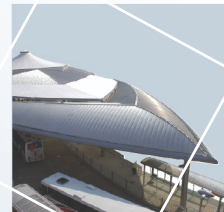


Report № 1902

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
the new Duck-rearing Building,
Shelfanger Hall, Norfolk**

NHER 51599



Helen Stocks

August 2008

BAU1902

© NAU Archaeology



NAU ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project overseen by	David Whitmore	
Draft completed	Helen Stocks	01/08/2008
Graphics completed	Michael Feather	01/08/2008
Edit completed	Richard Hoggett	11/08/2008
Signed off	David Whitmore	12/08/2008

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Observations	1
3.0 Conclusions	3
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	3
Appendix 1: Context Summary	7

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Trench location

Location:	Shelfanger Hall, Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TG 1012 8823
HER No.:	51599
Dates of Fieldwork:	18–30 June 2008

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a duck-rearing building on land at Shelfanger Hall, Norfolk. An area of 94m by 23.70m was stripped to a maximum depth of 0.30m causing no disturbance to archaeological deposits. Excavation of 34 foundation pads around the edge of the stripped area revealed no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological watching brief was carried out on arable land to the north-west of existing farm buildings at Shelfanger Hall (Figs 1 and 2). The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during excavation for the footings of a farm building.

An area 94m by 23.7m was stripped to a maximum depth of 0.30m using an 11-tonne 360° excavator with a 1.8m bucket. Thirty-four foundation pads, each measuring 1.2m by 1m, were excavated to a depth of 0.90m along the edges of the building using a 7-tonne 360° excavator with a 0.9m bucket (Fig. 2). Two drainage trenches 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep were excavated, one at each end of the stripped area. A series of smaller drainage trenches were also dug between every second foundation pad. Each of these was approximately 2m long, 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by the Planning Authority, South Norfolk District Council and in accordance with an instruction from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The watching brief and this report were funded by Peter Davidson Ltd.

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.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the NAU Archaeology pro forma. Where necessary, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.0 Observations

Machine stripping of the area affected by the building was carried out to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The only deposit disturbed by this stripping was the topsoil, a dark brownish-grey, silty clay (01).

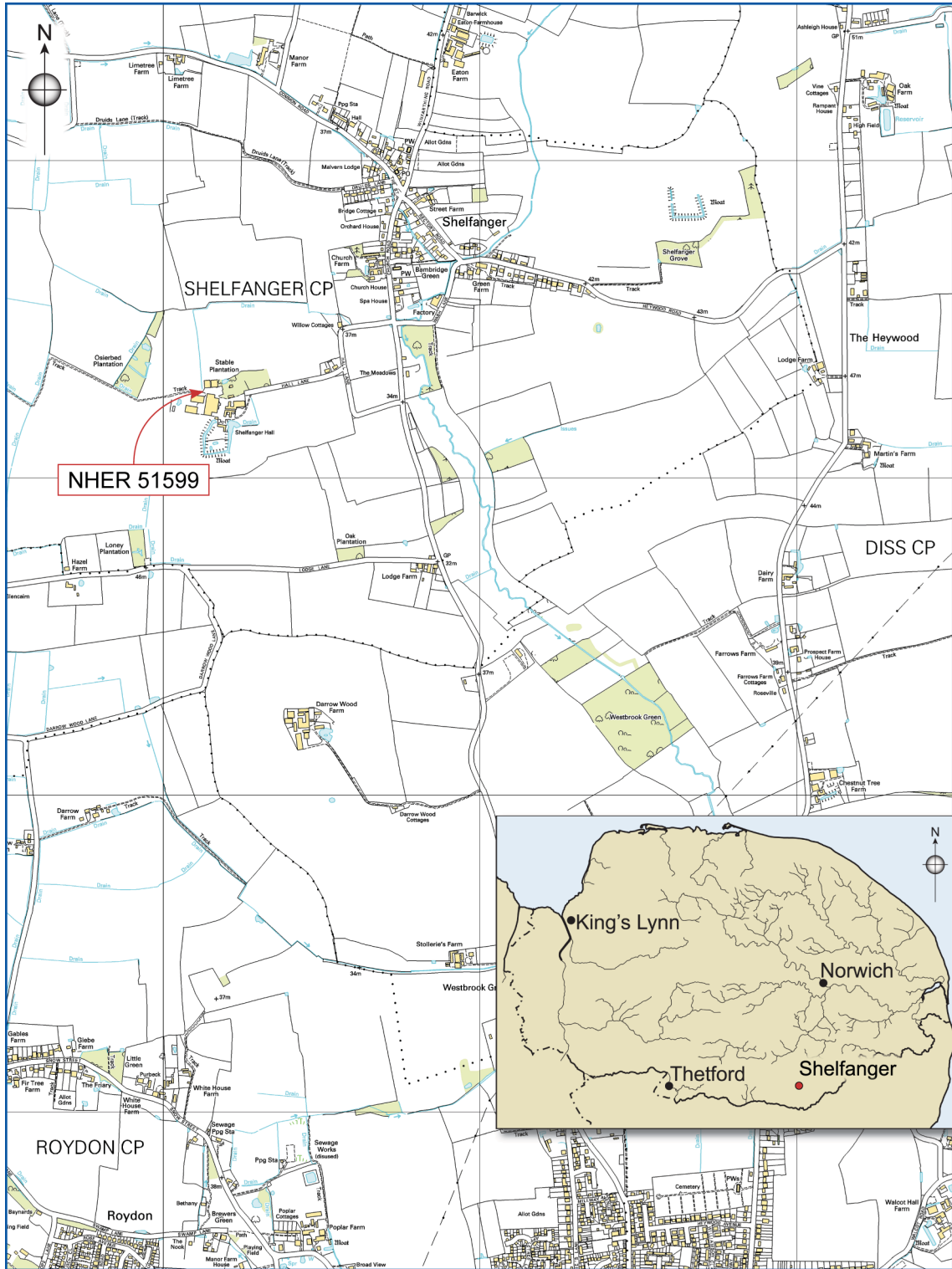


Figure 1 Site location

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.

