Land at The Nags Head PH, Market Street, East Harling, Norfolk

Planning application: 3PL/2020/0091/F

HER Ref: ENF 151430

Archaeological Investigation by Trenching Report

(© John Newman BA MCIFA, 10 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, IP8 4AA)

(May, 2021)

(Tel: 07754 501033 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Land at The Nags Head PH, Market Street, East Harling, Norfolk, NR16 2AD

Clients: Mr C Burnard

Planning authority: Breckland DC

Planning application refs: 3PL/2020/0091/F

Development: Erection of three dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 15 April, 2021

CNF ref: 48928_PoAMW(TT)

HER ref: ENF 151430

NMS accession ref: NWHCM 2021.59

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-417756

Grid ref: TL 99352 86352

Site area: c500m²

Recent land use: Former pub car park/garden

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Summary: East Harling, land at The Nags Head, Market Street (ENF 151430, TL 99352 86352) archaeological trenching at a planned three dwelling development just to the west of the market square revealed two pits of 20th century date with all of the stray finds in the upcast spoil being of post 1900 date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Burnard).

1. Introduction & background

- 1.1 Peter Codling Architects on behalf of their client Mr C Burnard commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological investigative trenching works for a planned three dwelling development (see Fig. 1) that has gained consent under planning application 3PL/2020/0091/F. The trenching requirements were set by Mr S Hickling of the Historic Environment Service (NHES) at Norfolk CC with the aim of gaining a representative sample by of the planned development area within the site. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological trenching (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to allow these works to go ahead and reported on before any other ground works are undertaken in relation to this development. The development concerns the erection of three dwellings on land at The Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling.
- 1.2 East Harling is located in south-west Norfolk and is now a large village to the east of the River Thet in an area of light soils above glacofluvial sands and gravels typical of Breckland. The site is just above the 20m OD contour and is 500m southeast of the isolated parish church and it is also c40m from Market Street in what has been part of the car park and garden of the nearby public house. Historically the village appears to have developed focused on the market place with an isolated church to the north-west, the market being recorded from at least AD 1475.
- 1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the area recognised as the historic core of East Harling, a market-village during the medieval period with this site being c40m from the market square and close to a number of number of later medieval and earlier Post medieval surviving buildings. In addition archaeological work in 2002 some 100m from this site (NHER 36804) recorded deposits of medieval date. Therefore this site had the potential to reveal more evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval activity in the village.
- 1.4 A search for archaeological and heritage records within 500m of this site was commissioned from the Norfolk CC Historic Environment Records (NHER). This search (see Fig. 1) demonstrated evidence for past activity in the area going back to the earlier Bronze Age (a Beaker from the area near the church, NHER 6023) and of Iron Age date (NHER 15655,?6049 & 28936) in addition to finds of Roman date (NHER 23268), this area of light, well-drained soils being attractive to settlement from the earliest periods. However the key clues to past activity in this market-village are pertinent to the later Saxon to early Post medieval period. The Nags Head is a Grade II listed building of mid-18th century date (NHER 43154/LBS 1077415) close to the historic market square within a market-village. The parish church of SS Peter & Paul to the north-west is Grade I listed and likely to be the later Saxon focus of the settlement with Hanling Old Hall site (NHER 6029) nearby showing evidence of medieval landscaping and fishponds though the building was demolished in the 19th century. However medieval settlement at East Harling is indicated by Market Street to the east of this site behind The Nags Head with a number of listed buildings of

earlier Post medieval date nearby (see Fig. 1). Perhaps the later Saxon focus near the parish church shifting in the post-Conquest period to the south-east around Market Street, maybe a medieval re-organisation of the village as manorial controls dictated.

2. Evaluation methodology

- 2.1 The development area was trenched to a plan agreed with NHES (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1500mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned as necessary to improve clarity with the trench being 1.80m wide. Any exposed features were then investigated by hand if not clearly of 20th century date.
- 2.2 The sides and base of trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds as the evaluation progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry weather conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the works progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken.

