

Report 2013/1256



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief on the  
Marham Drought Support Scheme  
(Methwold, Feltwell and Weeting), Norfolk**

**[Borehole G, south of Denton Lodge, Weeting]**

ENF131140



**Prepared for**  
Anglian Water Services Limited  
Thorpe Wood House  
Thorpe Wood  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE3 6WT

Steve Hickling BA MA AIfA

June 2014



[www.nps.co.uk](http://www.nps.co.uk)

<b>PROJECT CHECKLIST</b>		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	17/10/2013
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	24/10/2013
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	29/10/2013
Reviewed	David Adams	01/11/2013
<i>Issue 1</i>		
Amended	David Dobson	23/06/2014
<i>Issue 2</i>		

## **NPS Archaeology**

Scandic House  
85 Mountergate  
Norwich  
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E [jayne.bown@nps.co.uk](mailto:jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)

[www.nau.org.uk](http://www.nau.org.uk)

01-04-13-2-1256

© NPS Archaeology

## Contents

---

<i>Summary</i> .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
2.0 Geology and Topography .....	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
3.1 Information in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record .....	3
3.2 Cartographic and Aerial Photographic Evidence .....	3
4.0 Methodology .....	3
5.0 Results .....	4
5.1 Borehole G .....	4
6.0 Conclusions .....	4
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	5
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i> .....	5
Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary .....	6

## **Figures**

Figure 1 Site location

## **Plates**

Plate 1 Borehole G, de-stumping facing north-east

Location:	Marham Drought Support Scheme (Methwold, Feltwell and Weeting), Norfolk
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TL 7532 9187 – TL 7547 9148 and TL 7638 9134
HER No.:	ENF131140
OASIS Ref.:	162842
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	20-21 March 2013

---

## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with the construction of a borehole south-east of Denton Lodge, Weeting.*

*No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded, possibly due to the limited nature of the groundworks.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The drilling of a new borehole, construction of associated plant and the possible laying of a new pipeline all required archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Anglian Water Services Limited and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (CNF44372). The work was conducted in accordance with two Project Designs and Method Statements prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-13-2-1256b/DW and 01-04-13-2-1256c/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Limited.

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.

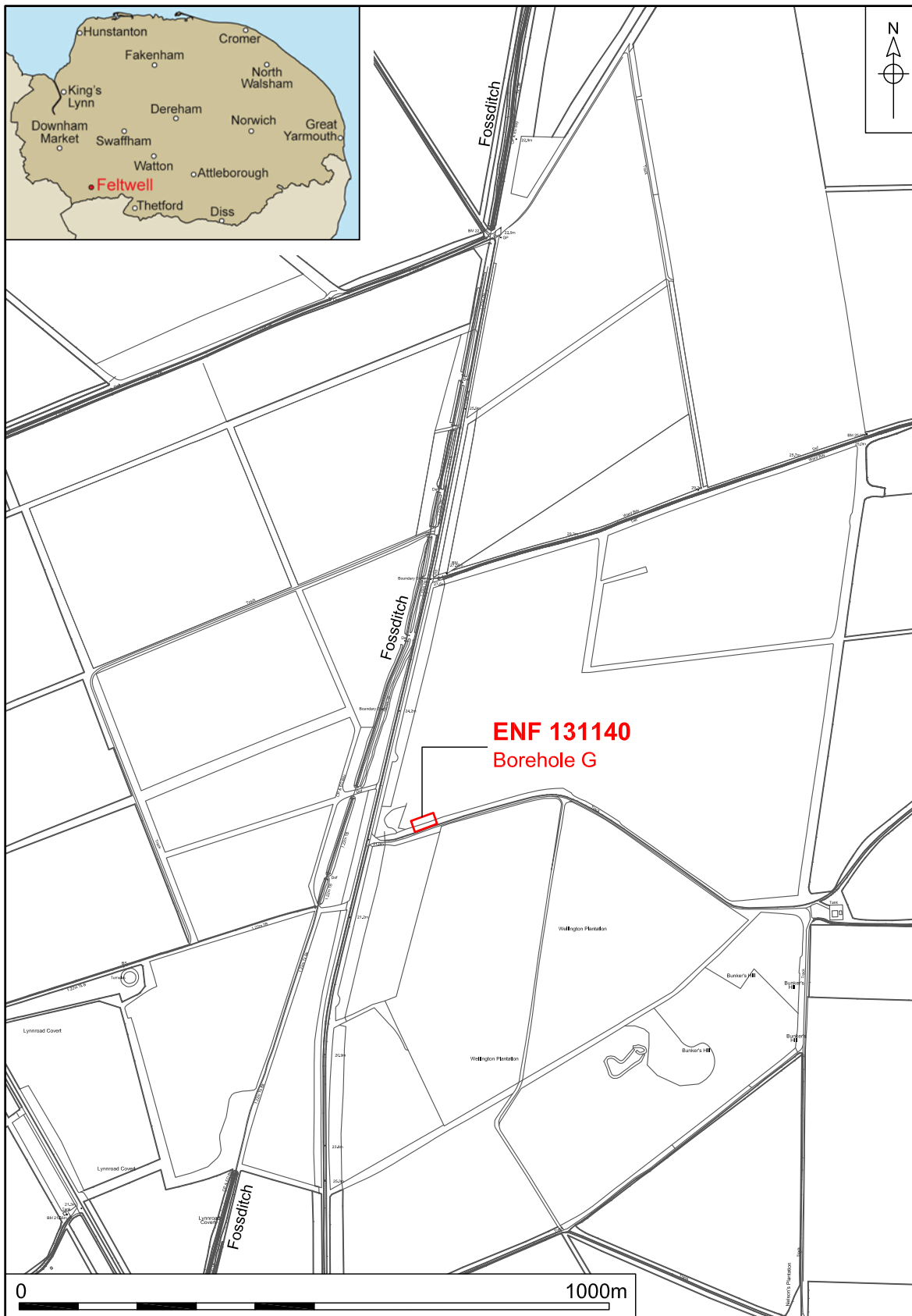
The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

