


**LAND TO THE REAR OF 22 RAYMOND STREET,
THETFORD, NORFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND TO THE REAR OF 22 RAYMOND STREET,
THETFORD, NORFOLK
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 87136 83871	Report No: 3726
District: Breckland	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4237
Signed: 	Date: January 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Land to the rear of 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk		
<p><i>In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk. The evaluation was conducted to accompany an application for planning permission to construct a new dwelling (Breckland Council Planning Ref. 3PL/2010/1288/F) (TL 87136 82971).</i></p> <p><i>Five pits were identified, one each in Trenches 1 and 2 and three inter-cutting pits in Trench 3. Pit F1016 was not excavated and is undated. Three of the remaining pits (F1003, F1010, and F1014) contained medieval pottery. Pit F1012 contained no finds, but it was cut by the medieval pits and so predates them. The presence of rubbish pits towards the rear end of the plot suggests back yard activity with the possibility of the related dwellings fronting onto Raymond Street rather than Neher Row</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	26 – 28 January 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	4237	Site code	
Type of project	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Construction of a dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	Pits		
Significant finds(+dates)	Medieval pottery (12 th – 15 th C), animal bone		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Norfolk	Breckland	Thetford
HER/ SMR for area	Norfolk HER (NHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.300m ²		
NGR	TL 87136 82871		
Height AOD (max/ min)	12.50m – 13m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Norfolk Historic Environment Service		
Project PO	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	Mr Simon John		
Full title			
Land rear of 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation			
Authors	Barlow, G., & Thompson P.		
Report no.	3726		
Date (of report)	January 2011		

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 22 RAYMOND STREET,
THETFORD, NORFOLK**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk. The evaluation was conducted to accompany an application for planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling (Breckland Council Planning Ref. 3PL/2010/1288/F) (TL 87136 82971).

An Iron Age fort and settlement is located some 250m to the east by river crossings (NHER 5747). The late Saxon town defensive ditch is located approximately 50m north of the site (NHER 32339) with the bulk of the Anglo-Saxon town across the river to the south. The medieval motte and bailey castle is a scheduled monument situated on the Iron Age site (NHER 5747). A medieval cloth mill was located across the river from the site (NHER 5931).

Five pits were identified, one each in Trenches 1 and 2 and three inter-cutting pits in Trench 3. Pit F1016 was not excavated and is undated. Three of the remaining pits (F1003, F1010, and F1014) contained medieval pottery. Pit F1012 contained no finds, but it was cut by the medieval pits and so predates them. The presence of rubbish pits towards the rear end of the plot suggests back yard activity with the possibility of the related dwellings fronting onto Raymond Street rather than Nether Row.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk (TL 87136 82971; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was conducted to accompany an application for planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling (Breckland Council Planning Ref. 3PL/2010/1288/F) (TL 87136 82971).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (HES), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 21 January 2011), and approved by HES. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objective was to determine the presence of any archaeological layers or sub soil archaeological features and to ascertain its extent, date, state of preservation and significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 PSS5 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 (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 Thetford is located in south Norfolk, close to the Suffolk border, on the A11 between London and Norwich, and is 18km north of Bury St Edmunds. The site is located within the historic centre of Thetford to the north of the River Little Ouse. The site is a plot containing a house and garden situated between Raymond Street and Nether Row. To the north, east and south are buildings and gardens with Nether Row immediately to the west.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

3.1 Archaeological databases

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by the development. Those archaeological sites within approximately 100m of the site, and other sites of importance beyond 100m that characterise the vicinity of the site are listed in Appendix 1.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The site is at approximately 10-15m AOD on the northern slope of the Little Ouse valley. The underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk, the local soils are un-surveyed due to the urbanisation of the area, but Thetford is in a region where several soil types exist, which are mainly loamy or calcareous in nature.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age

4.2.1 Thetford is located on the north-south running prehistoric Icknield Way and probably originated owing to its proximity to three fords. Palaeolithic tools have been found on the river terraces and later Bronze Age and Neolithic finds have also been made in the area (NHER 5940). A fragment of flint axehead was found by the River Thet at the Paddocks. (NHER14446). The nationally important Neolithic flint mine of Grimes Graves is located approximately 7km to the north-west.

Iron Age and Roman

4.2.2 In the early Iron Age a double ditched enclosure was built at the site of Thetford Castle between two fords, and formed the outer bailey of the medieval fortification (NHER 5747). Remains of the Iron Age settlement have been excavated at Lodge Place (NHER 5940). At Gallows Hill 2km to the north-west, a Romano-British temple complex was excavated (NHER 5853). The 4th century Thetford Treasure also came from this location either representing a votive deposit or as a hoard concealed in a time of crisis. A Romano-British settlement and late Roman cemetery were excavated south-east of the site across the River Little Ouse (NHER 17269).

