

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd
January 2018



LAND OFF CHURCH STREET, HOLT, NORFOLK

Archaeological Supervision and Control

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LAND OFF CHURCH STREET, HOLT, NORFOLK

Planning Reference: PF/15/1525

NGR: TG 08052 38766

OASIS ID: withamar1-305923

Archaeological Supervision and Control

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LAND OFF CHURCH STREET, HOLT, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a scheme of archaeological supervision and control undertaken on land off Church Street, Holt, Norfolk. The project was commissioned by Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd to fulfil a condition of planning permission (PF/15/1525) imposed by North Norfolk District Council.

The site lies adjacent to St Andrew's Church (NHER 6520), which has possible Saxon origins, and close to a chance find of pottery (NHER 51282), which included Saxon and medieval sherds. Investigations immediately north of the site (NHER 55058) revealed medieval ditches which could have defined a track, later features, and deposits and burials within the graveyard of St Andrew's Church.

Deposits recorded during the investigation mostly comprised topsoil, subsoil and buried soil, which appeared to relate to use as a garden during the 19th and 20th centuries. A small number of undated features may relate to post-medieval and later cultivation, although a probable ditch and an adjacent feature on the eastern side of the site could be earlier. The latter interpretation is supported by the recovery of a fragment of Saxo-Norman pottery from an adjacent deposit.

Small quantities of 19th century and later pottery noted in materials excavated from the site were probably incorporated into the soils during cultivation. No earlier finds were recovered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological supervision and control undertaken on land off Church Street, Holt, Norfolk during groundworks relating to the alteration and extension of an existing car park. The project was commissioned by Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd, to satisfy a condition of planning permission imposed by North Norfolk District Council. Fieldwork was carried out between the 4th and 13th July 2017.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)

The site is located near the centre of Holt, immediately south of St Andrew's Church, centred on NGR TG 08052 38766. The area lies within Holt Civil Parish and North Norfolk District.

Holt lies is set within a gently undulating topography, with set located close to the 65m AOD contour.

The geology of the area is Turonian Age to Campanian Age chalk, overlain by superficial deposits of Briton's Lane Sand and Gravel Member, Pleistocene Epoch deposits (BGS Online geology viewer). The settlement lies within the landscape of the North Norfolk Heathlands (Williamson 2005, 9).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following account derives primarily from information available in the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record online Parish Summary for Holt (NCC 2017a), and a search made of the

Norfolk Historic Environment Record, for records of previous finds located within 500m of the site (search dated 06/07/2017).

Sites and finds in the parish include Neolithic flint axeheads, Bronze Age round barrows and Roman pottery, coins and brooches.

An Early Saxon inhumation cemetery has been identified in the northern part of the parish.

The Old English and Old Norse word 'holt' refers to a wood or thicket, and Holt in Norfolk is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and in a document of 1242 (Ekwall 1987, 247 and Rye 1991, 35). The Domesday Book records lands held by King, but formerly been held by King Edward (Morris 1984), which included ploughland, woodland for sixty pigs, meadow, a market and five mills.

A small quantity of Late Saxon and medieval pottery was found by chance (NHER 51282) within the boundaries of the current site, just west the area affected by deeper groundworks.

St Andrew's Church (NHER 6520) lies immediately north of the site, at the eastern edge of the core of the village as depicted on the 19th century tithe map and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey County map (NCC 2017b). The present church is largely Victorian, having been gutted by fire in 1708, although some of the medieval fabric survives. Pevsner and Wilson noted that a 'little rownde window' mentioned in 1575 may have been Saxon (2002, 555).

The original village was centred upon the Church, but after the fire of 1708 the focus for rebuilding was around the Market Place (NNDC 2010, 7).

An archaeological evaluation and a subsequent scheme of monitoring and recording (Cope-Faulkner 2012, NHER 55058) were undertaken on land immediately to the north of the current site and south of St Andrew's church. The evaluation revealed a medieval ditch and a post-medieval feature, interpreted as possibly horticultural in origin, while the subsequent programme of monitoring and recording revealed a medieval ditch marking the boundary of the churchyard, with a parallel and contemporary ditch to the south perhaps defining a track. The boundary ditch was later replaced by the extant churchyard wall. Post-medieval remains included a ditch, graveyard soils and brick-lined graves and evidence relating to the rebuilding of the church during the 18th or 19th centuries (Cope-Faulkner 2012).

