

Report 2844



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief at Nan Hazel Lodge, Botesdale, Suffolk

BUR 035

Prepared for
C.E. Davidson Ltd
South View
Fressingfield
Eye,
Suffolk
IP21 5PJ



NPS Archaeology

February 2012



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Nigel Page	10/02/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	13/02/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	13/02/2012
Signed Off	David Adams	14/02/2012
<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 2844

© NAU Archaeology

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
3.0 Methodology	3
4.0 Results.....	3
5.0 Finds	5
5.1 Pottery	5
5.2 Baked clay	5
5.3 Animal bone	6
6.0 Conclusions	7
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	8
<i>Bibliography and Online Sources</i>	8
Appendix 1a: Context Summary	9
Appendix 1b: OASIS Context Summary	9
Appendix 2a: Finds by Context	9
Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary	9
Appendix 3: Faunal Remains	9
Appendix 4: OASIS Report	10

Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Plan and sections of pit [3]

Plates

- Plate 1 Pit [3] prior to excavation
- Plate 2 Pit [3] after excavation

Tables

- Table 1 Known archaeological interests within 500m of the watching brief site

Location: Nan Hazel Lodge, Burgate, Botesdale, Suffolk
 District: Mid Suffolk
 Grid Ref.: TM 0635 7399
 HER No.: BUR 035
 OASIS Ref.: 119227
 Client C.E. Davidson Ltd

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on ground preparation works ahead of the construction of a new broiler house at Nan Hazel Lodge, Burgate, Suffolk. The stripping revealed one feature of archaeological interest, a large irregular pit full of charcoal and other burnt material. A small assemblage of pottery of Roman and medieval date and animal bone was also recovered. A small collection of locally produced Roman pottery was also recovered from the base of the former ploughsoil across the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was undertaken at Nan Hazel Lodge, Burgate, Suffolk during construction works by C. E. Davidson Ltd to construct a new broiler house. This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Mid Suffolk Council (Sarah Poppy pers. comm.).

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the footprint of the new stairway, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

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

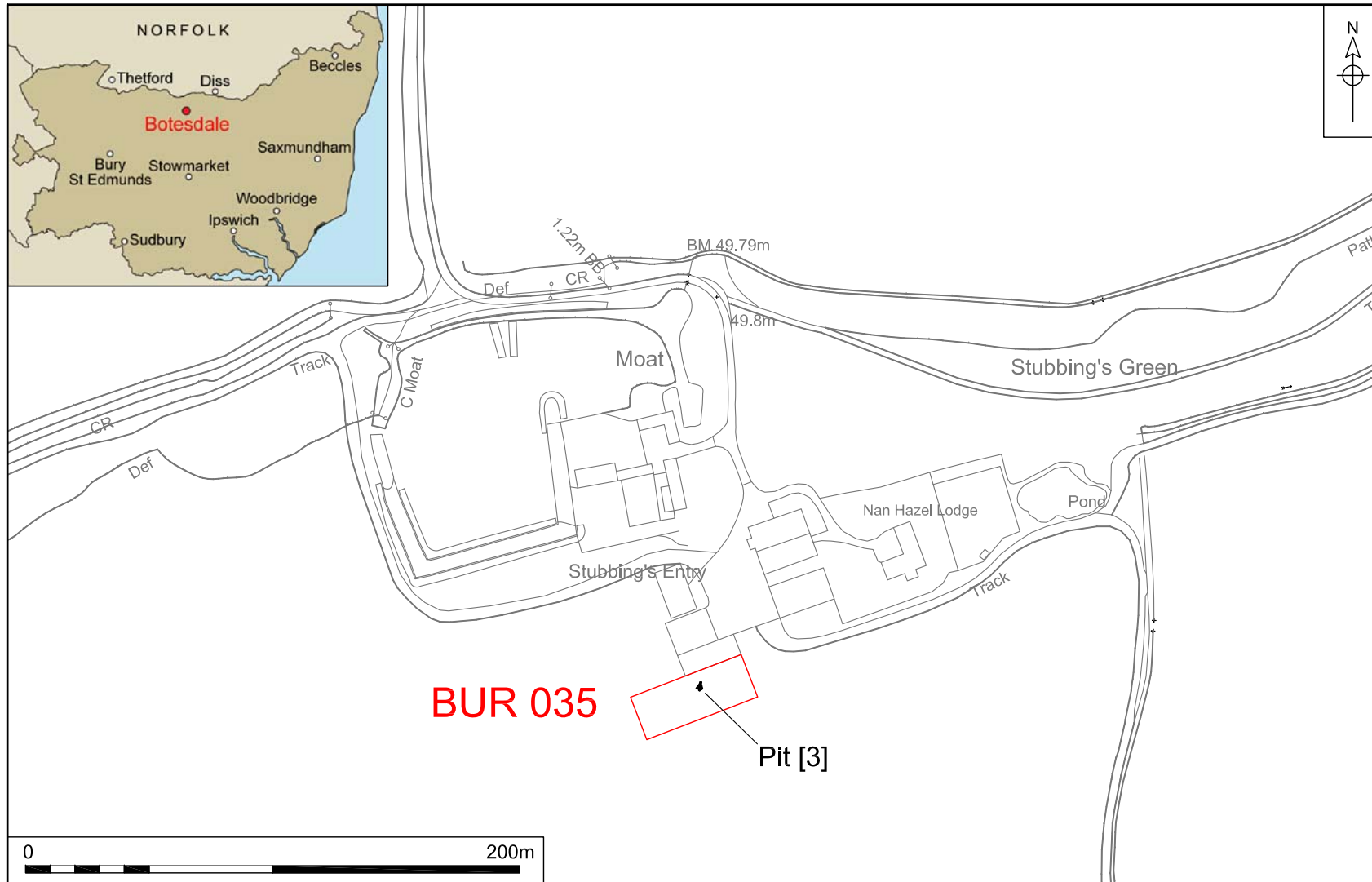
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) returned three records within a 500m search radius. These are listed and summarised below.

