

**BLOFIELD AND
NORTH BURLINGHAM PIPELINE
NORFOLK**

**STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
EXCAVATION**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY:
BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

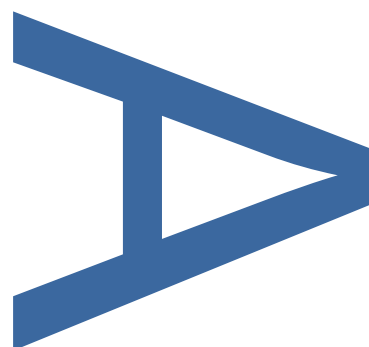
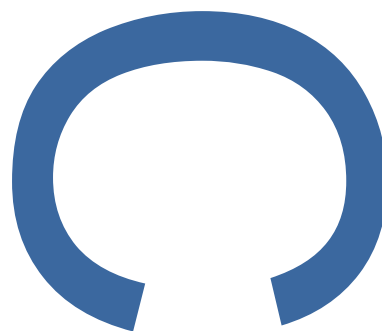
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JUNE 2018



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Blofield and North Burlingham Pipeline, Norfolk: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

Local Planning Authority:	Broadland District Council
Planning References:	n/a
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Site Code/Event Number:	ENF144318
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Plate 2: View along the southern end of the pipeline easement, showing the geological substrate and ploughsoil, looking southeast (scale 0.5m)

ABSTRACT

In February 2018, Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out a strip, map and sample excavation along part of the route of a new pipeline that is being constructed by Anglian Water between North Burlingham and South Walsham, Norfolk. The purpose of the excavation was to establish if the remains of a late prehistoric or Roman settlement, identified from cropmarks in a field to the east of Burlingham Green, extended into the pipeline easement and to investigate any remains that may have been encountered.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the easement and there were no artefacts in the ploughsoil, suggesting that the focus of the settlement lies further to the west, probably centred on a sub-rectangular enclosure indicated by the cropmarks.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Anglian Water (AW) are constructing a new pipeline along the approximate route of the B1140, from east of North Burlingham to South Walsham, Norfolk (Fig. 1). Near the hamlet of Burlingham Green, the pipeline passes immediately to the east of a complex of cropmarks that are recorded in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) as the site of a probable late prehistoric or Roman settlement (NGR: TG (6)3728 (3)1079; Fig. 2).
- 1.2 Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered in this area during the construction of the new pipeline and in accordance with industry *Best Practice*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) were commissioned by AW to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site. This consisted of a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation along a 220m stretch of the pipeline easement where it passes close to the cropmarks. The extent of the SMS area was determined by AW and the fieldwork was carried out on 27th and 28th February 2018.
- 1.3 The requirements of the programme of archaeological investigation were outlined in a *Generic Brief for Strip, Map and Sample Excavation* issued by Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Service (NCCHEs 2015), which was referred to in the preparation of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the project (PCA 2018).
- 1.4 All work relating to the project was carried out in accordance with the WSI, in addition to those set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b).
- 1.5 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015). The site archive will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum on completion of the project, under accession no. **2018.108**.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site is located c. 900m to the northeast of North Burlingham, a small village that lies approximately 14km to the east of Norwich city centre, just to the north of the A47 Norwich to Great Yarmouth road (Fig. 1). It consists of a 220m section of the easement for the new pipeline, which in this locality runs parallel and c. 25m to the west of South Walsham Road (B1140), along the eastern edge of an arable field.
- 2.1.2 Topographically, the site is situated at the northeastern edge of a plateau of relatively flat ground, with ground level lying at c. 24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Beyond the site, the ground descends gently to the northeast, into the head of the shallow valley of Hare Fen, a small stream that flows northwestwards towards the village of South Walsham, before turning north to enter South Walsham Broad.
- 2.1.3 The solid geology within the site consists of Pliocene and Pleistocene sand and gravel of the Crag Group. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits (diamicton—poorly sorted sand, silt and gravel) of the Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation, with those of the succeeding Lowestoft Formation occurring at the northern and southern extremities of the site (BGS 2018).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 Reference to the Norfolk Historical Environment Record (NHER) shows that the site lies immediately to the east of a complex of cropmarks that have been interpreted as the remains of a late prehistoric or Roman settlement. In the wider area (within a 1km radius of the site), the NHER contains records for archaeological sites and findspots dating from the prehistoric to the modern periods. In the following summary of the archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, the NHER reference numbers are given in parentheses.

