

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/141

Plot A, Land Adjacent 40 Station Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk ENF 125083

D. Stirk
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HER Information

Planning Application No: 07/2009/0504/F

Date of Fieldwork: 2nd June 2009 & 26th July 2010

Grid Reference: TM 3420 9085

Funding Body: Mr Tony Sprake

Curatorial Officer: James Albone

Project Officer: Duncan Stirk

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-80895

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to 40 Station Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk (TM 3420 9085); ENF 125083.

Monitoring of ground reduction and foundation trenching related to the construction of a detached house and garage was undertaken in June 2009 and July 2010. A number of features were recorded, including pits, post-holes, foundations and service trenches, all of which probably date to the 19th and 20th century. Finds of early modern date were recovered during the fieldwork.

1. Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of building work was carried out at Plot A, on land adjacent to No. 40 Station Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk, as part of an archaeological condition in relation to a planning permission for the construction of a house, garage and associated groundworks. (Application number: 07/2009/0504/F)

The site is in an area of high archaeological potential, being located near to a possible Roman road (Norfolk Historic Environment (NHER) Number 10636) and on the presumed site of the medieval manor house of Pirnhow Hall (NHER 10643). It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was a requirement for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks as outlined in a Brief & Specification produced by James Albone of the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Appendix 1). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client Mr Tony Sprake. This took place over two visits on the 2nd June 2009 and 26th of July 2010.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located towards the southern side of the village of Ditchingham, beside the River Waveney (Figure 1). The ground prior to the building work was occupied by the remains of a recently demolished shed and waste ground. The ground was relatively level below the 10m AOD contour line. The site is located on glacial till laid down in the Anglian Glaciation. The site is bounded to the northeast by Station Road, and by residential properties to the northwest and southeast. To the southwest is open grassland.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest. There are significant prehistoric sites to the NE of the site at Broome Heath (Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) No's 10597, 10602, 10611). Station Road is thought to be the route of a Roman road known as Stone Street (NHER 10636), while the site itself is thought to have been the location of a medieval manor house known as Pirnhow Hall

(NHER 10643). No evidence for this was revealed during monitoring works for houses adjacent to the development site however (NHER 36962) (Tremlett, 2002).

