Report on archaeological fieldwalking and metal-detecting survey on land adjacent to Breck Farm, Stody, Norfolk

report prepared by
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commissioned by Mineral Services Ltd

Planning application number: SP/C/1/2008/1014
NLA reference: CNF41624
NGR: TG 0743 3378.
Norfolk Museums Site code: ENF 124468
CAT project code: 10/4e

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1 Summary

An archaeological survey by fieldwalking and metal-detecting on a 9.63 ha site at Breck Farm, Stody, recovered very few finds (none of them in significant clusters).

The fieldwalking survey recovered three post-medieval pottery sherds, a prehistoric struck flint, and seven brick or tile fragments.

The metal-detecting survey recovered thirty-nine items of metalwork. The only significant piece being a World War II, American copper-alloy cap badge. Most of the metal-detecting finds were iron objects (probably fragments of agricultural equipment) or horseshoe fragments. They probably date to the 18th-20th centuries.

2 Introduction

2.1 This is the report on an archaeological survey by fieldwalking and metal-detecting carried out on behalf of clients by Colchester Archaeological Trust on arable land adjacent to Breck Farm, Stody, Norfolk (site centre: TG 0743 3378).

2.2 Because the development proposal (minerals) would affect a site of unknown archaeological importance, any Planning Permission would be subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological Work. Related planning policies include:


2.3 The Programme of Archaeological Work consisted initially of a geophysical survey using Bartington 1m fluxgate magnetometers carried out by the Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in 2008 (Bartlett and Prince 2008). The survey produced relatively few findings. A large proportion of the detected anomalies were relatively small and weak, and did not suggest any clusters or concentrations of particular interest. Limited positive findings included a linear feature probably caused by cultivation, and possible traces of former ditches or field boundaries, or perhaps land drains.

2.4 Following the geophysical survey, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) recommended a systematic fieldwalking and metal-detecting survey to determine the date and extent of artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil. Details of the required survey are given in Brief for archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking and systematic metal-detecting survey at land adjacent to Breck Farm, Stody, Norfolk (NLA 2010).

3 Archaeological background

The proposed development affects a site of unknown archaeological importance. The site occupies a large area (over 18ha) on the south side of the Glaven Valley, opposite the earthworks of Castle Hill. Hence the area had high potential to contain deposits of archaeological significance.

There was a geophysical survey on this site prior to the fieldwalking and metal-detecting survey reported on here (see 2.3, above).
4 Aim
The aim was, by carrying out systematic field walking and metal-detecting surveys, to determine the extent, date and significance of artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil.

5 Methodology (Fig 2)

5.1 Fieldwalking survey
5.1.1 The field-walking survey followed standard methodology for a 10% surface collection (i.e., by searching 2m-wide corridors at 20m-spacing, thus giving a 10% coverage of the site). The recording system is based on the hectare block. Within each hectare, there are 25 separate collection boxes labelled A-Z (but missing "I"). Finds are therefore referenced to the hectare and box, for instance “Hectare 2, box K”, or “Hectare 4, box B”. The metal-detecting survey grid is shown on Fig 2.
5.1.2 This methodology is described in EAA 14 (page 10) and in the CAT Method Statement (CAT 2010) which followed the NLA Brief (NLA 2010).
5.1.3 All surface finds were collected (apart from obviously modern finds such as rope, plastic bags, or hazardous material such as asbestos fragments).
5.1.4 All finds were washed and marked with a unique code for example A 26 B, to denote the kilometre, hectare and 20-m box from which they were collected.
5.1.5 All finds were classified and dated, in order that plots of the different finds types can appear as figures in this report (see Fig 2).

5.2 Metal-detecting survey
5.2.1 The survey was carried out to the same methodology as is used in fieldwalking survey collection (i.e., by searching 2m-wide corridors at 20m-spacing, thus giving a 10% coverage of the site).

