

Report 3116

nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of Land behind Cygnet House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norfolk

ENF132088

Prepared for South Norfolk District Council South Norfolk House Swan Lane Long Stratton Norfolk NR15 2XE

Lilly Hodges BSc, PIfA

August 2013











PROJECT CHECKLIST				
Project Manager	David Whitmore			
Draft Completed	Lilly Hodges	05/08/2013		
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	05/08/2013		
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	23/08/2013		
Reviewed	Jayne Bown	23/08/2013		
Issue 1				

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 3116 01-04-13-2-1067

© NPS Archaeology

Contents

Sum	mary	1
Intro	duction	1
Geol	logy and Topography	3
Arch	aeological and Historical Background	3
Meth	nodology	4
Resu	ults	6
The <i>i</i>	Archaeological Material	20
6.1	Pottery	20
6.2	Metal Finds	21
6.3	Flint	21
6.4	Animal Bone	22
6.5	Finds Conclusions	22
Cond	clusions	23
Ackn	nowledgements	24
Biblic	ography and Sources	24
Appe	endix 1a: Context Summary	25
Appe	endix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary	25
Appe	endix 2a: Finds by Context	26
Appe	endix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary	26
Appe	endix 3: Flint Catalogue	27
Appe	endix 4: OASIS Report Summary	29
	Sum Intro Geo Arch Meth Resu The 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 Cond Ackr Bibli Appe Appe Appe Appe	Summary Introduction Geology and Topography Archaeological and Historical Background Methodology Results The Archaeological Material 6.1 Pottery 6.2 Metal Finds 6.3 Flint 6.4 Animal Bone 6.5 Finds Conclusions Conclusions Acknowledgements Bibliography and Sources Appendix 1a: Context Summary Appendix 2b: OASIS Feature Summary Appendix 2a: Finds by Context Appendix 3: Flint Catalogue Appendix 4: OASIS Report Summary

Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Location of trenches
Figure 3	Trench 1, plan and section
Figure 4	Trench 2, plan and section
Figure 5	Trench 4, plan and sections
Figure 6	Trench 7, plan and section

Plates

Plate 1	Trench 4, tree hole [10]
---------	--------------------------

Plate 2	Trench 4, pit [12]
---------	--------------------

- Plate 3 Trench 7, flint surface [03]
- Plate 4 Trench 7, pit [05]

Tables

- Table 1
 Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery
- Table 2Quantification of Flint by Flake/Implement Type (F: frequency, W:
weight in grams)

Location:	Land behind Cygnet House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TM 1952 9305
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
HER No.:	ENF132088
OASIS Reference	157672
Client:	South Norfolk District Council
Dates of Fieldwork:	15-17 July 2013

Summary

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land behind Cygnet House on Swan Lane in Long Stratton, Norfolk was conducted for South Norfolk District Council in advance of proposals to construct 60 new dwellings in the area.

Seven trenches (Trenches 1-7) were excavated, four of which contained limited archaeological remains and three were blank. Trench 4 in the north-eastern corner of the development area contained a small, probably prehistoric pit containing burnt flint; a tree hole was also present. Trench 7 at the southern end of the site revealed a large pit and a flint surface of unknown date. Trenches 1 and 2 at the north of the site each contained a post-medieval field drain (probably the same feature).

The small pit provides limited evidence that prehistoric remains may survive in the area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted ahead of proposals to construct 60 new dwellings on development land behind Cygnet House on Swan Lane in Long Stratton, Norfolk.

The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (NAU/BAU3116/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by South Norfolk District Council.

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.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Solid geology in the area is chalk (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation), sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm seas.

The superficial deposits at the site are Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton and Head deposits – clay, silt, sand and gravel.

The Lowestoft Formation formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions and forms an extensive sheet of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content. The site is located at an interface with a second superficial deposit/drift geology type of Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. These are superficial deposits formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/ geologyofbritain/home.html).

The specific topsoil across the site consisted of a firm, compact and dry pale grey mid brown clayey silt with occasional rusty orange coloured clay flecks, occasional flints, chalk and flecks of brick and tile. It varied between depths of 0.27m and 0.51m.

Subsoil was visible in Trench 7 only, at the southern end of the site. It occurred at a depth of c.0.20-0.30m and consisted of compacted mid orangey brown clay-silt with some irregular-shaped flint of various sizes.

