

Report 01-04-13-2-1288



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at
Land South of North Lynn Farm, Estuary Road,
King's Lynn, Norfolk**

ENF130898



Prepared for

E.A. Lane (North Lynn) Ltd
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Location:	Estuary Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk
District:	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 6158 2151
Planning Ref.:	08/01166/F
HER No.:	ENF130898
OASIS Ref.:	144406
Client:	E. A. Lane (North Lynn) Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	11-12 February 2013

Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Calvert Brain & Fraulo Architectural Ltd ahead of proposals for the construction of a residential development.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated at the site, none of which contained any archaeological remains.

Three north-south aligned land drains of post-medieval to modern date were seen in Trench 1.

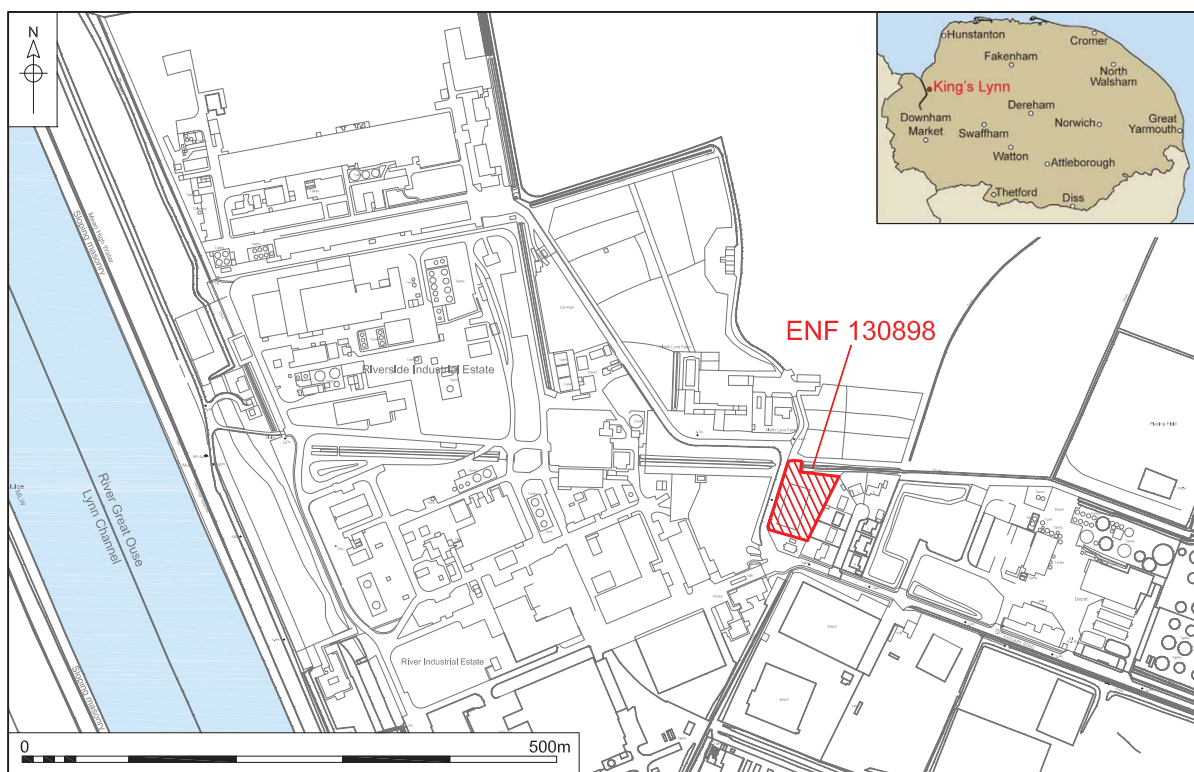
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Trial trench evaluation was undertaken ahead of proposed plans to develop the site for residential purposes. Located on the former West Sea Bank, this site is located within an area of archaeological potential, as it is in close proximity to the site of a prisoner of war camp occupied during World War II. Furthermore, there is aerial photographic evidence of medieval and post-medieval earthworks near to the proposed development site indicating that there is potential for archaeology to be present.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Ref. 08/01166/F) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref. Ken Hamilton 2008). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. 01-04-13-2-1288). This work was funded by E. A. Lane (North Lynn) Ltd and commissioned by Calvert Brain & Fraulo Architectural 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology of this area consists of Kimmeridge Clay Formation - mudstone. The superficial or drift geology is Tidal Flat Deposits - clay and silt (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

Clear evidence of topsoil and subsoil was seen only in Trench 1. The topsoil consists of a c.0.15m-deep, moderately compact, dark brown silty clay. The subsoil is a c.0.90m-thick dark orange-brown very slightly silty clay. The interface between these two deposits is indistinct. The site specific natural consists of orange-brown clay with occasional patches of green clay.

