



Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:100

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No 981

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Tanyard Cottage (formerly Period Cottage),
Marsh Lane, New Buckenham,
Norfolk.**

9200 BVC

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September 2004

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Location: Tanyard Cottage (formerly Period Cottage), Marsh Lane,
New Buckenham
District: Breckland
Grid Ref: TM 0871 9032
HER No.: 9200 BVC
Date of fieldwork: 30 August 2001

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works in advance of the construction of a new garage in the front garden of Tanyard Cottage, New Buckenham. The ground level was lowered by up to 0.6m and a soak-away excavated to a depth of 1.3m. Although several modern features were recorded including a bottle dump, an area of burning and a service pole, no deposits or features of archaeological interest were observed.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) carried out an archaeological watching brief during the lowering of the ground level in the front garden of Tanyard Cottage, Marsh Lane, New Buckenham, in connection with the construction of a new garage. The area observed was 0.77 ha.

The report was commissioned and funded by Mr I Jowett of Tanyard Cottage, New Buckenham, Norfolk.

This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: 2001/0717).

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

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site consisted of a sandy clay loam topsoil, 0.4m deep, overlying a yellowish grey sandy clay subsoil (mainly Lowestoft Till and other Anglian tills) which in turn overlies the Upper Cretaceous White Chalk.

The site lies on flat ground at approximately 45m OD towards the southern edge of the planned town of New Buckenham.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within the boundary (Donald 1997) of the medieval town of New Buckenham (Norfolk Historic and Environment Record (HER) 9200). This planned and fortified settlement is one of the few Norman towns in England not to have expanded or contracted to any large extent. William d'Aubigny acquired the land in the 1140s to build a castle, the circular keep of which is the earliest in England (Rogerson 1994), to replace his existing one at Old Buckenham.

The town lies to the east of the castle within a small bank and ditch in a square with a rectilinear pattern of streets. Both the Castle (SAM 88) and St Mary's Chapel (SAM 89) are scheduled monuments.

Previous archaeological work carried out in the village by NAU includes an excavation in the market place (Crowson 1995), an evaluation in Marsh Lane to the south of the market (Donald 1997), a watching brief at St. Martin's church (Hobbs 2001), an excavation at Saffron House, Boosey's Walk (Hobbs 2003) and a watching brief at the former garage in Queen Street (Phillips 2004). This work has revealed features and artefacts dating between the Bronze Age to post-medieval periods.

4.0 Methodology

(Fig. 2)

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the stripping of topsoil ahead of the construction of a new garage in the front garden of Tanyard Cottage. The brief required the constant attendance of an archaeologist during these works.

Within the area of the new garage the ground level was reduced by between 0.4 and 0.6m. Toward the northern end of the area a rectangular soak-away, 2m long by 1.55m wide, was excavated down to a depth of 1.3m.

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 the 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.

5.0 Results

(Fig. 2)

No deposits or features of archaeological interest were observed. All finds and sub-soil disturbances were modern.

6.0 The Finds

The only artefact retained was an undatable flint flake obtained from an unstratified deposit.

7.0 Conclusions

Although the site was close to the line of the former southern boundary ditch of the Norman planned town of New Buckenham no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Piers Wallace. The report was written by Steven Tatler, illustrated, formatted and produced by Maggie Foottit and edited by Alice Lyons.

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