



**Mundham Quarry
Mundham
Norfolk
NR14 6FD**



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Heritage Appraisal

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1. Introduction

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

This Heritage Appraisal has been commissioned by Stephen Daw MRICS on behalf of Earsham Gravels Limited to provide an overview of archaeology and heritage to accompany a proposed allocation of an extension to Mundham Quarry.

The location of the proposed allocation area (PAA) is shown on **Figure 1**, situated at NGR TM 3405 9758.



Figure 1 Location Plan © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100043831

1.2 SCOPE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage is represented by a wide range of assets and features that result from past human use of the landscape. These include historic structures, many still in use, above ground and buried archaeological monuments and remains of all periods, artefacts of anthropological origin and evidence that can help reconstruct past human environments. In its broadest form cultural heritage is represented by the landscape and townscape itself.

1.3 RELEVANT POLICY AND GUIDANCE

1.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework

National planning policy on how cultural heritage should be assessed is given in National Planning Policy Framework, published in May 2012. This covers all aspects of heritage and the historic environment, including listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, battlefields and archaeology.

1.3.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was published in May 2014 as a companion to the NPPF, replacing a large number of previous Circulars and other supplementary guidance. In respect of heritage decision-making, the NPPG stresses the importance of determining applications on the basis of significance, and explains how the tests of harm and impact within the NPPF are to be interpreted.

1.3.3 Historic England Guidance

The key Historic England¹ publications relevant to mineral extraction are:

- Historic England 2008. *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*.
- Historic England 2015. *GPA 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets*. Historic England guidance.
- Historic England 2011. *Seeing The History In The View: A Method For Assessing Heritage Significance Within Views*.
- Historic England 2009. *Planning Mitigation and Archaeological Conservation – Resource Assessment*.
- Historic England 2008. *Archaeology and Mineral Extraction*.
- Historic England 2008. *Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment*.

¹ Historic England includes publications by its preceding name English Heritage

2. Baseline

2.1 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Mundham House and Stables, both Grade II listed, sit 450m west of the PAA. The house is 18th century of brick under a glazed black pantile hipped roof with 19th and 20th century additions. The stables are later 18th century or early 19th.



Figure 2 Designated Assets and Norfolk HER © Norfolk Heritage Explorer and Bing

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGY

The PAA lies to the north of present quarry that has been the subject to a series of archaeological interventions (29198) including field walking, trial trench evaluation and a watching brief followed by archaeological excavation².

The field walking identified no coherent surface concentrations of material but recovered finds ranging from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. The trenching and the watching brief revealed evidence of Neolithic activity in the form of pits and post holes, a single early Neolithic cremation and a pit containing possible pyre material, as well as two pits containing a substantial amount of early Neolithic pottery.

² Doyle, K. and Weston, P. 2005. *Land off Mundham Road, Mundham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation*. Archaeological Solutions Report No. 1778.

Pits of late Bronze Age/Iron Age date and an Iron Age ditch reflect later activity on the site and although Roman pottery was recovered, no settlement evidence was identified.

Two sunken-featured buildings, one in a possible ditched enclosure, of early Saxon date and a middle Saxon post hole were identified suggesting occupation in that period. From metal detection of the site a Viking 11th century bridle part was recovered, along with several medieval finds including a casket mount.

The latest features were two post-medieval drainage ditches. It is noted in the draft report that the area has been heavily ploughed to enable pea cultivation and this had led to truncation and impacted upon survival within the excavation area.

In the immediate environs of the PAA there are numerous records of finds of both flint (eg 21525) and pottery but no sites are specifically identified. The flint is assigned a general prehistoric date and suggests a landscape that is well utilised in the period but with no occupation sites or ceremonial monuments.

In addition to the flint, stray pottery finds of Roman through to post medieval date are recorded. In none of the descriptions are the assemblages described as particularly dense and in many instances it is just a single sherd (21878). The identification of much of the material reflects the level of fieldwalking within the vicinity (20370).

Slight irregular earthworks (49599) lie to the southwest of the PAA. They are described as irregular and undated and may be the result of recent agricultural practice, but other groups of earthworks survive elsewhere despite the intensively ploughed landscape.

House platforms and a post medieval boundary survive to the west of Mundham House (31948) and further house platforms survive to the northeast of the PAA (21869). To the southeast of the PAA a WWII searchlight battery (49600) is recorded and that is the sole monument from that period in the area.

Although no crop mark sites were noted in the vicinity of the PAA, a soil mark (30621) runs approximately northeast to southwest across the northwest corner of the PAA. This soil mark is described as an undated road or track continuing the westwards course of Mundham Road but it coincides with the course of the present footpath and some authors have suggested it is perhaps too poorly defined to have formed the course of a road.

3. Conclusion

The field-based evaluation, watching brief and excavations within the current quarry, coupled with the background data in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, give a good indicator of the potential for archaeology within the PAA.

Based upon this, it would appear that there is moderate-high potential for archaeology of prehistoric date, possibly with further Saxon settlement archaeology.

Although there was archaeological material within the ploughsoil recovered by fieldwalking this did not identify the location of buried sites that included Neolithic and Saxon remains. The truncated and plough damaged condition of the archaeology found there suggests that a similar level of preservation should be anticipated in the PAA.

Should the PAA come forward as a planning application, pre-determination field-based evaluation is likely to be required, such as geophysical survey and trial-trenching. The watching brief and excavation approach adopted in the current quarry would be appropriate mitigation if consent were granted.

The separation distance to Grade II Mundham House and Stables is approximately 450m, similar to the distance to the current quarry. No effects upon setting are predicted.

On current evidence, there are no constraints to the allocation of this site and, from an archaeological and heritage perspective, the proposals conform to national planning policy and guidance.



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