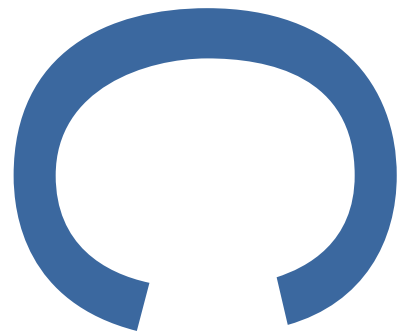


**RAF MARHAM, BURNTHOUSE
DROVE, UPPER MARHAM,
NORFOLK PE33 9NP:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**



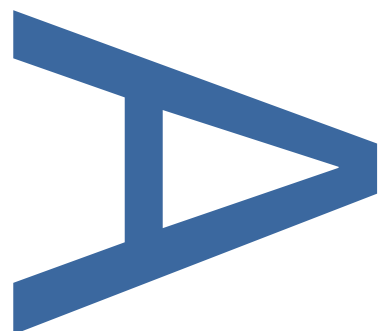
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: KINGS
LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK COUNCIL**



**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
16/00332/F**

PCA REPORT NO: 12725

SITE CODE: ENF 140853



DECEMBER 2016

Archaeological Monitoring at RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk, PE33 9NP

Local Planning Authority: Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council

Planning Reference: 16/00332/F

Central National Grid Reference: TF 7187 0719

Event Number: ENF 140853

NHER Enquiry Number: 16_06_14

Report No. R12725

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December 2016**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk, PE33 9NP (NGR TF 7187 0719) between the 26th September and the 24th November 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Balfour Beatty in response to an archaeological brief issued by James Albone of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (HES/NCC) prior to the construction of new access and car parks, buildings and a gate house. The aim of the work was to record any archaeological activity present.

No archaeological features were identified within the monitored areas. Fieldwalking and metal detecting recovered mainly modern objects, in keeping with the use of the area throughout the 20th century, but Roman coins were also found and one piece of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 7187 0719 between September 26th and November 24th 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Balfour Beatty in response to an archaeological condition attached to the construction of new access along with associated car parking, five portable buildings and a gate house (Planning Reference 16/00332/F).
- 1.3 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Fletcher 2016) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by James Albone (Albone 2016) of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (HES/NCC).
- 1.4 The main aim of the monitoring process was to monitor all ground works within the proposed development area likely to impact on archaeological features and deposits and to record recover and interpret all archaeology to an acceptable standard.
- 1.5 This report describes the results of the monitoring. The site archive will be deposited at Norwich Castle Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is recorded as chalk, characterised as the Melbourn Rock Member Chalk Formation. These sedimentary rock formations were formed approximately 89 to 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. The superficial geology of the area has not yet been mapped for this area (www.bgs.ac.uk).

Location

2.1.2 RAF Marham is situated in West Norfolk, between the towns of Downham Market and Swaffham. The development area comprises an irregular shaped plot of land of approximately 3.2ha and is bordered by the A1122 Swaffham Road to the south with open fields to the west and east (Figure 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is relatively flat lying at around 13m AOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background below is based on a search of the NHER which was undertaken in June 2016 (NHER Enquiry 16_06_14). A search of all records within a 500m radius of the proposed development area was undertaken by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The search returned 12 records, mostly relating to fieldwalking and metal detecting surveys which have been undertaken extensively in the surrounding fields.

- 3.1.1 The proposed development area is situated on the southern boundary of RAF Marham. The airfield was first used by the Royal Flying Corps during World War One. The Royal Air Force took over the site during World War Two. It continued to be used during the Cold War and to the present day. The airfield had three Pickett Hamilton forts during World War Two. The Cold War Hardened Nuclear Shelters built here in the 1980s are considered to be of national importance (NHER4510).
- 3.1.2 The development site was fieldwalked in 1987 when prehistoric worked flints, medieval roof tile and fragments of pottery dating from the Iron Age to the post medieval periods were recovered. Metal-detecting undertaken on the site in 2013 recovered an Iron Age coin (MNF25031).
- 3.1.3 Beyond the search radius, approximately 700m to the east of the site along Swaffham Road, aerial photographs have identified a probable Bronze Age ring ditch (NHER35553). Another Bronze Age ring ditch has been identified via opposite the end of the runway at the airfield approximately 700m to the northwest of the development area (NHER24296).
- 3.1.4 The Fen Causeway, a known Roman Road which runs from a junction with Ermine Street and King Street near Peterborough across the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk fens, has been plotted crossing through RAF Marham (MNF2796). Excavations of the route at Downham West in 1993 examined a complex sequence of deposits, including the roddon of a natural watercourse into which a canal had been dug, probably in the early 2nd century AD. The first road surface was found to predate the canal, while a second road surface probably ran beside the canal.

