

# Archaeological Monitoring of a floodlight installation at the eastern end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Norfolk.



Prepared on behalf of the  
Great Yarmouth Minster Preservation Trust

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**Archaeological Monitoring during the installation of a floodlight at the east end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Church Plain, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.  
NR30 1NE.**

<b>Location:</b>	Great Yarmouth
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TG 5248 0802
<b>NHES Event No:</b>	ENF141392
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016

## 1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Paul Davies, on behalf of the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, to undertake archaeological monitoring during the installation of a floodlight at the east end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Church Plain, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

The medieval minster church of St Nicholas of Yarmouth is a Grade II\* listed building, with Grade II listed railings and several Grade II listed groups of tombstones. The church was founded as a Benedictine priory church in 1119 and exhibits work from Norman through to modern periods, having seen a major programme of restoration following bomb and fire damage during WWII. Over a metre of graveyard deposits were removed from areas of the graveyard in the late 19th century, raising the potential for early skeletal remains to be disturbed.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Ken Hamilton of the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF46722\_2) on behalf of Great Yarmouth Borough Council (Planning Ref: 06/16/0396/SU).

The aim of the monitoring work was to record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features identified during groundworks. This report presents a description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

## 2.0 Summary of Results

During the monitoring work, numerous fragmentary human bones were collected, all of which were all reburied within the cable trench at a deeper depth.

A gravestone was uncovered at the location of the lamppost setting, which may have been relocated/buried as a result of landscaping works associated with the 1883 ground reduction around the church walls.

The narrow trench partially uncovered the remains of a previously damaged brick-lined grave of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, with *in situ* adult human remains. This may be the remnants of a brick vaulted tomb or the base of a former table tomb.

A relatively small quantity of finds collected from the cemetery soils and make-up deposits indicate that minor levels of domestic refuse of uncertain date have become incorporated into the deposits here. The presence of medieval brick and tiles suggests relatively high status structures making use of glazed tile roofing in the vicinity of the site, the most obvious source being that of the former Benedictine Priory.

A single lead musketball was collected through metal detection from the cemetery soils.



Produced 21 Nov 2016 from the Ordnance Survey Masterplan (topographic information) and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date.  
The representation of a road, track or path is the evidence of a right of way. The representation of features on roads is the evidence of a property boundary.  
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Reference: 01102462  
Centre coordinates: 53.156 208824

20 Church Plain, Great Yarmouth  
NR30 1NE

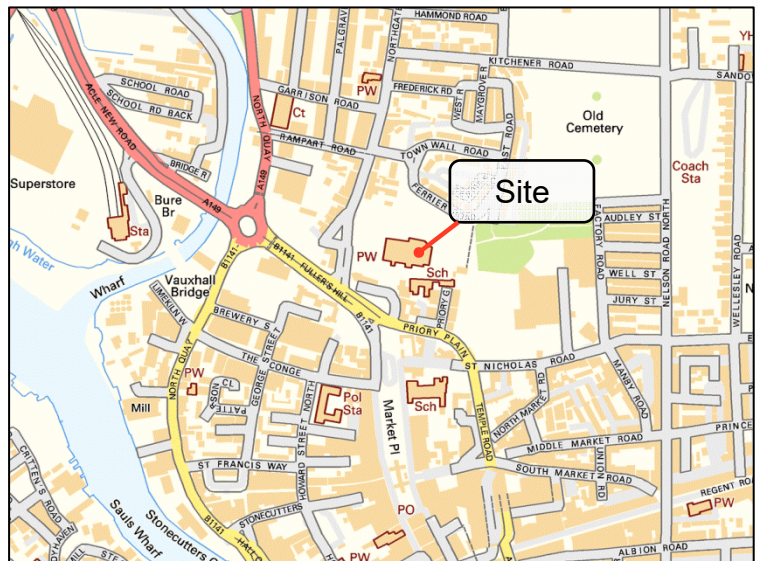
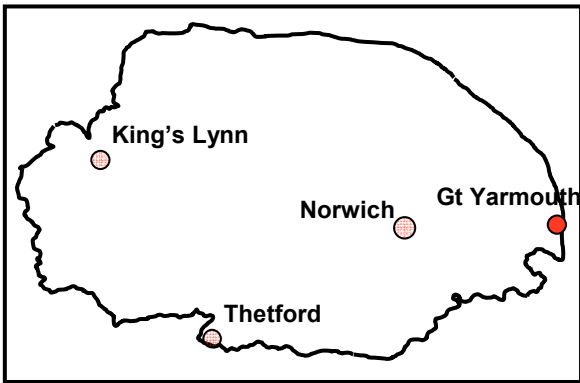


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



### 3.0 Geology and Topography

Great Yarmouth Minster is located in the northern area of the medieval town on Church Plain off Fullers Hill at c. 2 to 2.5m OD, within the northern limit of the medieval town wall. The River Bure is located c. 250m to the west of the church, where it runs to the south-west to meet the River Yare, defining the western edge of the original settlement. The town stands on a long spit of sand, which effectively closes the mouth of the formerly wide estuary of the Rivers Yare, Bure and Waveney. The natural subsoil is the sand and shingle of the spit, overlain by medieval and later soils with the highest point within the town at c. 6.5m OD.

