

Archaeological Excavation & Monitoring at The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby, Norfolk.



Prepared for Mr & Mrs Rose

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*2m scale in foreground

Archaeological Excavation/Monitoring at The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby, Norfolk. NR34 0BJ.

Location:	Aldeby
Grid Ref:	TM 4504 9365
NHES Event No:	ENF 131878
Date of fieldwork:	24 th & 25 th June and 16 th October 2013

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Mrs Dawn Rose to undertake archaeological excavation/monitoring of groundworks associated with extensions to her home; known as The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby (Planning Ref: 2013/0328) which has an overall plot size of c. 1,400m². These extensions took the form of single storey extension to the western side of the bungalow and a new lobby at the front of the house.

The site is located close to the location of a Romano-British temple and an extensive complex of cropmarks (identified through aerial photography) which indicate prehistoric to Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity. Linear cropmarks of unknown date have been recorded immediately to the south and west of the site, with cropmark evidence for a Bronze Age cemetery site located just to the north.

The archaeological programme of work was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF44883_1) on behalf of South Norfolk District Council. The aim of the excavation/monitoring work was to investigate and record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features identified during groundworks.

This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Summary of Results

The presence of a single well defined ditch with a concave V-shaped profile was recorded, which was sealed below 0.7m of subsoil build-up. This ditch has not proved to be identifiable as an extension to any of the fragmentary linear features identified by cropmarks in the field to the south of the bungalow plot (NHER 16164).

A group of postholes associated with a shallow feature, within which two of the postholes appear to be set, was discovered within the confines of the soakway trench. These features have been tentatively interpreted as forming part of a timber structure of likely medieval to early post-medieval date.

A handful of medieval to early post-medieval pottery sherds were collected, along with a single sherd of prehistoric pottery of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date. A small assemblage of worked flint was also recovered, which can be dated to a Late Bronze Age tradition.

A single metal object was found, in the form a well-worn Georgian half-penny, which may be a counterfeit from the early 1800s.

