

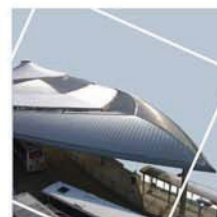
Report 2013/1050



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at the
Peterhouse Care Home
(Former Peterhouse Primary School),
Peterhouse Avenue, Gorleston, Norfolk**

ENF130582



Prepared for
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Location:	Former Peterhouse Primary School, Peterhouse Avenue, Gorleston
District:	Great Yarmouth
Grid Ref.:	652100, 303680
HER No.:	ENF130582
OASIS Ref.:	155410
Client:	NPS Property Consultants Ltd.
Dates of Fieldwork:	13 December 2012 – 9 May 2013

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for NPS Property Consultants Ltd during groundworks associated with the demolition of the former Peterhouse First School and the construction of the Peterhouse Care Home on the same site.

No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were collected during the work. It seems that the site has been subject to agricultural activities in the past, creating a subsoil, but no other archaeological activity was evident.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief took place during the demolition of the former Peterhouse First School and the construction of a care home. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken as cropmarks are recorded in the area and the find of a Bronze Age hoard was made during construction of the adjacent middle school in 1952. The site is located in the western suburbs of Gorleston, 0.8km south-west of the historic town centre (Fig. 1).

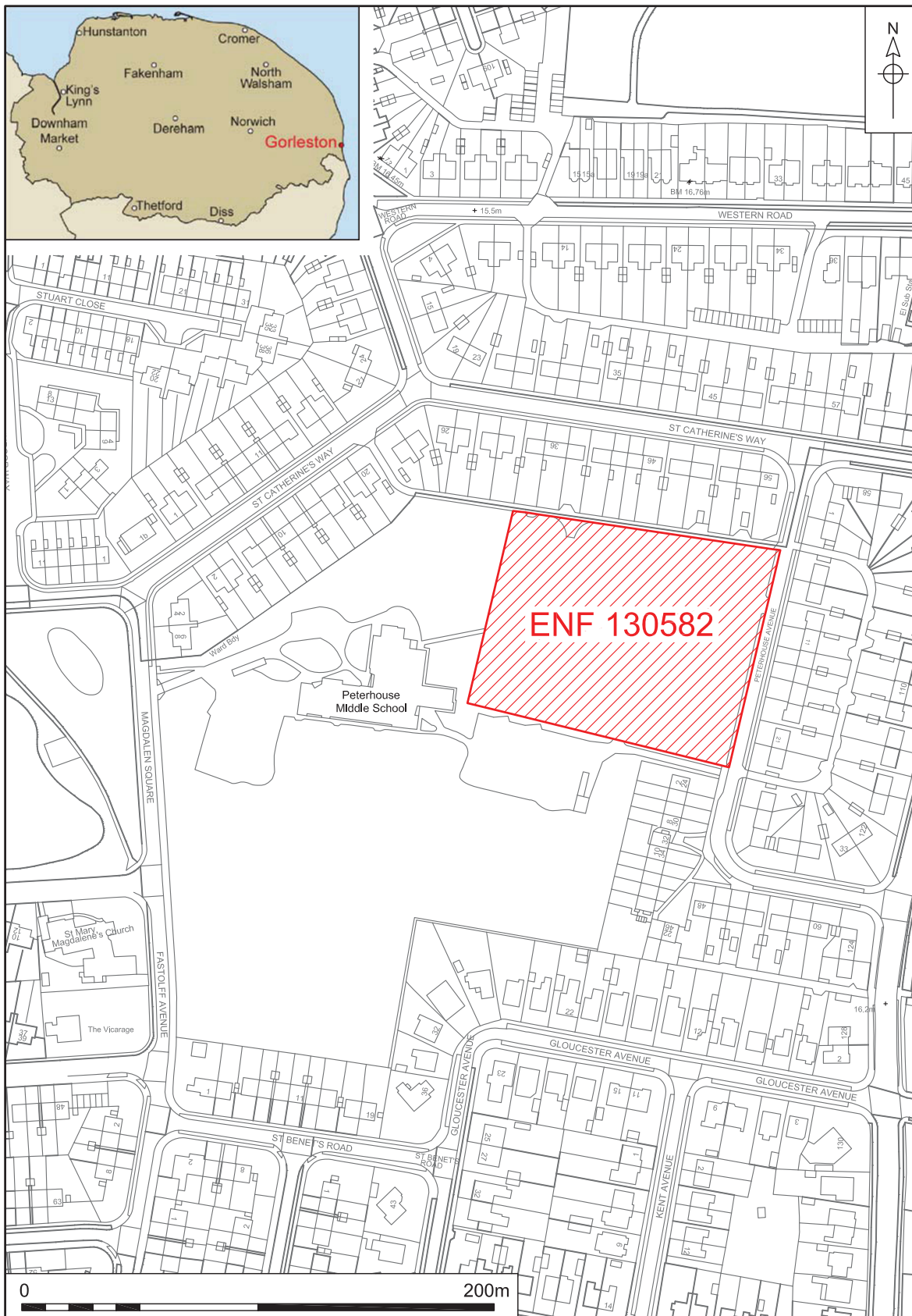
This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Great Yarmouth Borough Council. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-02-12-1-1050). This work was commissioned and funded by NPS Property Consultants Ltd.