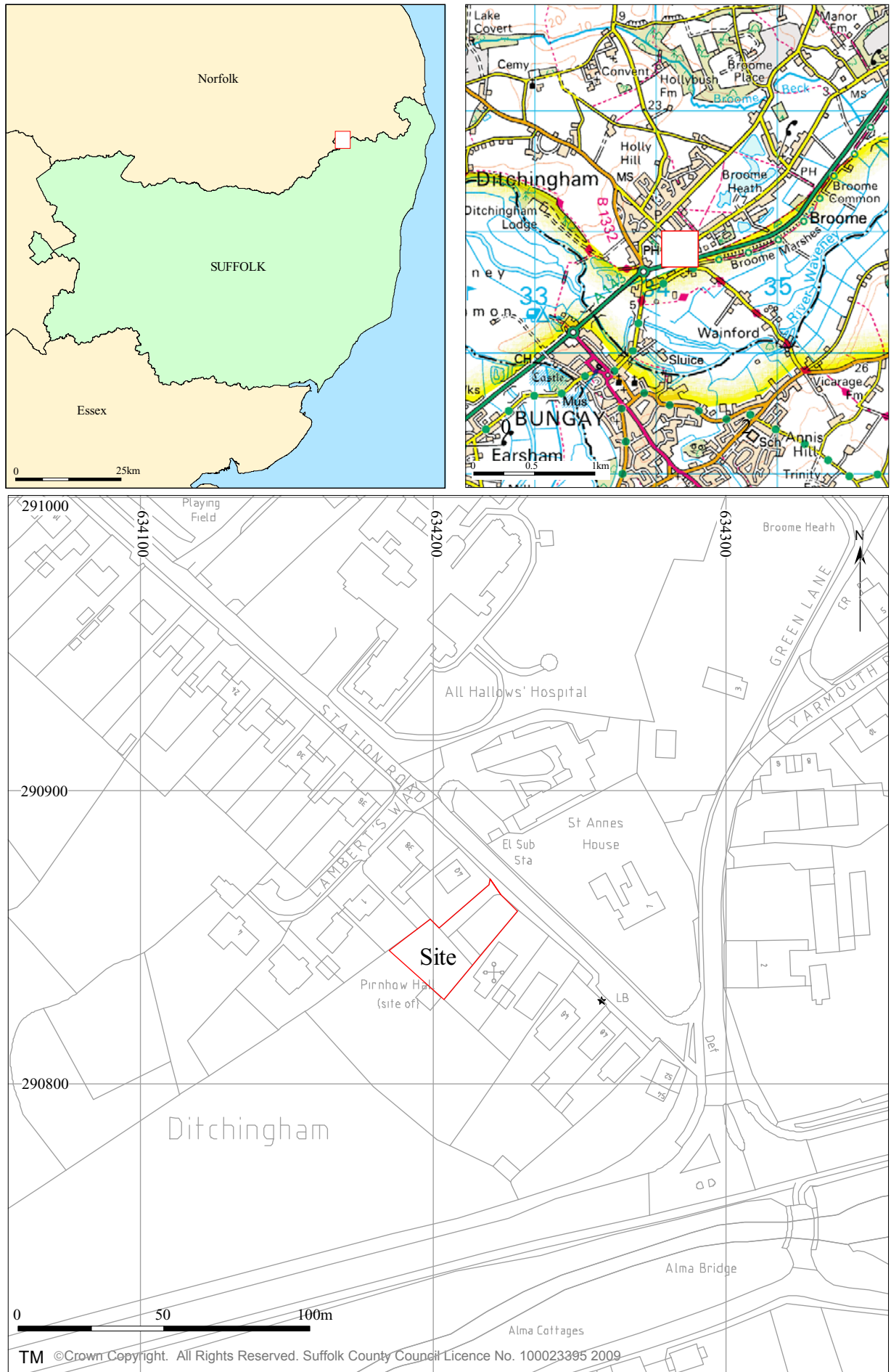


Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The groundworks for a new house was the subject of this monitoring work, which was allocated the HER number ENF 125083.

The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by James Albone of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Appendix 1).

Monitoring of the ground reduction was carried out on the 2nd of June 2009 and the excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored on the 26th of July 2010.

The ground was reduced and the foundations excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket followed by a 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were then selectively cleaned by hand to better reveal changes in colour and composition that would indicate the presence of archaeological deposits and features. Archaeological features identified in plan during the ground reduction phase were then excavated by hand and finds recovered. During the foundation trenching finds were recovered during mechanical excavation. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro-forma* recording forms, following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service. All archaeological deposits were drawn in a series of sections and 1:50 scale plans, and photographed in digital format. The drawings in this report have been produced using MapInfo mapping software and Adobe Illustrator.

