

Appendix 3. Archaeological Characterisation

The initial stage of the project consisted of assessment of the archaeological character of the northeastern and southwestern portions of the Greater Norwich Development Project Study Area. The methodology for this analysis was based on work undertaken by Essex County Council on the Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project and the Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project. These studies developed a robust set of Historic Environment Character Areas by combining the results of three separate strands of characterization, one for each strand of the historic environment, namely: Historic Landscape Character, Archaeological Character, and Historic Urban Character. Results of the three individual strands of characterization were initially woven together to form high level divisions known as Historic Environment Character Areas. These were then divided into much smaller Historic Environment Character Zones which can be used at all stages of the planning process.

Due to the tight time constraints imposed on this project it was not possible to develop individual strands of characterization prior to formation of robust Archaeological Character Zones. In place of this, the Archaeological Character of the study areas was assessed alongside the results of existing Historic Landscape Character analysis of the county in order to create a set robust Archaeological Character Zones which could then sit alongside independently assessed Historic Environment Character Zones formed on the basis of the visible character of the landscape (see main report). The Archaeological Character Zones were formed on a small scale in order to assist in strategic planning decisions. The detailed methodology is outlined below.

Methodology

Purpose

- The purpose of the initial stage of the project was to conduct a rapid assessment of the archaeological character within two large areas under consideration for future development: the northeastern and southwestern portions of the *Greater Norwich Development Project Study Area*.
- This assessment seeks to provide a summary of our current understanding of the archaeological resource within the study areas, to be used to inform strategic planning decisions.

Approach

- This characterization exercise takes a holistic approach to the historic environment, combining aspects of Historic Landscape Character, Urban Character, and Archaeological Character in order to create more robust Archaeological Character Zones. This approach draws heavily on methodology developed by Essex County Council for the Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project and the Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project.
- These Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs) are discrete geographical areas which retain distinctive characteristics of current and/or historic land use, settlement pattern, and the nature and survival of the archaeological resource.
- The analysis does not seek to characterize the archaeological resource itself, the majority of which due to its nature remains unknown, but to define our current understanding and knowledge of the archaeological resource. Lack of knowledge concerning the archaeological character of a particular ACZ does not indicate that no remains have been preserved below the ground surface, but indicates an absence of archaeological investigation in the area.

Datasets Consulted

Due to the time constraints, the assessment relies heavily on existing data sets.

Datasets consulted include:

- Broadland District Council's Landscape Character Assessment (1999, Chris Blandford Associates)
- South Norfolk District Council's Landscape Character Assessment (2006, Land Use Consultants Ltd.)
- Norfolk Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Norfolk Historic Environment Record
- First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps

Creating the Archaeological Character Zones

The broad areas identified in the district Landscape Character Assessment were used as the basis for the first Archaeological Character Zones.

- These incorporate geology and land use, which are often highly influential on historic settlement and land use.

NHER data for these areas was examined, and the broad Landscape Character areas were subdivided to reflect variations in Archaeological Character.

- Analysis focused on defining geographical areas wherein the nature, type and survival of the archaeological resource could be determined to be distinctive from surrounding areas.
- In the absence of existing Historic Town Surveys, the First Edition Ordnance Survey maps were used to identify the historic cores of urban areas.
- All substantial 20th century built-up areas were separated as individual Historic Environment Character Zones due to the significant impact on the historic landscape. This includes areas such as civilian and military airports and industrial estates but excludes small areas of settlement such as farmsteads.
- The study area also contains several large areas of parkland which were separated as individual Archaeological Character Zones due to their distinctive characteristics.
- Focus on variation in the nature and extent of archaeological investigations allowed rapid identification of distinctive regions.

These areas were then refined by examination of the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) data for the defined areas. The HLC data provided clarification in most instances where the extent of a Character Zone was in doubt.

Final adjustments were made by comparison of adjacent areas, refining boundaries where necessary.

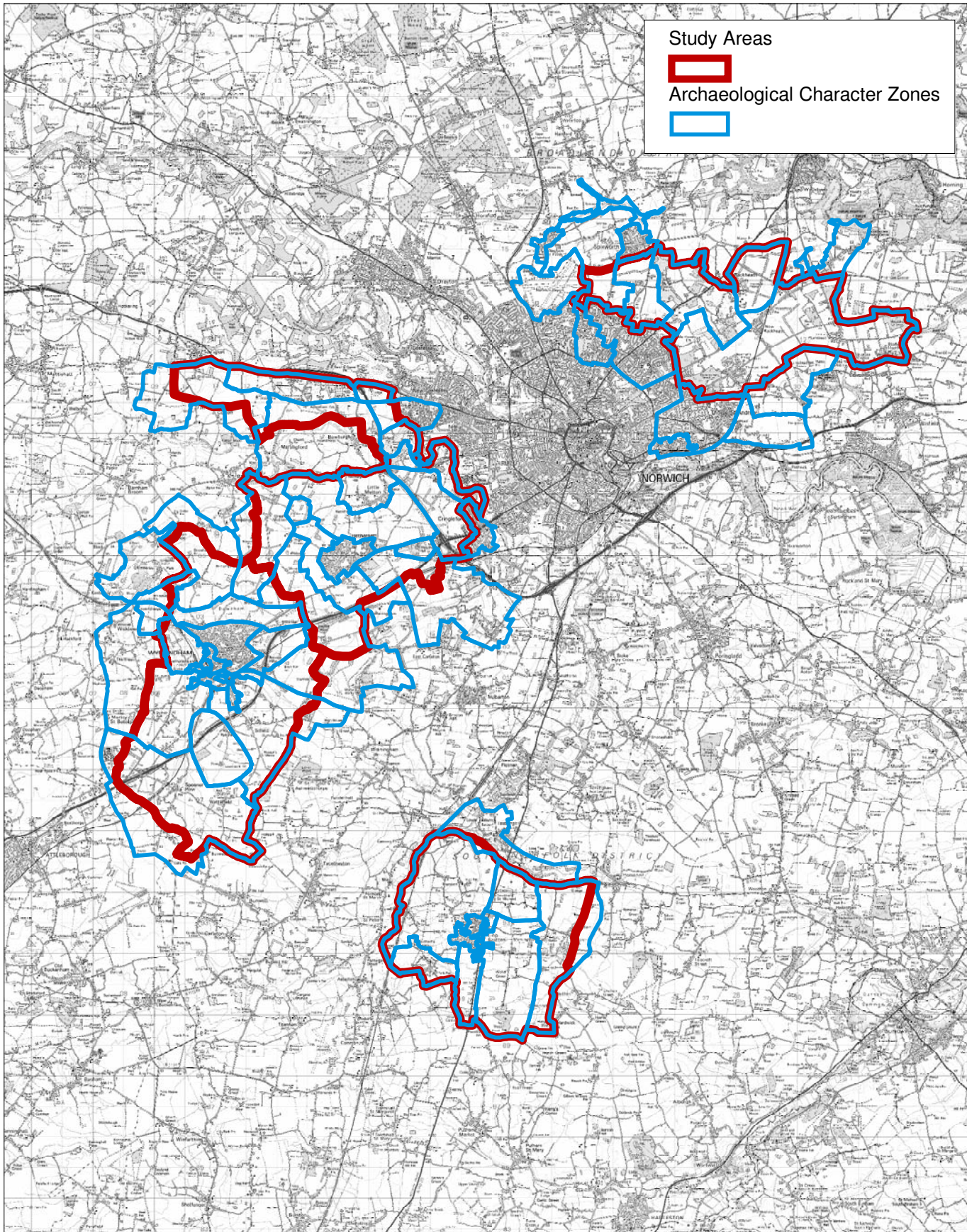
Archaeological Character Zone	Study Area
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ACZ 35: Land between Great Melton and Wrampingham	2/3
ACZ 36: Land to the east of Kimberley Park	2
ACZ 37: Kimberley Park	2
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ACZ 40: Wicklewood, Morley St Botolph and Sutton	2
ACZ 41: Tiffey Valley	2
ACZ 42: North of Wymondham	2
ACZ 43: Modern Wymondham	2
ACZ 44: Hart's Farm, Wymondham	2
ACZ 45: Wymondham historic core	2
ACZ 46: Wymondham Abbey and monastic precinct	2
ACZ 47: Cavick House and Park	2
ACZ 48: Wymondham Deer Park	2
ACZ 49: Silfield	2
ACZ 50: Spooner Row and Wattlefield	2
ACZ 51: Long Stratton historic core	1
ACZ 52: Modern housing development around Long Stratton	1
ACZ 53: Tharston	1
ACZ 54: Wacton	1
ACZ 55: Pye Road South of Long Stratton	1
ACZ 56: East of Long Stratton	1
ACZ 57: Area around Stratton St Michael	1
ACZ 58: Tas Valley	1
ACZ 59: Fritton and Morningthorpe	1

Archaeological Character Zones

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Union House
Gressenhall
East Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR



Compiled by Alice Cattermole & Heather Hamilton on 28 May 2009

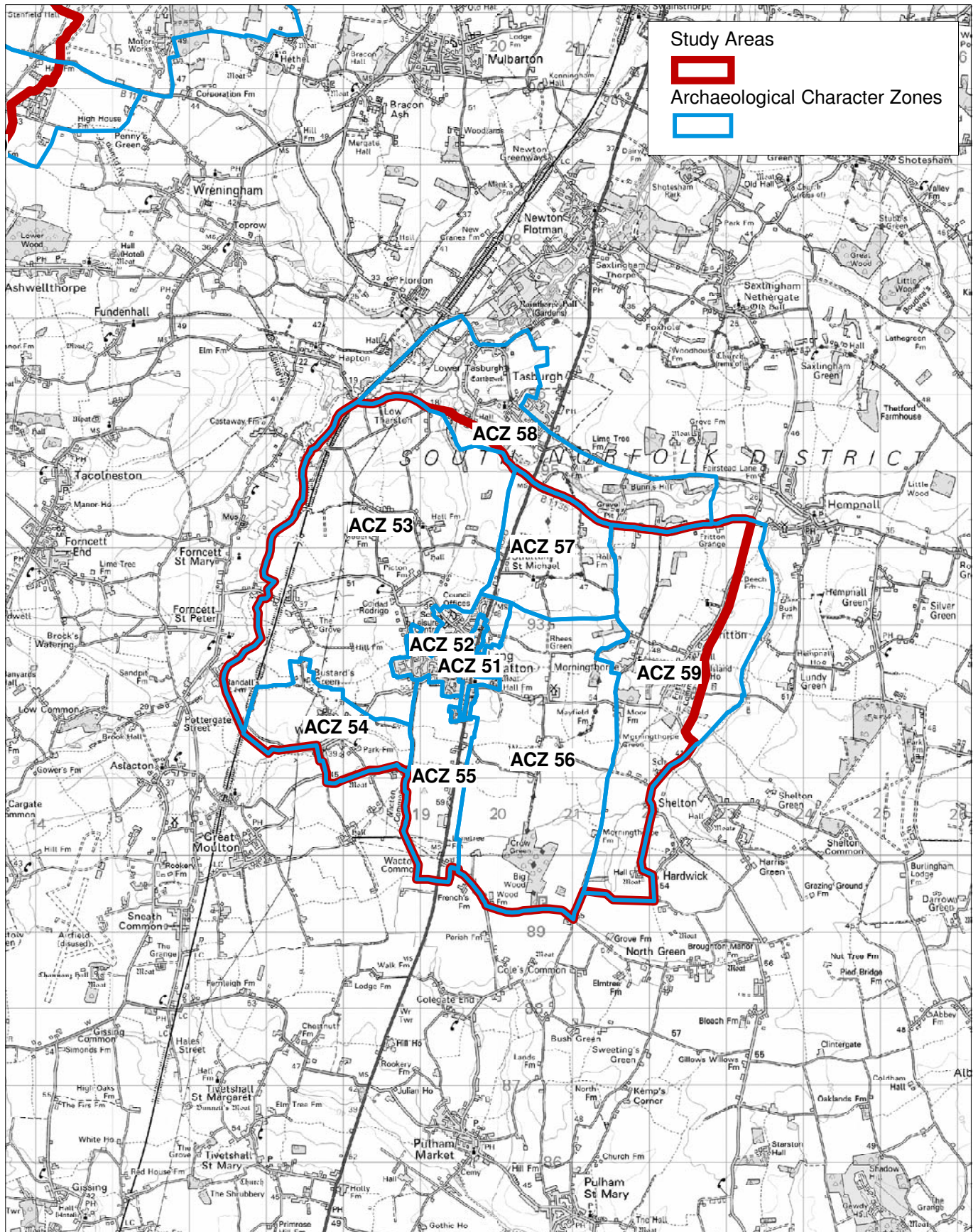


Archaeological Character Zones

Study Area 1

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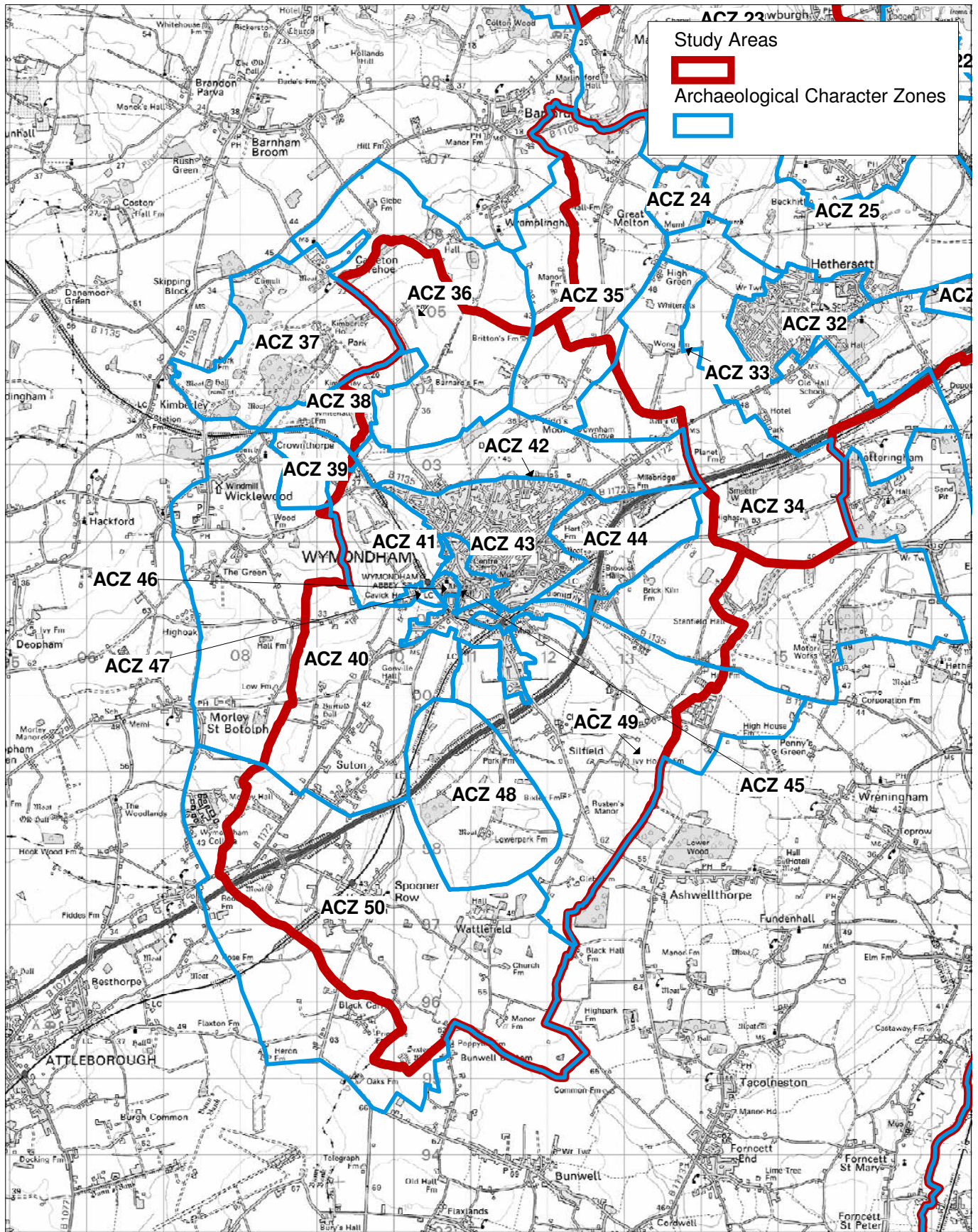


Archaeological Character Zones

Study Area 2

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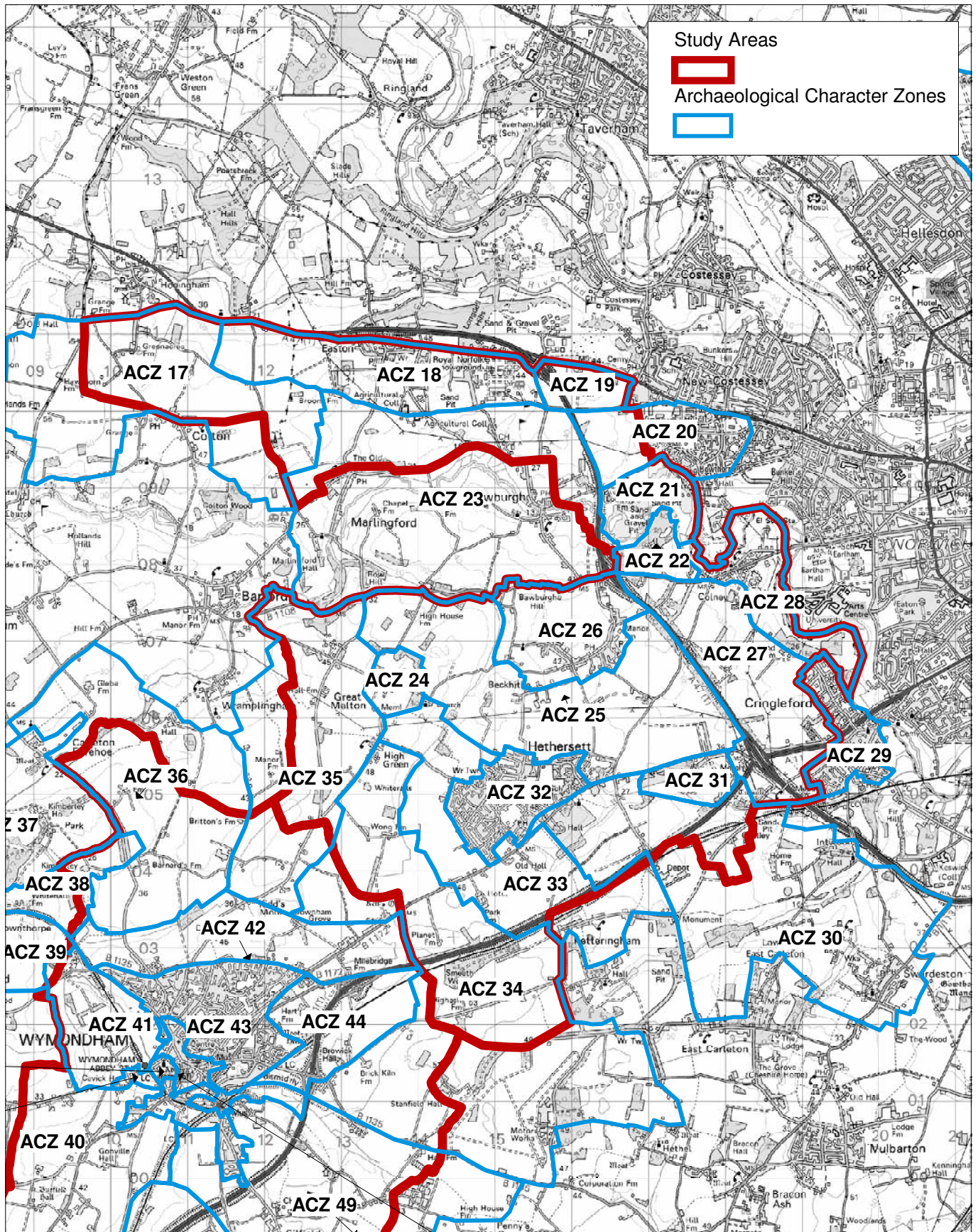


