

NAU Report № 1323

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, Norfolk

NHER 49125 BVM









Ben Hobbs March 2008

BAU 1615 © NAU Archaeology

www.nps.co.uk

NAU Archaeology

Report № 1323

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, Norfolk

NHER 49125 BVM

Ben Hobbs March 2008

BAU 1615

© NAU Archaeology

Projec	Date		
Project overseen by David Whitmore			
Draft complete	Ben Hobbs	28/01/2008	
Graphics complete	Michael Feather	11/02/2008	
Edit complete	Richard Hoggett	18/02/2008	
Signed off	Andy Hutcheson	27/02/2008	

NAU Archaeology Scandic House 85 Mountergate Norwich NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E andy.hutcheson@NPS.co.uk

www.NPS.co.uk

www.NAU.org.uk

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 1a: Context Summary

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

Appendix 3: Pottery

Appendix4: Faunal remains

Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench locations
- Fig. 3 Sections 1 and 2
- Fig. 4 Sections 3 to 6

Location:	9 Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, Norfolk
District:	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 8360 4177
HER No.:	49125 BVM
Dates of fieldwork:	18–20 and 26 June, 30 November and 3 December 2007

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by NAU Archaeology on land at Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, to monitor footing trenches and associated drainage works for a residential development. During this work a linear feature, likely to be a ditch, was observed in cross-section. The fill of this feature contained animal bone and a fragment of medieval pottery. The line of a second ditch was observed in the base of the footings. This ditch is thought to be a continuation of a Roman ditch located during an earlier phase of archaeological work. In addition to the location of these features, medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil, and two fragments of worked stone were recovered from the base of garden wall.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological watching brief was requested by Mr D. French of Richard CF Waite Architects, King's Lynn, in response to a Norfolk Landscape Archaeology brief requiring archaeological monitoring during groundworks for a residential development on land at 9 Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, Norfolk (NLA Ref. KH 17/05/07).

The area being monitored measured approximately 820m² and comprised the footing trenches for two sets of three cottages, each with associated drainage trenches. Two visits, six months apart, were made in order to monitor the separate areas of footing trenches (Figs 1 and 2).

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The underlying solid geology of the region is Upper Chalk. This is overlain by glacial boulder clay, mainly Lowestoft Till and other Anglian tills. The village of Burnham Market is located on Goose Beck, a tributary of the River Burn that rises to the south, traverses the centre of the parish and flows into the North Sea at Overy Marsh, where it deposits shingle and river gravels (Funnell 2005). The site is reasonably well drained and has an average elevation of 10m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within the former parish of Burnham Sutton, now a part of Burnham Market (Fig. 1). The area around Burnham Market of is one of great archaeological significance, having been settled since prehistoric times.

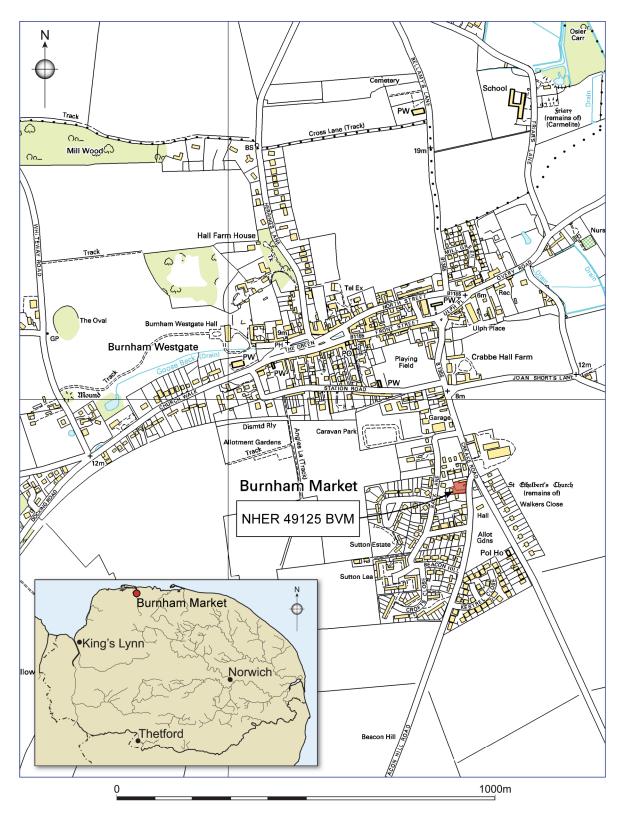


Figure 1 Site location

Local Authority No.100019340

This figure 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 (05/01/05). Reference copy - no further copies to be made.

