

Report BAU2673



nau archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief at Hall Farm Fincham, Norfolk

ENF126782

Prepared for
Maurice Mason Ltd
Hall Farm
Main Road
Fincham
King's Lynn
PE33 9ET



Lilly Hodges BSc, PIFA

July 2011



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Lilly Hodges	24/06/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	30/06/2011
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	18/07/2011
Signed Off	Nigel Page	20/07/2011
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

BAU 2673

© NPS Archaeology

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology	3
5.0 Results.....	4
6.0 Conclusions	4
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	5
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i>	5

Figures

Figure 1 Site Location

Location:	Hall Farm, Fincham, Norfolk
District:	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 6947 0656
HER No.:	ENF126782
OASIS Ref.:	105407
Client:	Maurice Mason Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	10-11 March 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Maurice Mason Ltd ahead of the construction of an additional barn and a septic tank at Hall Farm, Fincham, Norfolk. The groundworks consisted of 22 pits, excavation of a septic tank and a trench.

No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during this work.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Works to construct a new barn and a septic tank at Hall Farm, Fincham in Norfolk (Fig. 1) required monitoring of all groundworks, a planning requirement stipulated by King's Lynn and West Norfolk planning authority. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2673/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Maurice Mason Ltd.

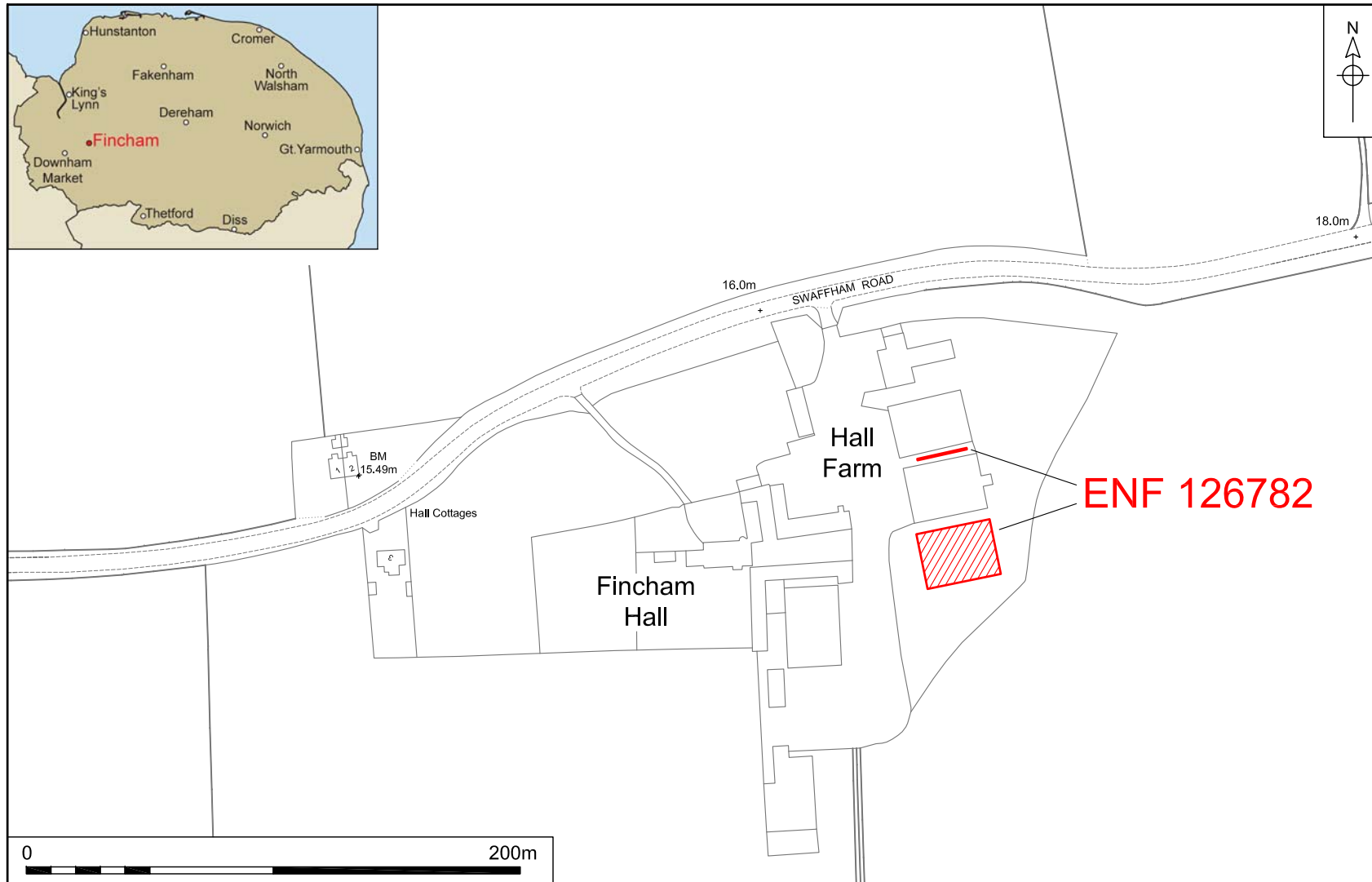
This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology for the area is West Melbury Marly Chalk formation and Zig Zag Chalk formation (undifferentiated). The superficial deposit or drift geology is Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton 'an extensive sheet of chalky till together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays' (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/).