Trenches 2 and 3 contained layers of made ground - they were situated in an area used for training horses.

The site is located just off Estuary Road to the north-west of King's Lynn in an industrial area. Estuary Road runs to the south and west of the proposed development site with properties to the south and east and fields to the north. The Great Ouse is located c.460m to the south-west and a drainage ditch runs east to west c.5m to the north of the site. The nature of the geological deposits suggests that the area of the site was once affected by shallow seas and tidal flats. The site is at an elevation of less than 10m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for an area of 1km radius around the site returned 22 records. Those in closest proximity and considered to be of most relevance to the site are presented below.

A search of the NHER records combined with a study of Faden's map of 1799 (Barringer 1989) shows that NHER 5529, a post-medieval sea defence bank - seen on the first edition (1820s) Ordnance Survey map and referred to on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map as 'the old west sea bank' - appears to have replaced an earlier west sea bank (NHER 27077) to the west of this (also recorded on Faden's map). This potentially places the site on the very edge of the River Ouse's original course, within an area that is likely to have been flooded; the later sea bank (NHER 5529) passes directly through the site.

To the north-west of the development site are possible medieval to post-medieval earthworks (NHER 38460) seen on aerial photographs taken in 1946 in an area subsequently developed. These earthworks are suggested to represent a building platform and parallel ditches and banks; their purpose remains unknown although it could be associated with agricultural practices.

To the west of the site on the opposite side of Estuary road to the development is site NHER 38459, a German Prisoner of War camp constructed over a series of medieval earthworks and recorded on 1946 aerial photographs. The site has since been built over by a chemical works.

Find spot NHER 28662 to the south-west of the site is a location where medieval pottery, oyster shell and animal bone has been found.

The NHER records combined with examination of Faden's map suggest that it is likely that archaeology remains that might be present at the site would be likely to

be of medieval or later date. The location of the site was on the very edge of the River Ouse until its course was changed in the 1850s.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that three trenches two measuring 30.00m by 1.80m and one measuring 20.00m by 1.80m be excavated at the site to obtain a 5% sample. The actual lengths of the trenches excavated on site were 19.30m (Trench 1) 30.30m (Trench 2) and 24.00m (Trench 3) (Fig. 2). The site boundary enclosed approximately 2,444m² however the locations of Trenches 2 and 3 were restricted by discarded horse jumps, mounds of material and overgrown hedges on the eastern side of the site.