Anglo-Saxon

4.2.3 Early and Medieval Anglo-Saxon settlement has been found in the vicinity of Red Castle in an area that was known as *Inselford*, and 7th-8th century occupation has been found on the south side of town close to St Margaret's cemetery, and beside Brandon Road. Saxon grubenhauser have been excavated in the area of the late Roman cemetery (NHR 17264). The earliest mention of Thetford (*Theoford*) is in the late 9th century and means 'public or peoples ford'. At this time the town was developing fast, and in the 10th and 11th centuries was the sixth largest town in England with its own mint and pottery kilns, and was seat of the Bishop of East Anglia. It was a prime target during the Danish invasions and two battles were fought outside the town in the 11th century. The

town's late Saxon defensive ditch has been identified approximately 50m to the north of the site (NHER 32339), and further evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation or industry has been found to the south, across the river, and to the east at Ford Place (NHER 5761 and 5940).

Medieval

4.2.4 A scheduled medieval motte and bailey castle was built on the site of the Iron Age fort 250 metres to the east (NHER 5747), and a medieval cloth mill was located directly across the river with mills continuing on the site until the 17th century (NHER 5931). The ford fell into decline during the later medieval period.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

5.1 Three 2 x 2m trial trenches were excavated (Fig.3). Due to the presence of trees and shrubs in the area of the proposed new building footprint, the trenches were located just beyond and either side of the proposed building footprint. Trenches 1 and 2 were located on the high ground to establish the full depth of the deposits. Trench 3 was located closer to the road on the lower ground to examine the effect of the truncation which had evidently occurred.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was 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. The trenches and excavated soil were scanned for finds by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 3 - 4; DPs 3 - 5

<i>Sample section: Northeast side, southwest facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 13.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.79m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints.
0.79 – 1.31m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub-rounded chalk.
1.31 – 1.80m	L1018	Buried soil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub-rounded chalk.
1.80m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Patches of chalk and friable, pale brownish orange silty sand with occasional medium angular flints.

Description: Trench 1 contained an undated pit (F1016).

Pit F1016 was located on the north-eastern side of the trench and extending beyond the baulk (1.8+ x 0.40+m). It was not excavated due to the depth of the trench. The latter was 2m deep with no scope to make it safe by stepping the sides. F1016 appeared to be sub-circular in plan with a mid grey brown sandy silt fill (L1017). It remains undated.

Trench 2 Figs. 3 – 4; DPs. 6 - 9

<i>Sample section: Southeast side, northwest facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 13.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.80m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.80 – 1.22m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
1.22m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained a medieval pit (F1003).

F1003 was a sub-circular pit (1.00+ x 0.50+ x 0.93m) located in the eastern corner of the trench, and extending beyond the baulk. It had vertical sides that rounded to a concave base. It contained six fills, listed in the table below.

Fill	Description	Above	Below	Findings
L1004	Friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small sub rounded chalk and occasional small and medium angular flints.	F1003	L1005	L13 – 15 th C pottery (23g) Animal bone (24g)
L1005	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints.	L1004	L1006	None
L1006	Friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub rounded chalk.	L1005	L1007	L13 – 15 th C pottery (42g) Animal bone (267g) Oyster shell (70g)
L1007	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints.	L1006	L1008	None
L1008	Friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub rounded chalk.	L1007	L1009	13 – 15 th C pottery (53g) Animal bone (57g)
L1009	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints.	L1008	L1001	None

Trench 3 Figs. 3 – 4; DPs 10-12

<i>Sample section: Northeast side, southwest facing</i>			
<i>0.00 = 12.85m AOD</i>			
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1	
0.31 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1	
0.70m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Trench 1	

Description: Trench 3 contained three intercutting medieval pits (F1010, F1012, and F1014).

F1010 was a sub-circular pit (1.40+ x 1.20+ x 0.60m) located in the north-eastern corner of the trench, and extending beyond the baulk. It had near vertical sides and a flat base. It cut Pit F1012. Its fill (L1011) was a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt occasional medium angular flints. It contained 12th – 14th century pottery (29g) and animal bone (87g).

Pit F1012 was located in the centre of the north-eastern half of the trench (1.00 x 0.95+ x 0.44m). It was cut by Pit F1010 and Pit F1014, and it extended beyond the north-eastern baulk. It was possibly square or rectangular. The visible side was vertical and the base was flat. Its fill (L1013) was a firmish, mid orange

brown sandy silt with occasional medium angular flints and small sub-angular chalk. It contained no finds.

F1014 was a circular pit (1.25+ x 0.95+ x 0.85m) located in the south-eastern corner of the trench, and extending beyond the baulk. It had vertical sides and a concave base. It cut Pit F1012. Its fill (L1015) was a firmish, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional medium angular flints and small and medium sub-angular chalk. It contained 13th – early 15th century pottery (37g) and animal bone (37g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy for the south-eastern side of the site was the same in both trenches, the only difference being the thickness of the layers. Topsoil L1000 was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints. In Trench 2 this was 0.80m thick whilst in Trench 3 it was 0.31m thick.

8.2 Beneath L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a friable, pale-mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub-rounded chalk. Its thickness varied only slightly between the trenches, being 0.42m thick in Trench 2 and 0.39m in Trench 3.

8.3 At the base of the sequence lay the natural deposits (L1002). The latter consisted of patches of exposed chalk and a friable, pale brownish orange silty sand with occasional medium angular flints. Despite the differing heights AOD of the tops of these two trenches the natural deposits were encountered at very similar heights AOD (12.35m in Trench 2 and 12.21m in Trench 3) suggesting little truncation has taken place at the bottom of the terrace near the road.