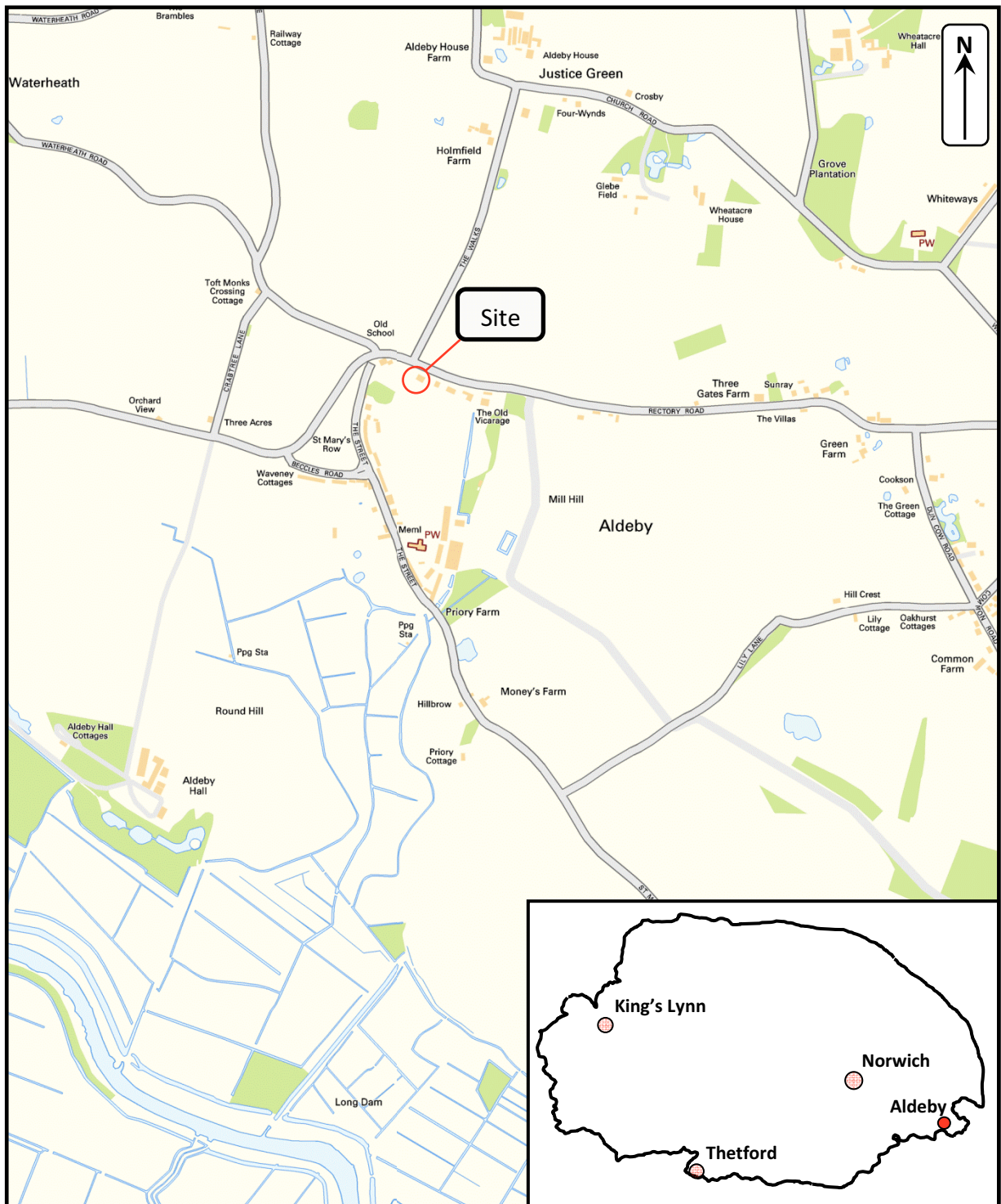


Figure 1: General Site Location Plan

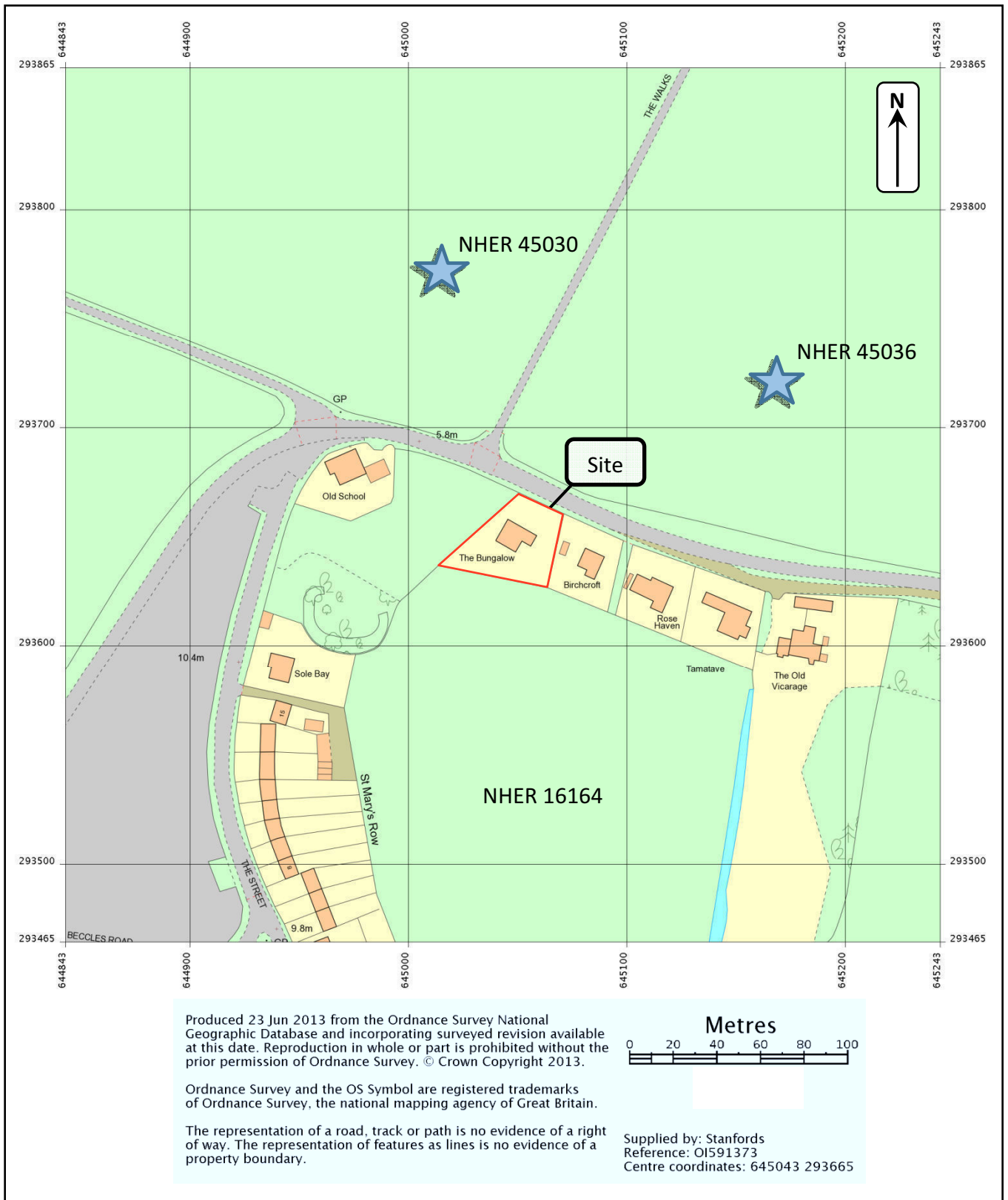


Figure 3: Site Location Plan

3.0 Geology and Topography

Aldeby is a small village and civil parish located in south-east Norfolk situated c. 3km north-east of Beccles. It is bordered to the south by the River Waveney, on the other side of which is Suffolk.

The site is located at c. 6m OD within a small tributary valley which forms part of the Waveney River Valley, situated c. 1.4km from the northern banks of the River Waveney and c. 1.2m from the flood plain itself. The garden of 'The Bungalow' slopes from west to north-east, with the rear of the garden at c. 7m OD and the more level front garden at c. 5.5m OD.

The underlying geology is of sedimentary Crag, comprising of banded deposits of sands, silts and flint-gravels laid down in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods when the local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The site is situated within an area of outwash and gravel deposits formed from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters from glacial activity of the Quaternary Period. The deposits here are characteristically poorly sorted and stratified sands and gravels with localised lenses of silt, clay or peat formed mostly by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep below variable sand/clay tills - Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The sub-surface geology of the site encountered during the fieldwork can be characterised as medium grained sands overlaying poorly sorted gravel.

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background (Figures 2 & 3)

Aldeby is a parish in southeast Norfolk situated in the River Waveney valley, with the river forming a boundary with Suffolk. The Bungalow is one of several 20th century homes along the northern boundary of a large, open field to the north of St Mary's Church, bounded by Rectory Road to the north, what is now The Street on its western side and a drain along its eastern side.

The 1st edition OS plan of 1885 shows that, aside from the Old School at the north-west of the same large field and The Old Vicarage to the north-east, no other houses were present along the Rectory Road, with the core of the village focused around the post office and St Marys Church to the south off The Street. A large crescent-shaped extraction pit is shown on the same plan, to the south of the Old School, which is still present today.

The same open field is shown on plans until the 1960s when St Marys Row was built along the western edge of the field fronting The Street, and The Bungalow and its neighbouring properties were built along Rectory Road.

The village name of Aldeby can be translated as 'old or disused stronghold' and is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Aldebury' (Mills 1998). It is therefore suggested to have had Viking origins, perhaps developing around an early settlement and a later Benedictine priory established in c. 1100. A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Aldeby's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated over 150 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

Several gravel extraction sites across the parish have revealed evidence for prehistoric activity of most periods. Extraction in the west and east of the parish has recovered a range of prehistoric artefacts, including Palaeolithic handaxes and Neolithic material (including a jadeite polished axehead NHER 11660). Rare evidence for potentially one of the earliest iron working sites in the British Isles dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early

Iron Age has been excavated in the east of the parish (c. 850m SE of the site), where nine furnaces were excavated at a modern quarry site (NHER 34099).

Cropmarks have revealed a significant level of activity from both prehistoric and later periods. A possible Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age ritual site has been identified as a possible double-ditched hengiform monument in fields to the north of The Bungalow (NHER 12137) and several ring ditches thought to be Bronze Age barrows have been plotted in fields here and further north, as well as a possible Neolithic long barrow (NHER 44860) in the very north of the parish. One such possible Bronze Age ring ditch is situated in fields c. 125m north-north-west of the site (NHER45030).

Roman activity is recorded by additional cropmarks and concentrations of surface finds, which appear to indicate the presence of a Roman settlement at the north of the parish (NHER12138 & 44888). Some of the many fragmentary cropmarks elsewhere in the parish and in the fields immediately south (NHER 16164) and to the north of the site (NHER 45018 & 45035) may also be attributable to Late Iron Age to Romano-British field systems and settlement. A Roman temple can be recognised by cropmarks and surface finds just to the north-east of the site (NHER 45036). The temple shares the same, highly visible location as the prehistoric monuments which came before it, situated on relatively high ground overlooking the Waveney Valley.

Cropmarks of a cluster of possible Saxon sunken-featured buildings have been recorded c.1km south-east of the site north of St Mary's Road (NHER 44948), not far from the findspot of an Early Saxon girdle hanger (NHER 41979).

The historic core of the medieval settlement can be assumed to be close to the site of a Benedictine Priory (NHER 10725) that was founded c. 350m to the south of the site in 1100AD close to the priory Church of St Mary (NHER 10756) which also served as the parish church, with a spacious nave. A lost medieval village and church recorded in Domesday as *Thurkeliart* (NHER 22202) is also thought to be located within the modern area of Aldeby parish.