The natural deposits seen in the trenches consisted of yellowish orange clay with occasional greyish brown clay patches with isolated flints and patches of flint. In Trench 7 the natural could be seen as broken chalk with lenses of mid brown orange clay.

The site is located in the village of Long Stratton on Swan Lane, set back from the road behind Cygnet House. There are arable fields to the north, a housing estate to the east, Cygnet House to the south and South Norfolk Council's offices and car park to the west.

Towards the southern end of the site the land slopes gradually downwards, becoming steeper towards the south and to the rear of Cygnet House.

The site is dominated by trees (mostly oak and ash) and overgrown with tall grasses, weeds and brambles.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Faden's Map of Norfolk published in 1797 (Barringer 1989) and Bryant's Map of Norfolk first published in 1826 (Barringer 1998) were consulted. Both show the development site as an open field with the site appearing as part of a field.

A search was conducted of information held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for an area of 1km around the development site. The results of this search demonstrated that there was limited archaeological data in close proximity to the site. The closest NHER record to the development site is located *c*.40m to the west and is the site of a Roman hearth or kiln (NHER 7937). This feature was discovered in 1773 in a gravel pit along with several urns. In 1976 the discovery of the burial of a horse skull and a medieval drainage ditch was also made here.

To the east of the site (160 metres away) is site NHER 16011, a post medieval smock mill seen on Bryant's 1826 map (Barringer 1998); the mill was last used around 1900.

To the east of the site (on the opposite side of the A140) is where fieldwalking and metal detecting between 1982 and 2000 recovered artefacts with a wide date range (from prehistoric to post-medieval) including prehistoric flint, a Roman coin and silver ring and medieval coins and pottery (NHER 18273).

In 2010 a geophysical survey on land 400m to the west of the development site recorded anomalies which may represent pits and ditches (NHER 55862).

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 seven trenches be excavated across the site to sample the archaeological potential of the site (Fig. 2). Originally four 30m and three 20m trenches were proposed, however due to onsite limitations caused by trees and vegetation the length of the trenches was reduced.

Machine excavation was carried out with an eight tonne hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Environmental samples were not taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

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.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from temporary benchmarks with a value of 46.63m OD, 47.85m OD and 40.12m OD located around the site.

Site conditions were very overgrown with tall grasses, weeds and brambles with several deep holes and hidden dips in the ground, with the work taking place in very hot sunny weather.



 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc op}}$ Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1					
			Figs 2 (location	n) and 3	
			Location		
			Orientation	North-west to	south-east
14	1 Ale	and the	North-west end	619571.688 2	93157.593
			South-east end	619574.8 293	130.804
and the state	Section	The second second	Dimensions		
S Alex			Length	26.81m	
	A Part P		Width	1.80m	
		AT AND A	Depth	0.28-0.41m	
ALC: THE	Alter	AL AL AL	Levels		
	and the second		North-west top	46.26m OD	
			South-east top	46.12mOD	
Context	Туре	Description and In	terpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	posit Topsoil. Pale grey mid clayey silt with occasional orange-coloured clay occasional flints, chalk and and tile flecks. Firm, compa dry.		0.28-0.41m	0.00-0.41m
14	Cut	Possible field drain. Narrow near vertical sided linear feature with a flattish base.		0.56m	0.41-0.97m
15	Deposit	Fill of feature [14]. Firm, compact mid brown clayey silty sand with frequent flint and patches of boulder clay.		0.56m	0.41-0.97m
	Deposit	Natural. Yellowish orange clay with occasional greyish brown clay patches with occasional – moderate 0. flint and patches of flint.		0.41m+	
Discussion		,			1
Trench 1 contained single linear feature [14].					
Feature [14] has been interpreted as probably a post-medieval field drain.					



