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nps archaeology

## Archaeological Watching Brief at Bepak Industries, Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

ENF134259



**Prepared for**  
Chalcroft  
Hamlin Way  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE30 4NG



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<b>PROJECT CHECKLIST</b>		
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	23/07/2014
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	25/07/2014
Reviewed	Jayne Bown	22/10/2014
<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk
District:	Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	562835, 321830
Planning Ref.:	13/01358/FM
HER No.:	ENF 134259
OASIS Ref.:	193123
Client:	Chalcroft
Dates of Fieldwork:	12 May – 22 July 2014

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Chalcroft during groundworks associated with the construction of new production buildings at the Bepak Industries facility at Bergen Way, King's Lynn.*

*Despite the extensive groundworks monitored over the whole area of the new building, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present. It is likely that this area remained tidal mudflats, salt marsh or rough, marginal grazing until the development of the present industrial estate in the late 20th century.*

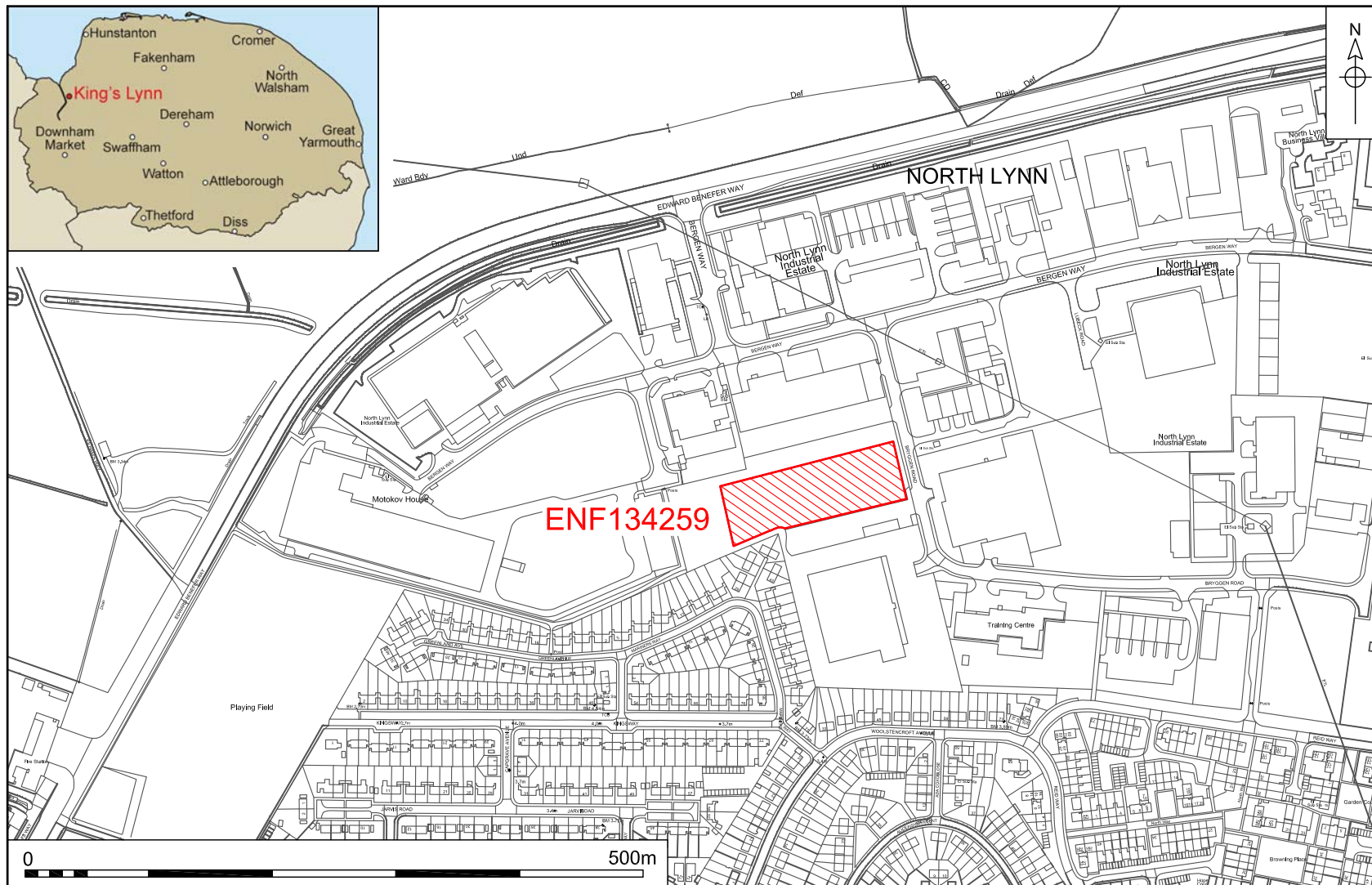
## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The construction of new production buildings at Bepak Industries, Bergen Way, King's Lynn required a programme of archaeological monitoring on the associated groundworks due to the possibility of medieval or earlier saltern sites and the medieval/post-medieval sea bank being located within the development area. The site is located about a mile northeast of King's Lynn town centre and is about 5100m<sup>2</sup> in size.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Ref. 13/01358/FM) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. 01-04-14-2-1339). This work was commissioned and funded by Chalcroft.

