

Archaeological Monitoring at Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall, Norfolk.



Prepared for William Cheetham

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*2x2m scales and 1x1m scale

Archaeological Monitoring at Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall, Norfolk. NR20 3RG.

Location:	Mattishall
Grid Ref:	TG 0476 1247
NHES Event No:	ENF 131135
Date of fieldwork:	7 th March, 4 th April & 26 th September 2013

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by William Cheetham to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a replacement house and detached double garage at the site of Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall (Planning Ref. 3PL/2012/0995/F).

The overall plot size measured c.1500m² and was formerly the site of a 19th century cottage and ancillary buildings. These were subject to a level 1 Historic Building Record compiled by the client prior to their demolition.

The site is positioned at a former common-edge location adjacent to Clippings Green. Common-edge settlements are a characteristic feature of the Norfolk landscape and have their origins in the 11th to 13th centuries. Artefacts of Roman to post medieval date have also been recorded as surface finds from field adjacent to the site.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF44600_1) on behalf of Breckland District Council. 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 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 excavation of the garage footprint revealed two ditches attributable to later post-medieval land divisions, one of which aligns with the former boundary of a garden or orchard depicted on early 20th century plans.

A medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the south-east corner of the site which may be the original medieval boundary to the plots now defined by Greenacres and Hillcrest. This could suggest that this area was demarcated as a parcel of land from as early as the 13th century, most likely in association with the medieval moated site at Clippings Green Farm.

The excavation of the footprint for the new house showed that, despite 19th century landscaping and the presence of a former cottage on the site, a large number of medieval pits were present below the modern topsoil. Twenty-three pits of varying shapes and sizes can be attributed to medieval clay extraction activity of a likely 13th century date, while a stone packed oval pit could be part of a former post-pit. The boundaries of two north to south plots measuring c. 6m in width can be loosely defined from the distribution of the pits.

Findings collected from the topsoil include a Romano-British brick, several late post-medieval buttons and an 18th century crockal bell.

