

BURTON FLEMING GRANGE,  
BURTON FLEMING, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

Mr S Wells  
Manor Farm  
Burton Fleming  
Driffield  
East Yorkshire YO25 3PS

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,  
BURTON FLEMING GRANGE, BURTON FLEMING, EAST YORKSHIRE**

**CONTENTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION ..... 1

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION..... 1

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ..... 1

4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY ..... 1

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS ..... 2

6 REFERENCES ..... 3

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... 3

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) was undertaken by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) during ground works associated with the erection of a new free range poultry laying shed at Burton Fleming Grange, Burton Fleming, East Yorkshire (NGR TA0738473292), on behalf of the developer, Mr S Wells. The archaeological recording was made a condition of planning permission.

Little was revealed in the ten small trenches excavated for the new shed. However, one small pit was noted in the corner of Trench 3, in the centre of the southern row of five trenches. Two further pits and a probable posthole were recorded in Trench 8, in the centre of the northern row of trenches. No dating evidence was recovered from these features. It is possible that these features relate to an earlier agricultural structure, perhaps a temporary shelter, but the small size of the foundation trenches and the lack of a general site-wide topsoil strip, makes further interpretation unrealistic.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In December 2004, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr S Wells to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during ground works associated with the erection of a new free range poultry laying shed at Burton Fleming Grange, Burton Fleming, East Yorkshire (NGR TA0738473292).
- 1.2 The archaeological recording was made a condition of planning permission (application DC/04/06728/PLF/EASTNN/JA), and the scope of the work was defined by a specification prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office (ref SMR/PA/CONS/11297) (see Appendix 2).

## **2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 Burton Fleming Grange lies on Mill Flats, c.1.5km to the north-west of Burton Fleming village (NGR TA0738473292) (see figure 1). Mill Flats forms part of the eastward sweep of the Yorkshire Wolds, and is located on the north side of the upper Gypsy Race valley. The development plot lies on the east side of the large farm complex (see figure 2), at a height of 48m AOD, on ground which slopes down to the east.
- 2.2 The underlying geology consists of Cretaceous chalk with flints. The surface soil of the area is a brown rendzina of the Andover Association, represented by a shallow, well drained, calcareous, silty soil (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 As noted by the Humber SMR specification, the development site lies within a major archaeological landscape, dating back to at least the Bronze Age. English Heritage have recently mapped and interpreted all the visible cropmarks seen on aerial photographs of the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997), and these show a series of at least five multiple ditches, associated with dykes and other features, running across Mill Flats and converging on the Gypsy Race valley, in "Vicarage Closes" to the west of Burton Fleming village. Some of these linear cropmarks represent single earthwork banks, but others are double or triple features.
- 3.2 In particular, one triple-ditched feature runs north-south across Mill Flats, just to the east of Burton Fleming Grange (Stoertz 1997, 75). This feature is flanked in at least three places with ring ditched features. The former is likely to represent a major territorial or agricultural land division, dating from the Bronze Age, while the latter may be settlement or burial sites. The position of the new poultry shed would appear to lie on, or very close to, the westernmost ditch of the triple linear ditch system.

## **4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The watching brief took account of, and followed, the Humber SMR specification (see Appendix 2) and existing guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the erection of the new poultry shed, and to record and recover any information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed by the works.

- 4.2 Ten small foundation trenches, in two rows of five, 24m apart, were dug for the steel framework of the building using a 360 degree wheeled, mechanical, excavator with a toothed 2ft wide bucket. Each trench measured c.1m by 1.2m and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.6m, sloping upwards towards the back edge. These trenches were dug through the topsoil and no general site-wide topsoil strip was undertaken (see plate 1). A temporary bench mark was established on site, which was subsequently tied to a permanent bench mark located at the end of the access into the farm. All the excavations were dug under constant archaeological supervision, on 10th January 2005.
- 4.3 Each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill, or layer) recorded by the watching brief was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of ten archaeological contexts were recorded, and these are described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all excavations were marked on a general site plan at 1:100 scale, and more detailed sections were drawn at 1:10 scale as necessary; a photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints. No artefacts were recovered by the watching brief.
- 4.4 With the agreement of the landowner, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code BFG 05; accession code 2006.13).