The site of a medieval and later manor house, with a 12th century chapel and two ponds, lies near Hall Cottages (NHER 6488) to the north of Holt, and numerous post-medieval buildings in the town are recorded in the Norfolk HER. Church Street, which provides access to the site from the west, is flanked by several buildings of historic significance, including a former school house (built 1858) located on the south side of the street (NHER 6486), on the site of a medieval manor house, and two 18th century houses - Janaway House (NHER 47292) and 3 Church Street (NHER 47536) - on the north side.

The Church and a road corresponding to Church Street are shown on Faden's map of 1797 (Barringer 2009), and a similar arrangement is evident on Bryant's map of 1826 (Barringer 2002).

The Tithe map, 1st Edition Ordnance Survey County map and an aerial photograph of 1946 all appear to show the eastern part of the site, in the area south of the Church, as gardens, allotments or orchards, partitioned into several smaller parcels of land (NCC 2017b). Various buildings are shown on the site on the historic maps (Hetherington 2005). An aerial photograph of 1988 appears to show the site divided into a few larger parcels of land, much apparently under grass (NCC 2017b).

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project were to:

- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.

- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project entailed the monitoring of all sensitive groundworks associated with the construction programme.

An archaeological record was made of all remains revealed by the excavations. The record comprises written context descriptions on *pro forma* recording sheets, together with monochrome print and colour digital photographs. The latter include overall views detailing general site circumstances as well as specific views of individual archaeological deposits and/or features. Section drawings, showing the general stratigraphic sequence were produced at a scale of 1:20, and profiles showing the depths of excavation were produced at 1:50. Plans showing archaeological features and deposits were produced at scales of 1:20, 1:100 and 1:200.

6.0 RESULTS

Excavations to the formation level required for construction of the car park were undertaken under archaeological supervision across the site. At the northeastern corner of the site excavations were approximately 0.45m deep, and depths gradually increased to the southwest where up to 0.78m was removed.

The earliest deposits encountered across the majority of the site were dark, silty buried soil layers, some of which may have been former garden soils (Appendix A). In the northeastern part of the site, occasional fragments of 19th century and modern material were recovered from soil layers (008) and (009), but no earlier horizons were reached (*Plates 2, 3 & 4*).

A small area of light brown and mid greyish-brown mottled sand and silt (005) identified as the earliest recorded deposit at the eastern edge of the site (Figs 3 & 4, *Plate 1*) could have represented the upper surface of natural deposits, although a single sherd of Thetford ware pottery from the top of the deposit suggests possible origins in the 11th to mid-12th century. The layer was sealed by undated subsoil or cultivation horizon (004), into which two features [003] and [007] were cut (*Plate 1*; Figs 3 & 4). Linear feature [003], which was northwest-southeast aligned and 2.50m wide, was unexcavated but possibly represented either a ditch or a hollow on the line of a path. Approximately 0.90m to the east, Feature [007], which extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east, may have been a pit or the southwestern end of a ditch. The feature was at least 0.60m long by over 0.80m wide. Neither of the latter two features were dated, but they contained similar fills of mid greyish-brown sandy silt - (002) and (006) respectively - which might indicate that they were broadly contemporary with one another.

Subsoil (004) was also encountered along the southern edge of the stripped area (*Plate 5*), where it was truncated by the possible construction cut for a wall foundation or a robber trench [010] (*Plate 6*). The cut, measuring 0.11m deep and 0.60m wide, was north-south aligned and turned to the west at its northern end (Fig. 3). It contained brick rubble (011), interpreted as either the rubble foundation of a wall or backfill from a robbed wall. A fragment of pantile dated 18th to 19th century was recovered from the context.

On the western side of the site, the earliest recorded deposit was again subsoil, this time recorded as (014). Here, the subsoil was truncated in places by parallel north-south aligned strips of darker soil (013) interpreted as resulting from planting in rows. The strips were approximately 0.50m wide and set approximately 0.15m apart (Fig. 3, *Plate 7*). At the western limit of excavation, they were sealed by a layer of 19th century or later hardstanding (012) extending around the gated entrance to the site (*Plate 8*, Fig. 4). Also truncating (013), was a single pit [016], which was sub-square to sub rounded in plan, measuring 1.3m wide (*Plate 7*, Fig. 3).

Topsoil (001) was recorded across the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Deposits recorded during the investigation primarily consisted of topsoil, subsoil, buried soil and cultivation horizons, mostly seeming to relate to the use of the site as gardens.

