
**118a The Common,
Freethorpe**

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

**Heather Wallis
March 2014
HW Report No. 143**



Project name	118a The Common, Freethorpe
Client	Matthew Smith
NHER Event No	ENF 133686
Grid reference	TG 4024 0498
Date of fieldwork	10th March 2014

Introduction

Plans were submitted to build a detached house at 118a The Common, Freethorpe (Fig 1). Due to the sites location close to an expansive area of cropmarks of multi-period field system Norfolk Historic Environment Service requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken. In this instance it was required that the groundworks for the development were monitored under archaeological supervision and control.

Geology

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

The underlying solid geology of the site is Crag, a sedimentary bedrock formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The overlying superficial geology is the Happisburgh Glacial Diamicton made up of sands and gravels, sands and laminated silts and clays. These were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters.

Summary Archaeological Background

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record was commissioned covering a radius of 1km around the site. This search returned 58 records (18 monuments, 10 finds records, 1 landscape record, 20 buildings, 1 negative evidence record and 8 events). Of these the most significant are the monument records which record the presence of a complex multi-period landscape around Freethorpe. The majority of these known sites are the result of the study of aerial photographs which has identified field boundaries, tracks and enclosures. Many of these are thought to date to the Late Iron Age and Roman period although others may be prehistoric or medieval in date. These field systems occupy the 'high' ground of the Reedham peninsular. Occasional finds, mainly of Medieval and Post-medieval date, have been made from around the village.

Methods

A single visit was made to site in order to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches for the new house. Deposits within the trenches were recorded and the soils metal detected in order to maximise the retrieval of artefacts.

All works were 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

(Figures 2 and 3, Plates 1-3)

The footing trenches were 0.5m wide and excavated by machine under archaeological supervision. The trenches were approximately 0.7m deep, extending into the natural subsoil which was mottled yellow/orange/grey clayey sand (02). The upper surface of this was a rich orange in colour due to mineralisation at this horizon. Root disturbance was noted across the site and particularly along the western side of the plot. Five pits were observed cutting into the natural, all of which contained finds of 20th-century date.

Pit **05** was 1.6m wide, c.0.9m deep and contained four fills. The lowest was black, gritty and sandy fire waste (09) which was sealed by a mid yellow orange damp sand (08) (unusual as all other deposits on site were extremely dry), over which lay a further deposit of black, gritty, sandy fire waste (07). The upper fill of the pit (06) was a deliberate backfill of mixed topsoil and natural subsoil. Finds from this pit include a few small screw topped bottles including one marked Owbridges Lung Tonic, Hull.

Pit **10** was c.1m in diameter, filled with loose rubble (11) and was a soakaway

Pit **12** was also c.1m in diameter and 0.95m deep. It contained a single fill (13) of mixed topsoil and natural subsoil. Screw top glass jars and bottles were noted including a Marmite jar along with an iron bar.

Pit **14** was c.0.9m wide and 0.55m deep. Its single fill was a silty loam. This area contained several roots and so this is thought to be a planting hole.

Pit **16** was 0.75m in diameter and 0.9m deep. Its single fill (17) was a mix of topsoil and fire waste. Finds of screw top bottles, pieces of iron and occasional small animal bone were observed.

Across the site the topsoil (01) was mid slightly greyish brown sandy loam 0.4-0.5m deep with occasional brick/tile fragments and moderate small flints. Cut through this was a pond (**03**) which had been backfilled with rubble (04) immediately prior to this development.

Conclusions

Despite the presence of many landscape features around the village of Freethorpe no deposits or finds predating the 20th century were observed during the monitoring of this site. No finds were retained.



Figure 1. Site Location.