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (see figures 3 and 4)

- 5.1 The loose brown loam plough soil (001) which covered the site was only c.0.1m deep in the most westerly trenches, increasing to a maximum of 0.36m deep in the easternmost trenches. The upper surface of the natural chalk (010) beneath the plough soil was typically fragmented into small-medium sized chalk gravel, to an unknown depth.
- 5.2 No features of archaeological interest were present in eight of the excavated trenches, but two trenches showed evidence of possible pits and/or postholes. The north-east corner of Trench 3, located in the centre of the southern row of trenches, showed evidence of a small pit (002) which had been cut into the natural chalk to a depth of 0.63m below the current land surface (48.02m AOD). The full extent of the pit was not revealed in the trench, but the sections in the north and east sides showed that the sides of the pit were steeply angled to a flat bottom. The orange/brown loam fill (003) contained patches of fine black ashy material above which were some small patches of chalk gravel, which were probably intrusive. Some stratification was visible, but no artefacts were present.
- 5.3 The south-west corner of Trench 8, this time in the centre of the northern row of trenches, contained a possible small pit (004) 0.66m in depth and with an irregular U-shape, visible in the east facing section (see plate 2); no stratification was visible in the mid-brown loam fill (005). In the north-west corner of the same trench, a further pit (008) of a similar depth was visible, adjacent to a circular post hole (006), 0.25m in diameter and 0.66m deep with steeply angled sides, probably produced by a driven stake. The fill of the pit (009) was a very fine brown loam with flint and chalk, as was the fill of the posthole (007). It was not possible to establish the horizon from which these features were cut, but they did not appear to be of recent origin. No dating evidence was present in the fills or in the excavated plough soil.

- 5.4 The pits and posthole in Trench 8 may be associated with each other and it is possible that they relate to an earlier agricultural feature, such as a temporary shelter. However, the small size of the foundation trenches, the lack of a general site-wide topsoil strip, and the absence of any dating evidence makes further, more focussed, interpretation unrealistic. It was not possible to accurately tie in the cropmarks of the north-south linear ditch system with the development site, but the recorded features did not appear to be part of this system and it is concluded that the ditches lie slightly further to the east.

## **6 REFERENCES**

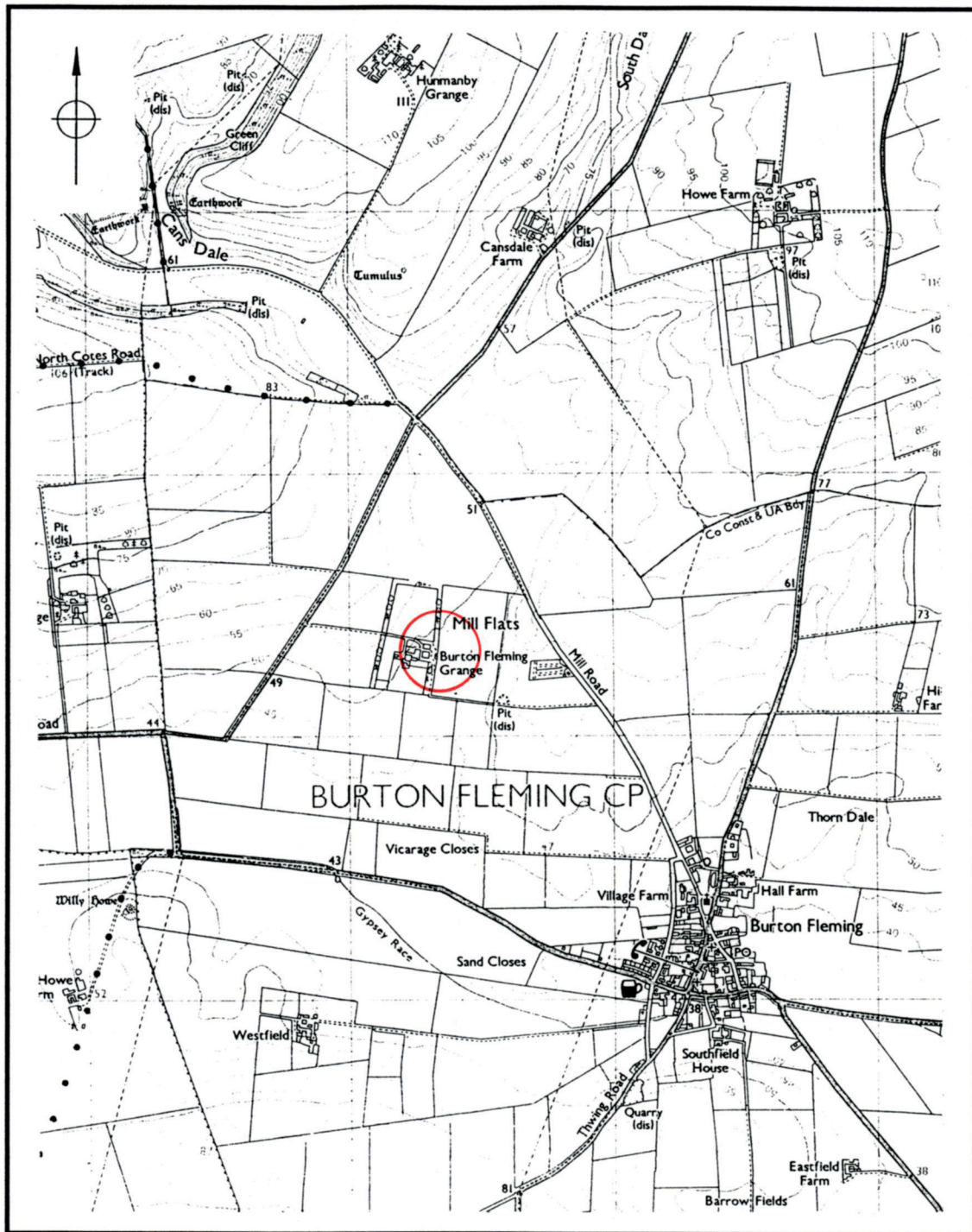
IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 1 Northern England*