SHER number	Site name	Site type	Period
BUR004	Stubbings Entry	Moated site	Medieval
BUR028	Stubbings Green	Green	Medieval
DSF6747	Stubbings Entry	Farmhouse (Listed Building)	Post-medieval

Table 1. Known archaeological interests within 500m of the watching brief site.

The most significant of the SHER entries are the medieval moated site (SHER BUR004) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the former medieval green (SHER BUR028) to the north of the watching brief area. Stebbings Entry farmhouse (SHER DSP6747) sits within the south-east corner of the moat.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

No Roman sites were recorded within 500m of the site, but a Roman pottery production centre near Wattisfield lies a short distance to the west.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the works and disseminate that information in the form of a report.

The original condition was for an evaluation of the footprint of the new building, but in the event work had commenced and the entire footprint stripped prior to this being undertaken. Therefore, in consultation with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) a strategy for monitoring the rest of the works was devised and implemented.

Machine excavation had been carried out using a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to remove the ploughsoil from across the site. The exposed surface was examined and areas of potential archaeological deposits were cleaned, assessed and where necessary excavated by hand.

4.0 RESULTS

The stripping of the site revealed one feature of archaeological interest - pit [3] (Fig. 2) containing pottery, charcoal, burnt clay, shattered flint and bone.

The pit was fairly irregular in shape, aligned north-east to south-west and measured c.3.5m x c.2.8m. It was shallow, up to 0.25m deep, and had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. There was no real form to the pit and it appears to have been isolated.



Plate 1. Pit [3] before excavation.

