

Land at Chapel Field Road Stalham, Norfolk



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2010

Client: Newall Civil Engineering

OA East Report No: 1188

OASIS No: oxfordar3-77408

NGR: TG 3640 2459

Land at Chapel Field Road, Stalham, Norfolk

Archaeological Monitoring and Watching Brief

Site Code: XNFSCH10
NHER No. ENF124569
Date of Works: 17th-18May 2010
Report No: 1188
Excavator: Taleyna Fletcher
Client: Newall Civil Engineering
Report Date: July 2010

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Summary

Between the 17th and 18th of May 2010, OA East carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Chapel Field Road, Stalham, Norfolk (TG 3640 2459). The monitoring was carried out during groundworks for an agricultural building which is located within close proximity to a known ring ditch which may be Bronze Age or medieval in date (NHER 36104).

Monitoring took place during the initial stripping of topsoil and subsequent excavation of a number of foundation pads.

No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the monitoring works.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site lies on land accessed from a private lane leading from Chapel Field Road (a By-Road to Chapel Field) from the main Wayford Road (A149). The site is less than 0.7m to the south-west of Stalham (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The geology of the site comprised a bright orange sandy gravel recorded below 50cm of topsoil and subsoil and to a depth of at least 1.10m below the current ground surface.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site lies immediately adjacent to a cropmark of a ring ditch, possibly relating to a Bronze Age round barrow or medieval/post medieval mill mound (NHER 36104) (Figure 2). A number of other cropmarks of late prehistoric or Roman field boundaries are known within 500m of the development area as well as spot finds and medieval/post medieval remains; these are all summarised in the table below;

2.1.2

NHER Number	Name	Summary	Proximity to site
8329	Possible site of medieval leper chapel, Chapel Field	According to Bryant's History of Norfolk, a leper chapel was ploughed up at this location. This would fit with the name of the area, which is known as Chapel Field. Fieldwalking here in 1997 recovered sherds of Roman samian ware pottery.	200m west
11860	Possible medieval to post medieval building remnants and enclosure	The cropmarks of a series of sub-rectangular sunken features, possibly the remains of former buildings, and an enclosure, all of probably medieval to post medieval date, are visible on aerial photographs to the northwest of Chapelfield Farm	310m west
36104	Possible Bronze Age ring ditch and possible medieval/post medieval mill mound	The cropmarks of a ring ditch, probably the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow, are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Chapelfield Farm (S1-S2). The site is centred on TG 3638 2458. The ring ditch is quite large, 36m in diameter (external) and a slight causeway may exist to the north. The ditch is relatively broad, particularly on the eastern side, where it is up to 4.5m across. A small semi-circular ditch is visible within the ring and this may be a contemporary feature.	35m south west
49301	Probable Bronze Age ring ditch or	Aerial photographs taken in 1976 show the cropmarks of a ring ditch at this location. The	375m south east

	Bronze Age/Roman roundhouse	ring ditch may relate to a Bronze Age round barrow but it is also possible that it represents the remains of a roundhouse of Bronze Age to Roman date associated with the enclosures and fields that surround the site (NHER 49302 and 49307).	
49302	Undated field systems and enclosures, possibly part of a Roman farmstead	The cropmarks of a series of enclosures and fields, possibly a small farmstead of Roman date, are visible on aerial photographs to the northwest of Chapelfield Farm, Stalham	235m south
49304	Probable post medieval field boundaries and enclosures	Aerial photographs of this area show the cropmarks of post medieval field boundaries and enclosures. The cropmarks reveal a series of rectangular enclosures and fields on a similar alignment to the post medieval field boundaries marked on the 1841 Tithe Map.	370m south east
49306	Probable medieval to post medieval enclosure	Aerial photographs taken in 1976 show the cropmarks of an enclosure at this location. This enclosure is probably of medieval to post medieval date and it may relate to a similar enclosure to the north (NHER 11860).	260m south west
49307	Possible late prehistoric to Roman enclosures and field systems	The cropmarks of a series of fragmentary field boundaries and enclosures of unknown, but possibly late prehistoric to Roman date, are visible on aerial photographs to the northwest of Chapelfield Farm, Stalham.	65m south west
32912	Prehistoric flint implements and multi-period pottery sherds		372m south west

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

3.1.2 The Brief required monitoring of the following:

- all areas of below-ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches and soakaways
- All pipeline cable and trenches

- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located on the immediate western side of an unnamed access road leading from Chapel Field Road to Chapelfield Farmhouse, Stalham (Figure 1).
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 The location of the excavated areas and foundation pads were all surveyed by the author using a Leica GPS which is tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid. Heights were also recorded using the GPS.
- 3.1.6 Site conditions were good with constant warm sunshine.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Day 1 - 17th May 2010

- 4.1.1 Initially the area to the immediate west of the concrete pad and access road (Figure 2) was stripped using a 360° excavator fitted with a flat bladed toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision. This area measured approximately 40m square. For the development, no more than 20-30cm of topsoil was required to be removed from this area. As this was not of a significant depth to reveal or impact upon archaeology, following a conversation with the development control officer, it was agreed further monitoring of this area was not required.
- 4.1.2 The second area to the immediate north was also stripped on day 1 (Figure 2). This area measured approximately 100m square. Again, less than 30cm of topsoil was removed and no archaeological features or artefacts were found.