6 Finds from fieldwalking survey (Fig 2)

6.1 Lithics
by A Wightman

A 49 Z.
Small tertiary flake (23 x 22 x 3mm) of grey flint. Evidence of three previous flake removals, platform preparation and a 'serrated’ distal edge, which could be a denticulated edge, use-wear, or simply a result of plough damage. Prehistoric.

6.2 Post-medieval pottery
by Howard Brooks

Fabric descriptions are after Jennings et al 1981, and Colchester Archaeological Report 7 (CAR 7). Three sherds were collected. This is a small quantity of finds, given the size of the survey area (9.63 ha). Few comments can be made about such a small group.

Conventional wisdom is that post-medieval and later sherds have not been ploughed up from underlying archaeological strata, but are the result of recent manure spreading. If so, it would seem that this land may have been pasture in recent centuries.
A 49 V
1 body sherd of modern ironstone ‘willow pattern’ (ie CAR 7 fabric 48d). 5g. 19th – 20th century.

A 58 E
1 rim sherd of jug in Jennings fabric GRE (Glazed Red Earthenware), 5g. 17th-18th century.

B 52 B
Base of jar in Westerwald ware, 16g. 17th-18th century.

6.3 Brick and tile

<table>
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<th>Field</th>
<th>Grid</th>
<th>Square</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Peg-tile fragment</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>A 48</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Peg-tile fragment</td>
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<td>Brick fragment</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>Modern</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Finds from metal-detecting survey (Fig 2)

7.1 Small Finds and bulk ironwork

Summary
The small finds include three copper-alloy and one lead small find, the most significant and only closely datable find is SF6, a cap badge from an American enlisted airman from World War II. The majority of the assemblage consists of iron objects (most likely fragments of agricultural equipment) alongside a number of horseshoe fragments. None of the finds can be closely dated but are most likely from the 18th to 20th century. Measurements are based on corroded sizes.

Lead and copper-alloy

SF1, field A, grid 48 sq X. Small lead strip. Twisted once in the centre, length 56.17 mm, Width 13.30 mm, thickness 6.24 mm. Dated to post medieval to modern.

SF6, field A, grid 58, sq N. Copper alloy US Air Force WWII enlisted cap badge. AAC up with swept wings, style 44. No evidence of the point of attachment on the reverse remains. 3.5g.

SF11 field A, grid 68, sq I. Copper alloy button. Plain with a flat head, head width 14.25 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF25 field A, grid 58, sq C. Copper-alloy coin or disc. No markings or stamp visible, 3.5g. Dated 19th to 20th century.

Iron

SF2, field A, grid 48 sq V. Iron object. Sheet fragment with an ‘L’ shaped oval section handle, probably an attachment point for agricultural machinery. Handle, L 63.22 mm, W 10.13 mm, D 14.42 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.
SF3, field A, grid 57, sq T. 1) Iron horseshoe fragment from a large horseshoe. Surviving length 144.62 mm, thickness 13.04 mm. Dated 18th to 19th century. 2) semi rectangular lump: length 50.23 mm, width 40.14 mm, thickness 30.33 mm. 3) iron strip, length 35.20 mm, width 21.28 mm, thickness 12.02 mm. 4) Iron tapering strip, length 54.64 mm, width at widest part 20.02 mm, width at thinnest part 13.14 mm, thickness 11.03 mm. All dated between 18th to 20th century.

SF4, field A, grid 58, sq D. Iron horseshoe fragment from a large horse, possibly something like a Shire horse. Surviving length 147.36 mm, thickness 18.24 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF5, field A, grid 58, sq M. 1) Iron strip, length 113.66 mm, width 52.87 mm, D 18.83 mm. 2) Iron rod. Slightly curved with a ‘D’ shaped section, length 113.32 mm, width 18.35 mm, thickness 12.99 mm. Both dating between 18th to 20th century.