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 underlying geology consisted of clays and silts of Quaternary tidal flat deposits above Jurassic period mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site is situated within a large industrial estate to the northeast of the historic core of King's Lynn. It lies on flat land at a height of 2.95-3.46m OD.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and historic mapping held at the Norfolk Records Office (NRO) have been consulted during the preparation of this section.

All distances are taken from the centre of the development area.

### **3.1 Roman**

A fourth century Roman coin (NHER 11990) was found 560m southeast of the development area in 1969.

A soakaway has been made in this garden, 470m southeast of the development area, using Roman and medieval pottery fragments (NHER 22955), probably from a villa site at NHER 3669, in the garden of 1 Hope Court, Seabank Estate.

### **3.2 Medieval**

The dominant medieval activity in this area was salt production and evidence of this has been noted in the presence of medieval saltern mounds (mounds of waste material in the form of ash and baked clay 'briquetage' fragments and sand and silt). Salterns have been noted at a number of places in the vicinity of the development site at NHER 5524, 390m south of the development; NHER 5542, 390m southeast; NHER 31431, 390m northeast; NHER 27864, 570m southeast; NHER 27886, 250m southeast; NHER 27896, 250m east; NHER 27897, 400m east; NHER 27900, 150m southwest; NHER 27901, just to the south of the development area; NHER 27902, 210m south; NHER 27925, 495m north; NHER 27926 and NHER 27927, both 325m north; NHER 27928, 330m east and NHER 38265, 330m southeast, which were surrounded by an enclosure.

An undated but possibly medieval bank (NHER 13785) was visible on 1947 RAF vertical aerial photographs, 660m southeast of the present development.

A wide scatter of medieval cooking pot fragments (NHER 16833) was noted in 1964, and drainage works uncovered some briquetage, 450m east of the present development.

### **3.3 Post-medieval**

The early-modern period saw the development of flood defences in the form of drains and sea banks and the development of the railway network.

Aerial photographs taken in 1946 show the earthworks and cropmarks of the extensive sea defence bank (NHER 5528) 200m west of the development area.

The bank was probably constructed during the seventeenth century, although an early eighteenth century date cannot be ruled out.

The route of the King's Lynn to Hunstanton railway (NHER 13591), 500m east of the development site, was opened in 1862 and closed in 1969.

Aerial photographs taken in 1943 show the earthworks of a post-medieval sea defence bank (NHER 27078) 610m northwest of the development site.

A pair of probable medieval saltern mounds post-dated by four circular stack stands, a series of undated banks and an area of probable post-medieval ridge and furrow, visible as earthworks on 1947 RAF vertical aerial photographs 570m southeast of the development site (NHER 27864).

A post-medieval sea defence bank (NHER 38273) running in an approximately east to west direction across the former bed of the Great Ouse River is visible as an earthwork on 1943 RAF vertical aerial photographs 250m southwest of the present development.

### **3.4 Cartographic**

The earliest map depicting the area of the development is a 19th-century copy of a 1588 map of western Norfolk (NRO BL 71) shows the development area as being part of 'Gaywood Marshe', presumably salt marsh grazed in the summer months.

The Gaywood and Mintlyn Inclosure map of 1810 (NRO C/Sca 2/131) has the development area within an area of irregular enclosures labelled 'Old Inclosed Land'.

The area remained open pasture until the development of the North Lynn Industrial Estate in the late 20th century.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this watching brief 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 all groundworks be monitored by an archaeologist.

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

Due to a lack of 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. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were variable.





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Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:1000

## 5.0 RESULTS

Monitoring was undertaken during stripping of the site in advance of piling and during excavation of the pile ringbeams.

The initial site strip involved removing 0.3-0.4m of overburden, including a layer of geotextile at the base, suggesting that the site had already been stripped to that level. A brownish grey clayey silt horizon was exposed suggesting natural tidal flat deposit.

This work lasted from 22 May to 1 June 2014 and the piling mat was laid as the site was stripped.



Plate 1. The initial site strip facing east

The piles were reinforced concrete beams which were driven in vertically. Ringbeams were then excavated to a maximum depth of c.1m, exposing 0.3-0.4m of crushed concrete piling mat above the brownish grey clayey silt tidal flat deposit natural.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present.



Plate 2. A sample ringbeam excavation

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Despite the extensive groundworks monitored over the whole area of the new building, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

It is likely that this area remained tidal mudflats, salt marsh or rough, marginal grazing until the development of the present industrial estate in the late 20th century.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank Carl Easter of Chalcroft, the site agent on site and his staff, for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of this project.

This report was illustrated and produced 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 22.07.2014

'Undated [19th century] copy of 1588 map of western Norfolk from King's  
Lynn to Flitcham...' (NRO BL 71)

Gaywood and Mintlyn Inclosure map 1810 (NRO C/Sca 2/131)

## **Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: norfolka1-193123**

## Project details

Project name	Bespak Industries, BErgen Way, King's Lynn
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Chalcroft during groundworks associated with the construction of new production buildings at the Bespak Industries facility at Bergen Way, King's Lynn. Despite the extensive groundworks monitored over the whole area of the new building, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present. It is likely that this area remained tidal mudflats, salt marsh or rough, marginal grazing until the development of the present industrial estate in the late 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2014 End: 22-07-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF134259 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
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 KINGS LYNN Bespak Industries, Bergen Way
Study area	6300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	562835 321830 562835 00 00 N 321830 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	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling

### 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 Exists?	No
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	22 October 2014

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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