

NAU ARCHAEOLOGY

Report No. 1160

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Bungalow
School Road, Bedingham Green, Norfolk**

43975 BED

John Ames, July 2006

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BAU 1242

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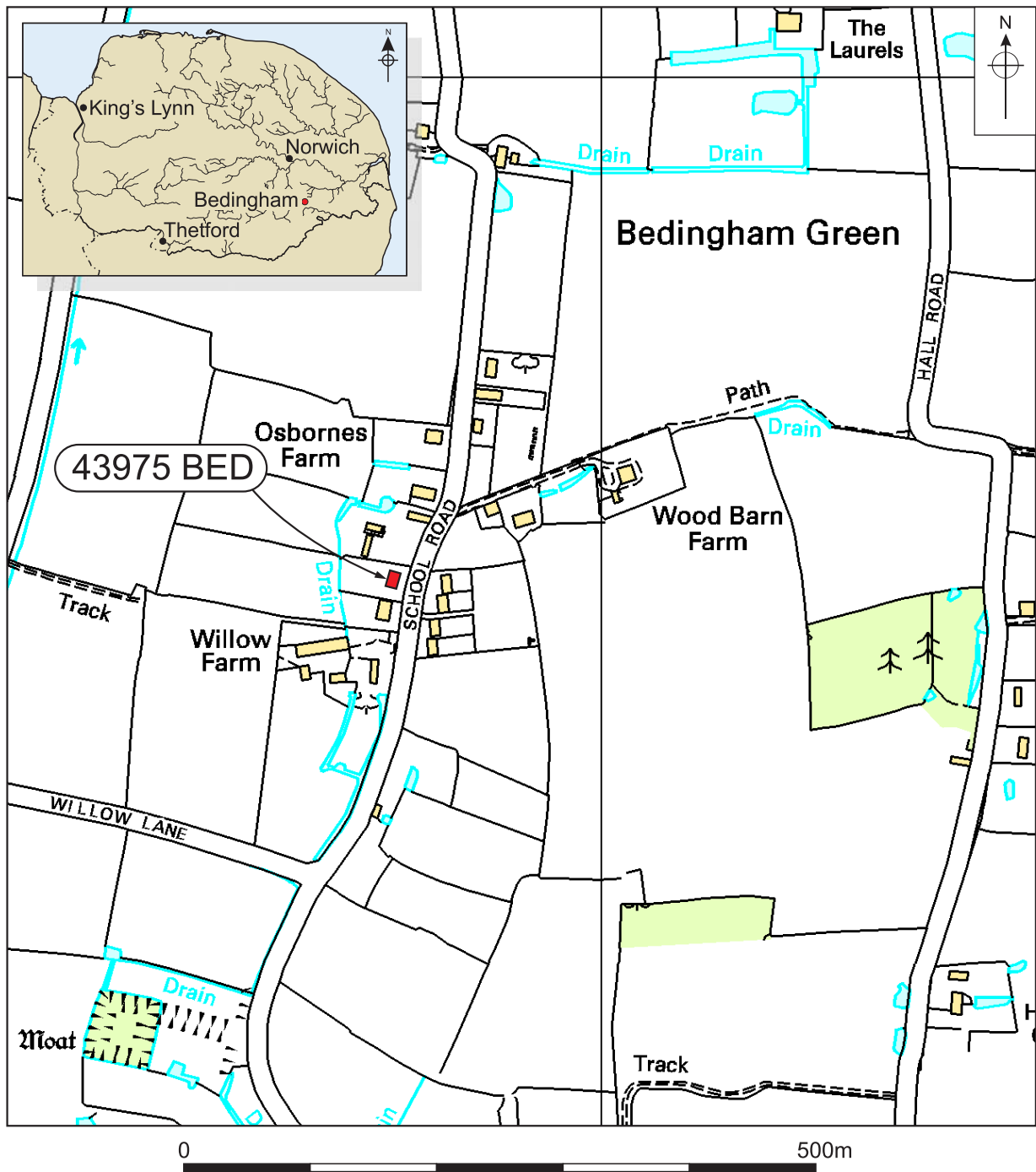


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

Local Authority No.100019340

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Location: Bedingham, Norfolk
District: South Norfolk
Grid Ref: TM 2884 9262
HER No.: 43975 BED
Date of fieldwork: 3rd March 2006

Summary

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the proposed development of a new dwelling at The Bungalow, School Road, Bedingham Green, Norfolk. A series of foundation trenches were excavated and revealed a probable post-medieval pit or a ditch terminus and a possible post-medieval make-up or levelling deposit.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

This archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ER/13/09/01). Whereas as part of the programme for the construction of a new dwelling it was requested that an archaeologist be present during the machining of the foundation trenches.