8.4 The stratigraphy in Trench 1, on the north-western side of the site varied. Subsoil L1001 appeared to overlie a possible buried soil, L1018. Topsoil L1000 in this trench was present to a depth of 0.79m. Below L1000 was a 0.52 m thick layer of subsoil, L1001. This in turn overlay Buried Soil L1018, a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular flints and small sub-rounded chalk. At the base of the sequence, at a depth of 1.80m, was the natural deposits L1002.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Five pits were identified, one each in Trenches 1 and 2 and three intercutting pits in Trench 3. Pit F1016 was not excavated and is undated. Three of the remaining pits (F1003, F1010, and F1014) contained medieval pottery. Pit F1012 contained no finds. F1012 was cut by the medieval pits and so predates them.

9.2 Pit F1003 (Trench 2) had been backfilled in a number of separate events with a total of six alternating light and dark fills. The light fills (L1004, L1006, and L1008) contained the finds whilst the dark fills (F1005, F1007, and F1009) contained none.

9.3 Trench 3 contained three intercutting pits (F1010, F1012, and F1014). Pit F1012 in the centre of the group was cut by both F1010 and F1014. There was no relationship between these two. Both F1010 and F1014 produced medieval pottery. All of these pits contained only a single fill suggesting each was backfilled in a single event.

9.4 Previous excavations on the opposite side of Raymond Street to N°22 and at the Library Site to the northwest revealed a defensive ditch enclosing a Late Saxon town to the north of the river Thet. No evidence of activity relating to that period was revealed during this evaluation. However, the presence of medieval pits accords well with the development of the town following the construction of Thefford Castle to the east.

9.5 The presence of rubbish pits towards the rear end of the plot suggests back yard activity with the possibility of the related dwellings fronting onto Raymond Street rather than Nether Row.

9.6 Historic maps indicate that there have been no buildings on the site since at least 1840. The lack of post-medieval and modern finds in the topsoil and subsoil (only a single clay pipe fragment was found), suggests this site vacancy extends much further back in time. Indeed, on the basis of this evaluation it seems the site was abandoned after the medieval period until its current occupation.

9.7 Nether Row slopes downwards from the southeast to a low point to the rear of N°22 Raymond Street before rising again towards its northeast end. The fact that the natural deposits near the road under the lower level of the terrace and that under the higher level terrace further into the site are at the same height AOD, together with the sheer depth of the deposits in Trenches 1 and 2, would suggest that the ground at the rear of the plot has been raised to level it rather than the level immediately adjacent to Nether Row having been reduced.

9.8 As the ground level does not appear to have been reduced, rather it has been raised, suggests that the preservation of any archaeology would be good. This is born out by the depth of the features found in both Trenches 2 and 3 which show good preservation. Further work on this site has high potential to produce further evidence of this medieval back yard activity and to characterise the medieval activity present in this part of Thetford. Medlycott and Brown (2008, 96) identify medieval towns as an important research subject for the eastern region; this site has the potential to inform on related subjects such as housing densities and the layout of medieval Thetford (see Medlycott and Brown 2008, 97). It may also have the potential to provide information to contribute towards an increased understanding of social organisation, the complexities of urban development and urban organisation (Ayers 2000, 27). Settlement form, function and diversity are identified as important research subjects for rural sites in the eastern region (Wade 2000, 25), this site has the potential to yield information regarding these subjects in a more urban context.

9.9 The animal bone recovered is well preserved, no doubt due to the calcareous nature of the soil, suggesting the potential for the recovery of good assemblages thus enhancing knowledge of diet etc in this part of medieval Thetford. This has the potential to provide information regarding the economy and agricultural production in medieval Thetford and its rural hinterland, aspects regarded as important research subjects for the eastern region (Medlycott and Brown 2008, 95).

9.10 The site is heavily rooted, with many roots extending the full depth of the features, despite their depth below the surface. Whilst this does not appear to have affected the features in an immediately obvious way it may have an impact on the environmental data.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site, at Norwich Castle Museum. 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 and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Simon John for his co-operation and funding of the archaeological evaluation. AS is pleased to acknowledge Paul Scarlett of Brown & Scarlett, Architects. AS is also grateful for the input and advice of Norfolk Historic Environment Service, in particular Dr Ken Hamilton.