Sites 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 10725: Site of Benedictine Priory at Priory Farm. Priory Farm can be dated to 1719 with millstones as doorsteps and mid-16th century thatched and weather boarded barn. These Grade II Listed buildings are on the site of a Benedictine Priory (c.1100 to 1538). Nearby ponds visible on aerial photographs may be linked to the priory (NHER 15127) and there are reports of skulls found nearby in 1935 and human bones were found in 1975 during the construction of a new barn. [c. 360m S]

NHER 10756: St Mary's Church. This Norman cruciform priory church was also used as a parish church. The unusual Norman nave has a fine Norman west doorway. The tower was rebuilt around 1300 and new windows and roofs were added in the 15th century. The building was ruined in 1514 and the building was restored in 1633, 1880 and 1912. The font dates to 1300 and the 15th century. [c. 335m S]

NHER 15127: Earthworks. An earthwork survey west of Priory Farm identified a possible medieval enclosure and possible fishponds which may have been linked to the nearby priory (NHER 10725). Surface finds including Iron Age and medieval pottery and medieval brick and post medieval roof tile were also recovered. [c. 400m SSW]

NHER 12137: Multi-period Finds Scatter. Metal detecting on the site has recovered large quantities of multi-period finds including prehistoric flints, a Roman silver coin, a copper alloy rattle, Roman pottery, large pieces of carved imported building stone and medieval metal finds. Fieldwalking in 2000 recovered Iron Age to modern pottery. A Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age double ringed hengiform monument, three Bronze Age ring ditches, a possible Roman temple site and undated rectilinear enclosures can be seen as cropmarks on aerial photographs in the area of this finds scatter. The site has been an important focus of activity from the Neolithic to the Roman periods and continued to be used during the medieval and post medieval periods. The cropmarks referred here to are now recorded under separate numbers; the probable Roman temple is NHER 45036, the hengiform ring ditches are NHER 45032 and the enclosure complex is NHER 45018. [c. 240m NE]

NHER 16164: Cropmarks. The cropmarks of a group of multi-period ditches and field boundaries are visible on aerial photographs to the north of St Mary's Church, Aldeby within the fields immediately west and south of *The Bungalow* site. Many of the cropmarks are of unknown date, although some running around the eastern side of the field are likely to be post-medieval boundaries or drainage ditches. The majority of the ditches are too fragmentary to warrant a great deal of interpretation, but given the wealth of archaeological evidence for activity to the immediate north during the late prehistoric to Roman period (NHER 12137 for finds and 45034 for cropmarks), it is possible that this palimpsest of ditch fragments may date to similar periods.

NHER 56427: Old School, Rectory Road. The school was built in about 1841 comprising two-rooms with extensions to the front and original school room in the 1890s. It is constructed from brick in a plain style with three tall chimneys that are part of the 1890s range. The school closed in 1984 and has since been converted into a residential dwelling. [65m NW]

NHER 45018: Cropmarks. The cropmarks of a large enclosure complex of uncertain date are visible on aerial photographs of fields to the NW of the site (west of The Walks), alongside the former railway line and to the north of the Grove, Aldeby. They consist of a series of single and double ditched rectangular enclosures and trackways of at least two phases. The general appearance of the enclosures would make a Roman date plausible, however fieldwalking surveys in the near vicinity have yet to provide a convincing assemblage of finds and a medieval to post-medieval date is still a possibility. Notably, the Roman temple and associated features (NHER 45036), located to the immediate east, have also been laid out following a different alignment. [c. 200m N]

NHER 45019: Cropmarks. The cropmarks of enclosures and fields of probable late prehistoric to Roman date are visible on aerial photographs of several large fields SE of Greenacres, Aldeby. Other smaller groups of cropmarks following a similar alignment and pattern have been recorded separately further to the southeast (NHER 44953) and northwest (NHER 45024). [c. 500m SE]

NHER 45024: Cropmarks. The cropmarks of fragmentary ditched boundaries probable late prehistoric to Iron Age date are visible on aerial photographs, Aldeby. These cropmarks may be part of a much larger group of enclosures and fields to the immediate south (NHER 45019). [c. 440m E]

NHER 45029: Cropmarks – Ring ditch. The cropmarks of a ring ditch, possibly the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Aldeby Vicarage. This possible barrow may form part of a barrow group or cemetery with a number of round barrows and larger, more hengiform, circular monuments to the north (NHER 45028, 45030, 45032), see NHER 49687 for details. An alternative interpretation is that this ring ditch is the drip-eave gully formed around the roof of a hut circle, although this feature is not located within or in association with any obvious enclosures. [c. 225m NE]

NHER 45030: Cropmarks – Ring ditch. The cropmarks of a ring ditch, possibly the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Aldeby Vicarage. This possible barrow may form part of a barrow group or cemetery with a number of round barrows and larger, more hengiform, circular monuments to the north (see NHER 49687, 45018, 45030 & 45032 for details. An alternative interpretation is that this ring ditch is the drip-eave gully formed around the roof of a hut circle, although this feature is not located within or in association with any obvious enclosures. [c. 125m NNW]

NHER 45032: Cropmarks – two ring ditches. The cropmarks of two large ring ditches, possibly the remains of late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age hengiform monuments or round barrows, are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Aldeby Vicarage. These ceremonial monuments appear to form the focus of a round barrow group (NHER 45028-30), see NHER 49687 for details. [c. 270m NE]

NHER 45033: Cropmark. The cropmarks of possible late prehistoric enclosures, fields and trackways are visible on aerial photographs alongside the former railway line and to the north of the Grove, Aldeby. The cropmarks appear to be overlain by a series of much more regular and rectangular enclosures of unknown definite date, a Roman or medieval to post medieval date is suggested (NHER 45018). The date of these earlier cropmarks is not known, although it seems likely that they are late prehistoric, possibly Iron Age in date. [c. 320m NNW]

NHER 45034: Cropmarks. The cropmarks of a dispersed group of multi-period and undated ditches are visible on aerial photographs of fields NE of the site (east of The Walks). These cropmarks are located within the vicinity of a large cropmark complex including a Roman temple site (NHER 45036) and a series of enclosures and trackways that may also be Roman in date (NHER 45018). Underlying fragments of earlier fields and enclosures may be visible (NHER 45024 and 45033). A number of prehistoric ceremonial and funerary monuments are also located within the area of this site (NHER 45028-30, 45032). The cropmarks recorded under this multi-period site do not appear to fit into any specific phase. For details of finds recorded within this area see NHER 12137. [c. 200m NE]

NHER 45035: Soil marks – Bank/boundary. The soil marks of bank or field boundary of unknown date are visible on aerial photographs, Aldeby. These linear banked feature appears to run in-between a Roman temple (NHER 45036) and a pair of prehistoric ceremonial monuments or barrows (NHER 45032). The date of this linear boundary is not known, although a medieval to post medieval date seems most likely. [c. 200m NE]

NHER 45036: Cropmarks – Roman Temple. The cropmarks of a Roman temple are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Aldeby Vicarage. The site consists of a circular Romano-Celtic temple or *cella* within an enclosure or *temenos*. Surface finds of Roman date and fragments of imported dolomite stone have

been found in the vicinity of the temple, see NHER 12137 for details. This religious site is located on the eastern edge of enclosure complex of uncertain date (NHER 45018), although a Roman date is a possible given the appearance of the cropmarks. The temple is located just above the 10m contour on land overlooking a tributary valley running north from the main Waveney Valley and therefore would have been quite visible when approached along the valley. As Romano-Celtic temples of this type are generally constructed in the earlier Roman period, then it is possible that the enclosure complex could represent a later Roman reworking of the site, although this is not certain. These larger enclosures could equally be medieval to post-medieval in date. [c. 150m NE]

NHER 49687: Cropmarks – Barrow cemetery. The cropmarks of a barrow cemetery of Bronze Age date are visible on aerial photographs to the southwest of Wheatacre House, Aldeby. The individual elements of this barrow group have been recorded separately under NHER 45028-30 and 45032 and 11721. It is possible that one two of these barrows are late Neolithic in origin, see NHER 45032 for details. These monuments are located just above the 10m contour on land overlooking a tributary valley running north from the main Waveney Valley. [c. 250m NE]

5.0 Methodology (Figure 3)

The objective of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during machine excavation of the footing trenches for the extensions and associated service runs and soakway.