We would draw your attention to the fact that the Copyright Designs and Patents Act will continue to apply to the Ordnance Survey map which will be subject to Crown copyright protection. The Ordnance Survey map is supplied for the sole purpose of assisting you to understand the information overlaid on it. Should you wish to use the information in any other way, for example by making multiple copies or issuing copies to the public, then please contact Ordnance Survey and they will advise you as to whether or not you will require a licence.' Ordnance Survey (01/01/05) Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Much of the evidence for past activity in Burnham Market, particularly its earliest phases, has come from artefacts recovered by surface collection and metaldetector survey.

Finds of Mesolithic worked flints are some of the earliest evidence found and suggest seasonal occupation of the region. Evidence for Neolithic and later prehistoric activity has also been recovered during fieldwalking in the area. Cropmarks of ring-ditches have been recorded in fields to the east of Burnham Market and may represent the remains of a Bronze Age linear barrow group (Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) 12789, 1020, 12787 and 12788).

There is good evidence for the presence of a settlement in Burnham Market during the Roman period, with Roman pottery being a common find in the locality. A probable Roman building and an inhumation have also been identified to the northeast of the modern village (Percival, forthcoming).

The available evidence suggests that by the Saxon period a settlement of some status and significance existed. The presence of high-quality metal finds, including imported artefacts, together with large quantities of pottery suggest that the area may have possessed a small trading post during the Middle Saxon period (Pestell 2003; Rogerson 2003).

The site lies opposite the ruins of Burnham Sutton's parish church (NHER 1755). It has been suggested that the dedication of this church to St Ethelbert, the East Anglian king martyred by Offa in AD 794, indicates a 9th-century origin for the church. Casual examination of the area immediately surrounding the church has produced quantities of pottery that may support this theory, but it must be remembered that a dedication may be applied many centuries after the death of the individual that it commemorates (NHER 1755).

Past archaeological work in Burnham Market has further demonstrated the extensive and multi-period nature of past activity in the area. The most pertinent work in the context of this site is an evaluation and subsequent full excavation that took place on the site of former allotments between Back Lane and Creake Road (NHER 32791). This produced evidence of a Romano-British co-axial ditched field-system, confirming the presence of significant activity in Burnham Market during this period (Percival, forthcoming). This excavation also revealed evidence of land-use during the subsequent Saxon and medieval periods (Crowson 1997). Further evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity came during a watching brief to the east of this site, which recovered Roman coins, pottery and ceramic building material (Ames 2003; NHER 37468). Roman finds were also recovered during building work at another property on Back Lane (NHER 39979).

Archaeological investigations on the site of the new village hall (on the opposite side of Beacon Hill Road to the current site) discovered a complex sequence of medieval deposits that contained evidence of iron working and possibly structural remains (Bates 2001; NHER 21281).

The most recent archaeological work on the site was an evaluation comprising three trenches excavated prior to the current programme of building work. The evaluation revealed evidence of a Roman boundary ditch and two Middle Saxon features with associated pottery, as well as Late Saxon or early medieval ditches. Further information on the historical context of the site is included in the evaluation report (Watkins 2007).