Prehistoric and Roman (pre-AD410)

- 2.2.2 A complex of cropmarks immediately to the west of the site, describing a series of rectilinear enclosures with associated tracks and boundary ditches, has been interpreted as the site of a late prehistoric or Roman settlement (49465; Fig. 2). Further cropmarks, probably the remains of an extensive field system that may be associated with the settlement, have been identified c. 850m to the northeast of the site (49504), 600m to the northwest (49454), 650m to the south (49463) and 950m

to the southwest (49456).

- 2.2.3 In 1966, a small assemblage of prehistoric worked flint, comprising five flints, was recovered by a gardener near Church Plantation, c. 600m to the south of the site (21360).

Medieval (AD410 to 1485)

- 2.2.4 The village of North Burlingham, which is located c. 1km to the south of the site, originated in the Saxon period and is documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Berlingaham*. It had two parish churches, St Andrew's and St Peter's, the latter now standing in ruins. St Andrews's Church (8523), which is located at the western end of the village, is built in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles and predominately dates to the 15th century. It has a fine 15th-century hammerbeam roof with carved corbels and angels and its painted rood screen, which dates to 1536, is one of the latest examples in the country.
- 2.2.5 The ruins of St Peter's Church are located at the eastern end of the village (8524). The surviving fabric of the church predominately dates to the 14th/15th centuries, although a survey of the building in the 1980s suggested that the north nave and parts of the west wall may be earlier. The church was restored in the 19th century but the round west tower collapsed in 1906 and the church was deconsecrated in the 1930s.
- 2.2.6 A complex of cropmarks located c. 300m to the south of the site are considered to be the remains of medieval and early post-medieval settlement (49455). Medieval pottery has been recovered from the main hollow way (8512).
- 2.2.7 In 1970, a fragment of an undated Niedermendig lava quern was unearthed by ploughing c. 650m to the southwest of the site (8512) and later fieldwalking in the same location recovered several sherds of late medieval pottery, a coin and a buckle. A strap handle from a 13th-century vessel was found c. 300m to the south of the site (33131) and a silver penny of Edward I (Durham mint, issued 1379-1307) has been found in a garden in North Burlingham (8511).

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

- 2.2.8 Home Farm, a brick building dating to the early 17th century, is located c. 1.1km to the southwest of the site (25153). During renovation work in the late 1980s, builders uncovered a rare example of an 18th-century wall frieze, depicting angels or 'putti' against a lantern pattern background.
- 2.2.9 The site of Burlingham Hall is located c. 600m to the southwest of the site (14468). The house, which was set within extensive grounds, was built in the early 19th century and was demolished in 1952. The stable block survived demolition and has been converted into a house.
- 2.2.10 A cast iron milepost, dating to the 19th or early 20th century, is located on the old Norwich to Great Yarmouth road, at the east end of the village of North Burlingham.

3 METHODOLOGY

Excavation Methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological investigation consisted of a strip, map and sample excavation along a 220m stretch of the 5m-wide easement for the new pipeline (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 The area was stripped under archaeological supervision using a 20-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The ploughsoil was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed geological substrate and stored in a temporary bund along the edge of the easement. The stripped surface was cleaned and closely inspected by the supervising archaeologist for any archaeological features that may have been present, but none were encountered.

Recording Methodology

- 3.3 The limits of excavation and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica GPS unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 3.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods followed those detailed in the *PCA Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2009). All deposits recorded during the investigation are listed in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the investigation and included general photographs of the site and working shots.
- 3.6 The soil bund was visually scanned for finds and a metal-detector was used to maximise the recovery of metal objects. There were no finds and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling.

