

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT THE SHIP, MAIN ROAD, BRANCASTER, NORFOLK (ENF 127784)

# **Work Undertaken For**

Martin Hall Associates, Flying Kiwi Inns Limited and Eastridge Homes Ltd

December 2011

Report Compiled by Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 7727 4386 Planning Application No: 09/02128/F Norwich Castle Museum Accession No: NWHCM:2011.695 OASIS Record No: archaeol1-115022

APS Report No. 141/11



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#### 1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land adjacent to The Ship, Main Road, Brancaster, Norfolk. The work was undertaken prior to the construction of three cottages.

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the settlement of Brancaster, directly opposite the medieval (AD 1066-1540) parish church of St Mary. An extensive Roman (AD 43-410) settlement and fort lies 850m to the east.

A previous evaluation at the site had recorded a pit and ditches of medieval date and a late medieval or post-medieval chalk wall.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated layers include a subsoil, evident at the western part of the site and a chalk wall with associated demolition deposits. The chalk wall was the same as that previously identified in the evaluation of the site. Dumped deposits were recorded across the site above which were layers associated with a modern car park.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include five sherds of  $16^{th} - 17^{th}$  century pottery and a single fragment of bird bone.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services commissioned by Eastridge Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential development at The Ship, Main Road, Brancaster, Norfolk. Approval for the development was sought through the submission planning application of

09/02128/F. The investigation was undertaken on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer (Planning), Historic Environment Service, Norfolk County Council.

# 2.2 Topography and Geology

Brancaster is located on the north Norfolk coast approximately 12km east of Hunstanton and within the administrative borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Fig. 1).

The site is located 30m southeast of the centre of Brancaster as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference TF 7727 4386 (Fig. 2). Situated on the south side of Main Road, the site lies at a height of c. 10m OD on land that slopes down to the north.

Local soils are of the Hunstanton Association, typically argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 225). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Cretaceous Chalk.

# 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Brancaster is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Excavations in advance of housing development approximately 700m to the east of the site, during the mid 1970s, revealed features of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date. These features were scattered, and in many cases disturbed by later Romano-British contexts. Their presence suggests domestic occupation during the Neolithic, evidenced by possible post-holes. Later, during the Iron Age, an apparent enclosure ditch was dug. The nature of the Bronze Age activity is unclear although fragments of collared urn were recovered. Overall the results of these excavations suggest that sporadic

seasonal occupation, possibly exploiting intertidal resources during the earlier periods, evolved into settled occupation, most probably a farmstead, during the Iron Age (Hinchcliffe and Sparey-Green 1985, 15-19).

The Scheduled remains of the Roman fort of 'Branodunum' lie 850m to the east of the site. This was one of a series of 'forts of the Saxon shore' built northwards along the coast from Hampshire to Norfolk, in order to protect against raiding and to control excise, during the third and fourth centuries. Although the dating of the fort is unclear, as only limited excavations have been carried out within its interior, a date of AD225-250, based on similarities with the fort at Reculver (Kent), has been suggested for its construction, whilst a second phase of alteration is dated to AD250-300 (Hinchcliffe and Sparey-Green 1985, 178).

The remains of an extensive Romano British settlement have been identified from aerial photography and excavation on either side of the fort. Problematically, excavation has shown the layout of the settlement to have probably been planned on a grid system, but also to predate the known fort. This had led to a suggestion that the settlement is likely to have been planned around an earlier late 2nd century fort which was then replaced during the third century by a further fort on the same site. (Hinchcliffe and Sparey-Green 1985, 176-80).

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement at Brancaster is limited and it is likely that neither the fort nor the associated 'vicus' were occupied after the end of the fourth century. A cruciform brooch dated to c.AD500, recovered during surface collection in the vicinity of the fort, remains, despite extensive excavations and surveys, the only Saxon artefact known from the fort/ 'vicus' site (Sparey-Green and Gregory 1985, 221).