An aerial photograph of 1946 (NCC 2017b) appears to show the site sub-divided, possibly into allotments or similar small parcels of cultivated land. Such use of the site could explain the bands of cultivated soil (013) on the western side of the site and the linear feature [013] on the eastern side, as both appear similarly aligned to the parcels of land shown on the photograph. However, the linear feature [003] and the adjacent feature [007], located on the eastern side of the site are both undated, and could belong to an earlier phase as suggested by the single fragment of Saxo-Norman pottery recovered from context (005).

The possible wall foundation [010] on the southern side of the site appears to correspond in location to a boundary visible on an aerial photograph from 2007 (Hetherington 2015, 9), but the alignment is not apparent on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1971, which suggests a relatively recent date. However, a boundary shown on the tithe map of 1839 (NCC 2017b) may correspond to the north-south portion of [010].

Small quantities of 19th century and modern material noted in probable garden deposits across the site indicate mostly horticultural use in the recent past. Summary analysis of historic map evidence also indicates that the area has been used as gardens, cultivated land or orchards throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries. Such activity would result in small quantities of contemporary pottery being incorporated into the soils.

No material predating the 19th century was identified during the investigation.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

EVENT NUMBER: ENF 142328

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: PF/15/1525

FIELD OFFICERS: R Trimble and N Jefferson

NGR: TG 08052 38766

CIVIL PARISH: Holt

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 4th to 12th July 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Supervision and Control

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Norfolk Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: ENF 142328

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	16
Sheets containing scale drawings	4
Black and White photographs	22 frames
Digital Photographs	46 files
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Stripped area on the eastern side of the site, showing pit or ditch terminal [007] and linear feature [003], with Section 1 to the right. Looking southeast, with scale 1m



Plate 2: Stripped area in the northeastern part of the site, looking northwest



Plate 3 Representative Section 2, located on the northeast side of the site, looking east; scale 1m



Plate 4: View of stripped area at the eastern edge of the site, looking north



Plate 5: General view of stripped area on the southern side of the site, looking west; scale 1m