The underlying geology is Quaternary sands and gravels of the Crag group. The church is primarily sited on an outcrop of the North Denes sand and gravel formation formed from shoreline environments up to 2 million years ago, in the Quaternary period, surrounded by windblown sand deposits - Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

*Extract and additional information from Norfolk Heritage Explorer (<http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>)*

NB: Appendix 3: 900 Years of History – The Chronology of St. Nicholas' Church (taken from the current information board).

St. Nicholas's Church (NHER 4329) is a Grade II\* listed building which was founded in 1101, by Herbert de Losinga, allegedly as part of a penance for buying the bishopric of Thetford (Ecclestone, 1959, 70). The church replaced an earlier chapel dedicated to St. Benet. The location of the earlier chapel is unknown, but is detailed as being on "Green Hill", about half a mile north of the current church (Manship, 1854, 32). It is interesting to note, that while Manship states that the chapel was constructed in 1101 (Manship, 1854, 32), and the church started in 1123, this is contradicted by most other sources (e.g. Palmer, 1856, 112, Ecclestone, 1959, 70, Pevsner and Wilson, 1997, 494). The base of the tower of the present church is Norman but very little of the rest of the Benedictine church remains.

The building of the church of St. Nicholas caused some friction with the Barons of the Cinque Ports, who claimed precedence over the Yarmouth sandbank, and brought their own priest with them. The resultant quarrel was only resolved by the intervention of King Henry I (Manship, 1854, 32).

The church was part of St. Nicholas Priory (NHER 4295), which was a satellite of the Chapter of Norwich (Pevsner and Wilson, 1997, 504).

The building was enlarged several times between the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and 14<sup>th</sup> century. The aisles were widened in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the south porch was added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and new windows were put in the north wall in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The church was divided into three in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the different parts were used by different denominations. These parts were joined again in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the church was restored.

Despite the building falling into ruin, the removal of the one arcade and the collapse (and subsequent rebuilding) of the eastern end of the church, it remains the largest parish church in England.

The churchyard has been enlarged several times since it was originally enclosed. Faden's map of Yarmouth, drawn in 1797, shows the original graveyard: 1.4 hectares (3.4 acres) enclosed by Northgate Street to the west, the town walls to the north and east and St. Nicholas Priory to the south. However, in 1811 parts of the priory and the town wall were demolished to make room for an extension to the graveyard (NHER 4294). It was extended again in 1833, taking the limit of the churchyard as far as Factory Road. The Old Cemetery was opened in 1855, and the New Cemetery in 1875.



Plate 2: View of the Minster Church (looking SW)  
NB: bank relating to former town wall footings

As the oldest building in Great Yarmouth, the level of the doorway to the church probably represents the ground level in 1101. The ground level inside the walls in Great Yarmouth has built up several metres over time, including inside the churchyard. However, the modern ground level is not the accumulation of several hundred years: the ground level in the churchyard was lowered by 1.2m (4 feet) in 1883. It is recorded in the Parish magazine of 1883 that the churchyard was lowered by “two to four feet” and evidence of this can be observed by a drop-in ground levels around the walls of the church.

Evidence of the built-up ground level can also be seen at the West wall (alongside Northgate Street), along the North wall of the churchyard and a drawing by John Sell Cotman. The Victorian restoration still leaves 1.8m (6ft) of made ground on top of the natural sands.

The town walls had an associated ditch running just outside the town, to act as a moat. Archaeological investigations in the churchyard have not picked up any trace of the Medieval ditch inside the churchyard (although it has been detected elsewhere along the wall). The Civil War period moat (shown on Faden’s map) was detected during the investigations of the Great Yarmouth Archaeological Map as a layer of clay and reeds overlying the natural sand.

St. Nicholas’s church was badly damaged and gutted by firebombs in 1942 during the Second World War, and the interior rebuilt between 1957 and 1960s (Pevsner and Wilson, 1997, 494). Remains of a charnel house have been recorded in the large churchyard which is now being managed and extended as a park by the local council.