The watching brief was commissioned and funded by Mr R J Butler, No 1 The Old Coach House, Hainford, Norwich.

The Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards, currently hold the site archive.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site was located on the south-eastern extent of the north-to-south central Norfolk watershed boulder clay plateau. The site lay on the higher tracts of land within the parish that between 35m-to-40m OD. The topography slopes towards a shallow valley/watershed which is aligned north-west to south-east heading in the direction of Broome Beck and eventually discharging in the Waveney Valley.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site was located adjacent to the medieval common of Bedingham Green, an area of the historic landscape that has survived although many of the commons and greens within the parish were lost when the parliamentary enclosure act was imposed during the mid-to-late 18th century.

Other work in the village includes a watching brief undertaken on the foundations for a new garage (NHER 37397; Bates 2002). The watching brief found nothing of archaeological interest, except for a modern pit.

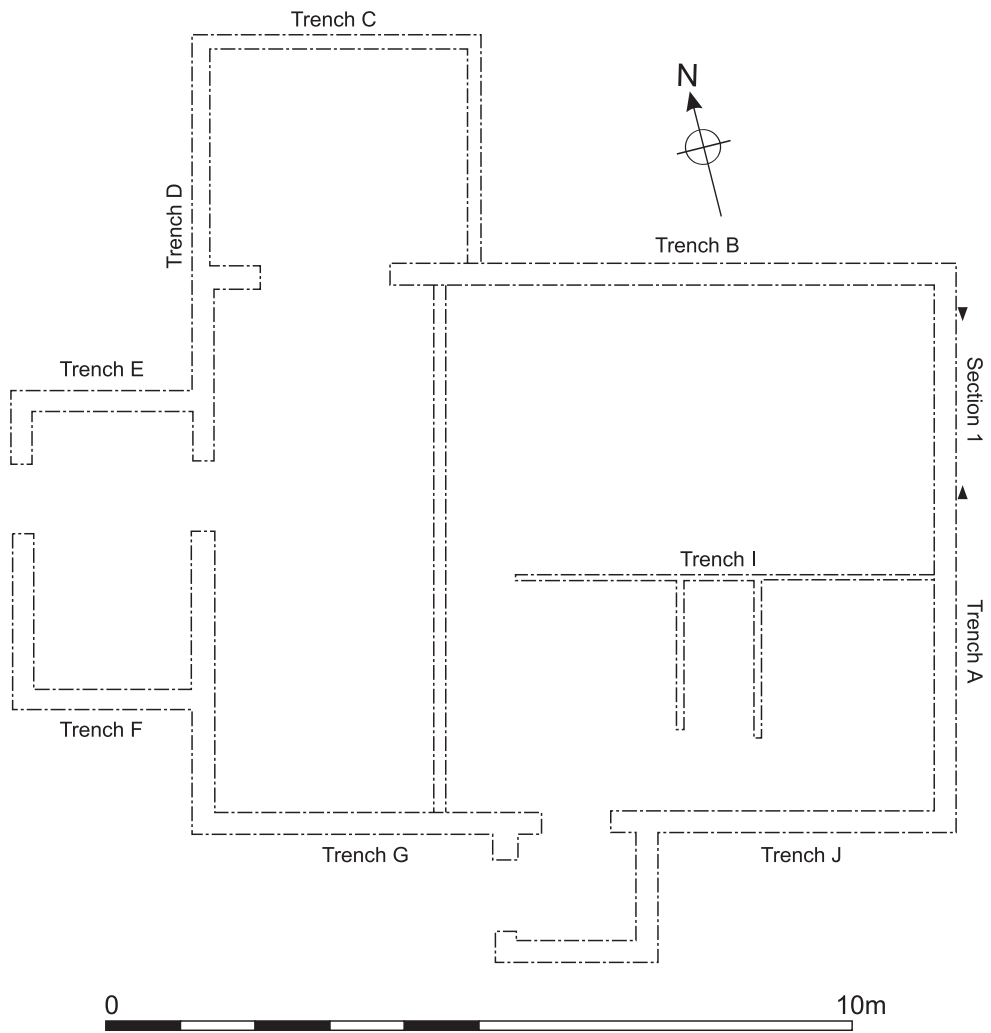


Figure 2. Ground floor plan of foundation trenches. Scale 1:100

4.0 Methodology

(Fig. 2)

The objective of this Watching Brief was to record archaeological remains revealed during the excavations of the foundation trenches. The contractors excavated the footing trenches using a JCB-type excavator to a depth between 0.80m-to-1.20m. The excavated material was loaded directly into a dump truck which was in-turn placed onto the spoil heap located at the western extent of the site. The spoil heap was a visually inspected as well as being metal detected. However, no finds were recovered and metal detecting was limited because of the amount of modern detritus.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology *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.