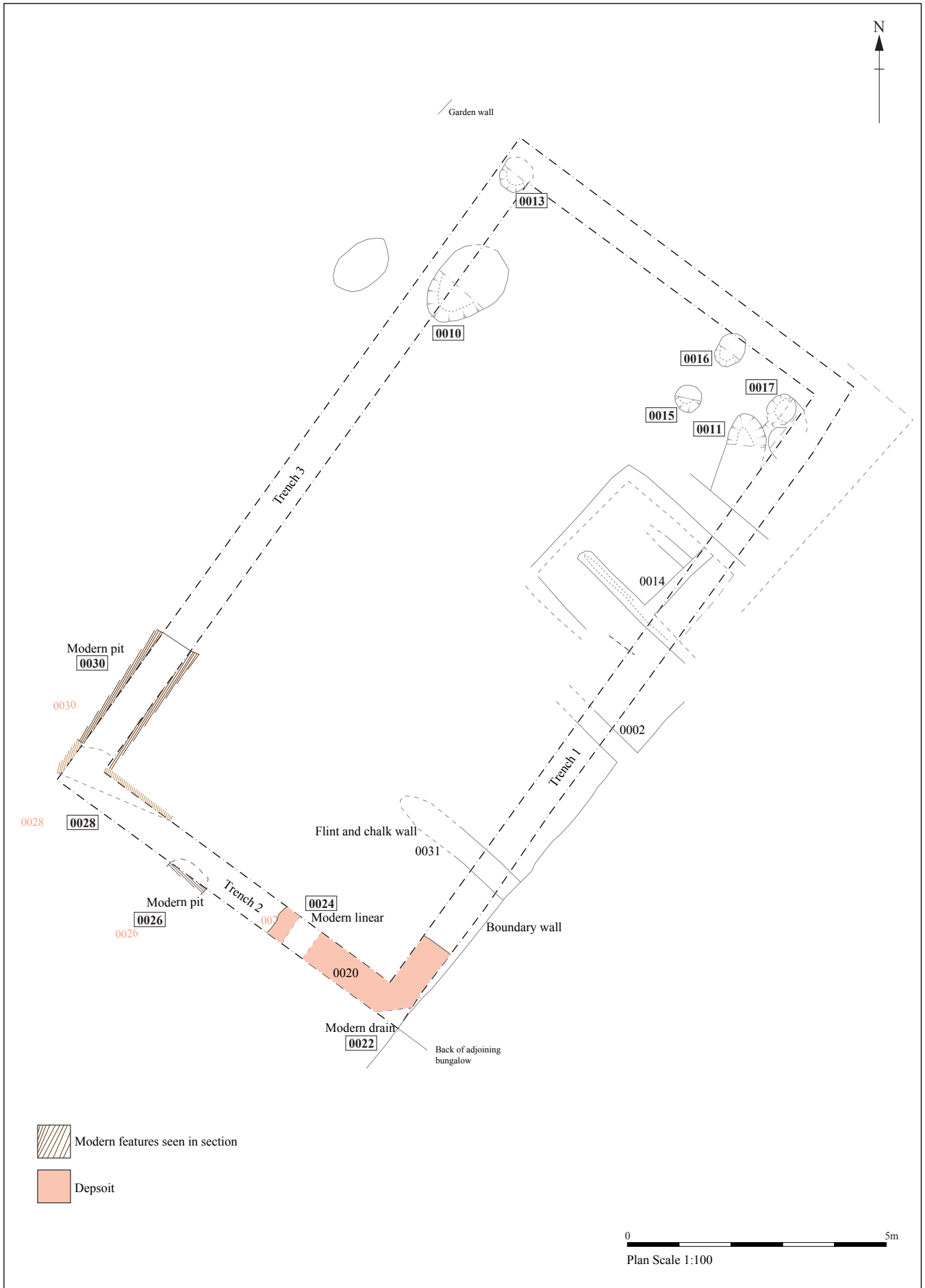


Figure 2. Trench layout and archaeological features (phase one features lighter grey)

5. Results

5.1 Ground reduction

Prior to the development a shed present on the site had been demolished. This was of uncertain date but contained elements of 'clay lump' or cob walling. This is probably the remains of the only building seen on the modern map, which was located at the rear of the plot, furthest from Station Road.

The ground surface sloped gently down to the southwest. The ground for the building plot was therefore truncated more at the higher (northeast) end of the plot than the lower (southwest) end. This resulted in ground reduction taking place to depths of between 0.25m and 0.55m below ground level (BGL). A number of possible archaeological features were revealed during the ground reduction.

The geological natural was a light to mid orange brown sandy gravel 0004 that was seen at a depth of 0.25m to 0.55m below ground level (BGL). This was cut by the remnants of foundations for both the recently demolished shed and a cottage. The shed appears to have had foundations of dark red brick, 0002, along the side nearest to the street, and a flint and chalk foundation, 0031, similar to the property boundary walls towards the rear. A deposit of light yellow brown sand, 0003, formed the bedding for a floor of concrete, 0002, within the shed. The cottage was represented by portions of five red brick foundations, 0014.

Also revealed by the ground reduction were a number of features cutting the natural. A line of three possible post-holes, 0013, 0016, and 0017, were aligned NW-SE across the plot. Two of these, 0013, and 0017, produced fragments of post-medieval roof tile, while the third, 0016, was definitely modern as it contained plastic fragments. A further post-hole, 0015, lay near to 0016, and was a similar size and shape.

To the SW of this post-hole line were two oval pits, one of which was excavated. This pit, 0010, was of probable 19th or 20th century date, as it produced fragments of post-medieval roof tile and part of a porcelain cup. One final feature was seen in this phase of work. Feature 0011, was located near post-hole 0017. It was linear or an elongated pit, and its fill produced a very battered possible struck flint. These features all held fills of mid to dark grey brown sandy silt and gravel.



Plate 1. Cottage foundations 0014
(facing northeast)



Plate 2. Possible terrace
and shed foundation 0031
(facing southeast)



Plate 3. Possible pit 0011
(facing south, 0.5m & 1m scale)



Plate 4. Pit 0010
(facing northeast, 0.5m & 1m scales)



Plate 5. Post-hole 0015
(facing south, 0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Post-hole 0013
(facing northeast, 0.5m scale)

5.2 Foundation trenches

Three foundation trenches that were 0.6m wide and between 0.65m and 0.8m deep were monitored, over an area measuring 8.1m by 9.1m. The fourth side of the foundations was within the area previously monitored during the ground reduction phase of work, and the ground surface was entirely made up of natural deposit 0004.