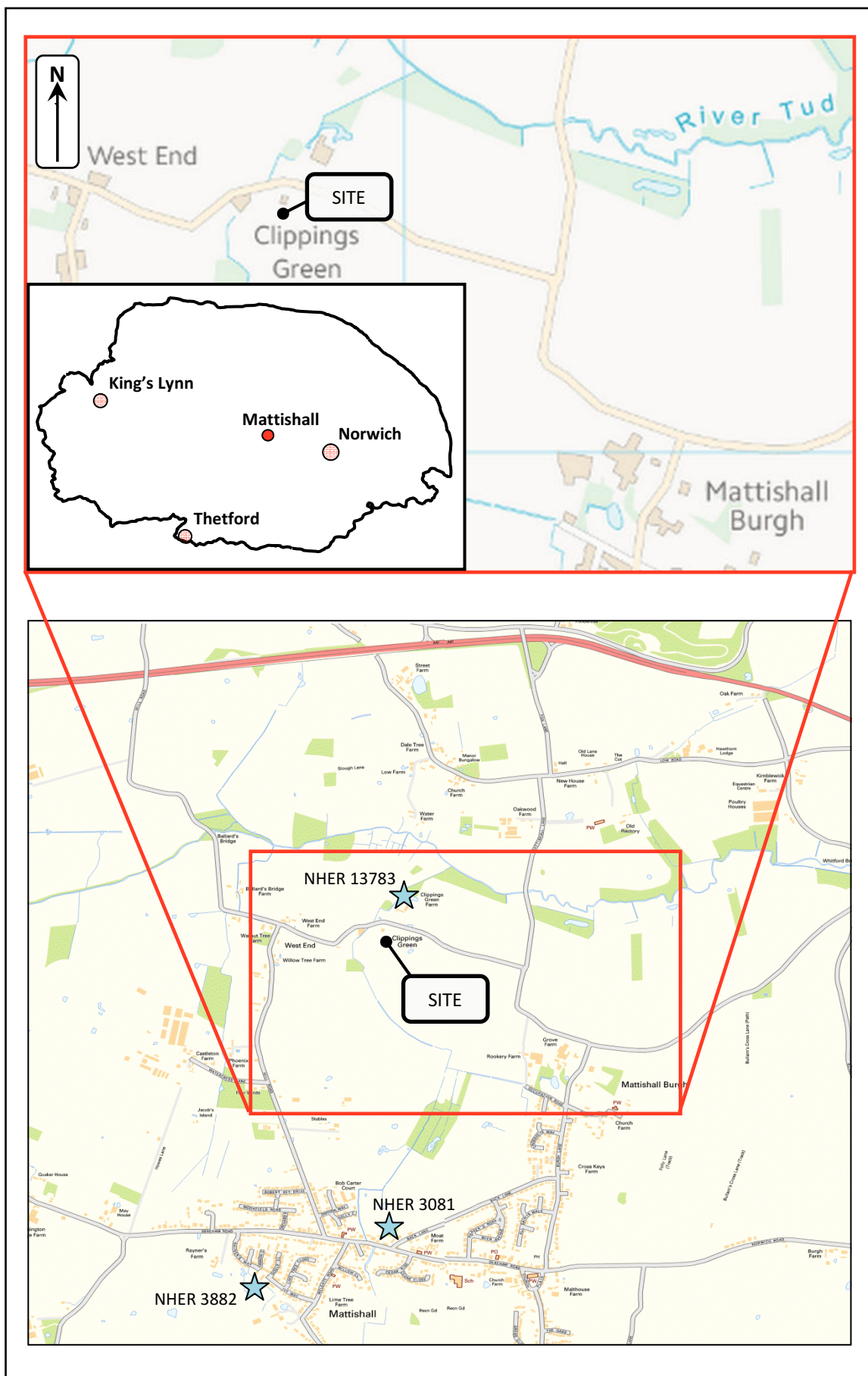


Figure 1. General Site Location Plan

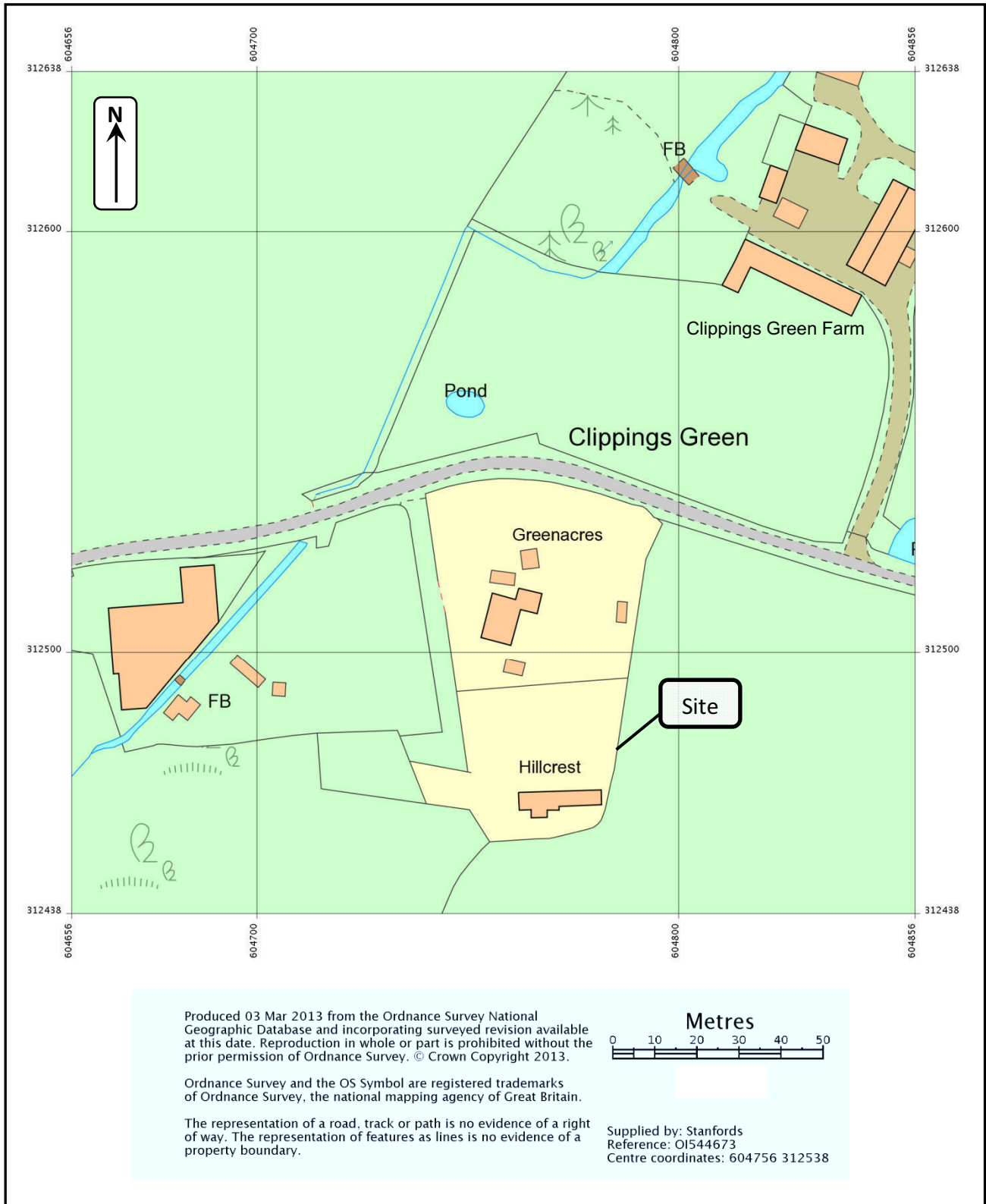


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located at Clippings Green, an outlier of Mattishall, which is located c. 1.2km to the south. The site is situated on the southern slopes of the River Tudd valley; c.400m southwest from the southern bank on an area of gently sloping ground which forms at c.34m OD.

The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (Cretaceous), overlain by superficial deposits (Quaternary) of heavy boulder clay with areas of poorly sorted gravel and sands on higher ground, while the site itself is situated on the edge of an ancient tributary channel for the River Tudd with localised deposits of silts, clays and peats. 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 very dense clays with moderate chalk and flint clasts.

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

The site is located in the relatively large Norfolk parish of Mattishall, in the Breckland District of mid Norfolk. The parish also includes the village of Mattishall Burgh, formerly a separate parish with its own church and outlying farms such as Clippings Green Farm and South Green Farm. A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Mattishall'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. A 1km radius search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record database resulted in 60 records of which the majority relate to surface finds from metal detection and fieldwalking.

The site is positioned at a former common-edge location adjacent to Clippings Green. Common-edge settlements are a characteristic feature of the Norfolk landscape and have their origins in the 11th to 13th centuries. Three former sites of medieval common edge settlements/manorial sites are recorded in the vicinity of the site, at Clippings Green Farm (NHER 13783) and on the north and western edge of Mattishall village (NHER 3081 & 3882).

Artefacts of Roman to post-medieval date have been recorded close to the proposed development site as surface finds from metal detecting and field walking.

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 13783: Clippings Green Farm – 16th century house and medieval moat. This later 16th century timber framed house was extended in the 17th century in brickwork and again at a later date. The house is located inside a large medieval moat (now only evident to the north) with an adjacent fishpond. [c. 135m NNE]

NHER 3081: Medieval Moated Site/Medieval common-edge settlement. Earthworks within a field north of Dereham Way, east of Daffodil Way and Holly Close. This sub-rectangular moat has a probably contemporary outer enclosure ditch to the south and east. To the west a higher level enclosure contains a small pond. Another ditch is probably a contemporary field boundary. The area to the west of the site is identified as a common on Faden's map of Norfolk made in 1797. This indicates the site is an example of abandoned medieval common-edge settlement. [c. 1km S]

NHER 33882: Site of Medieval common-edge settlement. A group of ditched enclosures abutting the southern edge of West Green, (adjacent with Ivy Way) can be seen on aerial photographs in the form of ditches and sub-rectangular enclosures indicative of tofts and have been surveyed. [c. 1.5km SSW]

NHER 25535: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting and field observation in fields to the south-west of the site have recovered Roman coins, a possible medieval lead trefoil ceiling mount and two large 15th to 16th century double buckles. A large number of post medieval coins, metalwork and a few pieces of post medieval pot were also found. These objects are indicative of activity here from the 16th century onwards. [c. 250m]

NHER 25629: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting of large open fields to the south-west of the site recovered a Bronze Age flat copper alloy axehead, a Roman coin and two medieval coins. [c. 360m]

NHER 25729: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal-detecting and fieldwalking of field adjacent to the site between 1990 and 2012 recovered a large number of finds dating from the Prehistoric to post-medieval periods. These include a fragment from a Late Bronze Age socketed axe, sherds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery; Roman and medieval coins; Late Iron Age/Roman Colchester type brooches; Roman brooches including a Polden Hill brooch, a prick spur and a ring; a Late Saxon weight or pin head; a medieval belt mount, buckles, folding strap clasps, a stud in the form of a crowned head and two bronze cauldron feet; a medieval/post-medieval fragment of chafing dish handle and a post-medieval dress hook and bar mount from a belt or harness. [c. 100m SE]

NHER 25730: Finds scatter Metal detecting of fields recovered a penny of Edward I, Edward II or Edward III. [c. 480m SW]