The parish church, immediately north of the current development site, is partially constructed from re-used Roman masonry, presumably derived from the fort, and it is possible that the south chancel wall, largely built from this re-used material, is Saxo-Norman in origin. Roman masonry has also been identified within a number of dwellings and farm buildings within the vicinity, although it is likely that this material has been 'recycled' several times since the demolition of the fort (Rose 1985, 188-9 and Allen *et al.*, 2001).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Brancaster as under the ownership of the Abbey of St Benedict, Ramsey and the presence of approximately 46 households, a mill and arable land in the manor (Morris 1984,16,4). This reference to Brancaster would imply that a settlement had been reestablished by the late Saxon period. The lack of Saxon evidence from the 'vicus' site suggests that the focus of occupation had shifted to the vicinity of the parish church by this time. In support of this, Late Saxon pottery and oyster shell was recovered from spoil from the digging of foundations during development of a site immediately north of the church in 1979 (Norfolk Heritage Explorer).

Prior to this investigation, an evaluation was undertaken at the site which revealed medieval ditches and a pit as well as a chalk and limestone wall of either the late medieval or post-medieval period (Peachey 2011, 4).

# 3. AIMS

The of the archaeological aim investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

#### 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development, generally 1.05m below the current ground surface. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

# 5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposits encountered within the foundation trenches were natural layers of orange brown and orange yellow sand (007 and 016). These measured in excess of 0.5m thick. The horizon between natural and subsoil deposits was indicated by a layer of orange brown sandy silt (015) that was 0.15m thick.

Towards the centre of the foundation trenches was a north-south aligned trench (005) that contained a chalk wall (004). The wall had a visible length of 4.35m and was 0.9m wide and over 0.65m high (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plates 2 and 3). Butting against the wall to its west was a

demolition deposit comprising brown sandy silt (006) and to the east was a spread of light yellowish brown mortar (008) that was 60mm thick.

Developed over the natural in the western foundation trenches was a subsoil comprising reddish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk and flint (014). This measured 0.5m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 4) and contained pottery of  $16^{th}$  –  $17^{th}$  century date and a single fragment of animal bone.

Overlying the mortar spread (008) and the subsoil was an extensive dumped deposit. This consisted of greyish brown sandy silt with flint, chalk and brick/tile fragments (009 and 013). This deposit was deeper to the north where it was 0.43m thick.

Sealing deposits towards the centre of the site was a levelling layer of brown sandy silt (003) that measured up to 0.38m thick. This was in turn overlain by make-up deposits of crushed stone (002 and 012) and orange sand (011) for the gravel surface (001 and 010) of the current car park.

# 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise sands of the underlying drift geology of marine alluvium. An intermittent subsoil had developed upon this and may imply agricultural activities occurring at the site in the past.

A chalk wall was recorded within the northernmost foundation trench and is an extension of the same wall recorded during the evaluation. The wall was assigned a late medieval or post-medieval date during the evaluation and no closer date could be assigned from the results of the watching brief. Associated with the wall were demolition deposits and a mortar spread.

Once the wall had been demolished,

deliberate dumping of material occurred at the site which may have also derived from demolition of former buildings in the area. These were then levelled to provide an area for parking.

Finds included post-medieval pottery and a fragment of bird bone.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at The Ship, Brancaster, as the site lay within the medieval core of the village and adjacent to a known Roman fort and *vicus*.

However, no remains were encountered that relate to Roman or medieval occupation of the site. Instead, a previously identified chalk wall and demolition deposits were further recorded, along with extensive dumping and levelling.

Finds retrieved from the investigation included  $16^{th} - 17^{th}$  century pottery and bird bone.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Philip Parker of Eastridge Homes Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Thanks are also due to Martin Hall Associates and Flying Kiwi Inns Ltd. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Site Supervisors: Bob Garlant, Liz Murray

