

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 1056

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent Durham
House, Main Road, Fleggburgh**

41235 FLE

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Location: Land adjacent Durham House, Main Road, Fleggburgh
District: Great Yarmouth
Grid Ref: TG 4489 1401
SMR No.: 41235
Date of work: 4th, 8th and 9th March 2005

Summary

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of groundworks for a proposed barn. There were no archaeological features or finds.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

The site of the proposed barn lay in former arable/market gardens behind cottages on Main Road, Fleggburgh. The dimensions of the proposed barn are 10m x 15m (150 sq. m).

The work and report were commissioned by Mrs B M Drake of Fraser Grass Farmers Ltd.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH 06.10.04). The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards.

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during groundworks, as set out in the Brief. The Brief required that occasional visits were made.

The foundations of the proposed barn were excavated by machine, in two episodes, to allow for the delivery of concrete. Bad weather delayed the programme and necessitated visits on three days.

Spoil and exposed surfaces were scanned with a metal detector.

Site conditions were good (access, ground conditions), but weather conditions were poor, with work on the 4th March carried out in light snow.

2.0 Observations

(Fig. 2)

The foundation trenches were 0.70m wide and c. 0.75m deep, at which level the natural subsoil, a hard ginger sand, was encountered. The overburden was a dark sandy topsoil (c. 0.20 to 0.25m) above a mid brown sandy loam subsoil (c. 0.50m to 0.55m). No features were observed in the trenches, nor were any archaeological objects found. A small number of modern sherds ('china') were observed in the topsoil.

The topsoil within the area of the barn was removed by machine, to a depth of c. 0.20m, just above the surface of the underlying subsoil. The surface was still somewhat obscured, but no features were observed.

3.0 Conclusions

Although the development site lies immediately east of the churchyard, no human skeletal remains were encountered, nor were any traces of ancient occupation. Although recent ploughing might account for some loss of any archaeological deposits, the absence of finds other than modern sherds, glass etc suggests that this area was unoccupied and probably used for agricultural purposes.

Acknowledgements

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