/?) | N |
| P. number | 3912 | Site code | ENF 124654 |
| Type of project | Monitoring & Recording | | |
| Site status | - | | |
| Current land use | Residential | | |
| Planned development | Two bungalows | | |
| Main features (+dates) | - | | |
| Significant finds +dates | - | | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | Norfolk | South Norfolk | Ditchingham |
| HER/ SMR for area | Norfolk HER | | |
| Post code (if known) | - | | |
| Area of site | 627m ² | | |
| NGR | TM 3427 9132 | | |
| Height AOD (max/min) | c.5-10 m AOD | | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) | | |
| Project supervisor/s PO | Lisa Smith | | |
| Funded by | Brown & Cook Developments Ltd | | |
| Full title | 89 Loddon Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording | | |
| Authors | Smith, L. & Thompson, P. | | |
| Report no. | 3563 | | |
| Date (of report) | June 2010 | | |

89 LODDON ROAD, DITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of continual archaeological monitoring and recording at 89 Loddon Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk. The project comprised the continual monitoring of all groundwork, principally the excavation of foundation and service trenches for two new detached bungalows.

Broome Heath, to the south and east of Loddon Road, is an area of prehistoric occupation which includes a Neolithic settlement (NHER 10602) and long barrow (NHER 10957), and Bronze Age round barrows (NHER 10611, 10632 and 43778). The heath was also used for World War I and II military training (NHER 43776). A Tower Mill, demolished in 1955, was located c. 100m to the south-west of the site (NHER 10649).

No archaeological features or finds were present

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of continual archaeological monitoring and recording at 89 Loddon Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk (NGR: TM 3427 9132; Fig.1). The programme was commissioned by Brown & Cook Developments Ltd in order to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of two detached dwellings (Reference No. 2008/0637/F).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (dated 19/03/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by AS (dated 06/05/2010). The recording conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, Gurney (2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;

- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Ditchingham is situated 19km south of Norwich (TM 3427 9132), to the north of Bungay. The site is on the east side of the village with houses immediately opposite. Broome Heath is beyond to the south and east. The site consists of an area of 627m², bounded by Loddon Road to the south-east and surrounded by residential properties to the north east and west.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, geology and soils

3.1.1 The site is located at approximately 5-10m AOD on soil described as Typical Brown Sand, close to the interface with other soils such as Typical Stagnogleic Soil. The drift geology is gravels associated with the river Waveney.

3.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 2)

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Broome Heath, to the south and east of the site, is the location of a Neolithic settlement and at least one long barrow. The settlement c.150m to the south is indicated by post holes, pits, hearths and flint tools, and underlies, and is partly enclosed by, a semi-circular earthwork (NHER 10602). The long barrow is c.300m to the east of the site and is approximately 50m by 25m. It contained human bone, probably from secondary burials (NHER 10597). Rabbits have also brought up Neolithic flints and pottery, and a second prehistoric barrow is believed to have been located a little further to the north-east of this (NHER 43777). Neolithic pottery sherds were also found further to the south-west (NHER 10603).

3.2.2 Longevity of use of the Broome Heath area is demonstrated by the presence of Mesolithic flint tools and Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery. A Bronze Age round barrow c.30m in diameter and 2m in height is also located c.150m east of the site (NHER 10611). A second Bronze Age barrow existed c.100m south of this, but was destroyed by quarrying prior to 1858 (NHER 10632). Another possible barrow site which was levelled by 1988 is located c.200m south of the site (NHER 43778).

Roman

3.2.3 Further earthworks identified by aerial photography on Broome Heath including a possible holloway and roadside ditches, may be indicative of Roman or medieval occupation (NHER 44816). The Roman Road of Stone Street is also believed to have run passed the end of Loddon Road, c.300m to the south-west (NHER 10636), and Roman field systems have been identified further to the north-east.

Post-medieval to Modern

3.2.4 A Tower Mill shown on an 1826 map was located to the south-west of the site but was demolished in 1955 (NHER 10649). During WWI and WWII Broome Heath was used as a military training ground and remains of earthworks, slit trenches, and also quarrying in 1945 are evident (NHER 43776). A WWII air crash site also occurred here (NHER 31964).

