



Web www.chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk
Email chris.birks@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk

A member of the Chartered Institute
for Archaeologists
MCIFA (membership number 4762)

4 Well Green Row Well Green Frettenham Norwich Norfolk NR12 7GL

Tel 01603 737804 Mobile 07963 969623

Archaeology Report Number CB629R v.1.1

Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk

Grid reference TG 4107 0541 (centred at)

Broadland District Council planning reference 20181845

Norfolk County Council Environment Service reference CNF47837

A Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (to commence with informative trial trenching)

30 September to 01 October 2019

Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF146561

OASIS ID: chrisbir1-368229

Norfolk Museums Service Accession Number NWHCM: 2021.56

Prepared for

Wright Properties of East Anglia Ltd

5 Primrose Close

Ormesby St Margaret

Great Yarmouth

Norfolk

NR29 3RD

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Web www.chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk
 Email chris.birks@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk

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4 Well Green Row Well Green Frettenham Norwich Norfolk NR12 7GL Tel 01603 737804 Mobile 07963 969623

Project	Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work to commence with Informative Trial Trenching at 'Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk'
Grid reference	TG 4107 0541 (centred at)
Planning reference	Broadland District Council planning reference 20181845
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ES – Norfolk County Council Environment Service
 NHER – Norfolk Historic Environment Record
 NMS – Norfolk Museums Service
 OASIS - Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations

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Chris Birks

4 Well Green Row
 Frettenham
 Norfolk
 NR12 7GL

t: 01603 737804
 m: 07963 969623
 e: chris.birks@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk
 w: www.chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk

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Summary

A programme of archaeological mitigatory work to commence with informative trial trenching was carried out at 'Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk' (Norfolk Historic Environment Record ENF146561) prior to proposed residential development of the site and to aid decisions regarding further mitigation. Trial trenching was carried out on 30 September and 01 October 2019. No archaeological remains were present.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work to commence with Informative Trial Trenching at 'Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk' (grid reference TG 4107 0541, centred at, *Fig. 1*) was requested by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service (reference CNF47837). Proposals are to construct nine houses.

Figure 1 Site Location



- 1.2 Broadland District Council planning application number 20181845 applies and the programme of archaeological mitigatory work, to commence with informative trial trenching, was carried out in

accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework*. The Department of Communities and Local Government (2012).

- 1.3 Works were carried according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (CB629 v.1.1, Birks 2019) approved by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service and *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson *et al* 2018). Full details including aims and objectives and methodology are included in Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 1.4 A draft copy of the report, CB629R v.1.0, details how Chris Birks undertook these works and summarises the results of the excavations and was submitted to the Norfolk County Council Environment Service for consideration. Approval was received prior to preparation of this final copy, CB629R v.1.1.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies close to the probable historic core of Freethorpe in an area where there is potential for settlement remains of Anglo-Saxon and medieval date to be present. To the west aerial photographic analysis has revealed a complex pattern of archaeological features evidenced as cropmarks that may relate to settlement and other activity of probable prehistoric and Roman date. Consequently, there was potential that heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) would be present at the site and that their significance may be adversely affected by the development.
- 2.2 Planning permission has been granted for a development of nine houses subject to a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework*. The Department of Communities and Local Government (2012). The Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work commenced with informative trial trenching (Phase 1). The results of the trenching will be used to determine the scope and extent of any further mitigatory work that may be required such as Archaeological Excavation and/or Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control (also referred to as 'Archaeological Monitoring' or 'Archaeological Watching Brief') during the development if features of importance are found and these cannot be preserved *in situ* (Phase 2).
- 2.3 Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF146561. Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) ID: chrisbir-368229 (*Appendix 2*).
- 2.4 Following agreement between the Norfolk County Council Environment Service and the Norfolk Museums Service, archives for negative evidence projects consist of digital and paper copies of the report deposited with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record and a digital copy uploaded to OASIS.