- 3.1.5 Approximately 650m to the immediate south of the site, the site of a Roman settlement has been identified through pottery, coins, brooches and other Roman metalwork which has been found by metal detecting and field walking (MNF18850).
- 3.1.6 Metal-detecting surveys carried out between 1990 and 2014 on fields to the south-west of the development site, on the south side of Swaffham Road, recovered a range of finds dating from the Late Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. Most significantly a Late Iron Age coin hoard of 200 silver coins was found at some point before 1998 (MNF30059). Other finds include Roman, medieval and medieval/post-medieval pottery sherds; Iron Age,
- 3.1.7 The field to the immediate east of the proposed development area was subjected to metal-detecting in 2013 and 2015. The detecting recovered a Late Iron Age/Early Roman tankard handle; a Roman brooch; medieval buckles, a strap-end, strap clasp and strap fitting; a medieval/post-medieval mount and a post-medieval buckle and hooked mount from a sword belt (MNF65173). Further detecting in the field southeast of the site between 2003 and 2013 recorded prehistoric worked flints and several metal finds from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods (MNF17600)
- 3.1.8 Prehistoric flints, medieval roof tile and fragments of pottery dating from the medieval to the post medieval periods have been found by fieldwalking 450m to the east of the development area on the north side of Swaffham Road (NHER25029). Further multi-period finds were recovered during metal detecting to the immediate south and 400m southeast of the site on the south side of Swaffham Road (MNF23911 and MNF23934).
- 3.1.9 Further to the south of Swaffham Road, approx. 600m south of the development site, metal detecting and feildwalking surveys have recorded An Iron Age coin, a Roman furniture fitting and two Middle or Late Saxon strap ends, found by metal detecting (MNF44127) and Prehistoric flints and fragments of pottery dating from the Iron Age to the post medieval periods (MNF23913).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring

4.1.1 Archaeological monitoring by an experienced archaeologist was undertaken on all ground works likely to impact on archaeological remains, with the exception of a drainage trench between Catchpit 1 and Catchpit 3 in the north-eastern area of the site.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a variety of plant including a flat bladed bulldozer, a 14 to 21-ton tracked mechanical excavator and a roller. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried throughout the monitoring process. Spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square

brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during monitoring were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.2.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the monitoring process.

4.2.4 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 THE FINDS

- 5.1 All finds recovered during monitoring were from the metal detecting of the topsoil and subsoil or from field walking. Two Roman coins, a variety of modern finds, including buttons, and one piece of flint were found.
- 5.2 SF5 Roman Coin: Location – 571864.69E/ 307257.27N/ -11.30GL
- 5.3 SF7 Roman Coin: Location – 571857.324E/ 307207.64N/ -11.54GL
- 5.4 Flint from context (101) – a recorticated and (Fe?) stained flake that is in a very chipped condition, but still retains convincing traces for medium, steep, partially invasive scalar retouch along it's slightly convex right margin and extending around its distal end i.e. an end-and-side scraper. These are not massively dateable but are most likely to be Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (pers. Comm. Barry Bishop).

