

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 809

An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Paddocks, Little Dunham, Norfolk

(Amended Figs 1 and 2)

37318 DVL

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Contents

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 The Finds
- 7.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Appendix 2: Finds by Context

Figures

- Fig.1 Site Location
- Fig.2 Site Plan
- Fig.3 Sections

Local Authority No.076759

Fig.1 is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings' Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich (12/05/2003). **Reference copy: no further copies to be made.**

Location: The Paddocks, Little Dunham
Grid Ref: TF 866 128
HER No.: 37318 DVL
Date of Fieldwork: 15th and 16th July 2002

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Norfolk Archaeological Unit during residential development of the site at The Paddocks, Little Dunham. A small number of archaeological features were identified probably relating to land management activities during the post-medieval period. The site appears to have been used for waste disposal since the Victorian period, resulting in the retrieval of a large quantity of modern finds from the small number of pits and the very disturbed topsoil.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by John Moulton of JWM Design on behalf of their client Mr Chambers. It was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: EJR/18th April 2002).

The site archive will be held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

Fig.1

The site is situated to the south of Little Dunham approximately 11km due east of East Dereham. It overlies a solid chalk geology with overlying alluvium and colluvium on glacial deposits.

The site was generally level at c.81m OD and displayed surprisingly good drainage considering the high clay content of the natural soils. One of the contractors temporary benchmarks was used for survey control, located centrally towards the western edge of the site.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Twelve entries of archaeological and historical interest are listed in the Norfolk Historic and Environmental Records (HER) for this area and are summarised below:

- HER 31197. A low (0.2m) north-south causeway with flanking ditches, interpreted as a probable Roman road, is recorded c.140m south of the development site. A continuation of this feature along the same orientation would have brought it through the eastern extremity of the site, although it may lie beneath the standing Paddock Cottages immediately to the east.
- HER 31203. A number of finds were recovered during the construction of a building in 1998 in a vegetable garden south of the site. These include a spread of flint pot boilers, a small amount of medieval pottery and a large number of post-medieval brick and tile fragments.
- HER 4199. This site lies to the west and south-west of The Paddocks and consists of a rectangular enclosure identified from a 1971 Ordnance Survey air photograph, also visible on the 1946 RAF air photograph. It may represent a

levelled earthwork. Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and metalwork have been recovered from within this enclosure periodically over the last eight years.

- HER 19546. A findspot east of the site from which a very small quantity of medieval pottery has been recovered in addition to some later 18th to 20th century material.
- HER 30403 and 30404. Two large fields to the east of the site in which a number of Late Saxon and medieval pottery sherds, three Romano-British coins, a 15th to 16th century double-looped buckle frame and an early 17th century gilded double-looped buckle were recovered during metal-detecting and field observation. In addition pottery sherds, an amount of molten bronze pieces and a lead weight all of probable Romano-British date have been recovered from HER 30404 through similar activities.
- HER 4197. A field north-east of the site from which Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds have been recovered in addition to a small quantity of metal finds dating from the Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. A number of Romano-British coins have also been recovered.
- HER 4187, 4207, 11350 and 11351. These site numbers are all associated with the area of The Old Rectory, which lies to the north-east of the site. HER 4187 is a possible moat though it is suggested the feature described may in fact be a road leading to the Old Rectory. No moat or road is marked on the 1838 tithe map. HER 4207 describes a listed building; an Early English nave, chancel, north aisle and demolished chapel where a Late Saxon cross was noted by Pevsner though no evidence of it survives today. The findspot of a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds is listed within HER 11350, discovered during gardening within the grounds of the Old Rectory. HER 11351 lists possible enclosure banks and ditches including a probable road or park boundary partially enclosing an earlier manor site. A causeway of a possible earlier drive to the former Rectory shown on Faden's map is also listed within this HER, as are a number of medieval pottery sherds.
- HER 31931. A medieval Grade II Listed Building lying to the north-east of the site.

4.0 Methodology

The objective of this watching brief was to monitor the works under archaeological supervision and to identify and record any archaeological evidence revealed during these works.

The level of monitoring provided constant attendance during the excavation of footings trenches. The access road was constructed using made-up ground.

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

All archaeological features and deposits were identified, excavated and recorded according to County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk (Gurney 1998) using NAU *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Due to the lack of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

General site conditions and access were good and the weather remained dry and sunny throughout the project.

5.0 Results Appendix 1

Figs 2 & 3

Archaeological features were concentrated within the northern part of the site. A possible north-south orientated ditch or pit ([1]) was identified and the exposed segment was 100% excavated (Fig.3, Sections 1 to 3). No finds were recovered from either of the fills ([2] and [3]). It cut north-south orientated ditch ([4]) to the east (Fig.3, Section 1) which contained a single fill ([5]) that produced a small quantity of post-medieval and later finds. This fill ([5]) was a very similar mid grey sandy clay to the upper fill ([2]) of feature [1]. Fill [3] was a darker grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal pieces.