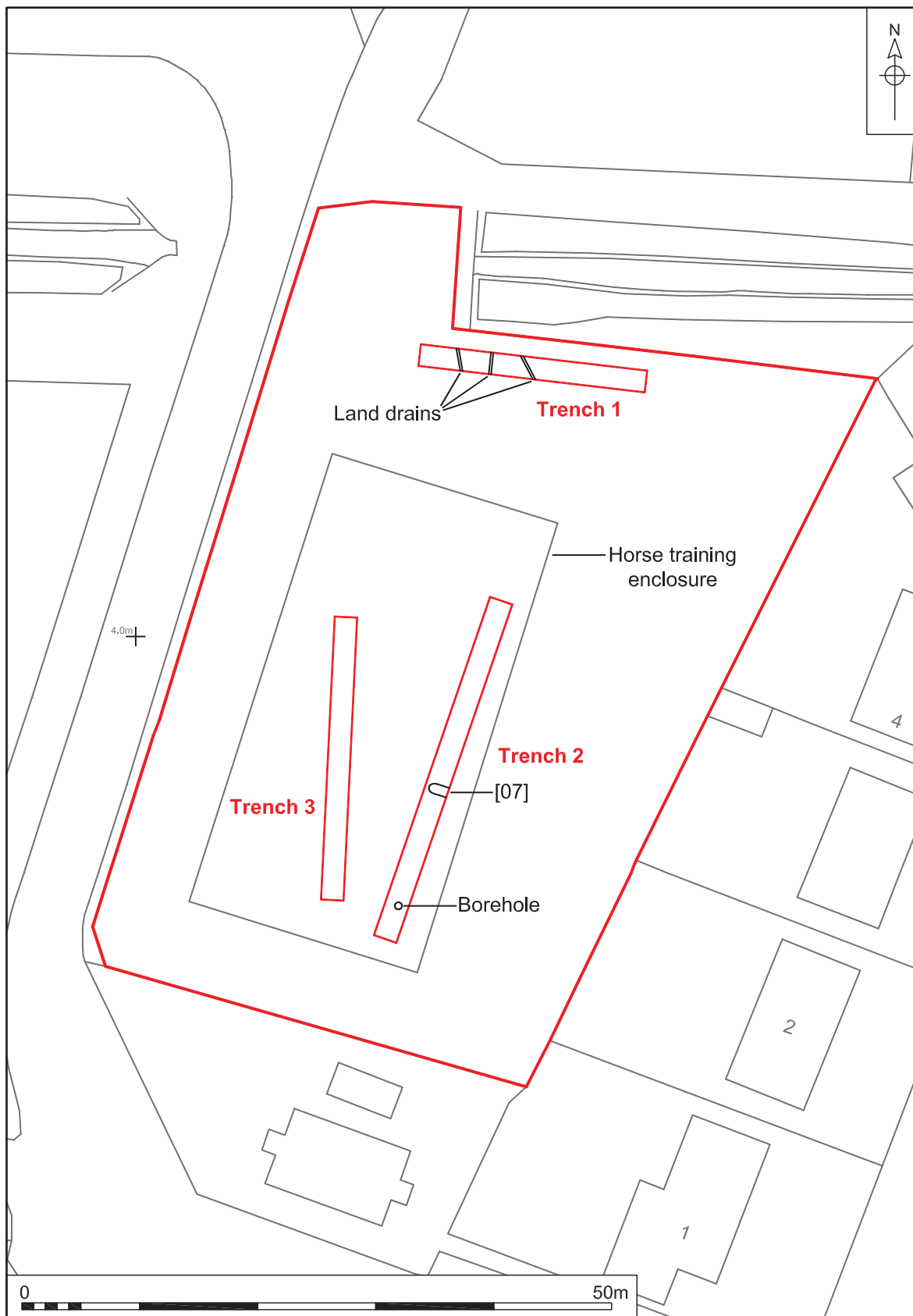
Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection.

Environmental samples were not taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

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



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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:500

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1




Fig. 2

Location

Orientation

East to west

Dimensions

Length

19.30m

Width

1.85m

Depth

0.80-1.05m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with an indistinct interface with the subsoil.	0.15m	0.00-0.15m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark orange brown very slightly silty clay with an indistinct interface with the topsoil.	0.90m	0.15-1.05m
--	Deposit	Natural. Orange brown clay with occasional patches of green clay.	--	1.05m+

Discussion

Trench 1 contained three field drains. No archaeological features were present.

The drains were orientated north-south and appeared to head towards the east-west drainage ditch located just to the north of the trench. The three drains were all constructed differently to each other - one was of laid flints, another was a metal pipe and the third was ceramic.

At the eastern end of the trench was a small spread of material c.0.01m thick. It was originally interpreted as a possible ash or coal deposits due to its dark grey colour. However after similar deposits were seen within the subsoil in Trench 2 it was reinterpreted as a more naturally occurring silty deposit with red chalk flecks within subsoil 02.

Trench 2




Fig. 2

Location	
Orientation	North to south
Dimensions	
Length	30.30m
Width	2.00m
Depth	1.00m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Sand. Pale brown yellow builders' sand with a clear interface with the underlying hardcore.	0.12m	0.00-0.12m
04	Deposit	Hardcore. Bright orange sand and gravel with large flints overlying a layer of Terram.	0.10m	0.12-0.22m
05	Deposit	Buried topsoil. Dark brown silty clay moderately compact.	0.10m	0.22-0.32m
06	Deposit	Subsoil. Orange brown silty clay with no inclusions. Contained large lumps of red chalk at the north end and greyish silt deposits.	0.42m	0.32-0.74m
07	Cut	Naturally-formed hollow. Very shallow, amorphous in plan, with a slightly uneven base and very gently sloping sides.	0.08m	0.74-0.82m
08	Deposit	Fill of natural hollow. Greyish beige brown clay with slight amount of sand inclusions and silt. Wet sticky and cohesive this fill only had a fraction less clay than the natural around it.	0.08m	0.74-0.82m
--	Deposit	Natural. Pale orange brown clay waterlogged below 0.95m.	--	0.74m+