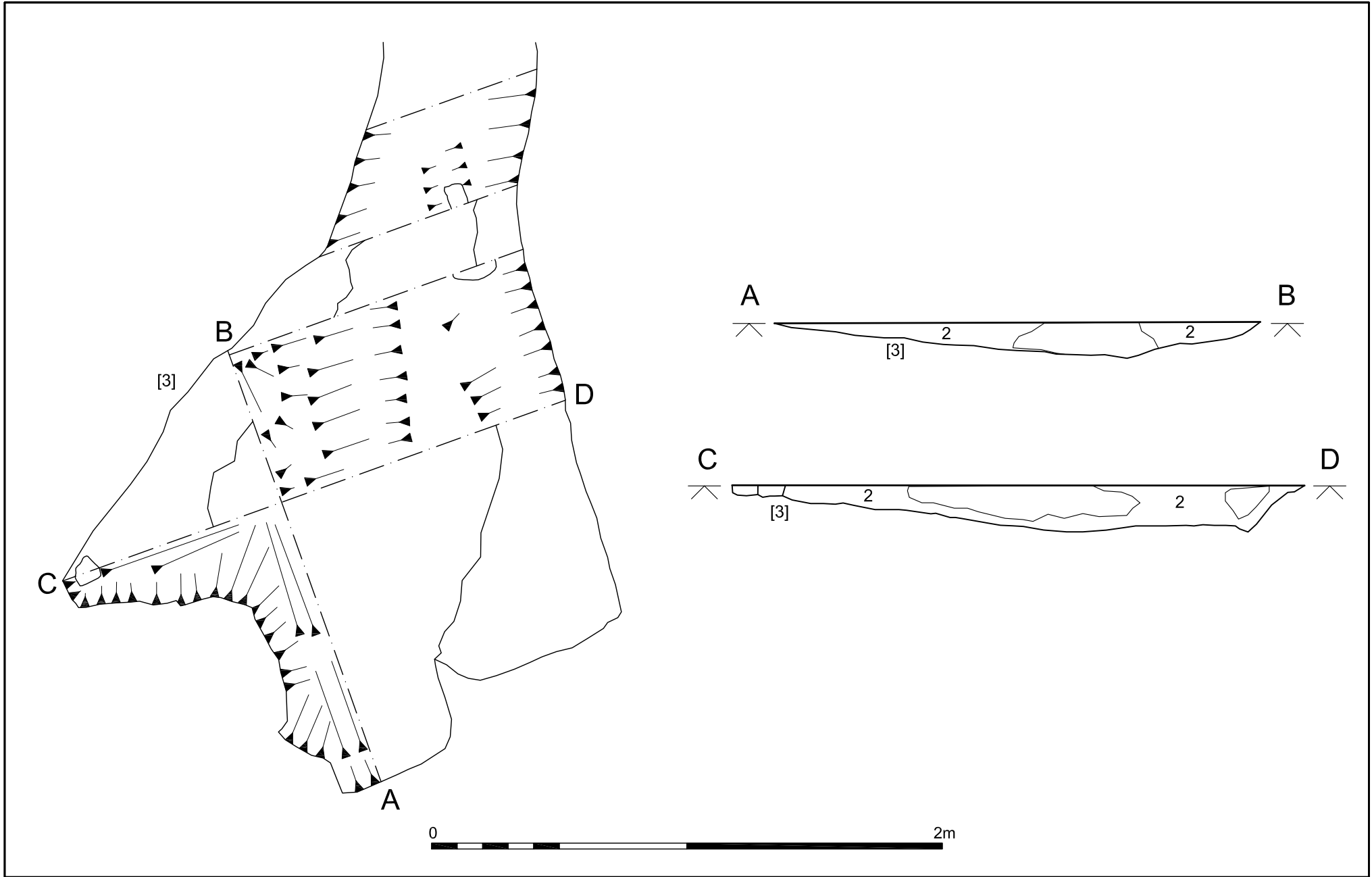


Figure 2. Plan and sections of pit [3]. Scale 1:20

Pit [3] was filled by single deposit [2] of charcoal rich brown/black sandy clay that contained a small amount of pottery, burnt clay and animal bone. The fill was reasonably consistent within the pit and it appeared to have been deposited in one event, but it did contain more charcoal towards the centre.

There was no discolouration of the surrounding deposits to suggest that burning had taken place in the pit, so the fill had presumably been bought in and dumped from elsewhere.



Plate 2. Pit [3] after exaction

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

A total of 21 sherds (81g) were recovered during the watching brief, including a single medieval sherd (2g), with the remaining bulk comprised of Romano-British sherds.

Pit [3] deposit [2] contained two sherds (29g) of residual Romano-British pottery, comprised of body sherds of reduced and oxidised, micaceous sandy fabrics that were produced in the Wattisfield region of north-central Suffolk (Tomber & Dore 1998, 184) throughout the Roman period. A further 18 body sherds (50g) in these fabric variants were recovered as un-stratified material from topsoil [1].

The fill of pit [3] also contained a single small body sherd (2g) of early medieval coarse ware. The fabric of this sherd contains coarse quartz and it was probably produced locally in the 11th-13th centuries.

5.2 Baked clay

by Andrew Peachey

A total of 4 fragments (59g) of baked clay were recovered from fill [2] of pit [3]. The fragments occur in a pale orange fabric tempered with common rounded inclusions of chalk (generally <5mm, occasionally to 10mm). The baked clay was probably sun-dried after it had been applied as daub to a wattle frame to form part of a structure.

This type of daub is common in the area from the late Iron Age to the medieval periods.

5.3 Animal bone

by Julie Curl

5.3.1 Methodology

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering or other modifications. When possible a record was made of age and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context. As this is a very small assemblage from one context, the information was input directly into a table in this report (see Appendix 3).

5.3.2 The assemblage

A total of 426g of faunal remains, consisting of forty-two pieces of bone, was recovered from fill (2). The bone was recovered along with ceramics dating to the Roman and Medieval periods.

All of the remains are in reasonable to good condition, although highly fragmented from butchering and wear. Some erosion is evident on the surfaces of the bone suggesting weathering and a delay before burial. There is also some evidence of invertebrate damage (insect, mollusc or isopod) which also indicates exposure for a time before burial. None of the remains showed any canid gnawing and no burning was evident on any of the fragments.