Finds processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Liz Murray

Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

# 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services



Figure 1 - General location plan

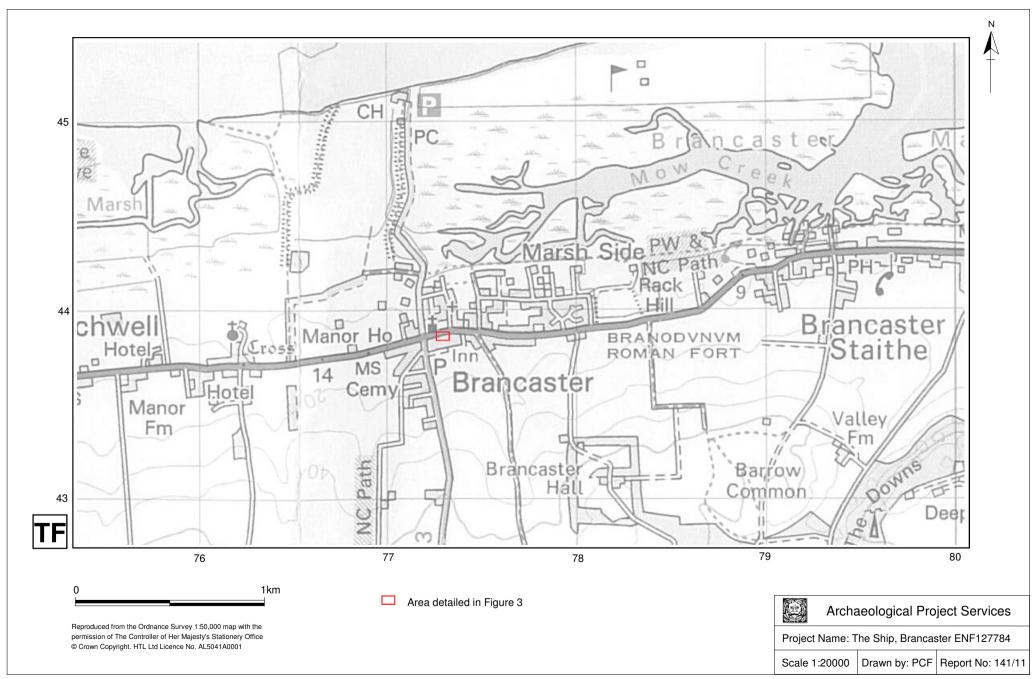


Figure 2 - Site location plan

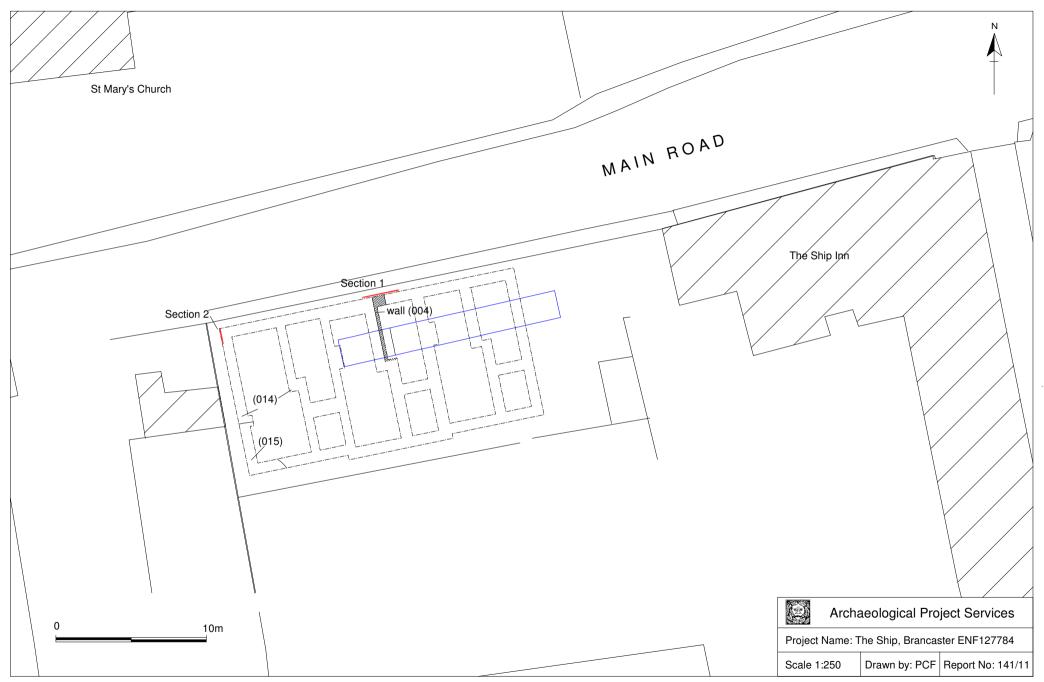


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations and principal features