3.0 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 A search of entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within a 1km radius of the site was received on 28 September 2019 and produced 63 records. A summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site including these records and commensurate with the results is provided in this report and further details of these and all other entries can be seen at the Historic Environment Record office.
- 3.2 To the west aerial photographic analysis has revealed a complex pattern of archaeological features evidenced as cropmarks that may relate to settlement and other activity of probable prehistoric and Roman date (NHER 6096).
- 3.3 Cropmarks of a late Iron Age to Roman coaxial field system to the east of the development site are visible on aerial photographs including the possible remains of a farmstead (NHER 49400). The field system forms part of an extensive late Iron Age to Roman field system (NHER 6096 and 21271).
- 3.4 Neolithic (NHER 10369), Late Iron Age (NHER 59688), Roman (NHER 39573), Saxon (NHER 34898, 39942), medieval (NHER 13616, 25085, 33283, 34898, 35774, 39942, 55600 (within 10397), 59688) and Post-medieval (NHER 10413, 34899, 35774, 39942, 52673, 59688) finds indicate activities during these periods.

3.5 The site lies within the area of a World War One Class I Military landing ground used between 1916 and 1918 and a Royal Observer Corps site was constructed during World War Two in the southeast corner of the airfield (NHER 13616). A medieval coin was found through metal detecting.

4.0 Geology and Topography

4.1 The site lies upon a solid geology of the Norwich Crag series with overlying Norwich Brickearth and Boulder Clay deposits (Funnell 2005). The soil landscape borders Broadland and Central Norfolk Claylands (Williamson 2005).

4.2 The site lies on the east side of Freethorpe village on relatively level ground at an elevation of c. 9m OD.

5.0 Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Trial trench excavations were carried out on 30 September and 01 October 2019. Site conditions were good and access was gained from Palmer's Lane to the south of the site. The weather remained dry and sunny. Context numbers were allocated during fieldwork and are summarised in *Appendix 1*. Due to the lack of archaeological remains, no levels were taken. Trench 5 was moved towards the north to avoid a live *in situ* water main.

5.2 Trench 1

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds
100	1	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints and very rare flecks of ceramic building material	c. 0.33m	No
101	1	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.12	No
102	1	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No

5.2.1 Trench 1 was approximately northeast-to-southwest oriented, measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.45m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.33m of topsoil (100) and c. 0.12m of subsoil (101) above undisturbed 'natural' deposits (102) (*Plate 1*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 1.

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking southwest



Scale is 2m with 0.2m divisions

5.3 Trench 2

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds
200	2	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.27m	No
201	2	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No
202	2	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No

5.3.1 Trench 2 was approximately northwest-to-southeast oriented, measured c.15m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.27m of topsoil (200) and c. 0.21m of subsoil (201) above undisturbed 'natural' deposits (202) (*Plate 2*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 2.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking southeast



Scale is 2m with 0.2m divisions

Plate 3 Trench 3, looking southwest



Scale is 2m with 0.2m divisions

5.4 Trench 3

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds
300	3	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No
301	3	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No
302	3	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No

5.4.1 Trench 3 was approximately northeast-to-southwest oriented, measured c.15m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.45m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.21m of topsoil (300) and c. 0.21m of subsoil (301) above undisturbed 'natural' deposits (302) (*Plate 3*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 3.

5.5 Trench 4

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds
400	4	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.37m	No
401	4	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.14m	No
402	4	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No
403	4	D	Mixed dark brownish yellow to mid brown silty sand fill of [405] with rare small-sized subrounded flints and rare flecks of ceramic building material	0.18m	No
404	4	C	Service trench feature	-	No

5.5.1 Trench 4 was approximately northwest-to-southeast oriented, measured c. 20m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.37m of topsoil (400) and c. 0.14m of subsoil (401) above undisturbed 'natural' deposits (402) (*Plate 4*). Approximately east-west oriented linear feature [404] extended beyond the edges of excavation and contained fill (403) with a modern steel service pipe. No finds were recovered from fill (403). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 4.