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS

4.1 General stratigraphy

- 4.1.1 The geological substrate (102) was predominantly firm light to mid-yellowish grey silty sandy clay containing occasional fine to coarse pebbles, with a greater occurrence of chalk pebbles at the northern and southern extremities of the site (Plates 1 and 2). There was an intermittent, weakly developed subsoil, which occurred as occasional, isolated patches of mid brown clayey silt up to 0.05m thick (101). The ploughsoil (100), which was approximately 0.35m thick, was mid to dark greyish brown organic sandy silt with occasional fine to coarse pebbles.
- 4.1.2 The stripped surface of the site was closely inspected for archaeological features and the spoil was scanned for artefactual material, but no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Reference to the Norfolk HER had indicated that the remains of a late prehistoric or Roman settlement, evident as cropmarks shown on aerial photographs, had the potential to extend into the easement for a new pipeline being built by AW between North Burlingham and South Walsham, Norfolk. The cropmarks were located in an arable field to the west of South Walsham Road (B1140), approximately 600m to the east of the hamlet of Burlingham Green (Fig. 1).
- 5.2 The cropmarks, which extended over an area of approximately two hectares, described at least one sub-rectangular enclosure in the western part of the field, and a more regular, rectilinear ditch system with associated tracks extending to the east, fading out close to the route of the new pipeline.
- 5.3 Despite the moderate to high potential for archaeological remains to extend into the easement for the new pipeline, the archaeological investigation demonstrated that the cropmarks were a good indicator of the extent of the settlement in the eastern part of the field. No archaeological remains were encountered within the easement and there was no artefactual material in the ploughsoil, indicating that the focus of the settlement lies further to the west, probably centred on the sub-rectangular enclosure.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 PCA would like to thank Jo Everitt of Anglian Water Services for commissioning the project and Benjamin Okello for providing the plans used in the production of this report. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Hobbs and the report was written by Simon Carlyle, with figures prepared by Rosie Scales. The project was managed by Simon Carlyle.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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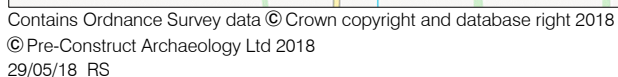


Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



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29/05/18 RS

Figure 2
SMS Area
1:2,000 at A4



Plate 1: View along the pipeline easement, looking northwest



Plate 2: View along the southern end of the pipeline easement, showing the geological substrate and ploughsoil, looking southeast (scale 0.5m)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS INDEX

Context No.	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.35	Soft mid to dark greyish brown organic sandy silt with occasional fine to coarse pebbles	Ploughsoil
101	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0 - 0.05	Soft light to mid-brown sandy silt, intermittent, largely absent	Subsoil
102	Layer	Geology	-	-	-	Firm light to mid-yellowish grey silty sandy clay, with occasional fine to coarse pebbles, more chalk pebbles at either end of the site	Geology

APPENDIX 2: OASIS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-318553

Project details

Project name	Blofield to North Burlingham Pipeline, Norfolk
Short description of the project	In February 2018, Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out a strip, map and sample excavation along part of the route of a new pipeline that is being constructed by Anglian Water between North Burlingham and South Walsham, Norfolk. The purpose of the excavation was to establish if the remains of a late prehistoric or Roman settlement, identified from cropmarks in a field to the east of Burlingham Green, extended into the pipeline easement and to investigate any remains that may have been encountered. Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archeological features or deposits were encountered within the easement and there were no artefacts in the ploughsoil, suggesting that the focus of the settlement lies further to the west, probably centred on a sub-rectangular enclosure indicated by the cropmarks.
Project dates	Start: 27-02-2018 End: 28-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF144318 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2018.108 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND LINGWOOD AND BURLINGHAM North Burlingham
Postcode	NR13 4SZ
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 3727 1082 52.642601968117 1.507564209548 52 38 33 N 001 30 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24m Max: 25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project director/manager	Simon Carlyle
Project supervisor	Ben Philip Hobbs
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	2018.108
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	2018.108
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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