Site conditions were very good with clear access onto the site and around the foundation trenches. The weather conditions were favourable, although the sunny conditions cast shadows into the trenches making the photography problematic.

5.0 Results

(Fig. 3)

The topsoil ([01]) in this area measured between 0.20m and 0.30m in depth and consisted of mid brown sandy loam. The subsoil ([02]) measured 0.05-to-0.10m deep and consisted of light-to-mid clayey silty sand.

All of the foundation trenches were seen to cut through the topsoil ([01]) and modern make-up deposits ([03]). The make-up deposits ([03]) measured between 0.10m-to-0.40m deep and mainly consisted of brick/tile rubble. Below, the make-up deposits the foundation trenches cut through natural chalky boulder clay to a depth of 0.90m-to-1.20m from the present day ground level.

Pit or ditch terminus [04] (Fig 3: Section 1) was located in the north-eastern part of Trench A. The lack of any visible continuation of this feature ([04]) makes it more likely that it is a pit than a ditch. The feature was sealed by make-up deposit [03] and a probable redeposited natural ([05]), which comprised chalky clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. Deposit [05] measured 0.25m deep and may have acted as a capping fill, if so it is possible that the feature was a cesspit. Contained within feature [04] was very sticky dark grey silty clay ([06]) with frequent medium-to-large pieces of charcoal. Recovered from [06] were two fragments of green glazed Late medieval transitional ware and a clay tobacco pipe stem.

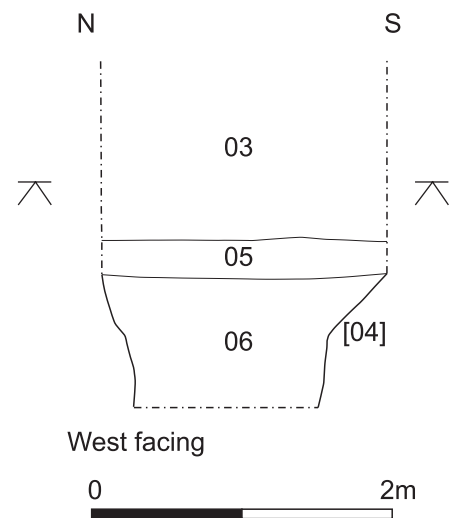


Figure 3. Section 1. Scale 1:50

A probable make-up or levelling deposit was recorded in Trench I. It measured c. 1.50m in length by 0.70 in depth and consisted of dark brown silty sand. Recovered from deposit [07] was a sherd of Frechen stoneware and fragment of post-medieval brick dating from the 18th to 19th centuries.

6.0 The Finds

by Lucy Talbot

The Pottery

Three sherds of post-medieval pottery dating from the 16th century were recovered (0.042kg). The assemblage consists of two Late medieval and transitional (LMT) body sherds, probably from a jug (0.018kg, [06]) and a single rim sherd of a Frechen stoneware mug (0.024kg, context [07]).

Ceramic Building Material

The site produced a single fragment of post-medieval brick dating from the 18th to 19th centuries, weighing 0.094kg. The fabric is grog tempered and poorly mixed.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single piece of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered (0.008kg).

7.0 Conclusions

The Watching Brief proved negative of ancient features therefore very little can be added to the archaeological understanding of the surrounding environs. However, the post-medieval pottery recovered from the pit or ditch terminus recorded in (Trench A) and the fragment of 18th- to 19th-century brick from (Trench I) has demonstrated cultural activity was taking place within the vicinity.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Butler for commissioning and funding the watching brief. Thanks are also given to Jan Allen of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) for supplying the Norfolk Historic and Environmental Records (NHER).

Lucy Talbot processed and analysed the finds. The author undertook the digitisation of plans and section. The report was illustrated and formatted by Julie Curl and edited by Alice Lyons.

Bibliography

Bates, S., 2002 *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at The Bungalow, School Road, Bedingham, Norfolk*, NAU Report 737 (unpublished)

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
01	Deposit	Topsoil	
02	Deposit	Subsoil	
03	Deposit	Make-up	
04	Cut	Pit or ditch terminus	Post-medieval
05	Deposit	Make-up or capping deposit	
06	Deposit	Fill of [4]	Post-medieval
07	Deposit	Make-up or levelling deposit	Post-medieval

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pit or termini ditch	1
	?Make-up or levelling deposit	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
06	Pottery (Late medieval and transitional ware)	2	0.018	Post-medieval
06	Clay tobacco pipe (stem)	1	0.008	Post-medieval
07	Pottery (Frechen stoneware)	1	0.024	Post-medieval
07	Brick	1	0.094	Post-medieval

Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pottery	3
	Clay tobacco pipe	1
	Fired clay	1