The ground surface fell away to the SW, which meant that features previously unseen during the ground reduction phase were revealed during excavation of the SW end of the foundations. A deposit of dark grey silty sand and gravel was recorded in foundation Trench 1, which was along the SE side of the foundations. This appeared to be make-up and may be related to the removal of the cottage foundations during the previous phase of groundworks. A mid brown sandy silt possible subsoil deposit, 0020, was present in the southern corner of the foundations. This deposit was not seen between the natural and topsoil anywhere else on the site, so it is possible that this was in fact the fill of a large cut feature. No finds were recovered from it and the base of it was not reached at a depth of 0.77m BGL. On the other hand, no definite edge to the potential feature was determined, and the interface between deposit 0020 and the natural was only gradually sloping down to the SW.

Cutting deposit 0020 in the southern corner of the foundations was an E-W aligned service trench, 0022, containing a modern ceramic drain 0021. Further to the NW along foundation Trench 2 was a SW-NE aligned linear feature 0024, with a fill 0023. This also appeared to be a service trench, as its fill was largely composed of corroded iron. Also in foundation Trench 2, further to the NW, was a small pit, 0026, whose fill, 0025, contained modern bottles and a milk churn.

Two modern features at the SW end of Trench 3 could be dated to the late 19th century or early 20th century by the presence of many bottles and ceramic jars. The first of these features, 0028, was linear and aligned E-W. The second was much larger and probably a pit. Both held dark grey sandy silt and gravel fills. The features at the SW end of the foundations were sealed by a remnant deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil, 0019, that was at most 0.3m thick.



Plate 7. General view of foundation
(facing east)



Plate 8. Feature 0028
(facing northwest, 0.5m & 1m scales)



Plate 9. Pit 0026
(facing southwest, 0.5m & 1m scales)



Plate 10. Pit 0030
(facing south, 0.5m & 1m scales)



Plate 11. Deposit 0020
(facing northwest, 0.5m & 1m scales)

6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

A small assemblage of post-medieval roof tile, a residual struck flint, and part of a modern porcelain cup were recovered from features during the first phase of work. These were identified by Richenda Goffin. In consultation with James Albone of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology it was decided that this small assemblage of finds did not warrant a full finds assessment report.

7. Discussion

The archaeological features recorded during the fieldwork appear to date almost entirely to the 19th and 20th centuries. This is perhaps not surprising, as the historic maps from the 1880's to 1920's show that the site was largely built over at this time. The shed that was composed partly of cob walling, that was demolished prior to the fieldwork, appears to have been the oldest building on the site, as it was depicted on the Ordnance Survey map dating to the 1880's. Elements of this shed were recorded as foundations and concrete floor 0002, and foundation 0031. The street front was also depicted as built up on this map, with the space between shown as open ground. The Ordnance Survey map dating to the 1890's shows the same configuration of buildings. By the 1920's however, the open ground had been partly filled by one or two cottages set along the SE property boundary. The remnants of this building or buildings were recorded as context 0014.

The post-holes probably represent a fence within the yard area between the street front building and the shed at the rear of the property. The plastic fragment seen in the fill of one of them suggests that they were relatively modern however. Two pits of uncertain function also occupied this space and are probably contemporary with the cottages.

The other features recorded during the fieldwork were mainly located to the SW of the shed. There are indications that the ground once fell away more steeply to the SW of the shed footprint. This may suggest that a certain amount of terracing of the site had occurred in the past, something that is supported by the differential levels of the property to the north. This may partly explain the lack of pre-modern archaeological

features. Some of the features along this edge of the site are clearly service trenches related to the shed, while the rest appear to be rubbish pits.

Only two features seen during the fieldwork may be pre-modern. The possible subsoil deposit, 0020, seen in the south corner of the foundations may in fact be a fill of a large feature, however no finds were recovered, and its profile was not determined. The other possible archaeological feature was linear feature or pit 0011. This feature was undated, as a single battered possible struck flint was the only find recovered from its fill, and it most resembled a plant or tree pit.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The archaeological monitoring of groundworks at Station Road, Ditchingham recorded a number of features and building elements probably all dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. No features related to either the Roman route of Stone Street or medieval Pirnhow Hall were recorded, and no pre-modern finds were recovered. It appears that the site has been terraced, probably during the construction of the 19th and 20th century buildings, and this may have removed superficial pre-modern deposits. The ground slopes away to the SW, beyond the building footprint, where the early maps indicate that the remains of Pirnhow Hall may lie. There is the potential for archaeological remains to survive to the southwest of the site therefore; and further planning applications in that direction should take this into account.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: Norfolk HER

Finds and environmental archive: Norfolk HER

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Duncan Stirk from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Duncan Stirk, and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site plans and sections was carried out by Duncan Stirk and Ellie Hillen. The author would also like to thank Mr. Tony Sprake for his assistance during the fieldwork.