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench	Trench 2				
			Figs 2 (location)	and 4	
Sales Col		1 yes	Location		
	1.		Orientation	North-east to so	outh-west
		North-east end	619601.301 293145.113		
	Se the s	Contraction of	South-west end	619590.396 293	3129.358
S.P.		- All All	Dimensions		
		THE REAL PROPERTY OF	Length	20.00m	
507			Width	1.80m	
			Depth	0.31-0.51m	
			Levels	Ι	
10			North-east top	46.81m OD	
R.			South-west top	46.54mOD	
Context	Туре	Description an	d Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Pale clayey silt with orange-coloured occasional flints and tile flecks and dry.	grey mid brown occasional rusty d clay flecks, s, chalk and brick . Firm, compact	0.31-0.51m	0.00-0.51m
08	Cut	Possible field feature with sides (near-v northern edge) base (this m accentuated by root disturbance	drain. Narrow steeply sloping ertical on its and a V-shaped ay have been y animal and/or a).	0.48m	0.51-0.99m
09	Deposit	Fill of feature [08]. Firmly compacted mid brown clayey silty sand with frequent flint and patches of boulder clay.		0.48m	0.51-0.99m
	Deposit	Natural. Yellow with occasiona clay patches w and patches of t	vish orange clay I greyish brown vith isolated flint flint.		0.51m+
Discussio	on				
Trench 2 o	contained single fe	ature [08].			
Feature [14] has been interpreted as probably a field drain of post-medieval date.					



 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc b}}$ Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench	3				
		Fig. 2 (location)			
		Location			
		Orientation	East to west		
And the second second	A Markanak E	Commission of the second second	East end	619624.747 293124.238	
	Contraction of the	2 Second	West end	619606.486 293117.478	
	IN LANG	Contraction of the second	Dimensions	L	
Service	and the second sec	Section of the	Length	19.10m	
R. GARAS			Width	1.74m	
			Depth	0.28-0.38m	
BEAT .			Levels	<u> </u>	
			East top	47.34m OD	
		West top	46.83mOD		
Context	Туре	Description an	d Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Pale clayey silt with orange-coloured occasional flints and tile flecks and dry.	grey mid brown occasional rusty d clay flecks, s, chalk and brick . Firm, compact	0.28-0.38m	0.00-0.38m
	Deposit	Natural. Yellow with occasiona clay patches w moderate flint flint.	vish orange clay I greyish brown vith occasional – and patches of		0.38m+
Discussio	on				
Trench 3 d	contained no archa	aeological feature	s or artefacts.		

Trench 4

Context

01

10

Туре

Deposit

Cut



	Figs 2 (location) and 5; Plates 1 and 2				
	Location				
	Orientation	North-east to so	uth-west		
NA CAN	North-east end	619637.745 293118.29			
South-west end		619623.347 293	8090.545		
	Dimensions				
	Length	31.20m			
	Width	1.80m			
	Depth	0.33-0.41m			
	Levels				
	North-east top	47.61m OD			
	South-west top	47.19mOD			
Description and	d Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL		
Topsoil. Pale grey mid brown clayey silt with occasional rusty orange-coloured clay flecks, occasional flints, chalk and brick and tile flecks. Firm, compact and dry.		0.33–0.41m	0.00-0.41m		
Tree hole (Plate 1). Appears as an irregular linear feature in plan. It has an uneven base that varies considerably in depth, steeply sloping sides and a V- shaped base. The undercutting of the edges observed in this feature suggests that it was formed as a result of removal of a tree at an undetermined point in the past.		0.18-0.44m	0.41-0.85m		
Fill of tree hole [10]. Very compact dry crumbly pale brown grey silty clay with small flints, brick and tile flecks and root disturbance.		0.44m	0.41-0.85m		
Small pit (Plate oval in plan with	e 2). The pit is h steeply sloping				

11	Deposit	Fill of tree hole [10]. Very compact dry crumbly pale brown grey silty clay with small flints, brick and tile flecks and root disturbance.	0.44m	0.41-0.85m
12	Cut	Small pit (Plate 2). The pit is oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. Pit [12] continued beyond the trench edge.	0.18m	0.41-0.59m
13	Deposit	Fill of pit [12]. Very compact mid grev with pale brownish hue silty	0.18m	0.41-0.59m

Trench 4				
		clay containing burnt flint.		
	Deposit	Natural. Yellowish orange clay with occasional greyish brown clay patches with occasional – moderate flint and patches flint.		0.41m+

Discussion

Trench 4 contained two features - tree hole [10] and small pit [12].



Plate 1. Trench 4, tree hole [10]



Plate 2. Trench 4, pit [12]

Trench 4

Pit [12] appears to be a relatively small feature although its full extent was not determined as it continued beyond the edge of the Trench 4.