NHER 28114: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting in field so the south-east of the site recovered a late Roman buckle, parts of two Roman brooches, an almost complete Early Saxon small-long brooch, parts of two other Early Saxon brooches and Roman and medieval coins. [c. 425m SE]

NHER 25730: Finds Spot. Metal-detecting of a field in 2010 recovered a sixpence of Elizabeth I that had been adapted into a piece of jewellery, possibly a pendant. [c. 500m SW]

NHER 37335: Former site of a medieval building. Site of Walnut Tree Farmhouse, West End, Clippings Green: The original three-cell timber framed building was probably built in the 14th century with screens passage and service quarter towards the northern end and an open hall to the south. It underwent many alterations up until the 20th century including the addition of a brick chimney stack, a first floor level and several extensions. It was demolished in 2006 [c. 450m W]

NHER 39715: Finds Spot. Part of a medieval lava quern and pieces of medieval and post medieval pot were found in the garden of 'The Cottage' on Mill Road, Clippings Green. [c. 480m WSW]

NHER 53963: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal-detecting of fields to the east of Clippings Green Farm between 2010 and 2012 recovered Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; medieval and post-medieval tokens; a post-medieval jetton and Roman to post-medieval and undated metal objects. The metal finds include a Roman wing-and-fanbow brooch, razor, needle, a fragment of copper alloy bracelet and a probable hinged plate from a lorica segmentata buckle set; Early Saxon brooches and a scabbard chape fragment; an incomplete Middle Saxon pin; an unusual Late Saxon (Carolingian) cruciform strap distributor plus a socketed hook from a further strap distributor; medieval dress accessories, a binding strip from a piece of furniture, a folding strap clasp, several thimbles and seal matrices ; a medieval/post-medieval buckle; a post-medieval book clasp, buckles, a mount from a sword belt and several belt or harness mounts and an undated /unidentified lead object. [c. 300m E]

NHER 54061: Finds Spot. Metal detecting of fields in 2009 recovered a Late Iron Age miniature terret (harness) ring. [c. 380m NW]

NHER 56620: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal-detecting of field so the west of Clippings Green Farm in 2011 and 2012 recovered a medieval coin weight as well as metal objects from the Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The metal finds include a Roman steelyard arm and Dolphin brooch; a possible Early Saxon copper alloy sheet spangle; medieval dress accessories, an end cap from a knife and a thimble and post-medieval dress accessories, a knife end-stop, a furniture escutcheon plate, book clasp and a lead cloth seal. [c. 175m NW]

The site was formerly occupied by a two-storey 19th century cottage of red brick and pantiles in a very poor state of repair, with no modern amenities. Hillcrest Cottage may have served to accommodate labourers associated with Clippings Green Farm.

The 1st Edition OS plan of 1883 and later early 20th century plans show the position of Hillcrest Cottage, served by a well located in the western corner of the plot. The northern half of what is now part of the modern plot was depicted as a separate garden or orchard until the 1960s when it became part of the Hillcrest plot.

A detailed description and images of the former cottage and a history of its recent ownership was summarised in a Level 1 Building Recording Report compiled by the client and submitted to the Norfolk Historic Environment Service prior to its demolition (Cheetham 2012).



Plate 2: Hillcrest Cottage (looking north-east)
by William Cheetham, 2012

5.0 Methodology (Figure 3)

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during groundworks for the new house and garage. The footprint for both the house and garage were mechanically stripped using 360° machines fitted with ditching buckets assisted by a teleporter and dumper, prior to the excavation of footing trenches and service trenching.

A large number of relatively sterile pits were revealed in the area of the house, which were hand cleaned and recorded in plan. The excavation of footing trenches under archaeological supervision and control provided sample data for the majority of these features.

An area to the rear of the new house was reduced by machine to accommodate landscaping levels associated with the new dwelling.

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 c.34m OD located at the entrance to the access road off Mill Road.

Site conditions were fair, although it is worthy of note that the majority of archaeological features contained particularly firm/dense silty-clays.

6.0 Results (Figures 3 to 7) (*Appendix 1a*)

- **'Natural deposits'**

The natural clay geology was revealed by the footprint strip for both the double garage and the house area. It was reached below c. 0.3m of topsoil in the area of the house and c. 0.5m in the area of the garage. In general the clay sloped gradually from south-east to north-west, with a more pronounced slope in the south-east corner of the site. The upper clay consisted of a very stiff, dense yellowish-orange clay with chalk and flint clasts (156), changing to a blue-grey clay with depth (157).

- **Topsoil**

The topsoil (100) was mechanically stripped from the garage footprint and much of the house footprint prior to the excavation of footing trenches. This fairly rooty material comprised of a dark-grey silty-loam, with occasional inclusions of modern rubble, glass and metalwork. No subsoil horizon was present below and the area is likely to have been subject to 19th century landscaping for Hillcrest Cottage. This was most evident at the south-east corner of the site, where terracing against the adjacent field was present to a depth of c. 1m.

- **Post-medieval Features**

Two ditches were recorded in the area of the garage which can be assigned post-medieval dates. Ditch [128] was orientated on a roughly east to west alignment and may match a former plot boundary for a garden or orchard shown on 19th century plans. It survived to a depth c.0.45m and contained a yellowish-brown silty-clay (129) with a few fragments of 18th to 19th century brick noted throughout the fill.

A second linear feature ([101]) was recorded with the footing trenching, which ran on a perpendicular alignment to ditch [128], i.e. north to south. This ditch had a U-shaped profile, measuring 1.75m in width and 0.85m deep. It contained a yellowish-brown silty-clay with rare inclusion of 18th to 19th century brick (102). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was collected from the fill.

Part of a large pit ([103]) was recorded in the south west corner of the garage footings, which contained ash and soil mixed fills (104) and is suspected to be of post-medieval date.

Although a large number of pits were recorded in the area of the new house they can nearly all be assigned a medieval date. However, two pits were of a notably different character and can be attributed to later post-medieval activity.

A small, circular pit (144) was recorded c. 5m north from the position of the former cottage. This contained a dark-grey clay-loam with rare pieces of later post-medieval roof tile, from which the previously disturbed remains from a dog burial were collected.

A large pit ([207]) containing fragments of early 20th-century bottle glass was recorded to the east of the position of the former cottage, below the area of its adjoining outbuilding. The outbuilding appears from the mid-20th century on plans depicting the layout of the cottage.

- **Boundary Ditch (Medieval)**

Landscaping associated with the house construction in the south-east corner of the site revealed the presence of a former boundary ditch ([204]), turning from c. north-south to east-west. This ditch echoes the present field boundary marking the plots of both Hillcrest and Greenacres to the north. The surviving evidence for the ditch measured c. 1.10m wide

and c. 0.45m deep. It contained a primary fill of silty-clay (206) below a mid-orangey-brown silty-clay with rare flecks of charcoal and burnt clay (205).