SF7 field A, grid 58, sq P. Iron hook, length 63.66, shaft width 12.33 mm, hook size 26.22 mm, probably agricultural or possibly from the fishing industry. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF8 field A, grid 58, sq S. Iron file. Triangular in section, length 210.62, width 17.86 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF9 field A, grid 59, sq E. Iron strip, possibly a fragment of a tool, length 39.55 mm, width 13.88 mm, thickness 20.37 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF10 field A, grid 59, sq V. Iron pipe/monkey wrench. Missing the lower jaw, length 147.06 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF12 field A, grid 69, sq F. Iron horseshoe from a large horse, Surviving length 187.62 mm, thickness 11.16 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF13 field B, grid 31, sq H. Iron object. Slightly ‘C’ shaped, length 83.01 mm, width 44.92 mm, thickness 44.54 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF14 field B, grid 41, sq E. 1) Iron object, similar to SF13, length 75.51 mm, width 44.85 mm, thickness 6.52 mm. 2) Iron strip fragment, length 50.79 mm, width 18.39 mm, thickness 14.41 mm. Both dated between 18th to 20th century.

SF15 field B, grid 41, sq R. Iron object. Almost triangular in shape. In one of the corners there is a slightly rounded protrusion that could possibly be the beginning of a tang. Surviving length 103.11, width at widest part 51.45 mm, thickness 23.88 mm. probably a fragment of agricultural equipment but possibly a fragment of a tool. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF16 field B, grid 16, sq V. 1) Iron object. ‘L’ shaped, on of the edges is original, length 120.23 mm, width of part with the original edge 45.07 mm, width of the adjoining edge 59.56 mm, thickness 14.99 mm. Most likely a part of a blade from agricultural machinery. The side with the original edge is similar to SF13 and SF14. 2) Iron triangular sheet fragment, length 33.67 mm, width 34.08 mm, thickness 17.23 mm. Both dated between 18th to 20th century.

SF17 field B, grid 51, sq F. Iron sheet fragment. Almost rectangular in shape, length 43.60 mm, width 67.65 mm, thickness 10.84 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF18 field B, grid 51, sq P. Iron strip, length 82.70 mm, width 30.55 mm, thickness 7.56 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF19 field B, grid 52, sq B. Iron object, similar to SF13-14, length 88.27 mm, width 41.46 mm

SF20 field B, grid 52, sq E. Iron bolt, with complete head and partial shank. Surviving length 72.52 mm, head width 63.22 mm, shank width 52.31 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF21 field B, grid 52, sq G. Iron object. Amorphous fragment, length 33.12 mm, width 32.08 mm, thickness 10.25 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF22 field B, grid 52, sq W. Iron horseshoe fragment. From a small horse or pony. Surviving length 100.17 mm, thickness 8.66 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.
SF23 field B, grid 52, sq X. Iron object. Small amorphous blob, length 26.24 mm, width 13.32 mm, thickness 6.04 mm. Dated 18th to 20th century.

SF24 field B, grid 52, sq Y. Iron tapering strip. Rounded tip, length 151.88 mm, width at widest end 32.49 mm, width at tip 23.85 mm, thickness 24.79 mm. Possibly part of the blade from a harrow. Dated 18th to 20th century.

7.2 Iron nails
by E Spurgeon

Nails have a round flat or slightly convex head unless otherwise specified. Those described as complete may lack the last few millimetres of the shank.

1) Field A, grid 49, sq Y. Complete iron nail, length 50.1 mm
2) Field A, grid 58, sq D. Almost complete iron nail, clenched, length 67.82 mm
3) Field A, grid 69, sq F. Complete iron nail, length 33.36 mm
4) Field A, grid 79, sq C. Complete iron nail with rectangular head, length 15.51 mm
5) Field B, grid 41, sq A. a) Almost complete iron nail, length 35.04 mm. b) Iron nail shank fragment, length 32.57 mm.
6) Field B, grid 41, sq I. Complete clenched iron nail, length 78.30 mm
7) Field B, grid 52, sq A. Complete nail, length 59.23 mm
8) Field B, grid 52, sq B. Complete whole nail, length 39.62 mm
9) Field B, grid 52, sq G. Almost complete iron nail, surviving length 31.55 mm

8 Discussion
Apart from a quantity of agricultural ironwork, there were very few finds. Those which might be regarded as significant (a World-War II cap badge, three post-medieval potsherds and a prehistoric flint) are in such low densities that that their value as evidence of past activity is limited. The sparsity of potsherds (usually brought onto the land during manure spreading) might imply that this land was pasture in recent centuries.

