# Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control

75 Manor Road Dersingham

on behalf of

Mr and Mrs Le Fevre

**Heather Wallis** 

February 2013

HW Report No. 123

Project name	75 Manor Road, Dersingham
Client	Mr and Mrs Le Feve
NHER Event No	ENF 130812
Grid reference	TF 6927 3003
Date of fieldwork	11th February 2013

# Introduction

Planning permission has been sought to build a new house and garage at Manor Road, Dersingham (Fig. 1). A Brief requesting the Archaeological Monitoring of any below ground disturbance occurring during the construction works was issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Services. The aim of the monitoring was to identify and record any revealed archaeological deposits and recover any disturbed artefacts.

The north part of the plot is currently occupied by modernised cottages and a Methodist Chapel sits in the south-east corner. The remainder of the area prior to development was utilised as a garden.

The development work was undertaken by Ken Moore (Building Contractor) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Le Fevre.

# **Geology and Topography**

Dersingham is a thriving village located 11 miles north-west of Kings Lynn and just two miles inland from The Wash. The site lies on the eastern edge of the present village at *c*. 30m OD. It sits just on the on the edge of the 'highland' of north and central Norfolk. To the east land rises to *c*.40m OD while to the west it dips *c*.10m and below. Dersingham is one of several settlements which take advantage of this natural high point on the edge of the Lower Greensand ridge; the others include Heacham, Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe and Sandringham.

The underlying geology of the site is the Dersingham Formation of sandstone and mudstone formed 121 to 132 million years ago in an environment of shallow seas (<u>http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</u>). The overlying soils are sandy loam to loams.

# Archaeological Background

Manor Road is situated to the south and east of the present village centre of Dersingham, although the location of several medieval sites nearby indicate it was once closer to the heart of the medieval settlement.

The village is probably of Saxon origin and is mentioned in the Domesday Book (<u>http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/TF6930/dersingham/</u>). The name 'Dersingham' being derived from Old English meaning 'homestead or village belonging to Deorsige.

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record has revealed several sites in and around Dersingham. To the east on the slightly higher ground evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded through finds recovered by fieldwalking. Aerial photographs have also revealed an area of field boundaries which may be of Late Iron Age or Roman date. The majority of the evidence however dates to the medieval period. In total five manors dominated the parish of Dersingham those of West Hall, Pakenham, Gelham, Shouldham Priory and Brook. Several of these survive as moated sites and are located to the north and east of the present site. Aerial photographs have also revealed other ditches and boundaries of medieval date and a further group of channels which possibly represent a post-medieval water meadow. The importance of one of the medieval moated manors and the water meadows has been recognised by English Heritage and is now scheduled (Scheduled Monument No. 30617). The southern boundary of the scheduled area lay just to the north of the development site.

St Nicholas Church, located to the north of the present site was constructed mainly during the 14th-century although several phases of 'restoration' and rebuilding have been undertaken. Standing close to the church is a 17th-century tithe barn, a building of some note, constructed from the local building materials of carstone and clunch along with some brick.

One unusual find from within the village was a hoard of over 100 silver shillings stored in a silver cup. These were found by a digger driver working on a new housing development and date from 1554 to 1643. It is thought that they were probably buried during the unrest that led up to the siege of Lynn in August 1643.

A review of maps accessible on-line (<u>http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/</u>) has been made. The outline of the present standing buildings of cottages to the north and chapel in the south-east corner of the development plot are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1888). A different pattern of buildings however is illustrated on the earlier Tithe Map of Dersingham dated to 1839 illustrating that the present buildings were built in the middle years of the 19th-century. The date stone for the Methodist New Connexion Chapel is 1851 and it can be suggested that the cottages to the north are probably of a similar date. The village has recently been granted conservation area status by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council (Lynn News 9/2/13). The full Conservation Statement is available on-line. <u>http://www.west-</u> norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/Character%20Statement%20(Draft)%20red.pdf)

## **Methods**

One visit was made to site in order to monitor the excavation of the footings for the new house. Spoil was visually checked and metal-detected in order to maximise any finds retrieval.

On completion of this one day of observation a verbal report was made to the Norfolk Historic Environment Service and it was agreed that as no archaeological features or finds had been observed further monitoring was not required.

All work was carried out in full accordance with national and regional guidelines for the treatment of archaeological remains, and in particular the guidance set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2001).

# **Observations**

The footings trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated by machine. Those forming the outline of the house and garage were *c*. 0.8m wide, while the internal footing trenches were slightly narrower being *c*.0.6m wide. All were approximately 1m deep. The deposits revealed across all of the trenches were consistent. Topsoil was a dark grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions, *c*.0.3m deep. Below the topsoil was a subsoil of mid orange brown fine sandy silt again with no inclusions. This was *c*.0,45m deep and became slightly more orange with depth. The lowest 0.25m of the trenches revealed the natural bright orange brown sandy silt.

Six pits were identified in the upper parts of the trenches all of which contained finds of 20th-century date. These finds included glass bottles from drink producers in Norwich and Great Yarmouth, stoneware pots, and metal tins. One of the pits contained the fragmentary remains of an Aga-type oven.

Spoil from the excavations was visually scanned and metal detected. Some of the risings were removed from site, but some soils were stock piled on site in order to be incorporated in the new garden design. No artefacts dating earlier than the 20th-century were recovered.