The trenching was carried out by a 1.8-ton 'JCB'-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, with spoil removed from site during the course of the works using a flatbed truck. All excavations were carried out under direct archaeological supervision and control, with soils reduced in a series of



Plate 2: Western Extension (looking SW) [2x2m & 1x1m Scale]

controlled spits within the areas of the extensions and soakway. All exposed deposits were hand cleaned to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features.

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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were taken using a temporary benchmark of 5.54m OD located on the roadside at the western gate to the house, tied to an OS Benchmark of 6.8m OD located on the north-east corner of Old School house.

Site conditions were fine with occasional light showers on the first site day and heavy rain holding off until the end of the second site day.

6.0 Results *(Figures 3 to 6, Appendix 1a)*

- **'Natural deposits'**

Soft natural sand (03) was revealed at a depth of c. 1.3m in the southern area of the western extension and c. 0.8m in the soakaway at the front of the house (19) where it lay c. 0.35m thick above a poorly sorted sandy gravel (17).

The natural topography appears to slope gently from south-west to north-east, with subsoil deposits masking natural geology in much of the excavated areas.

- **Lower Subsoil**

Above the natural in the south-west corner of the western extension footprint was a trace of thin lower subsoil c. 0.15m. This was a soft, dark orangey-brown silty-sand; similar in nature to the fill of ditch [04]. A similar deposit was recorded above the natural sand in the soakaway trench, which was also fairly homogenous and devoid of any cultural material (19). Here the lower subsoil was thicker at 0.4m deep and was truncated by several postholes of possible medieval date.

- **Upper subsoil**

An upper subsoil was recorded across the site, which measured c. 0.2m in the area of the soakaway and c. 0.7m deep in the area of the western extension (02 & 20). This subsoil was a lighter hue than the lower material, with a few charcoal flecks present. It shared a fairly gradual boundary distinction with the lower subsoil. This material sealed all archaeological features and represents a continuation of soil build-up.

A small number of residual flints and a single small sherd of prehistoric pottery were collected from this horizon in the area of the western extension.

- **Ditch (Figures 4 & 5)**

A single distinct feature was revealed at the southern end of the western extension in the form of a ditch [04]. The ditch measured 1.2m wide and cut into the natural sand on a south-west to north-east alignment, to a depth of c. 0.5m. In profile, the ditch was a wide V-shape with concave sides and base and a slightly steeper south-eastern edge. It had an unclear relationship with the lower subsoil (06) but was certainly well sealed by later subsoil build-up (02). It contained a homogenous fill of soft but dense, dark orangey-brown silty-sand (05). Eight fragments of burnt flint and two struck flints were collected from the ditch-fill. Although the presence of flints may suggest a prehistoric date for the feature, these may well be residual from earlier activity in the vicinity of the ditch and in no way assist in dating the ditch.



Plate 3: Ditch [04] (looking SE) [1x2m Scale]

This ditch has not proved to be identifiable as an extension to any of the fragmentary linear features identified by cropmarks in the field to the south of the bungalow plot (NHER 16164). These features have been interpreted as representing multiple phases of activity, with those along the eastern edge of the field suggested to be post-medieval field boundaries or drainage ditches.



Plate 4: Ditch [04], post-ex.(looking SSE) [1x2m Scale]

- **Features revealed by the Soakaway** (Figure 6)

Excavation of a new soakaway (measuring c. 1.3m by 1.3m in plan) in the front garden of the house partly revealed several archaeological features. Three postholes were investigated and recorded, all of which contained a very similar dark orangey-brown silty-sand with very rare flecks of charcoal and occasional stones ([09], [11] & [15]). These posthole settings were generally sub-oval to sub-square in plan, with steep sides and flat bases. Postholes [09] and [12] were very closely positioned and may have been set within the corner/end of a shallow feature with a stepped edge ([13]). The exact nature of this feature remains unclear, although it contained the same fill as the postholes with no discernable physical relationship dividing them.

All four of these features can be tentatively interpreted as the remnants from a timber building. Feature [14] may represent either part of a beamslot or a shallow cut for a sub-cellar set with posts for a timber building with a sprung floor. Often classified as 'Sunken Feature Buildings' structures of this type are commonly associated with Saxon and Medieval building types, although similar construction methods persist into later periods.

A small number of finds were collected as residual evidence from these features, which include a prehistoric flake from the fill of posthole [11], a highly abraded sherd of pottery thought to be medieval in date from posthole [16], and a rim sherd from a 15th to 16th century jug from the fill of the shallow feature [14]. The presence of the pottery sherds appears to confirm that these features are post-Roman and are likely to be medieval to early post-medieval in date. They all truncated an earlier subsoil horizon (19) and were sealed below a soil build-up (20) with frequent modern tree roots.



Plate 5: Postholes [09] & [11] (looking E) [1x1m Scale]

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2)*

- **Prehistoric Pottery**

A single slightly everted rim sherd of handmade pottery weighing 2g, was retrieved from the subsoil (02) in the area of the western extension. The opening of the vessel can be gauged at c. 70mm in diameter.

The sherd is tempered with finely crushed burnt flint and is from a small prehistoric vessel, such as a cup, and is of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (*Sarah Percival pers comm*).

- **Post-Prehistoric Pottery**

Introduction

Four sherds of post-prehistoric pottery weighing a total of 47g were collected from three contexts. All show moderate abrasion aside from the sherd from context (16) which is severely abraded.

Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric:

Context	Description	Fabric	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV	Date Range	Comments
08	Local medieval unglazed	LMU	2	12	0.06	1	11 th -14 th	Inc. heavily sooted rim sherd (ext.)
14	Late medieval transitional	LMT	1	25	0.20	1	15 th -16 th	Rim from a jug
16	?Medieval coarseware (gritty)	?MCWG	1	10	0.06	1	11 th -13 th	Base, high abrasion
Grand Total			4	47	0.32	3		

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric

Methodology

Basic quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric types follow the post-Roman fabric series after Sue Anderson with form terminology following MPRG (1998).

Conclusions

A single highly abraded sherd was collected from context (16), the fill of a post-hole ([15]). The sherd is of a particularly hard fired, sandy 'gritty' fabric and, although it could be of Romano-British date, the thickness of the piece and evidence for a slightly sagging base suggest that this is more likely derived from a medieval storage vessel of sandy coarseware.

The two medieval sherds from context (08) are from storage or cooking vessels of common use in domestic kitchens and households from the 12th to 14th century. Thick sooting residue on the exterior of the rim sherd, shows that this sherd has yet to be weathered and may indicate the presence of medieval rubbish pit (containing evidence of rubbish burning) in the vicinity of the find spot.

A single rim sherd of a 15th to 16th century style of jug with a single spot of light green splash glazing was collected from context (14), the fill of a shallow feature associated with postholes of possible medieval date.

The presence of even such a small quantity of medieval pottery at the site in association with features appears to be indicative of settlement activity rather than being simply residual sherds derived from the localised manuring of fields.

• **Flint**

Eleven struck/modified flints were collected during the monitoring work along with twelve pieces of burnt flint. Each piece was examined by eye and with the aid of a hand lens (x6 magnification) before being catalogued according to a basic typology using standard lithic terminology where possible.