The survey supports the findings of the 2008 geophysical survey, that this site has not been the focus of any significant activity in the past apart from recent agricultural operations.

9 Archive deposition
The paper archive and find are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Norfolk Museums Service (reference ENF 124468).

10 Acknowledgements
This project was commissioned and funded by Mineral Services Ltd, Oak Barn Offices, Thorington Street, Stoke By Nayland, CO6 4SP, to whom we are grateful. Site work directed by B Holloway, assisted by M Baister, B Hurrell, C Lister, N Rayner, and A Wightman. EDM plots by A Wightman and C Lister. Illustrations by CL.

The project was monitored by James Albone for Norfolk County Council. Thanks to James Albone for his input and assistance, and to Hazel White and Sarah Howard of Norfolk Museums for assistance with accession codes.
11 References


CAT 2010 Method Statement for a field-walking and metal-detecting survey, and a linear trenched evaluation on the proposed reservoir site, Stratton Hall, Levington, Suffolk. January 2010

CAR 7 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85, by John Cotter

DoE 1990 Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning

EAA 14 2003 Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney


IfA 2008a Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation

IfA 2008b Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials


MAP 2 1991 Management of archaeological projects, second edition (English Heritage)


NLA 2010 Brief for archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking and systematic metal-detecting survey at land adjacent to Breck Farm, Stody, Norfolk (NLA, 19 March 2010)

12 Glossary

AOD above ordnance datum
context on an excavation site, a specific location (especially of finds)
feature something excavated, ie a wall, a floor, a pit, a ditch, etc
IfA Institute for Archaeologists
medieval period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NLA Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
NGR National grid reference
post-medieval after c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
prehistoric the years BC
Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Fieldwalking Survey at Breck Farm, Stody

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY FIELDWALKING AND SYSTEMATIC METAL DETECTING SURVEY AT

Land adjacent to Breck Farm

Stody
NORFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Norfolk County Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: SP/C/1/2008/1014
NLA REFERENCE CNF41624
ASSOCIATED Y/N
NHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE: TG 0743 3378
MAP EXTRACT ATTACHED: No
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Minerals
AREA: 18ha
CURRENT LAND USE: Agricultural
ISSUED BY: Ken Hamilton
Head of Archaeological Planning
Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Union House, Gressenhall
Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR
Tel: 01362 869275 (direct)
Fax: 01362 860951
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DATE: 19/03/2010

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Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Fieldwalking Survey at Breck Farm, Stody

Summary

The development proposal affects a site of unknown archaeological importance.

Planning Permission has been or may be granted subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological Work (hereafter PoAW). Field survey is required in the first instance to determine the date and extent of artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil.

This Evaluation may indicate a need for a further phase of trial trenching if significant scatters of archaeological finds in the ploughsoil are located. Trial trenching may then indicate a need for Archaeological Excavation or an Archaeological Watching Brief during the development if features of importance exist on the site and these cannot be preserved in situ.

Archaeological Contractors are reminded that they should submit a copy of their Method Statement or Specification to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) for approval, before costs are prepared for commissioning clients, in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ guidance.

1. Policy Background.
The relevant planning policies can be found in:


and


2. Archaeological Background.
The proposed development affects a site of unknown archaeological importance. The site occupies a large area (over 18ha) on the south side of the Glaven Valley, opposite the earthworks of Castle Hill. Hence the area has high potential to contain deposits of archaeological significance.

3. Planning Background.
Planning Permission has been or may be granted, subject to a condition for a PoAW. This Brief provides an outline of the first phase of the PoAW, the results of which will be assessed by NLA to determine whether further investigations (trial trenching and/or excavation) are necessary should archaeological remains be found to exist on the site and these cannot be preserved in situ.

Field survey by systematic field walking and metal-detecting is required to determine the extent, date and significance of artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil.