11. Bibliography

Tremlett, S., 2002 *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Land off Station Road, Ditchingham, Norfolk*, NAU Report 694 (unpublished)

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification



BRIEF FOR THE MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

Site or Project Name:	Plot A, Adj 40 Station Road
Parish:	Ditchingham
Grid reference:	TM3420 9085
Norfolk HER No.:	To be arranged
NLA Reference:	CNF42383 Associated: Yes
Site type(s) :	House
Planning Authority:	South Norfolk District Council
Application or Reference No.:	07/2009/0504/F
Level Required	Constant Attendance
Issued by:	James Albone Archaeological Planning Officer Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Union House, Gressenhall Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR Tel: 01362 869279 (direct) Fax: 01362 860951 james.albone@norfolk.gov.uk
Date:	08 May 2009
Notes:	The proposed development site lies on or adjacent to the site of the medieval manor of Pirnhow Hall.



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact James Albone on 01362 869279 and we will do our best to help.

THE BRIEF

The Archaeological Contractor should confirm that the Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control will be undertaken in accordance with the following:

1. Provision will be made for monitoring the development, including, where appropriate, the following:-
 - all areas of below-ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains and soakaways.
 - above-ground remains when the development affects a building of historic importance
 - pipeline and cable trenches.
2. Monitoring will be undertaken at the level indicated i.e. occasional visit, regular visit or constant attendance.
3. Where appropriate, topsoil or spoil will be scanned by metal-detector before and during its removal.
4. All archaeological contexts and artefacts exposed, examined or excavated will be fully recorded on appropriate context, finds and sample sheets, on plans and sections and by photographic record.
5. Provision will be made for an appropriate level of analysis, including identification of artefacts, specialist reports if appropriate, production of archive and report, donation of finds to an appropriate museum, transfer and storage of artefacts and archive in an acceptable form to an appropriate museum, conservation and inclusion of the results of the project in the County Historic Environment Record.
6. Indicate that any areas of environmental potential will be sampled, as advised by the environmental specialist.
7. The results will be presented in a report, the nature of which should be commensurate with the findings.
8. The report should include appropriate scale plans showing the locations of all features and finds, and detailed plans and sections where necessary.
9. The report should include comprehensive details of all finds.
10. Three hard copies and a PDF copy on CD of the Report should be supplied to NLA for the attention of the Head of Archaeological Planning within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). Two hard copies and the PDF file will be deposited with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, and the third hard copy will be forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.
11. At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report. Hard copies of the report must still be provided as specified.
12. Hard copies of the report must also be provided, as specified below.
13. All works will be carried out in full accordance with the appropriate sections of Gurney, D., 2003, '**Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England**', as adopted by the Association of Local Government

Archaeological Officers for the East of England Region and published as *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*. This is available as a PDF file on the web at www.eaareports.org.uk. Archaeological Contractors should note that the **Standards** document stipulates basic *methodological* standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible *qualitative* standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Norfolk's historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Norfolk, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

14. The Archaeological Contractor will contact the HER Officer of NLA in advance of work starting to obtain a HER number for the site or, if a number is already given on the Brief, to ensure that it is still applicable.

THE MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

This means that you will need to commission an archaeological contractor to ensure that an archaeologist is present during certain phases of the development to record any features exposed or any archaeological finds.

This does not mean that the development programme will be stopped or delayed by the archaeologist, who will work alongside other contractors on site to ensure that any necessary archaeological records are made.

In the unlikely event of the discovery of unanticipated remains of very great importance, discussions will take place on how these might be preserved or recorded.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You should forward a copy of this Brief to one or more Archaeological Contractors, and discuss with them the timing and costs. Your appointed contractor should be asked to confirm in writing to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) that this brief will be adhered to.

NLA does not see Contractors' costings, nor do we give advice on costs. You may wish to obtain a number of quotations or to employ the services of an archaeological consultant.

Details of archaeological contractors based in Norfolk and beyond may be found in the Institute for Archaeologists Yearbook & Directory, available from the I.f.A., University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, PO Box 239, Reading RG6 6AU. Tel: 0118 931 6446. Fax: 0118 931 6448. Email: admin@archaeologists.net. Website: www.archaeologists.net.