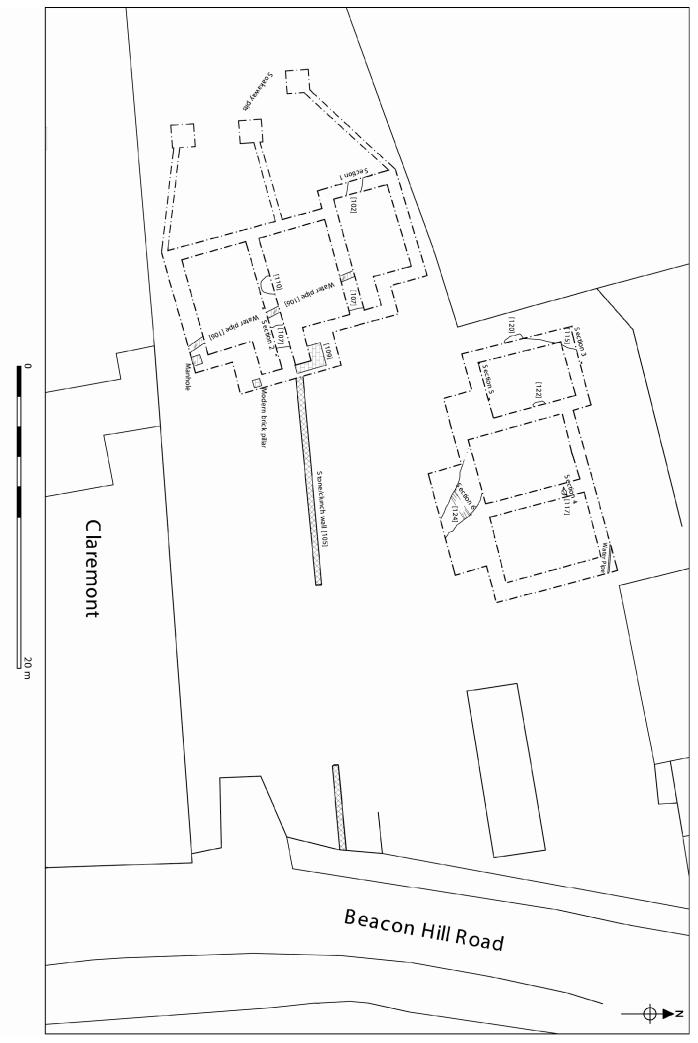


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:250.

The previous land use of the present site was as a garden and driveway serving a large bungalow that previously stood in the centre-west of the site. Prior to this, an east–west row of Victorian cottages stood on the eastern part of the site, a surviving wall of stone and clunch lay to the rear wall of these cottages. A garage, garden and outbuildings previously lay in the northern part of the site.

4.0 Methodology

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the machine excavation of two sets of footing trenches, to the west and north of the site, and three soakaway pits with associated drainage trenches (NLA Ref. KH 17/05/07).

The brief required that an archaeologist monitor all groundworks pertaining to the development, including foundation preparation and the digging of service trenches. In the light of the findings of the archaeological evaluation report, the brief stipulated that the depth of the footing trenches should be limited to 0.80m in the evaluated area. This was designed to mitigate the potential disturbance to known underlying archaeological deposits and features.

The building contractors utilised a tracked 360° excavator with an 0.80m-wide toothed bucket to excavate the footing trenches and the drainage features. Approximately 0.20m of topsoil had already been stripped from the working area of the western area prior to the excavation of the footings. Spoil was initially dumped near the footings of both areas and then subsequently removed to another location to provide working space within a somewhat cramped site.

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.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

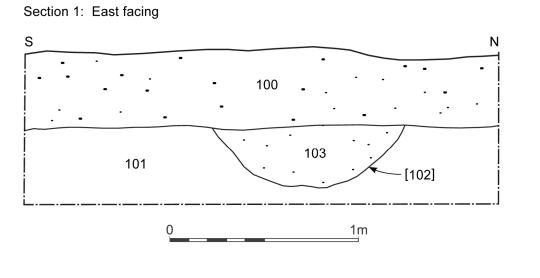
No environmental samples were taken.

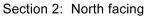
The weather during the watching brief was generally moderate and bright with one day of heavy rain causing some trench collapse in the western footings. Access to the site was from Beacon Hill Road.

5.0 Results

5.1 Western House footings

Excavation of the footing trenches began at the western end of a clunch stone wall that ran from the eastern end of the site against Beacon Hill Road (Fig. 2). The footings comprised four east–west and two north–south trenches, with extra excavation for a porch. The footings were on average 0.85m wide and had an overall depth of 0.80m.





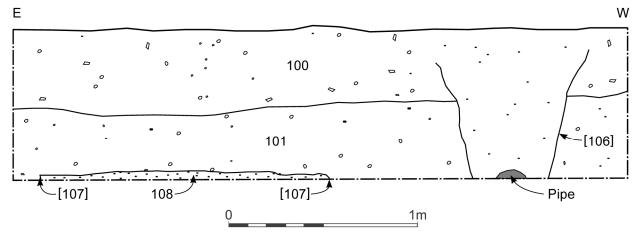


Figure 3 Sections 1 and 2

The ground was observed to have already been disturbed by the presence of the bungalow that had previously stood on the site. In the western, central and north-western trenches thick blocks of concrete foundation had to be broken out or cut through prior to the excavation of the trenches to the required depth.

The topsoil was a dark brown, loose organic loam containing small to medium stones and fragments of building rubble and roof tile [100]. This was probably a modern garden soil, possibly used to make up the ground level, and it covered the majority of the site to an average depth of 0.40m.

Beneath the topsoil was a 0.30m-thick, mid-grey-brown, sand silt subsoil, containing occasional small stones and fragments of charcoal and brick [101]. At the base of the footing trenches an orange-brown sand and gravel [104] was exposed, deemed suitable as a formation level for the intended concrete footings.