The pit contained a single flint flake and a large amount of burnt flint indicating a prehistoric date for this feature.

A tree hole was recorded at the north-eastern end of the trench



Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench 5								
	2		Fig. 2 (location)					
Sever 2			Location					
			Orientation	North-west to se	outh-east			
10 200			North-west end	619576.613 293	3096.563			
	Station Lung	A HERE MAN	South-east end	619596.468 293	3078.552			
- Card			Dimensions	•				
T'S		Variation	Length	26.30m				
			Width	1.75m				
E S	An Antonia		Depth	0.31-0.34m				
	T	The second	Levels					
	100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100		North-west top	45.76m OD				
			South-east top	45.90mOD				
Context	Туре	Description an	d Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL			
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Pale brown clayey si flint occasional and tile flecks dry and crumble	yellowish grey It with occasional chalk and brick . Compact, very es.	0.31-0.34m	0.00-0.34m			
	Deposit	Natural. Dirty (slightly sandy) flints and patc chalk flecks.	orange clay with occasional hes of flint with	-	0.34m+			
Discussio	on	I		I				
Trench 5 d	contained no archa	aeological feature	s or artefacts.					

Trench 6								
		Fig. 2 (loca	tion)					
		Location						
		Orientation	North-east t	h-east to south-west				
		North-east end	619576.861	293056.101				
		South- west end	619571.137	293042.999				
	Contraction of the	Dimensions	5					
		Length	13.50m					
	A CARLER OF THE ACTION OF THE	Width	1.80m					
	A WAR	Depth	0.27m					
	and the second sec	Levels						
		North-east top	44.88m OD					
		South- west top	44.27mOD					
Context Type	Description and Inte	erpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL				
01 Deposit	Topsoil. Compac orangey-brown cl containing irregular-s	0.27m	0.00-0.27m					
Deposit	Natural. Pale orange clay with small – me flint (irregular).	e brown silty dium – large		0.27m+				
Discussion	' 			1				
Trench 6 contained no archaeological	features or artefacts .							

Trench 7					
//注意的影響時间			Figs 2 (loca	ation) and 6; Pl	ates 3 and 4
ALC: NO			Location		
A C		Lig Martin	Orientation	North to south	
		2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	North end	619531.176 2	93056.353
		The state	South end	619522.264 2	93039.771
			Dimensions	5	
			Length	19.50m	
and the			Width	1.80m	
- Lours	and the second		Depth	0.30-0.83m	
De th		A AL PERSON	Levels	-	
			North top	42.51m OD	
and the second second			South top	40.12mOD	
Context	Туре	Description and Inter	pretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Compacted m brown clayey silt irregular flint, chalk fra occasional brick and til	0.30-0.50m	0.00-0.50m	
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Compacted r brown clay-silt mode large irregular flint.	0.20-0.30m	0.50-0.80m	
03	Deposit	Possible flint surface. an irregular oval a beyond the edge of th trench. The flints range small to large and constructed.		0.80m	
05	Cut	Possible large pit. The this feature could determined. It was loo southern half of the trench.		1.65m+	
06	Deposit	Fill of pit [05]. Compac orangey-brown clay-si a number of irregula chalk.		1.20m+	
-	Deposit	Natural. Broken chalk of mid brown orange cl	with lenses ay.		0.80m+

Discussion

Trench 7 contained flint surface [03] and large pit [05].

Flint surface [03] (Plate 3) measured 2.1m x 0.9m although its full extent could not be determined as it lies beyond the edge of the trench. It was constructed of closely packed flint of varying sizes. Its location close to the edge of pit [05] might indicate that it was associated with this feature, perhaps laid to aid access to and from the pit or as a working platform.

The full extent of large pit [05] (Plate 4) could not be determined as it continued well beyond the limits of the trench in area and exploration of its depth was similarly constrained. Its extent within Trench 7 measured at

Trench 7

least 9.1m long (Fig. 6 Section 5). The feature may have been a quarry pit to extract chalk.





Plate 4. Trench 7, pit [05]



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 6. Trench 7, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:50

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and information entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. Each material type has been considered separately and is included below presented by material.