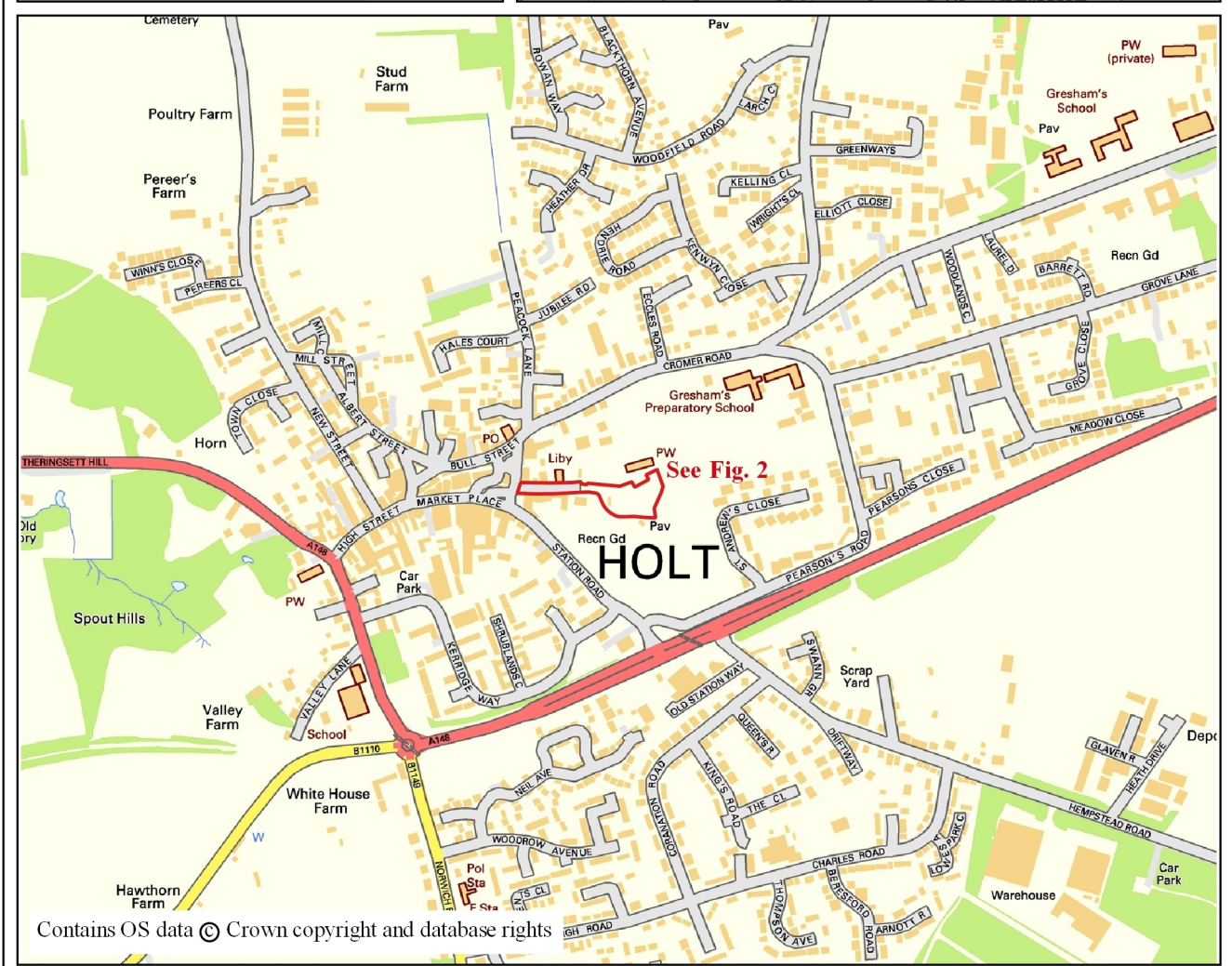
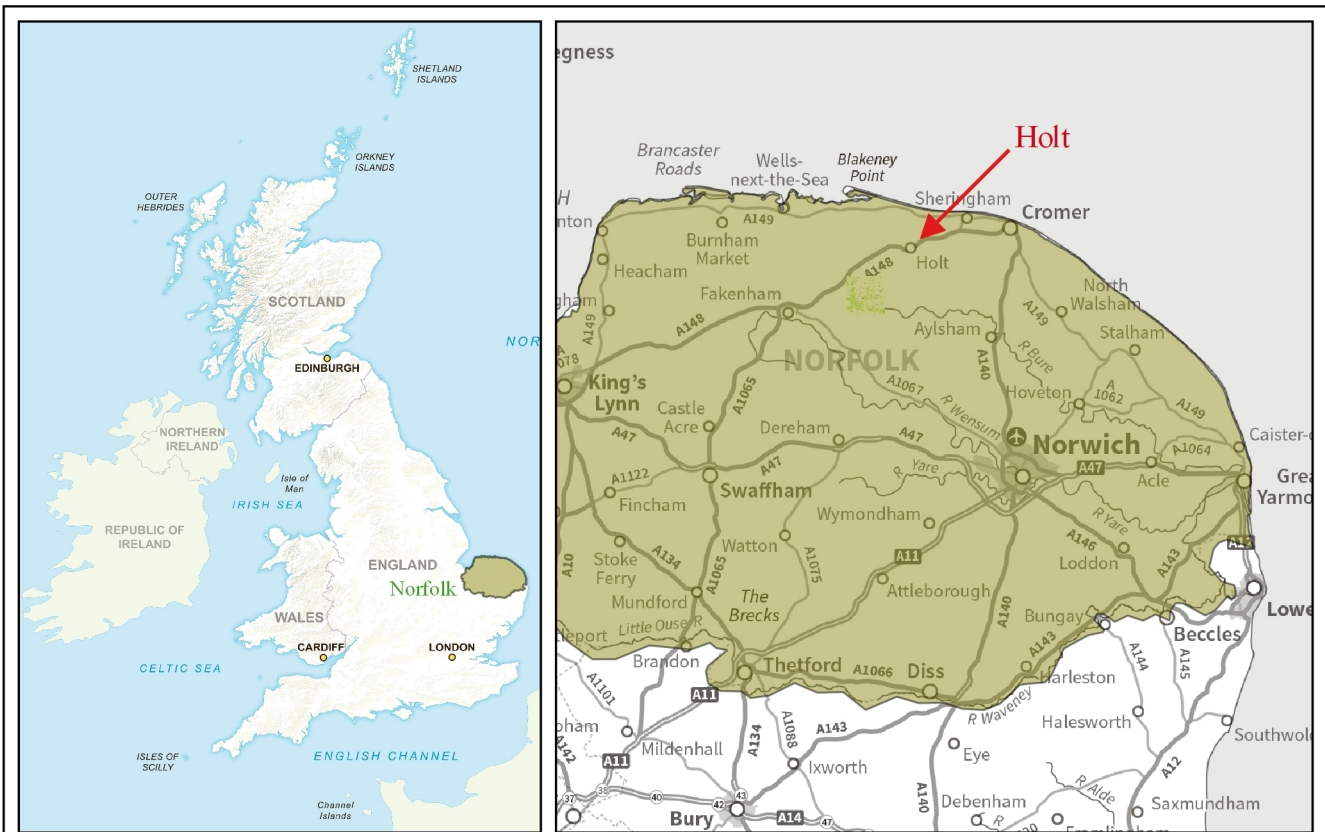
Plate 6: Section 4 at the southern edge of the stripped area, showing wall foundation or robber trench [010] (up and left of 1m scale), looking south



