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Archaeology Report Number CB642R v.1.1

Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk

TM 0027 8693 (centred at)

Breckland District Council planning reference 3PL/2019/0979/F

Informative Trial Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works

20 and 21 January 2020

Norfolk County Council Environment Service reference CNF48806

Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF147544

OASIS ID: chrisbir1-381059

Prepared for

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Project	Informative Trial Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works at 'Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk'
Grid reference	TM 0027 8693 (centred at)
Planning reference	Breckland District Council planning reference 3PL/2019/0979/F
NCC ES reference	CNF48806
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NCC ES – Norfolk County Council Environment Service

NHER – Norfolk Historic Environment Record

OASIS - Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations

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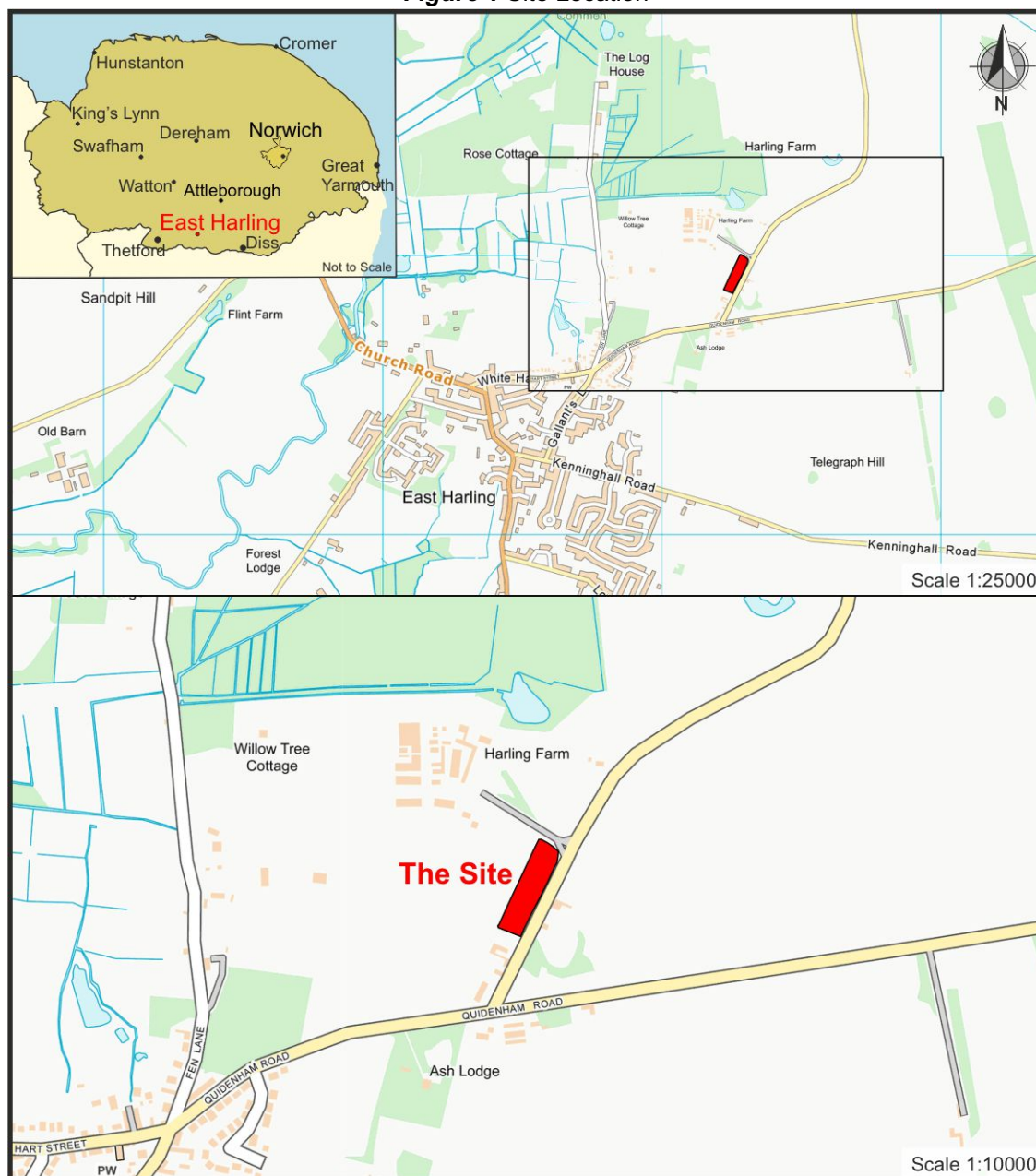
Plate 5. General view of Trench 5, looking approximately northeast

Summary

Informative trenching as part of a programme of archaeological mitigatory works was carried out at 'Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk' (Norfolk Historic Environment Record ENF147544) in January 2020 prior to proposed residential development of the site and to aid decisions regarding further mitigation. No archaeological remains were present and it seems likely that occupation during the Iron Age and Roman periods identified in this area occurred to the west of the development site.