A list of finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Andrew Peachey and Peter Thompson

Excavations recovered a total of six sherds (60g) of abraded pottery from subsoil layers and a drain, ranging in date from prehistoric to early post-medieval (Table 1).

Period	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Prehistoric	2	2
Roman	1	34
Medieval	2	15
Early Post-Medieval	1	9
Total	6	60

 Table 1. Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery

6.1.1 Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described in the report. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in free text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and Study Group for Roman Pottery. All data will be entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

6.1.2 Commentary

Subsoil [02] contained two small body sherds (2g) of prehistoric pottery, manufactured in a fabric tempered with sparse calcined flint (<2.5mm) that was probably produced in the Bronze Age, although an early Iron Age origin cannot be discounted.

A single sherd (34g) of Roman sandy grey ware was recovered from subsoil [02]. It comprised an everted bead rim of a jar or wide-mouthed bowl in a ubiquitous, locally-produced coarse ware that could potentially have been manufactured between the late 1st and 4th centuries AD.

Subsoil [02] also contained two medieval sherds, the earliest of which comprises a body sherd (4g) of 11th- to 12th-century date in a dark brown, soapy fabric that contains moderate white shell but little or no sand. The second medieval sherd comprises the out-turned rim of a bowl (16-18cm in diameter) with an internal groove near the lip and splashes of clear glaze on the inner surface. The fabric of the vessel contains abundant fine to medium quartz sand with occasional coarser quartz inclusions and red iron mineral. It is similar to 13th- to 14th-century Grimston ware and may represent the product of a local kiln in a similar tradition.

Drain [08] ([09]) contained a single abraded sherd (9g) of early post-medieval red earthenware. The fabric comprises medium quartz sand with few other inclusions, and there are remnants of a brown glaze on the external surfaces that indicate a date within the 16th to 18th centuries.

6.2 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

One metal find was recovered from the site, a fragment of cast iron, of amorphous shape and no discernable form.

The fragment was unstratified, from the spoil of Trench 5 ([16]), and weighed 48g. The piece has since been discarded.

6.3 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 10 pieces (132g) of struck flint (Table 2), in an unpatinated condition. Although with the exception of a single debitage flake the entire assemblage was recovered as unstratified material. The assemblage includes two cores and a re-touched blade that exhibit technological characteristics strongly indicative of their manufacture in the later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic periods.

Feature Type	No.	Wt		
Cores	2	79		
Blade	1	6		
Blade-like Debitage	4	14		
Other Debitage	3	33		
Burnt Flint	67	1036		
Total	77	1168		

Table 2. Quantification of Flint by Flake/Implement Type (F: frequency, W: weight in grams)

6.3.1 Methodology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 and 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

6.3.2 Raw Material

The raw flint used to manufacture the flakes in this assemblage ranges from dark grey to very dark grey (near black) with cortex, where extant, typically thin and coloured grey-brown, or occasionally chalky white. These characteristics suggest the raw flint was sourced from local surface gravels overlying the Breckland chalk, probably from the glacially-derived Anglian drift.

6.3.3 Commentary on Flint

The two cores in the assemblage, from [16] the spoil of Trench 5 and [19] the spoil of Trench 2, exhibit contrasting but complementary methods of reduction. The core from [16] comprises a multi-platform, cube-shaped, blade core (Type C), which has been rotated following tablet flake removals to allow continued exploitation of the core. Three faces of the core exhibit blade-like dorsal scars or facets, while two bear the scars of tablet removals and the remaining face has extant cortex. In contrast the core in [19] is a bi-polar blade core (Type B1) that has not been subject to any evident rejuvenation. The size and proportions of both cores suggests that they are exhausted, and both appear to have been utilised to produce similar size blades or micro-blades such as the sparsely distributed examples in pit [12] ([13]) and spoil [17]. These characteristics are most strongly associated with the technology of the later Mesolithic; however similar blade technology was also employed in the earlier Neolithic. Spoil [17] of Trench 4 also contained a modified crested blade with limited retouch along the lateral edges of the bulbar end, suggesting it may have been designed as a denticulate (serrated blade) consistent with the blade-based technologies of these periods. The remaining occasional debitage flakes from subsoil [02] and spoil [18] are relatively indistinct technologically, and they may represent core trimming contemporary with the rest of the assemblage, or may be derived from subsequent prehistoric activity.