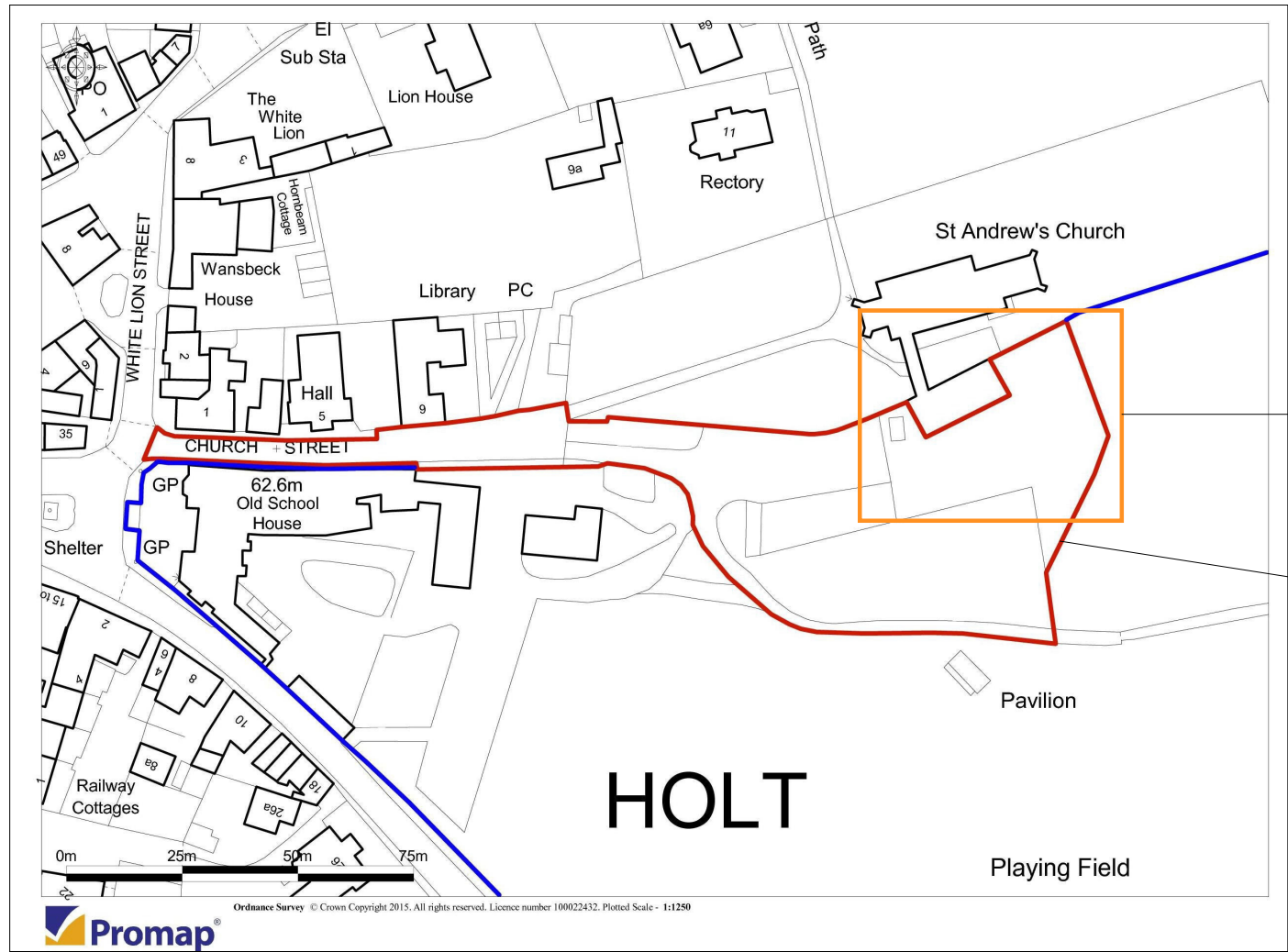
Plate 7: View of stripping on the western side of the site, showing pit [016] and strips of cultivated soil (013), looking north