**Sites and records of previous archaeological work in the immediate proximity or of particular relevance or interest which fall in close proximity to the site include:**

*The following information has been sourced from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER):*

**NHER 4329: St Nicholas’ Church, Great Yarmouth.** This church is said to be largest parish church in Britain and has extremely wide aisles. It was originally a Benedictine priory church. This priory church building was completed in 1119. The base of the tower of the present church is Norman but very little of the rest of the Benedictine church remains. Throughout the medieval period the church was altered and expanded. The aisles were widened in the 13th century, the south porch was added in the 14th century and new windows were put in the north wall in the 15th century. The church was divided into three in the 16th century when the different parts were used by different denominations. These parts were joined again in the 19th century when the church was restored. However much of this work can no longer be seen as the church was gutted in 1942 by bombing and subsequent fire.

The interior was rebuilt between 1957 and 1960. Remains of a chancel house have been recorded in the large churchyard which is now being managed and extended as a park by the local council. Church is listed Grade II\*, railings Grade II, several groups of tombstones Grade II. Churchyard is graded two star (regional importance).

Churchyard level lowered "two to four feet", March 1883. Unpublished Document: 1883. St Nicholas Parish Magazine.

April 1997. Watching Brief: A pipe trench was dug to south, west and north of the church. Much human skeletal material was disturbed in all pipe trenches, none of which was kept. Two very fragmentary lumps of in-situ masonry were seen in line with the north and south walls. Three barrel-vaulted brick tombs dated to around the 18th/19th century were also disturbed.

October 2006. Watching brief: The remains of a structural wall was observed, possibly relating to the cloister building of the Priory of St Nicholas (NHER 4295). A stone slab, possibly originating from a tomb, and an in-situ tomb were also present. A flint and lime mortar feature, probably forming part of the south aisle foundation was seen at the west end of the trench.

**NHER 4295:** *Site of Benedictine Priory and St Nicholas' Middle School.* This is the site of a Benedictine Priory, founded in 1101 by Herbert de Losinga, and dissolved in 1539. The refectory of the Priory, dating from about 1300, is the only surviving building (Grade I Listed). The Priory church was the parish church of St Nicholas, see NHER 4329. The site is now occupied by a school, built in 1853 in the Gothic Revival style. The refectory is used as the school hall. [c. 50m S]

November 2006. Building report summary: The church of St Nicholas and the small Benedictine cell was founded by Bishop Herbert de Losinga (AD 1094-1119). The only surviving part of the priory is the 'great hall' and based on stylistic evidence it is likely to be of mid-14th century date. The cloisters filled the space between the church and the great hall and it is likely that the hall was the frater or refectory of the priory according to standard layouts. Faden's map of 1797 shows some surviving buildings in this part of the churchyard but it is difficult to see how they could have formed part of the cloister garth. The priory screen is a fine and rare surviving feature and consists of a five bay arcade of two-centre arches surmounted by ogee hoods with small hollowed-out trefoils at their heads. *Heywood, S.. 2006. Building report by S. Heywood for the priory of St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth.*

**NHER 4294:** *Town Wall & Defences.* The town walls and ditch date from the late 13th and 14th centuries, they were started at the north end in c. AD 1285. Alterations to accommodate cannons took place during the first half of the 16th century. Large sections of the wall and eleven of the original sixteen towers are still standing. King Henry's octagonal tower survives in the north-east area of St Nicholas cemetery, the northern boundary of which follows the remains of the town wall. The ten gates were demolished in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The East Mount was constructed in 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, and a moat was constructed in the 17th century, during the Civil War. The construction is typical flint and brick. The wall has loops and later gun ports and behind the wall itself is a blind arcade which carries the wall walk. When the ramparts were adopted for cannon in the 16th century earthen ramps were thrown up against the level of the wall walk and the towers behind heightened. [c. <100m E]

April 1997. Watching Brief: Monitoring of groundworks associated with installation of a new storm water drainage system in the churchyard of St Nicholas' Church (NHER 4329). One of the trenches crossed the line of the 'missing' section of town wall, at which point the wall foundations of an octagonal projecting bastion type tower were observed. The basal part of the foundation was faced with limestone blocks. The rest of the fabric of the wall was made up of flint and brick rubble. Two later walls abutted the interior of the tower. This tower can be seen to the south of King Henry's tower on the 1588 plan of Yarmouth's defences. The date of this tower is not certain, but it may have been built relatively early in the construction sequence of the town walls. Fewer graves were observed in the area to the east of the town wall, with these containing wholly articulated burials. This supports the suggestion that this section of the town wall was deliberately demolished (presumably during the 19th century) in order to extend the graveyard.

Several building surveys and separate reports held by the HER at Gressenhall have been carried out on various sections of the wall. Those which relate to the town wall at St Nicholas' church include; An archaeological and architectural survey of King Henry's Tower and the stretches of wall immediately to the north by Smith, R (NAU Report 1995). This survey took place during repair and consolidation

work by NCC and took the form of a written description of the fabric, supplemented by photographs. There is also a photographic survey and profiles of the town wall north of St Nicholas' Church in 2008 augmenting information from a survey by Smith, R. (NAU Report 1989) 'The Town Wall, Great Yarmouth. North of Priory Plain'.