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological features were present during the monitoring of groundworks at RAF Marham. Field walking and metal detecting across the development area resulted in a small number of finds which mainly consisted of modern objects, although two Roman coins and a Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint were also found.
- 6.2 The results are of local importance.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Balfour Beatty for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to James Albone of Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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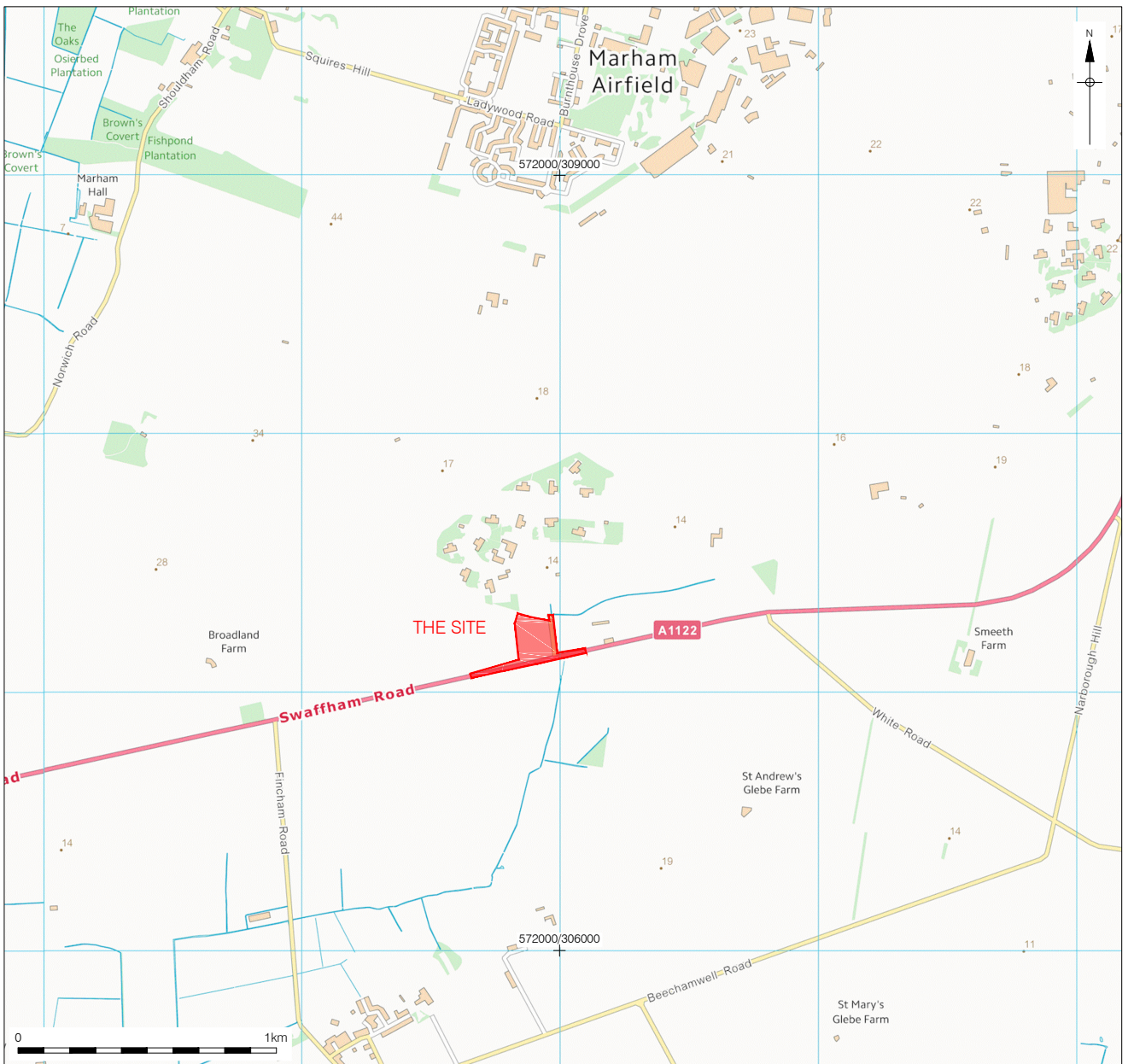
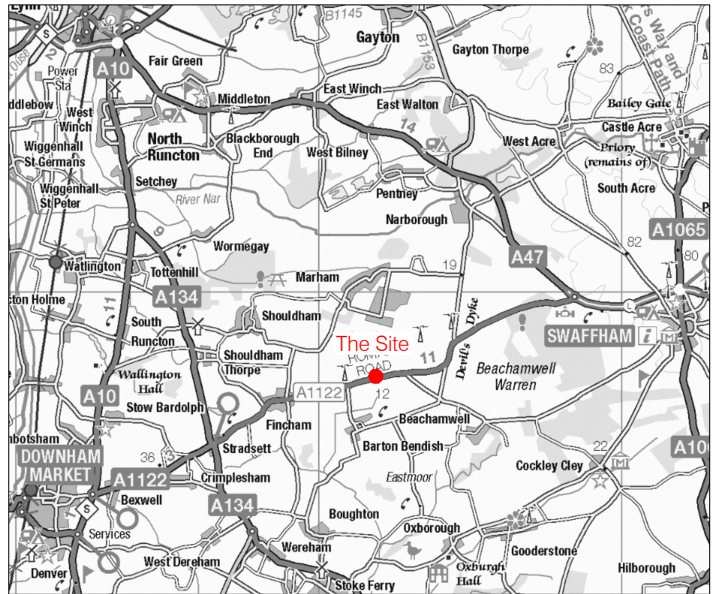
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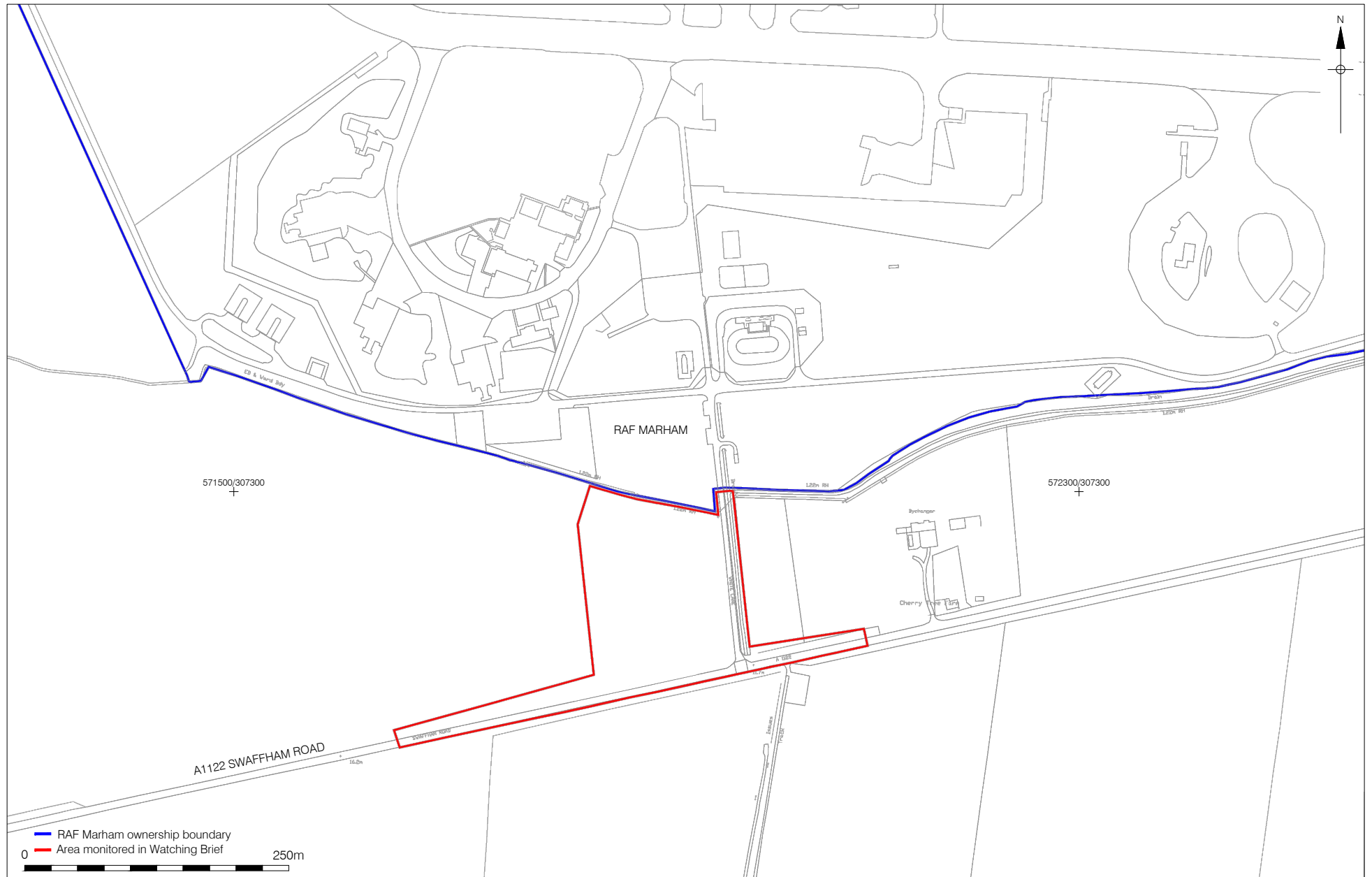
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 14/12/16 CF