3. Results

- 3.1 The single 20m long and 1.80m wide trench across the planned new build area revealed 400mm of topsoil above 400mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with the underlying natural deposit being orange sand with flints.
- 3.2 The trial trench revealed two pits of 20th century date containing building brick fragments and other debris. The only metal finds from the detector search were two decimal coins of recent date and ceramic finds in the upcast spoil were of a similar recent date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 It can be concluded that this planned development at The Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling will not disturb any heritage deposits of archaeological significance. In all likelihood medieval and early Post medieval remains are closer to the Market Street frontage closer to The Nags Head.

Archive- to be deposited with the Norfolk Museum Service Service under the HER ref: ENF 151430.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr C Burnard for his close cooperation)

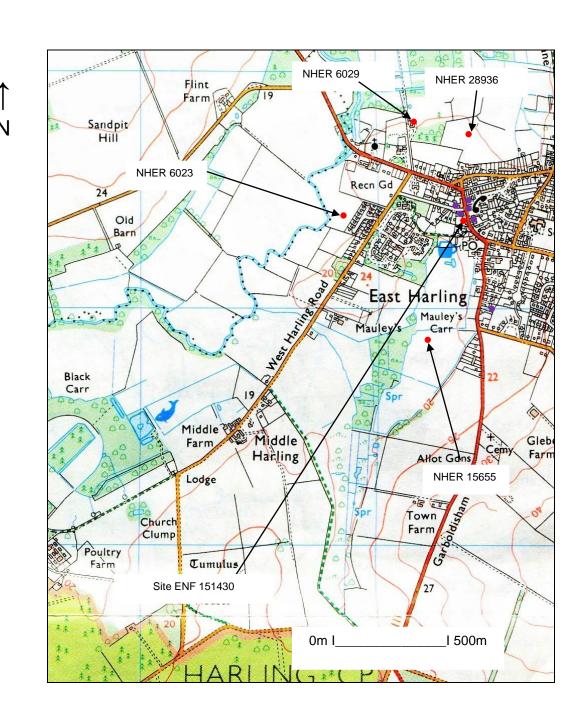


Fig. 1: Site location (with early Post medieval buildings near Market Street as purple dots) (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

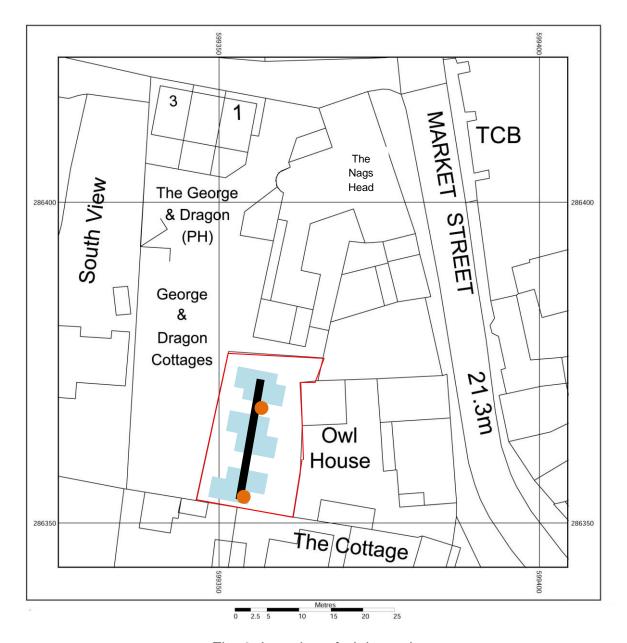


Fig. 2: Location of trial trench (light blue- planned new footprint areas, brown- 20th C pits) (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2021 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from southeast



Trench from south



Trench deposit profile



Pit in NW corner of trench (20th C)



Pit towards SW side of trench (20th C)

Land at The Nags Head PH, Market Street East Harling, Norfolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Informative Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works