The presence of disturbed ground and the remains of concrete foundations from the recently demolished dwelling created a general instability in the sides of the trenches that prevented safe access to the footings. At the base of the western end of the clunch wall [105] two fragments of reused worked stone were uncovered serving as part of the foundation of the wall. One fragment appeared to be piece of window tracery or an arch with a central groove and a cut sloping top flanked by chamfered faces. The other stone had no decorated faces, but was also cut for use in construction. Both stones were retained. Two pieces of worked stone had also been found associated with the wall during the previous archaeological evaluation phase of the site.

A linear feature [102] was observed in the east-facing section of the footings in the north-western corner of the site, running roughly north-west to south-east (Fig. 3, Section 1). This was approximately 1m wide and 0.30m deep with a concave base at the bottom of the section within the subsoil. Its fill was a mid grey-brown sandy silt containing several small stones and flecks of charcoal [103]. One sherd of pottery and three fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill.

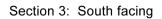
In the southern-central east–west trench, a modern rubbish pit [110] was observed in the south-facing section just below the surface (Fig. 2). Measuring approximately 1m in diameter, its fill contained enamelled iron and tin fragments as well as glass bottles and other domestic refuse [111]. Material from this pit was not retained.

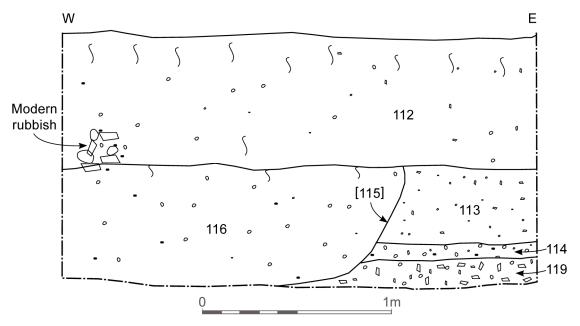
The sections of the east–west trenches revealed the cut of a modern water pipe [106] that was seen running across the site from south-east to north-west (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Section 2). In the south-eastern corner of the footings the cut of a modern manhole had truncated the subsoil to the base of the trench (Fig. 2).

In the central east–west trench a darker deposit to the east of the pipe cut was observed in the bottom of the north-facing trench section and in the base of the trench at a depth of 0.80m from the surface (Fig. 3, Section 2). This appeared to be a linear feature [107] running north–south with a visible width of approximately 1.5m. This feature was identified as a ditch containing Roman pottery that was exposed in trial trench 1 during the archaeological evaluation carried out previously on the site (Watkins 2007).

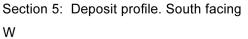
The fill of this feature was a compact mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt containing occasional small stones [108]. A similar deposit was observed in the base of the footing trench to the north-east where the western edge of the feature was exposed but the eastern edge was presumed to be concealed under the eastern section of the trench (Fig. 2). The eastern edge of the feature may have also been truncated by the modern brick tank lying to the east. In the south-eastern corner of the footings, deposits lying on the likely alignment of the feature had been disturbed by the manhole and water pipe cuts and no trace of the linear feature could be discerned in this area.

No dating evidence was recovered from the spoil removed from the area of the linear feature, despite being searched by hand and scanned with a metal-detector. No hand excavation was undertaken as the depth of the feature had already been recorded during the evaluation phase. Furthermore, any disturbance of the integrity of the trench base would have affected the compaction required for the concrete footings and would have led to additional machine excavation of the feature.





Section 4: South facing W E 118 [117] 0.5m



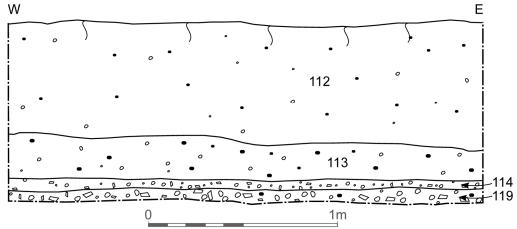


Figure 4 Sections 3 to 5

In the eastern portion of the footings, to the west of the bottom of the clunch wall, an area of modern brickwork [109] was uncovered at the base of the trench (Fig. 2). This extended to the west under the trench section, was rectangular and measured approximately 2m by 1.5m.

The tank was constructed of brick with steel shuttering to form a container, possibly an old septic tank. The base of the structure comprised a single layer of 0.12m-thick bricks and was broken out by the machine to expose the underlying subsoil required for foundation level.