FOR FURTHER HELP, INFORMATION AND ADVICE CONTACT

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Norfolk Landscape Archaeology is responsible for safeguarding the County's archaeological heritage. NLA is consulted by Planning Authorities and provides advice on archaeological work that may be required as a result of development proposals.

Appendix 2: Context list

Context	Type	Description
0001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. 0.25m thick. Topsoil.
0002	Foundation	Red brick and off-white mortar foundations and concrete floor. Remnants of demolished shed.
0003	Bedding layer	Light yellow brown sand. Bedding layer for floor (0002).
0004	Natural	Lt to mid orangy brown sandy gravel. Natural geology.
0005	Pit?	Dark grey sandy gravel, with ash and clinker. 0.95m x 1.15m x ? Fill of pit or post-hole [0017]
0006	Posthole	Dark grey sandy gravel, with ash and clinker also contained plastic. 0.7m x 0.55m x ? Fill of modern post-hole [0016].
0007	Posthole	Dark grey sandy gravel, with ash and clinker. 0.55m diameter x 0.2m deep. Fill of post-hole [0015]
0008	Slot	Mid grey brown sandy silt & gravel. 1.7m x 0.75m x 0.35m deep. Fill of linear slot [0011].
0009	Pit	Dark grey silt sand & gravel. 1.75m x 1.25m x 0.5m deep. Fill of pit [0010].
0010	Pit	Oval shape in plan. Moderate concave sides and concave base. 1.75m x 1.25m x 0.5m deep. Cut of 19th C pit.
0011	Slot	Linear shape, NE-SW aligned. Moderate to steep straight sides and a concave base. 1.7m x 0.75m x 0.35m deep. Cut of slot.
0012	Posthole	Mid grey brown sandy silt and gravel. 0.7m x 0.6m x 0.3m deep. Fill of post-hole [0013].
0013	Posthole	Oval shape. Steep concave sides and concave base. 0.7m x 0.6m x 0.3m deep. Cut of possible post-hole.
0014	Foundation	Various red brick and lt brown sandy mortar foundations for 20th C cottage.
0015	Posthole	Circular shape. Moderate concave sides and concave base. 0.55m diameter x 0.2m deep. Cut of post-hole.
0016	Posthole	Oval shape. Moderate concave sides and concave base. 0.7m x 0.55m x ? Cut of post-hole.
0017	Pit	Oval shape. Steep concave & moderate stepped sides & concave base. 0.95m x 1.15m x ? Cut of pit or possible post-hole.
0018	Make-up	Dark grey silty sand & gravel. Possible make-up layer or fill of grubbed out foundations.
0019	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Topsoil remnant along SW end of plot where deposits deeper. 0.3m max depth.
0020	Subsoil?	Mid brown sandy silt >>3.15m x >1.8m x 0.4m deep. Possible subsoil deposit in deeper part of plot to south or fill of large feature.
0021	Drain	Dark grey sandy silt fill around 19th C stoneware drain. Drain in Service trench [0022]
0022	Drain	E-W aligned service trench for 19-20C drain. Just clipped by corner of foundations.
0023	Linear	Orangy brown and grey Iron rust and sandy silt fill of linear feature [0024]. 0.5m x >0.6m x >0.77m deep.
0024	Linear	NE-SW aligned linear feature. 0.5m x >0.6m x >0.77m deep.
0025	Pit	Mid grey sandy silt & gravel. 0.8m wide x 0.8m deep. Fill of possible pit [0026] containing milk churn and other 20C finds.
0026	Pit	Steep straight sides and concave base. 0.8m wide x 0.8m deep. Cut of pit.
0027	linear	Dark grey sandy silt. >2.1m x 0.95m wide x 0.65m deep. Fill of possible linear feature [0028].
0028	Linear	E-W aligned. Steep convex sides and flat base. >2.1m x 0.95m wide x 0.65m deep. Cut of linear feature.
0029	Pit	Mixed dark grey sand silt and gravel. >2.8m x >0.6m x 0.65m. Fill of large pit [0030]. Filled with Early 20C bottles.
0030	Pit	Moderate concave sides & unseen base. >2.8m x >0.6m x 0.65m. Cut of large pit.
0031	Foundation	Chalk and flint and mortar wall remnant 0.5m x 2.8m. Part of recently demolished shed. Wall bonded into and similar to boundary wall to SE.