Two sherds of medieval pottery were collected from its fill, along with butchered cattle bones. Although the pottery could be residual within the ditch, it seems feasible that this feature is the original medieval boundary to the plot now defined by Greenacres and Hillcrest. This could suggest that this area was purposefully demarcated as a parcel of land from as early as the medieval period, most likely in association with the medieval moated site at Clippings Green Farm located c. 135m to the north-east.



Plate 3: Medieval Ditch [204] (looking E)
[2x2m & 1x1m Scales]

- **Medieval Pits** (c. 13th century)

A total of twenty-four pits of likely medieval date were recorded within the area of the new house. They varied in depth from as little as 0.24m to as much as c.1m, with the deeper pits exhibiting steep sides. Most of the pits were relatively shallow for their size, which may be attributable to 19th century landscaping rather than a true reflection of their original depth. Some of the pits were clearly sub-rectangular in plan, although others were more oval in appearance. Typically they measured in the range of c. 1.5m to 2m in length and c. 1.2m to 1.5m in width.

Although these features varied in overall size and shape they shared broadly similar characteristics, with the vast majority having contained relatively sterile, well mixed, dense, homogenous silty-clay fills.

None of these features appears to have served as midden pits or industrial pits, with no deposits of animal bone, ash/charcoal rich tips or cessy/organic material present within their fills. A few of the pits contained larger lumps of redeposited clay within their fill. Several of the pits intercut with one another, although the relationships between pits were not easily determined and many can be considered to be relatively contemporary purely on stratigraphic grounds.

A smaller oval pit ([202]) recorded within the service runs at the western side of the new house contained a silty-clay fill (203) packed with rounded flint cobbles around its edges and can be interpreted as a post-pit.

A pattern of distribution can be tentatively observed from the exposed pits, which appear to cluster at the southern end of a plot of c. 6m in width, loosely defined by further pitting, with a second plot of a similar width to the west.

Overall the pits can be attributed to the *ad-hoc* extraction of clay, with the depth of several pits marrying with a change in the geology to a slightly stonier blue clay. None of the pits show signs of being open for significant periods of time, with no signs of primary silting or weathering. These pits appear to have been solely excavated to obtain clay, with rapid infill of soil upcast mixed with unwanted clays.

The few residually deposited pottery sherds collected from several of these features indicate that the earliest date for such activity lies from the later 12th century to 14th century, with a 13th century date most likely.



Plate 4: Medieval Pits (looking NW) [1x4m & 2x1m Scales]

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

- **Pottery** *(Appendix 3)*

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

Thirty-one sherds of pottery weighing 373g were collected from twelve contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	3	16		3
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	9	97	0.03	7
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	7	89		5
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	2	10		2
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	3	42	0.15	3
Ely Glazed Ware	ELYG	4.81	5	104		2
<i>Total medieval</i>			29	358	0.18	22
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	1	8		1
Staffs-type slipware on red earthenware	STAFT	6.411	1	7		1
<i>Total late post-medieval</i>			2	15		2
Grand Total			31	373		24

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly into an Access database.

Pottery by period

Medieval

'Early' and high medieval wares are considered together here, since handmade 'early' wares continued to be produced into the 13th century in rural parts of East Anglia. Three body sherds were identified as early medieval wares on the basis of their fabrics. One was in a fabric similar to MCW1, one was a typical thin-walled fine sandy blackware, and one was in a medium sandy fabric with sparse very fine calcareous inclusions and was thick-walled with oxidised surfaces. Some of the MCW1 sherds may also have been handmade but they were certainly wheel finished and smoothed externally. The fabric was medium sandy (moderate to abundant) with sparse coarse flint and chalk inclusions. Most sherds were body fragments, probably from round-bodied jars, but there was one everted beaded bowl rim sherd. Seven body sherds of Norwich-type LMU were also found, some of them in the highly micaceous variant of the fabric which is often found on rural sites in the vicinity of the city.

Glazed wares formed 24% of the medieval assemblage by count and 32% of the MNV, which is a high proportion for a medieval site. Three sherds were of Grimston type, but none were in fabrics typical of the production site as there were no obvious ferrous inclusions. One jug rim was present in pit fill (123), an upright flat-topped type. Five sherds were identified as Ely-type glazed wares due to the presence of chalk inclusions and dark

grey-black cores, but they may be from another Fenland production site. Four of the sherds from pit fill (142) were from a jug with a very wide strap handle and light green glaze, and the fifth from pit fill (123) was a thumbled base fragment with spots of green glaze externally.

Two glazed sherds were unprovenanced. One of these, from pit fill (117), was in a fabric very similar to MCW1 and may be a local product. The other, from ditch fill (205), was in a very fine grey fabric with orange surfaces and contained very fine calcareous inclusions and moderate fine to coarse ferrous pieces.

Post-medieval

A body sherd of glazed red earthenware of 16th-18th-century date was found in ditch fill (102) and there was a fragment of an 18th-century Staffordshire-type press-moulded slipware plate from the topsoil.

Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature, with spotdates for each context, is provided in Table 2.

Context	Cut No.	Feature Type	Fabrics	Fabric Spot date
100	-	Topsoil	MCW1, STAFT	18th c.
102	101	Ditch	GRE	16th-18th c.
106	105	Pit	LMU, MCW1, GRIM	13th-14th c.
113	155	Pit	MCW1	12th-14th c.
115	114	Pit	MCW1	12th-13th c.
117	116	Pit	EMW, MCW1, UPG	12th-13th c.
121	120	Pit	LMU	11th-13th c.
123	122	Pit	EMW, ELYG, GRIM	13th-14th c.
127	126	Pit	LMU	11th-13th c.
142	142	Pit	ELYG	13th c.
201	200	Pit	LMU	11th-13th c.
205	204	Ditch	EMW, UPG	13th-15th c.

Table 2. Pottery types present by trench and feature.

The majority of pottery was recovered from pits, with a few sherds from two ditches and topsoil. All features, apart from ditch [101], appear to be of medieval date.

Discussion

The medieval pottery from the site provides new evidence for pottery production and use in this area in the 11th–13th/14th centuries, and is of value in adding to the growing picture of rural pottery production in medieval Norfolk. It is likely that the MCW1 vessels, and possibly also some of the glazed wares, were local products. Similar wares have been found at Shipdham (Anderson 2008). Unfortunately very little medieval pottery has been recovered from East Dereham or surrounding villages in recent times, so the types of pottery in use there are currently unknown. However, as the local market, it is likely that a high proportion came from, or through, Dereham. Some of the pottery in this group also came from the potters who were supplying Norwich. Ely wares and other Fenland products from unidentified sources are relatively common in west Norfolk, so their presence here is not unusual.