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.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology is Norfolk Crag surmounted by Norwich Brickearth. The overlying soils in this area were rich loams (BGS 1985, BGS 1991). The topsoil was a light grey sand silt. The subsoil was a light orangey-brown silty sand which contained flint gravel. The geological deposits at the site were a light slightly brownish-yellow sand with occasional flint nodules and gravel.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

The site lay in a generally flat area at around 15.50m OD, apparently the construction of Peterhouse School and its grounds.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The information for this section has been taken from the report on an evaluation at the site (Adams 2012). That information was drawn from records held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and historic mapping sources.

Prehistoric

A Late Bronze Age hoard of 118 copper alloy objects and fragments of objects, including axes, swords and a rare looped guide ring (NHER 10556) was found 160m west of the current development during the construction of Peterhouse Junior School in 1952. The hoard may be a metalworker's collection of material that was deposited in the 7th century BC.

A Bronze Age copper alloy socketed axehead (NHER 28721) was found under a pavement on the south-west corner of Gorleston Medical Centre, 290m north-west of the present development, in 1991.

The multi-phase cropmarks of a fragmentary field system and ditched boundaries of predominantly Iron Age to Roman date (NHER 49161) are visible on aerial photographs on the border of the Bradwell and Gorleston-on-Sea to the west of the current site.

Roman

A copper alloy Roman coin of Constantine I or II (NHER 10559) was found south of Loampit Lane (now called Western Road), 170m north-east of the development site, in 1955.

In 1939 a Roman copper alloy coin of Vespasian, minted around AD 77 (NHER 10560), was found in a garden 460m east of the development site.

Post-medieval

The route of Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Railway (NHER 13575) lies 300m east of the present development. It was opened in 1903, and closed to passengers on 4 May 1970. Part of the route has been re-established as the modern A12 trunk road.

An early 19th-century farmhouse (NHER 47930), now used as a youth and community centre, lies 490m north-west of the present development.

Modern

World War Two air raid shelters have been seen on aerial photographs at Trinity Avenue (NHER 47694), Magdalen Way (NHER 47695), Baliol Road (NHER 47756), the back garden of 18 Downing Road (NHER 47796), Nelson Road (NHER 48045), Middleton Road and Elm Avenue (NHER 48046), adjacent to industrial buildings next to the railway (NHER 48048), Elmgrove Road (NHER 48049), Gloucester Avenue, Connaught Avenue and Kent Avenues (NHER 48050), Lowestoft Road (NHER 48054), West Avenue and Poplar Avenue (NHER 48055) and at Russell Avenue and Pound Lane (NHER 48065).

An emergency water tank (NHER 48102) was located at Baliol Road, to provide water for fire fighting.

A possible World War Two pillbox (NHER 48110) is visible on wartime aerial photographs on Elm Avenue, Gorleston, 270m east of the present development.

Another World War Two pillbox and associated circular structure (NHER 48057) are visible on wartime aerial photographs on Pound Lane, 425m south of the present development.