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WEB SITES

Norfolk Heritage Explorer

APPENDIX 1: HER Information

Notfolk HER Number	National Grid Reference TL	Details
Prehistoric 700,000 BC – AD 43		
14446	8724 8272	Part of polished Neolithic axe head
Roman AD 43-410		
(see NHER17269)		
Anglo-Saxon AD 410-1066		
5761	8706 8264	Late Saxon ditch with some unstratified human bone, and Late Saxon to medieval pits
32339	8709 8296	Late Saxon defensive ditch Medieval pits and horn working debris
Medieval AD 1066-1539		
5931	8703 8270	Site of cloth producing mills from Domesday to the 17 th century
Post-medieval AD 1539-1900		
13260	8719 8297	Site of Quaker House 1696-1904
40576	87420 82661	Ford Place: 19 th century listed building
33717	8704 82704	Spring Walks: land between the rivers Little Ouse and Thet used as meadows and gravelled promenade with a spa and pumphouse
46394	8708 8293	Old Mill Public House, Rudolph's Nite Spot and Old Mill Pizza House: range of three late 18 th century listed buildings
5943	8704 8285	Pit Mill or Coffee Mill: early 19 th century listed water mill
Multi-period		
5747	8742 8283	Thetford Castle: Iron Age hillfort and medieval motte and bailey
5940	8747 8266	Ford Place: Neolithic flints and Bronze Age pottery; Iron Age settlement including a ditch, pits, inhumations and a cremation; Late Saxon ditches and pottery
17269	8777 8245	Roman settlement including agricultural buildings and 4 th century cemetery containing decapitations; Saxon settlement including <i>grubenhauser</i>



P4237: 22 Raymond Street, Thetford

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1003	1004	2	Pit	L13 th – 15 th C	(3) 23g	21	24	Shell 29g
	1006			L13 th – 15 th C	(6) 42g		256	Shell 41g B.Bone 11g
	1008			13 th – 15 th C	(2) 53g		57	Shell 71g
1010	1011	3	Pit	12 th – 14 th C	(2) 29g		87	
1014	1015	3	Pit	13 th – E 15 th C	(2) 35g		37	

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 16 sherds weighing 179g, from three pits. The sherds are quantified below by weight and fabric (Table 1).

Pit F1003 contained 12 sherds from three fills which mainly comprise of glazed Grimston ware and high to late medieval coarse wares. L1004 contained a sherd of 'proto-stoneware' whose almost complete vitrified body with inclusions still visible, and brown pimply external surface matches an example from Kings Lynn dated between the late 13th and 14th centuries (Clarke and Carter 1977, 232, Fig. 102.4). A second oxidised sherd from L1006 has internal and external orange glaze tinged with green. The fine, slightly micaceous sandy fabric is similar to Hedingham Fine Ware (mid 12th - late 14th centuries) which was identified during excavations at Thetford (Cottar 2000, 75 & Little 1999, 73), but the sherd could also be a succeeding late medieval ware whose fabrics are similar.

Pit F1010 contained a sherd of Thetford-type ware and Grimston-type coarseware jar rim. Pit F1014 contained a Glazed Grimston jug body sherd with decorative thumb applied iron stained strips, and a green and yellow glazed sherd in a fine white fabric. The fabric also includes sparse very coarse rounded red ferruginous inclusions and so may be a continental import rather than a Developed Stamford ware.

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KEY:

- THET-T: Thetford-type ware; late 9th-mid 12th centuries
MCSW: Medieval Chalk and Sandy Ware; 12th-14th
MSW: Medieval Sandy Ware; 12th-14th
GRIM: Glazed Grimston Ware; late 12th-15th
MEGL: Medieval Glazed Ware; late 12th-15th
FIMP?: Foreign Import? 13th-15th
LMRW: Late medieval Reduced Ware; 14th-15th
GSTON: German stoneware; 14th-16th
LMW: Late Medieval Ware; 15th-mid 16th

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1003	1004	Pit	1x5g MCSW 1x14g GRIM? 1x3g GSTON?	Late 13 th -15 th	GRIM: Base angle GSTON: Proto stone ware not fully vitrified
	1006		1x10g MEDGL 1x6g MSW 4x26g LMRW 1x3g LMW	Late 13 th -15 th	MEDGL: Glazed both sides, fabric similar to GRIM LMW: clear/brown glaze both sides, fabric similar to Heddingham fine ware, slightly coarser
	1008		2x49g GRIM	13 th -15 th	GRIM: 1x thumbbed deco towards jug base
1010	1011	Pit	1x3g THET-T 1x24g MSW	12 th -14 th	MSW: expanded, everted cooking pot rim possibly Grimston coarse ware
1014	1015	Pit	1x32g GRIM 1x4g FIMP	13 th - early 15 th	GRIM: applied iron stained thumbbed strip

Table 1: quantification of sherds

The Faunal Remains

By Julie Curl

Introduction

A total of 478g of bone was recovered from excavations at 22, Raymond Street. The assemblage consists of the remains of the main domestic mammals, along with a kitten; some small quantities of probable horroworking waste were also identified.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). All of the bone was scanned to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, horroworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context with additional counts for each species identified, counts were also taken of bone classed as 'countable' (Davis, 1992) and measurable bone. All information was recorded directly into Excel for quantification and assessment. A basic catalogue is included in the written report and the full assessment database is available in the digital archive.

The faunal assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 478g of bone, consisting of forty-three pieces, was found at this site. The remains were recovered from six contexts within four features. The contexts were mainly pit fills, with remains produced from one subsoil layer. The remains from the pit fills were mostly of a 13th to 15th century date range, with the bone from the Pit F1010 L1011 associated with ceramics of a 12th to 14th century date. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature number and feature type can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Feature	Feature type		Total
	Pit fill	Subsoil	
1001		1	1
1003	29		29
1010	10		10
1014	3		3
Total	42	1	43

Table 1. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by number of fragments, feature number and feature type.