Approximately 2.5m to the south-east of the brick tank was a single brick-built pillar, approximately 0.50m square (Fig. 2). This and the brick tank may have been associated with the row of Victorian cottages that had previously stood on the site. Both brick features were removed in the course of the excavations.

No other features were observed within the sections or base of the remainder of the western footing trenches.

5.2 Soakaway pits

Further excavation was undertaken to the west of the main area of footings where three soakaway pits were required as part of the drainage for the development (Fig. 2). The pits measured 1.5m x 1.5m and were excavated to an average depth of 2m.

The sections of each pit were similar and exposed 0.8m of dark grey-brown organic silt topsoil [100]. Being located to the west of the previous building's foundations it would seem that this increased depth of topsoil primarily comprised garden soil. The topsoil overlaid an average 0.40m depth of grey-brown sandy-silt subsoil [101]. At the base of each hole 0.80m of natural orange gravel/sand was exposed [104]. No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed in the sections or in the spoil of the pits. The soakaway pits are eventually to be filled with graded shingle to assist drainage and backfilled.

Three drainage ditches, 0.45m wide, were excavated to the east to connect the footings with the soakaways. These were excavated to an average depth of 0.55m, which was consistently within the depth of modern topsoil in this area of the site.

5.3 Northern house footings

The footings for the set of three cottages to the north of the site were located close to an existing cottage in the north-eastern corner (Fig. 2). The area had previously been occupied by a garage and sheds. Two mature conifers had also being removed.

Similar in design to those in the western area, the footings consisted of four trenches running north–south and two running east–west with a lager area excavated for a porch. At the time of this monitoring visit the new cottages in the western area of the site had been built and part of the western end of the stone/clunch wall had been demolished for access.

The trenches were on average 0.85m wide for the main external walls and 0.75m wide for the internal walls. The depth of the trenches from the surface varied from between 0.80m to 0.90m in the south and east and 1.3m in the north and west. The topsoil in this half of the site had not initially been stripped as it was to the

west and the slight slope running from west to east accounted for the greater depth of trenching in the northern and north-western footings. In addition, in the north-eastern corner of the footings, close to the existing house, excavation of the underlying natural subsoil was deepened to 1.2m to expose a water pipe (Fig. 2).

The topsoil in the northern area was much the same as had been encountered in the west area, a mid-brown sandy silt garden soil containing moderate flints and roots [112].

The depth of topsoil varied along the trenches, but was on average 0.50m to 0.70m thick. This overlaid a fairly consistent subsoil deposit of orange sand and gravel to the base of the trench [113]. Along the south-facing section of the northernmost trench a 0.10m-thick line of pale yellow sand and gravel subsoil [114] was observed to be sandwiched between the subsoil and underlying orange natural sand [119]. This deposit was also observed within other sections of the trenches, notably at the base of the south-facing section of the southern trench (Fig. 4, Section 5).

Two modern rubbish pits, [120] and [122], were uncovered during the excavation of the footings in the western half of the site. These pits contained old footwear, bottles and fragments of iron and tinned metal.

In the north-western corner area of the footings a dark silt was observed in the east-facing section and in the base of the trench. The machine excavation of the south-facing section revealed the edge of a linear feature, [115], cut through the subsoil almost to the base of the trench and likely to be a ditch (Fig. 4, Section 3). The cut, representing the eastern edge of the feature as observed in the south-facing section, was concave, the base of the feature was just visible in the sand and gravel subsoil at the base of the trench [119]. The cut appeared to begin at the base of the topsoil, which at this point was 0.70m thick, and the depth of the feature visible in the section was approximately 0.50m.

The fill of cut [115] was a mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt containing moderate small stones and flints with roots in its upper portion [116]. In the topsoil, close to the interface with the fill in the north-western corner of the trench, were several fragments of modern refuse such as fabric and tinned metal. One fragment of dark grey pottery was recovered from approximately midway down the fill, but no other artefactual evidence was observed during the excavations. The remnants of the fill of feature [115] were partially observed in the base of the trench and in the east-facing section of the footing. The fill extended for approximately 3.5m along the east-facing section, where it was obscured by the modern rubbish dump [120]. The fill did not appear in the section after this point (Fig. 2).

A small circular feature, [117], was revealed in the base of the central north–south trench. This was 0.35m in diameter, 0.12m deep and contained a mid-brown sandy silt fill [118] (Fig. 4, Section 4). One fragment of green glazed pottery was recovered from this feature.