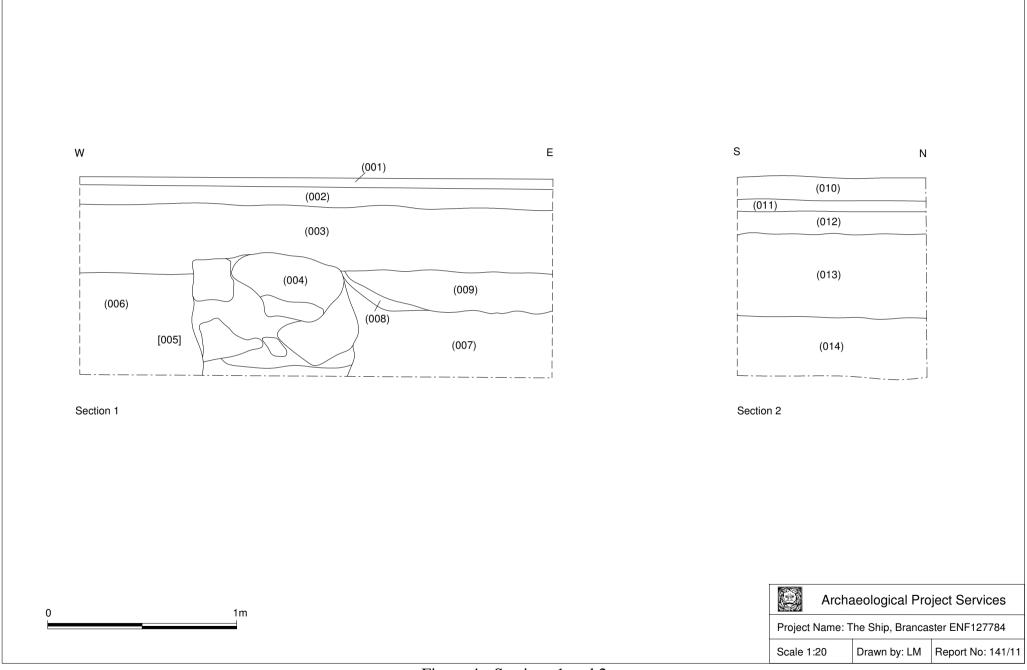


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – General view across the development area, looking west



Plate 2 – Section 1 showing the chalk wall (004), looking north



Plate 3 – View showing the extent of wall (004), looking southeast



Plate 4 – Section 2, looking west

# SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING AT SHIP INN, BRANCASTER, NORFOLK

#### 1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and reporting of land at The Ship Inn, Main Road, Brancaster, Norfolk.
- 1.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, within the historic core of the settlement of Brancaster, directly opposite the parish church of St. Mary. A Roman fort which is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument lies approximately 1km to the east of the proposed development. On either side of the fort are the remains of a Romano-British settlement which is thought to have possibly grown up around an earlier military establishment.
- 1.3 Archaeological Monitoring in the form of a Watching Brief is required.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing and interpreting the archaeological deposits located during the trenching. The text will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording during development on land at The Ship Inn, Main Road, Brancaster, Norfolk.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

## 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Brancaster is located on the north Norfolk coast approximately 12km east of Hunstanton and within the administrative borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. The site is located on the south side of the Main Street through Brancaster and opposite the parish church of St. Mary, centred on National Grid Reference TF 7727 4386.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (application number 09/02128/F) was granted by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council subject to a condition (condition 10) requiring that an archaeological evaluation is undertaken to provide Norfolk Landscape Archaeology with information regarding the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. This was undertaken earlier and resulted in this requirement for a Watching Brief during the construction phase.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Local soils are of Hunstanton Association, deep well drained coarse loamy soils developed over till and glaciofluvial drift over chalk (SSEW 1983, 6 & 12).