Root disturbance was particularly notable in the southern footing trench; this was due to the south boundary of the plot previously being formed by conifer trees.

# Conclusion

Considering the close proximity of significant medieval sites it is perhaps surprising that no archaeological features or finds were uncovered. However these sites appear to have been larger manors centred on moated plots and it can be suggested that evidence of occupation will be largely concentrated to the immediate area of the recorded earthworks.

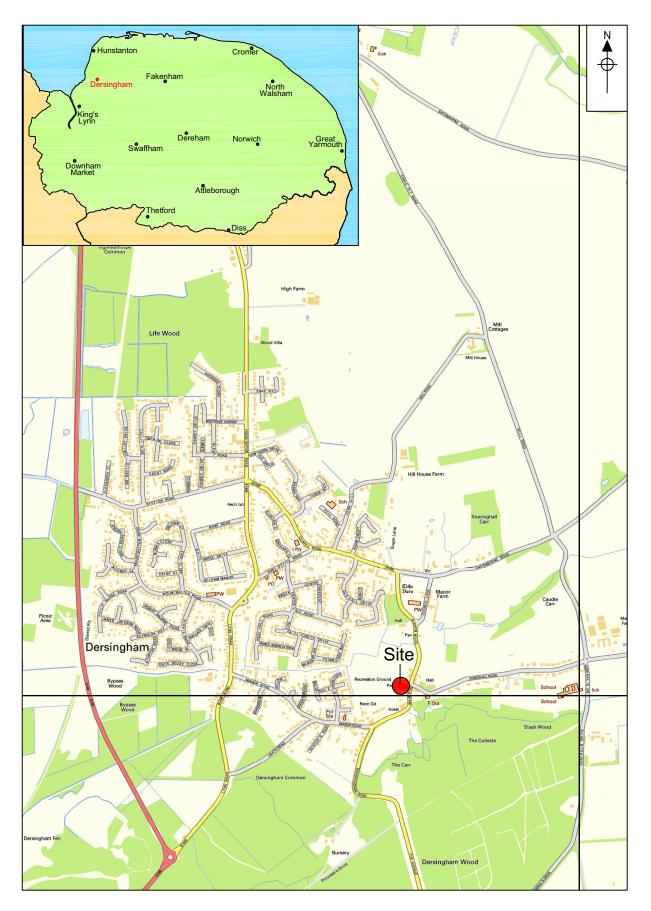


Figure 1. Site location.

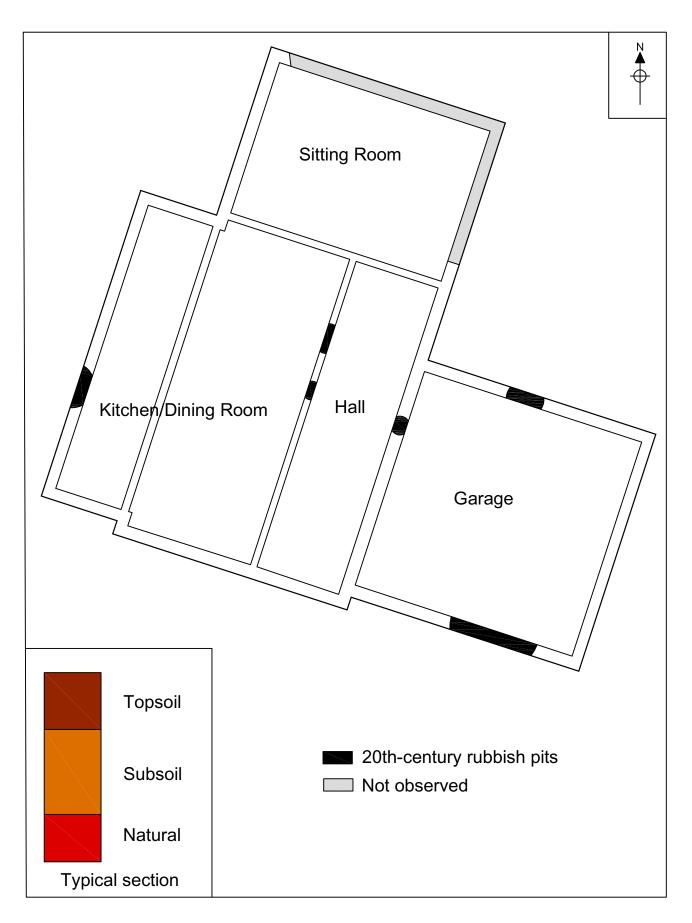


Figure 2. Showing plan of footings (Scale 1:100) and typical section (Scale 1:20).

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## **Project details**

Project name	Manor Road Dersingham
Short description of the project	Watching Brief on footings for single house. A number of small 20th- century waste dumps were observed. No other archaeological features or finds were noted.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2013 End: 11-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 130812 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK DERSINGHAM 75a Manor Road, Dersingham
Study area	150.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 6927 3003 52 0 52 50 26 N 000 30 48 E Point

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Heather Wallis
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heather Wallis
Project director/manager	Heather Wallis
Project supervisor	Heather Wallis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## **Project archives**

 Physical Archive Exists?
 No

 Digital Archive recipient
 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

## Project bibliography 1

Froject bibliography i	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control, 75 Manor Road, Dersingham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wallis, H.
Other bibliographic details	HW Report No. 123
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Heather Wallis
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
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