Stoertz, C 1997 *Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds*

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

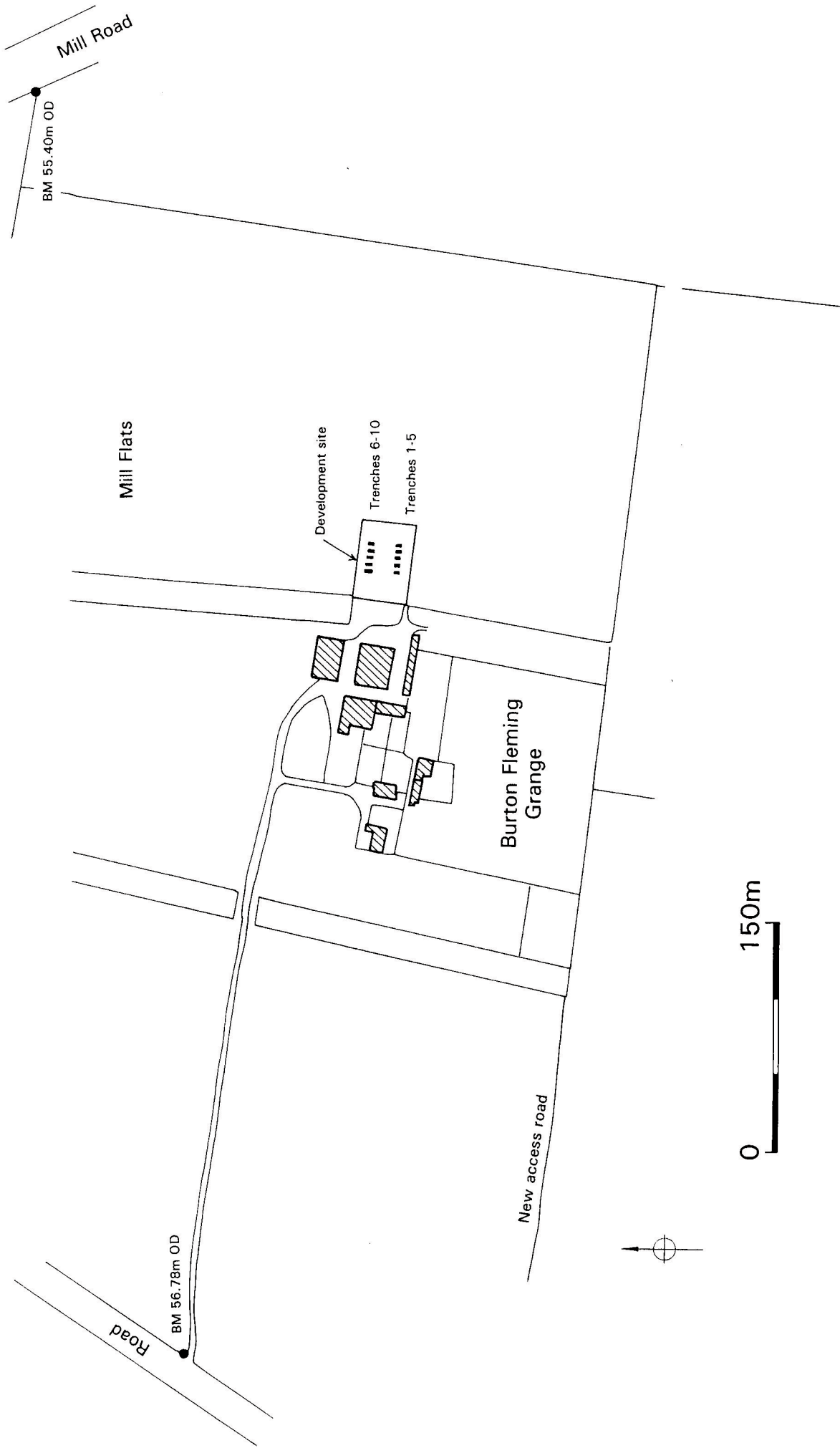
- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by the landowner, Mr S Wells. EDAS would like to thank him for his co-operation in carrying out the work. The on-site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett, on behalf of EDAS, and she produced a draft report and archive and took the site photographs. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, who retains responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies.