3.2.5 The closest listed buildings are a range of bungalows built in 1958 comprising 12-14 Thwaite Road (NHER 44787) and 16-12 Thwaite Road (NHER 44788). Undated crop marks, possibly of field boundaries have been identified by aerial photography to the north of the site (NHER 43779) and to the south-west (NHER 43775). An evaluation carried out to the south-west of the site found no archaeological features (NHER 39447).

4 METHODOLOGY - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (Fig. 2)

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the continuous observation of all groundworks, the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were excavated by hand and recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5 RESULTS

Site visits 01/06/2010 and 02/06/10

5.1 The site was visited on the 1st and 2nd June 2010. The topsoil strip across the north-eastern extent of the site was observed. No archaeological features or finds were present. The excavations of the bungalows foundations were also monitored. The foundation trenches were approximately 0.60m wide and excavated to depth of 0.80m below ground level. One sample section was recorded for Plot 1 and four sample sections were recorded in Plot 2, the results are tabulated below.

Plot 1 Sample Section

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| <i>Sample Section 5</i> <i>Excavated footings to NW of Plot 1</i> <i>NW end, SE facing</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.54m | L1000 | Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent flint nodes, rounded flint pebbles and frequent rooting. |
| 0.54m+ | L1001 | Natural drift geology. Mid red yellow, loose sandy gravel. |

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present within the foundation trenches of Plot 1.

Plot 2 Sample Sections

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| <i>Sample Section 1</i> <i>Excavated footings to NE of Plot 2</i> <i>NE end, SW facing</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.54m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above |
| 0.54m+ | L1001 | Natural drift geology, sandy gravel. As above. |

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| Sample Section 2 <i>Excavated footings to SE of building</i> <i>SE end, NW facing</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.60m | L1000 | Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent flint nodes, rounded flint pebbles and frequent rooting. |
| 0.60m+ | L1001 | Natural drift geology. Mid red yellow, loose sandy gravel. |

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| Sample Section 3 <i>Excavated footings to NW of building</i> <i>NW end, SE facing</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.60m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above |
| 0.60m+ | L1001 | Natural drift geology, sandy gravel. As above. |

| | | |
|---|-------|--|
| Sample Section 4 <i>Excavated footings to SW of building Plot 2</i> <i>SE end, NW facing</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.51m | L1002 | Demolition layer. Dark greyish black, friable sandy silt with moderate rounded flint stones. |
| 0.51m+ | L1001 | Natural drift geology. Mid red yellow, loose sandy gravel. |

Description: No archaeological features were present within the foundations. Modern ceramic building material and concrete fragments were observed in the south-west corner of the plot where the demolished building had stood. The demolition layers were recorded in Sample Section 4.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphic sequence was fairly uniform across the majority of the site excepting it was interrupted where the previous building had been demolished. Uppermost was Topsoil L1000. It comprised a mid grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent flint pebbles and roots. Below L1000 was the natural drift geology, L1001. The latter comprised a mid red yellow, loose sandy gravel. The foundations truncated the natural gravel. In the south-western corner of the site the topsoil had been replaced by Demolition Layer L1002 which comprised a dark greyish black, friable sandy silt with moderate rounded flint stones.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains. Broome Heath, to the south and east of Loddon Road, is an area of prehistoric occupation which includes a Neolithic settlement (NHER 10602) and long barrow (NHER 10957), and Bronze Age round barrows (NHER 10611, 10632 and 43778).