Plate 8: Section 5 at the western edge of the site, looking west; scale 1m



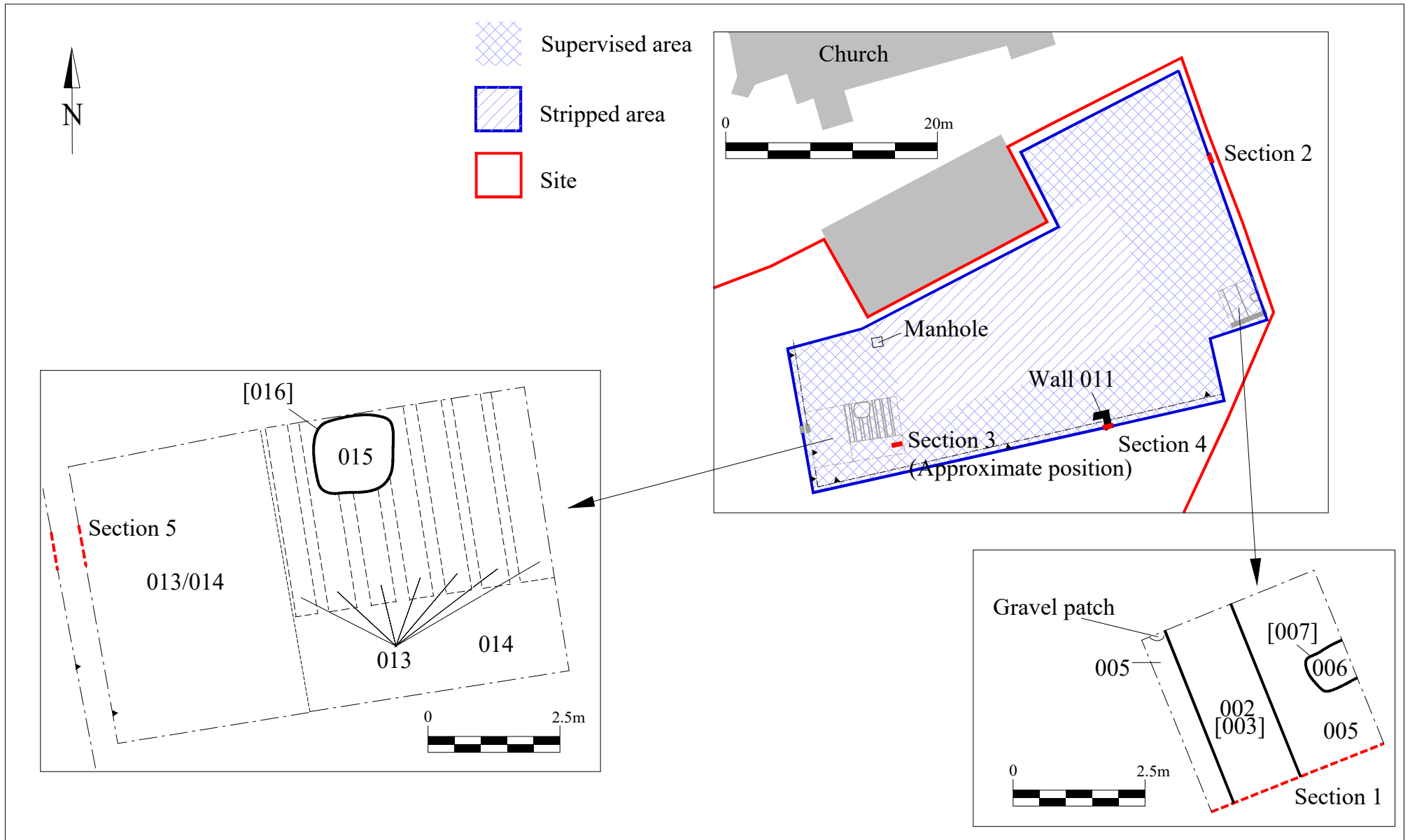
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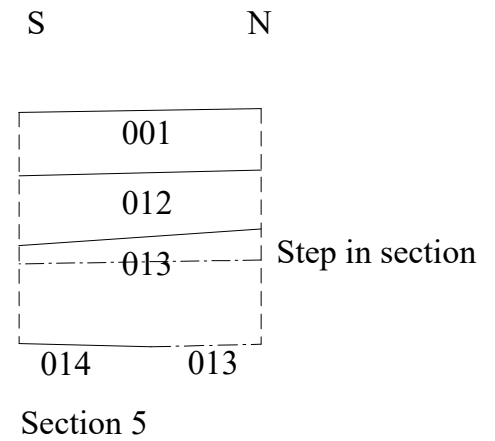
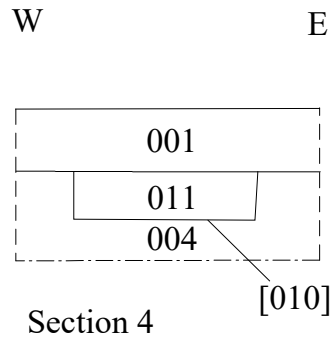
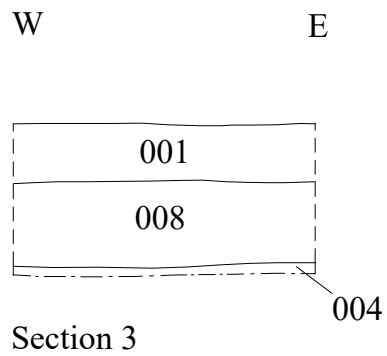
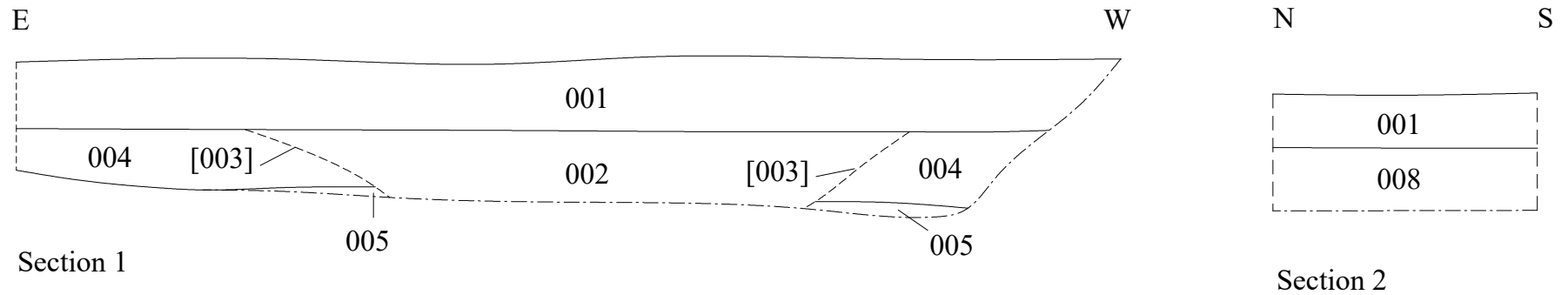