The remains are in good sound condition, although the assemblage is fragmented throughout from butchering. Some gnawing (canid and rodent) was evident in all three fills in pit [1003], and a sheep phalange showed acid erosion and gnawing that would indicate its passing through the digestive system of a dog; all of which would suggest that the meat waste was available for scavengers for a time before burial. Three fragments of burnt bone were

seen in Pit F1003 L1006, these were burnt to varying degrees, with these fragments likely to be from fire and cooking waste disposal.

Feature	Type		Total
	Pit fill	Subsoil	
1001		17g	17g
1003	337g		337g
1010	87g		87g
1014	37g		37g
Total	461g	17g	478g

Table 2. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by weight, feature number and feature type

Species range and modifications and other observations

Five species were identified during the assessment, all of which are likely to be of domestic origin. The most frequently identified species is sheep/goat, which included two horncores identified as sheep. Cattle and equid were seen in low numbers, along with a single bone from pig/boar; the porcine bone is most likely to be domestic pig, but given that Wild Boar were still in existence in East Anglia until at least the 16th century, boar cannot be ruled out. In addition to the food and transport mammals, a single mandible of a young kitten, which died at around 3-6 months old, was also found in pit [1003], fill (1006). Quantification of the species present and the undiagnostic mammal bone by feature can be seen in Table 3.

Species	Feature				Species Totals
	1001	1003	1010	1014	
Cattle		2			2
Equid			1		1
Feline		1			1
Mammal		18	6		24
Pig/Boar		1			1
Sheep/goat	1	7	3	3	14
Feature Totals	1	29	10	3	43

Table 3. Quantification (NISF) of species by feature number.

A good deal of the sheep/goat, cattle and porcine bone had been butchered with chops from division of the carcass into joints of meat and some finer knife cuts from removal of the meat. Sheep horncores were found in L1001 and F1010 L1011, both of which had been chopped and cut, indicating their probable use for hornworking.

Conclusions

This is a small assemblage that is largely derived from the butchering and food waste, with sparse remains of other domestic or working mammals. Proportionally, there is a much larger amount of sheep/goat, but this would be expected from an East Anglian town that would have been producing sheep

for the wool trade in Medieval times. In the Medieval period the sheep had become one of the most important animals (Albarella, 1997), providing milk, dung (for crop manure) and fleeces during its life and a supply of meats, hides and other by-products like horn after death. Hornworking waste was identified in this assemblage, with the horn being used for items such as combs, lanterns and spoons.

The assemblage is similar to other small assemblages from other urban sites of this period, including those seen in Thetford (Curl, 2005 & 2006), which were also dominated by the remains of sheep.

The kitten recovered from Pit F1003 may have been a death of a domestic animal, either a pet or, more likely, a cat kept for pest control. It is possible in an urban area that this may have been from the cull of excess feral cats that would have populated the area at this time. Such cats are often used for fur, although there was no obvious skinning on the jaw in this assemblage.

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Appendix

Catalogue of the faunal remains recovered from P4237, 22 Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk.
Listed in context order. A full catalogue is available as an Excel file.

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Age – a = adult, j = juvenile (older than 1 month)

Butchering = c = cut, ch = chopped

Working = Probable working waste

Gnaw = gnawing; c = canid, r = rodent

Burnt = burnt remains; b = burnt black, w = burnt white

Context	Feature	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Age	Element range	Butchering	Working	Gnaw	R/C/F	Burnt	B.Col	Comments
1001	1001	1	17	Sheep/goat	1	a	sheep horncore	ch	1					sheep horncore - working waste
1004	1003	2	24	Sheep/goat	2	j	tibia, mandible	c, ch		1	c			
1006	1003	22	256	Pig/Boar	1	a	femur	c, ch						
1006	1003			Sheep/goat	5	a	pph, jaw, MC	c, ch		2	c			PPH eroded - ?been through dogs digestive system
1006	1003			Feline	1	j	mandible							young kitten - c.3-6 mths
1006	1003			Mammal	8			c, ch						
1006	1003			Mammal	7			ch				3	b-w	
1008	1003	5	57	Cattle	2	a	rib, tibia	c, ch		1	r			
1008	1003			Mammal	3									
1011	1010	10	87	Sheep/goat	3	a	tibia, femur, horn	c, ch	1					Sheep horncore
1011	1010			Equid	1	a	lower premolar							pony size
1011	1010			Mammal	6									
1015	1014	3	37	Sheep/goat	3	a	upper & lower jaw	ch						

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



General view, rear of 22 Raymond St. Looking NE



Access to site from Nether Row. Looking NW.



Excavating Trench 1. Looking E.



General view of Trench 1. Looking NE.



Trench 1. Looking NE.



Excavating Trench 2. Looking S.