Archaeological Character Zones

Study Area 3

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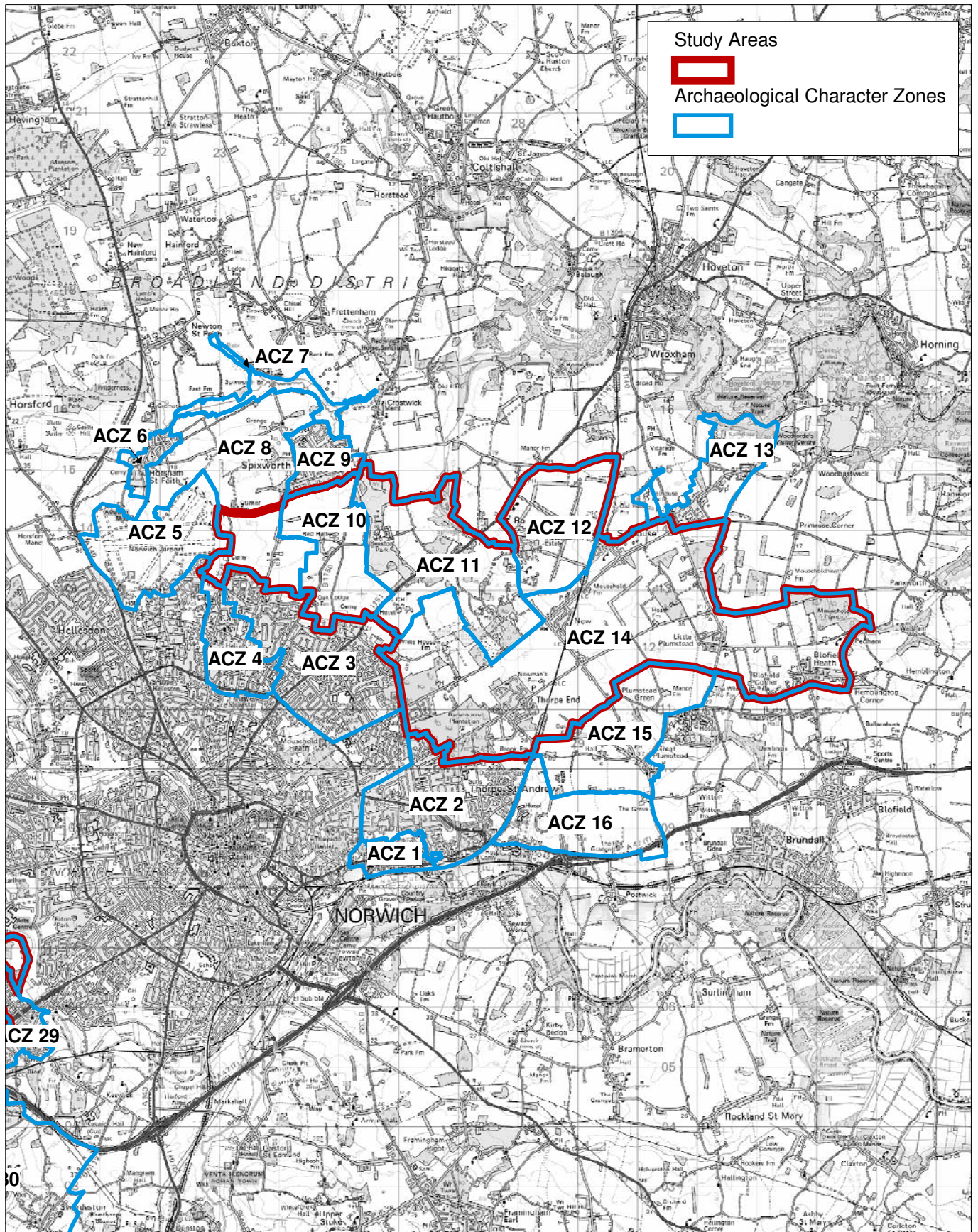


Archaeological Character Zones

Study Area 4

Compiled by Alice Cattermole & Heather Hamilton on 28 May 2009

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ACZ 1: Historic Core of Thorpe St Andrew (Study Area 4)

Overview

This area is comprised of the historic core of the village of Thorpe next Norwich, which has been designated as a conservation area. The area is now completely built up and very little archaeological investigation has taken place. The majority of the historical assets of the area consist of the post medieval buildings of the village of Thorpe next Norwich, clustered on either side of Yarmouth Road. However, recent excavation in the northwest of the area has recorded the survival of rare Bronze Age settlement as well as Roman occupation, indicating that activity from earlier periods survives below ground.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area is comprised entirely of the conservation area which defines the historic core of the village of Thorpe next Norwich. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place within the confines of the conservation area. Only one excavation has been carried out. This was located on the northwestern edge of the area and was undertaken by NAU Archaeology between 1999 and 2000 (NHER 34516). In 2002 a small area adjacent to the River Yare was investigated as part of a children's holiday scheme but no archaeological finds or features were recorded (NHER 37340), and details of a watching brief to the east of this area carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2008 are awaited (NHER 51720). The remaining data is restricted to a few stray finds, primarily from the surface but also including isolated objects recovered from disturbed ground in 1958 (NHER 9624) and 1964 (NHER 9684), along with upstanding structures and historic documents.

The vast majority of the archaeological remains recorded in this area consist of the post medieval buildings of the village of Thorpe next Norwich, clustered on either side of Yarmouth Road. These include two late 16th to 17th century buildings (NHER 4657 and NHER 4761) and the late 17th to 18th century Old Thorpe House (NHER 4655) as well as a variety of 18th and 19th century structures. Those included within English Heritage's list of Buildings of Historical and Architectural Interest have been assigned Grade II ratings, with the exception of 17th century Thorpe Hall (NHER 4654) and the 18th century gazebo at Walpole House (NHER 4656) which have been graded II*. The Church of St Andrew (NHER 4653) was originally constructed in the 15th century but no contemporary structures have survived.

Despite proximity of the village to the River Yare very few stray finds have been recovered. Prior to 1999, evidence of Prehistoric and Roman activity in the area was restricted to five individual finds: a Neolithic scraper (NHER 9622), a fragmentary Bronze Age palstave (NHER 9624), a local imitation of a coin of Claudius (NHER 9639), a small quantity of Roman pottery (NHER 9684), and a number of Roman coins which likely represent the disposal of a personal collection (NHER 9642). However, excavation in the northwestern edge of the area between 1999 and 2000 recorded a possible Bronze Age post-built structure and associated ditches and pits as well as a series of Roman features, indicating earlier activity in the area.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

ACZ 2: Thorpe St Andrew 20th Century Urban Area (Study Area 4)

Overview

This area is comprised of the 20th century urban development known as Thorpe St Andrew, which is now a suburb of Norwich. A relatively high density of archaeological finds was recorded during the early 20th century development of the area, and modern archaeological interventions continue to demonstrate high levels of preservation of below ground remains. Evidence for human activity in this area from the Palaeolithic period to the present day has been recorded, and occupation in the Bronze Age and Roman period are particularly well represented.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been subject to intensive development throughout the late 19th and early 20th century, and construction has often disturbed archaeological remains. Between 1862 and 1863 remains of possible Iron Age, Roman and/or Saxon date were recorded during the construction of a road near The Oaks, on the east side of Harvey Lane (NHER 9628). In 1943 S.S. and D.H.S. Frere excavated a Roman pottery kiln at an active gravel pit (NHER 9629), and between 1951 and 1953 several trenches were excavated in an allotment south of Ring Road following the discovery of several inhumations (NHER 9646). Additional finds were recovered from construction sites during the 1950's (NHER 9625, NHER 9621, NHER 9624), but these were not formally investigated. Three modern archaeological interventions have been recorded. D. Pritchard investigated a small area in the northeast in 1988 prior to construction of the Pound Lane housing estate (NHER 24221), three trial trenches were excavated by NAU on the site of a new primary school in 1998 (NHER 9619), and a small area in the southwest was excavated by NAU between 1999 and 2000 (NHER 34516). These investigations are complemented by a relatively large number of chance finds within private gardens which have been reported intermittently from the 1930's to the 1980's. Such finds are generally scattered throughout the area, although they are much more sparse in the northwest, particularly west of Thunder Lane. Low levels of fieldwalking and metal-detecting have taken place in the east of the area (NHER 9619) and although the majority of this area is now built-up cropmarks of a possible enclosure have been identified within an aerial photograph taken in 1980 (NHER 21174).

This high level of archaeological investigation has recorded remains from most archaeological periods, providing evidence for human activity in this area from the Palaeolithic period to the present day. Prehistoric flint is scattered throughout the area and several Palaeolithic tools have been recovered from the vicinity of Thorpe Pit (NHER 9614). Moderate levels of Neolithic worked flint have been recorded, and Bronze Age activity is represented by both funerary monuments and possible structures. Historic documents record a large group of earthen mounds on Gargytt Hill which may have been Bronze Age barrows (NHER 9619). These have now been destroyed and no evidence remains on the ground surface. Excavations just outside the southwestern edge of this area in 1999 and 2000 recorded a rare survival of a possible Bronze Age post-built structure and associated features (NHER 34516), confirming Bronze Age occupation in the area.

Roman activity is particularly well represented within this zone, which is bisected north-south by the possible route of the Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew Roman road (NHER 7598). It has been conjectured that the east-west medieval route known as Yarmouthe Way (NHER 9690) which transects the area may also be of Roman origin. In 1943 a kiln was excavated in the southeast of the area (NHER 9629), and a hearth and associated finds were excavated in the northeast in 1988 (NHER 24221). A settlement has been recorded just outside the

southwestern edge of the area, represented by an oven, gullies, pits, and possible small agricultural enclosures excavated between 1999 and 2000 (NHER 34516), and cropmarks of a possible enclosure (NHER 21174) which may be contemporary have been identified immediately to the east of the settlement.

Both Early and Late Saxon activity is also well represented in the area. Early Saxon finds and likely burials were recorded on the southwestern edge of the area in the 19th century (NHER 9628), and Late Saxon burials and a possible contemporary occupation site were excavated in the southeast of the area in 1999 (NHER 9646), just east of the historic core of the village of Thorpe next Norwich (ACZ 1).

By the medieval and post medieval periods occupation appears to have shifted southwards, centered on the village of Thorpe next Norwich (ACZ 1). However, a map of 1589 indicates that several medieval roads traversed the area east-west from Mousehold Heath. While the Church of St Andrew (NHER 4653) was constructed in the village in the 15th century, another medieval church of unknown dedication was excavated to the east in 1950 (NHER 9646) and a medieval moot is believed to have been held on Gargytt Hill (NHER 9619), also in the east of the area.

The southern portions of this area were dominated by large plantations in the 19th century (First Edition OS map), which then gave way to farmland. Small scale industrial activity is represented by several gravel pits located in the southeast and centre of the area, and in the 19th century brick kilns (NHER 15947) and lime kilns (NHER 15971) were established within the vicinity of these former pits. As noted above, this zone has been subjected to intensive development throughout the late 19th and 20th century such that the entire area is now completely built-up. The built-up area is bounded on the east by the Cromer line of the East Norfolk Railway (NHER 13586).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

ACZ 3: Sprowston 20th Century Urban Area (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is comprised of the 20th century built-up area known as Sprowston, which is now a suburb of Norwich. The majority of development in this area took place prior to the instigation of PPG16 and therefore very few archaeological interventions have taken place. The majority of recorded archaeological material has been the result of chance finds, and these primarily date to the medieval and post medieval periods.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Very little is known about the archaeological resource in Sprowston. The village of Sprowston developed near the northeastern edge of the area by the early 19th century (First Edition OS). The majority of the area remained open farmland until at least the early 19th century (First Edition OS), but has been subject to intensive 20th century development such that the entire area is now built-up. However, this development has primarily taken place prior to the instigation of PPG16 and no archaeological interventions have taken place. Finds from this area are limited to a small number of objects recovered from the gardens of private residences, one small area of fieldwalking, and limited areas of metal-detecting. The latter has largely been confined to the eastern edge of the zone. A small number of standing structures also contribute to our knowledge of the area.

Very low levels of Prehistoric material have been recorded, and the only Roman find is a single coin of Maximinus II (NHER 8114). The majority of archaeological finds and monuments within the area date to the medieval and post medieval periods. The parish Church of St Mary and St Margaret (NHER 8138) located at the northeastern edge of the area was largely constructed in the 14th century, although remains of an earlier round tower which may date to the Late Saxon period have been identified. A late 16th century map of Mousehold Heath depicts two medieval roads running roughly northeast-southwest across the southern portion of the zone, but no physical remains of these routes have been identified. No medieval buildings have been preserved in this area and only low densities of medieval finds have been recovered. Post medieval remains are limited to Old Hall 17th century house (NHER 8129), St Cuthbert's Church which was constructed in the 19th century, the site of a 19th century brickworks (NHER 16662) located in the extreme north of the area, just outside the historic core of Old Catton, and very sparse metal-detecting and fieldwalking finds.

The extreme south of the area includes the northern portion of the WWI Mousehold Aerodrome (NHER 12415), constructed in October 1914 when the RFC took over the former cavalry drill ground, now Heartsease Estate south of Salhouse Road. The RFC headquarters buildings were erected north of Salhouse road, and several hangars and other buildings have been preserved on Roundtree industrial estate.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

ACZ 4: Historic Core of Old Catton (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone consists of the historic core of Old Catton, including the entirety of the Catton Conservation Area. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone and therefore the level of preservation of below ground features remains uncertain. Stray finds indicate low levels of Prehistoric activity within the zone, but the majority of known archaeological remains consist of medieval and post medieval buildings, landscape features, and finds. The remains of several World War II defenses have been identified within Catton Park (NHER 30435).

Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Archaeological investigation within the historic core of Old Catton has been extremely limited. No archaeological interventions have taken place. Fieldwalking and metal-detecting activity has been confined to Catton Hall Park (NHER 30435) and stray finds have been recovered from private gardens in the surrounding area. The historic core of Old Catton developed during the medieval period, and the majority of data for this area is derived from historic documents and a mixture of existing and destroyed historic buildings.

A low level of Prehistoric and Roman material has been recovered from Catton Hall Park (NHER 30435) and the surrounding area, including a Palaeolithic handaxe (NHER 17946) and a Bronze Age urn (NHER 8119), but the level of preservation of below ground features remains uncertain. As noted above, the majority of known archaeological features within this area date to the medieval and post medieval periods. St Margaret's Church (NHER 8132) was founded in the Late Saxon or Norman period and a medieval manor or grange may have been located at the site of the later Manor House (NHER 8130). A range of medieval material has been recovered from the area through metal-detecting, fieldwalking, and chance finds. The Manor House (NHER 8130) was constructed in the 16th century, another surviving building may date to the 17th century, and several 18th and 19th century buildings remain within the historic core of Old Catton. The centre of the area remains dominated by Catton Hall (NHER 8131), constructed in 1780, and its extensive gardens and landscape park (NHER 30435) which were laid out by Humphrey Repton between 1788 and 1790. While the northern portions of the landscape park have now been built over, much of the southern portions have been preserved. By the 19th century the southeastern portion of the area was dominated by industrial activity, with several brickworks recorded (NHER 12925, NHER 35618), both now demolished.

Several World War Two defences were concentrated within this area and have been preserved to varying degrees. An anti-glider trench (NHER 40841) and a spigot mortar base and tank trap (NHER 32541) have been identified within Catton Park, while a pillbox (NHER 32542) and an anti-aircraft battery (NHER 16715) were located to the southeast. Two aircraft crash sites have also been recorded within Catton Park. A rare Cold War structure survives on the southern edge of the area. The group headquarters of the Fifty-Five Royal Observer Corps Cold War underground monitoring posts (NHER 26488) was constructed here in 1950 and remained in use from 1961 to 1991.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development. It includes the entirety of the Catton Conservation Area.

ACZ 5: Norwich Airport (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is defined by the extent of the Norwich International Airport. Formerly known as Horsham St Faith airfield, which served as a base for the RAF and the United States Army Air Force, this area has been an active airport almost continuously since 1939 and consequently very little archaeological investigation has taken place. No archaeological interventions have been carried out and therefore the extent of preservation of below ground features remains unknown. Surface finds where recorded consist of very low levels of Late Saxon to post medieval objects. Three rare World War Two Picket Hamilton forts survive within the confines of the modern airport (NHER 32543, NHER 32544, NHER 32545).

Landscape Character Assessment

No data is available for the majority of this area as it lies within the boundaries of the city of Norwich and therefore was not assessed. However, the northern edge of the zone has been included within the Spixworth Wooded Estate lands area (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone is defined by the extent of the Norwich International Airport. Formerly known as Horsham St Faith airfield, the majority of this area has been an active airport almost continuously since 1939 and consequently very little archaeological investigation has taken place within the zone. No archaeological interventions have been carried out and metal-detecting has been restricted to a small area on the northeastern edge of the zone. Several World War II military structures were recorded by English Heritage's Defensive Structures Survey in 1994. However, the extent of preservation of below ground archaeological features remains unknown.

Recorded finds pre-dating the construction of the airport are restricted to those recovered by metal-detecting in the northeastern edge of the zone. These finds include a Middle to Late Saxon buckle (NHER 35668), several medieval coins (NHER 35668, NHER 20915), and a post medieval trader's token (NHER 35668). They indicate low levels of activity from the Saxon period onwards, with the majority of material likely deposited during manuring of fields. This zone remained open farmland at least until the early 19th century when two farms, Wood Farm and Heather Farm, were depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

Horsham St Faith airfield was established just before World War Two and served as a base for RAF bomber and fighter squadrons between 1939 and 1942, and the United States Army Air Force between 1942 and 1945. The airfield was returned to the RAF in 1945 and remained in use until 1963. In March 1967 it was purchased by the local authority and converted to a civilian airport. Portions of the zone now also form an industrial estate. Several World War Two structures remain within the zone, including three rare survivals of Picket Hamilton forts (NHER 32543, NHER 32544, NHER 32545). The location of a pillbox (NHER 16796) has also been recorded, but this was demolished in order to construct a new approach road for the airport.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The entirety of this zone is now a civilian airport.

ACZ 6: Historic Core of Horsham St Faith (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is comprised of the built-up area of Horsham St Faith, including the entirety of the Horsham St Faith Conservation Area. The settlement of Horsham St Faith was an important medieval centre, based around the Benedictine Priory of St Faith (NHER 8005). The site of the former priory is now a Scheduled Monument and the converted refectory is a Grade I listed building. The historic core of the settlement also includes a wide range of post medieval buildings, dating from the early 17th century to the 19th century. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place outside the scheduled area of the priory and therefore preservation of below ground remains within the majority of the zone remains unknown.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Spixworth Wooded Estate lands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone is comprised of the built-up area of Horsham St Faith, including the historic core of the settlement. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place within this built-up zone. The majority of recorded information is derived from existing structures, which include fifteen listed buildings, and historic documents. Archaeological interventions have been restricted to the area immediately surrounding the priory, but several finds have been recorded during construction work elsewhere within the zone between 1968 and 1984. Only two surface finds have been recorded: one recovered with a metal detector in 1988 (NHER 28467) and one recovered from a garden in 2002 (NHER 37357).

Only one find pre-dating the medieval period has been recorded within this zone: a Roman coin recovered with a metal detector (NHER 28467). All other remains date to the medieval and post medieval periods. The Benedictine Priory of St Faith (NHER 8005), initially established in Horsford in 1105 (NHER 13934), was moved to Horsham shortly after its foundation. Located on what is now the western edge of the settlement, the priory buildings included a church, a refectory and cloisters. The priory was dissolved in 1536 and all buildings but the refectory were demolished. The refectory, a Grade I Listed Building, was converted into a house and retains nationally important medieval wall paintings. During the post medieval period, the land was farmed and a section of the precinct wall was incorporated into the village lock up (NHER 21666). Various archaeological investigations have taken place from the late 18th century to 1998, establishing the extent of the former priory grounds, and the site is now a Scheduled Monument. The parish church of St Mary and St Andrew (NHER 8007) was constructed a few meters southwest of the priory. The majority of the existing building was constructed in the 15th century, but the east wall has been dated to about 1200, indicating that the church was constructed shortly after the foundation of the priory, and the tower was constructed in the 14th century. Horsham St Faith was granted a charter for a fair in 1100, and this was held annually until the mid-19th century. The fairground has been identified to the east of the current built-up area, the majority located within the adjacent zone ACZ 8, and has been extensively metal detected. The fairground has yielded large quantities of medieval and post medieval metal objects, but also an Early Saxon wrist clasp and Neolithic worked flint (see ACZ 8). Outside these important medieval centers very little archaeological investigation has taken place and very few chance finds have been recovered. However, there remains high potential for additional buried medieval remains within the zone.

Due to the paucity of archaeological investigation within this zone, the post medieval period is represented only by existing structures and historic documents. The historic core of Horsham St Faith includes 13 post medieval listed buildings. Amongst these are four 17th century homes: The Lilacs (NHER 12250), Gildencroft (NHER 12249), 2-5 Church Street (NHER

12247), and The White House (NHER 43950) which formerly served as a public house. The village lock-up, known as the Clink (NHER 21666) was constructed in the 18th century, along with the King's Head Public House (NHER 43947), the former post house (NHER 43949), and several surviving houses (NHER 43951, NHER 43946, NHER 43948). 19th century listed buildings include the village hall (NHER 12248) and a former Methodist chapel (NHER 37637), and a K6 telephone kiosk has been preserved (NHER 43943).

Historic Landscape Character

The majority of this zone was not assessed as this area is now almost completely built-up. It includes the entirety of the Horsham St Faith Conservation Area. However, the southern edge of the zone includes a small area of 20th century enclosure and the western edge of the area includes an area of 20th century agriculture with some boundary loss.