The small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil and a ditch. They are likely to represent agricultural activity in these periods, which resulted in the spreading of household waste as part of the manuring process.

- **Flint**

Two small struck flints were collected from the post-medieval ditch [204]. Each piece was examined by eye and with the aid of a hand lens (x6 magnification). Both pieces weigh 2g and are in fresh condition. One piece is an irregular chip of dark orange fabric retaining a thin chalky cortex while the other is a chip from a mid yellowish grey fabric which shows scars from previous fine flake removals from a decorticated parent source. This second piece is residual evidence of prehistoric flint knapping within the general vicinity of the site.

- **Fired Clay**

Two pieces of fired clay weighing a total of 208g were collected from the fill (154) of a medieval pit ([140]). Both are fairly worn pieces and are of the same fabric-type – a pale pinkish-orange, fairly porous clay with occasional calcareous inclusions (of up to 5mm) and rare small quartzite grit. Chalk or lime inclusions were often added to daub where locally available, perhaps to improve workability or strength.

Both fragments are hard fired and dense, with the larger piece exhibiting part of a flat surface. The source of these fragments is difficult to determine and they may be from the superstructure of a hearth or even from domestic walling.

- **Ceramic Building Material**

Three pieces of ceramic building material were collected, two of which are fragments of late post-medieval roof tile in a hard, reddish orange, sandy fabric. One piece was collected from the fill (102) of a ditch in the area of the Garage ([101]), while the other was from the fill (145) of late post-medieval pit ([144]).

A large fragment of abraded Romano-British brick was collected from the topsoil (100) during the machine reduction which weighs 983g and measures 38mm thick. This is a dense pale pink to pinkish white poorly mixed fabric of chalky-clay with rare chalk and grog pellets. This was the only find datable to this period collected from the site. It is possible that it was brought to here from elsewhere, re-used in a medieval hearth or walling. Surface finds of Roman pottery and metalwork have been collected previously in the area, from fields adjacent to the site although any focus relating to settlement has yet to be identified.

- **Metal Objects**

A small number of metal objects were collected during the course of the monitoring, the majority of which were collected during metal detection of the topsoil strip for the new house footprint. The objects are listed in Table 3 below.

Three post-medieval discoidal buttons with rear suspension loops were collected; the smallest of which has traces of gold gilding, another has traces of silver tinning and the other is a poorly preserved livery style of button. A suspension or harness ring was also found, along with a late 18th century crotal bell. These are all residual finds from casual loss or disposal.

Context No.	Feature No.	Material	Object	Object Date	Feature Period
100	-	Cu-Al	Button	L.Post-medieval	-
A complete, copper-alloy cast discoidal button with a small soldered suspension loop. Traces of gold gilding survive on the reverse along with the Legend: 'GILT STANDARD'. c. mid-19th century. 1.71g. 13mm diameter.					
100	-	Cu-Al	Button	L.Post-medieval	-
A complete, copper-alloy cast discoidal button with a small soldered suspension loop with a bent shank on the reverse. Has a flat face with traces of silver tinning surviving on the reverse. c. 19 th century. 2.62g. 16mm diameter.					
100	-	Cu-Al	Button	L.Post-medieval	-
A complete, copper-alloy cast discoidal button with a large iron suspension loop, in poor condition. This livery style of button has only traces to indicate the presence of the moulded surface decoration. 2.51g. 19mm diameter.					
100	-	Cu-Al	Suspension-ring	Post-medieval	-
A well-cast and smooth filed circular ring of 37mm diameter, 2mm thick, 4.06g. Possibly used as part of a harness but with little wear. Such object date can date from the late medieval period onwards.					
100	-	Cu-Al	Crotal Bell	18 th century	-
A one-piece cast crotal bell with two 'sound-hole' decorated with a sunburst 'petal-like' decoration on the lower half only (indicating late 18 th to mid 19 th century date), traces of silver tinning are present. This is a typical Late 18 th century style of bell with the suspension loop intact, although it has been broken open and is missing one half of the lower hemisphere. Only half of the maker's mark is therefore present in the form of and 'E', the other letter being lost along with that part of the soundbow, which divided the initials. Known bell-founders of the correct period include Edward Seller II of York (1723-1777) and Edne Witts (1760-1777) of Aldbourne. Ref: Rod Blunt, UK Detector Finds Database. 31.73g (not complete).					
205	Ditch [204]	Fe	Nail	Post-medieval	Post-medieval
A small iron nail with a square shank, appears to be a horseshoe nail. 2.43g					

Table 3. Metal Objects.

- **Animal Bone**

A small assemblage of well-preserved animal bone (nine elements) weighing a total 421g was collected from just three features across the site. This is worthy of note as despite the high intensity of medieval pits it appears that their infill did not include the disposal of butchered animal normally expected if midden waste was being produced for disposal from a nearby household. It may also be the case that these pits were rapidly backfilled and the opportunity to dispose of such foul waste in a convenient manner was unavailable.

A single small pig tooth was collected from the fill (142) of medieval pit [141].

A small quantity of dog bones was collected from the fill (145) of a small, late post-medieval pit [144]. The remains amount to the proximal halves of the left radius and ulna, a small fragment of fibula and a fragment of mandible (with two pre-molars in place) and a single left metatarsal. Although the majority of bones exhibit recent damage and breaks which must have occurred as a result of the machine bucket the break on the Ulna is old, not from trauma but from archaic disturbance. The remains appear to be those of a small to medium sized mature dog, such as terrier which may well have been buried intact but whose grave has been disturbed on at least one previous occasion. This dog was most likely a family pet or working dog buried within the garden of the 19th century farmer's cottage.

Four cattle bones weighing a total of 393g were collected from the fill (205) of the medieval ditch [204]. These comprise of three adult bones; the rough chopped proximal end of a radius (left), a medial fragment of tibia and a right calcaneus, and a juvenile tibia (right). Although not cut marks are evident the tibia fragment was probably produced during marrow retrieval and augments the chopped radius as evidence for butchery of these meat bearing bones. No signs pathology or gnaw marks from scavenger activity were identified and the bones represent the casual disposal of food waste.

8.0 Conclusions

The excavation of the garage footprint revealed two ditches attributable to later post-medieval land divisions, one of which aligns with the former boundary of a garden or orchard depicted on early 20th century plans. The previously disturbed remains of a later post-medieval dog burial were encountered close to the position of the 19th century cottage.

A medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the south-east corner of the site which may be the original medieval boundary to the plots now defined by Greenacres and Hillcrest. This could suggest that this area was purposefully demarcated as a parcel of land from as early as the medieval period, most likely in association with the medieval moated site at Clippings Green Farm located c. 135m to the north-east. Taken together, these two sites indicate the presence of common-edge settlement, of a similar scale to that of two sites identified previously by aerial photography and earthworks survey c. 1km to the south (NHER 3081 & 3882). The ditch contained midden waste within its fill in the form of butchered cattle bones.

The excavation of the footprint for the new house showed that, despite 19th century landscaping and the presence of a former cottage on the site, a large number of medieval pits were present below the modern topsoil. Twenty-three pits of varying shapes and sizes can be attributed to medieval clay extraction activity of a likely 13th century date, while a stone packed oval pit could be part of a former post-pit. The boundaries of two north to south plots measuring c. 6m in width can be loosely defined from the distribution of the pits.

The pits appear to have been backfilled relatively quickly with no opportunistic disposal of midden waste within their fills. A small, but interesting residual assemblage of pottery was collected from these features. The pottery has a relatively high proportion of glazed wares, possibly indicating the presence of a higher status household in the vicinity (the moated site at Clippings Green Farm is of course within close proximity to the site). The pottery has also provided valuable evidence for medieval rural pottery production, in an area of Norfolk where little evidence has been previously recovered.

Finds collected from the topsoil include a Romano-British brick, several late post-medieval buttons and an 18th century crotal bell.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to William Cheetham who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work and who kindly supplied his Building Recording information and images. The author is particularly grateful to William and his groundworks team for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author, aside from the pottery analysis carried out by Sue Anderson. NHER data was obtained directly from the archives of the Historic Environment Service, held at Gressenhall.

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- | | | |
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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
100	Deposit		Soil across main footprint: Firm, dark grey silty-loam, occ. modern brick/tile/glass, mod. stones, freq. roots	Topsoil	<i>Modern</i>
101	Cut		U-shaped profile, steep sided, concave base, aligned N-S, 1.7m W, 0.8m D	Ditch	<i>Late P.Medieval</i>
102	Deposit	[101]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, occ. chalk, mod. stones, rare L.P.Med CBM	Ditch fill	
103	Cut		Flat based steep sided pit	Pit	<i>Post-medieval</i>
104	Deposit	[103]	Friable, dark grey silty-loam/clay mix, mod. charcoal, rare chalk flecks, single ashy/charcoal lens	Pit fill	
105	Cut		Sub. Rect. Pit with rounded corners, aligned E-W, L1.85m , 1.45m W	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
106	Deposit	[106]	Friable, dark-brown silty-loam, mod. charcoal, occ. stones	Pit fill	
107	Cut		Sub. Rect. Pit with rounded corners, aligned E-W 1.85m L, 1.15m W,	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
108	Deposit	[107]	Friable, dark-brown silty-loam, mod. charcoal, occ. stones	Pit fill	
109	Cut		Sub-sq. pit with rounded corners, steep sided, flat base, aligned SW-NE, 0.5m deep	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
110	Deposit	[110]	Friable/dense, dark-brownish-grey silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks, mod. charcoal flecks, rare clay lumps		
111	Cut		Rect. Pit with rounded corners, aligned c. E-W, 1.55m W, 2m L.	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
112	Deposit	[112]	Friable/dense, dark-brownish-grey silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks, mod. charcoal flecks, rare clay lumps	Pit fill	
113	Deposit	[155]	Friable, mid-brown silty-loam, mod. charcoal, occ. stones	Pit fill	
114	Cut		Sub. Sq. pit, 1.8m by 1.8m aligned NE-SE,	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
115	Deposit	[114]	Friable/dense, dark-brownish-grey silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks, mod. charcoal flecks, rare clay lumps	Pit fill	
116	Cut		Distorted oval pit, aligned E-W, 1.75m, L1.5m W	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
117	Deposit	[116]	Friable/dense, yellowish-brown silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks	Pit fill	
118	Cut		?Oval pit, 1.2m W	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
119	Deposit	[118]	Firm, mottled yellowish-brown silty-clay	Pit fill	
120	Cut		Sub. Sq. pit with rounded corners, 1.8m by 1.8m	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
121	Deposit	[120]	Friable, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, 'homogenous', occ. stones	Pit fill	
122	Cut		Sub-rect. Pit, concave profile , aligned NE-SW, 1.3m L, c. 1m W, 0.3m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
123	Deposit	[122]	Friable/dense, dark-brownish-grey silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks, mod. charcoal flecks, rare clay lumps	Pit fill	
124	Cut		Sub-rect. Pit (slightly concave base) with rounded	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
			corners, aligned NW-SE, 1.8m L, 1.35m W, 0.25m D		
125	Deposit	[124]	Friable/dense, dark-brownish-grey silty-clay/loam mix, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks, mod. charcoal flecks, rare clay lumps	Pit fill	
126	Cut		Rect. Pit with rounded corners, slightly concave base, aligned NNW-SSE, 1.5m W, 2.25m L, 0.3m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
127	Deposit	[126]	Friable/dense, mid-brown silty-loam, occ. charcoal, occ. stones	Pit fill	
128	Cut		U-shaped profile, concave base, aligned E-W, 0.75m W, 0.5m D	Ditch	<i>Late .P.Medieval</i>
129	Deposit	[129]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, occ. chalk, mod. stones, rare L.P.Med CBM	Ditch fill	
130	Cut		Pit truncated by [124] , >0.75m, L, 0.15m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
131	Deposit	[130]	Friable/dense, mix of mid-greyish-brown + mid-grey silty-clay, occ. charcoal, mod. stones	Pit fill	
132	Cut		Lozenge shaped pit, 0.85 L, 0.5m W, 0.25m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
133	Deposit	[132]	Firm, redeposited 'dirty' silty-clay natural, occ. charcoal, mod. stones	Pit fill	
134	Cut		Sub-oval, 1.4m L, 1.15m W, E-W aligned	Pit (base of)	<i>Medieval</i>
135	Deposit	[134]	Firm, mottled mid-grey & orange silty-clay + pockets of clay-sand, mod. stones, rare burnt clay flecks, v.rare charcoal flecks and snail shells c. 0.7m deep	Pit-fill	
136	Cut		Sub-oval pit, steep sided, 1.75m length	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
137	Deposit	[136]	Firm, mid-yellowish-grey + yellowish brown mottled silty-clay, occ. stones, >0.65m deep	Pit fill	
138	Cut		Sub-oval. wide U-shaped profile with steep sides and flat base, 1.38m L, c. 1.10m W, 0.7m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
139	Deposit	[138]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown 'sticky' silty-clay, occ. stones, rare lumps of redeposited nat. clay, v.rare burnt clay flecks, 0.7m deep	Pit fill	
140	Cut		Steep sided, 1.75m L, >0.55m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
141	Cut		Part of a ?sub-rect. Pit, U-shaped profile (steeper on W edge), 1.10m deep, 1.9m wide	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
142	Deposit	[141]	Friable/dense, dark-brown 'sticky' silty-clay, occ. stones, occ. charcoal flecks, rare burnt clay flecks, 0.65m deep	Pit fill (1 st)	
143	Deposit	[141]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, occ. stones, rare chalk flecks, 0.5m deep	Pit fill (2 nd)	
144	Cut		Circular pit, 0.5m diam. concave profile, 0.25m D	Pit	<i>Late .P.Medieval</i>
145	Deposit	[144]	Firm, dark-grey clay-loam, occ. stones, occ. chalk flecks	Pit fill	
146	Cut		NE part of a ?sub.rect. pit (flat base) , 0.35m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
147	Deposit	[p146]	V.firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, mod. stones, v.rare chalk	Pit fill	
148	Cut		Flat base of a pit, est. 2m L, 1.2m W, 0.27m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
149	Deposit	[148]	Firm, mid-reddish-brown silty-clay, occ. stones, rare charcoal flecks, rare chalk and clay flecks	Pit fill	
150	Cut		Part of a pit with steep sides and slightly concave base, 0.45m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
151	Deposit	[150]	Firm, mid-reddish-brown silty-clay, occ. stones, rare charcoal flecks, rare chalk and clay flecks	Pit fill	
152	Cut		?Oval pit, steep sided, aligned NW-SE, est. 1.25m L, 1m W, >0.4m D	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
153	Deposit	[152]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, occ. stones, rare chalk flecks	Pit fill	
154	Deposit	[140]	Firm, mid-yellowish-brown, 'dirty' silty-clay, mod. chalk flecks, occ. stones	Pit fill	
155	Cut		Sub-rect. Pit, aligned E-W, >2m L, 1.85m W	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
156	Deposit		V.firm, light brownish-yellow to yellowish-orange clay, mod. chalk clasts, occ. large flint nodules and frost fractured flints	Natural Geology	
157	Deposit		V.firm/dense, mid-bluish-grey chalky-clay, mod. frost fractured flints (this deposit lies below (156))	Natural Geology	
200	Cut		0.75m wide feature, fairly well defined	Pit	<i>Medieval</i>
201	Deposit	[200]	Firm/dense, mid-grey 'sticky' silty-clay, occ. large stones	Pit fill	
202	Cut		?Oval, est. 0.5m L, 0.35m W, well defined	Pit/Post-pit	<i>Medieval</i>
203	Deposit	[202]	Firm/dense, mid brownish-grey silty-clay 'sticky', mod. rounded flints packed around edges of the fill (upto 100mm)	Pit fill	
204	Cut		Wide, concave U-shaped ditch with step inner edge and well sloping outer edge	Ditch	<i>Medieval+</i>
205	Deposit	[204]	Firm, mid orangey-brown silty-clay, mod. stones, rare charcoal & burnt clay flecks, c. 0.32m deep	Ditch fill	
206	Deposit	[204]	V.firm, mid brownish-grey silty-clay, mod. stones/chalk flecks & small lumps c. 0.08m deep	Primary Ditch Fill	
207	Cut		Oval pit, 1.85m L, 1.15m W.	Pit	<i>Modern</i>
208	Deposit	[207]	Friable, dark-grey sandy-loam, occ. Early 20 th century bottle glass, occ. charcoal.	Pit fill	