#### 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Excavations in advance of housing development approximately 1km to the east of the site revealed features of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date. These features were scattered, and in many cases disturbed by later Romano-British contexts. Their presence suggests domestic occupation during the Neolithic, evidenced by possible post-holes. Later, during the Iron Age, an apparent enclosure ditch was dug. The nature of the Bronze Age activity is unclear although fragments of collared urn were recovered. Overall the results of these excavations suggest that sporadic seasonal occupation, possibly exploiting intertidal resources during the earlier periods evolved into settled occupation, most probably a farmstead, during the Iron Age (Hinchcliffe and Sparey Green 1985, 15-19).
- 6.2 The Scheduled remains of the Roman fort of 'Branodunum', one of a series of 'forts of the Saxon shore' built northwards along the coast from Hampshire to Norfolk in order to protect against raiding and to control excise during the third and fourth centuries, lie to the immediate west and southwest of the site (Fig. 4). Although the dating of the fort is unclear, as only limited excavations have been carried out within its interior, a date of AD225-250, based on similarities with the fort at Reculver (Kent), has been suggested for its construction, whilst a second phase of alteration is dated to AD250-300 (Hinchcliffe and Sparey Green 1985, 178).
- 6.3 The remains of an extensive Romano British settlement have been identified from aerial photography and excavation on either side of the fort. Problematically, excavation has shown the layout of the settlement to have probably been planned on a grid system, but also to predate the known fort. This had led to a suggestion that the settlement is likely to have been planned around an earlier late 2nd century fort which was then replaced during the third century by a further fort on the same site. (Hinchcliffe and Sparey Green 1985, 176-80).
- 6.4 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Brancaster as under the ownership of the Abbey of St Benedict, Ramsey and the presence of approximately 46 housholds, a mill and arable land in the manor (Morris 1984,16,4). This reference to Brancaster would imply that a settlement had been re-established by the late Saxon period, the lack of Saxon evidence from the 'vicus' site suggests that the focus of occupation had shifted to the vicinity of the parish church by this time. In support of this, Late Saxon pottery and oyster shell was recovered from spoil from the digging of foundations during development of a site immediately north of the chuch in 1979 (Norfok Heritage Explorer).

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
  - 8.1.1 <u>General Considerations</u>
    - 8.1.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in

operation at the time of the investigation.

- 8.1.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Archaeological Project Services is an IfA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21) managed by a member (MIfA) of the institute.
- 8.1.1.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).
- 8.1.1.4 Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.1.1.5 A metal-detector will be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.1.1.6 Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Norfolk HER to ensure that the Site Code and Context Numbering system is compatible with the Norfolk HER.

#### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The investigation will be undertaken during the groundwork phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Where appropriate, topsoil, stripped areas and spoil will be scanned by metal detector to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.5 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled and will consist of:
  - 8.2.5.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - 8.2.5.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.6 Should human remains be located the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

# 9 **POST-EXCAVATION**

#### 9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s

photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992). Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

#### 9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

# 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 If archaeological remains are encountered, the report will consist of:
  - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
  - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
  - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation results.
  - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - 9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
  - 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
  - 9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.
- 9.3.3 If no archaeological remains are encountered, the report will consist of a brief summary of details, with appropriate plans.

#### 10 **ARCHIVE**

10.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of that completion date.

- 10.2 Prior to the project commencing, Norfolk Museums Service will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 10.3 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

#### 11 REPORT DEPOSITION

11.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client and the Principal Landscape Archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (3 copies); two copies for Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record and one for the local planning authority.

#### 12 **PUBLICATION**

12.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Norfolk Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

#### 13 **CURATORIAL MONITORING**

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. As much notice as possible, ideally fourteen days, will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements. However, the curator will be contacted at the earliest opportunity to seek reduction, or waiving, of this notification period.

#### 14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

#### 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.
- 15.4 In the event of archaeological remains being found it is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.
- 15.5 If no archaeological remains are found it is expected that the post-excavation work will completed in one day.