ACZ 7: Horsham St Faith to Spixworth Managed Wetland (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is comprised of an area of enclosed meadows formed along a tributary of the river Bure. It has been enclosed at least since the post medieval period and is depicted on both the Spixworth and the Horsham and Newton St Faith tithe maps. Extremely little archaeological material has been recovered from this waterlogged area and no archaeological interventions have taken place, but concentrations of Prehistoric and Roman material along the southern edge of the zone, within ACZ 8, indicate that this marine resource has likely been exploited from the earliest periods of human occupation.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone stretches east to west across the boundary between Marsham and Hainford Wooded Estatelands (LCA E2) to the north and Spixworth Wooded Estatelands (LCA E3) to the south.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Although this area of enclosed meadow would have formed an important marine resource for past populations, very little archaeological material has been recorded within this zone. No archaeological interventions have taken place and very little surface investigation has been carried out. Metal-detecting in 1988 and 1992 on the southwestern edge of the zone has yielded only two items: a gilt bronze attachment stud for a medieval harness pendant (NHER 24517) and a post medieval Scottish coin (NHER 30190). A low earthwork has been identified towards the east of the area, running north to south across the zone (NHER 22951). It has been suggested that this earthwork may have been part of the Thorpe to Brampton Roman road (NHER 7598), forming a river crossing at this point. Concentrations of Roman and Prehistoric material have been recorded to the south (ACZ 8), clustered along the edges of this waterlogged area. The potential for waterlogged archaeological deposits within this zone remains unknown.

Historic Landscape Character

This zone is comprised of an area of enclosed meadows formed along a tributary of the river Bure. It remains uncertain when this area was enclosed, but it is depicted on both the Spixworth and the Horsham and Newton St Faith tithe maps.

ACZ 8: Land East of Horsham St Faith (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone consists of a large area primarily devoted to 20th century agriculture stretching between Horsham St Faith and Spixworth and bounded on the north by an area of managed wetland (ACZ 7). The area has been the focus of intensive metal-detecting activity but very limited archaeological intervention. Most archaeological periods are represented, and dense concentrations of Neolithic, Roman, and medieval material have been recorded throughout the zone indicating good preservation of below ground features.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Spixworth Wooded Estatelands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone has been extensively fieldwalked and metal detected by a variety of enthusiasts from 1980 to the present day. In addition to independent detecting, the Anglian Historical Searchers Rally took place in this area in 1998, and members of both the Anglian Historical Searchers and the Norfolk Metal-detecting Club took part in a rally in 2007. These activities have provided an extensive record of surface finds in the area from a wide variety of archaeological periods. In contrast, there have been very few archaeological interventions in the zone. A watching brief was conducted by Tempus Reparatum over a small area west of Bunker's Hill in 1995 (NHER 31798), an evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Solutions at Grange Farm extraction pit in 2003 (NHER 39675), and an evaluation was carried out by NAU Archaeology in the southeast of the zone in 2006 (NHER 44786). Details are still awaited from fieldwalking carried out by NAU archaeology along the proposed route of the Northern Distributor, and evaluation trenches will be excavated in at least one area of this proposed route (NHER 8126).

Objects from most archaeological periods have been recorded within this zone, with particular concentrations of Prehistoric, Roman, and medieval remains. Prehistoric material has been recovered throughout the area, but finds are particularly dense in the extreme north of the zone, adjacent to an area of managed wetland (ACZ 7). This marine resource appears to have been exploited throughout Prehistory. The earliest activity is represented by a Palaeolithic handaxe (NHER 24415) and several rare finds of Mesolithic tools (NHER 30074, NHER 32216, NHER 23810, NHER 24515, NHER 24651). The majority of the worked flint that has been dated is from the Neolithic period, when exploitation of these wetland resources appears to have intensified. Neolithic material has been recovered from eleven locations in the area, with two particularly dense scatters of material immediately adjacent to the wetland zone (ACZ 7), at NHER 30074 and NHER 3216. Use of this area appears to have declined in the Bronze Age, when activity is only represented by two copper alloy axe finds (NHER 20566, NHER34607) and a spearhead with wood handle in situ (NHER 24651), and Iron Age activity is indicated only by a single coin find (NHER 20913).

Roman material is densely spread across this zone. The majority of fields which have been walked and metal detected have yielded Roman finds, and these predominantly consist of coins and brooches but also include small quantities of pottery. With low levels of archaeological intervention in this area, the only excavated feature firmly dated to this period is a truncated cremation (NHER 44786) recorded during an evaluation in the southeast of the zone in 2006. However, undated field systems also recorded during this evaluation are potentially broadly contemporary. Cropmarks of a possible marching camp (NHER 16451) have been identified in the south of the zone but unusually this is located away from the cluster of Roman finds and its identification remains tentative. Similarly, there are cropmarks of an undated square enclosure (NHER 13224) on the edge of Horsham St Faith which could be Roman, but this is located west of the area of concentrated Roman finds. The most prolific

site (NHER 30074) is actually located in the extreme north of the zone on the edge of the area of managed wetland (ACZ 7), indicating that any related features may be located in this area.

Low levels of Saxon material have been recorded throughout the zone, though there are notably less finds of this period in the extreme southeast of the area, between Quaker Lane and St Faith's Road. These remains have all been recovered with metal detectors and include several Early Saxon objects (NHER 8126, NHER 34619, NHER 34862) and Middle to Late Saxon objects (NHER 22046, NHER 25101, NHER 35668, NHER 39564, NHER 40848), although the majority have been dated to the Late Saxon period. Cropmarks of possible Early Saxon sunken featured buildings (NHER 21127) have been identified in the southeast of the zone.

As noted above, intensive metal-detecting activity within this zone has recorded a large quantity of medieval and post medieval objects throughout the area. The zone includes the land stretching between the medieval settlement of Horsham St Faith (ACZ 6) and the much smaller village of Spixworth, and the majority of medieval objects recovered from the area were likely deposited through agricultural activities within the fields surrounding these two centres. The village of Horsham St Faith (ACZ 6) was granted a charter to hold a fair in 1100, and this fair (NHER 8126) was annually held on the eastern edge of the village, just outside the modern built-up area, until the mid-19th century. The historic village of Spixworth remains outside the 20th century settlement (ACZ 9), and is included within the northeast of this zone. The only medieval building remaining in the village is St Peter's Church (NHER 8027), which is a Grade I listed building primarily constructed in the 14th and 15th centuries but possibly containing an earlier core. Re-used medieval colonettes in the fireplace of Parsonage Farm (NHER 12271) may have originated from the church while other reused medieval stonework in the area (NHER 2334, NHER 41694) may have originated from St Faith's Priory (NHER 8005, ACZ 6). A possible road identified as a cropmark (NHER 34202) in the east of the zone, within the former grounds of Spixworth Park (NHER 8022), may date to the medieval period but was more likely formed at the same time at the park. An earthwork bank (NHER 31018) located in the centre of the zone which forms part of a parish boundary may also have originated in the medieval period.

In the early 17th century Spixworth Hall (NHER 8022) was constructed in the east of the zone, and a large portion of land was landscaped to form Spixworth Park. The hall was demolished in 1950 and the surrounding land is now devoted to agriculture, but the barn and granary (NHER 8022) remain and are both listed Grade II along with the converted stable block known as Gaffer's Cottage (NHER 46104) and the 19th century red brick gate piers (NHER 46065). Other listed buildings within this zone include Grange Farmhouse (NHER 45861) and Barn (NHER 18822) and the Rectory (NHER 46100) near Spixworth, and Meadow Farm (NHER 43944) located in the north of the zone, all constructed in the 18th century. Excavations near Grange Farm prior to gravel extraction recorded several ditches which likely formed two separate post medieval field systems (NHER 39675).

Despite the proximity of this zone to Horsham St Faith Airport (NHER 8137, ACZ 5), no defensive structures have been identified within the area. Only a single World War Two aircraft crash site (NHER 31798) has been recorded.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The majority of this zone has been devoted to 20th century agriculture, and there has been a relatively high level of increased subdivision of the fields mixed with low levels of field boundary loss throughout the area. The former parkland surrounding Spixworth Hall has now reverted to arable land. Several areas of piecemeal enclosure by agreement have been recorded in the north of the zone, and the southernmost portion of the zone has not been assessed.

ACZ 9: Spixworth 20th Century Urban Area (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone consists entirely of the 20th century urban area known as Spixworth. Although this is an area of relatively recent urban development no archaeological interventions have taken place prior to or during construction. Levels of below ground preservation therefore remain completely unknown. Only two surface finds have been recovered from this zone and consequently it remains uncertain whether the dense Prehistoric and Roman activity identified to the north and west within ACZ 8 may have extended into this area.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Spixworth Wooded Estatelands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone consists entirely of the 20th century urban area of Spixworth. This area remained open farm land until at least the early 19th century (First Edition Ordnance Survey map) and was largely developed in the 20th century. However, this development took place prior to the inclusion of archaeology within the planning system and no archaeological interventions have taken place. Recorded finds are limited to a Neolithic polished flint axe recovered from the ground surface in 1947 (NHER 8009) and a Roman coin of Constantius II found while gardening in 1982 (NHER 20565). These finds may be outlying elements of the Prehistoric and Roman material recorded to the north and west within ACZ 8. Levels of below ground preservation of archaeological features within this area remain completely unknown. However, due to the density of Prehistoric material within the surrounding areas it is possible that remains of this period have been preserved below the 20th century structures.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area was not assessed as it is an area of urban development.

ACZ 10: Land south of Spixworth (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is an area of 20th century agriculture, located south of Spixworth and west of Beeston Park, which has been subjected to a degree of enclosure during the late 20th century. Levels of archaeological investigation have been quite variable, with detailed field survey in the eastern portion of the zone, almost no investigation in the western portion, and archaeological interventions restricted to the extreme south of the zone. The majority of archaeological finds within the zone date to the medieval and post medieval period, with very low levels of Prehistoric material recovered from the south of the area.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Spixworth Wooded Estate lands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Levels of archaeological investigation in this zone have been variable. The eastern portion of the zone has been the focus of a programme of systematic fieldwalking undertaken by A. Davison between 2004 and 2005 throughout Beeston St Andrew parish (Davison 2007), which has provided even coverage throughout this portion of the area. One area in the extreme northeast was metal detected in 1997 and 1998 (NHER 346350), and several areas have been metal detected in the southeast of the zone (NHER 17118, NHER 15902, NHER 37583, NHER 35893, NHER 33114). In contrast, archaeological interventions have only taken place in the extreme south of the zone. Fieldwalking and topsoil stripping by NAU in 2002 and 2003 north of Wroxham Road did not record any features but yielded several finds (NHER 37170), while excavation by NAU west of Church Lane in 2003 did not record any archaeological remains (NHER 40107, NHER 40108). The National Mapping Programme has also only covered the eastern edges of this zone. Very little investigation has taken place in the western portion of the area and therefore the nature of the archaeological record in this portion of the zone remains unknown.

This zone is distinct from that immediately west (ACZ 8) in that very few remains pre-dating the medieval period have been recorded. A Davison's 2004-2005 fieldwalking survey recorded only a small number of Prehistoric worked flint objects, with dated objects limited to a Neolithic scraper (NHER 41881) and flakes (NHER 37316) and Bronze Age flakes (NHER 41883). Any Prehistoric activity in the zone may have been focused towards the south, where a Mesolithic flaked axehead was recovered from the surface (NHER 25453), NAU fieldwork recorded a Mesolithic blade (NHER 37170), and a Bronze Age cremation urn was disturbed in Sprowston cemetery (NHER 8113).

Roman and Saxon finds are even more sparse within this zone. Despite the concentration of Roman finds in the zone immediately west (ACZ 8) and the existence of a possible Roman road to the east (NHER 7598, ACZ 11) only a few possible fragments of Roman pottery (NHER 37583) and a single Roman coin (NHER 33114) have been recorded. Similarly, Saxon finds have been restricted to a small quantity of pottery recovered during fieldwalking (NHER 41878) and a Late Saxon brooch (NHER 34645) and stirrup strap (NHER 33114) recovered with a metal detector.

The vast majority of material recovered within this zone has been dated to the medieval and post medieval period. These finds are scattered throughout the investigated portions of the area and primarily consist of pottery and metal objects such as coins and buckles which were likely transported in the night soil used to fertilize the fields during these periods. The fieldwalking in the eastern portion of the area noted particularly high quantities of post medieval material within these fields.

St Andrew's parish church (NHER 8142), which served Beeston St Andrew parish during the medieval period but was reportedly in ruins by the 16th century, is believed to have been located in the northeast of this zone. However, this has not been confirmed. Several finds of human remains in the vicinity of the proposed location (NHER 23422, NHER 19017, NHER 8142) appear to support the existence of a church, but cropmarks (NHER 18125) indicate only a medieval or post medieval enclosure and related field boundaries. Finds of medieval roof tiles and a report of rubble foundations disturbed in 1948 (NHER 8142) indicate that a building was located here, but this may have been a general purpose building associated with the village of Beeston St Andrew.

At the beginning of the 17th century Beeston Old Hall (NHER 12258) was constructed in the centre of this area. Unfortunately this building was demolished in 1846 and the site is now occupied by a Georgian brick structure known as Red Hall. The only Listed building within this area is Oak Lodge Farm house (NHER 46105), which was constructed in the southwest in the 18th century. Aside from Oak Lodge Farm and Red Hall, this area remained open farmland in the early 19th century (First Edition OS map) and remains dominated by 20th century agriculture.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Only the northeastern portion of this zone has been assessed. This area is primarily 20th century agriculture, and a degree of enclosure has taken place during the late 20th century. However, several areas of 18th to 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement have been identified in the east of the zone.

Davison, A. (2007) Investigations at Godwick and Beeston St Andrew, Norfolk Archaeology XLV Part II, 141-54.

ACZ 11: Beeston Park, Sprowston Park, and Rackheath Park (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone consists primarily of 18th to 20th century wooded plantations, informal parkland, and leisure/recreation areas which comprise Beeston Park, Sprowston Park and Rackheath Park. Much of the landscape has not been substantially altered since the creation of these parks in the 18th century and three areas of ancient woodland have been preserved in the centre of the zone. Levels of archaeological investigation have been quite varied, with systematic fieldwalking undertaken across Beeston Park and aerial photograph analysis carried out over much of Rackheath Park but almost no archaeological interventions. Very few remains pre-dating the 16th century have been recorded, but much of the 18th century parkland has been preserved and substantial World War Two remains likely remain buried within Rackheath park.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is primarily Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estate lands (LCA E4). The southwestern portion of the area is Spixworth Wooded Estate lands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Levels of archaeological investigation within this zone have been quite varied and primarily consist of non-invasive survey. Beeston Park, which forms the northeastern portion of the zone, was included within a programme of systematic fieldwalking undertaken by A. Davison between 2004 and 2005 throughout Beeston St Andrew parish (Davison 2007). This survey has provided even coverage throughout the parish, filling in potential gaps in knowledge of the area. The northern portion of Beeston Park and the northern portion of Rackheath Park have been investigated by the Norfolk National Mapping Programme (NMP), providing systematic aerial photograph analysis of these areas, and this work has also greatly enhanced archaeological knowledge of the areas it has covered. Only one archaeological intervention has taken place within the zone. This is a watching brief conducted by NAU during work on a sewer main on the eastern edge of Rackheath Park in 1998 (NHER 33750). Details area awaited following fieldwalking carried out by NAU Archaeology along the proposed route of the Northern Distributor, which runs along the eastern edge of the zone before turning west across Beeston Park.

Very low levels of Prehistoric worked flint have been recovered during systematic fieldwalking in Beeston Park. Dated objects are primarily Neolithic, but Mesolithic and Bronze Age worked flint have also been recorded (NHER 19346). Only one Prehistoric flint has been recorded south of Beeston Park (NHER 8149), but this is likely due to a lack of investigation rather than absence of finds. Remnants of field systems (NHER 50744) which may predate Rackheath Park and share similarities with Iron Age or Romano-British field systems recorded elsewhere in Norfolk have been identified in the northeastern portion of Rackheath Park. Low levels of Roman material have also been recovered during fieldwalking of Beeston Park, and the Broad Walk on the western edge of Beeston Park is believed to be aligned with the route of the former Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew Roman road (NHER 7598).

Very few medieval remains have been recorded within this zone. Several medieval roads (NHER 8127, NHER 8128) depicted on a late 16th century map of Mousehold Heath ran east-west through the southern portion of this zone, which later became Rackheath Park, but no traces of these routes have been identified as cropmarks or earthworks. The medieval church at Little Rackheath (NHER 12639) had decayed by the 16th century, but is believed to have been located towards the northeast corner of Rackheath Park, just west of the modern Sir Edward Stacey Road. Several medieval burials (NHER 31541), likely from the churchyard, were disturbed in 1995 during the extension of a house located to the east of the postulated location of the church. A single medieval to post medieval track or hollow way (NHER 50743)

has been identified as an earthwork visible on aerial photographs at the northern end of Rackheath Park. Fieldwalking and limited metal-detecting in the northern portion of the zone have yielded relatively low quantities of medieval objects.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries the majority of this zone was developed into three landscape parks: Beeston Park, Sprowston Park, and Rackheath Park. Beeston St Andrew Hall was constructed by the 17th century, and although the original building has been demolished, the curving 17th century garden walls have been preserved (NHER 8174). The surrounding park (NHER 30495) was established sometime prior to 1794 and was expanded in 1842, but has been reduced in size by 20th century planting. It is divided by a public road, with access provided via a lodge and gates, and includes 17th and 18th century garden walls and a 19th century walled kitchen garden. Depressions in the southeast of the park may represent former fish ponds. A post medieval boundary bank (NHER 50799) which may have defined a former plantation belt depicted on the 1842 Beeston St Andrew Tithe Map has been identified on aerial photographs but has since been leveled due to ploughing.

Sprowston Hall (NHER 8159) was constructed in the 16th century, but was demolished and rebuilt in the late 19th century and was converted into a hotel and country club in 1973. Sprowston Park (NHER 30522) was established sometime prior to 1794 and included 18th century kitchen gardens, but little of this landscape now remains as it has since been ploughed and converted to a golf course. During World War Two the hall was used as the headquarters of GOC Eastern Command, but the air-raid shelters and associated structures were demolished when the grounds were landscaped to form the golf course.

Rackheath Hall (NHER 8172) is believed to have been constructed in the 18th century and is a grade II listed building, but a hall has existed at this location since at least the late 16th century. The surrounding park (NHER 30518) was established sometime before 1589, when it is depicted on a map of Mousehold Heath, and included major woodland belts. It was expanded in the 19th century, including the construction of a south entrance with lodges and a formal avenue and the addition of a lake. The remaining 19th century gateway (NHER 8173) has been listed grade II along with the late 19th century bridge (NHER 20138) which links the kitchen garden to the estate road. A 19th century hydraulic ram (NHER 8176) has been preserved within the grounds and cropmarks of possible medieval to post medieval garden features (NHER 51125) have been identified on aerial photographs.

During World War Two the central and southern portions of Rackheath Park served as a domestic site for the adjacent Rackheath Airfield (NHER 8170, ACZ 12). Aerial photographs indicate that clusters of huts and other structures (NHER 50740) were dispersed across the park along with ground defenses such as spigot mortar emplacements, and some of these structures and associated areas of concrete remained in the 1980's and 1990's. The northern end of Rackheath Park was used as a military training area, visible on aerial photographs as earthworks within an area of rough ground (NHER 50741). This training area appears to have been disused by 1945, suggesting that they may pre-date Rackheath Airfield. This area is now under arable cultivation and the majority of the earthworks have likely been leveled.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This zone consists primarily of 18th to 20th century wooded plantations, informal parkland, and leisure/recreation areas. Much of the landscape has not been substantially altered since the creation of Beeston, Sprowston and Rackheath parks in the 18th century. Three areas of ancient woodland have been preserved in the centre of the zone and two areas of 18th to 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement have been identified southeast of Beeston Park. The eastern edge of the zone is now used for 20th century agriculture and there has been a degree of field boundary loss towards the northeastern edge of the zone, but also a degree of 20th century enclosure towards the southeastern edge. The southwestern corner of this zone includes a small, disused industrial area.

Davison, A. (2007) Investigations at Godwick and Beeston St Andrew, Norfolk Archaeology XLV Part II, 141-54.

ACZ 12: Former Rackheath Airfield (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is primarily defined by the extent of the former World War Two airfield at Rackheath, which operated from 1943 to 1945 and was used as a private airfield from 1960 until quite recently. The area has recently been surveyed by the National Mapping Programme as well as several metal detectorists. A dense cluster of cropmarks has been identified which indicate several phases of occupation prior to the formation of the airfield. These include a possible Neolithic oval barrow or mortuary enclosure, Iron Age to Roman field systems, and an extensive late medieval to early post medieval settlement. The control tower for the airfield and portions of the former runways and tracks still survive.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands (LCA E4).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This small zone has recently been subject to a variety of non-invasive archaeological investigation. Aerial photographs for the entire zone have been examined by the National Mapping Programme, which has resulted in the identification of a plethora of buried sites visible as cropmarks and earthworks potentially ranging in date from the Iron Age to World War Two. The zone has also been visited by a variety of metal detectorists between 2007 and 2009, resulting in the recovery of a variety of Late Saxon to post medieval metal objects as well as other surface finds. Archaeological interventions have been restricted to monitoring of the installation of a water pipeline along the western edge of the site in 1998 (NHER 33750).