7
Ornamental gates, western corner of Trench 2.
Looking E.



8
Trench 2, post excavation. Looking SE.



9
Pit F1003, Trench 2. Looking SE.



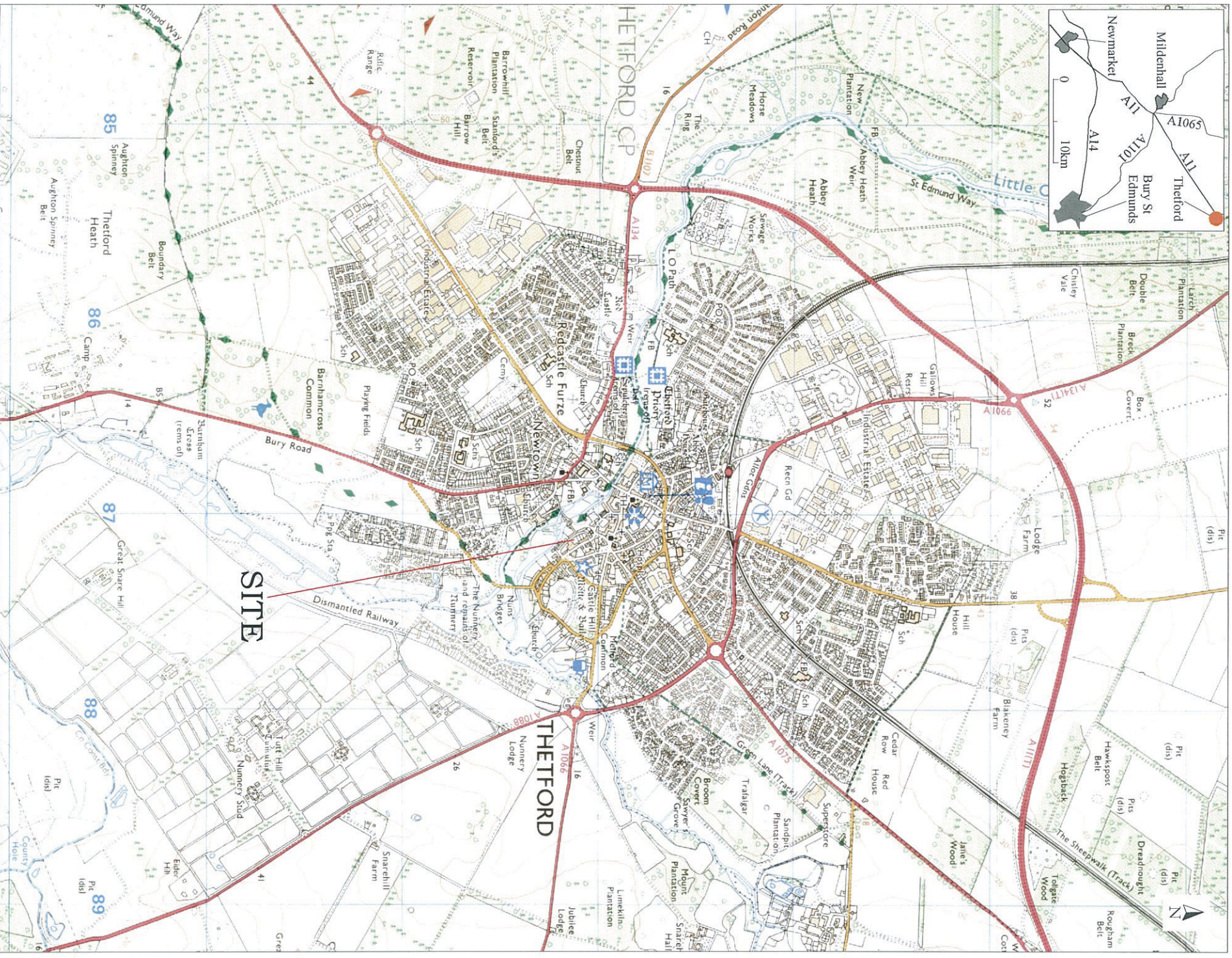
10
Excavating Trench 3. Looking NW.



