
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**GRANGE FARM,
HORSTEAD WITH STANNINGHALL, NORFOLK**

PHASES 1 & 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: G Marshall (Phase 1) G Barlow (Phase 2)	
NGR: TG 24997 20365	Report No. 3336
Parish: Horstead with Stanninghall	Site Code: 39676.HWS
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 2080
Signed:	Date: July 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Grange Farm, Horstead, Norfolk.</i>		
Project description (250 words)			
<p><i>In June and July 2004, and June 2009, Archaeological Solutions carried out programmes of Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at Grange Farm, Horstead with Stanninghall, Norfolk (NGR: TG 24997 20365). The monitoring was undertaken during topsoil stripping in advance of mineral extraction.</i></p> <p><i>A previous field walking survey recovered few artefacts within the ploughsoil, despite the favourable conditions for the survey. Small quantities of modern tile and metalwork were identified. Two medieval pottery sherds and sparse struck flint were located across the site.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring of topsoil stripping for the proposed mineral extraction revealed only recent ditches, and irregular features representing periglacial features and tree hollows. The local farmer recalls the area being wooded.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>June/July 2004 & June 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>2080</i>	Site code	<i>39676.HWS</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Arable</i>		
Planned development	<i>Mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern ditches & tree hollows</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>		<i>Horstead with Stanninghall</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER No 39676</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>Phase 1 0.77 ha. Phase 2 1.35 ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TG 2486 2036</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.15m OD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow & Geoffrey Marshall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Longwater (Gravel) Co Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Grange Farm, Horstead with Stanninghall, Norfolk. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>G Barlow & G Marshall</i>		
Report no.	<i>3336</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2009</i>		

GRANGE FARM, HORSTEAD WITH STANNINGHALL, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June and July 2004, and June 2009, Archaeological Solutions carried out programmes of Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at Grange Farm, Horstead with Stanninghall, Norfolk (NGR: TG 24997 20365). The monitoring was undertaken during topsoil stripping in advance of mineral extraction.

A previous field walking survey recovered few artefacts within the ploughsoil, despite the favourable conditions for the survey. Small quantities of modern tile and metalwork were identified. Two medieval pottery sherds and sparse struck flint were located across the site.

Monitoring of topsoil stripping for the proposed mineral extraction revealed only recent ditches, and irregular features representing periglacial features and tree hollows. The local farmer recalls the area being wooded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During June and July 2004, and June 2009, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at Grange Farm, Horstead with Stanninghall, Norfolk (central NGR TG 2486 2036) (Figs.1 & 2). The investigation was commissioned by Longwater (Gravel) Co. Ltd, in compliance with a planning condition required by the local planning authority (based on advice from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology). The condition was attached to planning permission for mineral extraction (Norfolk County Council Planning Reference E/C/5/2001/5005).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken according to briefs for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) (dated 10/11/03 and 12/06/09), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 15/06/09). The project also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

- The aims of the project were to monitor the development, and excavate/record any archaeological features, deposits or finds exposed during the project.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE Figs. 1 & 2

2.1 Grange Farm is located approximately *c.* 1.5km north-west of Horstead, in the rolling countryside *c.* 0.5km west of the course of the river Bure and at a height of *c.* 15m AOD. It lies to the immediate east of Park Lodge and the B1354 road, and to the south of the Grange Farm building complex. The site was until recently in arable use.

2.2 The solid geology of the region is Upper Chalk (BGS). The predominant local soils are chalky tills and glacio-fluvial drifts of the Wick 2 Association. These comprise deep well drained loamy soils, generally suitable for arable cultivation (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The location of the site in the light fertile soils of the river valley on the terrace of the river Bure suggests the possibility of continuous habitation and exploitation since the prehistoric period. This is attested by Bronze Age finds (NHER 7645, 25955) and Iron Age metalwork nearby (NHER 28765), generally found as casual surface finds by local metal detector enthusiasts.

3.2 During the Roman period, there are only scattered coins, brooches and metalwork finds recorded in the vicinity of the site (NHER 6145, 28765 & 34943). An east-west Roman road passes *c.* 3km north of the site.

3.3 Settlement in the immediate area during the Saxon period is generally poorly characterised with material remains being limited to an early Saxon brooch (NHER 7696). Agricultural activity and metal detecting have yielded numerous medieval, post-medieval coins and metalwork.