Ditch [4] was identified within the footings trench c.6m to the south (Fig.3, Sections 3 and 4) but there was no evidence for ditch [1] extending this far. A modern waste pit [6] was identified within this trench cutting both ditch [4] and the topsoil. It contained ceramic, metal, plastic and glass finds within the single dark grey to black sand fill ([7]). A further footings trench c.5m south of this showed no evidence of ditches [1] or [4], indeed they were not identified anywhere else on-site.

A probable cess pit ([8]) was identified towards the south-east of the site, very close to a modern, *in situ* sewage tank (Fig. 3, Sections 5 and 6). It was seen to cut the topsoil and is therefore of relatively recent date. No finds were recovered from it's light green grey silty sandy clay fill ([9]). It may have been associated with construction of the *in situ* sewage tank, or may indeed have been an earlier cess pit.

No further archaeology was revealed.

6.0 The Finds Appendix 2

All the finds were recovered from fill [5] of ditch [4]. Many modern finds (the earliest being Victorian) were examined on site but were not retained. These included glass jars and bottles, ceramics, metal and plastic objects.

Clay pipe

The site produced two pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem weighing 0.008kg, ([5]).

Glass

A single shard of window glass and fragment of brown beer bottle glass was recovered ([5]).

Iron

A piece of late post-medieval or modern curved, flat iron was collected ([5]), it was not small found.

7.0 Conclusions

Feature [1] may be a pit or ditch and it remains undated as no finds were recovered from either of the two fills, although it cuts and therefore post-dates ditch [4]. North-south orientated ditch [4] lay to the east of feature [1] and produced small quantities of pottery, clay pipe stems, fragments of bottle and window glass and a fragment of iron. All these artefacts date to the post-medieval period, the piece of iron may be later. Ditch [4] was not seen to extend more than c.6m south from the northern edge of the site. This ditch was probably associated with land partition during the post-medieval period and confirms activities in this area indicated by the significant amount of entries recorded in the HER.

Apart from a modern waste pit ([6]) and a probable cess pit ([8]) no further archaeology was revealed.

Acknowledgements

The watching brief and digitising the site record were undertaken by the author. The finds were processed and catalogued by Lucy Talbot and reported upon by Richenda Goffin. Many thanks to Andy Barnett for his additional voluntary metal detecting. The report was produced and illustrated by Maggie Foottit, edited by Alice Lyons.

This watching brief was funded by JWM Design on behalf of their client Mr Chambers.

Bibliography

Gurney, D., 1998 *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk*, Norfolk Museums Service

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description/interpretation	Period
1	Cut	Ditch or pit	Post-medieval
2	Deposit	Mid grey sandy clay (50/50) upper fill of [1]	
3	Deposit	Dark grey sandy clay (50/50) lower fill of [1]	
4	Cut	North-south ditch	Post-medieval
5	Deposit	Mid grey sandy clay (50/50) fill of [4]	
6	Cut	Modern 'dump'/pit	Modern
7	Deposit	Dark grey/black sand fill of [6]	
8	Cut	Pit	
9	Deposit	Light green grey silty sandy clay (10/30/60) fill of [8]	

Appendix 2: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
5	Pottery	2	0.012	Post-medieval
5	Ceramic tobacco pipe	2	0.008	Post-medieval
5	Bottle glass	1	-	Post-medieval
5	Window glass	1	-	Post-medieval
5	Iron curved flat artefact	1	-	Post-medieval or modern