**NHER 12462:** *Vicarage, Church Plain.* A post medieval vicarage that was restored in 1983 and converted to offices (Grade II\* Listed). The rear wing dates to the early 17th century. The main block was built in 1718 of red brick and has eight bays and three storeys. A north extension was constructed in 1781, with a bay window added during the early 19th century. The building stands on the site of the gatehouse from St Nicholas's Priory (NHER 4295). [c. 60m S]

**NHER 12025:** *26 Church Plain (Sewell House).* The birthplace of the author Anna Sewell, and where she wrote *Black Beauty*. Now a restaurant, this was originally a 16th or 17th century timber framed house (Grade II Listed), later plastered, part bricked, and then restored in 1932. Restored again in 1976, nothing of the exterior is now original, including a wooden date plaque of 1641, which was in fact, like the gable, made from Czech packing cases in the 1930s. [c. 75m S]

**NHER 41252:** *Priory Row.* A small brick house, possibly of late medieval or early post medieval date. The house appears to have consisted of one room on each floor, and a single chimney stack. [c. 80m S]

**NHER 18492:** *225 to 226 Northgate Street and Adam's Cottage, Eden Place.* This early 17th century house (Grade II Listed) is built on top of an earlier 14th century structure, one wall of which can be seen in the cellar. Adam's Cottage at the rear is probably a 17th century service wing. The rendered façade was added in the 18th century. There is a secret room upstairs that is only accessible from the roof space. This may have been used to store smuggled tea. Old documents demonstrate that one of the occupants of the house was arrested for this offence around 1760. [c. 100m NW]

**NHER 21251:** *Possible medieval inhumation and medieval knife handle.* A medieval knife handle, made of bone and in the shape of a lady holding a falcon, was found in the late 1950s at a depth of 2.4m during digging for a diesel tank north side Priory Plain. Human remains, possibly of medieval date, were also found and reburied. [c. 100m S]

**NHER 28472:** *Post-medieval gravestone.* The gravestone of Edward Secker, dated to 1639, was found in the partition wall between 22 and 23 Northgate Street in 1991. The stone may have come from the parish churchyard nearby, or may be that of an unbaptised child. It was set into the extension to a café at No. 22. [c. 125m NW]

**NHER 43026:** *18 to 19 Northgate Street.* The earliest parts of this shop and flat (Grade II Listed) date to the early 17th century. It was altered in the 19th and 20th centuries. The building is constructed of rendered and colour washed brick and has a concrete tiled roof. [c. 125m NW]

**NHER 34555:** *20 Northgate Street.* A post medieval house and shop (Grade II Listed). The building was constructed in the late 16th century and was extensively remodelled during the 20th century. It is built of red brick, has two storeys and an attic and there is a shaped gable facade alongside the road. [c. 130m NW]

**NHER 1010:** *220 to 222 Northgate Street.* A medieval and post medieval house. The rear wall was originally part of a large two storey medieval building (of probable 14th century date). During the 16th and 17th centuries the house was remodelled, with much of the medieval house demolished. Further alterations were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. These included raising the height of the building and dividing it into three properties. [c. 150m NNW]

**NHER 4296:** *Fishermen's Hospital.* A series of alms-houses around a courtyard, built in 1702 for 'decayed fishermen'. The building has Dutch gables, a large wooden cupola, 18th century inscription plaques, and a plaster relief of a sailing ship. A cast lead statue of Charity stands in the courtyard. [c. 150m S]

**NHER 4315:** *Medieval Well.* A 6m deep well with a paved bottom was found during building work in 1958 at Church Plain on the site of Gallon Pot Inn, which was thought to date to the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. [c. 170m SSW]



**NHER 1032:** *Late Saxon and medieval occupation at Fuller's Hill.* In 1974, excavations at Fuller's Hill (the area between Church Plain and George Street covered by Lacon's Brewery until 1973/4) revealed Late Saxon and medieval evidence. Occupation began in the 11th century and excavated features included clay surfaces, structural remains, ovens, pits and wells. Finds recovered included a coin of Edward the Confessor, pottery and fish bones. Layers of wind-blown sand suggest that there may have been brief gaps in the occupation. During the medieval and post medieval periods there were 'Rows' (streets) and buildings on the site. In the 18th century there was a Baptist meeting house. In 1870 brewery buildings were built. [c. 175m SW]