9.2 Despite the high archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or finds were present.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site with Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Brown & Cook Developments Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the monitoring and recording (in particular Mr Gary Cook for his assistance). Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank Norfolk Landscape Archaeology for their assistance (in particular Dr Ken Hamilton).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1



General site shot, looking SW

2



Foundation trench, post excavation, looking NE

3



Sample Section 1, looking NE

4



Sample Section 2, looking SE

5

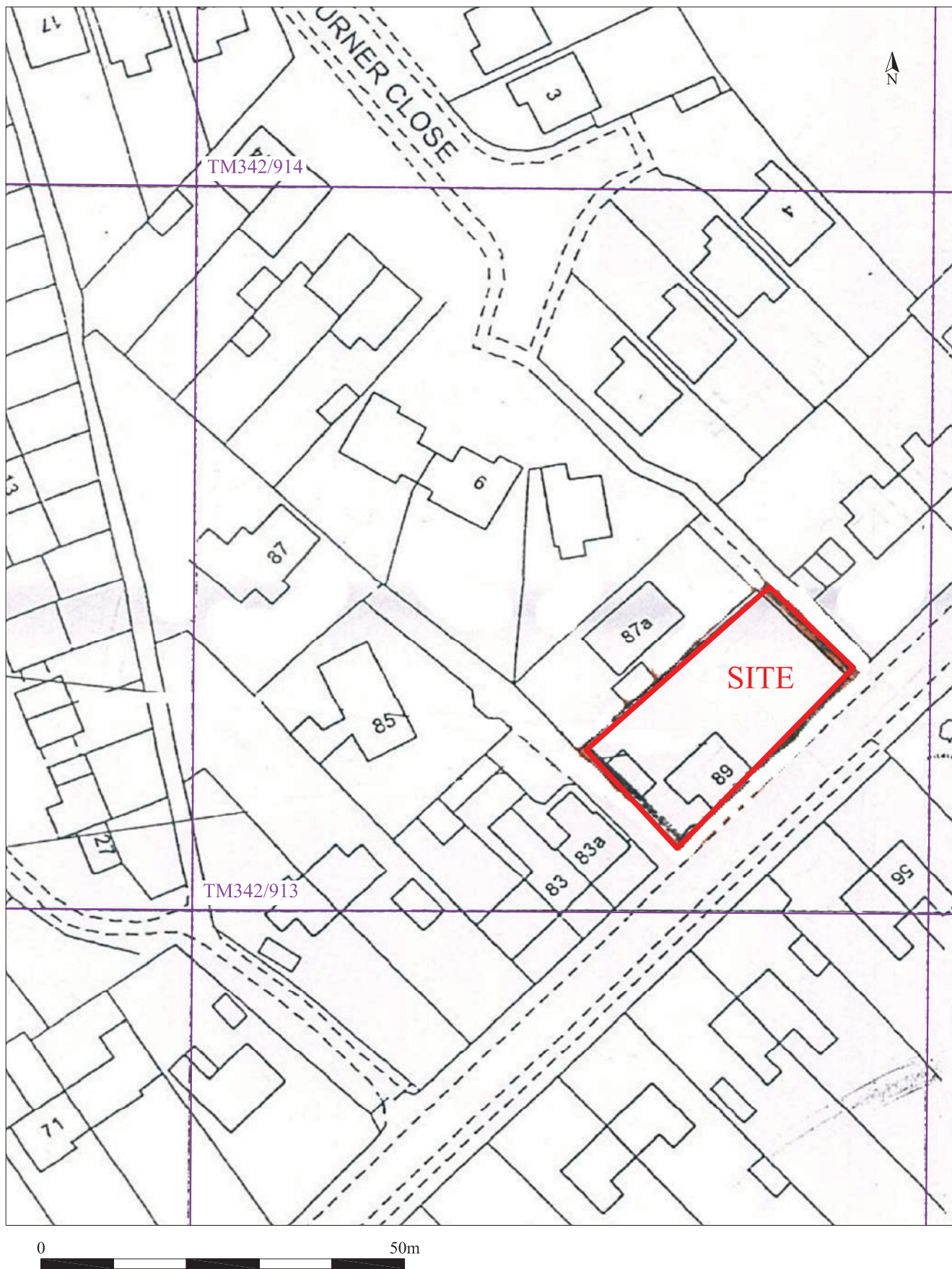


Sample Section 4, looking SW



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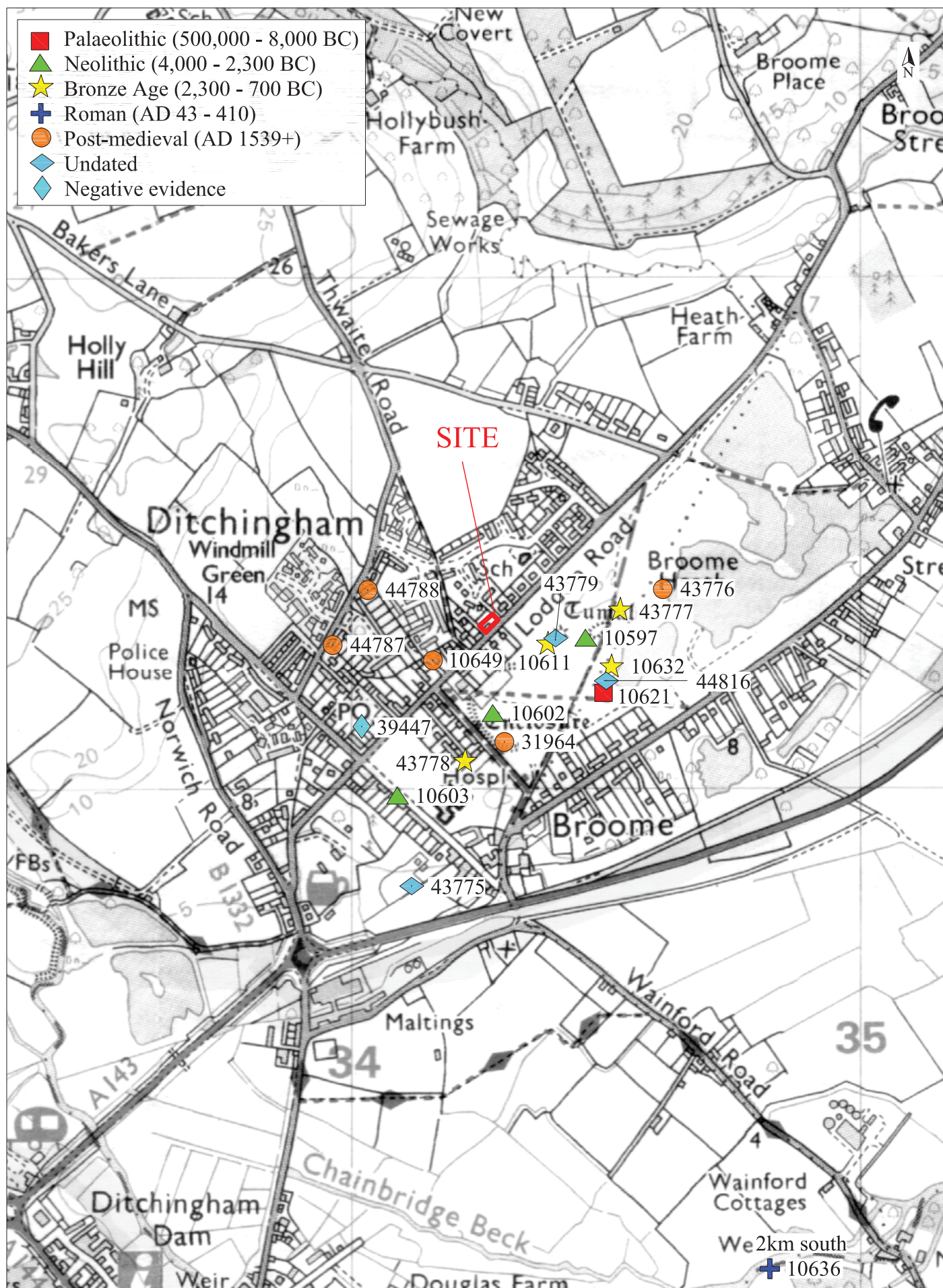
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER Data

Scale 1:10,000 at A4