All of the remains are from a large mammal, with identifiable elements of cattle pelvis and scapula, which were fragmented; much of the assemblage was too fragmented and with insufficient diagnostic zones to allow species identification. The remains are butchered from processing and food use.

One pelvis fragment shows some arthritis, which would indicate either an elderly animal or perhaps an animal used for traction.

5.3.3 Conclusions

The bones in this assemblage represent the butchering and food waste from cattle. The remains include the bones from good quality cuts of meat. The pathology seen would suggest the animal was perhaps used for traction or it may have been from older breeding stock. Cattle were commonly used as traction animals for carts and ploughing in the Roman period and still in use for traction in the medieval period.

The assemblage is small and with ceramics of a wide date range which suggests the bone may be disturbed and re-deposited, therefore, further conclusions and comparisons cannot be made.

The assemblage is similar to other small assemblages locally and nationally in that it is dominated by the main domestic food mammal. The dominance of cattle is common in most periods as these animals provided the greatest quantities of meat and had secondary uses for traction, milk, hides and other by-products.

No further work is required on this assemblage.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief revealed a single archaeological feature, pit [3]. There were also several potential archaeological features that on investigation were seen to be areas where the ploughsoil remained in undulations in the surface of the underlying clay and gravel natural after the site stripping.

Pottery recovered from fill [2] of the pit suggests that it was opened and backfilled either during the medieval period, or later, but a medieval date is perhaps likely as the burnt clay/daub may also have been medieval. The burnt clay appears to have come from a structure, although, there was no evidence on the site to suggest where that structure may have been located. The animal bone showed signs of weathering suggesting that it had been lying around prior to burial in the pit, indicating that the pit was filled with waste material, probably from different activities that took place outside of the excavation area. If the pit fill is medieval the waste may have come from the moated site to the north.

The small scatter of locally-produced Roman pottery recovered from across the site is no surprise with the pottery production centre at Wattisfield located a short distance to the west.

Acknowledgements

The monitoring was funded by C E Davison Ltd.

Nigel Page undertook the fieldwork and drafted the report.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot. The pottery and baked clay were reported on by Andrew Peachey, and the animal bone by Julie Curl.

Jayne Bown edited the report; David Dobson produced the graphics and this report.

Bibliography and Online Sources

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---|
| Davis, S. | 1992 | <i>A Rapid Method For Recording Information About Mammal Bones From Archaeological Sites.</i> English Heritage AML Report 71/92 |
| Tomber, R. & Dore, J. | 1998 | <i>The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection.</i> Museum of London, London |

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern
2	Deposit		3	Charcoal rich brown/black sandy clay	Medieval
3	Cut	Pit		Irregular	Medieval

Appendix 1b: OASIS Context Summary

Period	Feature	Total
?Medieval	Pit	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
1	Pottery	18	50g	Roman
2	Pottery	2	29g	Roman
2	Pottery	1	2g	Medieval
2	Fired Clay	4	59g	Unknown
2	Animal Bone	42	426g	Unknown

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Roman	Pottery	20
Medieval	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	42
Unknown	Fired Clay	4

Appendix 3: Faunal Remains

Context	Ctxt Qty	Ctxt Weight	Species	Comments
2	42	426g	Cattle	X9, fragments of scapula and pelvis. Butchered. Some arthritis evident in pelvis.
			Mammal	X33, small fragments of large mammal bone, possibly cattle. Butchered.

Appendix 4: OASIS Report

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: norfolka1-119227

Project details

Project name	Nan Hazel Lodge
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on ground preparation works ahead of the construction of a new broiler house at Nan Hazel Lodge, Burgate, Suffolk. The stripping revealed one feature of archaeological interest, a large irregular pit full of charcoal and other burnt material. A small assemblage of pottery of Roman and medieval date and animal bone was also recovered. A small collection of locally produced Roman pottery was also recovered from the base of the former ploughsoil across the site.
Project dates	Start: 11-08-2011 End: 31-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BUR 035 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU2844 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BURGATE Nan Hazel Lodge
Study area	900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0635 7399 52.3246545945 1.028410949570 52 19 28 N 001 01 42 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	Nigel Page
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Nigel Page
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	C E Davidson Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	SCCAS
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	SCCAS
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at Nan Hazel Lodge, Botesdale, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Page, N.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2844
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 paper, double-sided, colour-printed, spiral-bound; PDF
Entered by	Jayne Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	14 February 2012

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: /d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page