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Ditch	1
	Pit	23
	Post-pit	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Ditch	2
	Pit	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
100	Ceramic building material	1	983	Roman fabric
100	Copper Alloy Object - Button	1	2.51	
100	Copper Alloy Object - Button	1	2.62	
100	Copper Alloy Object - Button	1	1.71	
100	Copper Alloy Object – Crotal Bell	1	31.73	
100	Copper Alloy object – loop	1		
100	Pottery	2		
102	Ceramic building material	1	20	Tile
102	Pottery	1		
106	Pottery	4		
113	Pottery	3		
115	Pottery	3		
117	Pottery	3		
121	Pottery	2		
123	Pottery	3		
127	Pottery	3		
142	Animal bone	1	1	
142	Pottery	4		
145	Animal bone	4	27	
145	Ceramic building material	1	100	Tile
154	Fired clay – daub	2	208	
201	Pottery	1		
205	Animal bone	4	393	
205	Nail – Fe	1	2	
205	Pottery	2		

Appendix 2b: Finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Prehistoric (500000BC to 42AD)	Flint – worked	2
Roman (42 to 409AD)	Brick	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Animal bone	5
	Fired clay – daub	2
	Pottery	29
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Animal bone	5
	Buttons	3
	Ceramic Building Material	2
	Copper Object – Crotal bell	1
	Copper Object – Suspension ring	1
	Pottery	2

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Fabric date range
100	MCW1			1	13	12th-14th c.
100	STAF1			1	7	L.17th-18th c.
102	GRE			1	8	16th-18th c.
106	LMU			1	4	11th-14th c.
106	MCW1			1	10	12th-14th c.
106	GRIM			2	30	L.12th-14th c.
113	MCW1			1	2	12th-14th c.
113	MCW1			2	23	12th-14th c.
115	MCW1			2	21	12th-14th c.
115	MCW1			1	10	12th-14th c.
117	EMW			1	8	11th-12th c.
117	MCW1	bowl	everted bead	1	18	12th-13th c.
117	UPG			1	6	L.12th-14th c.
121	LMU			2	33	11th-14th c.
123	EMW			1	7	11th-12th c.
123	ELYG			1	14	Med-LMed
123	GRIM	jug	upright flat-topped	1	12	L.12th-14th c.
127	LMU			2	28	11th-14th c.
142	ELYG	jug		4	90	Med-LMed
201	LMU			1	6	11th-14th c.
205	EMW			1	1	11th-12th c.
205	UPG			1	4	L.12th-14th c.

