
**31 Kirkgate, Holme-next-the-Sea,
Norfolk**

**Monitoring of Works under Archaeological
Supervision and Control**

ENF 139098

**John Percival
February 2016**

Heather Wallis Report No. 179

Project name	31 Kirkgate
Parish	Holme-next-the-Sea
Event No.	ENF 139098
Grid Ref.	TF 70555 43402
Date of Work	14th January 2016

Introduction

Planning permission was sought to build a single detached house and garage at 31 Kirkgate, Holme-next-the-Sea (Fig. 1). This was granted on condition that archaeological monitoring of any below ground disturbances caused by construction works be undertaken. A brief for archaeological monitoring was issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service, on behalf of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council. The aim of the monitoring was to identify and record any revealed archaeological deposits and recover any artefacts disturbed by the process of construction.

The L-shaped new-build footprint measured approximately 17m by 14.5m and was located c.150m west of St. Mary's Church. Approximately 60% of the new-build footprint was on the site of a recently demolished bungalow of mid-20th century date (Fig. 2).

The development work was undertaken by Grocott & Murfit builders acting on behalf of Mr Martin Drew.

Location, Topography and Geology

Holme-next-the-Sea is located on the coast of northeast Norfolk approximately 25km north of Kings Lynn and 4km northeast of Hunstanton. The village lies on a flat or very gently sloping shelf of land overlooking the coastline c. 1km to north. The site at 31 Kirkgate lies adjacent the historic centre of the village at elevation of c. 6m OD.

The surface geology of in the immediate environs of 31 Kirkgate is largely made up of Holkham Till diamicton, a glacial deposit made up of varying amounts of dull reddish brown sands and clays with significant chalk and flint inclusions as well as igneous and metamorphic erratics.

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

In practice the glacial till deposits can be very varied within surprisingly small areas. Within the construction footprint at 31 Kirkgate the undisturbed natural

deposits encountered consisted of extremely dense slightly reddish brown boulder clay flecked with chalk. In places large patches or lenses of orange-brown sand clay overlay the clay.

Archaeological Background

31 Kirkgate sits towards the centre of the historic village of Holme-next-the-Sea within sight of St. Mary's Church. Parts of the church date from the 13th and 15th centuries although the nave was completely rebuilt in 1778.

Other historic buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site include the former National School building; a Victorian gothic structure built in 1848. Opposite 31 Kirkgate and set back from the street frontage is Whitehall Farmhouse which is of 17th and late 18th century date. Further west along Kirkgate is the White Horse Public House which dates to the early 18th century as does the barn opposite which has been converted into cottages.

Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs show two enclosures and associated field systems and banks south and southeast of the site. These features are mostly undated, but some may be of medieval or post-medieval origin.

Approximately 250 west of 31 Kirkgate pottery dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods has been found to the south of Westgate. Medieval pottery has also been found in the same area on the northern side of Westgate. Also in the northeast part of the village pottery dated to the Roman and medieval periods was recovered during archaeological monitoring of works associated with an electricity cable trench. A coin of Edward the Confessor, who ruled from 1042 to 1066, has also been found c.100m north of present site.

Although the name Holme itself is an Anglo-Saxon place-name the street names of Holme-next-the-Sea with their 'gate' suffixes are distinctly Scandinavian in origin. Gate simply meant Street in Old Norse. Such mixing of major and minor place names is not unusual in Norfolk (Margeson 1996,49).

A review accessible on-line map and aerial photographic resources (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>, Google Earth) has been made. The Holme-next-the-Sea enclosure map of 1859-1860 and the near contemporary tithe map both show the area occupied by 31 Kirkgate as an undeveloped agricultural field, with no buildings on the street frontage. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map in the 1880s more of Kirkgate had become occupied by buildings, but the 31 Kirkgate plot remained empty and it was still unoccupied in 1946.

Recording methods

One visit was made to site in order to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches for the new-build house. The area of the new-build prior to excavation and the risings from the footing trenches were visually checked in order to maximise any finds retrieval. Some metal-detecting was attempted, but metal debris resulting from the recent demolition of the bungalow was abundant.

Work associated with the new garage was not monitored as this was to be constructed using mini-piles.

All work was carried out in full accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Wallis 2015) and with national and regional standards for the treatment of archaeological remains. In particular the guidance set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) were adhered to.

Observations

The footing trenches (Fig. 2, Plates 1 and 2) were excavated by machine, a JCB type wheeled excavator fitted with a 900mm bucket. The footing trenches were between 0.9m and 1.1m wide and 1.0m deep. Undisturbed 'natural' geological deposits consisting of very dense boulder clay (see above) was seen in the sides and base across all of the footing trenches.

Across most of the footing trenches the boulder clay was directly overlain by between 0.4m and 0.6m of mixed clayey loam topsoil containing frequent lumps of chalk.