The majority of recorded evidence for past occupation of this zone has been gathered from aerial photographs of the area, which reveal a dense array of cropmarks of former field boundaries, trackways and enclosures. Several of the identified features may be of Prehistoric date. The earliest feature within the zone is a possible Neolithic oval barrow or mortuary enclosure (NHER 18875) located to the south of Rackheath industrial estate. Very few Prehistoric finds have been recovered during investigation of this zone, but extensive Prehistoric remains have been identified immediately north and these remains are likely outlying elements of this activity. Fragments of possible Iron Age to Roman field systems (NHER 50726) have been identified in much of the northeast of the zone. As with the earlier features, these field systems are similar in character with several others located to the north and west. Several finds of Roman pottery and brooches (NHER 33750, NHER 51314, NHER 52535) have been recovered within this zone.

The bulk of the cropmark features within this zone appear to relate to a probable late medieval or early post medieval settlement site (NHER 50727) on the eastern edge of the area. This consists of a linear arrangement of rectilinear enclosures ranged along a double-ditched trackway or road which is now followed by the parish boundary between Rackheath and Salhouse. Two rectangular enclosures located 200m north (NHER 29575, NHER 50723) may be further elements of this settlement, along with several cropmarks to the south (NHER 50728, 50729 and 50730). It has been suggested that the site may have occupied a former common-edge position in relation to Mousehold Heath (ACZ 14). The road or track may have led across or around the heath towards the river crossing at Wroxham, and it may have joined with Ravensgate Way (NHER 8127) to the south. A medieval or post medieval enclosure and associated field boundaries (NHER 17676) have been identified in the northwest of the zone, a likely medieval or post medieval windmill site (NHER 50718) has been located in the northeast, and additional post medieval field boundaries have been recorded throughout the zone (NHER 50823, NHER 50725, NHER 50819). Despite this extensive cropmark evidence for medieval and post medieval occupation within this zone, metal-detecting has yielded only a moderate density of medieval and post medieval objects.

This zone is primarily defined by the extent of Rackheath World War Two airfield (NHER 8170), which operated from 1943 to 1945 and was used as a private airfield from 1960 until quite recently. The site is visible on aerial photographs taken from 1945 onwards, and parts of the runways and tracks still survive, together with the control tower. The airfield consisted of three interconnected runways with a classic 'A'-shaped layout surrounded by a perimeter track with numerous dispersal bays. Hangars and a control tower have been identified within aerial photographs along with numerous smaller buildings, huts and shelters. Accommodation was provided by clusters of huts sited in Rackheath Park (NHER 50740), immediately to the southwest (see ACZ 11). Visible defenses consist of a series of small gun emplacements sited around the perimeter of the airfield, although some larger sites of unknown function identified to the north and northeast (NHER 50717) could also have been associated with airfield defense or communications. A concrete building (NHER 49997) now located behind Rackheath Primary School and used as a classroom may have been a barrack block from the airfield, moved to its present location sometime after 1946.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is primarily defined by the extent of the former World War Two airfield at Rackheath. Several areas in the southwest and east of the zone have been categorized as disused post medieval military land, and a portion of the southwest of the area is now an industrial estate. The remainder of the zone has now reverted to agricultural use, but this is a relatively recent change in land use and portions of the former runways and tracks still survive.

ACZ 13: Salhouse Conservation Area (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone is comprised of the Salhouse Conservation Area. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone and therefore levels of below ground preservation of archaeological features remain uncertain. A small quantity of Prehistoric finds has been recovered from the surface, indicating that the intensive Prehistoric activity recorded to the north of the study area may have extended into this zone. The majority of recorded archaeological features within this zone date to the medieval to post medieval period and are associated with the historic settlement of Salhouse and related activity near Salhouse Broad.

Landscape Character Assessment

This majority of this zone is Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands (LCA E4). The northeastern edge of the area is Wroxham to Rainworth Marshes Fringe (LCA F1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone is comprised of the Salhouse Conservation Area. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone and therefore the level of preservation of below ground features remains uncertain. The entirety of the zone has been examined by the Norfolk National Mapping Programme, but cropmarks have only been identified in the extreme east, east of Salhouse. The majority of data for the area is derived from surviving structures, including eleven listed buildings, as well as historic documents and reporting of stray surface finds. Surface finds have largely been recorded between 1921 and 1982 and no metal-detecting has taken place within this zone.

Only three Prehistoric objects have been recovered within this zone: a Palaeolithic handaxe (NHER 8462) and two Neolithic flint axes (NHER 8464, NHER 8468). No evidence for below ground features of these dates has yet been recorded, but these objects indicate that the intensive Prehistoric activity recorded near the Bure river valley to the north may have extended into this area. Roman finds within this zone are limited to a single coin commemorating Constantine I (NHER 8471) and several lava quern fragments potentially of Roman to medieval date (NHER 18016). A large patch of iron slag found during ploughing (NHER 8494) indicates that iron working took place in the area, but this activity remains undated.

Salhouse was not mentioned within Domesday, but the settlement had developed by the 13th or 14th century when All Saints' Church (NHER 8500) was constructed. This church, with its unfinished west tower, is the only surviving medieval building within Salhouse. Possible medieval activity has been identified to the northeast of the settlement, where cropmarks of field systems and pits likely of medieval or post medieval date (NHER 49168) have been recorded. The northeastern edge of this zone includes Salhouse Broad (NHER 44124), which is separated from the river Bure by a narrow band of uncut peat, and a series of medieval and later peat cuttings have been identified along the course of the river (NHER 13517). Several fragments of early 14th century stone window tracery (NHER 25317) were recovered from the southern edge of Salhouse Broad during piling work in 1989, and these may have originated from a large house (NHER 15446) depicted near this location on Faden's 1797 map.

Ten post medieval listed buildings survive in Salhouse and its environs, all grade II, ranging in date from the late 16th or early 17th century to the 19th century. The core of The Grange, Lower Street (NHER 31035) dates to about 1600. Salhouse Hall (NHER 8498) originated in the Elizabethan period, but the present building was constructed in the 19th century and surviving garden features also date from this period. Shrudlands Farm House dates to the late 17th century (NHER 45673). The majority of the surviving historic buildings in Salhouse date to the 18th century, including Braemar House (NHER 46102) and Broad Farm House

(NHER 46037) as well as two barns associated with Broad Farm House (NHER 46038, NHER 45680) and a barn at the former equestrian centre (NHER 41200). Hillside Farmhouse (NHER 49828) remains unlisted but may also have been constructed in the late 18th century. Providence Cottage (NHER 46036) was formerly an estate cottage and primarily dates to the 19th century but incorporates earlier material and may have an earlier core. The Baptist Chapel, Chapel Loke (NHER 45659) was constructed around 1800. Historic maps indicate that two windmills were located in Salhouse in the 19th century, one towards the southwestern edge of the town (NHER 43124) and one towards the northeastern edge (NHER 43125), and a brick field is depicted to the northeast on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (NHER 15939). A wreck of a boat (NHER 44132) has been identified in the southeast corner of Salhouse Broad. The wreck is visible on aerial photographs dating from April 1946 and it may have formed part of an obstruction to prevent enemy seaplanes from landing during World War Two.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The majority of this zone consists of 20th century built-up areas which were not assessed. The land surrounding these urban areas is now largely 20th century agricultural land, exhibiting a mixture of enclosure and boundary loss as field boundaries have been altered, but remnants of the 18th to 19th century landscape have survived in several areas. One area of 18th to 19th century piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure has been located to the southeast of Salhouse. One further small area of 18th to 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement survives near the marshes in the northeast of the zone, and the grounds of Salhouse Hall remain informal parkland with 18th to 19th century wooded plantation. The zone is defined by the Salhouse Conservation Area, which extends to the marshes bordering Salhouse Broad. This unique landscape includes an area of grazing marsh and several areas of regenerated alder carr woodland.

ACZ 14: Former Mousehold Heath (Study Area 4)

Overview

This large zone approximates the former extent of Mousehold Heath. The modern landscape incorporates several small areas of post medieval and 20th century settlement interspersed with farmland and small wooded areas. Despite moderate levels of 20th century development, archaeological investigation within this zone has been minimal and subsequently levels of preservation of below ground remains are uncertain. Moderate levels of activity throughout the Prehistoric period have been recorded around the edges of this zone, including a Mesolithic flintworking site in the southeast and cropmarks of several Bronze Age funerary monuments on the northeastern edge. Examination of aerial photographs also indicates that medieval and post medieval activity was focused on the edges of the zone, with evidence of light industrial activity on the eastern edge of the area.

Landscape Character Assessment

The western portion of this zone is Spixworth Wooded Estate lands (LCA E3), the northeastern portion of the zone is Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estate lands (LCA E4), and the eastern edge of the zone is Blofield Tributary Farmland (LCA D4).

Archaeological Character

This large zone consists roughly of the former extent of Mousehold Heath. The modern landscape incorporates several small areas of post medieval and 20th century settlement interspersed with farmland and small wooded areas. Despite moderate levels of 20th century development, archaeological investigation within this zone has been minimal and interventions have been concentrated along the eastern and western edges. To the east, two small areas on the edge of Mousehold plantation and Blackhill Wood were excavated by R. R. Clarke and D. R. Howlett in 1959 (NHER 8482) and 1960 (NHER 1076), and a watching brief was carried out by NAU Archaeology in 2002 during installation of a water pipeline east of Woodbastwick road (NHER 37512). Towards the west of the zone, several archaeological finds and features were recorded during the installation of a pipeline in 1979 and installation of a Sewer Main at Rackheath was monitored by NAU Archaeology in 1998 (NHER 33750). A large area of trial trenching was carried out by NAU Archaeology in the extreme northwest, south of Sprowston Park (NHER 36799), and details are awaited following a programme of fieldwalking along the proposed route of the Norwich Distributor. Data for the eastern half of the area has been significantly enhanced by the work of the Norfolk National Mapping Programme (NMP), and some preliminary findings for the western portion of the zone are available from the NMP's current project. One small area on the southwestern edge of the zone, south of Thorpe End, was the focus of amateur fieldwalking between 1985 and 1987 but the remainder of the zone has been subject only to moderate levels of metal-detecting of small, discrete areas and a small number of chance surface finds recovered during agricultural and gardening activities.

Moderate evidence of Prehistoric activity has been recorded along the outer edges of this zone, with concentrations of material evident in excavated and metal detected areas in the extreme northwest, a small area of fieldwalking south of Thorpe End, near Eleven Acre Plantation and The Brakes in the northeast, and Blofield Corner and Blofield Heath in the southeast. A single Palaeolithic handaxe (NHER 8151) has been recovered from the centre of the zone, southeast of New Rackheath. Mesolithic activity appears to have been concentrated in the southeast of the zone, where a flintworking site has been identified near Blofield Heath and Blofield corner (NHER 8484, NHER 8485) and a second Mesolithic flintworking site (NHER 8473) has been identified immediately outside the zone, near Pedeham. Neolithic worked flint is concentrated towards the west of the zone, west of New Rackheath, particularly within a small area south of Thorpe End, while Bronze Age activity appears to have been concentrated in the east of the zone. Cropmarks of two possible

Bronze Age ring ditches have been identified on the northeastern edge of the area, west of The Brakes plantation (NHER 45115, NHER 45116), and another possible Bronze Age ring ditch or Roman temple or shrine (NHER 29574) has been identified just south of The Brakes plantation. Several Bronze Age finds have been recovered to the southwest of these funerary monuments, including sherds of Beaker pottery (NHER 37512), a virtually complete Beaker flint dagger (NHER 34841), two copper alloy axeheads (NHER 31078, NHER 51663), and two Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowheads (NHER 36254, NHER 8485). Additional features of likely Prehistoric date have been recorded east of Woodbastwick Road (NHER 37512) and south of Sprowston Park (NHER 36799), but these could not be more firmly dated.

Low levels of Roman activity have been identified in the east of the zone. Iron slag and an Early Roman bronze cauldron recorded during early excavation on the eastern edge of Mousehold Plantation (NHER 8482) indicate that a Roman ironworking site was likely located on the edge of the heath. Cropmarks of a linear ditches (NHER 45117) identified to the southwest of The Brakes plantation have been interpreted as possible incomplete field boundaries or enclosure boundaries of Roman date and an Iron Age or Roman terret (NHER 40112) was recovered to the northeast of New Rackheath.

During the medieval period several small settlements developed within the vicinity of the city of Norwich, and a map of Mousehold Heath drawn in 1589 indicates that several east-west medieval roads ran through this zone. These include Ravensgate Way (NHER 8127) and Horning Ferry Way (NHER 8128) north of Salhouse Road as well as Ranworth Way (NHER 8166), which is believed to follow the northern edge of Racecourse plantation. No archaeological evidence for these medieval to post medieval roads has been identified, but a linear ditch in the vicinity identified in 2008 as a cropmark in aerial photographs (NHER 51933) may be related. Several entrenchments (NHER 9688, NHER 9687) are also depicted on the 1589 map of the area, but again no physical remains have been identified. Very few medieval finds have been recovered from this large zone and as with the earlier periods, the majority of known activity within this area during the medieval period appears to have taken place along the eastern edge. Cropmarks of a medieval to post medieval common-edge enclosure depicted on the 1845 Blofield Tithe map (NHER 18909) have been identified to the southwest of Mousehold Plantation and cropmarks of additional field boundaries of possible medieval date (NHER 45142) have been identified in the surrounding area. A possible medieval pottery production site and road was also excavated at Balckhill Wood in 1960 (NHER 1076) and several areas of black soil which may be associated with similar activity have been identified within ploughed fields to the west (NHER 19658, NHER 19659, NHER 19660). A more extensive medieval to post medieval common edge settlement also existed just outside the northern edge of this zone, within ACZ 12.

There are no listed buildings within this zone and the majority of the area appears to have remained as farmland throughout the medieval and post medieval periods, but there is some evidence of post medieval industrial activity on the eastern edge of the zone. Remains of a brickworks (NHER 8497) have been identified on the eastern edge, just north of Little Plumstead, and a second brickworks is depicted on the edge of The Brakes plantation on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (NHER 15941). A water mill alternatively known as Petty Mill, Peaty Mill Dam, or Pedeham (NHER 156190) is depicted on the southeastern edge of the zone on both Faden's 1797 map and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, and Blofield windmill (NHER 15620) which remained in use until 1813 is also depicted on Faden's 18th century map.

Although the majority of World War Two activity was focused in adjacent areas, in Rackheath Airfield (ACZ 12) and Rackheath and Sprowston Parks (ACZ 11), three military structures have been identified within this zone. A structure which may be an outlier of Rackheath airfield is located in the northwest of the area (NHER 50742), a pillbox and searchlight battery (NHER 18195) were formerly located to the southwest, west of White House Farm, and a bombing decoy (NHER 11783) was formerly located on the southern edge of the zone. On the eastern edge of the zone, earthworks identified in aerial photographs indicate that The Brakes plantation was likely used as a World War Two military training site (NHER 45131).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This large zone is largely devoted to 20th century agriculture and there has been a relatively high degree of field boundary loss, with a lesser degree of 20th century enclosure. However, small areas of 18th to 19th century enclosure have been identified throughout the zone indicating a relatively high degree of preservation. Surviving remnants have primarily been identified as piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure, but two large areas of piecemeal enclosure by agreement have been preserved at Plumstead Green and two areas of new enclosure have been identified east of Thorpe End. Several areas of 18th to 20th century woodland plantation have also been preserved within the eastern and western edges of the zone. The southwestern portion of the zone and small built-up areas were not assessed.

ACZ 15: Land Surrounding Great Plumstead (Study Area 4)

Overview

This zone consists of a small area of land to the north and east of Great Plumstead, including the settlement itself. It is characterized by a notable lack of both professional and amateur archaeological investigation. However, where aerial photographs have been examined several enclosures of likely Iron Age to Roman date have been identified along with accompanying field systems. Cropmarks also indicate survival of medieval to post medieval farms and associated field boundaries, particularly surrounding Manor Farm in the northeast.

Landscape Character Assessment

The western portion of this zone is Spixworth Wooded Estatelands (LCA E3), while the eastern portion of the zone is Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands (LCA E4).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone consists of a small area of land to the north and east of Great Plumstead, including the settlement itself. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place within this zone. No interventions have taken place, although details of fieldwalking and metal-detecting along the proposed route of the Northern Distributor are awaited. Amateur metal-detecting has been restricted to three small areas southeast of Manor Farm investigated in 1998 and 1999, and only three surface finds have been recorded. The majority of data for this zone is derived from interpretation of cropmarks and earthworks transcribed from aerial photographs by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). However, the NMP has only investigated the eastern half of the zone, leaving coverage of the area very uneven.

Although Prehistoric activity has been recorded along the edge of the former Mousehold Heath immediately to the north (ACZ 14) as well as immediately south of this zone, within ACZ 16, very little Prehistoric material has been recovered from this area. Finds consist solely of a single retouched flake (NHER 34908), an Early Neolithic implement (NHER 8493), a Neolithic flaked and polished axe (NHER 34906), and a Late Bronze Age socketed axe (NHER 34906). However, cropmarks of two Iron Age to Roman D-shaped enclosures (NHER 45119, NHER 45122) have been identified in the east of the zone and cropmarks of late Pre-Roman field boundaries have been recorded to the south of these (NHER 49553). The current work of the NMP has also identified cropmarks of an additional D-shaped enclosure (NHER 51955) in the west of the zone, near the proposed route of the Northern Distributor.

The settlement of Great Plumstead was established sometime during the medieval period. St Mary's Church (NHER 10263) was constructed in the 13th century, but the structure which survives today was almost entirely rebuilt following a severe fire in 1891. Due to the lack of investigation within the zone, very few medieval finds have been recovered. However, extensive cropmarks of medieval to post medieval field systems (NHER 45123, NHER 45125, NHER 45126) have been identified in the eastern portion of the zone, particularly within the vicinity of Manor Farm. Several of the cropmarks recorded to the north of Great Plumstead relate to farms depicted along Hare Road on Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk and Bryant's 1826 map (NHER 45126).

During the post medieval period the majority of the land surrounding Great Plumstead appears to have been dominated by farmland, as it remains today. Three of these farms have been listed, all grade II. South Lodge Cottage (NHER 21982) on Low Road is believed to be the surviving wing of a late 16th century manor house. Smee Farm (NHER 11826) was constructed in the 18th century, and Manor House Farm was constructed in the early 19th century. Great Plumstead Hall (NHER 12637) is believed to have been constructed in the late 17th century, but the existing structure was extensively altered in the 19th century and it has not been listed.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This zone consists primarily of 20th century agricultural land, exhibiting a mixture of field boundary loss and modern enclosure, interspersed with several small areas of parkland. A large area of 18th to 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement has been preserved in the northeast of the area, within Plumstead Green, along with a small area of 18th to 20th century woodland plantation. The western portion of the zone includes an area of informal parkland, a recreation area, and a nursery.

ACZ 16: Land East of Thorpe St Andrew (Study Area 4)

Overview

This small zone incorporating land east of Thorpe St Andrew and north of the A47 has been subject to intensive archaeological investigation within recent years, including both professional and amateur work. It is characterized by large, multi-period occupation sites and was intensively occupied throughout the Prehistoric and Roman periods, with less intensive activity during the Saxon to post medieval periods. Excavated sites within this zone include an extremely rare example of in situ Palaeolithic flint knapping remains (NHER 51002), intensive Neolithic occupation at Laurel Farm (NHER 51003), Bronze Age funerary monuments (NHER 21766, NHER 49556), a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement dated by radiocarbon samples (NHER 51006), a Roman roadside cremation cemetery (NHER 51007), and Roman pottery kilns (NHER 31108).

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is Spixworth Wooded Estatelands (LCA E3).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This small zone has been subject to intensive archaeological investigation in recent years, greatly increasing our knowledge of past occupation of the area. Prior to 1990, only a small number of surface finds and objects recovered by metal-detecting had been recorded within the zone, but since this time a wide variety of archaeological investigations have taken place throughout. Systematic fieldwalking and metal-detecting was undertaken at Broadland Park Farm in 1994 (NHER 30931, NHER 30932), and along the proposed route of the Northern Distributor between 2006 and 2007. Groundworks were observed along the route of the Southern Bypass between 1991 and 1992 (NHER 29070) and at St Andrew's Hospital in 2008 (NHER 51597). Evaluation trenches were excavated at Heath Farm in 1995 (NHER 31109), and large-scale excavations have taken place at Heath Farm (NHER 31108) and Laurel Farm (NHER 51002-51008). Our knowledge of the area has also been augmented by the work of the Norfolk National Mapping Programme, which has examined aerial photographs of the eastern edge of this zone, and English Heritage's Defensive Structures Survey, which recorded wartime structures in 1994 and 1995. Amateur metal-detecting has also been carried out across the zone between 1996 and 2008.