11
Pits F1010, F1012, and F1014, Trench 3.
Looking NE.

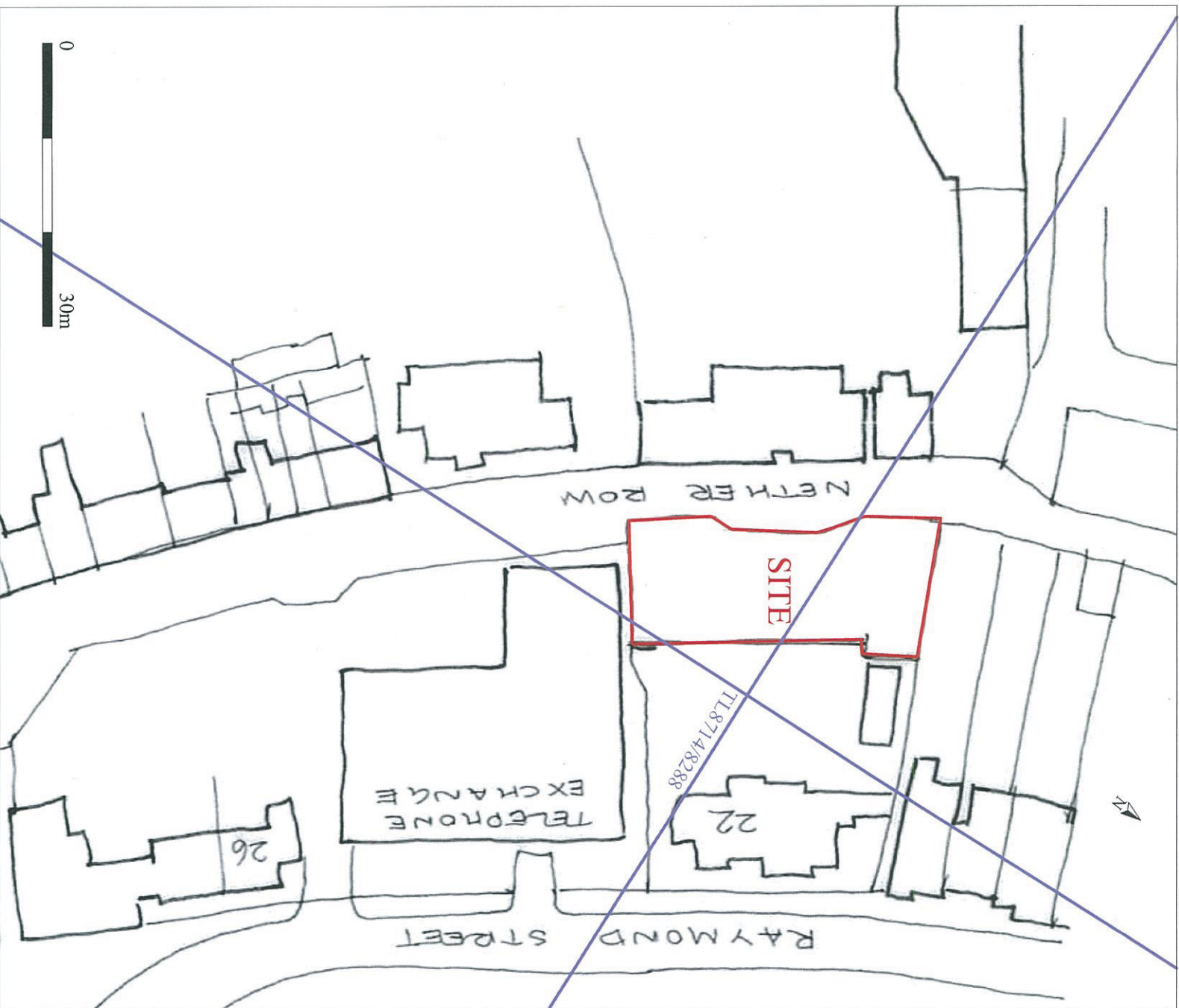


12
General view of Trench 3 location. Looking SE.



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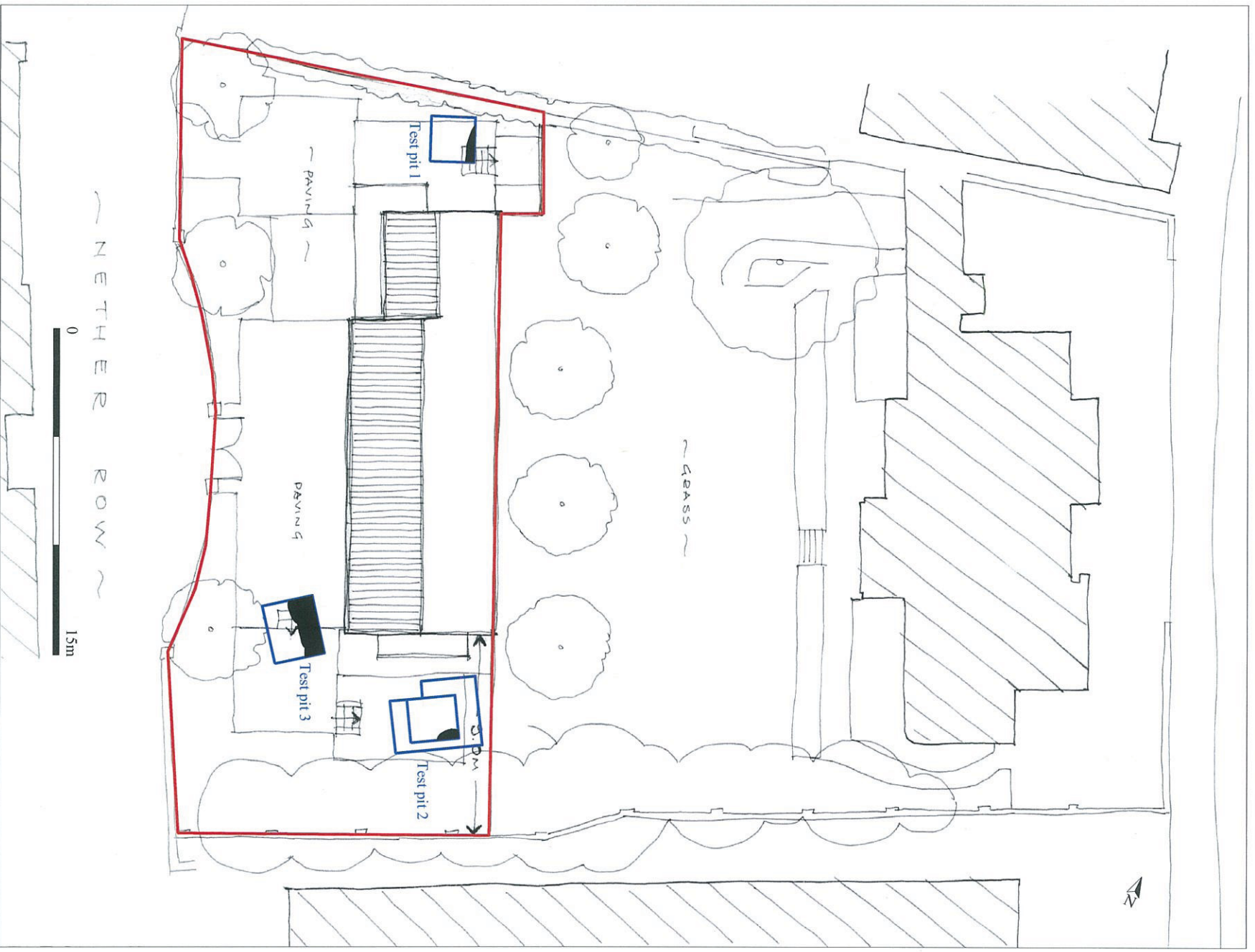
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:600 at A4