Pit [12] in Trench 4 contained 67 pieces of burnt flint (1,036g) from pit fill [13].

6.4 Animal Bone

by Rebecca Sillwood

Three fragments of animal bone (6g) were recovered from subsoil [02].

All pieces are rather abraded, with two conjoining pieces. The conjoining fragments are probably a rib, with a smaller fragment of undiagnostic bone. The rib pieces could be from sheep/goat.

6.5 Finds Conclusions

The only stratified finds recovered from this evaluation were a small debitage flint flake and a quantity of burnt flint from a small pit located in the north-eastern corner of the site and a piece of post-medieval pottery from drain [08].

The struck flint from the pit exhibited technology consistent with the later Mesolithic or the early Neolithic. It is not feasible to date the burnt flint, although its presence in quantity within this pit implies its use as a rubbish pit, although if in association with charcoal it may imply use a hearth. The burnt flint is likely the remains of cooking activity in the area, with the flint heated first and then dropped into liquids to raise the temperature.

Other material was recovered unstratified from the site, coming from the spoil of Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5.

There was some Bronze Age, Roman and medieval pottery, showing a sparse background 'noise' of activity of these dates in the area.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evidence from the site was limited in scope despite four of the seven evaluation trenches containing features and three (Trenches 3, 5 and 6) were blank and returned no artefacts.

Although five sherds of pottery of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date were recovered, the sherds came from subsoil layer [02] and not from discrete features. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was found in a field drain.

Trench 4 exposed a small pit that contained a single flint flake and an assemblage of 67 burnt flint of varying sizes weighing 1.036kg. A tree hole ([10]) was also apparent in this trench.

Trench 7 revealed evidence of a large pit ([05]) and a possible flint surface, perhaps associated with it.

An east west post-medieval field drain was recorded in each of Trenches 1 and 2 ([14] AND [08] respectively). This is probably the same feature visible in both trenches.

The presence of a pit containing a flint flake and burnt flint is an indicator of prehistoric activity in the north-eastern part of the site. Prehistoric features can survive quite well below the surface, but often in a truncated form. This feature appears to be an isolated example however there are flints of the later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic period from the subsoil including two cores and a blade and also two small sherds of Bronze Age pottery. Such finds, although sparse, are indicative of restricted prehistoric activity in the area.

The large feature and flint surface recorded in the south-west of the site may be associated. The feature may be a large pit dug to extract sand and gravel or even chalk with an adjacent working platform provided by the flint surface. No dating evidence was retrieved from either feature to give an indication when they n=may have been in operation.

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 the following for their contribution to this project.

The project was funded and commissioned by South Norfolk District Council.

Excavation fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Barnett, Michelle Bull and the author.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Pete of Bryn Williams Machine Hire.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) by James Albone.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood. The pottery was analysed by Andrew Peachey and Peter Thompson, and the flint by Andrew Peachey.

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

Bibliography and Sources

Andrefsky, W.	2005	<i>Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis (2nd edition).</i> Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
Barringer, J. C.	1989	Faden's Map of Norfolk
Barringer, J. C.	1998	Bryant's Map of Norfolk in 1826
BGS (British Geological Survey)	1991	East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series
BGS (British Geological Survey)	1985	East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series
Department for Communities and Local Government	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
Healy, F	1988	The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the Seventh to Second Millennium BC. East Anglian Archaeology No. 39

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 22.07.2013

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	1-7
02	Deposit			Subsoil	Uncertain	1-7
03	Deposit	Surface		Possible flint surface	Uncertain	7
04	VOID			VOID		7
05	Cut	Pit		Pit	Uncertain	7
06	Deposit		05	Fill of pit [05]	Uncertain	7
07	VOID			VOID		
08	Cut	Drain		Cut of drain	Post-medieval	2
09	Deposit		08	Fill of drain [08]	Post-medieval	2
10	Cut	Natural feature		Tree hole	Uncertain	4
11	Deposit		10	Fill of tree hole [11]	Uncertain	4
12	Cut	Pit		Small pit	Prehistoric	4
13	Deposit		12	Fill of small pit [12]	Prehistoric	4
14	Cut	Drain		Cut of drain	Post-medieval	1
15	Deposit		14	Fill of drain [14]	Post-medieval	1
16	U/S Finds			Spoil from Trench 5		5
17	U/S Finds			Spoil from Trench 4		4
18	U/S Finds			Spoil from Trench 1		1
19	U/S Finds			Spoil from Trench 2		2