Plate 4. Trench 4, looking northwest



Scale is 2m with 0.2m divisions

5.6 Trench 5

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds
500	5	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints and very rare flecks of ceramic building material	c. 0.31-0.42m	No
501	5	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	0.16m	No
502	5	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No

- 5.6.1 Trench 5 was approximately northeast-to-southwest oriented, measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 0.6m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.31-0.42m of topsoil (500) and c. 0.16m of subsoil (501) above undisturbed 'natural' deposits (502) (*Plate 5*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 5.

Plate 5 Trench 5, looking southwest



Scale is 2m with 0.2m divisions

6.0 Conclusions and Discussion

- 6.1 The author has a high confidence rating of the results. Site conditions were good though the presence of a live water main on the south side of the site resulted in Trench 5 being moved c. 3m to the north.
- 6.2 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to have been present, none were observed. No remains associated with an extensive late Iron Age to Roman field system in this area were present. Settlement during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods likely occurred towards the main centre of Freethorpe to the west as indicated through cropmarks identified from aerial photograph and the recovery of finds.
- 6.3 A single modern service trench containing a steel pipe was recorded in Trench 4, that possibly fed water to a field shelter and/or trough for livestock.
- 6.4 Decisions regarding further mitigation requirements will be made by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service. It is the author's opinion that further archaeological work is unlikely to add to information relating to activities on the proposed development site.

Acknowledgments

The project was undertaken by Chris Birks on behalf of Wright Properties of East Anglia Ltd who also funded the work and provided plant. Thanks also to Graham Craske, Architectural Technologist.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Birks and John Simmons and the report was written by Chris Birks with contributions by John Simmons.

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Appendix 1 Context Summary

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds	Initials
100	1	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints and very rare flecks of ceramic building material	c. 0.33m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
101	1	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.12	No	JS/30 Sept 19
102	1	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19
200	2	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.27m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
201	2	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
202	2	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19
300	3	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
301	3	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.21m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
302	3	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19
400	4	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.37m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
401	4	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	c. 0.14m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
402	4	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19
403	4	D	Mixed dark brownish yellow to mid brown silty sand fill of [405] with rare small-sized subrounded flints and rare flecks of ceramic building material	0.18m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
404	4	C	Service trench feature	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19
500	5	D	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints and very rare flecks of ceramic building material	c. 0.31-0.42m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
501	5	D	Mid brown compact sandy loam subsoil with rare small-sized subrounded flints	0.16m	No	JS/30 Sept 19
502	5	D	Light brownish yellow and pale yellow slightly clayey sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized subrounded and subangular flints	-	No	JS/30 Sept 19

C = cut
D = deposit

Appendix 2 OASIS Record

OASIS ID: *chrisbir1-368229*

Project details

Project name	PoAMW at 'Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk'
Short description of the project	PoAMW to commence with Trial Trenching prior to residential development revealed no archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 30-09-2019 End: 01-10-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF146561 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND FREETHORPE Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk
Study area	5000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 4107 0541 52.592369985236 1.559677630462 52 35 32 N 001 33 34 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Birks
Project director/manager	Chris Birks
Project supervisor	Chris Birks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Historic Environment Record

Paper Archive ID	ENF146561
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Paper Archive notes	Negative evidence site

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work at 'Land at Palmer's Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Birks, C.,
Other bibliographic details	Report CB629R
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Chris Birks
Place of issue or publication	Contractor's Report
Description	Unbound A4 single-side-printed report with site location figure, text, colour digital images and fold-out A3 site plan drawing

Entered by	Chris Birks (chris.birks@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	4 March 2020

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Site boundary
Archaeological trench



Chris Birks Archaeological Services - Urban & Rural

Land at Palmers Lane, Freethorpe, Norfolk

Scale 1:500 Report CB629R v.1.1 04.06.20

Based on a drawing by Graham Craske

Figure 2. Site plan drawing