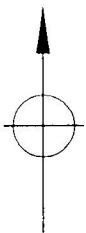
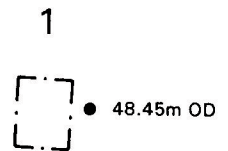
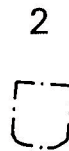
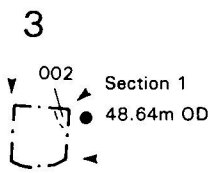
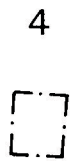
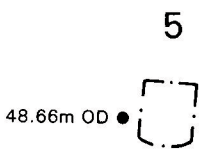
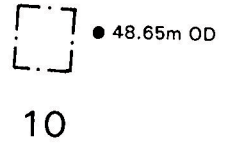
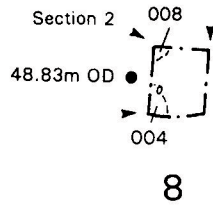
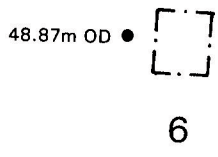
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PROJECT		BURTON FLEMING GRANGE	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	1:25,000	DATE	APR 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	1

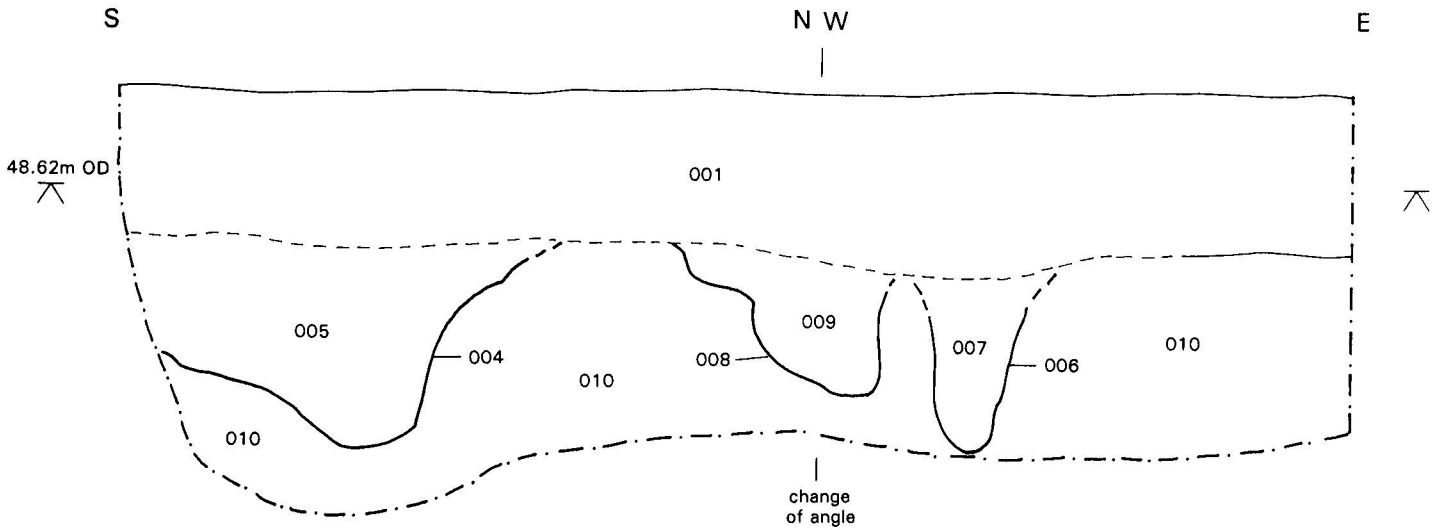




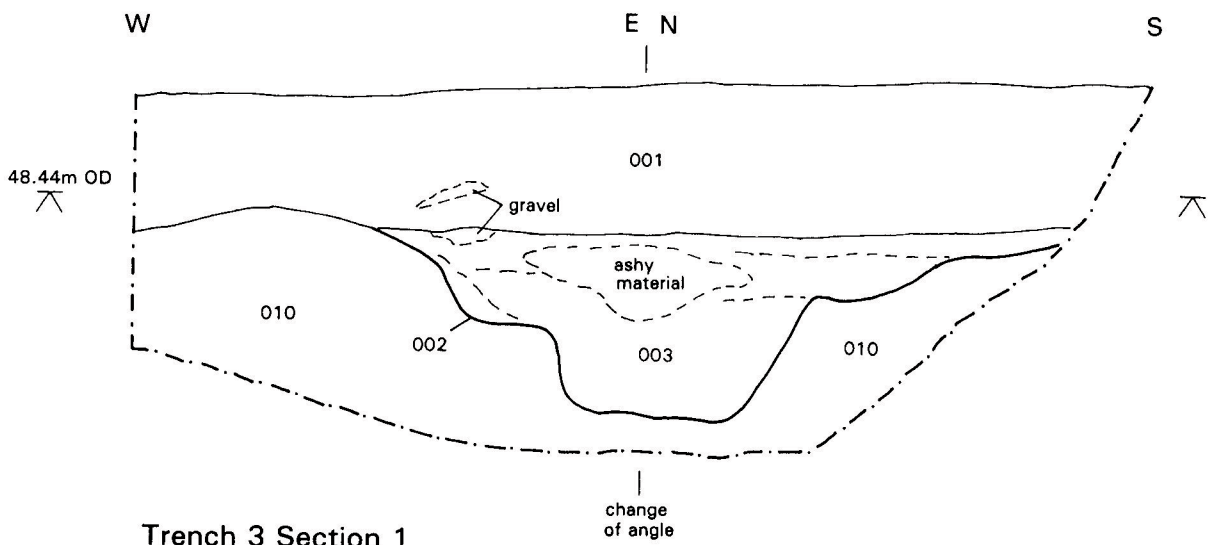
PROJECT	BURTON FLEMING GRANGE		
TITLE	SITE PLAN		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE	2



PROJECT		BURTON FLEMING GRANGE	
TITLE		WATCHING BRIEF - PLAN	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



Trench 8 Section 2



Trench 3 Section 1



PROJECT	BURTON FLEMING GRANGE	
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF - SECTIONS	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE APR 2006
	EDAS	FIGURE 4



Plate 1: General view of trenches 6 to 10, looking north-east.



Plate 2: Cut feature 004 in west side of trench 8.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

001	Brown loam topsoil with coarse grass, chalk and flint, average 0.28m deep.
002	Cut for pit in NE corner of trench 3.
003	Fill of pit 002 – fine orange/brown loam with patches of gravel and some ash.
004	Cut for pit on west side of trench 8.
005	Fill of pit 004 – fine brown loam with chalk and flint.
006	Cut for posthole in S facing section of trench 8.
007	Fill of 006 - fine brown loam with chalk and flint.
008	Cut for possible pit in trench 8.
009	Fill of 008 - fine brown loam with chalk and flint.
010	Chalk gravel – natural deposit.

## APPENDIX 2



## **APPENDIX 2: HUMBER SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD OFFICE BRIEF**

Prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office.