These investigations have recorded extensive occupation of this zone throughout the Prehistoric and Roman periods, with less intensive activity in the Saxon to post medieval periods. The area is characterized by large, multi-phase sites. Most fields that have been subject to fieldwalking and metal-detecting have yielded items from multiple periods, ranging from the Prehistoric to the post medieval, and there is good preservation of buried features from most archaeological periods. Perhaps the most significant of these buried features is an extremely rare example of in situ Upper Palaeolithic flint knapping remains at Laurel Farm (NHER 51002), where 65 struck flints including flakes, blades and cores were recovered from a single tree throw feature. The Mesolithic period is represented only by finds (NHER 10216, NHER 30932, NHER 31108), but comparatively large quantities have been recorded. Much more intensive activity is evident in the Neolithic, particularly in the northwest of the zone. At Laurel Farm (NHER 51003), flint working appears to have continued throughout the Neolithic, with over 2500 worked flints recovered from a single tree throw feature, and evidence for settlement has been recorded in the form of pits, post holes, and a ditch. One feature excavated at this site has been interpreted as a possible Late Neolithic henge or Early Bronze Age barrow (NHER 51004) and several burnt features recorded across the site which have tentatively been dated to this period indicate that low level industrial activity was taking place.

Occupation of the northwest of the zone continued throughout the Bronze Age. Late Bronze Age features recorded at Laurel Farm include a group of post holes, a possible in-filled well

containing what may be a ritual or ceremonial deposit, and several pits (NHER 51005). Cropmarks of multiple ring ditches (NHER 21766) possibly of Bronze Age date have been identified in the south of the zone and cropmarks of an additional barrow (NHER 49556) have been recorded to the southeast, north of the Postwick Transmitter Station. Cropmarks of field boundaries and ditches (NHER 49557) within the vicinity of the latter may be of late Prehistoric to Roman date. Several Iron Age finds have been recovered throughout the zone (NHER 31108, NHER 42583, NHER 31109, NHER 29070), and settlement continued in the northwest at Laurel Farm. A Middle to Late Iron Age round house and associated features including refuse pits, post holes and ditches were recorded at Laurel Farm (NHER 51006). Several charcoal samples from refuse pits were radiocarbon dated, yielding date of 350-290 BC and 200-10BC.

By the Roman period, a roadside cremation cemetery may have been located at Laurel Farm (NHER 51007), and small scale pottery production was undertaken to the southeast where three second century pottery kilns (NHER 31108) were excavated along with contemporary ditches and a series of large pits. No evidence for Roman settlement has yet been recorded within this zone, but Roman finds have been recovered throughout and additional Roman remains have been recorded to the west, within ACZ 2.

Comparatively little Saxon and medieval remains have been recorded within this zone. At Laurel Farm (NHER 51008) excavations revealed Saxon and early medieval small scale industrial activity including iron working across the site and in the later medieval and post medieval period several large pits were dug to exploit the natural sands in the area. The only other evidence for activity during these periods are relatively low quantities of finds recovered across the zone via metal-detecting and fieldwalking.

Laurel Farm (NHER 51008) appears to have reverted to agricultural use in the post medieval period, and several ditches and numerous post holes indicate the location of post medieval field boundaries. Several buildings at Grove Farm have been listed. These include Grove Farmhouse (NHER 45941) constructed in the mid-18th century, a late 18th century barn (NHER 46085), and a 19th century cart shed, granary and corn barn (NHER 45942). In the early 19th century St Andrew's Hospital (NHER 9693) was constructed on the southwestern edge of the zone. This complex opened in 1814 as the Norfolk County Asylum and is believed to be the oldest hospital in Britain. It later became known as St Andrew's Hospital and closed in 1998. The western edge of the zone is bounded by the Cromer line of the East Norfolk Railway (NHER 13586), which was constructed between 1867 and 1877, and an extensive line of World War Two anti-tank blocks has been preserved long an embankment to the east of the railway (NHER 32536).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The southwestern portion of this zone, which surrounds the former County Lunatic Asylum, was not assessed. The remainder of the zone is dominated by 20th century agricultural land, and several large areas of 18th to 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement have been preserved within the centre of the zone.

ACZ 17: Land between Colton and Honingham (Study Area 4)

Overview

This sparsely settled area of arable land has seen very little archaeological activity, or survey work and consequently below-ground remains in this zone are poorly understood. The built environment is represented by only a single listed building and a Royal Observer Corps post, reflecting very limited settlement in this area.

Landscape Character Assessment

The eastern part of this zone is Easton Fringe Farmland (LCA G1). The western part of this zone is Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland (LCA E3) and Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland (LCA B6). No LCA data was available for the northern part of this zone.

Archaeological Character Assessment

There are few recorded archaeological interventions or surveys in this area, so this apparent blank reflects a lack of knowledge rather than a lack of archaeological remains.

This relatively large zone contains few archaeological finds or features. No early prehistoric material has been recovered from this area, but Neolithic axeheads have been found at two sites (NHER 8872 and NHER 37116), and three undated ring ditches, probably the remains of Bronze Age barrows, are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (NHER 12809). In 1954 and 1955 a large Iron Age coin hoard was discovered in Honingham, and was subsequently excavated by Rainbird Clarke (NHER 7818). Only a single listed building, Greenacres Farm, Honingham (NHER 42009) is recorded within this zone, reflecting the lack of settlement within this area. A Royal Observer Corps lookout post was set up in Marlingford in March 1962 and was closed in September 1991 (NHER 13157).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely 20th century agricultural land with high levels of boundary loss. To the east are several areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement, and to the west are four areas of piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure.

ACZ 18: Easton and the Royal Norfolk Showground (Study Area 3)

Overview

The historic environment of this agricultural area is poorly understood, as there have been no archaeological interventions within this zone. Surface finds indicate later prehistoric activity in this area, and significant prehistoric remains have been excavated in adjacent zones. The historic landscape of this area was significantly altered during the 20th century, with the construction of an airfield (now the Royal Norfolk showground) and mineral extraction taking place at the eastern end of the zone. However, some 18th-19th century landscape elements remain.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely Easton Fringe Farmland (LCA G1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Very little information is available for this area as there have been no archaeological interventions here, and surface finds have only been recovered from 6 sites. Nothing is known of any buried remains in this area.

Surface finds from this zone are almost entirely of late prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age) date, and include many different types of worked flints. This reflects the archaeology of the surrounding zones, where recent interventions have revealed complex prehistoric remains. This area also includes Easton Hall, an 18th century brick house, now part of the agricultural college (NHER 19820, Grade II). The eastern end of this zone is currently the Norfolk Showground, which was the site of the second Norwich Airport between 1949 and 1951 (NHER 29535).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The central area of this zone is 20th century agricultural land, with some boundary loss towards the western end of the zone. Several areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement survive, and two small areas of 18th-20th century woodland plantation remain in the west of the zone. Immediately to the west of the showground is an area of mineral extraction.

ACZ 19: Lodge Farm, Costessey (Study Area 3)

Overview

This small area has been intensively investigated prior to the construction of the Norwich Southern Bypass in the early 1990s and in advance of recent housing development. Below-ground remains predominantly date to the later prehistoric period, although some Roman and more recent features have also been found. Two areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure survive, but the landscape in this zone has been altered considerably by 20th century agriculture.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely Easton Fringe Farmland (LCA G1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This relatively small area has been quite intensively studied in recent years, in advance of proposed development. A considerable amount of aerial reconnaissance has taken place here, as well as trial trenching and several phases of excavation. Watching briefs were carried out in this zone in advance of the construction of the Norwich Southern Bypass in the early 1990s. Some fieldwalking and metal-detecting has also taken place within this zone.

Much of the archaeological evidence from this zone dates from the later prehistoric period. In the south-east corner of this zone metal-detecting discovered a dispersed hoard of Late Bronze Age copper alloy objects (NHER 16398). More recently, a program of archaeological evaluation and excavation recovered at least three additional Late Bronze Age axes and other copper alloy items which are probably part of the same dispersed hoard (NHER 39351). Watching briefs in advance of the Norwich Southern Bypass found several pits with compacted clay, burnt flint, fuel ash slag and charcoal. These pits may be prehistoric hearths, but this interpretation is not clear (NHER 29048 and NHER 29049). An archaeological evaluation at the site of Costessey Park & Ride in 1998 found evidence of shallow pits, a ditch and a possible hearth. Finds included Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery sherds together with worked flints which suggest the site was prehistoric in date, fairly extensive and was used throughout later prehistory (NHER 33842). Trial trenching at Lodge Farm in 2003 identified a large Early Iron Age ditch stretching east-west across the site. The ditch yielded Early Iron Age pottery and an amber bead. Further excavation of the area surrounding the ditch in 2005 recorded four post holes also of Early Iron Age date (NHER 37646). Later discoveries from this area include a Roman pit containing kiln debris found during a watching brief on the line of the Norwich Southern Bypass (NHER 29047). Several undated cropmarks have been recorded from aerial photographs, but not all of these were located during excavations in this area.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This small zone includes two areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement, and the remainder is 20th century agricultural land with some boundary loss.

ACZ 20: Area around Chapel Break (Study Area 3)

Overview

This suburban area has seen considerable development in recent years, and archaeological investigations have taken place in advance of much of this. However, few significant below-ground remains have been encountered within this zone, although surface finds have been recovered across this area.

Landscape Character Assessment

LCA data is only available for the western part of this zone, all of which is Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA F1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been subjected to quite intensive field survey including fieldwalking and metal-detecting. There have also been several archaeological interventions in recent years in advance of housing development, particularly towards the eastern end of the zone. Some aerial reconnaissance has also taken place here.

Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from 12 sites within this area, and all finds date from the later prehistoric period, with the exception of some Mesolithic flint blades (NHER 11385). Excavations of the Bowthorpe Barrow in 1979 established that it was of Early Bronze Age date and that the inner ditch contained ten coffin burials of flexed individuals (NHER 11431). In 1978 a Bronze Age Collared urn was found in the side of a trench dug to lay a gas pipe in Costessey (NHER 13978). A possible Roman road is visible as a cropmark in some parts of this zone (NHER 5244), and Roman finds have been recovered from 18 sites within this area. Saxon objects have been found at 14 separate locations, but no other Saxon remains have been recorded in this zone. Medieval objects have been found at 27 sites, and post-medieval artefacts have been recovered from 20. No listed buildings or other significant post-medieval structures are recorded within this zone.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

HLC data is only available for the western part of this zone, as the remainder has been built over. One area of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement remains in this zone.

ACZ 21: Area of mineral extraction east of Bowthorpe (Study Area 3)

Overview

This small area has been extensively exploited for its aggregate resources. Much of the below-ground archaeology has been destroyed by mineral extraction, although traces of activity dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period are present and include a wide range of surface finds as well as an excavated Roman cemetery.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is entirely within the Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA F1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

One recent archaeological evaluation took place within this area along the route of a pipeline, but no archaeological finds or features were encountered. Two excavations took place at a single site (NHER 9288), the first in 1947, and later in 1971. Some intensive metal-detecting has taken place within this zone, and a small area has been fieldwalked. Our understanding of the historic environment of this zone is largely based upon surface finds recovered by metal-detecting and from gravel pits and the immediate vicinity of the River Yare.

Excavations at Lodge Farm, Bawburgh revealed a Roman cemetery containing several inhumations and cremations dating from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD (NHER 9288). Finds from this zone include prehistoric worked flint, a Bronze Age bone knife (NHER 9401), Iron Age pottery (NHER 9400), Roman pottery, Late Saxon brooches, medieval coins, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and metal objects. A Viking or Danish spade was recovered from a peat deposit during land clearance (NHER 24060). Within this zone are two listed buildings, the 17th century dower house at Lodge Farm (NHER 19254, Grade II*) and Lodge Farm Barns (NHER 37580).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The predominant historic landscape type in this zone is disused mineral extraction, surrounding several large water reservoirs formed within disused gravel pits. To the south of this zone is a small area of enclosed meadow.

ACZ 22. Colney Park (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area of parkland can be separated into two distinct historic landscape types 18th-20th woodland plantation to the north-west and informal parkland to the south-east. Little is known of the north-western part of this zone, whereas by contrast the south-eastern part of this area has been quite intensively metal-detected, revealing finds from most periods.

Landscape Character Assessment

The north-eastern half of this zone is Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA F1) while the south-western half is Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

The south-eastern part of this zone has been quite intensively metal-detected, but little is known of the north-western part of this area as it is wooded. No archaeological interventions are recorded within this zone.

Finds from this area include Neolithic worked flints (NHER 19827), an Iron Age brooch and coin (NHER 24833), Roman coins, brooches and pottery. Saxon finds of all periods are present within this zone, and include Early Saxon brooches and a girdle hanger, a Middle Saxon strap fitting and Late Saxon brooches, a strap fitting and a coin of Coenwulf. A burnt Early Saxon brooch may indicate a cremation cemetery (NHER 20859), although this interpretation is uncertain. Medieval and post-medieval objects are found across the south-eastern half of this zone. Only one listed building is found within this area, Colney Hall (NHER 9415, Grade II).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Two historic landscape types are present in this zone. In the south-east is informal parkland while the north-west is 18th-20th century woodland plantation.

ACZ 23: Bawburgh and Marlingford (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area of land adjacent to the River Yare to the south-west of Norwich has been the focus of archaeological interest from the early 20th century to the present day. Large amounts of prehistoric worked flint have been discovered here, indicating that there has been activity in this valley from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Further investigation of a few sites via excavation has revealed some significant below-ground remains, most of which date to the later prehistoric period. There are 17 listed buildings in this zone, many of which are within the Bawburgh conservation area. Some elements of the historic landscape have been retained in this area, although 20th century agricultural activity has also had a considerable impact here.

Landscape Character Assessment

Running through the centre of this zone is the Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2), while to the north is Easton Fringe Farmland (LCA G1) and to the south Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has seen considerable archaeological investigation and survey. Several sites in this zone were regularly visited during the early 20th century by members of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia, and several early discoveries of prehistoric worked flints found in gravel pits are recorded within this area. Several excavations were undertaken Norfolk Research Committee in this area, including that of a Roman cemetery in Bawburgh in 1947 and a trial excavation at Marlingford in 1949. In early 1990s some fieldwork was carried out in advance of the construction of the Norwich Southern Bypass. In recent years a considerable amount of systematic fieldwalking has taken place, accompanied by some metal-detecting. Some aerial reconnaissance has also been carried out.

Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from 89 sites within this zone. The vast majority of these finds date to the later prehistoric period, but Palaeolithic flint tools have been recovered from 6 sites. In Great Melton the type and quantity of Neolithic and Mesolithic flint objects recovered from a site adjacent to the river suggest that this site may have been mined for flint during these two periods (NHER 9257). At several other sites within this zone, large quantities of prehistoric flint tools indicate probable flint-working sites, including a site at Great Melton (NHER 9237).

Within this zone there is considerable evidence for prehistoric funerary activity, focused along the river valley. A probable Neolithic long barrow is visible as cropmarks at Marlingford (NHER 13357). A cluster of Bronze Age barrows is recorded in Bawburgh. One of these, an oval barrow, was identified in 1936 but was completely bulldozed away in the 1950s (NHER 9290). Further to the south a Bronze Age round barrow still stands as an earthwork and ploughing in 1941 recovered forty fragments of Bronze Age cinerary urn (NHER 9291). Two further ring ditches have been identified from aerial photographs (NHER 31443). In Marlingford cropmarks of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch can be seen on aerial photographs (NHER 15764).

Roman finds from this zone are less numerous than those from preceding periods. However, two significant coin hoards have been found within this area, one from Great Melton comprising approximately 240 1st and 2nd century coins (NHER 19988), and another from Marlingford, comprising 174 silver denarii (NHER 28306). Excavations by the Norfolk Research Committee in Bawburgh in 1947 revealed a 1st and 2nd century AD cemetery which included at least 14 cremations and several inhumations (NHER 9288).

Medieval earthworks of a moated site in Marlingford indicate the location of the Old Hall (NHER 9245). Two further possible medieval moated sites are present within this zone. Within Great Melton parish the location of Algarsthorpe medieval village and the associated Chapel of St Mary Magdalen are uncertain, but documentary sources indicate that Algarsthorpe was a separate parish and that the chapel had a parochial function until 1476 (NHER 9272). In Bawburgh is the site of St Walstan's well (NHER 9298) where legend has it St Walstan's body rested before its final journey to Bawburgh church. The well was a destination for many pilgrims during the medieval period. Five listed buildings within this zone have their origins in the medieval period. These include St Mary's Church, Marlingford (NHER 9281) and SS Mary's and Walstan's Church, Bawburgh (NHER 9296). Twelve further post-medieval buildings within this zone are listed. All of these are located within the settlements of Marlingford and Bawburgh, with most falling within the Bawburgh conservation area. Two garden houses that once belonged to Bawburgh Hall (NHER 9300 and NHER 9301, Grade II*) are Scheduled Monuments, as is Bawburgh Bridge (NHER 12721). In the south-east corner of this zone is the eastern region's radar headquarters and regional seat of government (NHER 33781). This bunker site was the regional headquarters for the radar early warning air defence system during the Cold War.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The River Yare runs approximately west-east across this zone. Adjacent to this watercourse are enclosed meadows, and to the west are some areas of disused mineral extraction and some carr woodland. There are several large areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement within this zone, and one area of piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure. To the east are several large areas of 20th century enclosure, and across the zone are areas of 20th century agriculture with some boundary loss (some with relict elements).

ACZ 24: Great Melton Park (Study Area 3)

Overview

Melton Park appears to have been established in the 18th century, around the 17th century buildings of Melton Hall. This informal parkland also contains many earlier archaeological remains, many of which appear well-preserved.

Landscape Character Assessment

The southern and eastern parts of this zone are Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1), while the north-western part of the park is Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been relatively intensively studied. Aerial reconnaissance has been used to identify prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains within this zone. An earthwork survey covering a large area to the south of the park was carried out in 1985. Fieldwalking has taken place in several parts of the park, and some small areas of this zone have been metal-detected.

Melton Park (NHER 30505) was probably established during the 18th century, with roads closed as part of the work. At the centre of the park are the ruins of Melton Hall (NHER 9277), built in the 17th century and extended during the 18th and 19th centuries. There is cropmark evidence for earlier activity within this area, in the form of a ring ditch (probably the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow), a square enclosure and several linear features which may indicate an early field system (NHER 16258). Fieldwalking of this area of cropmarks has also revealed this to be the location of a probable Neolithic flint-working site. An earthwork survey carried out at the southern end of the park revealed a complex area of pre-park features including a probable triple-moated site, hollow-ways and medieval tofts (NHER 21294). Further features are visible as cropmarks in this area. Finds recovered from the park include prehistoric worked flints, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely informal parkland with a band of 18th-20th century woodland plantation along its northern and eastern edges.

ACZ 25. Land to the north of Hethersett (Study Area 3)

Overview

This arable landscape contains some historic elements, but many have been lost to modern agriculture. The area has been quite intensively studied through collection of surface finds which indicate quite intensive prehistoric activity in this area, and have also revealed the location of an Early Saxon inhumation cemetery immediately to the north of Hethersett village. No interventions have taken place within this area, and there are no sites recorded from aerial photographs.

Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1), with some small areas of Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Almost all of the records within this zone are findspots, resulting from quite intensive fieldwalking and metal-detecting in many parts of this area. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone.

Over half the records in this area include prehistoric worked flints. Palaeolithic finds were recovered from two sites and comprised an axehead roughout (NHER 17936) and a handaxe (NHER 18263), while two Mesolithic axehead roughouts and one blade were also found in this area. The overwhelming majority of prehistoric material from this area date from the later prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age), with finds of this date discovered at 27 sites. No Iron Age finds are recorded in this zone, but Roman artefacts including pottery, coins and other metal objects have been recovered from across this area. These Roman finds may relate to the known Roman settlement further to the west in ACZ 33.

A significant Early Saxon inhumation cemetery has been identified from surface finds, immediately to the north of the village of Hethersett, at the centre of this zone (NHER 21862). Surface finds of typical Early Saxon grave-goods such as brooches, girdle hangers, vessels and sleeve clasps indicate that this is likely to be the site of an Early Saxon cemetery. Early Saxon finds have not been discovered elsewhere within this zone. Medieval finds have been recovered from 10 sites within this zone, and post-medieval material has been found in 12 different locations. A single post-medieval building is also noted in this area, but is of no great significance.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century agricultural land with considerable boundary loss, and 20th century enclosure. Several small pockets of 18th-20th century woodland plantation survive towards the west of the zone, and strips of enclosed meadow are found on either side of the river at the centre of this area. Several large areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement are found across this zone.

ACZ 26: Little Melton (Study Area 3)

Overview

This largely arable area includes the settlement of Little Melton. Archaeological investigations have revealed the potential for significant below-ground remains in this area, and recent work has revealed considerable late prehistoric activity in this area. The area also contains five listed buildings including the medieval parish church of All Saints', and two medieval moats survive as earthworks to the south of the church.

Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1), with a small area of Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Much of this area has been fieldwalked and metal-detected, revealing an assortment of artefacts from across the zone. In 1980 a small archaeological intervention was carried out on a pipeline in this zone. Watching briefs were carried out at two sites during the construction of the Norwich southern bypass in 1991-2 and in 2007 fieldwalking, excavation and a watching brief were undertaken in advance of the new water treatment works at Little Melton.