The Archaeological Contractor will prepare a Method Statement or Specification for this phase of the PoAW and submit this to NLA for approval before costs are prepared for the commissioning client. The PoAW will include, as appropriate, background research, fieldwork, assessment, analysis, preparation of report, publication and deposition of the project archive.
The Archaeological Contractor will contact the HER Officer of NLA in advance of work starting to obtain a HER number for the site or, if a number is already given on the Brief, to ensure that it is still applicable.

The archaeological research aims and objectives of the project will be clearly stated, and the Method Statement or Specification will demonstrate how these will be met. Appropriate reference will be made to the following documents:-


At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

Hard copies of the report must also be provided, as specified below.

5. Standards.
Method Statements or Specifications prepared by Archaeological Consultants or Contractors should state that all works will be carried out in full accordance with the appropriate sections of Gurney, D., 2003, ‘Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England’, as adopted by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for the East of England Region and published as East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14. This is available as a PDF file on the web at www.eaareports.org.uk

Archaeological Contractors should note that the Standards document stipulates basic methodological standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible qualitative standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Norfolk’s historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Norfolk, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

6. Other matters
Archaeological Contractors are reminded that they should submit a copy of their Method Statement or Specification to NLA for approval, before costs are prepared for commissioning clients, in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ guidance.

The Method Statement or Specification should indicate the number of person days allocated to the fieldwork stage of the project.

NLA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The archaeological contractor will give NLA not less than two week’s written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

Any subsequent variation to a Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement must be agreed with NLA prior to its implementation.
This brief is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue. After that time, it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Three hard copies and PDF copy on CD of the Assessment Report and Updated Project Design should be supplied to NLA for the attention of the Head of Archaeological Planning within the stipulated time-scale on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). Three hard copies and a PDF copy of the draft publication report will be supplied to NLA for comments within stipulated or agreed time-scale for the completion of fieldwork. Contractors may wish to submit drafts for comments prior to sending the rest of the copies.

A fourth hard copy of both reports should be sent directly to J. Heathcote, Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science, English Heritage, Brooklands House, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2BU.

7. Notes for Applicants/developers
NLA is responsible for safeguarding the County's archaeological heritage. NLA is consulted by Local Planning Authorities and provides specialist information and advice on the archaeological implications of development proposals.

An Archaeological Project will usually consist of one or more of the following:

Desk-based assessment: a report drawing together existing information about a site from a wide range of sources.
Survey: usually fieldwalking and metal-detecting, sometimes non-intrusive geophysical surveys (e.g. magnetometer survey)
Evaluation: survey and/or trial-trenching or test-pitting.
Excavation: larger-scale excavation
Watching brief or monitoring: the presence of an archaeologist during the development to record any features exposed
Post-excavation: analysis, and the preparation of a report and archive of records and finds at the end of any archaeological project

A phased approach to fieldwork is frequently adopted, with one stage leading on to another (if necessary) after each phase is reported upon and reviewed.

If an evaluation is required before an application is determined or if Planning Permission is granted subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work, NLA will provide a Brief for the archaeological project. This outline of the project is forwarded to you by NLA or the Planning Authority.

You should then ask one or more Archaeological Contractors to prepare a Method Statement or Specification which will detail how the project is to be undertaken, and how the brief will be fulfilled. This will be sent to NLA for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority, after which the Contractor will give you details of costs.

Details of archaeological contractors based in Norfolk and beyond may be found in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Yearbook & Directory, available from the I.F.A., University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, PO Box 239, Reading RG6 6AU. Tel: 0118 931 6446. Fax: 0118 931 6448. Email: admin@archaeologists.net. Website: www.archaeologists.net.

NLA does not see Contractors' costings, nor do we give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. This is between you and the archaeological contractor(s). You may wish to obtain a number of quotations or to employ the services of an archaeological consultant.

For further information or advice on any archaeological matters please contact the person issuing this report whose details are on Page1.
Figure 1 Site location.
Fig 2. Results of fieldwalking and metal detector survey, with insert showing individual hectare methodology.