This report covers the excavation of the borehole only (Fig. 1). The scheme is being re-evaluated and the intended pipeline and associated works may not be required.

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

Borehole G is located on Cretaceous chalk bedrock and was at a height of c.21-22m OD.

The site is located within Forestry Commission pine plantations between the villages of Weeting and Feltwell. Historically the area was part of the Brecks, an area of sparsely populated sandy heath.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A search of data held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within a 1.5km radius of TL 75816 91604 was commissioned and the results, along with historic mapping sources, were consulted during the preparation of this section.

#### **3.1 Information in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record**

This area is rich in finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints and Bronze Age burial mounds, perhaps suggesting that at this period it was more densely settled than in subsequent periods, perhaps because of the light soils.

##### **Borehole G**

A number of prehistoric flints and pot boilers (NHER 29145) were found in 1992 during an archaeological watching brief on a pipeline to the east of Borehole G.

Borehole G is located 135m west of the Fossditch Linear Earthwork (NHER 1089). The Fossditch is a defensive bank and ditch running north to south between the River Wissey and the Little Ouse. Excavations of this feature suggest that the Fossditch dates to the Early Saxon period. It is probable that the earthwork formed a line of defence controlling a particular territory.

There is a group of earthworks, probably Bronze Age burial mounds (NHERs 25487, 51529 and 41681) 600-650m south-east of Borehole G.

In 2005 a huge pit (NHER 42575) was noted 570m south-east of Borehole G. It is one of the largest in Thetford Forest, and has an irregular outline with a number of 'entrances'. It is likely to have been created as the result of extraction works here.

There is another group of possible Bronze Age burial mounds located west of Borehole G and south of Borehole F (NHERs 33455, 33456, 33457 and 4992).

#### **3.2 Cartographic and Aerial Photographic Evidence**

An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the area being under pine plantation.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows little in the way of pine plantation, instead the borehole site is in open agricultural fields, with field boundaries suggesting post-medieval parliamentary enclosure (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk>).

### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological features and deposits within the development area, and to recover any finds.

The Brief required that all groundworks be archaeologically monitored.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

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.

As there were no suitable deposits, 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. Digital photographs were taken of the progress of works.

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

## **5.0 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Borehole G**

The compound area for Borehole G was cleared of trees on 19 March 2013 and de-stumped on 20 March 2013 (Fig. 1, Plate 1).

The de-stumping was monitored, but no features or artefacts were spotted.



Plate 1. Borehole G destumping facing north-east

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Due to the very limited nature of the groundworks, no archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

It appears unlikely that there were any archaeological remains at the borehole location.



## ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank Terry Gascoigne of Power Plant for his help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of this project for Borehole G.

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

## ***Bibliography and Sources***

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

*<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>*   Accessed 21.03.2013

*<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk>*   Accessed 21.03.2013

**Appendix 1: 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: norfolka1-162842**

### Project details

Project name	Marham Drought Scheme (Boreholes F and G only)
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with the construction of two new boreholes south-east of Denton Lodge, Weeting. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded on either of the borehole sites, possibly due to the limited nature of the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 20-03-2013 End: 21-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF131140 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 4 - Coniferous plantation
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 KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK FELTWELL Marham Drought Support Scheme (Methwold, Feltwell, Weeting) Boreholes F and G only
Study area	1600.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7532 9187 52 0 52 29 45 N 000 34 58 E Line
Site coordinates	TL 7547 9148 52 0 52 29 33 N 000 35 05 E Line
Site coordinates	TL 7638 9134 52 0 52 29 27 N 000 35 53 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
----------------------	-----------------

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	Utility
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water Services 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

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief on the Marham Drought Support Scheme (Methwold, Feltwell and Weeting), Norfolk [Boreholes F and G only]
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hickling, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2013/1256
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 paper, colour-printed, double-sided, spiral-bound; pdf
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	29 October 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