Topsoil for the area for the new barn consisted of a mid brown silt and varied from c.0.22m to c.0.40m in depth. The subsoil was a mid-pale beige silty chalky mix which varied between c.0.13m and c.0.70m deep and the natural (dirty) white chalk was visible in the base of excavated pits excavated up to c.0.50m deep. The area of the septic tank and associated pipe trench consisted of a top layer c.0.30–c.0.35m deep orange brown sand and carstone overlying chalk.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located to the south-east of Fincham Hall, the earliest remains of which consist of an octagonal brick tower dating to 1480. It is suggested that this is possibly the remains of a gate house for an earlier hall. Fincham Hall is predominately 16th-century in date with extensive 19th-century restoration.

A dagger of late medieval/post-medieval date was found under the kitchen floor in the hall.

In November 2010 NPS undertook building recording of the three barns associated with this site which were being developed (Phelps 2010).

In an area in front of the Hall a single Iron Age coin was found by metal detecting in 1997.

In October 1998 a Watching Brief was carried out by NAU during the construction of a farm building similar to the one proposed for the current site and located just to the North. The results of this record finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery (Hobbs 1998).

The field on the east side of the site has Norfolk Historic Environment Records (NHER) of metal detected finds. These include a Roman coin; a Saxon brooch; medieval finds of a brooch, buckle and strap fitting; a medieval/post-medieval weight; and post-medieval finds of a spur, crotal bell and a jetton.

The fields around the site to the east and south show signs of medieval ridge and furrow farming noted in aerial photographs. Metal detected finds from these fields consist of two Roman brooches.

To the west of the development site in a field on the edge of Fincham, the NHER records show this to be the site of a Bronze Age ring ditch visible as a cropmark as well as an area of cropmarks indicating medieval ridge and furrow farming. The field is also the location of several multi-period finds including Neolithic pottery and lithic implements; a Bronze Age lithic implement; Iron Age coins; a Roman brooch, coin, bead and tile; a Saxon brooch and pin; medieval pot, a brooch and a ring; and a post-medieval book fitting and jetton.

This evidence indicates the potential for finds or features for periods from the Neolithic to post-medieval for the proposed development site.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the works and report on those remains.

The scope of the work required that the area for the proposed farm building (barn) and the area for the new septic tank be monitored by an archaeologist during excavation. The area for the proposed barn consisted of twenty-two pits which once excavated were then to be filled with concrete to form part of the structure.

Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothed bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The twenty-two pits were excavated to the north of the barns already present at the site. These pits each measured c.1.4m by c.1.1m and were c.0.9m deep. The area

excavated for the septic tank measured c.2.5m by c.2.5m and was c.2.2m deep. An east-west trench measuring c.20.5m long and c.0.6m wide with a depth of c.0.3–c.0.6m for pipe work for the septic tank was excavated between the existing barns.

No archaeological artefacts were recovered.

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

Digital photographs were taken of all relevant deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

No archaeological finds or features were discovered during this watching brief.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Given the presence of heritage assets around the site and the historic nature of the site itself, no archaeological features or finds were exposed by groundworks associated with the construction of a barn and introduction of a septic tank and associated services at Hall Farm Fincham.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Maurice Mason Ltd for funding this work.

The watching brief was carried out by the author on Thursday 10 March and Stuart Calow on Friday 11 March.

This report was edited by Jayne Bown with graphics and report production by David Dobson.

Bibliography and Sources

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2010 | <i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i> TSO, London |
| Hobbs, B. | 1998 | <i>Report on a watching brief on land adjacent to Fincham Hall</i> , NAU Report 333 (unpublished) |
| Phelps, A. | 2010 | <i>An Historic Building recording Survey at Hall Farm Barns, Fincham, Norfolk</i> NPS Report 2534 (unpublished) |

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/> Accessed 24.06.11