Burnt Flint

Twelve fragments of non-worked burnt flint of varying size (weighing a total of 227g) were collected, most of which are heavily calcined and fire-cracked with three pieces heavily reddened and granulated in appearance. This small quantity of burnt flint was collected as residual finds from the subsoil and two postholes with the majority retrieved from the fill of ditch [04].

Context	Context Type	Type	Qty	Weight (g)
02	Subsoil	Burnt fragment	1	114
05	Ditch-fill	Burnt fragment	8	88
08	Subsoil	Burnt fragment	1	6
10	PH fill	Burnt fragment	1	10
12	PH fill	Burnt fragment	1	9
Total			12	

Table 1. Burnt Flint

Worked flint

This small assemblage is made almost exclusively from a medium grained opaque flint, with very frequent interclasts and flaws. The fabric ranges in colour from very pale yellow to yellowish-grey when viewed through a strong white light. The majority of the pieces retain cortex, which is fairly thin and chalky, although some examples have a more iron rich, thin skin.

The collection source is likely to have been local with rapid selection of surface/sub-surface frost-fractured cobbles the most likely resource.

The condition of the assemblage is variable, but overall only a small number of pieces show signs of post-depositional weathering or abrasion. This would normally indicate that they have been recovered relatively close to where they were originally discarded/buried, although in this case nearly all pieces were collected from subsoil and topsoil subject to uncertain levels of historic ploughing and graviturbation.

Context	Type	Qty	Weight (g)	Context Type
01	Flake – utilised	1	6	Make-up/Topsoil
Fairly hard struck tertiary flake from a prepared and abraded platform, slightly glossy. Broken/snapped across its mid-point with signs of use-wear along the new edge and further use/wear with ?light retouch along a single lateral edge.				
02	Shatter	1	26	Subsoil
Partly decorticated hard-struck shatter, struck from a thermal flake/frost shattered flint				
02	Thermal flake - utilised	1	20	Subsoil
Unmodified irregular thermal flake utilised along a single edge with fine retouch and invasive wear as an ad hoc tool				
02	Shatter – utilised	1	25	Subsoil
Hard struck shatter, struck on cortex, this thick rectangular ‘chuck’ has been subsequently utilised as an ad hoc tool with three limited zones of light retouch and use/wear each along a separate edge.				
02	Flake	1	7	Subsoil
A short secondary flake in fresh condition, relatively hard-struck, bearing the scar of a previous invasive stepped flake.				
05	Shatter	1	16	Ditch-fill

This fresh, chunky fragment retains a thin cortex and shows scars from several other hard strikes				
05	Chip	1	1	Ditch-fill
Small, thin, sharp, 'almond shaped'.				
08	Flake	1	2	Subsoil
A small, slightly weathered tertiary flake, soft hammer struck.				
08	Blade – snapped	1	1	Subsoil
The distal end of a snapped blade. Very thin, neatly made (soft hammer/pressure flaked) with a pronounced crest. 16mm wide, 2mm thick max. Glossy, fresh. Poss. light use-wear unilaterally. ?Mesolithic				
12	Flake – burnt/utilised	1	7	Fill of PH [11]
This heat reddened flint has been knapped post heating. This flake is broad, fresh and glossy with delicate retouch and unifacial wear on all the sharp edges and an invasive break at the distal end where it has failed as a possible ad hoc scraper				
Totals		11	111	

Table 2. Worked Flint

Discussion

The pieces of burnt flint may have been produced in association with burning or hearth activities of any period, although given the presence of worked flint from similar contexts it is suspected that much of it may also be derived from prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

Although a single neatly made and snapped blade may be of Mesolithic date the majority of the assemblage shares similar characteristics and can be considered to be of a similar later prehistoric industry. No specific tools are present, although the edges of several pieces have been used as ad hoc tools, for relatively light cutting and scraping tasks. Two flakes are present which share similar use history, both having been used as makeshift scrapers following either accidental or purposeful snapping at the distal end. One of these is a flake which had been heated prior to use and both this and the other may even represent scavenged debitage from an earlier flint industry picked-up and modified for expedient use.

The selection of poor quality flint and utilisation of shattered pieces, thermal flakes and possibly recycled flakes with minimal modification and use prior to discard is usually indicative of a Late Bronze Age date.

- **Georgian Coin** (*Appendix 5*)

A highly-worn and buckled King George III (1760–1820) half-penny was collected from the spoil produced by service trenches at the front of the bungalow. The reverse has only a vague impression of a Britannia figure with worn legend while a similarly worn right-facing bust of King George can be discerned on the obverse. The legend on the reverse can be partly read as 'GEORGIVS III D G REX 18- -'.

This coin weighs 8.19g and is over a gram lighter than halfpenny coins of a similar 1800s issue and just below the expected diameter of 29mm (at 28.5mm), and therefore may be a counterfeit. Counterfeit coins were rampant in the reign of George III, although reduced in number following the issue of Boulton designed Cartwheel pennies and twopences from 1797 with legal halfpennies introduced from 1799.

8.0 Conclusions

Natural sands and gravels were revealed in the southern end of the footprint for the western extension and within the soakaway trench at the front of the house. A deeper subsoil masked the geology in all other excavated areas.

A single ditch of unknown provenance was recorded in the western extension area, which was sealed below 0.7m of subsoil build-up. The ditch was well defined, with a concave V-shaped profile and was orientated south-west to north-east. This ditch has not proved to be identifiable as an extension to any of the fragmentary linear features identified by cropmarks in the field to the south of the bungalow plot (NHER 16164). These have been interpreted as representing multiple phases of activity, with those along the eastern edge of the field suggested to be post-medieval field boundaries or drainage ditches.

A small assemblage of finds were collected during the work, which include a single sherd of prehistoric pottery (of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date) and worked flints of Late Bronze Age date. This later prehistoric 'background noise' is perhaps expected, given the sites proximity to a possible Bronze Age funerary site, identified from cropmarks of fields to the north. However, the recovery of even a single sherd of prehistoric pottery here is significant as the fabric of such pieces is particularly vulnerable to weathering on the surface and is not easily found away from potential concentrations of prehistoric activity.

Two sherds of medieval pottery with thick sooting residue were collected from the subsoil in the area of the new lobby. A group of three postholes associated with a shallow feature, within which two of the postholes appear to be set, was discovered within the confines of the soakaway trench. These features have been tentatively interpreted as forming part of a timber structure of likely medieval to early post-medieval date.

Although very limited in scale, the evidence of medieval activity along Rectory Road is interesting as it suggests that at least some of the cropmarks in the vicinity of the site may relate to this particular historic period. It can now be postulated that some form of medieval to early-post medieval settlement was present along Rectory Road. This would mean that either the medieval settlement extended quite some distance from the focus of the former Priory and church to the south or alternatively that such evidence may be attributable to a separate focus of activity.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Dawn Rose who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Paul Hood and Adam Storey for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER and cropmark data was obtained directly from the archives of the Historic Environment Service held at Gressenhall.