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Site details

Name: Land at the Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling, Norfolk, NR16 2AD

Client: Mr C Burnard

Local planning authority: Breckland DC

Planning application ref: 3PL/2020/0091/F

Proposed development: Erection of three dwellings

Proposed date for trenching: tbc

Brief ref: CNF 48928_ PoAMW(TT)

NCC ref: CNF 48928

HER ref: tbc

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-417756

Grid ref: TL 9935 8638

Area: c500m²

Current site use: Public House car park and garden

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1. Introduction

2. Location, Topography & Geology

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 4. Aims of the Site Archaeological Investigation
- 5. Methodology
- 6. Risk Assessment
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Location of trial trench

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Peter Codling Architects on behalf of their client Mr C Burnard have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site investigation on a residential development that has received consent to go ahead under application 3PL/2020/0091/F. The Historic Environment Service (HES) at Norfolk CC has issued a brief for a programme of archaeological mitigatory works commencing with informative trial trenching for this proposed 3 dwelling development on land at the Nags Head PH, Market Street, East Harling and this WSI will detail the background to the site and also set out how potential risks will be mitigated.
- 1.2 The investigation will be carried out to the standards set locally in 'Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk' (Robertson et al, Norfolk CC, 2018) and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & re-issued 2014).
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation as detailed in this document is the first phase of a programme of archaeological works secured by negative condition on planning consent 3PL/2020/0091/F. Where the results of the investigation indicate the presence of heritage assets further archaeological works will be required to mitigate the impact of the development on the historic environment. The relevant NCC HES officer will identify the type and extent of works in a new brief necessary to adequately mitigate the impact of the proposed development. All further archaeological works, as recommended by NCC HES, must be undertaken in accordance with additional project designs as addendums to this WSI, submitted and approved by NCC HES and the LPA. All further archaeological investigations must be undertaken prior to commencement of development unless specifically referenced as monitoring of groundworks in the relevant further brief.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 East Harling is located in south-west Norfolk and is now a large village to the east of the River Thet in an area of light soils above glacofluvial sands and gravels typical of Breckland. The site is just above the 20m OD contour and is 500m southeast of the isolated parish church and it is also c40m from Market Street in what has been part of the car park and garden of the nearby public house. Historically the village appears to have developed focused on the market place with an isolated church to the north-west.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant NCC archaeological advice: 'The proposed development site lies within the core of the medieval village of East Harling and fronts on to the medieval marketplace. Excavations less than 100m to the north in 2002 recorded medieval settlement remains. This part of the village is rich in historic

buildings dating to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Consequently, there is potential that heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) will be present at the site and that their significance will be adversely affected by the proposed development.'

3.2 As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.

An initial site investigation by investigative trial trenching is therefore required in order to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Investigate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

4. Aims of the Site Investigation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the site relates to its location within the core of the historic village adjacent the market place, close to a site where evidence of medieval activity has been recorded and near various listed buildings of early Post medieval date. The aim of this investigation will therefore be to assess the potential of this site to contain heritage assets and characterise any such deposits so a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy can be formulated.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The proposed development is for the construction of 3 dwellings on land at The Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling. To inform the results of the investigation a search will be commissioned from the County HER for the area within 250m of the site.
- 5.2 The relevant brief specifies 20m of trenching and a trench plan as proposed by JNAS is shown below, in addition a contingency for a further 5m of trenching dependant on results and in consultation with NCC HES is included. The trench will be 1.80m wide. The trenching will be undertaken using a wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver. The machine

will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined as required. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trenches with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at NCC has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then NCC will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the investigation including before the trenches are opened. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits. Allowance has been made for one person day on site.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall HER event number obtained from the Norfolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the trenching works. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD and the trenches will be recorded in relation to nearby site boundaries using a tape and recording wheel. A photographic record in high resolution digital images and monochrome film will be made of the site and exposed features (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5 and a Olympus camera).