In the hole excavated for foundation pad 12 an early 20th-century ceramic field-drain was discovered at a depth of 0.56 metres (Fig. 2). In the hole excavated for foundation pad 27 an early 20th-century field drain was present to a depth of 0.54 metres. Excavation of the other 32 foundation pads revealed topsoil to an average depth of 0.35 metres (01). Underlying this was a natural deposit of mid-blue-grey clay containing occasional flint nodules (02).

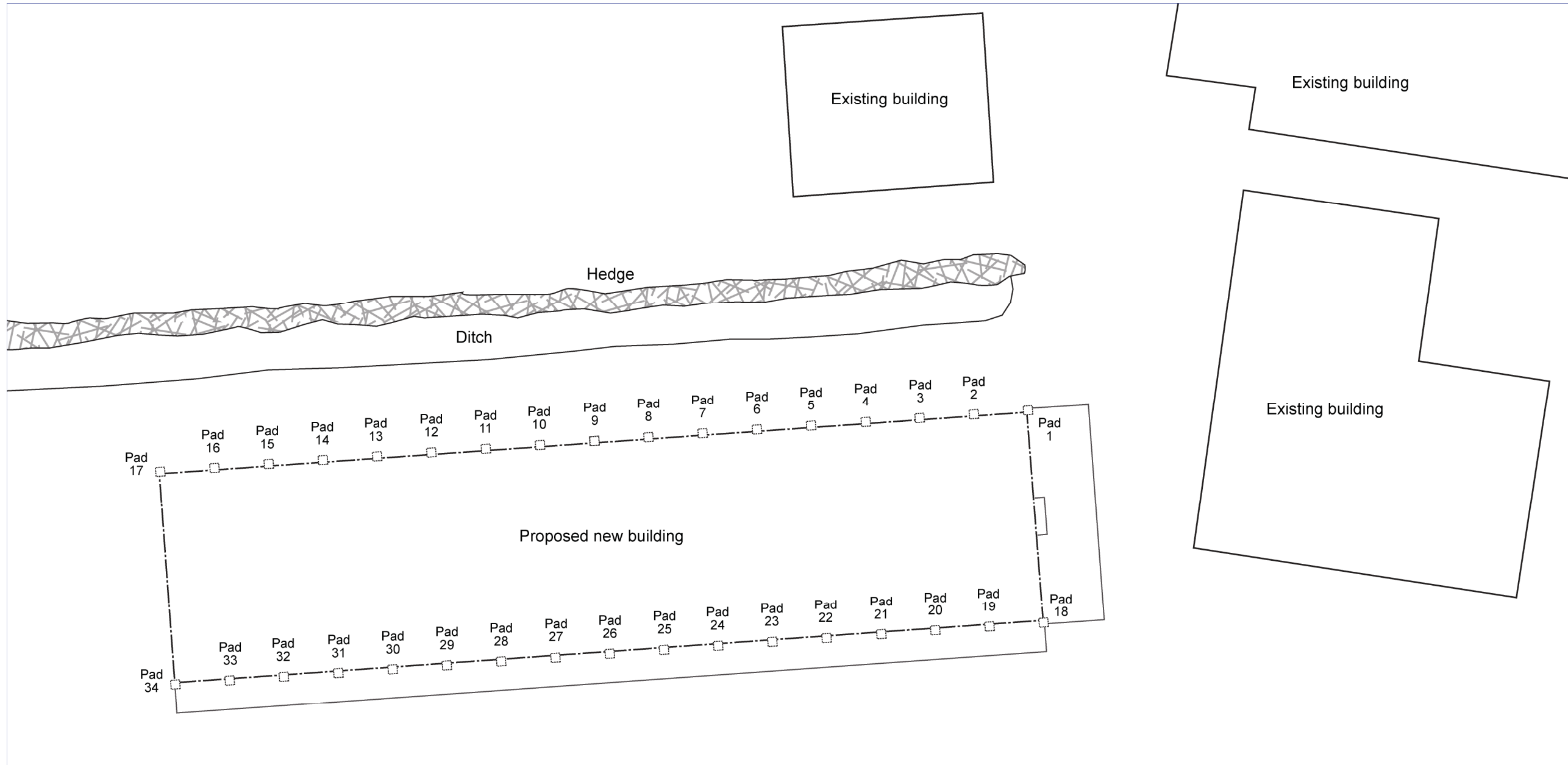
Excavation of the drainage trenches around the circumference of the building revealed the same sequence of up to 0.4m of topsoil (1) overlying natural clay (2).

3.0 Conclusions

The archaeological supervision of the groundworks was undertaken successfully and no archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during the stripping of the area. With the exception of two modern field-drains, the excavation of the foundation pads revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Ben Hobbs, who carried out part of the fieldwork, Michael Feather for preparing the illustrations and to Richard Hoggett for editing the report.



0 30m

Figure 2 Trench location

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
01	Topsoil layer	Dark brownish-grey, silty clay, occasional chalk flecks, dense and sticky.	Modern
02	Natural	Mid-blue-grey clay, occasional flint nodules, moderate chalk nodules, dense and sticky.	Geological