10.0 Bibliography

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	SSD	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	Deposit	W.Ext.		V.firm, mid-grey silty-sand below the active turf, mod. stones, occ. chalk, rare modern cbm, rare coke frags. c. 0.4m deep	Make-up/Topsoil	20 th century
02	Deposit	W.Ext		V.friable, mid-orangey-brown silty-sand, occ. stones, rare charcoal flecks, c. 0.65m deep	Subsoil (upper)	Post-medieval +
03	Deposit	W.Ext		V.soft, mid-orangey-yellow top mid –orange sand (medium grain), occ. stones	Natural Geology	Quaternary
04	Cut	W.Ext		Linear (NE-SW), 1.2m wide, 0.5m deep wide-V shaped profile with a concave base and sides	Ditch	Uncertain
05	Deposit	W.Ext	[04]	Soft/dense, dark-orangey-brown silty-sand, occ. stones, homogenous deposit	Ditch-fill	
06	Deposit	W.Ext		Soft, dark –orangey-brown silty-sand, occ. stones, c. 0.15m deep	Subsoil (lower)	?Prehistoric
07	Deposit	Porch		Same as (01) c. 0.35m deep	Make-up/Topsoil	Modern
08	Deposit	Porch		Same as (02), >0.5m deep	Subsoil (upper)	Post-medieval +
09	Cut	Soak.		Sub-square in plan, c. 0.55m wide , c. 0.5m deep with very steep sides & a flat base	Posthole	Medieval/E.P.Med.
10	Deposit	Soak.	[09]	V.friable, dark-orangey-brown silty-sand, v.rare charcoal flecks, occ. stones		
11	Cut	Soak.		?Sub-oval in plan, U-shaped profile with a flat base, c. 0.4m wide, c. 0.25m deep	Posthole	Medieval/E.P.Med.
12	Deposit	Soak.	[11]	V.friable, dark-orangey-brown silty-sand, v.rare charcoal flecks, occ. stones		
13	Cut	Soak.		Stepped, wide feature poss. associated with PHs [09] + [11] or later disturbance, 0.3m deep max.	Stepped feature	Medieval/E.P.Med.
14	Deposit	Soak.	[13]	V.friable, dark-orangey-brown silty-sand, v.rare charcoal flecks, occ. stones		
15	Cut	Soak.		Part of a Pit/PH c. 0.35m deep with steep sides and a flat base	?Pit/Posthole	Medieval/E.P.Med.
16	Deposit	Soak.	[15]	V.friable, dark-orangey-brown silty-sand, v.rare charcoal flecks, occ. stones		
17	Deposit	Soak.		Loose sterile gravel, coarse, poorly sorted, within a medium grained brownish yellow to pale yellow sand matrix	Natural Geology	Quaternary
18	Deposit	Soak.		V.soft, mid-orangey-yellow top mid –orange sand (medium grain), occ. stones, c. 0.35m deep	Natural Geology	Quaternary

Context	Category	SSD	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
19	Deposit	Soak.		Firm, mid-orangey-brown silty-sand, 'sterile', homogenous, occ. stones	Lower Subsoil/Colluvium	?Prehistoric
20	Deposit	Soak.		Friable, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand, occ. stones	Subsoil	Post-medieval +
21	Deposit	Soak.		Firm, dark-brownish-grey sandy-loam, freq. roots, occ. modern brick flecks	Garden soil	Modern
22	Deposit	Porch			Unstratified	
23	Deposit	Service		Same as (02)	Subsoil	Post-medieval +

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Unknown	Ditch	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Postholes	3
	Feature	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
01	Flint – worked	1	6	
02	Flint – burnt	1	114	
02	Flint – worked	4	78	
02	Pottery	1	2	Prehistoric
05	Flint – burnt	8	88	
05	Flint - worked	2	17	
08	Flint – burnt	1	6	
08	Flint – worked	2	3	
08	Pottery	2	12	Medieval
10	Flint – burnt	1	10	
12	Flint – burnt*	2	16	*Inc. x1 worked
14	Pottery	1	25	LMT
16	Pottery	1	10	?Medieval
22	Coin – copper-alloy	1	8.19	George III

Appendix 2b: Finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Prehistoric (500000BC to 42AD)	Burnt flint	12
Mesolithic (10000 to 4001BC)	Flint – worked	1
Late Bronze Age (1000 to 701BC)	Flint – worked	10
	Pottery	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	4
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Coin – Cu Al	1