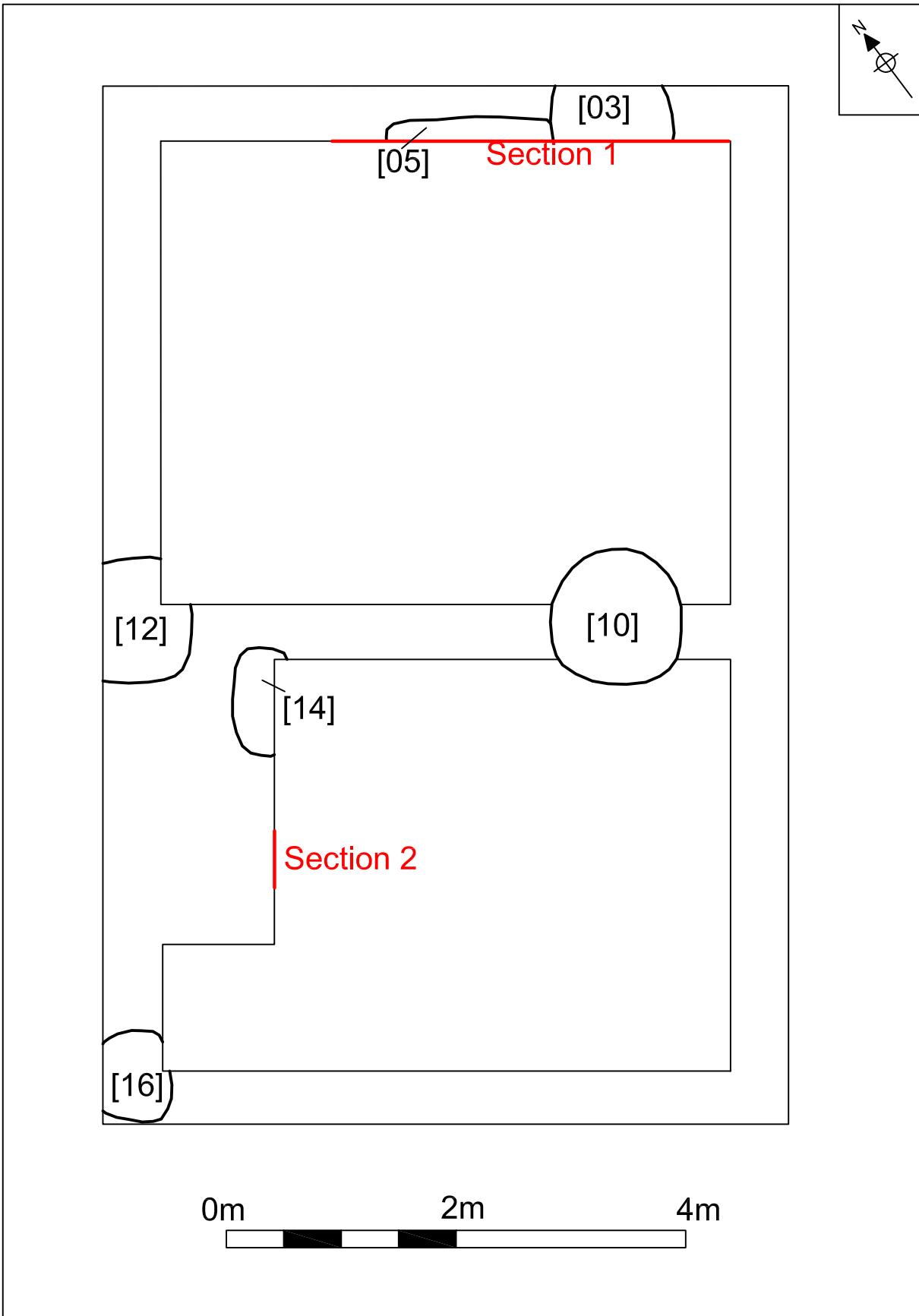
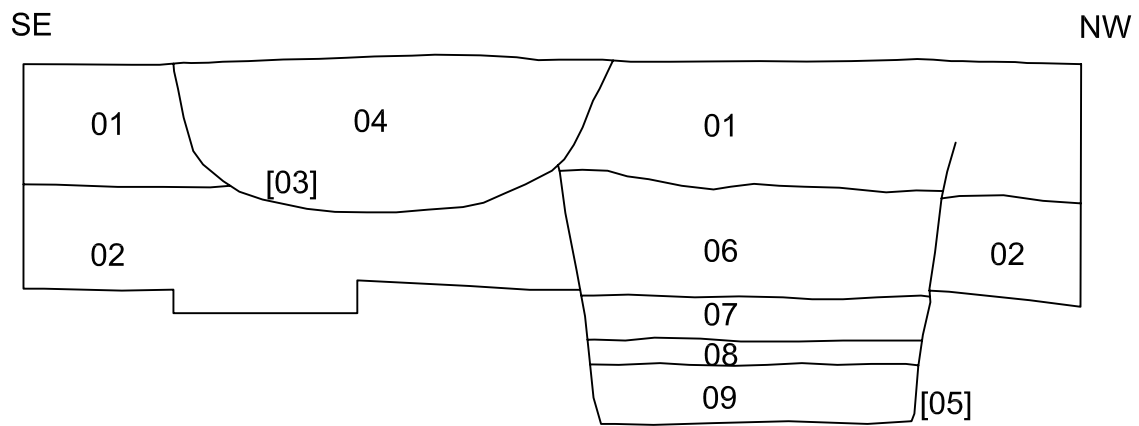
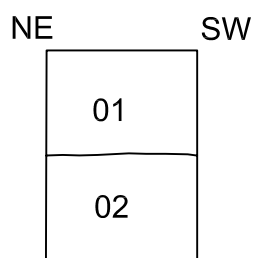


Figure 2. Plan showing footing trenches and pits.



Section 1. North-east facing.



Section 2. North-west facing. Typical section.

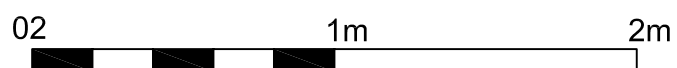


Figure 3. Sections.



Plate 1. View of site, looking west.



Plate 2. Pit [05] Section1, looking south-west, scale 1m.



Plate 3. Pit [14] and Section 2, looking south-east, scale 1m.

Appendix 1

Context List

Context	Category	Date
01	Topsoil	Modern
02	Natural	-
03	Pond	Modern
04	Fill of 03	Modern
05	Pit	Modern
06	Fill of 05	Modern
07	Fill of 05	Modern
08	Fill of 05	Modern
09	Fill of 05	Modern
10	Pit	Modern
11	Fill of 10	Modern
12	Pit	Modern
13	Fill of 12	Modern
14	Pit	Modern
15	Fill of 14	Modern
16	Pit	Modern
17	Fill of 16	Modern

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: heatherw1-173362

Project details

Project name	118 The Common, Freethorpe
Short description of the project	Watching Brief on the footings of a single house in Freethorpe. On all sides of the village aerial photographs have revealed an extensive landscape of field boundaries, tracks and enclosures. The majority of these are thought to be Late Iron-Roman in date although both earlier prehistoric and medieval boundaries have also been identified. Unfortunately no finds or features dating earlier than the 20th century were revealed during the watching brief. Five modern pits were recorded several containing glass bottles, pieces of iron and fire waste.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2014 End: 10-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF133686 - 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 BROADLAND FREETHORPE 118a The Common, Freethorpe
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 4024 0498 52.5888815113 1.54713529926 52 35 19 N 001 32 49 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 Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","other"

Paper Media available "Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 118a The Common Freethorpe. Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Wallis, H.

Other bibliographic details HW Report No.143

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Heather Wallis

Place of issue or publication Norwich

Entered by Heather (archaeology@hwallis.co.uk)

Entered on 11 March 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page