A group of World War Two defensive structures and roadblocks (NHER 48275) are visible on aerial photographs at the junction of the Lowestoft and Springfield Roads and on the bridge over the former railway line at Gorleston-on-Sea.

A pair of possible World War Two defensive structures (NHER 48276), overlooking the former Gorleston railway station is visible on aerial photographs.

A World War Two barbed wire enclosure (NHER 48053) is visible on aerial photographs in 1944 on the site of St Benet Road, Gorleston. The purpose of this defence is not obvious from the available aerial photograph evidence.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (c.1880) shows the site as open fields. The very straight field boundaries suggest that this area was enclosed c.1800 and may formerly have been common openfields. The site lies 850m south-west of Gorleston town centre.

Previous archaeological work in the area

The area within which the proposed development site lies has been extensively surveyed by the Norfolk National Mapping Programme and a number of NHER entries pertain to cropmarks which have subsequently been obscured by development. The western half of the development area lies within site NHER 43466, which comprises the multi-phase cropmarks of a fragmentary field system and ditched boundaries thought to be predominantly of Iron Age to Roman date.

An evaluation at Peterhouse Middle School in April 2009 (NHER 57847) revealed an undated ditch which corresponds to a previously recorded cropmark (NHER 43466). The only artefacts recovered during this investigation were a late prehistoric flint flake and a post-medieval button. A watching brief in May 2009 recorded more sections of this ditch identified from aerial photographs.

Between November 2010 and January 2011 an archaeological watching brief 880m north-west of the current development site, revealed no archaeological finds or features (NHER 62350).

In 2012 the development site was evaluated and an undated shallow pit, an undated ditch and a layer of subsoil were seen to be present (NHER ENF129349, Adams 2013).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record remains that may be exposed and disturbed by demolition and construction works at the site.

The Brief required that all groundworks be monitored.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.



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Figure 2. School Demolition Area. Scale 1:750



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Figure 3. Care Home Foundation Area. Scale 1:750

Due to the absence of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were 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 mostly taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 School Demolition

The former Peterhouse First School (Fig. 2) was demolished between 13 December 2012 and 11 January 2013.

As part of the demolition process, the footings and cellars were dug out and all the masonry crushed to provide aggregate.



Plate 1. Demolition in progress

No archaeological features were visible and no artefacts were recovered. The stratigraphy encountered was the same as that recorded in the evaluation, namely topsoil above a dark orangey brown subsoil with natural sand below that.

5.2 Care Home Foundations

NPS Archaeology was not informed of the start of groundworks associated with the construction of the new care home. However just under half of the site was monitored (Fig. 3).

Site visits took place between 3 and 9 May 2013 and the part of the site that was monitored was the south-eastern wing of the new structure.

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.



Plate 2. Excavation of the foundations facing north

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although very extensive areas of excavation within the former school site were monitored, nothing of archaeological significance was seen. The earlier evaluation of the site had returned very little evidence.

It seems likely that this area has never been subject to human settlement. However it appears to have been subject to arable agriculture in the medieval and post-medieval periods, producing the layer of subsoil seen beneath the topsoil.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Lilly Hodges for undertaking the first day of monitoring.

The staff of Anglia Demolition and Spencer Laborde of R.G. Carter Construction for their help and cooperation.

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

Bibliography and Sources

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| BGS (British Geological Survey) | 1985 | <i>East Anglia</i> , Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |

Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-155410

Project details

Project name	Former Peterhouse School (Peterhouse Care Home), Gorleston
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for NPS Property Consultants Ltd during groundworks associated with the demolition of the former Peterhouse First School and the construction of the Peterhouse Care Home on the same site. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were collected during the work. It seems that the site has been subject to agricultural activities in the past, creating a subsoil, but no other archaeological activity was evident.
Project dates	Start: 13-12-2012 End: 09-05-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF130582 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH GREAT YARMOUTH Former Peterhouse School (NORSE Dementia Unit), Peterhouse Avenue
Study area	10000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	652100 303680 652100 00 00 N 303680 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
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Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	david whitmore
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	NPS Property Consultants Ltd

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

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