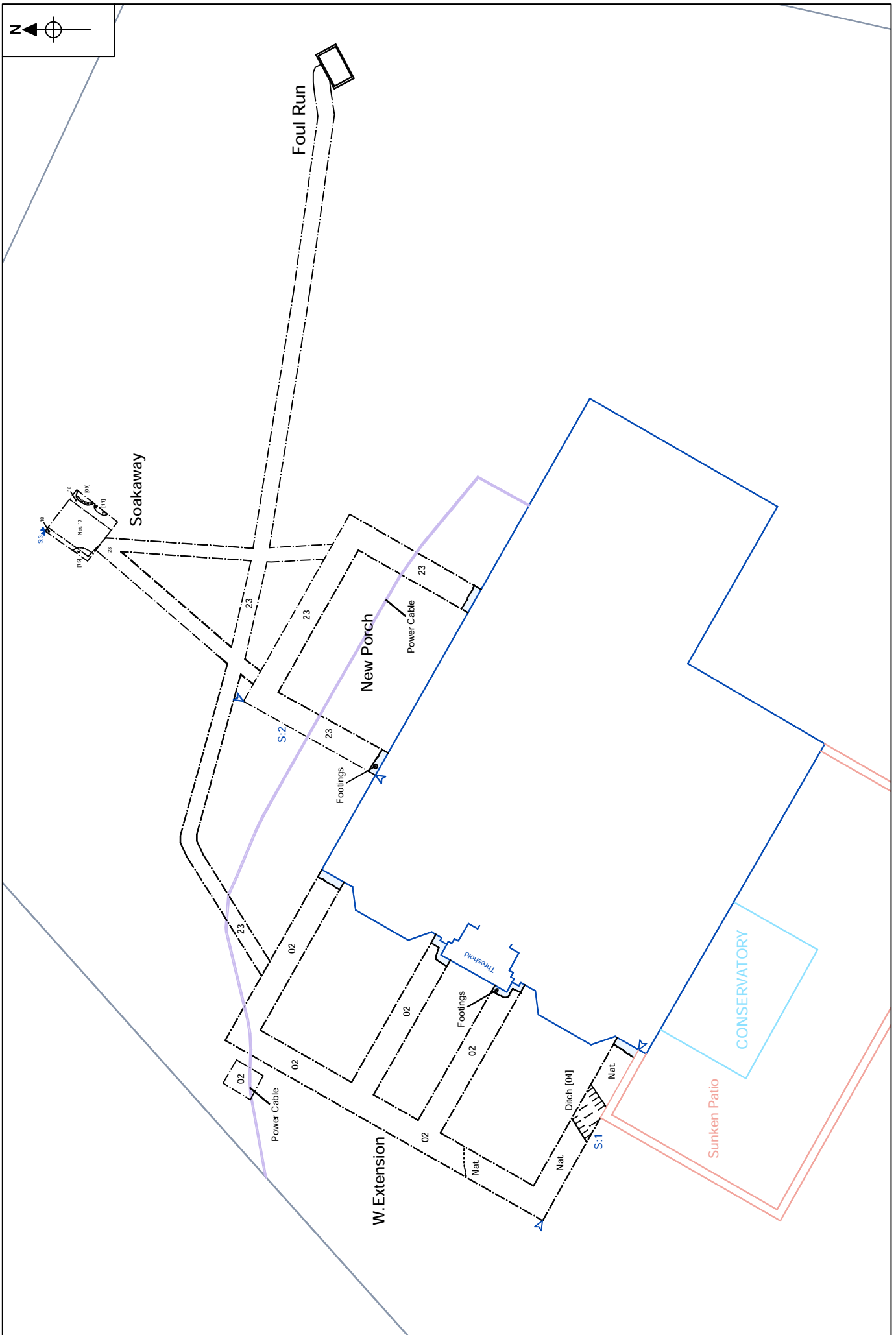


Figure 3. Groundworks plan. Scale 1:125

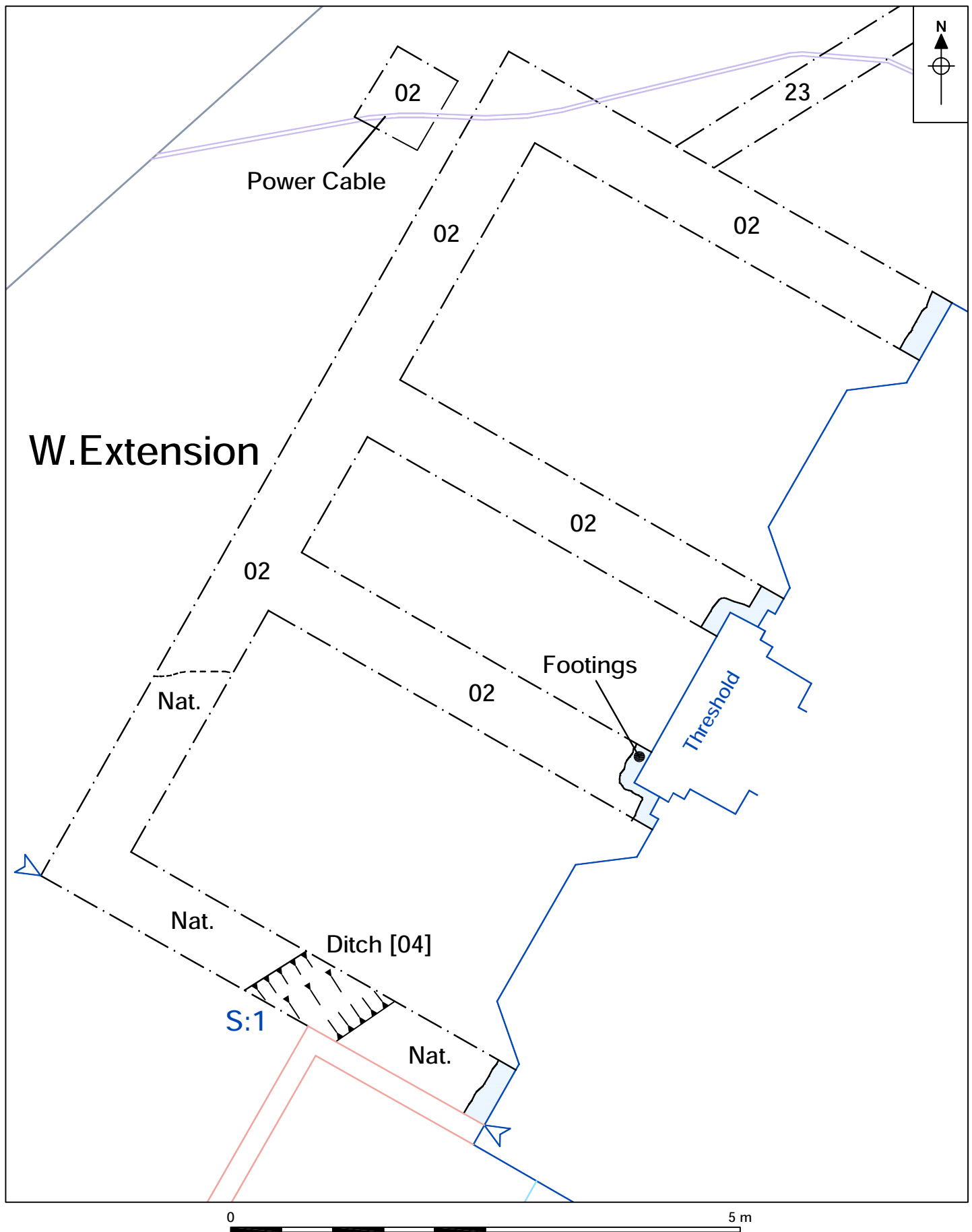
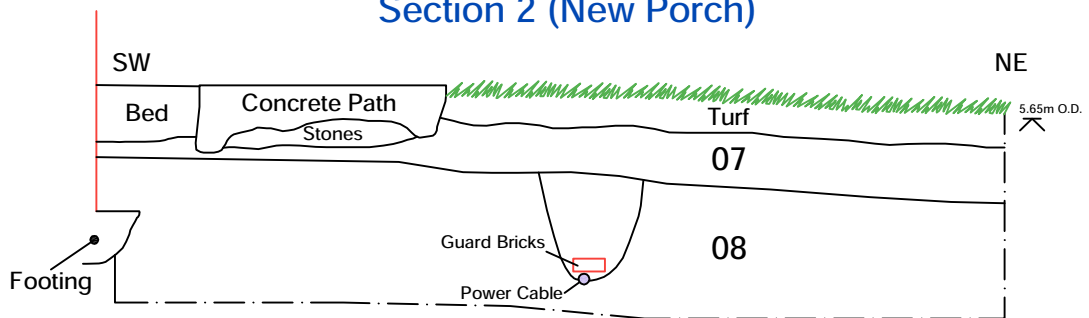


Figure 4. W.Extesnsion. Scale 1:50

Section 2 (New Porch)



Section 1 (W.Extension)