Archaeological evidence from this area indicates quite intensive activity here during the later prehistoric period. Excavated remains from this zone include late prehistoric pits, Bronze Age hearths and Iron Age stock enclosures, pit groups and un-urned cremations. In addition, prehistoric artefacts have been recovered as surface finds from 25 sites within this zone. Roman metal objects, pottery and tile have been found in 8 separate locations, and Saxon artefacts have been found at four sites. At the western end of the zone, the remains of two medieval moats and a connecting ditch survive as earthworks (NHER 9411). The parish church of All Saints' dates from around 1300 (NHER 9421, Grade II*), and there are four other listed buildings within this zone. Medieval and post-medieval artefacts have also been recovered from across this zone.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The northern part of this zone is entirely 20th century agricultural land with considerable boundary loss. The remainder is 18th-19th century enclosure including piecemeal enclosure by agreement and piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure. There has also been some 20th century housing development within this area.

ACZ 27: West Cringleford (Study Area 3)

Overview

The historic environment of this complex zone to the south-west of the River Yare at Cringleford has been quite intensively investigated by archaeologists as a result of recent development in this area. Investigations have revealed extensive prehistoric remains including domestic and funerary sites, as well as many later finds and sites.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is primarily Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1) with small area of Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA C1) around the John Innes Institute to the north.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been quite intensively investigated, particularly in response to modern development, with several areas having been subject to field survey and geophysics as well as excavation. Some antiquarian discoveries also took place in this zone, including the discovery of a Bronze Age barrow and cinerary urn which were found while digging a gravel pit in Colney in 1799. Aerial reconnaissance has revealed several cropmark sites within this zone.

Many of the archaeological remains recorded within this zone date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. A Neolithic occupation site and vast amounts of associated flint-working debris were recorded during excavations at the John Innes Centre (NHER 9332), and further finds of Neolithic worked flints have been made across this zone. A large number of probable Bronze Age round barrows are recorded within this zone, including two in Big Wood at Cantley which are Scheduled Monuments (NHER 9463, NHER 9464, Norfolk SM 189), and a group of at least five at Colney (NHER 36402). Excavations in advance of the construction of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital revealed Bronze Age and Iron Age pits (NHER 31871). Significant Iron Age remains have recently been recorded during excavations at Little Melton Water Treatment Works (NHER 50209).

The Roman to medieval periods are quite poorly represented in this area. Although artefacts from these periods have been recovered during excavations and field surveys in this zone, few features of this date are recorded here. The natural resources of this zone appear to have been extensively exploited during the post-medieval period. Lime kilns and a tramway are recorded in Big Wood, Cantley (NHER 16685), a clay pit is recorded in Colney (NHER 9407) and two pottery kilns are recorded at Cringleford (NHER 9406 and NHER 14272).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is a mixture of 20th century agriculture with boundary loss and 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement with small strips of 18th-20th century woodland plantation in the north-west.

ACZ 28: Yare Valley Urban Fringe (west) (Study Area 3)

Overview

This part of the Yare Valley is predominantly grazing meadows interspersed with small areas of woodland. There have been few archaeological interventions in this zone, and only a few small areas are suitable for metal-detecting or fieldwalking because of the current land-use. The below-ground archaeology within this zone is poorly understood, although two recent interventions revealed no archaeological finds or features.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely within the Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA F1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

No extensive archaeological interventions or surveys have taken place in this area, and a watching brief at Colney Lane (NHER 33769) and evaluation trenching at Dodderman Way, Bowthorpe (NHER 34564) both produced negative results. Most of the information for this area relates to surface finds recovered by chance or through metal-detecting. Several small areas have been metal-detected. This area contains a relatively high number of stray surface finds such as worked flints and Roman coins retrieved from sites close to the river.

The earliest evidence for activity within this zone is a Palaeolithic handaxe recovered from a site close to the river (NHER 9398). A Mesolithic flint blade was recovered from a garden in Colney (NHER 35739). Other prehistoric remains include a Neolithic flint working site discovered during topsoil stripping (NHER 28277), as well as Neolithic worked flints from several other sites (e.g. NHER 13409 and NHER 28273). Roman, Saxon and medieval artefacts were recovered from several sites within this zone, but none of these sites can be interpreted as anything more than a surface scatter of finds. Three listed buildings fall within this zone, and include St Andrew's Church, Colney (NHER 9339, Grade II*) as well as Colney Old Rectory (NHER 9420, Grade II) and Old Hall, Watton Road, Colney (NHER 11623, Grade II). Several post-medieval sites are present within this zone and include a tollhouse and the site of a drainage mill.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The northern part of this area is largely anciently enclosed grazing marsh close to the river, with a small modern industrial area. No HLC data is available for the built-up area of Colney. In the southern part of the zone the area closest to the river is enclosed meadow land with small areas of 18th-20th century woodland plantation further from river.

ACZ 29: Historic Core of Cringleford (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area is mostly 20th century housing development, but also contains the Cringleford Conservation Area. Little is known about below-ground remains in this area as the majority of this development pre-dates the inclusion of archaeology within the planning process.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is largely Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1) but its northern edge is Yare Valley Urban Fringe (LCA F1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

One archaeological intervention has taken place within this zone at the site of a former factory, but no significant archaeological features were encountered (NHER 34691). As most of the housing development in this area pre-dates the inclusion of archaeology in the planning process, any below-ground remains in this area are poorly understood. Several stray finds have been recorded in this area, mostly found in gardens.

The earliest evidence of activity within this zone is a Lower Palaeolithic pointed handaxe found in a garden in the late 1970s (NHER 21782). A large amount of Palaeolithic material was recovered further east in HECZ 25. During the 1920s a hoard of Roman coins was found 'outside Norwich'. Coins from it were probably recovered on two occasions. Although the exact location of its discovery is uncertain, it probably came from Cringleford (NHER 9363). Roman coins have also been found at two other sites within this zone and in 1930 a Roman cremation urn containing cremated bones was found in a garden (NHER 9364). This area includes the Cringleford Conservation Area. There are nine listed buildings within the historic core of the settlement, including St Peter's Church (NHER 9369, Grade II*) and Cringleford Bridge (NHER 9370, Grade II*) which is also a Scheduled Monument. This site of a medieval or post medieval manor house (NHER 15914) and the site of a post-medieval windmill (NHER 15550) are also recorded within this area.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

There is no HLC data for this area as it is built up.

ACZ 30: East Carleton, Intwood and Swardeston (Study Area 3)

Overview

This large arable area includes Intwood Park and Swardeston Common, and some elements of the 18th-19th century historic landscape survive here. There have been a few archaeological interventions within this zone, some of which have revealed significant below-ground remains. Some parts of this zone have also been fieldwalked and metal-detected, but this field survey has been less intensive than in adjacent areas. Much of the archaeological evidence for this zone pertains to the later prehistoric period, and includes a probable Neolithic flint-working site and Bronze Age cremations. Some later remains are also present and include a deserted medieval settlement and medieval to post-medieval earthworks.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1) but includes two small areas of Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) and one area of Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

A considerable amount of fieldwalking and metal-detecting has taken place within this zone, and approximately 50% of the records for this area are findspots. Some antiquarian investigations are noted in this area, including excavation of a barrow in the mid-19th century at Norwich Lodge, Ketteringham Hall (NHER 9481). More recently archaeological evaluations have taken place at Intwood Hall (NHER 31789), Chancel Acre, Swardeston (NHER 36113) and Swardeston Farm (NHER 41283). At East Carleton two excavations took place in 1986 (NHER 22652 and NHER 22811), revealing significant Bronze Age remains.

Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered across this zone, including finds from all major archaeological periods. A large cluster of Neolithic worked flints including an axehead, two axehead roughouts, flakes, a scraper and a knife made from a retouched flake indicate a probable Neolithic flintworking site (NHER 17836) in Keswick. Two Bronze Age round barrows survive as earthworks near to Norwich Lodge, Ketteringham Hall (NHER 9481), and these are Scheduled Monuments. Further Bronze Age sites are present in the form of ring ditches, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs at Swardeston (NHER 17735) and Ketteringham (NHER 18558). An excavation at East Carleton in 1986 revealed several Late Bronze Age urns containing cremated human remains (NHER 22811), and several pits containing prehistoric pottery were found nearby during a salvage excavation in the same year.

No substantial Iron Age, Roman or Saxon remains have been encountered in this zone, although Roman and Saxon metal objects and pottery have been recovered from sites across this area. Cropmarks of possible Early Saxon sunken featured buildings can be seen on aerial photographs at Foxburrow Plantation, Keswick (NHER 31555). However, the proximity of a nearby Neolithic flint working site (NHER 17836) suggests these could also be interpreted as Neolithic flint mine shafts.

Finds from the medieval period are also found across this zone. This area also includes the deserted settlement of Cantley (NHER 9469) and the site of All Saints' Church, Cantley (NHER 9495). In Hetherset, a hollow way marks the medieval course of the Norwich road, and is still visible as an earthwork. Less than a mile to the east is another hollow way running north-south, visible on the ground and noted from aerial photographs (NHER 11527). This is possibly a former approach to Thickthorn Hall.

Also within this zone is Intwood Park (NHER 30465, Registered Park Grade II*), a relatively small park dating from the 18th century. To the north of the park is Intwood Hall (NHER 9473)

which stands on the site of a medieval manor, although the present building was built around 1835. Beside the hall is a 16th century garden wall. A dense scatter of 16th century bricks in Hethersett indicates the site of a large hall which became known as Mockbeggar Hall after it was divided into labourers' cottages in the post-medieval period (NHER 12486).

This area contains 22 listed buildings, of which three churches are Grade II* listings, St Remigius' Hethersett (NHER 9470), St Mary's Swardeston (NHER 9474) and All Saints' Intwood (NHER 9514). Most of the other listed buildings in this area are post-medieval houses. Other post-medieval sites in this area have been noted from cartographic sources, and include two brick kilns (NHER 15551 and NHER 35701), a saw pit (NHER 9513) and a dovecot which has been converted into a house (NHER 23280).

Several undated features are recorded in this zone, including a rectangular enclosure visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (NHER 18186) and a group of two, possibly three, banked enclosures visible as earthworks on the east side of a stream at Swardeston (NHER 29578).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Much of this zone is 20th century agricultural land with considerable boundary loss, and 20th century enclosure. An area of estate fields survives around Home Farm, Intwood, and informal parkland and 18th-20th century woodland plantation surround Intwood Hall. Swardeston common is to the south-east of this zone, and some areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement survive in this area. Through the centre of this zone are long strips of enclosed meadow on either side of the river.

ACZ 31: Thickthorn Park (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area of parkland was established in the early 19th century. Almost all of the historic environment features within this zone relate to the establishment of Thickthorn Hall in the 13th century, and the construction of a new hall in the early 19th century. Few surface finds are recorded from this area, no archaeological interventions have taken place here and nothing is known of any below-ground remains in this area.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is entirely Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

As this area is parkland, it has seen little archaeological intervention, and only one small area has been fieldwalked (NHER 45397). No metal-detected finds have been reported from this area.

A medieval moat in the centre of Thickthorn Park is thought to have been the site of the old hall established here in 1240 and taken down around 1812 (NHER 9352). The present Thickthorn Hall is a 19th century listed building at the centre of the park (NHER 9417, Grade II). Two lodges on the northern edge of the park are also noted. The only finds recovered from this zone are a few Neolithic worked flints.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The western part of this zone is 18th-20th century woodland plantation and informal parkland, while the eastern part is 20th century enclosure and enclosed meadow.

ACZ 32: Hethersett (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area includes the historic core of Hethersett, as well as the area of modern housing development which surrounds it. No detailed archaeological investigation has taken place within this area, and little is known of any below ground remains. A scatter of finds has been recovered across this zone, and several listed buildings are found within the historic core of Hethersett village.

Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this zone is Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) with a small area of Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1) at its eastern end.

Archaeological Character Assessment

No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone. However, some metal-detecting has taken place in peripheral areas which have subsequently been built over. Several stray finds from gardens have been reported in this area.

This area contains several listed buildings, many of which are clustered along the Norwich Road to the south-east of the zone, or around Lynch Green to the north. Two non-listed buildings of interest are also recorded in this area. Finds from this zone include Iron Age pottery, Roman coins, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and metal objects. Cartographic sources depict a possible medieval to post medieval moat (NHER 52609), two post-medieval windmills (NHER 34439 and NHER 34440) and the site of a post-medieval brick kiln (NHER 52610).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

There is no HLC data available for this area as it is built up.

ACZ 33: Area west of Hethersett (Study Area 3)

Overview

This area of arable land to the west of Hethersett has been quite intensively fieldwalked and metal-detected. A large number of prehistoric worked flints have been found in this area, and surface finds have also indicated the location of significant Roman remains, some of which have subsequently been excavated. Interventions in this area have been quite limited, but have revealed the potential for significant below-ground remains in this area. Although the landscape is intensively used for agriculture, resulting in considerable boundary loss, some areas of 18th-19th century enclosure remain.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D2) but also includes some areas of Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (LCA C1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been quite intensively fieldwalked and metal-detected by one individual. There have been a few archaeological interventions in this zone including a full excavation at Myrtle Road, Hethersett (NHER 37645), and two smaller trial excavations elsewhere within this area. A geophysical survey was carried out at Myrtle Road as part of the evaluation of this site. Some aerial reconnaissance has taken place within this zone, but the impact of this survey method on our understanding of this area is quite limited at present - imminent investigation of this area by the Norfolk National Mapping Programme will almost certainly alter this.

The vast majority of sites (over 75%) in this area are findspots, resulting from intensive field survey over a long period of time. Prehistoric material has been recovered from 34 sites within the zone, and includes worked flints dating from all periods of prehistory, and a prehistoric burnt mound found at Park Farm, Hethersett (NHER 24648). Iron Age pottery has been recovered from three sites within this zone.

This area appears to have flourished during the Roman period, with Roman artefacts including coins, pottery and a wide range of metal objects found at 45 separate locations. The cropmarks of a Roman road are visible to the south of the zone (NHER 19725). Investigations of a site to the north-west of Hethersett on the parish boundary with Great Melton have revealed evidence for several Roman buildings, and a small lead coffin containing the remains of an infant was found during a small-scale excavation here in 1985 (NHER 9270). Immediately to the south-east, at Myrtle Road, Hethersett, excavations in advance of proposed development revealed two phases of Roman activity (NHER 37645). The early Roman phase is represented by a farmyard with possible stock enclosures and a pond enclosed by a large boundary ditch. Finds from this period include a large cache of Samian pottery, almost certainly deliberately deposited as a votive or funerary offering. Later Roman features centre around a large, well-preserved building used for drying, and a well. These features almost certainly indicate arable farming alongside the nearby Roman settlement. Intensive activity in this zone does not appear to have continued into the Saxon period, although an Early Saxon cemetery is recorded in the adjacent zone (ACZ 25). Saxon material was recovered from 14 sites within this zone, and most of these finds dated from the Late Saxon period.

Medieval finds have been discovered at 46 sites across this zone. In two fields towards the northern end of this zone, the sites of medieval buildings have been identified from surface finds which included building materials, millstones and dense clusters of medieval pottery sherds (NHER 13844 and NHER 13845). This area also includes the medieval church of All Saints', Great Melton (NHER 9269, Grade II listed building), which was allowed to fall into disrepair during the 18th century and was restored and partially rebuilt in the late 19th

century. Within the same churchyard is the remains of the 15th century tower of St Mary's church (NHER 9268). Within this zone are 11 other listed buildings, all of which are Grade II, and all of which are houses or farmhouses dating to the post-medieval period, along with one milestone. Post-medieval artefacts have been recovered from 25 sites within this zone, and a small excavation in 1981 revealed a post-medieval pit (NHER 17546). Some undated features are also recorded within this zone. In the late 1970s an undated enclosure and undated ditches survived as earthworks at a site at the northern end of this zone (NHER 13049) but by the 1980s nearly all the earthworks had been levelled.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century agricultural land with some boundary loss, and 20th century enclosure. There are a few small areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement and one area of piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure. A small strip of enclosed meadow can be found beside a watercourse to the south of Hethersett Hall.

ACZ 34: Hethel Airfield and area west of Hethersett (Study Area 2/3)

Overview

The arable landscape of this plateau farmland still retains some historic elements including an area of ancient woodland. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place in this area, and as a consequence the historic environment is poorly understood here. The few listed buildings in this area indicate a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads. Although some medieval and post-medieval earthworks survive in this area, nothing is known of any below-ground remains. Finds scatters indicate quite limited human activity in this area, but this may in fact reflect a lack of field survey in this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This large area has seen very limited archaeological activity, and only a small amount of metal-detecting and fieldwalking is recorded here when compared with neighbouring areas.

Prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from 10 sites within this zone. All of this material dates from the later prehistoric period and includes two Bronze Age copper alloy objects. The cropmarks of a Roman road cross this zone running east-west a short distance to the north of the modern A11 trunk road. However, Roman finds have only been recovered from five other sites within this area. Saxon finds are similarly sparse, and are only recorded from three locations. The relative paucity of finds in this zone may be a real distribution pattern, but certainly also reflects a lack of fieldwork and survey in this area.

Several medieval and post-medieval earthworks survive within this zone. These include two mounds of unknown purpose (NHER 9480 and NHER 9488). An earthwork bank and ditch runs along the parish boundary between Ketteringham and Hethersett (NHER 22596) and is shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1883. At Browick in Wymondham ditches, banks and scarps forming a series of field boundaries can be seen on the Enclosure Award map of 1806 (NHER 32308), although they are thought to pre-date it. Also within this area is Kett's Oak (NHER 9451), a veteran oak tree, reputed locally to be the tree where Robert Kett addressed his rebels in 1549.

Within this area are 10 listed buildings, almost all of which are Grade II listed farmhouses, with the exception of Stanfield Hall (NHER 9457), which has a Grade II* listing, and a late 18th century milestone erected for the Norwich and Thetford Turnpike Trust in Hethersett (NHER 43213). Three other non-listed buildings of historical interest are also recorded in this zone - these are all farmhouses. Also within this area is the site of Hethel Hall, a house which probably dated to the 17th century or earlier (NHER 9508). The latest site recorded in this area is Hethel Airfield (NHER 9522), constructed during World War Two and used by the USAAF. Runways, hangars, air raid shelters and bunkers all remain on the site, as well as a Roman Catholic chapel, with original wall paintings by American airmen.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is 20th century agriculture with some boundary loss. The southern part of the zone is dominated by Hethel Airfield, which is disused military land and an industrial area. An area of ancient woodland is recorded at Keswick, bisected by the A11. To the north of the zone, a narrow strip of enclosed meadow borders the watercourse, along with a small area of 18th-20th century woodland plantation and a long strip of unimproved rough pasture.

ACZ 35: Land between Great Melton and Wramplingham (Study Area 2/3)

Overview

This arable landscape has been subjected to quite intensive field survey and collection of surface finds, resulting in the discovery of large quantities of artefacts. These artefacts highlight the significance of this area, particularly during prehistory. Only one excavation has taken place to investigate a high density of surface finds in this zone, and this work revealed a Mesolithic flint-working site. Some cropmarks are also present within this zone, including several ring ditches which may be the remains of Bronze Age barrows. Earthworks around Pockthorpe include a settlement deserted during the medieval period. The below-ground archaeology of this area is poorly understood as there have been few interventions here, but surface finds from this zone indicate the relatively high potential for buried remains within this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) and two areas of Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has been intensively fieldwalked by one individual over several decades, resulting in the recovery of many surface finds. An excavation was carried out at one site where vast numbers of Mesolithic worked flints had been recovered (NHER 16753). Some sites within this zone have also been metal-detected. There has been some aerial reconnaissance within this zone, and several cropmark and earthwork sites are recorded here.

Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from 91 sites within this zone. The vast majority of this material dates to the later prehistoric period, but at one site over 32,000 Mesolithic flints have been collected, indicating that this was probably the site of a temporary camp and flint-working site (NHER 16753). A probable Neolithic flint-working site was identified from surface finds in the southern part of the zone (NHER 21590). Single ring ditches are visible as cropmarks at two sites within this zone (NHER 15762 and NHER 17346), and may relate to Bronze Age barrows. Four further ring ditches, possibly also the remains of barrows are recorded in the north of this zone (NHER 15767). In 1887 a hoard of twenty-five to thirty Roman silver coins was found in Great Melton (NHER 9266), and Roman artefacts have been recovered from 15 other sites within this zone. Medieval remains include two areas of deserted settlement visible as earthworks at Pockthorpe (NHER 157287 and NHER 15288), and medieval finds have also been discovered at 16 other sites. Only two listed buildings are located within this area, but four other buildings of interest (all farmhouses) are also recorded here.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

The predominant landscape type in this zone is 20th century agriculture with boundary loss (some with a relict element), although there are also several large areas of 20th century enclosure. Several small areas of piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure and piecemeal enclosure by agreement survive here, and a long strip of 18th-20th century woodland plantation can be found to the north of this zone.

ACZ 36: Land to the east of Kimberley Park (Study Area 2)

Overview

This arable landscape includes some historic elements including two small areas of pre-18th century enclosure. The area contains several listed buildings, but settlement within this zone is very dispersed and sparse. No archaeological interventions have taken place here, but a few surface finds have been collected.