Site Name: Burton Fleming Grange, Wold Newton Road, Burton Fleming  
Development: Erection of free range poultry laying shed  
NGR: TA 07384 73292  
Planning Ref No: DC/04/06728/PLF/EASTNN/JA  
SMR Casework No: SMR/PA/CONS/11297

Date of Issue: 22nd November 2004

*This brief is valid for one year from the date of issue. After this period, the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office should be re-consulted. This document should be read in conjunction with the "Notes for archaeological contractors proposing to do work in the area covered by the Humber SMR" (dated January 1999): these notes are available from the Humber SMR*

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This brief is for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the construction.
- 1.2 The brief should be used by archaeological contractors as a basis for submitting a costed tender for the work required.

### **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The development plot is located just under one mile to the north-west of the village of Burton Fleming. The site is bounded to the west by Burton Fleming Grange and to the north, east and south by agricultural land on Mill Flats.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 An application for full planning permission for this development were received by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 26th August 2004 (application no DC/04/06728/PLF/EASTNN/JA).
- 3.2 Permission appears to have been granted subject to an archaeological condition to secure a programme of archaeological work; the condition stating that:  
  
"No development shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local Planning Authority (PPG 16 paragraph 30)".

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies within a major archaeological landscape, dating back to at least the Bronze Age. This part of the Yorkshire Wolds was selected for a National Mapping Project by English Heritage, because of the exceptionally good quality of survival of archaeological crop-marks. Detailed plotting of these crop-marks has revealed a series of at least five multiple ditches associated with dykes and other features running across Mill Flats, and converging in the Gypsy Race valley, just to the east of Vicarage Close. Some of these linear crop-marks are single earthwork banks, but others are double or triple features. The double ditched feature which runs north-south across the application site on Mill Flats is part of a double ditch system, which is flanked in at least three locations along its route with ring-ditched features.
- 4.2 The plans submitted with this application suggest that the new building would site directly on top of the western half of this feature. Hence, any below-ground works associated with



the current development proposals are likely to encounter below-ground deposits relating to settlement and funerary activity on this site in the prehistoric, Romano-British, and later periods.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

*Should the contractor consider continued monitoring unnecessary at any stage in advance of the completion of all groundworks, they should consult the SMR Office as a matter of priority.*

- 5.1 The proposed scheme of works shall comprise the monitoring of any stripped topsoil, and the digging of foundations and service trenches: these should be undertaken under archaeological supervision, or provision should be made for an archaeologist to view the open trenches after machining but before they are backfilled. This is to enable the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.
- 5.2 The developer's chosen archaeologist must be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority after consultation with the Sites and Monuments Record Office. Access to the site will be afforded to the developer's chosen archaeologist at all reasonable times.
- 5.3 Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of development is to be given to the archaeological contractor. A two-week period is suggested, where possible. The Sites and Monuments Record Office should be notified of the chosen contractor in advance of the watching brief.
- 5.4 On completion of the work, an ordered archive should be prepared by the archaeologist and deposited with a registered museum. The proposed recipient museum must be contacted at the beginning of the project. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum should be sent to the Sites and Monuments Record. Contractors should make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 5.5 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act) which should be reported to the coroner, all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy should be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing. This should include contingency arrangements for artifacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials should be of archival quality, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals must be submitted to the Archaeology Manager, prior to the commencement of site works, if these have not been submitted previously.
- 5.6 Within six weeks of the completion of the work, a report will be produced by the archaeologist, and submitted to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the SMR Office.

The final report should include the following (as appropriate):

- A non-technical summary;
- Site code/project number;
- Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
- Dates for fieldwork/visits;
- Grid reference;
- A location plan, with scale;
- A plan of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored (i.e. house block, garage, service trenches etc) and indicating the position of archaeological features in relation to the foundations etc;
- Sections and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed) with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
- General site photographs (a minimum 35mm format) as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts are encountered;

- A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
  - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 5.7 The archaeological contractor should also supply a digital copy of the report in PDF format to the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office.
- 5.8 Where a significant discovery is made, consideration should be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.
- 5.9 All work shall be carried out in accordance with the developer's proposed timetable and shall not cause undue delay to the development unless otherwise agreed.

## **6 MONITORING**

- 6.1 The work will be monitored under the auspices of the Sites and Monuments Record Office, who should be consulted before the commencement of site works.

## **7 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 7.1 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must comply with all Health and Safety Legislation. The archaeologist or archaeological organisation undertaking the watching brief should ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

Any queries relating to this brief should be addressed to the Sites and Monuments Record, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull, HU2 0LN (tel: 01482 217466, fax 01482 581897).