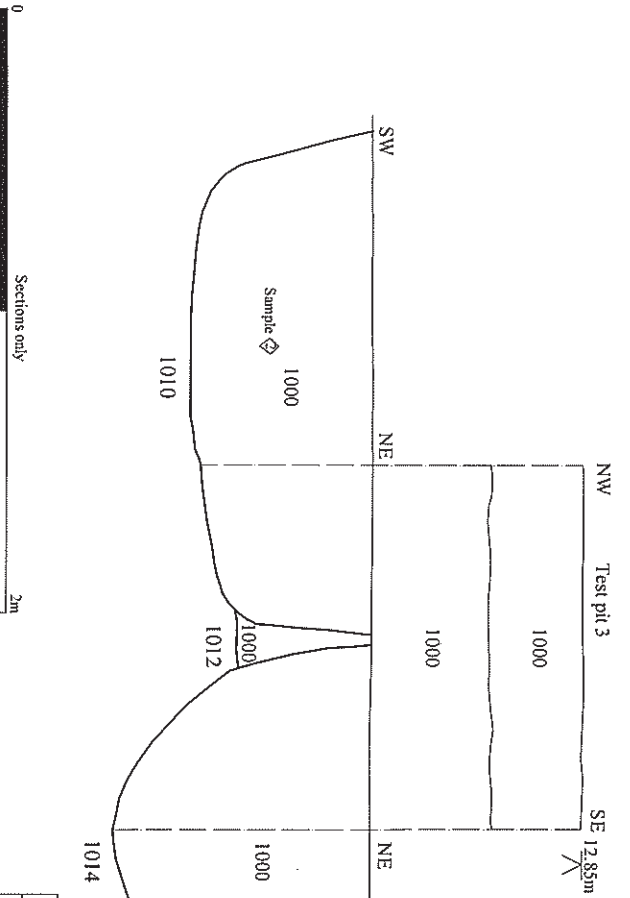
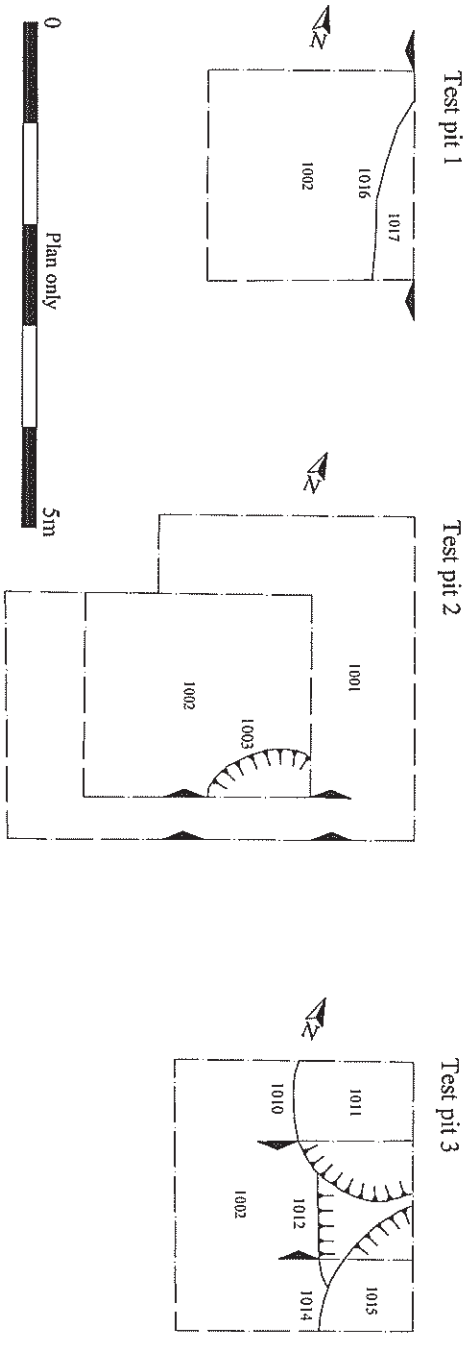


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Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:250 at A4





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Fig. 4 Plans & sections

Scale Plans 1:75, sections 1:25 at A4