In the south-western area of the footings was an irregular linear feature [124] running roughly north-west to south-east (Fig. 2). The feature was approximately 2.5m wide at its northern end, narrowing to 1.2m wide at its southern end. It contained a shallow, grey-brown sandy-silt fill [125] containing occasional small stones (Fig. 5, Section 6). The upper portion of the feature had been somewhat truncated by the machining. The northern and southern ends of the feature were

barely visible in the sections of the trench. No finds were recovered from this feature to provide dating evidence. No other features of archaeological interest were observed within the remainder of the footings.

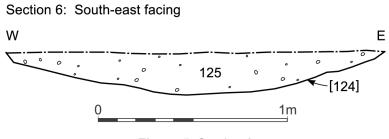


Figure 5 Section 6

Two soakaway pits are to be excavated in the driveway to the south of the site at a later date. These are designed to be within the location of evaluation trench 2 and so would not be disturbing fresh ground. It was therefore decided by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology that it was not required that these excavations should be monitored by an archaeologist.

6.0 The Finds

6.1 Pottery

By Lucy Talbot

Eight fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery weighing 0.418kg were recovered from two contexts in the western part of the site. In the northern part of the site four fragments of pottery from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods weighing 0.121kg were recovered from three contexts.

Methodology

The assemblage was quantified (counted and weighed) by form and fabric (see Appendix 3). Identification of the fabrics was based on the typology of Norwich ceramics established by Jennings (Jennings 1981).

Roman

A single body sherd of 1st–4th century storage jar weighing 0.094kg was recovered from context [116]. The sherd is of a coarse sandy fabric with a dark grey outer surface and red oxidised inner surface. Coarse inclusions consist of fine, crushed and burnt flint, quartz and sparse mica. This fabric can be indicative of Romano-British greyware type pottery.

Medieval

Three fragments (0.032kg) of local medieval unglazed pottery were collected from two contexts, [100] and [103]. The material, of 13th- to 14th-century date, consists of a single cooking pot rim [100] and two body sherds [100] and [103].

The site also produced a single body sherd (0.005kg) of late 12th- to 14th-century green glazed Grimston type ware from context [118].

Post-medieval

The topsoil [100] produced four sherds of a German 'Apollinaris' stoneware mineral water bottle and the mouth of an English stoneware storage jar (0.399kg).

Both types of pottery date from the mid to late 19th century. A single sherd of glazed red earthenware (0.004kg) and a fragment of iron-glazed black ware (0.018kg) from topsoil context [112]. Both fragments are undiagnostic body sherds and are of 16th-to 18th-century date.

6.2 The Faunal Remains

By Julie Curl

Methodology

The bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present and the amount of material that could produce measurable, ageable bone. The bone was scanned to determine if evidence for bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded.

Where possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies.

Counts and weights were noted for each context and for each species identified. All information was directly input into an Excel spreadsheet for analysis. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included as Appendix 4.

The assemblage

A total of 0.058kg of faunal remains was recovered from ditch fill [103]. The material comprised a chopped and cut cattle rib, and the butchered remains of a sheep/goat pelvis and tibia. Although fragmentary, the bone is in good condition.

Conclusions

This is a very small assemblages that represents butchering and food waste from domestic animals. The bones came from the fill of a ditch that contained medieval pottery, although the bones cannot be accurately dated to this period and may represent later backfilling.

6.3 Worked Stones

By Neil Moss

Methodology

Four fragments of architectural masonry have been recovered from the site, two from the evaluation phase (context [20]) and two from this watching brief [105]. The stones were measured, drawn and recorded on NAU Archaeology masonry recording pro forma. Two pieces of stone had identifiable moulding styles.

The two pieces of worked stone recovered from the evaluation phase had previously been described briefly in the evaluation report (Watkins 2007), but were examined again here in association with the stone recovered during the watching brief.

The assemblage

The two blocks of masonry from context [20] were identified as being part of a splayed reveal and a fragment of a quoin. The architectural styles of these

fragments could not be determined, but both were tentatively dated to the 13th century in association with the stones from context [105].

The splayed reveal is of oolitic, Barnack, limestone from Lincolnshire. The piece is 0.35m long, 0.20m wide and 0.26m thick. The surface shows light weathering and diagonal axe tooling on the mating surface. The stone is faced on two upper sides, one edge and one underside. This type of stone was used for church architecture from the 13th century until the latter half of the 15th century, during which time the supply of Caen stone from France was disrupted (Ayers 1990).

The quoin is also of oolitic Barnack limestone. It is a squared block, 0.31m long, 0.21m wide and 0.185m thick. The surface shows light weathering with diagonal tooling on one face. The other sides are worn and any facing has been worn away.