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4



Mapping Supplied by AECOM Infrastructure and Environment LTD
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 14/12/16 CF

Figure 2
 Location of Area Monitored
 1:5,000 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site



Plate 2: Edge of road stripping



Plate 3: Site stripping

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category
101	N/A	Layer	Topsoil
102	N/A	Layer	Subsoil
103	N/A	Layer	Natural Geology

11 APPENDIX 3: ATTENDANCE

DATES AND TIMES	STAFF	WORKS MANAGED
26/09/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Topsoil stripping for temporary road
27/09/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Topsoil stripping along A1122 main road
13/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Edge of A1122 topsoil removal
14/10/2016 07:30-15:00	D. Curry	Edge of A1122 topsoil removal and car park area topsoil removal
17/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Main area topsoil removal
18/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry and K. Hutton	Edge of A1122 removal and main area
19/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry and K. Hutton	Edge of A1122 removal and main area
20/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry and K. Hutton	Road edge finished, main area removal
21/10/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Main area stripping, metal detecting
24/10/2016 08:00-16:00	D. Curry	Topsoil removal, roller flattens site
25/10/2016 08:00-16:00	K. Hutton	
26/10/2016 08:00-14:00	K. Hutton	
27/10/2016 08:00-16:00	J. House	
28/10/2016 08:00-15:00	J. House	
31/10/2016 07:30-15:00	D. Curry	Road edge works and backfill
01/11/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Bungs and north area
02/11/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Drainage trenching car park
03/11/2016 07:45-15:30	D. Curry	Drainage digging car park
04/11/2016 07:30-14:00	D. Curry	Car park work – trenching road side
07/11/2016 07:30-14:00	D. Curry	Backfill pipe trench
08/11/2016 07:30-14:00	D. Curry	Spoil heap Fieldwalking
09/11/2016	D. Curry	Rained off
10/11/2016 07:30-15:30	D. Curry	Drainage pipe digging- south to north
11/11/2016 17:30-11:30	D. Curry	Trenching car park
14/11/2016 07:30-14:50	D. Curry	Drainage pipe digging – car park
15/11/2016 07:30-15:30	D. Curry	Digging drains – car park

16/11/2016 07:30-15:00	D. Curry	Digging drains – car park
17/11/2016 07:30-09:30	D. Curry	No digging
21/11/2016 07:30-08:40	D. Curry	No digging
23/11/2016 07:30-16:00	D. Curry	Cable digging
24/11/2016 07:30-12:00	D. Curry	Drainage digging – car park area

12 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-271198

Project details

Project name Archaeological Monitoring at RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk, PE33 9NP

Short description of the project This report describes the archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk, PE33 9NP (NGR TF 7187 0719) between the 26th September and the 24th November 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Balfour Beatty in response to an archaeological brief issued by James Albone of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (HES/NCC) prior to the construction of new access and car parks, buildings and a gate house. The aim of the work was to record any archaeological activity present. No archaeological features were identified within the monitored areas. Fieldwalking and metal detecting recovered mainly modern objects, in keeping with the use of the area throughout the 20th century, but Roman coins were also found.

Project dates Start: 26-09-2016 End: 24-11-2016

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ENF140853 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds COINS Roman

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK MARHAM RAF Marham, Burnthouse Drove, Upper Marham, Norfolk, PE33 9NP

Postcode PE33 9NP
Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates TF 7187 0719 52.634799089791 0.540095354729 52 38 05 N 000 32 24
E Point

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Physical Archive Norwich Museum
recipient
Physical Archive ID ENF140853
Physical Contents "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Norwich Museum
recipient
Digital Archive ID ENF140853
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
available
Paper Archive Norwich Museum
recipient
Paper Archive ID ENF140853
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media "Diary", "Plan", "Report"
available

Project

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