As noted above around 60% of the new-build footprint lay directly within the footprint of a recently demolished white rendered, brick-built bungalow of 1950s or 1960s date. Parts of the below ground foundations of this structure had been removed. Although the foundations for the bungalow had been relatively shallow, resting on the surface of the clay natural, their removal had caused considerable disturbance and much of the center of the site was either considerably churned by wheeled plant or covered by a large heap of brick and concrete demolition debris.

In the area that had been occupied by the asphalt driveway for the bungalow a layer of compacted chalk rubble 0.4m thick was overlain by 0.1m gravel bedding for the asphalt. The disturbance and truncation caused by the construction of the driveway was more severe than that caused by the construction and demolition of the bungalow itself.

Apart from the footings of the bungalow and the truncation caused by the driveway no other features or pre- late 20th-century finds were revealed.

The footing trenches for the north-west corner of the new house were not excavated on the day of the monitoring. A second monitoring visit was not made as this part of the new build lay in an area of heaviest truncation under the previous driveway and no archaeological features or finds had been identified in the monitored trenches.

Conclusions

Although located within the heart of the village of Holme-next-the Sea no features or finds pre-dating the 20th century were identified.

Bibliography

- Margeson, S., 1996, 'Viking Settlement in Norfolk, A Study of New Evidence' in Margeson, S., Ayers, B. and Heywood, S. (eds), *A Festival of Norfolk Archaeology* Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, 47-57
- Wallis, H., 2015, Written Scheme of Investigation for Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control, 31 Kirkgate, Holme-next-the-Sea