The two blocks of masonry from context [105] were a section of springer and a fragment of tracery or window surround, both of 13th-century Early English style. Again, both are of oolitic Barnack limestone.

The fragment of springer is a hollow, chamfered section with a rebate to the reverse. It is worked on all upper faces as well as the two sides. It is part of a door arch moulding and would have been located immediately above the capital. It shows moderate weathering on all surfaces. The fragment is 0.33m long, 0.24m thick and 0.20m wide at the widest point and 0.135m at the narrowest point.

The section of tracery or window surround is a curved, hollow, chamfered block with a central narrow groove between the chamfers. It is 0.32m long, 0.215m wide and 0.160m thick. The block exhibits light weathering with some axe tooling marks on mating surfaces.

Conclusions

Given that the assemblage is composed of matching stone type it is reasonable to conclude that all four pieces are from the same source. Two potential sites in the local area could have been the source:

Approximately 1km to the north-east of the site the priory church of St Mary, Burnham Norton, now a ruin, had a 13th-century tower which was partially rebuilt in the 15th century when Y-tracery was inserted into the bell openings. Further restoration in 1878–9 by Frederick Preedy replaced tracery in the east window and removed the upper storey of the porch (Pevsner and Wilson 2000). This work may have produced fragments of masonry that were utilised by contemporary or later builders.

Opposite the current site is the now ruinous church of St Ethelbert in the parish of Burnham Sutton (NHER 1755). With the amalgamation of the parishes of Burnham Sutton and Burnham Ulph in 1422 the status of the church was reduced and it eventually fell into disrepair. It was demolished in 1771. The surviving church ruins are mainly 15th century, but it also has surviving traces of Norman work.

7.0 Conclusions

The earlier evaluation of the site revealed that a large ditch of probable Roman date ran north–south across the site roughly in the centre of the area of house footings. This ditch was subsequently relocated during the excavation of the footings in this area and possibly also further to the north during the current watching brief. Although the eastern edge of the feature was located, no further artefactual evidence was obtained from the exposed fill. The watching brief revealed no further evidence for Roman occupation. No other features identified during the earlier evaluation were observed within the area of the footing trenches, either in the western or northern areas of footing trenches.

The linear feature seen in the north-western part of the western footings contained animal bone and a single sherd of 13th–14th-century pottery. The feature cannot be ascribed a medieval date from this evidence alone and it remains a possibility that it is post-medieval ditch containing residual material.

The holes for the soakaways produced no evidence of archaeological features.

Within the northern footing trenches three features of archaeological interest were uncovered: a small pit containing one sherd of green glazed medieval pottery, a shallow gully, and a ditch. The only other features revealed were two modern rubbish pits dug into the topsoil.

The only evidence of the features located within this northern area during the earlier evaluation (trench 3) was the shallow gully cut [124], which appears to be the continuation of a feature found earlier. Although no dating material was recovered from this feature during the watching brief, earlier evidence suggests it is Late Saxon or early medieval in date. The lack of re-exposed features in the northern area of the evaluation trench is probably due to the slightly reduced depth of footings in this area.

The ditch cut [115] appears to be of roughly the same alignment as the line of the Roman ditch [107] located in the western footings and may be a continuation of this feature. The single sherd of Roman pottery found in the fill of this feature perhaps strengthens this assertion.

Either of the two churches in the vicinity of the site may be the source of the stonework utilised in the construction of the wall located on the present site. The ruins of St Ethelbert's are the nearest source of building stone. The wall is not depicted on the Tithe map of 1848, although it is depicted on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of the 1880s, implying that is was constructed between these dates. Given that restoration work on the priory church of St Mary was being carried out in 1878–9 it is also possible that the re-used masonry originated from there.

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to landowner, Julian Rivet, and the building contractors from Kingsley Building Groundworks for their interest and assistance during the watching brief. The finds were processed and assessed by Lucy Talbot, Julie Curl and Neil Moss. The report was edited by Richard Hoggett.