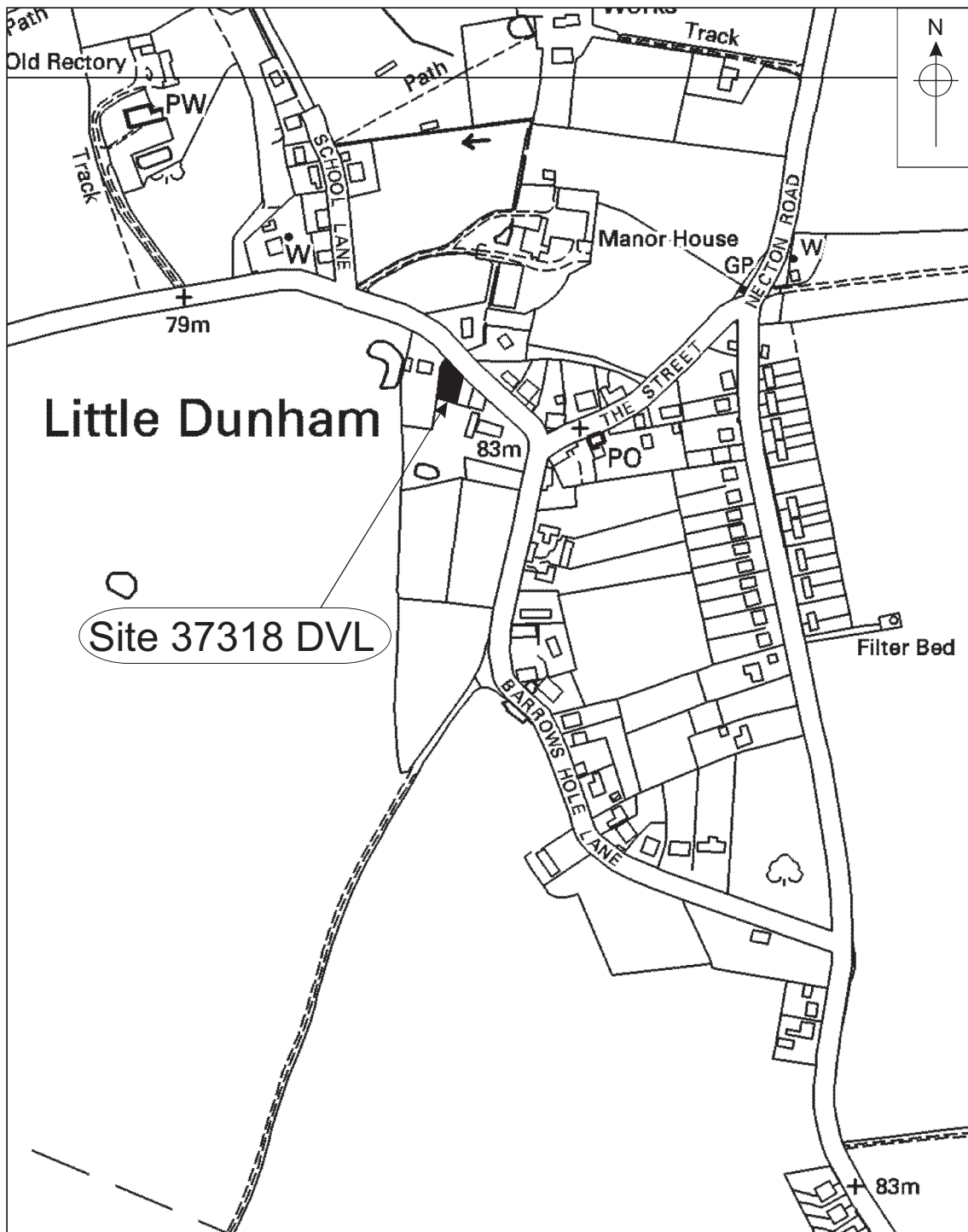
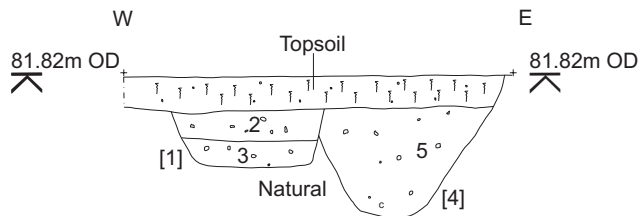


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1: 5000

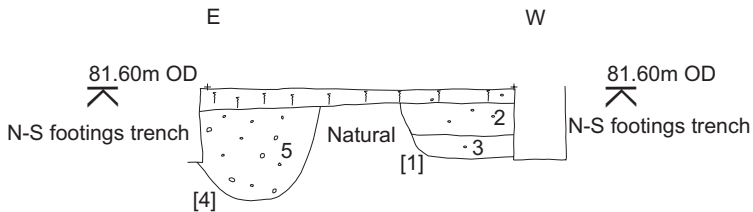


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1: 200

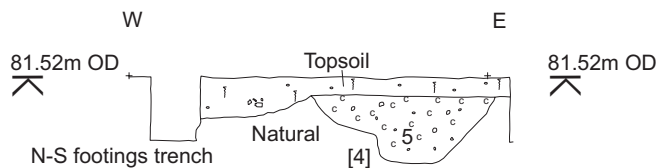
South-facing Section 1



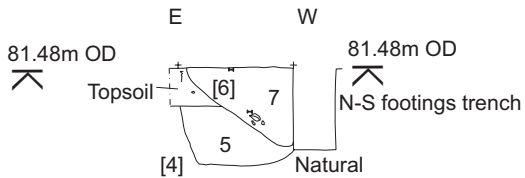
North-facing Section 2



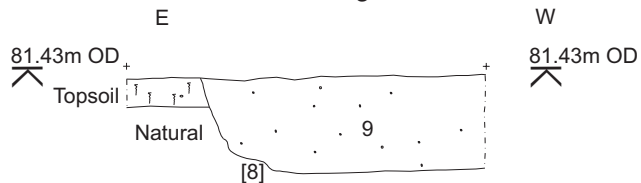
South-facing section 3



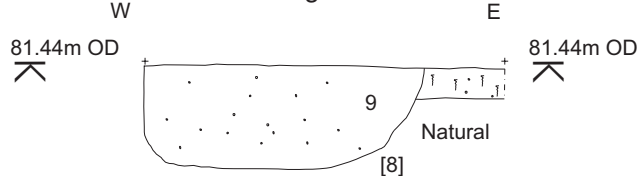
North-facing Section 4



North-facing Section 5



South-facing Section 6




Key
 Modern materials
 ie glass, plastic etc



Figure 3. Sections. Scale 1:50