



**Monitoring of Works under Archaeological
Supervision and Control**

**20 Chequers Lane
Great Ellingham**

ENF 131280

Heather Wallis

April 2013

HW Report No. 125



Project name	20 Chequers Lane
Parish	Great Ellingham
NHER Event No	ENF 131280
Grid reference	TM 0183 9715
Date of fieldwork	3rd April 2013

Introduction

Planning permission had been sought to build an extension to the rear of the existing bungalow at 20 Chequers Lane, Great Ellingham (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.

Geology and Topography

The underlying geology of the site is the Lowestoft Formation of chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clay formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The overlying soils are chalky, loams and clayey loams.

Archaeological Background

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record was undertaken in order to identify known sites of archaeological and historical significance.

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area. Very few finds of this date have been recorded although possible Bronze Age barrows have been identified to the east of Great Ellingham. Roman finds are more common but most relevant to this development is the presence of a Roman cemetery. This is centred to the north of the present site. Burials were first found in 1957 and further inhumations were excavated during the 1960s and 70s. It has been suggested that the line of Attleborough Road to the east of the village reflects the line of a Roman Road.

Recently excavated, but not yet listed on the Historic Environment Record, is a further burial site to the south-east of the development plot. Archaeological evaluation and excavation in 2011 and 2012 recorded many burials thought to be Roman in date.

It is during the medieval and later periods that settlement appears to grow. A scattering of finds of these dates have been recorded. Two medieval moated sites are known, one to the south and one to the north of the present settlement centre. To the north and east aerial photographs have revealed field boundaries, ditches and settlement of these dates. Undated cropmarks have also been recorded to the south and west.

A review of maps accessible on-line (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>) has been made. This shows that the site was farmland, with largely unchanging field boundaries, throughout the post-medieval period. It was not until the second half of the 20th century that the village expanded and the housing along Chequers Lane was built.

Methods

One visit was made to site in order to monitor the excavation of the footings for the bungalow extension. Prior to excavation the area was metal detected, but no artefacts were indicated. The excavation of the footing trench was observed and recorded.

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

(Fig. 2, Plates 1 and 2)

The footing trenches, which were 0.7m wide, were excavated by machine. These were approximately 0.9m deep, extending into the top of the natural. The deposits revealed across all of the trenches were consistent. Topsoil was a dark yellow brown slightly silty fine loam with occasional small flint, c.0.35m deep. Below the topsoil was a subsoil of mid yellow brown clayey sandy silt c.0.3m. The lowest 0.25m of the trenches revealed the natural bright orange brown sandy silt with moderate medium and large flints.

Four areas of modern disturbance were noted. Two of these were the footing trenches from a now demolished single skin extension. A drainage pipe also crossed the excavations and an old soak-away was noted in the north-west corner of the area.

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 were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the presence of archaeological sites nearby, particularly that of Roman burials elsewhere in the village, no finds or features which pre-date the construction of the original bungalow were recorded. The lack of earlier human activity on this site is however of some interest as it indicates that this area lay beyond the boundary of the Roman cemetery to the north-east of the site.



Figure 1. Site location.

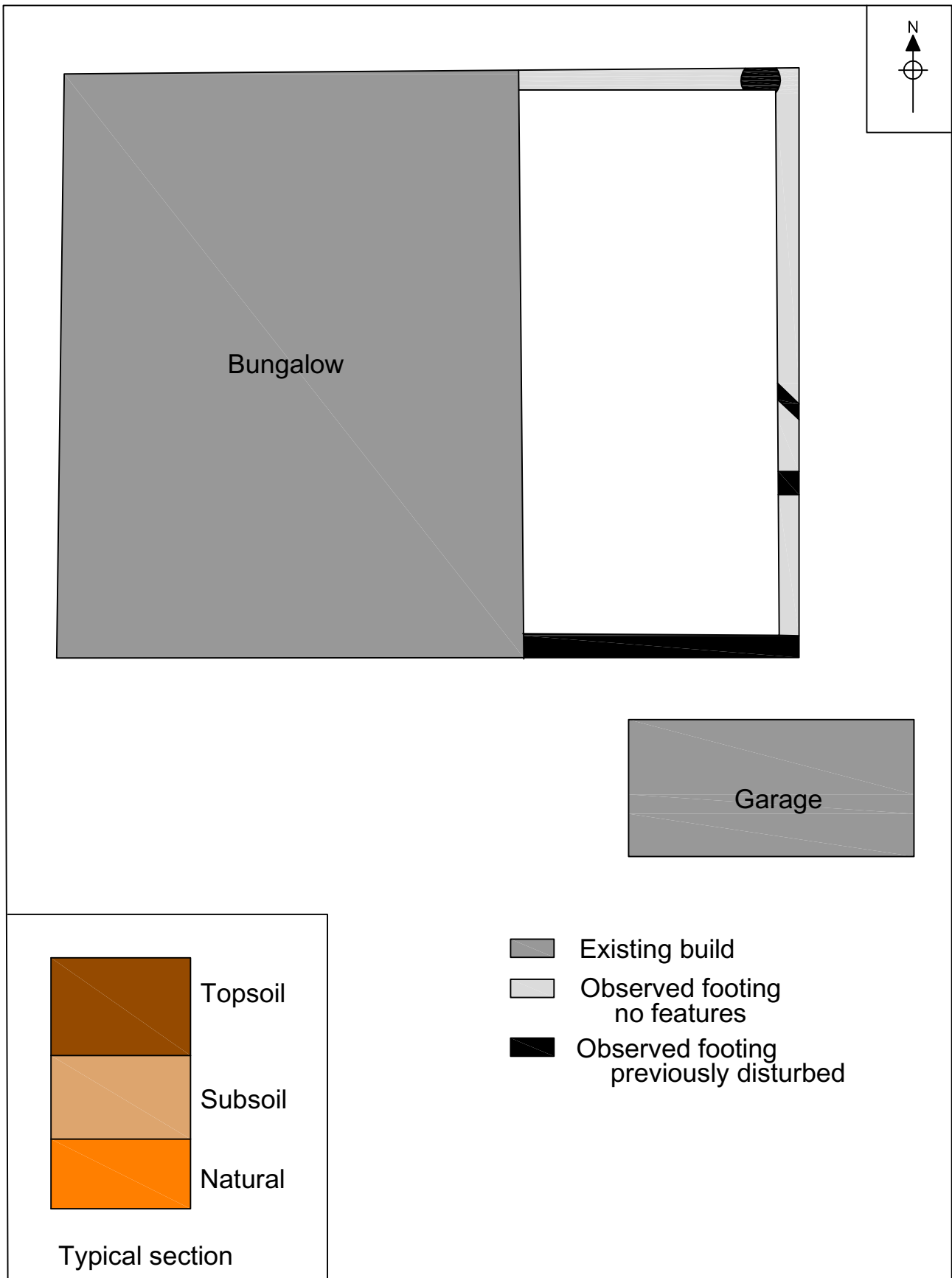


Figure 2. Showing plan of footings (Scale 1:100) and typical section (Scale 1:20).



Plate 1. Looking west along south footing trench. Scale 1m.



Plate 2. South facing section of north footing trench. Scale 1m.

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Project details

Project name	20 Chequers Lane, Great Ellingham
Short description of the project	Watching brief on extension to bungalow. Site is located close to known Roman burials, although extent of Roman cemetery is unknown. No finds or features were recorded during this work indicating that the Roman cemetery did not extend to this area.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2013 End: 03-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 131280 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND GREAT ELLINGHAM 20 Chequers Lane
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0183 9715 52 0 52 32 03 N 000 58 34 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

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