**NHER 42939:** *No.7 Church Plain.* This late 18th century pub (Grade II Listed) was badly damaged during bombing in World War Two. The three-storey façade was rebuilt in the 20th century with three pairs of Roman Doric columns framing windows. Inside the west bar is a frieze of 20th century paintings depicting scenes from the life of Lord Nelson. Nelson is said to have addressed the people of Great Yarmouth from here on 6 November 1800 after having received the freedom of the borough. [c. 180m SW]

**NHER 33471:** *Old Cemetery.* The Old Cemetery was laid out in 1855 after Market Gates Cemetery was closed. Different parts of the cemetery were laid out for different faiths. The pathways to each area were restricted with no interconnection with each other or with the churchyard. This was altered between 1875 and 1887 when connecting paths were made. Some of the original walks have been removed in places and used for burials but trees and planting generally reflect the first plan. [c. 250 NE]

## 5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the groundworks.

A power cable trench c.13m in length was excavated to a depth of c. 0.45m by hand from a junction in the path to the site of the new lighting post, with a roughly square trench excavated for the post-setting to a depth of c. 1.15m.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector (Minelab XTerra 705). All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. The trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels taken were tied to an OS benchmark of 2.29m OD located on the north-east angle of a buttress on the northeast corner of the minster building.



Plate 3: Cable trench position (looking NW) [1x2m Scale]

**6.0 Results** (Appendix 1a)

The soils below the turf comprised of a well-mixed silty-sand, with moderate frequencies of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century brick fragments, building flints and occasional mortar lumps (01). In the area of the lamppost setting, this soil appeared to be consistent to a depth of 1.15m but was cut by a deep, near vertical edged feature ([05]). This deep cut contained a mix of crushed white mortar and soil (06) and could be interpreted as a grave cut. Above this and just below the turf line was the edge of a hard limestone ledger stone, which was presumably placed flat and purposefully buried (07). The stone was broken out within the confines of the trench to allow for the post-setting. No inscription was noted and the surface appeared well-worn.

Closer to the building, a similar soil deposit was encountered below the asphalt, with a higher frequency of building rubble (02).

Numerous fragmentary human bones (>100 fragments) were collected from both layers, which included a small proportion of child bones. These skeletal remains were reburied within the cable trench at a deeper depth (as marked on Figure 2).



Plate 4: Lamppost setting prior to breaking out of buried ledger stone (07) (looking SW) [1x0.5m Scale]

The northern side of a brick lined grave was encountered at 0.3m below the surface (03). The bricks were a sandy-red fabric typically of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, bonded with a soft, chalky mortar. The grave contained an adult skeleton (SK:04), with both well-preserved tibias partly exposed and able to be left *in situ*. It is possible that the brickwork may have formed part of a damaged brick vaulted tomb or the base of a former table tomb (three barrel-vaulted brick tombs were previously encountered during monitoring of a pipe trench dug around the church in 1997 – see NHER 4329). The skeletal remains lay at just 0.45m below the surface, which may indicate some landscaping of soils here. In fact, the reduction of soils around the church which took place in the 1883, in this area appears to have included the use of local grave markers to form a retaining terrace, indicating that the western end of this particular grave was lost to these works.



Plate 5: SK:04 (looking WNW) [1x0.3m Scale]

## 7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

### • Pottery

Two sherds of pottery in fair condition were collected during the monitoring work;

- A body sherd (18g) of late medieval and transitional ware (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century manufacture date) from a large vessel with partial lead drip glazing was collected from the make-up (02).
- A base sherd from a small globular Cologne/Frechen stoneware jug (11g) of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date was collected from the cemetery soil (01).

Both are common household fabrics which may have been introduced into the cemetery soils through general waste disposal or as inclusions within imported soils.

### • Lead off-cut & 'musketball'

A small but thick offcut of lead weighing 25g was collected from the cemetery soils (01).

A single lead musket ball, in a very good state of preservation, was collected from the cemetery soils (01) through metal detection. It weighs 23.14g and has a diameter of 160mm with a partial mould seam and casting mark. The ball shows no sign of damage or distortion from striking a target and it is possible this is a casual loss rather than a fired example. Given the close proximity of the find spot from the town defences (NHER 4294) it is possible that this find dates to the Civil War period (c. 1642-51).

### • Clay tobacco pipe

A singled fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (2g) was collected from the cemetery soils (01). The narrow wire made bore suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> century date of manufacture.

### • Animal bone

Two pieces of animal bone were collected from make-up (02); a sheep/goat tooth fragment (3g) and an adult bovine phalange in good condition (20g). Their presence indicates that minor levels of domestic refuse of uncertain date have become incorporated into the deposits here.

### • Ceramic roof tiles

A total of seven roof tile fragments of varying size were retained for analysis, weighing a total of 507g (Table 1 below). They were collected from cemetery soil (01) and make-up (02). The assemblage was counted, weighed and examined to identify fabric and form.