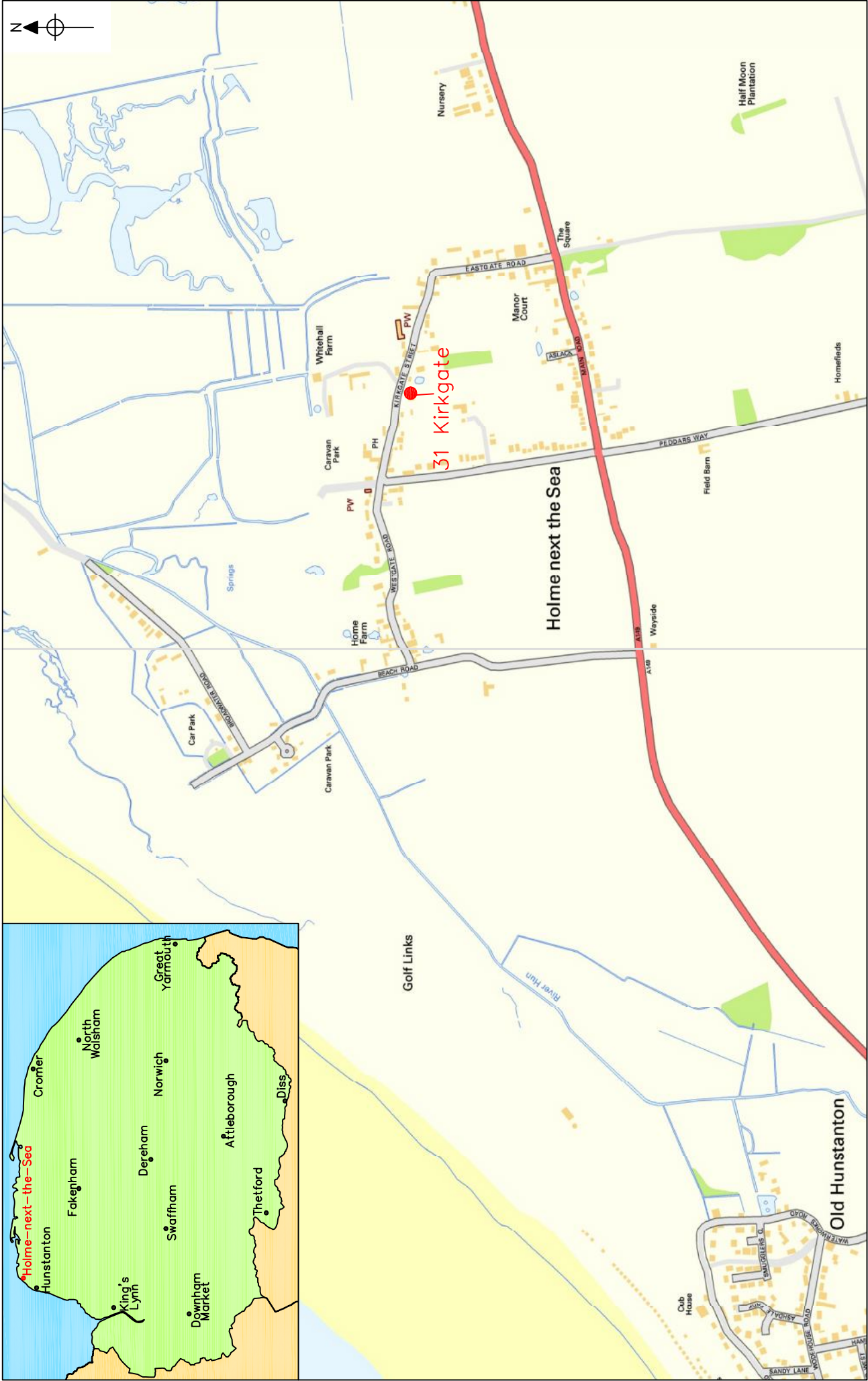


Figure 1. Site location plan

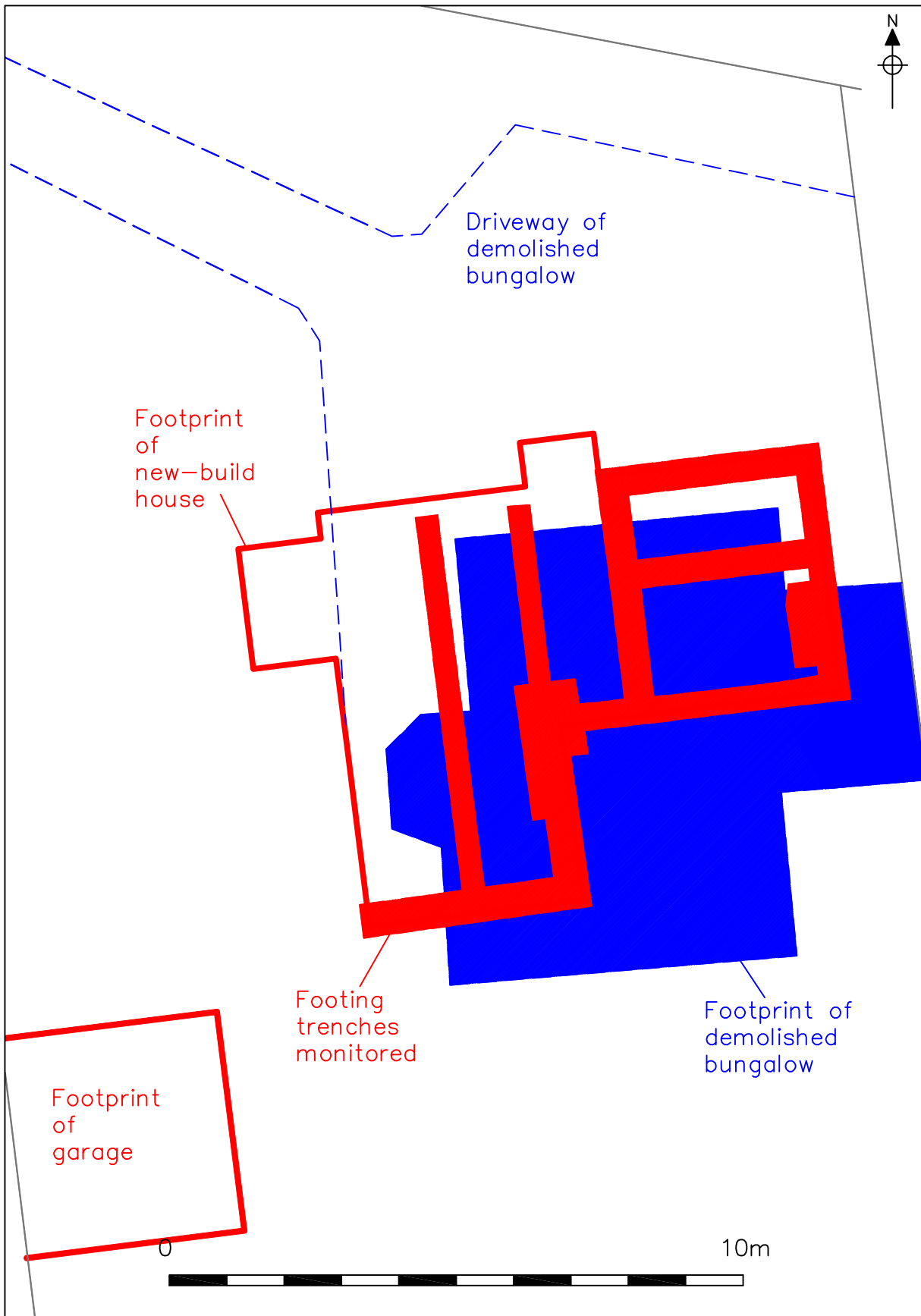


Figure 2. Showing monitored trenches and site layout. Scale 1:200



Plate 1. Typical deposits, looking south.



Plate 2. Showing chalk rubble make-up for driveway, looking south-east.

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Project details

Project name	31 Kirkgate, Holme-next-the-Sea
Short description of the project	Watching Brief carried out for the construction of a new house. Footprint of house over lay that of a demolished bungalow. No features or finds were seen during the excavation of the footing trenches.
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2016 End: 14-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF139098 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK HOLME NEXT THE SEA 31 Kirkgate
Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 7055 4340 52.960444553523 0.539492461151 52 57 37 N 000 32 22 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Heather Wallis
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heather Wallis
Project director/manager	Heather Wallis
Project supervisor	John Percival
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

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