Area shown in Fig. 3

Site Boundary

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APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil	Loose to friable dark greyish-brown silty sand with humic content, occasional angular stones and frequent fine roots, 0.25m thick
002	Fill of linear feature [003]	Soft to slightly malleable/moderately compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt with angular and rounded pebbles including flint, at least 0.20m thick
003	Linear feature, probably a ditch although as unexcavated could be hollow on line of a path	Southeast-northwest aligned linear feature, at least 0.20m deep and 2.50m wide with moderately sloping sides where seen
004	Subsoil - possibly a cultivation horizon	Moderately compact to slightly malleable mid brown sandy silt with occasional angular stones, 0.18m to 0.26m thick
005	Deposit, possibly upper surface of natural or redeposited natural	Moderately compact very mixed very light brown and mid greyish-brown mottled sand and silt with moderately frequent stones, 40mm thick
006	Fill of feature [007], possible pit or ditch terminus	Soft to slightly malleable/moderately compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and occasional angular small stones
007	Possibly a pit or ditch terminus	Sub-square where seen, not fully exposed in plan, with rounded corners, 0.60m by over 0.80m wide and southwest-northeast aligned
008	Layer, possibly buried soil	Moderately compact to friable mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional angular stones, occasional modern and 19 th century finds including white pottery with willow pattern, at least 0.24m thick
009	Layer, possibly buried soil	Moderately compact to friable light yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional stones and occasional 19 th and 20 th century finds, at least 50mm thick
010	Cut of wall foundation of former garden wall or robbing of wall	North-south aligned linear feature, 0.60m wide and 0.11m deep with vertical sides and a flat base, turning at north end to continue on to the west
011	Rubble base of wall within [010] or backfill of wall robber trench	Soft mid greyish-brown sand with fragments of ceramic building material, 0.11m thick
012	Layer, probable 19 th century or later hardstanding around gate	Moderately compact light orange-brown gravel (40%) and sand (60%), up to 30mm thick and extending 5.5m north to south around south gatepost at entrance to site
013	Layer, horticultural in origin with north-south planting strips approximately 0.50m wide and 0.15m apart	Soft to friable mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones and charcoal flecks and fragments, 0.32-0.38m thick across area adjacent to gateway at entrance to site
014	Subsoil	Soft, light yellowish-brown with mid greyish-brown mottles, slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional stones
015	Fill of pit [016]	Moderately compact to friable mixed mid greyish-brown and orange- brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional chalk lumps, tile/brick flecks, mortar lumps, limestone and stone
016	Pit	Sub-square to sub-round pit with rounded corners, 1.3m wide
017	Unstratified Finds	