All the roof tiles are of a similar fine sandy red fabric, with three examples having a reduced core consistent with medieval tiles. Several have mortar on broken edges and may be examples of material reused in walling or hearth settings.

The presence of medieval brick and tiles suggests relatively high status structures making use of glazed tile roofing in the vicinity of the site, the most obvious source being that of the former Benedictine Priory. These fragments may have been produced from the sorting of unwanted fragments during a localised phase of demolition or sorting of materials for reuse.

Context	Fabric	form	no	wt(g)	abr	L	W	H/T	mortar	comments	date
01	Fine sandy	RT	1	17	+	-	-	14	-		Post-medieval
01	Sandy	RT	1	35	++			15	Gritty lime	Mortar over breaks	Medieval
01	Sandy	RT	1	17	+			12	Gritty lime	Lead glaze traces	Medieval
02	Fine sandy	RT	2	147				16	Gritty lime	Trace of green glaze	Medieval
02	Fine sandy	RT	2	291	+			15	Gritty lime	Oval peg hole, wiped	L.Med-E.P.Med
Totals			7	507							

Table 1 : Ceramic Roof Tiles

## 8.0 Conclusions

During the monitoring work, numerous fragmentary human bones (>100 fragments) were collected which included a small proportion of child bones. These skeletal remains were all reburied within the cable trench at a deeper depth.

A gravestone was uncovered at the location of the lamppost setting, which may have been relocated/buried as a result of landscaping works associated with the 1883 ground reduction around the church walls.

The narrow trench partially uncovered the remains of a previously damaged brick lined grave of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, with *in situ* adult human remains. This may be the remnants of a brick vaulted tomb or the base of a former table tomb. The skeletal remains lay at just 0.45m below the surface, which may indicate some landscaping of soils here. In fact, the reduction of soils around the church which took place in the 1883 in this area appears to have included the use of local grave markers to form a retaining terrace, indicating that the western end of this particular grave was lost to these works.

A relatively small quantity of finds collected from the cemetery soils and make-up deposits indicate that minor levels of domestic refuse of uncertain date have become incorporated into the deposits here. The presence of medieval brick and tiles suggests relatively high status structures making use of glazed tile roofing in the vicinity of the site, the most obvious source being that of the former Benedictine Priory. These fragments may have been produced from the sorting of unwanted fragments during a localised phase of demolition or sorting of materials for reuse.

A single lead musketball was collected through metal detection from the cemetery soils.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Paul Davies who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Michael Stephenson of GYB services for liaising with all parties and to the on-site team of Bowers & Barr for their assistance and cooperation on site.

All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER data was supplied by Peter Watkins of the Historic Environment Service.



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**Appendix 1a: Context Summary**

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	Deposit		Soft, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand, mod. roots, mod. cbm/flint building frags., occ. mortar lumps, mod. stones, mod. human bone frags.	Topsoil/make-up	<i>Modern</i>
02	Deposit		Soft, mid brownish-grey (silty) sand, freq. building flints, occ. cbm frags, occ. human bone frags.	Make-up	<i>C19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup></i>
03	Masonry		18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century sandy red brick bonded with soft chalky mortar	Brick lined grave	<i>C18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup></i>
04	Skeleton	[03]	Two in situ adult tibia in good preservation, tight within brick lined grave 03 (left in place)	Human burial	<i>C18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup></i>
05	Cut		Deep, near vertical sided cut clipped by NW corner of lamp post pit	?Grave	<i>Late post-medieval</i>
06	Deposit	[05]	Loose, crushed white mortar and silty-sand	Fill	<i>Late post-medieval</i>
07	Masonry		Hard limestone leger stone buried flat below turf line, well-worn face.	Ledger stone	<i>C18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup></i>

**Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table**

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Grave	2
	Gravestone	1
	Inhumation	1
	Tomb	1

**Appendix 2a: Finds by Context**

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
01	Ceramic building material – Rooftile	3	69
01	Clay tobacco pipe	1	2
01	Lead – musket ball	1	23.14
01	Lead – offcut	1	25
01	Pottery	2	11
02	Animal bone	2	23
02	Ceramic building material – Roof tile	4	438
02	Pottery		18

**Appendix 2b: Finds summary table**

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Animal bone	2
	Lead – offcut	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Ceramic Building material – Roof tile	3
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Ceramic Building material – Roof tile	4
	Clay tobacco pipe	1
	Lead – Musket ball	1
	Pottery	2

***Appendix 3: 900 Years of History – The Chronology of St. Nicholas’ Church (taken from the current information board inside the church)***