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with investigation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%, possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the NCC Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this initial site examination stage though some investigation may be required to establish the date of any burials for example by RC dating. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional

cost to the investigation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial evidence is assessed as being low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant NCC Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the NCC Museums Service under their relevant accession number, HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the NCC Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant NCC Officer and any finds that qualify under the Treasure Act will be reported to the Treasure Team at The British Museum, with the local Finds Liaison Officer also being informed, within 14 days.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage, 2011). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant NCC Officer (and the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor (RSA) if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the investigation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

 What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the investigation results and to aid the planning of any further

field work- if any RC dates are required for features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost).

- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the investigation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant NCC Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the relevant soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required following the investigation on such deposits this will incur an additional cost and will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless deep deposits are revealed).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the investigation the relevant NCC Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* (and the guidelines in the Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007). This archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service within 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and with

the related NMS Museum accession number and following the guidelines outlined in the relevant NCC documents (Robertson et al).

- 5.8 The archaeological investigation report will be consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.
- 5.9 Any interpretation of the investigation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the site archaeological works and its results and these will be discussed with the relevant NCC Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day(s) on site of the immediately apparent conclusions so a site visit can be agreed. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site investigation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the initial investigation results have been assessed and the NCC Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required. A draft copy of the report will be presented to NCC following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version of the site archive on disc. As required the site investigation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before works start followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual NCC round-up.

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather. All COVID requirements will be followed with social distancing, face masks, provision of sanitiser and no sharing of equipment.
- 6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.
- 6.3 Prior to work starting on site the client will be consulted with regard to any potential contamination at the site, no overhead services impinge on the site. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground

contamination revealed during the investigation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

- 6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.
- 6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.
- 6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation: Conservation Services

Faunal remains: J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)

Human remains: S Anderson (Freelance)

Metal detecting: J Armes (experienced freelance)

Palaeoenvironmental samples: V Fryer (Freelance)

Soils specialist tbc

Pre-historic flint: S Bates (Freelance)

Pre-historic pottery: S Percival (Freelance)

Post Roman ceramics & CBM: S Anderson (Freelance)

Roman period small finds: N Crummy (Freelance)

Roman period ceramics: Colchester Archaeological Trust

Medieval coins: M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)

Post Roman small finds: JNAS



Suggested location of trial trench (1 x 20m plus 5m contingency)

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-417756

Project details

Project name

Land at The Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling,

Norfolk- Archaeological Investigation Report

East Harling, land at The Nags Head, Market Street (ENF

151430, TL 99352 86352) archaeological trenching at a

Short description of

the project

planned three dwelling development just to the west of the market square revealed two pits of 20th century date with all of the stray finds in the upcast spoil being of post 1900 date.

Project dates Start: 15-04-2021 End: 15-04-2021

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated

project reference codes

nce ENF 151430 - HER event no.

Any associated

project reference

NWHCM 2021.59 - Museum accession ID

codes

Any associated

project reference

codes

3PL/20200091/F - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type PIT Modern

Significant Finds BRICK Modern

Methods &

techniques ""Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the

planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND HARLING LAND AT NAGS

HEAD PH MARKET STREET

Postcode NR16 2AD

Study area 500 Square metres

TL 9935 8638 52.438508687185 0.933196066786 52 26 18 N

000 55 59 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 19m Max: 20m

Project creators

Name of

Organisation

John Newman Archaeological Services

Project brief

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning

originator

Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

John Newman

Project

director/manager

John Newman

Project supervisor

John Newman

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive

recipient

Discarded

Physical Contents

"Ceramics"

Digital Archive

recipient

Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services

Digital Contents

"Ceramics"

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media

available

"Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land At The Nags Head, Market Street, East Harling,

Norfolk- Archaeological Trenching Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J

Date 2021

Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services

Place of issue or

publication

Bramford, Suffolk

Description Loose bound client report and pdf

Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Entered on 4 May 2021