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Prehistoric	Pit	1
Post-medieval	Field drain	2
Uncertain	Tree hole	1
	Pit	1
	Surface	1

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
002	Animal Bone	3	6g	Unknown	
02	Flint – Struck	1	8g	Prehistoric	
02	Pottery	2	2g	Bronze Age	
02	Pottery	1	34g	Roman	
02	Pottery	2	15g	Medieval	
09	Pottery	1	9g	Post-medieval	
13	Flint – Burnt	67	1,036g	Prehistoric	
13	Flint – Struck	1	4g	Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	
16	Flint – Struck	1	48g	Prehistoric	
16	Iron	1	48g	Unknown	Plate fragment; DISCARDED
17	Flint – Struck	4	16g	Prehistoric	
18	Flint – Struck	2	25g	Prehistoric	
19	Flint – Struck	1	31g	Prehistoric	

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	67
	Flint – Struck	9
Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Bronze Age	Pottery	2
Roman	Pottery	1
Medieval	Pottery	2
Post-medieval	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	3
	Iron	1

Appendix	3:	Flint	Cata	logue
----------	----	-------	------	-------

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Find/type	No.	Wt	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	L	W	D	Comment
02	Subsoil	1	8	Un-corticated flake (slightly irregular, <50mm)	1	8	1	١	dark grey	١	١	١	١	١	rolled edges
13	Small Pit	1	4	Tertiary flake (blade-like, <50mm)	1	4	١	١	dark grey	thin, brown- grey	١	١	١	١	soft-hammer struck
16	Spoil from Tr.5	1	48	Core	1	48	λ	na	very dark grey- black	white, chalky	١	40	40	20	Type C: multi- platform, rotated blade core: blade-like dorsal scars/facets on three faces, tablet removals from two faces and cortex on remaining face; probably exhausted
17	Spoil from Tr.4	4	16	Blade	1	6	١	yes	dark grey	1		45	10	10	crested blade with limited retouch along lateral edges at the bulbar end, possibly a micro-denticulate (later Mesolithic)
				Tertiary flake (blade-like, <50mm)	3	10	١	1	dark grey	white, chalky	١	١	١	١	1
18	Spoil from Tr.1	2	25	Tertiary flake (slightly irregular, <50mm)	2	25	١	1	dark grey	pale brown- white	١	١	١	١	1

Context	Description	No.	Wt	Find/type	No.	Wt	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I ?	L	W	D	Comment
			(g)												
19	Spoil from Tr.2	1	31	Core	1	31	1	na	dark grey	thin, brown- grey		30	25	25	Type B1: bi-polar blade core with abraded striking platforms, probably exhausted
		10	132		10	132									

Appendix 4: OASIS Report Summary

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: norfolka1-157672

Project details

Project name	Land behind Cygnet House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton - Evaluation
Short description of the project	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land behind Cygnet House on Swan Lane in Long Stratton, Norfolk was conducted for South Norfolk District Council in advance of proposals to construct 60 new dwellings in the area. Seven trenches (Trenches 1-7) were excavated, four of which contained limited archaeological remains and three were blank. Trenches 1 and 2 to the north of the site contained post medieval field drains. Trench 4 in the eastern corner of the development area contained a small pit containing burnt flint and a tree hole. Trench 7 at the southern end of the site revealed a large pit and a flint surface. The small pit provides limited evidence that prehistoric remains may survive in the area.
Project dates	Start: 15-07-2013 End: 17-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF132088 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	SURFACE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT (STRUCK) Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT (BURNT) Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the Pre-application planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK LONG STRATTON REar of Cygnet House, Swan Lane
Study area	1.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 1952 9305 52 1 52 29 26 N 001 14 01 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	NPS Archaeology
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Lilly Hodges
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Authority
Name of sponsor/funding body	South Norfolk District Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of Land behind Cygnet House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Hodges, L.

Other bibliographic details	Report 3116
Date	2013
lssuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 paper, double-sided, colour-printed, spiral bound; pdf
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	23 August 2013

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: /export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page