- 1101 Church and Priory building begun. Founder Herbert de Losinga – Bishop of Norwich.
- 1119 Church consecrated.
- c.1190 The nave extended. Eight Gothic arches, an upper stage to the tower, a timber spire and two additional 13 feet wide aisles in a lean-to style added.
- Mid C13<sup>th</sup> The narrow aisles widened by 39 feet to accommodate guild chapels, the chancel extended by adding side aisles, the south porch built and the Norman transepts enlarged
- 1308 Chancel house completed in the churchyard
- 1330 Bachelors’ Aisle commenced, but never completed
- c.1400 Reredos erected
- c.1536 Dissolution of the Priory
- 1551 The brass from the monuments removed and made into weights. A consignment of gravestones sold to Newcastle to be made into grindstones.
- c.1560 During the Reformation stained glass was smashed, the rood loft demolished, the side chapels destroyed and the rich plate and vestments sold.
- 1650 During Cromwell’s time the church was divided as follows into three walls  
Chancel – the Puritans who made a doorway through the tomb of Thomas Crowner  
North Aisle – The Presbyterians  
South Aisle – the Church of England
- Reign of Charles II The non-conformists were removed from the church, which remained divided until 1847
- 1670 The church possessed six bells
- 1683 Spire hit by lightning and became twisted
- 1705 Gallery for the residents of the Fishermen’s Hospital erected in the north aisle. Later other galleries were erected
- 1726 Two treble bells added
- 1784 Eastern wall of the chancel fell down, rebuilt and shortened ten feet
- Late C18<sup>th</sup> The church building was decayed. The nave and north aisle were mostly in ruins.
- 1804 Spire removed and a telegraph erected
- 1806 General repairs to the south and west sides of the church and to the tower
- 1807 New spire erected. The bells were recast with additional metal making the ten bells. The exterior walls were coated with cement
- 1822 Gable of south transept rebuilt
- 1848-1927 Series of stained glass windows inserted
- 1864 Last of the dividing internal walls removed. Church now opened from end to end for the first time on over 200 years
- 1896 Two bells added, making a ring of twelve
- 1942 Church completely gutted by a German air raid
- 1957 Rebuilding of the church commenced. Because of structural concerns the spire was not replaced.
- 1958-9 A ring of thirteen bells were inserted into the tower.
- 1959 Clock in the tower restarted.
- 1961 Church reconsecrated
- 1990s onwards Continuing restoration work