Discussion

Trench 2

Trench 2 contained a single feature – a natural hollow

Natural hollow/dip [07] in natural deposit [08] was recorded in the centre of Trench 2, 15.30m from the southern end of the trench. The feature was not very discernable and the edges were unclear. It contained animal bone.



Plate 1. Trench 3, hollow [07]

Also present in Trench 2 was a modern borehole. It measured c.0.30m across and was filled with dark brown silty clay; the sharp, clear, fresh-looking edges confirmed that this feature had been created relatively recently.

Trench 3




Fig. 2

Location

Orientation

North-west to south-east

Dimensions

Length

24.00m

Width

2.40m

Depth

0.70-1.10m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Sand. Pale brown yellow builders' sand with a clear interface with the underlying hardcore.	0.17m	0.00-0.17m
04	Deposit	Hardcore. Bright orange sand and gravel with large flints overlying a layer of Terram.	0.14m	0.17-0.31m
06	Deposit	Subsoil. Orange brown very slightly silty clay with some grey green patches.	0.79m	0.31-1.10m
--	Deposit	Natural. Orange brown clay. Waterlogged below 0.95m.	--	1.10m+

Discussion

Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or artefacts.

The trench was shorted due to the proximity of a wooden fence in the horse training enclosure that restricted the movement of the JCB.

6.0 ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

By Rebecca Sillwood

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is presented below organised by material. A list of finds ordered by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Metal Finds

Two fragments of iron were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1 (02).

The longest piece measures 61cm in length, with the shorter piece measuring 20cm. The object appears to be circular in section, and rod-like, although it is encrusted and this makes it difficult to know what characteristics are part of the object and what are corrosion products. This piece is clearly modern, although its exact function remains unknown.

6.2 Animal Bone

Seven fragile, abraded pieces of animal bone were recovered from fill (08) of natural hollow [07] in Trench 2.

These pieces are possibly all part of a single long bone, but are so fragmentary that they cannot be closely identified. This bone has been discarded.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

None of the three trenches excavated at the site were found to contain archaeological features and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank those listed below for their contribution to this project.

The project was funded by E. A. Lane (North Lynn) Ltd and commissioned by Calvert Brain & Fraulo Architectural Ltd.

Excavation was undertaken by Deborah Riches and the author.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Barry Clifton of GB Digger Hire.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of Norfolk Historic Environment Service by Ken Hamilton and James Albone.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

Barringer, J.C. 1989 *Faden's Map of Norfolk*, The Larks Press, Dereham

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 20.02.2013

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	1
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Uncertain	1
3	Deposit			Sand	Modern	2, 3
4	Deposit			Hardcore	Modern	2, 3
5	Deposit			Buried topsoil	Modern	2
6	Deposit			Buried subsoil	Uncertain	2
7	Cut	Natural hollow		Naturally formed hollow	Uncertain	2
8	Deposit		7	Fill of natural hollow	Uncertain	2

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Uncertain	Hollow	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Iron	2	234g	Modern	In two pieces; long relatively narrow shaft; DISCARDED
8	Animal Bone	7	3g	Unknown	DISCARDED

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Modern	Iron	2
Uncertain	Animal Bone	7

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-144406

Project details

Project name	Estuary Road, King's Lynn
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Calvert Brain and Fraulo Architectural Ltd ahead of proposals for the construction of a residential development. Three evaluation trenches were excavated at the site, none of which contained any archaeological remains. Three north-south aligned land drains of post-medieval to modern date were seen in Trench 1.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2013 End: 12-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF130898 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	HOLLOW Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK KINGS LYNN Estuary Road, King's Lynn
Study area	244.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 6158 2151 52 0 52 45 59 N 000 23 42 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Lilly Hodges
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	E. A. Lane (Noorth Lynn) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Metal", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

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