- 1.1 Informative Trial Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works at 'Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk' (grid reference TM 0027 8693, centred at, Fig. 1) has been requested by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service (reference CNF48806). Proposals are to construct four houses.

Figure 1 Site Location



- 1.2 Works were carried out according to Written Scheme of Investigation, CB642 v.1.1, 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.

- 1.3 A draft copy of the report, CB642R 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 on 06 February 2020 for consideration and to aid decisions regarding further mitigation requirements in relation to the development. Approval was received on 18 February 2020 prior to preparation of this final copy, CB642R v.1.1.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies adjacent and to the east of a field where previous archaeological fieldwalking identified a significant concentration of Iron Age and Roman artefacts, indicating occupation in this area in those periods. Multi-period finds had also been recovered from this area. Consequently, there was potential that heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) would be present at the site and that their significance would be affected by the proposed development.
- 2.2 Planning permission has been granted for a development of four 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 Works will commence 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 ENF147544. Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) ID: chrisbir-381059 (*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 study area of the site was received on 24 January 2020 and produced a total of 70 records. A summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site commensurate with the results of the trial trenching including these records 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 Fieldwalking on the site of a proposed golf course to the immediate west and north of the proposed development site recovered a large number of finds including concentrations of prehistoric burnt and worked flints and scatters of Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery fragments (NHER 28355). Metal detecting recovered Roman, Early Saxon and medieval metal objects. An undated flint trackway was also recorded.
- 3.3 Close by and to the west of the development site, undated possible enclosures are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs on land to the west of Harling Farm (NHER 53391), one may relate to Post-medieval drainage. The farm is named as 'Lime Kiln Farm' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 1889-91, and it is possible that these features related to the production of lime on the site, or possibly to Common-edge enclosure, as Harling Common is depicted directly to the west on Faden's map of Norfolk 1797.
- 3.4 Prehistoric (NHER 6009, 10802, 18461, 18463, 21469, 31958, 31961, 32114, 40252, 40253, 40340, 53390), Roman (NHER 6029, 19841, 21469, 25114, , 25115, 28355, 29677, 29886, 30347, 32114, 34487), Saxon (6029, 19833, 25116, 28355), medieval (6029, 13028, 18462, 18463, 19841, 21469, 28936, 29676, 29677, 30345, 30346, 31958, 32114, 33174, 34487, 35185, 36804, 39398, 40252, 40253, 40340, 43149, 56669, 57398, 57424, 61587) and Post-medieval (NHER 10822, 29677, 34487, 10822, 13028, 13892, 13893, 19841, 19842, 21238, 29677, 30452, 34487,

35185, 39399, 40652, 40653, 53393, 57424) remains have also been recorded within the study area.

4.0 Geology and Topography

- 4.1 East Harling parish lies on a solid geology of Upper Chalk with overlying Boulder Clay deposits (Funnell 2005). The soil landscape is close to the border between Brecklands to the west and South Norfolk Clayland to the east (Williamson 2005).
- 4.2 The site lies to the northeast of East Harling village and west of Eccles Road in an area of pasture, formerly arable farmland, on relatively level ground at an elevation of c. 27m OD sloping downwards slightly from north to south.

5.0 Results

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Excavations were carried out on 20 and 21 January 2020 (*Fig. 2*). Site conditions were good and access was gained from Eccles Road to the east of the site. The weather was mostly cold but dry and sunny, misty in the morning with a heavy ground frost on 21 January 2020. Context numbers were allocated during fieldwork and are summarised in *Appendix 1*.

Context No.	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds	Spot date
1	D	Dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and occasional flecks of chalk and very rare flecks of Ceramic Building Material	c. 0.34 – 0.37m	No	-
2	D	Mid brownish yellow silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and rare medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.11 – 0.17m	No	-
3	D	Light to mid brownish yellow sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with areas of chalk/chalk till, frequent small-sized subangular flints, occasional medium-sized subangular flints and rare large-sized flint nodules	-	No	-

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 was approximately northeast-southwest oriented, measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.36m of topsoil (1) and c. 0.11m of subsoil (2) above undisturbed 'natural deposits (3) (*Plate 1*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 1. Ploughscars were observed at the top of subsoil (2).

Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, looking approximately southwest



Scale is 1m in 0.5m increments

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was approximately northwest-southeast oriented, measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.37m of topsoil (1) and c. 0.12m of subsoil (2) above undisturbed 'natural deposits (3) (*Plate 2*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 2. Ploughscars were observed at the top of subsoil (2).

Plate 2. General view of Trench 2, looking approximately northwest



Scale is 1m in 0.5m increments

- 5.4 Trench 3 was northeast-southwest oriented and measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.55m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.36m of topsoil (1) and c. 0.16m of subsoil (2) above undisturbed 'natural deposits (3) (*Plate 3*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 3. Ploughscars were observed at the top of subsoil (2).

Plate 3. General view of Trench 3, looking approximately northeast



Scale is 1m in 0.5m increments

- 5.5 Trench 4 was northwest-southeast oriented and measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.34m of topsoil (1) and c. 0.16m of subsoil (2) above undisturbed 'natural deposits (3) (*Plate 4*). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 4. Ploughscars were observed at the top of subsoil (2).

Plate 4. General view of Trench 4, looking approximately southeast



Scale is 1m in 0.5m increments

- 5.6 Trench 5 was northeast-southwest oriented and measured c. 30m by 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m beneath present ground level removing c. 0.36m of topsoil (1) and c. 0.11m of subsoil (2) above undisturbed 'natural deposits (3) (Plate 5). No archaeological remains were present in Trench 5. Ploughscars were observed at the top of subsoil (2).

Plate 5. General view of Trench 5, looking approximately northeast



Scale is 1m in 0.5m increments

6.0 Conclusions and Discussion

- 6.1 The author has a high confidence rating of the results. Site conditions were good. One of the aims of the trial trenching was to investigate whether occupation during the Iron Age and Roman periods identified to the west extended into the development site and no evidence of this was recorded.
- 6.2 Despite the potential for archaeological remains on the proposed development site, none were recorded and it seems likely activities have occurred beyond the confines of the site. Ploughscars were observed at the interface between topsoil and subsoil deposits indicating this site has at some time been used for arable farming. Most recently, it has been used as pasture.
- 6.3 Decisions regarding further mitigation requirements were made by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service in association with Breckland District Council. It was the author's opinion that further archaeological intervention would be unlikely to contribute significantly to an understanding of past activities in this part of East Harling. No further works were required.

Acknowledgments

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

Many thanks to Peter Watkins at the Norfolk Historic Environment Record office based at Gressenhall for providing Historic Environment Record data. Thanks also to Steve Hickling, Lorraine Houseago and John Percival at the Norfolk County Council Environment Service.

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Appendix 1 Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds	Spot date	Initials/date
1	D	Dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and occasional flecks of chalk and very rare flecks of Ceramic Building Material	c. 0.34 – 0.37m	No	-	JS/21 Jan 20
2	D	Mid brownish yellow silty sand subsoil with occasional small-sized subangular flints and rare medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.11 – 0.17m	No	-	JS/21 Jan 20
3	D	Light to mid brownish yellow sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits with areas of chalk/chalk till, frequent small-sized subangular flints , occasional medium-sized subangular flints and rare large-sized flint nodules	-	No	-	JS/21 Jan 20

Appendix 6. OASIS Record

OASIS ID: [chrisbir1-381059](#)

Project details

Project name	PoAMW to commence with Informative Trial Trenching at 'Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk
Short description of the project	PoAMW to commence with Informative Trial Trenching prior to residential development of the site. No archaeological remains were revealed during the trial trenching. Negative evidence.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2020 End: 21-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF147544 - 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	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND HARLING Land North of Lime Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk
Study area	4800 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0027 8693 52.443109201011 0.94704316844 52 26 35 N 000 56 49 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
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 Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Informative Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works at 'Land North of Kiln House, Eccles Road, East Harling, Norfolk'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Birks, C.
Other bibliographic details	Report CB642R
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Chris Birks
Place of issue or publication	Contractor's Report
Description	Unbound A4 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	6 February 2020

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Land North of Lime Kiln House, East Harling		
Scale 1:500@A3	CB642R v.1.1	20 Feb 20

Figure 2. Site plan