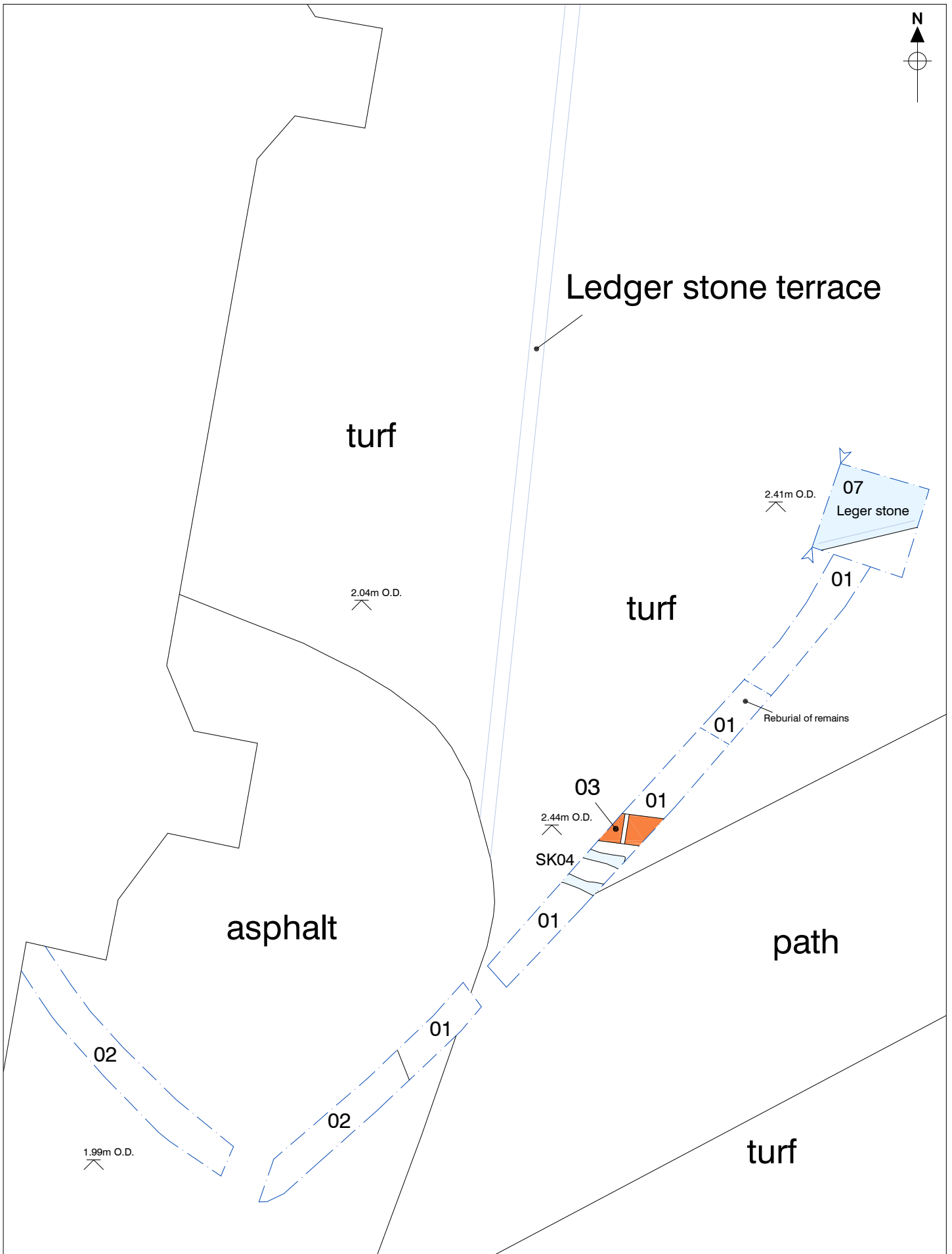


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:75



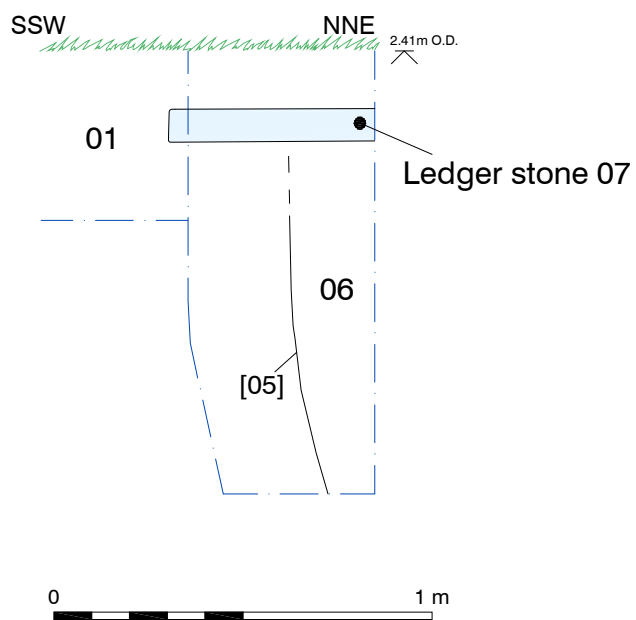


Figure 3. Recorded Section. Scale 1:20

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**OASIS ID: norvicar1-271170**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring of a floodlight installation at the eastern end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological monitoring during the installation of a floodlight at the east end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Church Plain, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk The medieval minster church of St Nicholas of Yarmouth is a Grade II* listed building, with Grade II listed railings and several Grade II listed groups of tombstones. The church was founded as a Benedictine priory church in 1119 and exhibits work from Norman through to modern periods, having seen a major programme of restoration following bomb and fire damage during WWII. Over a metre of graveyard deposits were removed from areas of the graveyard in the late 19th century, raising the potential for early skeletal remains to be disturbed. During the monitoring work numerous fragmentary human bones were collected, all of which were all reburied within the cable trench at a deeper depth. A gravestone was uncovered at the location of the lamppost setting, which may have been relocated/buried as a result of landscaping works associated with the 1883 ground reduction around the church walls. A relatively small quantity of finds collected from the cemetery soils and make-up deposits indicate that minor levels of domestic refuse of uncertain date have become incorporated into the deposits here. The presence of medieval brick and tiles suggests relatively high status structures making use of glazed tile roofing in the vicinity of the site, the most obvious source being that of the former Benedictine Priory.
Project dates	Start: 31-10-2016 End: 31-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141392 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2016/318 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	06/16/0396/SU - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type	GRAVE Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVESTONE Post Medieval
Monument type	INHUMATION Post Medieval
Monument type	TOMB Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	LEAD Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH GREAT YARMOUTH Great Yarmouth Minster, Church Plain, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Postcode	NR30 1NE
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 5248 0802 52.610567360722 1.7297718025 52 36 38 N 001 43 47 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Norvic Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Norvic Archaeology
Project director/manager	Giles Emery
Project supervisor	Giles Emery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Other Charitable Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	Great Yarmouth Minster Preservation Trust

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	NMAS

Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	NMAS
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring of a floodlight installation at the eastern end of Great Yarmouth Minster, Norfolk.
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## OASIS:

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