Bibliography

Ames, J.	2003	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hornbeam, Back Lane, Burnham Market. NAU Report 801, unpublished.	
Ayers, B.	1990	'Building a Fine City: The Provision of Flint, Mortar and Freestone in Medieval Norwich' in Parsons, D. (ed.) <i>Stone-quarrying and</i> <i>Building in England AD 43–1525.</i> London: Phillimore/Royal Archaeological Institute. 217–27.	
Bates, S.	2001	Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at The New Village Hall, Burnham Market. NAU Report 565, unpublished.	
Crowson, A.	1997	Evaluation Excavation of Allotment Gardens, Creake Road, Burnham Market. NAU Report 284, unpublished.	
Davis, S.	1992	A Rapid Method for Recording Information About Mammal Bones from Archaeological Sites. English Heritage AML Report 71/92.	
Funnell, B.	2005	'The Geology' in Ashwin, T. and Davison, A. (eds) <i>An Historical Atlas of Norfolk</i> . Chichester, Phillimore. 4–5.	
Jennings, S.	1981	<i>Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich</i> . East Anglian Archaeology 13.	
Percival, S.	Forthcoming	Rural Economy in North West Norfolk: Romano-British, Saxon and Medieval Agricultural Activity at Creake Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk. East Anglian Archaeology.	
Pestell, T.	2003	'The Afterlife of 'Productive' Sites in East Anglia' in Pestell and Ulmschneider (eds) <i>Markets in Early Medieval Europe.</i> Macclesfield, Windgather Press. 122–37.	
Pevsner, N. and Wilson, B.	2000	<i>The Buildings of England, Norfolk 2: North-West and South.</i> London: Penguin Books.	
Rogerson, A.	2003	'Six Middle Anglo-Saxon Sites in West Norfolk' in Pestell and Ulmschneider (eds) <i>Markets in Early Medieval Europe</i> . Macclesfield, Windgather Press. 110–21.	
Watkins, P.	2007	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Beacon Hill Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk. NAU Report 1237, unpublished.	

Context	Category	Description	Period
100	Deposit	Topsoil	-
101	Deposit	Subsoil	Post-medieval
102	Cut	Ditch	?Medieval
103	Deposit	Fill of [102]	-
104	Deposit	Subsoil	-
105	Deposit	Clunch wall	Post-medieval
106	Cut	Water pipe cut	Modern
107	Cut	Ditch	Roman
108	Deposit	Fill of [106]	-
109	Deposit	Brick tank	Modern
110	Cut	Rubbish pit	Modern
111	Deposit	Fill of [110]	-
112	Deposit	Topsoil	-
113	Deposit	Subsoil	-
114	Deposit	Subsoil	-
115	Cut	Ditch cut	?Romano-British
116	Deposit	Fill of [115]	-
117	Cut	Shallow pit	?Medieval
118	Deposit	Fill of [117]	-
119	Deposit	Sand/gravel	Geological
120	Cut	Rubbish pit	Modern
121	Deposit	Fill of [120]	-
122	Cut	Rubbish pit	Modern
123	Deposit	Fill of [122]	-
124	Cut	Gully	?Early medieval
125	Deposit	Fill of [124]	-

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Roman (AD 42 to 409)	Ditch	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539)	Ditch	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900)	Wall	1
Modern (1900 to 2050)	Pit	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
100	Pottery	7	0.418	Medieval/Post-medieval
103	Pottery	1	0.013	Medieval
103	Animal bone	-	0.058	-
112	Pottery	2	0.022	Post-medieval
116	Pottery	1	0.094	Roman
118	Pottery	1	0.005	Medieval

Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539)	Pottery	4
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900)	Pottery	7
Roman (AD 42 to 409)	Pottery	1

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Object Date
100	LMU	Cooking pot rim	1	0.012	13th to 14th century
100	LMU	Body sherd	1	0.007	13th to 14th century
100	GSW	Bottle mouth	1	0.147	19th century
100	GSW	Bottle body sherds	3	0.174	19th century
100	ESW	Storage jar mouth	1	0.078	19th century
103	LMU	Body sherd	1	0.013	13th to 14th century
112	IGBW	Body sherd	1	0.018	16th to 18th century
112	GRE	Body sherd	1	0.004	16th to 18th century
116	RBGW	Body sherd	1	0.094	1st to 4th century AD
118	GRIM	Body sherd	1	0.005	Late 12th to 14th century
		TOTAL	12	0.552	

Key: LMU

Key:LMULate medieval unglazed wareGSWGerman StonewareESWEnglish StonewareGRIMGrimston type wareIGBWIron-glazed red earthenwareCREClazed red earthenware

GRE Glazed red earthenware

RBGW Romano-British Greyware

Appendix 4: Faunal Remains

Contex t	Total context weight (kg)	Total context quantity	Species	Spp. qty	Age	Comments
103	0.058	3	Cattle	1	Adult	Chopped/cut rib
			Sheep/Goa t	2	Juvenil e	Chopped/cut pelvis; tibia