3.4 A programme of fieldwalking and metal detecting was carried out on the site by AS in 2003 (Crank *et al* 2003). No significant scatters of artefacts were recovered from the ploughsoil despite the good conditions of surface visibility. The few struck flints which were found suggest 'background noise' to prehistoric activity in the area. No finds of Roman or medieval date were made, excepting two medieval pottery sherds. No pre-modern metalwork items were recovered during the survey.

4 METHODOLOGY Fig. 2

4.1 Topsoil stripping for the proposed mineral extraction was undertaken under the supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer, using a 360 tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden was removed mechanically, thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Deposits were cleaned by hand as appropriate, recorded on *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. A metal detector was used to scan topsoil prior to stripping, to scan the stripped areas and to scan soil heaps, in order to enhance the recovery of any potential artefacts.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Phase 1 (June/July 2004) (Fig.2)

5.1.1 No archaeological features were revealed during the programme of monitoring. All features of possible interest were investigated and half-sectioned. All linear features were sectioned in order to define their character and date. A sample of the features were recorded in plan

5.1.2 Irregular features, interpreted as being of natural origin (periglacial) and tree hollows, were recorded across the site. The local farmer recalls the area being wooded.

5.1.3 Ditches, containing recent material, for example brick, were recorded and they represent former field divisions. They were largely parallel or co-axial with the existing southern boundary of the site.

5.2 Phase 2 (June 2009) (Figs. 2-3)

5.2.1 A sample section was recorded at the centre of the site during the topsoil stripping operation. This is representative of the site as a whole.

<i>Sample section: centre of site, east facing</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000	Topsoil. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional small/medium rounded and sub-rounded flint, occasional small sub angular flint, and very occasional small rounded quartz.
0.40m+	L2001	Natural deposits. Areas of firm, mid brownish orange sandy silt, with occasional small/medium rounded and sub-angular flints, and very occasional large rounded quartzite, and friable, mid brownish orange silty sand, with frequent rounded flint gravel and occasional large rounded and sub-rounded flint nodules.

5.2.2 Two ditches were present in the north western corner of the site. An excavated segment through Ditch F2002 which was orientated northeast-southwest, indicated that these features were modern.

5.2.3 Ditch F2002 (40.00+ x 1.60 x 0.50m) was very straight and aligned north northeast / south southwest. It was parallel to the southern boundary to the site, and on the same alignment as the modern ditches recorded during Phase 1. Its fill, L2003, was a firm, mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional small/medium sub-angular flints. Fragments of bright orange brick and coal were observed within this fill.

5.2.4 Ditch F2002 terminated at its north-western end where it met, at a right angle, a second very straight ditch which was on the same alignment as the field boundaries leading south southwest from the southern site boundary. It is likely that these ditches represent former modern field divisions.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features or finds on the site.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 A layer of topsoil (L2000) consisting of a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional small/medium rounded and sub-rounded flint, occasional small sub angular flint, and very occasional small rounded quartz, was present across the entire site. It had a consistent thickness varying between 0.37m on the northern side and 0.42m on the southern side of the site. It was 0.40m thick in the centre. This topsoil directly overlay the natural deposits (L2001).

7.2 The natural deposits (L2001) consisted of areas of firm, mid brownish orange sandy silt, with occasional small/medium rounded and sub-angular flints, and very occasional large rounded quartzite, and friable, mid brownish orange silty sand, with frequent rounded flint gravel and occasional large rounded and sub-rounded flint nodules. The areas of silty sand and gravel increased in size in the northern half of the site.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Despite a thorough search, no items of pre-modern metalwork were recovered during the metal detector survey.

8.2 Extensive evidence of the formerly wooded nature of the site was provided by the presence of irregular tree hollows across much of the northern part of Phase 1, and across the whole of Phase 2. A number of hollows within in Phase 2 contained the partially-rotted remains of tree roots suggesting that at least some of the clearance was fairly recent. The local farmer recalls the area being wooded.

8.3 Field boundaries of recent date, parallel and co-axial to the existing field boundary to the south of the site, were recorded in both phases.

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Longwater (Gravel) Co. Ltd for their cooperation and funding of the project, in particular Mr W Littleboy for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice, during Phase 1, of Messrs David Gurney and Andy Hutcheson of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, and of James Albone of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology during Phase 2.

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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