# 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any

particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u> <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman: A Beeby, APS/B Precious, independent specialist

Medieval and later: A Boyle, APS

Other Artefacts J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, independent specialist

Animal Remains Analysis P Cope-Faulkner, APS/Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

#### 17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 18 **COPYRIGHT**

- Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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Norfolk Heritage Explorer, http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/

Specification: Version 1, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mixed light yellowish brown and grey gravel, 50mm thick	Modern yard surface
002	Friable light yellowish brown, chalk fragments and brick rubble, 0.1m thick	Hardcore under yard surface
003	Friable mid brown sandy silt, moderate chalk fragments, occasional charcoal fragments, up to 0.38m in depth	Levelling layer
004	Mortared wall constructed of roughly hewn chalk pieces, 4.35m long by up to 0.9m wide, north-south aligned	Chalk Wall
005	Assumed cut for chalk wall, minimal presence	Cut for wall
006	Friable mid brown sandy silt, moderate chalk fragments, occasional fragments of brick/tile, occasional cobbles and charcoal	Possible demolition/levelling layer
007	Friable mid orange-brown, sand, moderate small chalk fragments and flint gravel	Natural deposit
008	Friable light yellowish brown mortar, 60mm thick	Demolition material
009	Friable mid greyish brown with white flecks sandy silt, frequent chalk fragments, occasional brick/tile fragments, cockle shells	Dumped Deposit
010	Compact but friable gravel and silt surface deposit, 0.12m thick	Car park/yard surface
011	Loose dark orange sand, 60mm thick	Bedding layer for car park surface
012	Friable light yellow crushed limestone, occasional brick/tile, 0.12m thick	Levelling layer for gravel surface
013	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, frequent flint, chalk, brick/tile, charcoal flecks, deposit is thicker toward the road at the north	Dumped deposit
014	Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt, frequent chalk and flint, very occasional charcoal flecks, 0.5m thick	Subsoil
015	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt, occasional charcoal flecks, sand with lenses of brownier silty material, 0.15m thick	Disturbed natural – bioturbation?
016	Loose mid orange yellow sand, occasional flints, at least 0.1m in depth	Natural deposit

#### THE FINDS

#### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which also covers surrounding counties. A total of 5 sherds from a single vessel, weighing 12 grams was recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out, counted and weighed. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the post medieval period.

#### **Condition**

The pottery is fragmented but not overly abraded.

#### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	Weight (g)	Part	Description	Date
014	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Jar or Bowl	5	1	12	BSS	Flakes	16th-17th

#### **Provenance**

The sherds came from subsoil layer (014).

#### Range

There are five sherds from a single vessel in Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE). This dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The pottery can be discarded.

#### **Summary**

Five sherds from a single vessel of post medieval date were recovered from the subsoil during the watching brief.

## **FAUNAL REMAINS**

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

#### Introduction

A single fragment (<1g) of animal bone was retrieved from a subsoil (014).

#### Condition

The overall condition of the bone was good.

#### Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
014	bird	femur	-	1	<1	small bird-pigeon size

#### Summary

As a single bone the assemblage is of limited potential.

#### **SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
014	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Subsoil

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

BS Body sherd CXT Context

NoF Number of Fragments
NoS Number of sherds
NoV Number of vessels
W (g) Weight (grams)

#### REFERENCES

Slowikowski, AM, Nenk, B and Pearce, J, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **2** 

Young, J, Vince, AG and Nailor, V, 2005 A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln (Oxford)

#### **GLOSSARY**

Alluvium A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited

by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.

**Bronze Age** A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between

2250 and 800 BC.

**Context** An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For

example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by

brackets, e.g.(004).

**Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench,

etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation

the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

**Dumped deposits** These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be

the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground

surface.

Fill Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be

back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as

its fill(s).

**Iron Age** A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between

800 BC and AD 50.

Layer A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not

contained within a cut.

**Medieval** The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of

human activity.

Neolithic The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately

4500-2250 BC.

**Post-medieval** The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Prehistoric The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the

prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC,

until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

**Romano-British** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Saxon Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by

tribes from northern Germany.

**Vicus** Civilian settlement associated with a Roman military fort.

#### THE ARCHIVE

#### The archive consists of:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 16 Context record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 2 Daily record sheets
- 4 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Norfolk Museums Service Union House Gressenhall Dereham Norfolk NR20 4DR

Norfolk Event No: ENF127784

Norwich Castle Museum Accession No: NWHCM: 2011.695

Oasis Record No: archaeol1-115022

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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