4.2 Day 2 - 18th May 2010

- 4.2.1 The locations of the foundation pads were set out within the northern stripped area on the morning of Day 2. They were each excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket under constant supervision. Fourteen foundation pits were excavated, measuring approximately 1m by 1m and 0.85m deep. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded, observed or collected. A sequence of subsoil (02) measuring no more than 0.36m in thickness was recorded overlying a natural bright orange sand (03) (Figure 3).

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Unfortunately, no further information has been gained regarding the date or location of ring ditch 36104 due to lack of found archaeological features or finds during this watching brief investigation.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Rob Dowe of Newall Civil Engineering Limited who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor. The brief for archaeological works was written by James Albone of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

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| Connor, A. | 2010 | Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording : Chapelfield Lane, Stalham, Norfolk |

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-77408			
Project Name	Watching Brief at Land at Chapelfields Lane, Stalham, Norfolk			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	17-05-2010	Finish	18-05-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFSCH10	Planning App. No.	PF/10/0057
HER No.	ENF124569	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	Select period...	None	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	North Norfolk	Land at Chalepfield Lane Stalham, Norfolk NR12 9	
Parish	Stalham		
HER	Norfolk Landscape Archaeology		
Study Area	215m sq	National Grid Reference	TG 3640 2459

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	James Albone, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service	OA East Offices, Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire	Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service
TBA	XNFSCH10	TBA

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Location of development area outlined (red) and adjacent ring ditch (green)

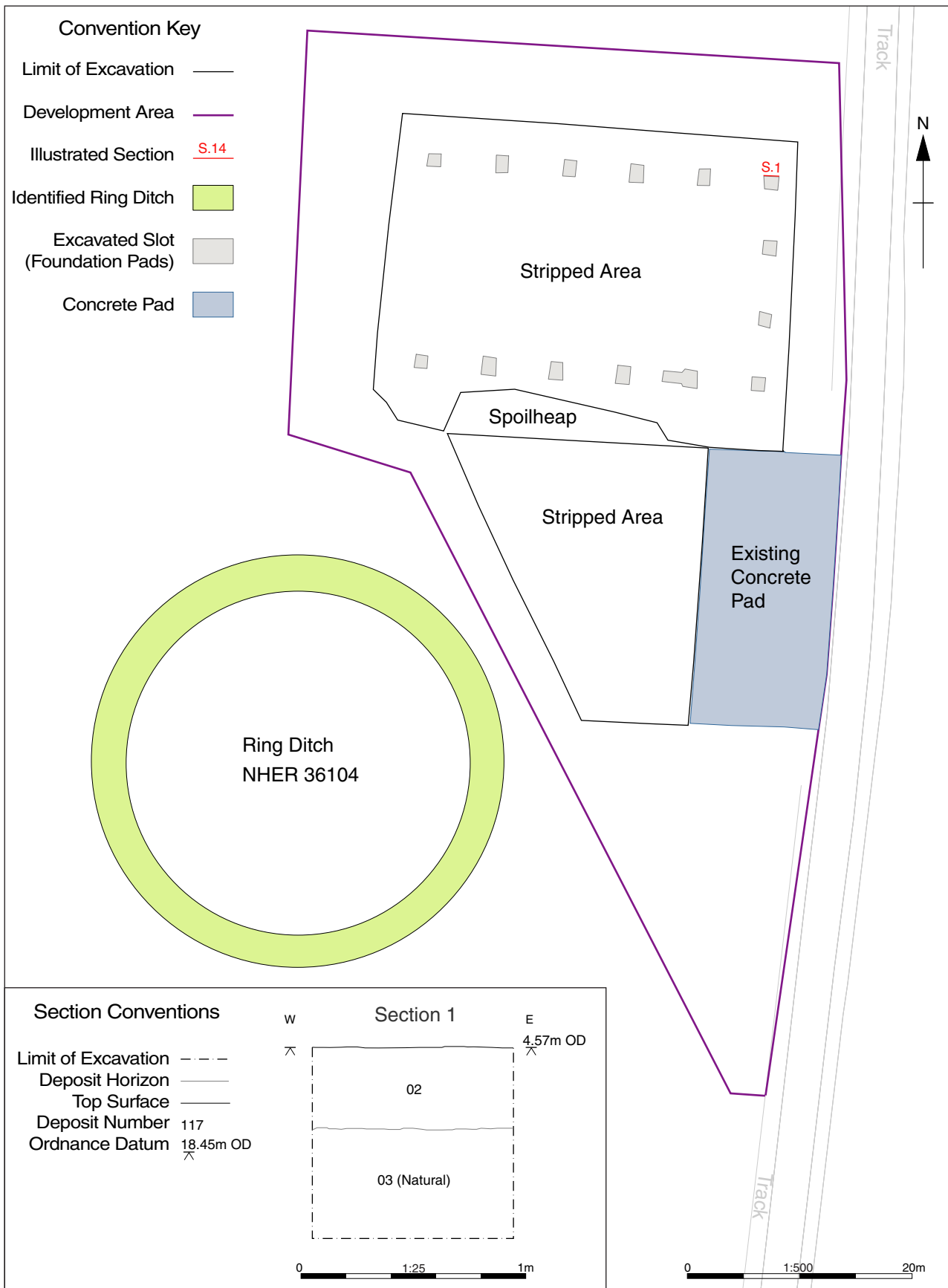


Figure 2: Site Plan



Plate 1: Working Shot showing topsoil strip



Plate 2: Section of foundation pad showing pale brown subsoil (02) and natural sand (03)



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