Landscape Character Assessment

Much of this zone is Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2), but it also includes some areas of Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) and a narrow strip of Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone, but some surface finds have been recovered by fieldwalking and metal-detecting.

Finds have been recovered from 16 separate locations across this zone. The majority of these artefacts are prehistoric worked flints found during fieldwalking. Other finds include Roman coins, an Early Saxon brooch and medieval pottery sherds. Also within this area are eight listed buildings. Most are 17th or 18th century timber-framed farmhouses and their distribution reflects a dispersed settlement pattern.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This zone contains several areas of 18th-19th century Piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure and piecemeal enclosure by agreement. There are also many large areas of 20th century enclosure and agricultural land with some boundary loss, some with relict elements. In addition there are several narrow strips of enclosed meadow and 18th-20th century woodland plantation close to the watercourse at the northern end of this zone. To the south of the zone two small areas of pre-18th century enclosure survive.

ACZ 37: Kimberley Park (Study Area 2)

Overview

This area of parkland around Kimberley Hall includes many important landscape features relating to the park. Within this zone, several features which pre-date the park survive as earthworks, and four separate areas are Scheduled Monuments. This zone extends outside of Kimberley Park to incorporate the earthwork remains of the deserted settlement of Carleton Forehoe. There is a small area of ancient woodland to the north of this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

The eastern and western parts of this zone are Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2), while the central area is Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Few archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone. However, earthworks survive extremely well within Kimberley Park as they have been protected from destruction by agricultural activity. Some of these earthworks have been surveyed in detail. These well-preserved earthworks have attracted aerial reconnaissance within this zone, and as a result, several cropmark sites are also recorded within this area. A few sites have been fieldwalked and metal-detected.

A deer park has been in existence in Kimberley since at least 1400, and the park was expanded in the early 18th century when the present Hall was built. By the mid 18th century the formal gardens that originally surrounded the Hall had vanished, replaced by geometric planting and an ornamental lake. In 1762 Brown re-designed aspects of the park and naturalised the planting. His changes included softening the edges of the lake and planting perimeter belts of trees. In the 19th century formal terraced gardens were created to the west of the Hall. The park includes various earthworks relating to the pre-park landscape, as well as a number of ancient trees that pre-date the creation of the park. The moated site of the Old Hall (NHER 8918) and its associated gardens form a Scheduled Monument. A further medieval moat known as Falstoff's Moat was the site of the medieval manor house of the Wodehouse family until about 1400, and this is also Scheduled (NHER 8927). A third moated site on the northern edge of the park, known to be the site of Gelham's Hall is also Scheduled (NHER 8879). To the north-east of the zone is the site of a medieval great house, thought to be an abbot's or bishop's manor which is a Scheduled Monument (NHER 13746). This zone has been expanded beyond the extent of the park itself, to incorporate the earthwork remains of a deserted settlement at Carleton Forehoe (NHER 29608). There are 9 listed buildings within this zone, most of which relate to Kimberley Hall and Park. Also within this zone is the church of St Mary, Carleton Forehoe (NHER 8888, Grade II*), and two 16th or 17th century farmhouses.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this zone is informal parkland and 18th-20th century woodland plantation. However, this zone also includes three areas of piecemeal enclosure by agreement, a small area of enclosed meadow, and a narrow strip of ancient woodland.

ACZ 38: South of Kimberley Park (Study Area 2)

Overview

This arable area is characterised by good cropmark preservation, and a relatively high number of surface finds resulting from intensive field survey. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this area, and most of the cropmarks are undated so the below-ground archaeology is poorly understood. The landscape retains some historic elements including 18th-19th century enclosure and enclosed meadow land.

Landscape Character Assessment

The majority of this area is Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2), with a narrow strip of Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2) running through the centre.

Archaeological Character Assessment

No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone. Some parts of this zone have been fieldwalked and metal-detected, although these areas are relatively limited. This zone has also been subject to some aerial reconnaissance and cropmarks have been noted on photographs of this area.

In three separate areas within this zone, undated features are visible as cropmarks. These include two enclosures (NHER 21720 and NHER 29469) and linear features (NHER 29469 and NHER 35540). Aerial photography from 1990 records the cropmarks of a double-ditched parish boundary, which also formed the boundary of Crownthorpe Carr (NHER 32052). Three ditched enclosures visible as cropmarks close to Kimberley Home Farm may be the remains of medieval field boundaries (NHER 29755).

An assortment of surface finds have been recovered within this zone. Prehistoric worked flints have been found at five sites, including Palaeolithic flakes (NHER 28407) and an assortment of undiagnostic material. Other finds from this zone include Roman pottery sherds, tiles and a lead object, Late Saxon pottery sherds, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and metal objects.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is 20th century agricultural land with some boundary loss. Adjacent to the River Tiffey, in the centre of this zone, is enclosed meadow and a small strip of 18th-20th century woodland plantation. To the east of the zone are two areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure, separated by two bands of 18th-20th century woodland know as Wymondham Plantations.

ACZ 39: Crownthorpe (Study Area 2)

Overview

The presence of a Romano-British temple at Crownthorpe has formed a focus for archaeological investigation and metal-detecting activity. A vast amount of metalwork has been recovered from this area and finds from most archaeological periods are represented here. This zone is under arable cultivation, and there is some evidence of boundary loss.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is almost entirely on Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2), although its most easterly extent is just within the Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

The cropmarks of a large Romano-British temple are recorded within this zone (NHER 8897), along with associated contemporary features such as ditches and a possible trackway. The temple is a Scheduled Monument. A Bronze Age ring ditch is also visible as a cropmark in this area.

This area has been intensively investigated since the 1960s, and a huge number of metal objects dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period have been recovered from this area. The vast majority of metal objects recovered from this area date from the Roman period, although an unusually high number of Iron Age coins has also been recorded here. Large quantities of scrap metal and slag recovered from this area indicate that this was a Roman metal-working site. Earlier finds include prehistoric worked flints and a possible prehistoric burnt mound.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely 20th century agriculture, with some resultant boundary loss.

ACZ 40. Wicklewood, Morley St Botolph and Sutton (Study Area 2)

Overview

This predominantly arable landscape has seen little archaeological investigation, and consequently below-ground remains in this area are poorly understood. Surface collection of finds has occurred in some parts of this zone. Most of the historic environment features recorded in this area date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and include 23 listed buildings.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA C1), but also includes an area of Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland (LCA E3) around Wicklewood, in the north-east of this zone.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has seen little archaeological investigation. Fieldwalking and metal-detecting have taken place in several small areas across this zone, but no extensive survey work has been carried out. Archaeological interventions are limited to a single site on London Road, Wymondham (NHER 36666), where trial trenching took place in 2002. Some aerial reconnaissance has taken place in this area, and as a result several cropmark features are recorded here.

The earliest evidence for this zone is the discovery of part of a Palaeolithic handaxe fragment close to Morley Lane, Wymondham (NHER 30968), and Neolithic worked flints have been recovered from five separate locations within this area. Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered from three sites. At three other locations cropmarks of ring ditches have been observed on aerial photographs, possibly indicating that these are the locations of Bronze Age ring ditches, but trial trenching at one of these sites (NHER 36666) observed no archaeological features. No Iron Age or Roman features have been identified within this zone, but Iron Age coins have been recovered from two sites, and Roman artefacts are recorded at 12 sites. Saxon finds are known from five sites.

Many of the historic environment features recorded in this area date from the medieval period, and medieval artefacts have been recovered from 24 sites within this zone. Several extant buildings within this zone have medieval origins. A medieval moat survives at Burfield Hall (NHER 9128), and ponds at Wicklewood may indicate the location of a further moat of this date (NHER 13743). A field boundary at the western limit of the parish of Wymondham is in fact an old overgrown green lane or hollow way with high banks, possibly dating to the medieval period (NHER 14295).

Within this zone there are 23 listed buildings, and their distribution across the area reflects a dispersed settlement pattern. Three of these buildings are listed Grade II*, Wicklewood Hall (NHER 8933), the former St James' Church, Crownthorpe, which has been converted for residential use (NHER 8934) and the Old Hall, Low Street Wicklewood (NHER 14294). Most of the Grade II buildings are houses, with the exception of the former Forehoe Incorporation House of Industry at Wicklewood (NHER 8931). Other post-medieval features include a livestock enclosure (NHER 45499) and the site of Britton's Brush Factory on the outskirts of Wymondham, which was demolished in 1987 (NHER 50488). Also within this zone are several undated features including ponds (NHER 8930 and NHER 8940), and the cropmarks of an undated bank (NHER 17144).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century agricultural land, with some boundary loss. However, there are also some significant clusters of 18th-19th century enclosure including piecemeal enclosure by agreement and piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure. An area of pre-18th century irregular enclosure is located in the north-east of this zone, and strips of enclosed meadow land are found on either side of the River Tiffey in Morley St Botolph.

ACZ 41. Tiffey Valley (Study Area 2)

Overview

The Tiffey Valley appears to have been a focus for human activity since at least the Bronze Age. The historic landscape includes enclosed meadowland and managed wetland beside the river as well as several areas of piecemeal enclosure and 20th century agricultural land. This area has not been intensively investigated, but a relatively large number of findspots and cropmark and earthwork sites are recorded within this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is primarily Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2), with Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2) at its western and eastern edges.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has not been subject to any archaeological investigations or survey. However, some metal-detecting has taken place here, and the resultant findspots are scattered widely across this zone. Some aerial reconnaissance has taken place and several cropmark and earthwork sites have been recorded within this area.

Cropmarks within this area include three ring ditches, one of which has a clear central depression (NHER 16658), while another has a wide causeway to its south-west (NHER 36403). These funerary monuments are typically found in river valleys. Earthworks are found elsewhere within this zone, and include two possible hollow ways at Dykebeck Farm, Wicklewood (NHER 35381) as well as some undated drainage features (NHER 9450) and an undated ditch (NHER 9449). The site of the medieval Westwade Chapel (NHER 8923) is recorded at Chapel Bridge to the north of this zone. Later remains within this zone include part of the Wymondham to Wells railway line (NHER 13588) and a World War Two pillbox (NHER 32486).

The majority of stray finds from the north of this area date to the Roman period and include coins, pottery, brooches, a finger ring and human remains. These finds almost certainly relate to Crownthorpe Roman temple site (ACZ 39) immediately to the north-west. Several Iron Age coins are also recorded as stray finds from this zone, a pattern which is paralleled in ACZ 39, where a concentration of such finds is noted. Finds from other periods include a prehistoric pot boiler site (NHER 23112), a Bronze Age sword hilt fragment (NHER 28152) and two Early Saxon brooches (NHER 28151 and NHER 40472). The medieval and post-medieval periods are well represented by metal finds including coins and dress accessories.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Areas of managed wetland are recorded to the east of the River Tiffey with an extensive area of enclosed meadow running approximately north-south along the western edge of this zone. There are also several areas of piecemeal enclosure by agreement and at the northernmost extent of the zone is a small area of 18th-20th century woodland plantation. Several 20th century agricultural areas fall within this zone, and most of these have suffered some boundary loss.

ACZ 42: North of Wymondham (Study Area 2)

Overview

This arable area immediately to the north of Wymondham has seen intensive field survey, with large numbers of surface finds dating to all archaeological periods being recovered across this area. These finds indicate activity in this area from the Palaeolithic to the present day, but no archaeological interventions have taken place here so little is known of any below-ground remains. Some elements of the 18th-19th century historic landscape are still present in this area, but 20th century agriculture

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) to the east and Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2) towards the west.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Much of this area immediately to the north of Wymondham has been subjected to intensive field survey including metal-detecting and fieldwalking, mostly by one individual, Derek Woollestone. As a result, the overwhelming majority of records for this area are findspots. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone, but some sites have been revealed by aerial reconnaissance.

Finds from this zone include a wide variety of prehistoric worked flints. Palaeolithic handaxes have been recovered from two sites, probable Palaeolithic flint flakes have been found at two other locations, and two sites include Mesolithic finds. Neolithic worked flints have been recovered from 10 separate locations within this zone. Bronze Age finds have been recovered from four sites, and three possible Bronze Age ring ditches are visible as cropmarks within this zone (NHER 36404, NHER 51853 and NHER 51854). Iron Age metal objects have been recovered from two sites, and Iron Age pottery from two other sites. A possible Roman road is visible as two parallel cropmarks running east-west across this zone, and Roman finds have been recovered from 20 sites within this area, including coins, pottery and a wide range of metal objects. Saxon finds have been recovered from 11 sites within this area, medieval objects have been recovered from 21 and post-medieval objects from 22. At the eastern extent of this area is the site of a post-medieval windmill (NHER 40320).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Much of this area is 20th century agriculture with high levels of boundary loss, and 20th century enclosure. Towards the western end this zone the River Tiffey runs along the northern edge of this zone, and adjacent to this are several areas of enclosed meadow and 18th-20th century woodland plantation. Within this zone are three areas of 18th-19th century enclosure including piecemeal enclosure by agreement and piecemeal style Parliamentary enclosure.

ACZ 43: Modern Wymondham (Study Area 2)

Overview

Little is known about the historic environment within the area of modern housing development around Wymondham as the majority of this development pre-dates the inclusion of archaeology within the planning process.

Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1), but the western edge includes small areas of Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2)

Archaeological Character Assessment

No archaeological interventions or surveys took place in this area before or during development of large housing estates during the 1960s to 1990s. This area has not been subject to any archaeological investigation since housing development took place. Consequently the historic environment of this area is poorly understood.

Within this zone six stray finds are recorded, including three Roman coins, a medieval harness pendant, a post-medieval coin and a Mesolithic flint axe. Cartographic evidence indicates that this area formed the industrial hinterland of the town during the post-medieval period. Two windmills are recorded on maps of this area, the brick tower mill known as Northfield Mill (NHER 18027) and the smockmill which replaced it, called North Mill (NHER 15784). Another possible windmill is recorded on a map of 1836 (NHER 17109). Brickworks are recorded at three separate locations within this zone (NHER 9459, NHER 9460 and NHER 15949).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

There is no HLC data available for this area as it is built up.

ACZ 44: Hart's Farm, Wymondham (Study Area 2)

Overview

This zone has been subject to quite intensive field survey, and several archaeological interventions have taken place within it. As a result, the historic environment of this area is relatively well understood, and remains from most archaeological periods are recorded within this zone. The landscape was significantly altered in this area during the 20th century, and the only remaining historic element is the earthwork of Moot Hill which is also a Scheduled Monument.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is almost entirely Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) with a small area of Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2) to the south.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone has seen considerable archaeological surveying and intervention via the planning process, as much of this area has been recently developed for housing. In 1994, prior to the construction of the Hart's Farm estate, much of this area was fieldwalked and metal-detected by archaeologists. The results of this field survey were used to determine the location of a series of evaluation trenches within the Hart's Farm development, and in some areas watching briefs were maintained during construction work. Several of the fields within the Hart's Farm development had previously been regularly metal-detected by amateurs over a relatively long period of time. An evaluation and excavation took place in advance of proposed development on Browick Road in 2005. Some aerial reconnaissance has also taken place within this zone, and several cropmark sites have been recorded here.

Prehistoric finds including pot boilers and worked flint have been recovered across most of this zone. A complex series of prehistoric remains including Neolithic pits and ditches, Middle Bronze Age ditches and Middle Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes were revealed during an excavation on Browick Road (NHER 41125). A Neolithic flintworking site was recorded during field observations prior to the construction of the Norfolk Police HQ in 1998 (NHER 33779), and a Middle Bronze Age pit was recorded in an evaluation trench at Hart's Farm (NHER 30872). A Roman aisled building was encountered during the Browick Road excavation (NHER 41125), and Roman coins and pottery have been recovered from several other sites within this zone. In the centre of this zone is the earthwork known as Moot Hill (NHER 9438), which is a Scheduled Monument. This site is not thought to have been a hundredal meeting place as the name suggests, but was the site of a large motte thought to have been built by the d'Albinis in the early 12th century. It would have formed an important feature of the medieval landscape of the town of Wymondham. Medieval and post-medieval finds have been recovered from across this area. Several features are visible on aerial photographs of this area, including soilmarks of a possible field system or trackway (NHER 15765) and cropmarks of linear features, probably field boundaries (NHER 36746). The latest buried features within this zone comprise the remains of a German World War Two aircraft which crashed close to the site of the Norfolk Police HQ (NHER 30872 and NHER 33779).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

HLC data is only available for part of this zone as some areas are built up. The predominant HLC type within this zone is 20th century enclosure, indicating that this area has been subject to considerable changes in the recent past. One area of 18th-19th century "new" enclosure is recorded, adjacent to an area of 20th century agricultural land with boundary loss.

ACZ 45: Wymondham Historic Core (Study Area 2)

Overview

The historic core of Wymondham is focused around the market cross, and contains a large number of listed buildings of great historic interest. A lack of opportunity for archaeological investigation in this zone means that any remaining below-ground evidence in this densely settled area is poorly understood.

Landscape Character Assessment

The majority of this zone is on Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2), with a small area of Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1) towards its centre.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Very few archaeological interventions have taken place within the historic core of Wymondham. Most of the information for this area relates to the built environment, and several buildings within this zone have been subject to detailed studies and surveys. Several stray finds have been recovered within this zone, some encountered during construction work, and others recovered from domestic gardens.

The historic environment of this area is dominated by the built environment. Within this zone are 124 records relating to listed buildings, and four further non-listed buildings of interest. At the centre of this zone is the Market Cross, an octagonal building supported by eight timber buttress-like posts and a middle post, and built in 1617-18 (NHER 9446). This structure is also a Scheduled Monument. See Wymondham Conservation Area Character Appraisal for further information on the built environment within the historic core of Wymondham.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

No HLC data is available for this area as it is built up.

ACZ 46: Wymondham Abbey and monastic precinct (Study Area 2)

Overview

Wymondham Abbey and its precinct are located on the western edge of the market town, overlooking the River Tiffey. The foundation of a Benedictine Priory at this site in 1107 has had a profound impact upon the historic landscape and environment within and around this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is entirely in the Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

The current buildings known as Wymondham Abbey are the remains of a monastery, founded in 1107 by William d'Aubigny (NHER 9437). A large part of this area is a Scheduled Monument (County SM 131); the schedule includes ruins and earthworks immediately to the south of the church. The church itself is also a Grade I listed building. This site has seen several recent archaeological interventions, including earthwork surveys and geophysical surveys and the excavation of evaluation trenches.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

No HLC data is available for this area.

ACZ 47: Cavick House and Park (Study Area 2)

Overview

Wymondham Abbey and its precinct are located on the western edge of the market town, overlooking the River Tiffey. The foundation of a Benedictine Priory at this site in 1107 has had a profound impact upon the historic landscape and environment within and around this zone.

Landscape Character Assessment

This zone is mostly on Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2) but includes a small area of Yare/Tiffey Rural River Valley (LCA A2) in the north-east of the zone.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Cavick Park (NHER 33723) is to the south-west of the monastic precinct of Wymondham Abbey (HECZ SW32). The park is now in divided ownership, but much of the layout of the ornamental gardens and associated planting remains. Cavick House (NHER 9458) stands in the north-west of Cavick Park. This Grade I listed building dates from around 1720, and associated with it are a series of Grade II listed outbuildings including a dovecot, brewhouse, barn and stables and an associated haha is also listed Grade II.

No archaeological interventions are recorded within this zone, but the house and park have both been studied in some detail by specialists. Nothing is known of any below-ground remains within this area.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

HLC data is not available for most of this area but the most southerly part of the zone is 20th century agricultural land with some boundary loss.

ACZ 48: Wymondham Deer Park (Study Area 2)

Overview

This zone follows the boundaries of a medieval deer park laid out in the 12th century to the south of Wymondham. Today this area is predominantly agricultural land, but an area of ancient woodland known as Peaseacre Wood survives, and the outline of the park is still visible in some of the modern field boundaries. Archaeological investigations have concentrated on the western part of this zone, specifically on the area affected by the construction of the Wymondham bypass in 1993. The results of these investigations demonstrate the potential for recovery of significant below-ground remains in this area. Some medieval earthworks also survive here.

Landscape Character Assessment

The western half of this area is Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) while the south-eastern part is Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (LCA E1) and the north-eastern part is Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Several small areas within this zone were systematically fieldwalked and metal-detected in advance of the construction of the Wymondham Bypass in 1993. As part of this fieldwork project, an excavation was carried out at Park Farm, Hethersett (NHER 25887). No further archaeological investigation has taken place within this zone.

Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from six sites within this zone. Excavations at Park Farm, Silfield (NHER 25887) revealed an Iron Age settlement and industrial site here including pit groups, four-post structures, quarries, and evidence for bone or antler working. Other industrial activities included flint-working, iron smelting, and the quarrying of natural boulder clay. Aside from these sites, most of the archaeological evidence for this zone pertains to the medieval period. This zone covers the known extent of an enormous medieval deer park to the south of Wymondham which was laid out by William d'Aubigny II (NHER 52767). Parts of its boundary are still visible in the modern field layout, and in some areas the boundary ditch is visible as cropmarks and soilmarks (NHER 9945). Within the deer park are the earthwork remains of a medieval moat, which is thought to have been the site of a hunting lodge (NHER 9944).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is mostly 20th century agricultural land with boundary loss, but some of the historic field boundaries have been retained. It is possible to trace parts of the outline of the medieval deer park from the field boundaries in this area. An area of ancient woodland known as Peaseacre Wood is towards the west of this zone. A narrow strip of enclosed meadow is found at the north of the zone, adjacent to the watercourse.

