

NAYLAND TEST PIT DIG



PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM

20th-21st September 2014

The Follow-Up Dig was a very successful event. Over 80 people attended Dr. Carenza Lewis' briefing on Saturday morning before dispersing to the 16 selected pits round the village. They were later joined by more volunteers during the two day project.

3 pits produced worked flints of the Neolithic (Stonehenge) era in undisturbed ground.

2 sites contained Roman sherds

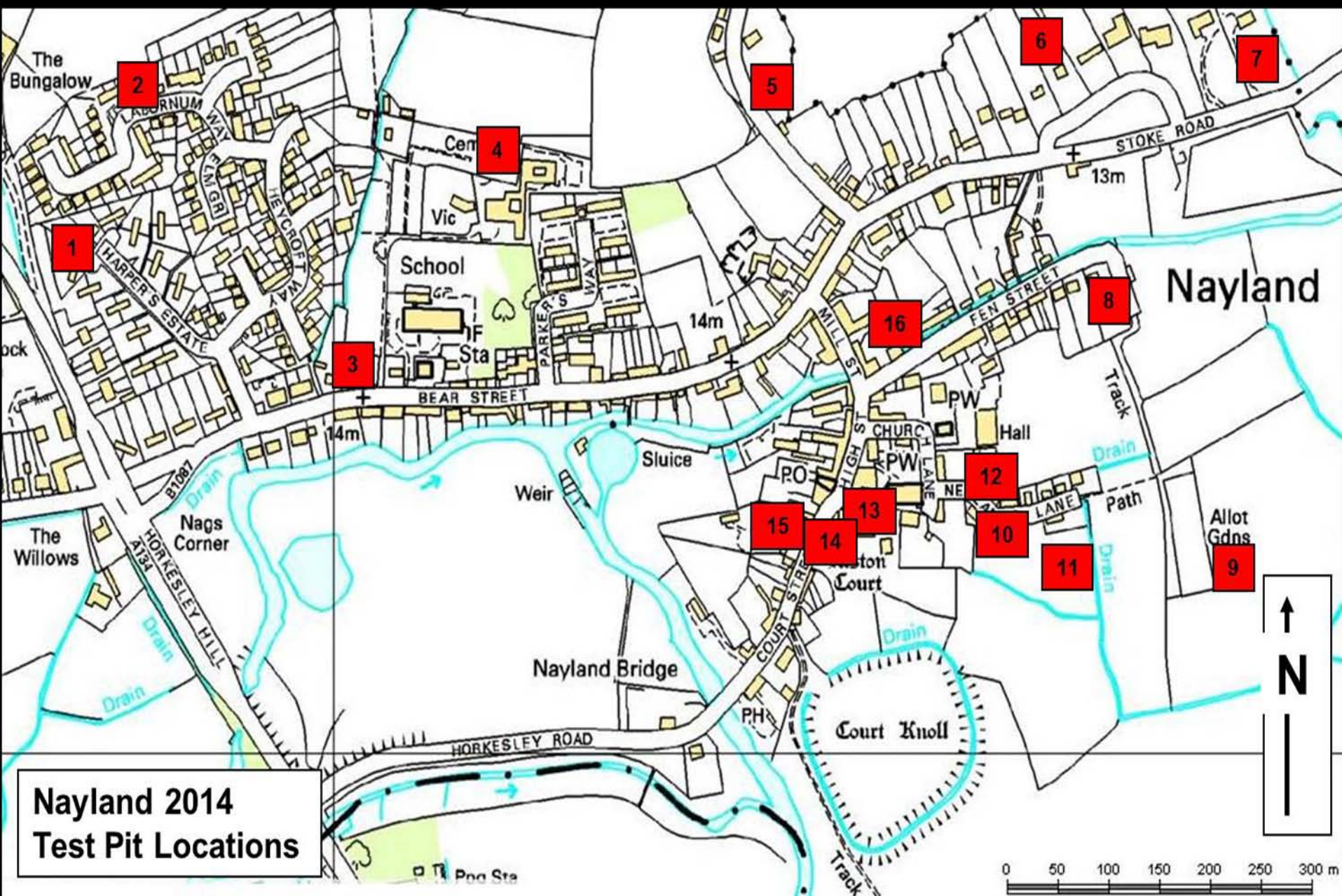
From evidence in the pits close to the village centre Dr. Lewis stated she was confident that a late Anglo Saxon Settlement existed, tightly clustered around the church and to the south of Newlands Lane which is now farmland. Several pits contained examples of Thetford or (just possibly) Ipswich Ware (AD 850-1100). Pottery pre-dating 1000 AD has been very rare so far in Nayland, so it will be interesting to see just how much more has turned up in 2014.

There were lots of high medieval finds, including pieces of Hedingham Ware (1100-1300), showing how and where the larger village came to grow. Late medieval (1300-1550) pottery was again widely distributed in centrally located pits. 76% of pits in the 2012 analysis of finds contained late medieval pottery. The average found in the Eastern Region is 21%. It will be interesting to see if the items found in the latest Pit confirm this trend.

The End of Dig Tea Party in the garden of Mill House was an opportunity for everyone involved to share the results of the dig. About 100 people, of all ages and from all walks of life, gathered to hear Dr. Lewis's initial summary.

Thanks are due to Jill Slater and Penny Allen and their team for the wonderful display of tasty cakes and sandwiches which were much appreciated by everyone. There was huge enthusiasm from all those involved in this major community event which has drawn together well over 100 village residents and volunteers from as far away at Blythburgh in north Suffolk.

The story of how the village evolved has definitely moved on another chapter thanks to the dig and funding from our sponsors, the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Sustainable Development Fund, the Nayland with Wissington Community Council and the Conservation Society; but it would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of a great many volunteers.





Pit 16 at Mill House - getting started on the 1 metre square pit



Pit 16: a) Each 10cm "context" is recorded for soil type and man-man finds are removed, washed and recorded. b) & d) Village friends and visitors were invited to come and see what was going on. c) We finally made it to a depth of 1.2 metres



Pit 16 Soil Profiles



*Dr Carenza Lewis with a jaw of a cow at site 16 -
Mill House 12 Mill Street*



*Bricks found in a corner of Pit 16 at a depth of
about 80cm.*



The finds were on display at Carver's Barn



Site 14 at Alston Court Bowling Green



Site 5 at Shaddelows House; at 80cm we hit natural so we stopped digging and stood in it instead



*Site 11 at Newlands Lane
meadow [west corner]*



Site 4 at the Burial Ground



Site 4 at the Burial Ground



Site 3 at Star Cottage 81 Bear Street



The End of Dig Tea Party in the garden of Mill House



*The End of Dig Tea Party
in the garden of Mill House*