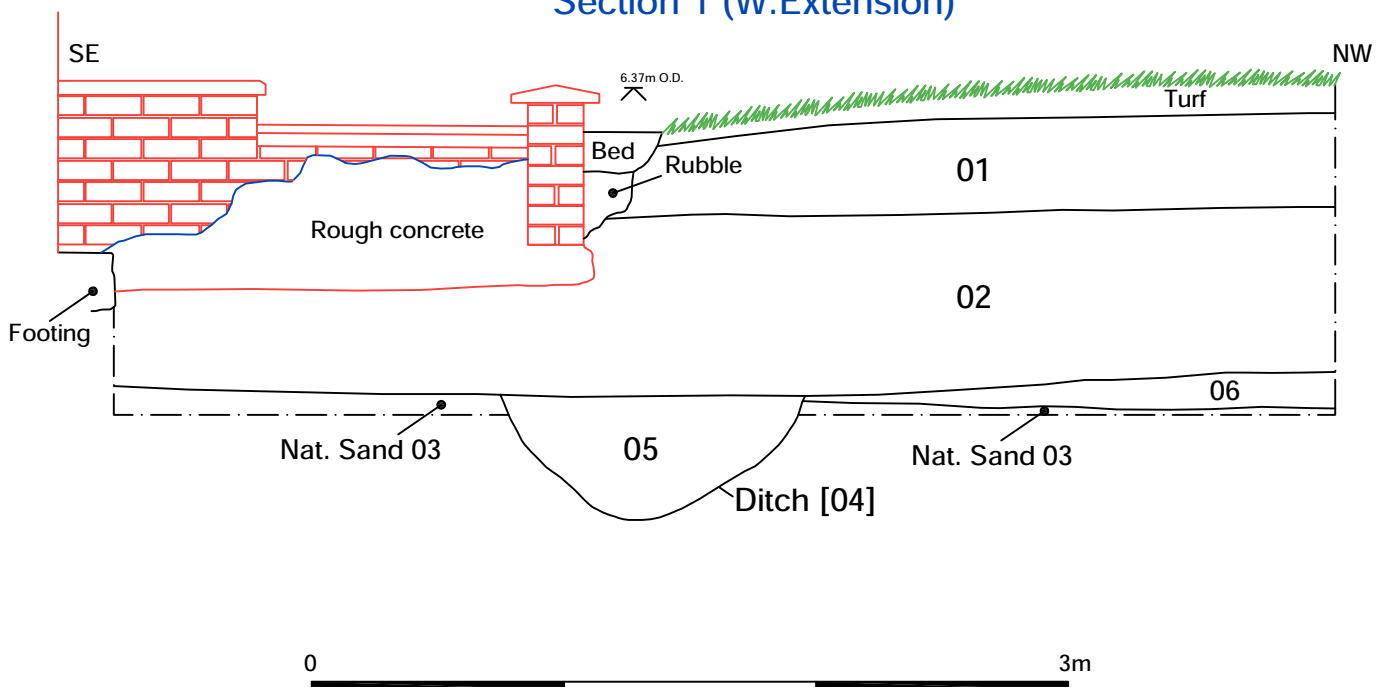


Figure 5. Sections 1 & 2. Scale 1:30

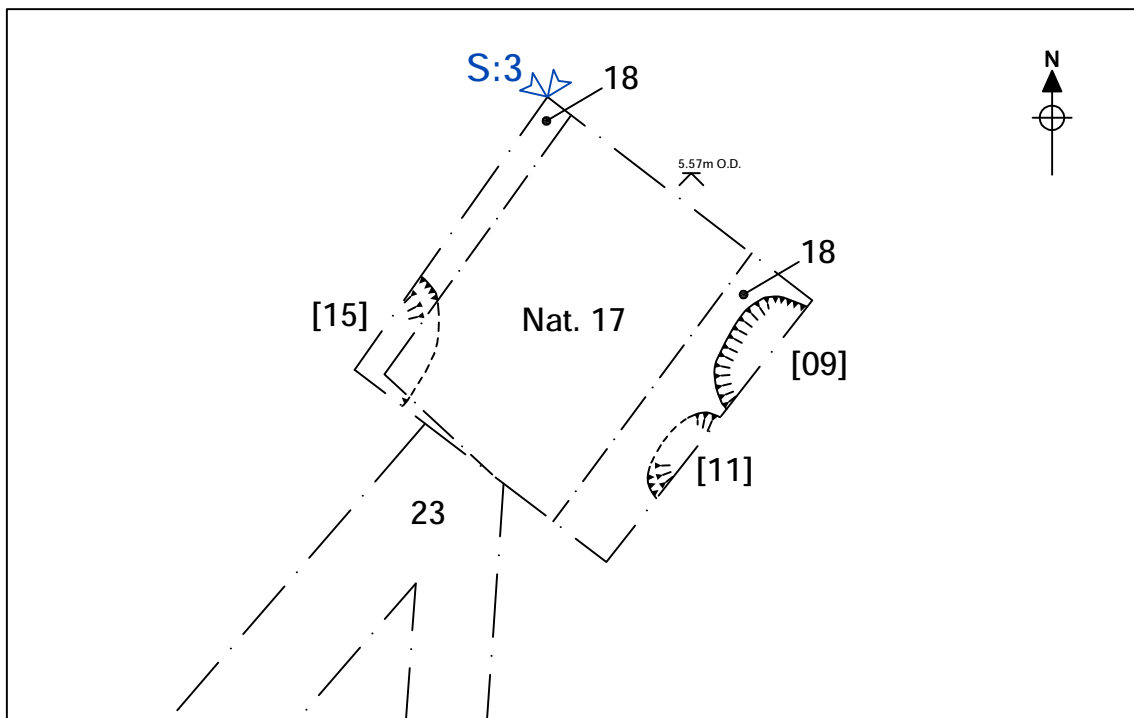
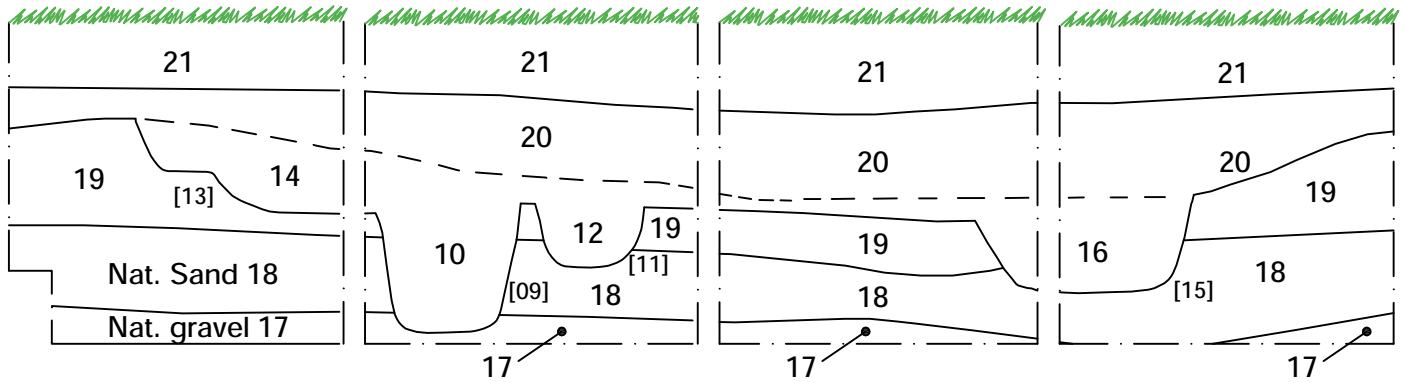


Figure 6. Soakaway Plan and Baulk Sections. Scale 1:30

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OASIS ID: norvicar1-167652

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring at The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological excavation/monitoring of groundworks associated with extensions to The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby (Planning Ref: 2013/0328). These extensions took the form of single storey extension to the western side of the bungalow and a new lobby at the front of the house. The site is located close to the location of a Romano-British temple and an extensive complex of cropmarks (identified through aerial photography) which indicate prehistoric to Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity. Linear cropmarks of unknown date have been recorded immediately to the south and west of the site, with cropmark evidence for a Bronze Age cemetery site located just to the north. The presence of a single well defined ditch with a concave V-shaped profile was recorded, which was sealed below 0.7m of subsoil build-up. This ditch has not proved to be identifiable as an extension to any of the fragmentary linear features identified by cropmarks in the field to the south of the bungalow plot (NHER 16164). A group of postholes associated with a shallow feature, within which two of the postholes appear to be set, was discovered within the confines of the soakway trench. These features have been tentatively interpreted as forming part of a timber structure of likely medieval to early post-medieval date. A handful of medieval to early post-medieval pottery sherds were collected, along with a single sherd of prehistoric pottery of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2013 End: 16-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 131878 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2013/GE149 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2013/0328 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project

Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLES Medieval
Monument type	FEATURE Medieval
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK ALDEBY The Bungalow, Rectory Road, Aldeby, Norfolk.
Postcode	NR34 0BJ
Study area	1400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4504 9365 52 1 52 29 06 N 001 36 34 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	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs Mary Rose

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive	NMAS

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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