ACZ 49: Silfield (Study Area 2)

Overview

This arable area to the south of Wymondham has seen very little archaeological activity, and few archaeological features have been recorded in this area. Most of the historic environment features in this area relate to the built environment, and include nine listed buildings, along with post-medieval, World War Two and Cold War structures. The historic landscape contains some 18th and 19th century elements, but the majority of the landscape has been altered by 20th century agriculture.

Landscape Character Assessment

The southern and western part of this zone is Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (LCA E1), while the northern and eastern areas are Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (LCA D1), with a small area of Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B2) to the north.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has seen little archaeological investigation. A single evaluation has taken place within this zone, involving fieldwalking and trial trenching at Rightup Lane, Wymondham, in 1994, prior to aggregate extraction (NHER 30569). Fieldwalking also took place on the line of the proposed Wymondham bypass, to the north of this zone, and surface finds have been collected in several other areas within this zone. The below-ground archaeology of this area is poorly understood because of the lack of archaeological activity in this zone.

Prehistoric finds have been recovered from seven sites within this zone, and Roman artefacts have been found in five different locations. Sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were recovered during an evaluation on Rightup Lane, Wymondham (NHER 30569), but no further Saxon material has been found in this area. Medieval finds are recorded at nine sites, and post-medieval artefacts have been found at 11 different locations.

Within this zone there are nine Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II. There are also four other buildings of interest, including a Cold War monitoring post at Wymondham (NHER 35436). Further post-medieval features include the site of a post medieval saw pit (NHER 14381) and the site of Ashwellthorpe Road mill (NHER 16659), as well as the route of the Wymondham to Forncett railway line (NHER 13580). A World War Two pillbox or air raid shelter is recorded on the southern edge of Hethel airfield (NHER 20985). Cropmarks of several undated small rectilinear enclosures have been noted on aerial photographs in the western part of the zone, but the archaeological nature of these features is uncertain (NHER 17143).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century arable land, but there are also several large areas of 18th-19th century enclosure. Several strips of enclosed meadow are present beside the River Tiffey, in the north-east of this zone, as well as common with an open margin beside the river, known as Oxford Common. There are several areas of active and disused mineral extraction at the northern extreme of this zone, on the outskirts of Wymondham.

ACZ 50: Spooner Row and Wattlefield (Study Area 2)

Overview

This sparsely settled, predominantly arable landscape, has not seen much archaeological investigation. However, surface finds from this zone do indicate human activity in this area from prehistory to the present day. Several medieval earthworks survive in this area, although some have been destroyed in recent decades.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Tiffey Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) with some areas of Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (LCA E1) to the south and east of the zone.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This area has seen some aerial reconnaissance, with several earthwork sites recorded within this zone. Some systematic fieldwalking has been carried out in parts of this zone by the Black Carr Research Group, and some metal-detecting has also taken place here.

Prehistoric artefacts are recorded at 31 sites within this zone, and several prehistoric burnt mounds have been found in this area. Excavations during construction at Wymondham College in 1958 revealed Roman pottery kilns (NHER 9116). At Black Carr a dense scatter of pottery sherds including Samian ware is thought to indicate the location of a Roman settlement (NHER 29740). Roman artefacts were discovered at 19 further sites within this zone. Saxon finds have only been recovered from 8 sites within this zone, but in 1958 a hoard of over 800 Late Saxon silver pennies was discovered at Morley by workmen (NHER 9117). Some medieval earthworks remain within this zone, including two probable hollow ways, and the remains of three moated sites. Slight earthworks visible at Morley are probably the remains of a medieval to post medieval enclosure, common and common edge ditch shown on an estate map of 1629 and the enclosure map of 1815 (NHER 34252). Medieval finds have been recovered from 28 sites within this zone, while post-medieval artefacts have been found at 19. There are 14 listed buildings within this zone, all of which are listed Grade II and reflect a dispersed settlement pattern.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely 20th century agricultural land with high levels of boundary loss, as well as some 20th century enclosure. To the east of this zone is a small area of informal parkland and 18th-20th century woodland plantation around Wattlefield Hall.

ACZ 51: Long Stratton Historic Core (Study Area 1)

Overview

The core of Long Stratton comprises mainly post-medieval buildings, stretching along just over 1km of the Roman Pye Road. Much of this zone is a Conservation Area.

Landscape Character Assessment

The historic core of Long Stratton is almost entirely on Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) with Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2) at its northern and southern extremities.

Archaeological Character Assessment

There have been few archaeological interventions within the historic core of Long Stratton as this is a built-up area. The most recent intervention, at Manor Garage (NHER 40200), revealed no archaeological finds or features.

The historic core of Long Stratton contains a wealth of post-medieval listed buildings, many of which are timber-framed. This area also includes several non-listed buildings of interest, and the site of a post medieval smock mill (NHER 16011). Towards the southern extent of this area is a medieval moat at Hall Farm (NHER 10070).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

There is no HLC data available for this area as it is built up.
This area includes the whole of the Long Stratton Conservation Area.

ACZ 52: Modern housing development around Long Stratton (Study Area 1)

Overview

Little is known about the historic environment within the area of modern housing development around Long Stratton as the majority of this development pre-dates the inclusion of archaeology within the planning process.

Landscape Character Assessment

Most of this area is Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2), but the more easterly and northerly areas are Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1).

Archaeological Character Assessment

No archaeological interventions or surveys took place in this area before or during development of large housing estates during the 1960s to 1990s. Consequently the archaeology of this area is poorly understood.

The only known intervention is an antiquarian excavation which took place in 1773 in a gravel pit thought to be Saffronpan pit, adjacent to South Norfolk House (NHER 7937). This revealed a possible Roman hearth and several urns as well as coins and other finds. At a similar location, building work in the 1970s revealed Roman pottery sherds, along with a buried horse skull. The only other evidence from this area are four findspots, all of which are surface finds recovered from gardens within the built-up area: none is of particular note.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

There is no HLC data available for this area as it is built up.

ACZ 53: Tharston (Study Area 1)

Overview

This largely arable area has seen little archaeological investigation when compared with adjacent zones. Some elements of the historic landscape character have been retained within the modern landscape, but many field boundaries have been removed. The below-ground archaeological resource is poorly-understood in this area, but surface finds indicate Roman, Saxon and medieval activity in this area. Several post-medieval listed buildings are distributed across this relatively large zone, indicating a generally dispersed settlement pattern.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) with a small area of Great Moulton Plateau Farmland in the south-east corner (LCA E2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Some systematic fieldwalking and metal-detecting has taken place within this area, but much less than in other adjacent areas. Several stray artefacts have been recovered from gardens within this zone. A single archaeological intervention took place in 1997 on Station Road, Forncett St Peter. No comprehensive archaeological surveys have taken place within this area, and there does not appear to have been much aerial reconnaissance. As a consequence the below-ground remains within this area are poorly-understood.

Only a single prehistoric find, a Neolithic flint sickle blade (NHER 10050), is known from this area. Roman finds have been recovered from 9 sites and include pottery sherds, coins and dress accessories. Saxon finds have been recovered from 7 sites, and include an Early Saxon brooch and girdle hanger, a Late Saxon brooch, coin and pottery sherds. Medieval finds have been recovered from 19 sites scattered widely across this area.

Almost half of the HER records for this area (22 in total) are listed buildings. Most of these are Grade II post-medieval timber-framed farmhouses, but also within this area is Tharston Hall (Grade II*, NHER 10068) and St Mary's Church, Tharston (Grade I, NHER 10074). The distribution of listed buildings reflects a dispersed settlement pattern within this zone.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is largely 20th century agricultural land with high levels of boundary loss. These arable fields are interspersed with areas of pre-18th century enclosure including dual-axis sinuous co-axial enclosure and areas of 18th-19th century enclosure, largely piecemeal enclosure by agreement. Towards the northern end of the zone are some sinuous areas of enclosed meadow and 18th-20th century woodland plantation running alongside a tributary of the River Tas.

ACZ 54: Wacton (Study Area 1)

Overview

This area has been quite intensively fieldwalked, and some metal-detecting has also taken place here, revealing dense scatters of material dating including prehistoric worked flints, Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery and metal objects. This zone also includes several listed buildings, reflecting a relatively nucleated settlement pattern in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Earthworks of a moated site in this zone probably relate to a medieval manorial site. No archaeological interventions have taken place here.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is almost entirely Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) but also includes a small area of Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2) at its eastern end.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Most of this area has been systematically fieldwalked by NARG and the Wacton Field Group, and the overwhelming majority of sites in this zone are findspots. This fieldwalking evidence has been complemented by information from metal-detectorists working in this area. Archaeological finds have been recovered from 34 separate locations within this zone. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this area.

Prehistoric finds have been recovered from 12 sites within this zone, most of which are worked flints, indicating some human activity in this area during the later prehistoric period. Roman finds including coins and pottery have been found at 16 sites, and Saxon objects have been recovered from 11 locations. There is a proliferation of medieval finds in this zone, including coins and pottery as well as a wide range of metal artefacts. Finds of this date have been discovered at 32 sites within this zone. To the south of the zone is a possible medieval manorial site (NHER 10071) which includes a moat. To the north-west of the zone two medieval strip fields were noted from Ordnance Survey maps in 1948 but had disappeared by 1960 (NHER 10066). The church of All Saints, Wacton, falls within this zone, and is a Grade I listed building with a round tower which may date from the 12th century. Also within this zone is the site of the parish church of Little Wacton, which became a chapel in 1500, fell into disrepair in 1510 but was in use again in 1522 when the tower was used as a dovecote (NHER 10072). Activity in this zone continues into the post-medieval period, with finds of this date having been recovered from 28 sites. Within this zone there are 12 listed buildings, most of which are farmhouses and cottages. These are clustered along Church Road and around Wacton Green, reflecting a relatively nucleated settlement pattern.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century enclosure and agricultural land with some boundary loss. There are also several clusters of post-medieval settlement, and a possible medieval manorial site survives as an historic earthwork.

ACZ 55: Pye Road South of Long Stratton (Study Area 1)

Overview

This largely arable area to the south-west of Long Stratton has seen a considerable amount of archaeological interest, particularly from metal-detectorists because the Roman Pye Road runs along its eastern edge. As a result, a large number of finds, especially artefacts dating from the Roman period, have been recovered from this zone, indicating settlement here in the Roman period.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is entirely Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

The Pye Roman road (NHER 7947) has become a focus for metal-detecting activity as relatively large quantities of Roman metal finds may be recovered from this area. In addition, quite a lot of stray finds have been reported from this area, in particular stray finds of Roman material. Only two archaeological interventions are recorded in this area, one in advance of the proposed Long Stratton bypass, and the other in advance of housing development at Lime Tree Avenue.

The site of a Roman settlement which appears to have straddled the Pye Road was recorded during evaluation work in advance of the Long Stratton A140 bypass (NHER 44502). Within this area Roman finds have been recovered from 30 sites in total, including 18 sites where Roman pottery is recorded, and 15 sites where Roman coins have been found. Because the area has been quite intensively metal-detected there are also a relatively high number of post-Roman finds (e.g. NHER 12513 where finds primarily relate to the Roman settlement, but where Middle-Late Saxon and Iron Age objects have also been recovered), and considerable quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery are recorded in this area. Several listed buildings and other historic buildings are found within this area. These are mostly farmhouses located beside the A140 which fall outside the historic core of the settlement.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area has seen a high level of field boundary loss as small fields have been amalgamated into prairie-like large fields for intensive arable cultivation during the 20th century. To the north is one area of piecemeal enclosure by agreement incorporating five earlier fields.

ACZ 56: East of Long Stratton (Study Area 1)

Overview

This largely arable area has seen little archaeological investigation when compared with adjacent zones. The majority of information about this area pertains to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and includes medieval manors and listed buildings indicating a generally dispersed settlement pattern with concentrations along common-edges.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2) with some small areas of Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) around the edges.

Archaeological Character Assessment

Most of the information we have for this area is a result of systematic fieldwalking carried out by Sylvia Addington (NARG) during the late 1970s and early 1980s in the northern part of this zone. One large area of metal-detecting and fieldwalking is recorded in the area now covered by the Churchfields development (NHER 18273). There have been no archaeological interventions in this area, and this area has seen much less metal-detecting activity than other adjacent areas.

Most of the archaeological records for this area relate to the medieval and post-medieval periods, and many are evidenced by surface finds. They include an area of medieval settlement at Wood Green, including a moat (NHER 17179), two further moats, one visible as an earthwork (NHER 13129) and the other as a cropmark (NHER 21725), along with a further possible moat (NHER 36819), and a probable medieval enclosure (NHER 14116). Two probable medieval manorial sites are indicated by surface finds: Welham's manor (NHER 16608) and Rees'/Rhees' manor (NHER 14117). The foundations of a possible medieval building were ploughed up in the 1960s (NHER 10067). In addition to surface scatters of medieval and post-medieval material, finds from this area also include occasional prehistoric worked flints. Several post-medieval listed buildings are recorded within the area. Most of these are farmhouses and their distribution reflects a relatively dispersed settlement pattern.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area has seen a high level of field boundary loss as small fields have been amalgamated into prairie-like large fields for intensive arable cultivation during the 20th century. In the north-western part of this area several areas of piecemeal enclosure by agreement are recorded, and in the centre of the area several coaxial fields are noted. Wood Green is located centrally within this area, surrounded by common-edge settlement. To the south is an area of woodland including some ancient woodland at Tyrell's Wood.

ACZ 57: Area around Stratton St Michael (Study Area 1)

Overview

This largely arable area has been subject to systematic fieldwalking and a single archaeological intervention. The majority of information about this area pertains to the medieval and post-medieval activity within and around the settlement of Stratton St Michael.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is primarily Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1) with a small Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2).

Archaeological Character Assessment

Most of the information we have for this area is a result of systematic fieldwalking carried out by Sylvia Addington (NARG) during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The only major archaeological intervention in this area is the evaluation for the A140 bypass, which revealed medieval features visible as earthworks on aerial photographs (NHER 44503).

The Pye Road runs along the western edge of this area and has formed a focus for archaeological investigation and the clustering of Roman finds. In this area medieval to post-medieval earthworks relating to Stratton St Michael survive relatively well. Medieval earthworks of tofts are visible (NHER 14107) as are earthworks relating to the medieval Sayes' manor (NHER 14583) and medieval and post-medieval enclosures. As far as medieval and post-medieval remains are concerned, this area is similar to HECZ 13, immediately to the south.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is primarily an arable landscape, but with less boundary loss than further south (e.g. HECZ 13). The area is characterised by long, narrow fields stretching north-south. Several areas of Piecemeal enclosure by agreement, are present, particularly to the west of the area close to the A140. One area of woodland is recorded at Devil's Wood in the south-east corner of the area, but this is modern.

ACZ 58: Tas Valley (Study Area 1)

Overview

This zone is focused around the upper reaches of the Tas Valley, at Tasburgh. The landscape is varied, and contains many historic elements. This area was the focus of some antiquarian investigations, and several more recent surveys and interventions have also taken place here, resulting in a relatively good understanding of this area. The historic environment of this zone is complex and sites and finds from most archaeological periods are recorded in this area. Perhaps the most significant of these is Tasburgh hillfort which is a Scheduled Monument.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is primarily Tas Rural River Valley and includes small areas of Tas Tributary Farmland.

Archaeological Character Assessment

This zone has seen a relatively high level of archaeological activity when compared to adjacent areas. Several archaeological interventions have taken place within this zone, revealing further information about significant archaeological sites such as Tasburgh hillfort (NHER 2258), and discovering previously unknown sites such as the Early Saxon cemetery revealed during excavations at Morningthorpe gravel pit in 1974 (NHER 1120). Antiquarian investigations in this area focused on Tasburgh hillfort (NHER 2258) and Chapel Hill (NHER 9976). There has been a considerable amount of aerial reconnaissance in this area, and several cropmark and earthwork sites within this zone have been identified from aerial photographs. Much of the arable land to the north of Tasburgh Hillfort was systematically fieldwalked by Sylvia Addington during the early 1980s.

This zone includes a dense cluster of archaeological sites along the Tas Valley, dating from prehistory to the post-medieval period, and demonstrating the importance of river valleys as a focus for human activity in the past. The earliest evidence from the river valley comprises surface scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic and other prehistoric worked flints, discovered at 27 sites within this zone. Three Bronze Age ring ditches have been noted on aerial photographs of this area. The probable Iron Age hillfort at Tasburgh (NHER 2258) has been extensively investigated since the 19th century. It is presumed to be of Iron Age date but the presence of Late Saxon fortifications may indicate this was once a burgh. There is another possible hillfort on the opposite side of the valley (NHER 9989). This zone is cut by the Pye Road (NHER 7947) and a Roman occupation site has been identified from surface finds and cropmarks a short distance to the east at Morningthorpe (NHER 10178), with an associated field system (NHER 36354). Saxon remains include an Early Saxon cemetery at Morningthorpe which was excavated in 1974 following the chance discovery of two pots in a gravel pit and which contained about 365 inhumations and nine cremations. Some of the remains uncovered during excavations at Tasburgh hillfort also date to the Middle and Late Saxon periods, including hearths and metal-working debris. Medieval sites within this zone include a deserted settlement close to Boyland Hall (NHER 10168) and a moated enclosure and remains of a building (NHER 9977) at Chapel Hill where several Roman or medieval inhumations were discovered excavations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (NHER 9976). St Mary's Church, Tasburgh (NHER 10104) is largely of medieval date, although it may have Late Saxon origins. Surface scatters of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds have been revealed by fieldwalking in several areas within this zone. Post-medieval sites within this zone indicate that the river valley continued to be a focus for activity during this period. Several mills are recorded including the sites of watermills at Flordon (NHER 9966), Tasburgh (NHER 9994) and at Stratton St Michael (NHER 15554), where a windmill is also recorded. There are 19 listed buildings within this area, the majority of which are post-medieval houses in Lower Tasburgh, but which also include a largely intact lime kiln in Tharston (NHER 12555).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Large areas of enclosed meadow run along both sides of the valley bottom in this area, interspersed with areas of rectilinear 17th-20th century grazing marsh and 18th-20th century woodland plantation. Further up the valley sides the predominant HLC type is piecemeal-style Parliamentary enclosure in the north-west of this zone, while further south and east 20th century agriculture with some boundary loss is prevalent. In the north-west Tasburgh hillfort is recorded as an historic earthwork, while the other possible hillfort on the opposing river bank forms an irregular enclosure. In the south-east there are two areas of mineral (gravel) extraction, and an area of formal parkland around Boyland Hall.

ACZ 59: Fritton and Morningthorpe (Study Area 1)

Overview

This predominantly arable area includes Fritton Common, which has formed a focal point for activity in this area during the medieval and post-medieval periods. A large number of listed buildings are clustered along the edges of Fritton Common, and this zone also contains three fine Grade I listed churches. No archaeological interventions have taken place within this area, but systematic fieldwalking has revealed medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, as well as some prehistoric worked flints.

Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly Tas Tributary Farmland (LCA B1), with some small areas of Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (LCA E2) in central and southern parts of the zone.

Archaeological Character Assessment

A considerable part of this zone was systematically fieldwalked by NARG during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Further fieldwalking was undertaken in the north-east of the zone in 1992, forming an evaluation in advance of the construction of a road for the Hardwick landfill site.

Prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from 8 sites within this zone, including a possible prehistoric flint-working site to the north of the zone, where Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery sherds were also recovered (NHER 29412). Roman finds were recovered from 8 sites, and Saxon artefacts from a further 8 sites. Medieval finds are much more prolific, and were found at 29 sites within this zone. Many of these were pottery sherds recovered during systematic fieldwalking surveys. A considerable quantity of post-medieval pottery has also been recovered from this zone, and post-medieval artefacts are recorded from 22 sites.

There are 30 listed buildings within this zone, most of which are clustered along the edges of Fritton Common. These also include the Grade I listed churches of St John the Baptist, Morningthorpe and St Catherine, Fritton, both of which have round west towers, and St Mary's Church, Shelton which contains some fine 16th century monuments and fittings. Fritton Common forms the focus of medieval and post-medieval activity within this zone. A series of ditches in grassland on the south-eastern edge suggest possible common edge tofts (NHER 32922). Also on the edge of the common are the remains of a World War Two pillbox and the concrete base of an anti-tank mortar. Cartographic sources indicate the site of post medieval saw pit at Manor Farm, Morningthorpe (NHER 14702) and the site of a brick kiln to the south of Boyland Hall is known from a late 18th century map (NHER 15555).

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

This area is predominantly 20th century agriculture, with some boundary loss. However, some areas of 18th-19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement remain. At the centre of this zone is Fritton Common, with associated common-edge settlement, and several small areas of woodland.