APPENDIX B – FINDS REPORT

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of eight sherds from seven vessels, weighing 151 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern period.

Condition

The condition of the pottery is mixed, but pieces are generally fresh. A single vessel has sooting indicative of usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
005	THETT	Thetford-type ware	Jar?		Base	Sooted exterior; trimmed base?	11th-M12th	1	1	13
008	PORC	Porcelain	Flat		Profile		19th-20th	1	1	15
008	WHITE	Modern whiteware	Hollow		BS		M19th-20th	1	1	2
009	PEARL	Pearlware	Lid	Blue transfer print - Willow pattern	Rim	Terrine lid	19th	1	1	15
009	PORC	Porcelain	Flat	Blue transfer print - floral design; moulded rim	Rim		19th	1	1	6
009	SLIP	Slipware	Bowl		Base; BS	Joining sherds		2	1	68
017	CREA	Creamware	Bowl		Rim to lower wall		L18th-M19th	1	1	32
Total								8	7	151

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from layers (005), (008) and (009). A single sherd of unstratified pottery was assigned context (017).

Range

The bulk of the pottery is probably 19th century in date. Fragments from (008) may even have been produced in the later 19th or early 20th century. A single piece of Thetford-type ware (THETT), from (005) is Saxo-Norman in date (11th to mid 12th century).

Potential

The bulk of the material is not worthy of retention and storage and should be discarded. A single fragment of Saxo-Norman date, from (005), should be retained as part of the site archive.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 345 grams, was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out, counted and then weighed. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

The fragments are unabraded. The pieces are sooted and have most likely been used as roofing material. The items may have been reused within the base of a wall.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Comment	Date
011	PANT	Pantile	Oxidised; fine sandy; Fe	2	345	Sooted	18th-19th

Provenance

The pantile came from [010], wall cut or wall robber trench.

Range

There two pieces of pantile. These pieces are of later post medieval or early modern date.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The items can be discarded.

GLASS

By Denise Buckley

Introduction

Two pieces of glass, together weighing 94g, were recovered.

Condition

Although broken, the glass is in good condition.

Results

Table 3, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	Date	NoF	W (g)
008	Fragment of part of neck and shoulder of a green bottle.	19 th century	1	31
009	Body sherd from green bottle.		1	63
Totals			2	94

Provenance

The glass was recovered from (008) and (009), both of which are probably layers of buried soil.

Range

Two shards of green bottle glass (probably wine bottles), both dating to the 19th century, were recovered.

Potential

Apart from dating evidence, the glass is of no further potential and has been discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table #, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
005	11 th to mid 12 th	Date on a single sherd
008	Mid 19 th to 20 th	
009	19 th	
011	18 th -19 th	
017	Late 18 th to mid 19 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C
OASIS SUMMARY DETAILS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-305923

Project details

Project name	Land off Church Street, Holt, Norfolk
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological supervision and control was undertaken during groundworks for an extension to an existing car park in the grounds of Gresham's School and just south of the St Andrew's church, Holt. The groundworks, involving general ground reductions to around 0.45m below existing ground level, revealed a probable ditch terminal (undated) at the southeastern corner of the area and another feature representing either another ditch or possibly the line of a path. Excavations on the southern side of the area revealed the foundations of a brick structure representing the possible remains of a garden building. In general, the deposits revealed on the site were consistent with use as a garden during the post medieval period and later.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2017 End: 13-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF142328 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK HOLT Land off Church Street, Holt, Norfolk
Postcode	NR256BB
Study area	750 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 08052 38766 52.905551455713 1.094117791191 52 54 19 N 001 05 38 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Russell Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Gresham's School Enterprises Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Church Street, Holt, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mellor, V.
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