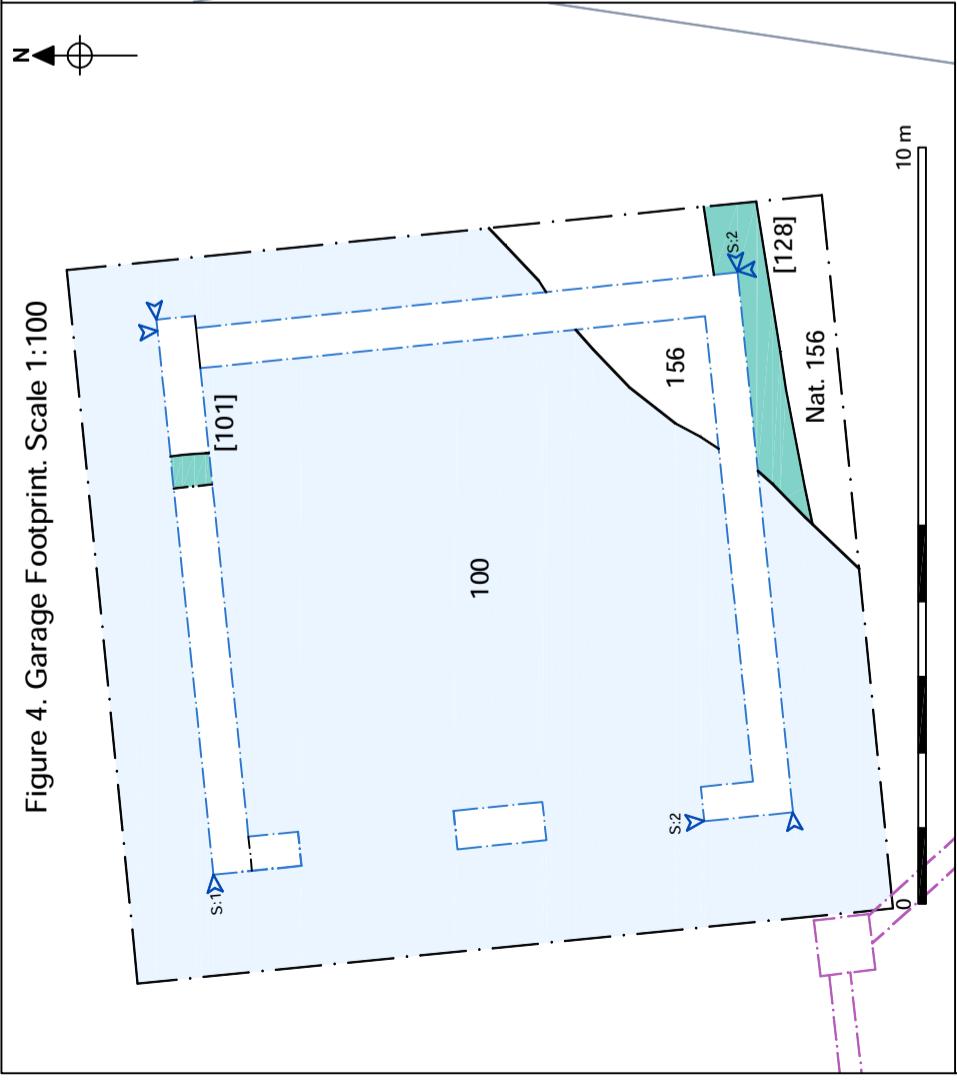


Figure 4. Garage Footprint. Scale 1:100

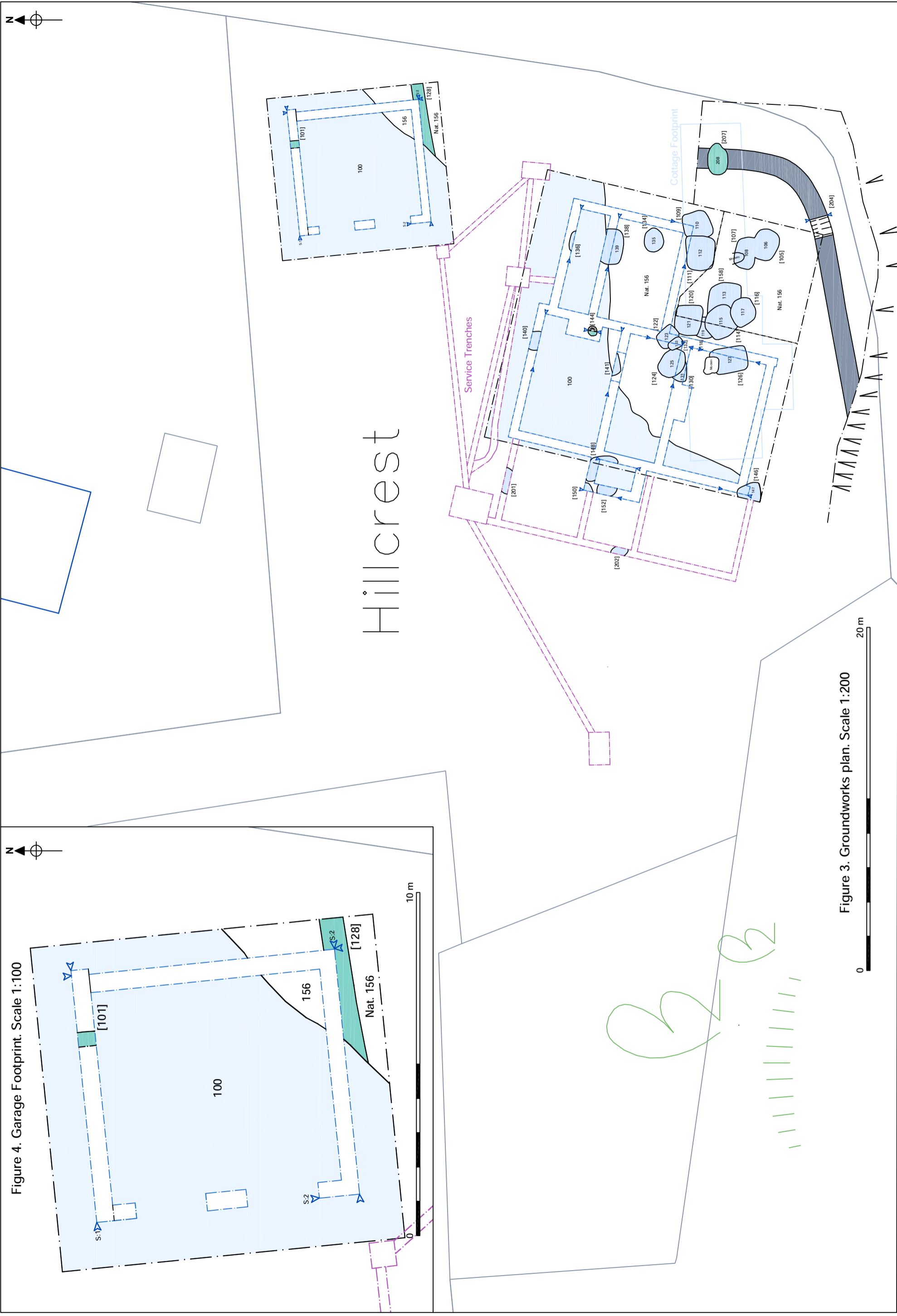


Figure 3. Groundworks plan. Scale 1:200



Figure 5. House Footprint Plan. Scale 1:100

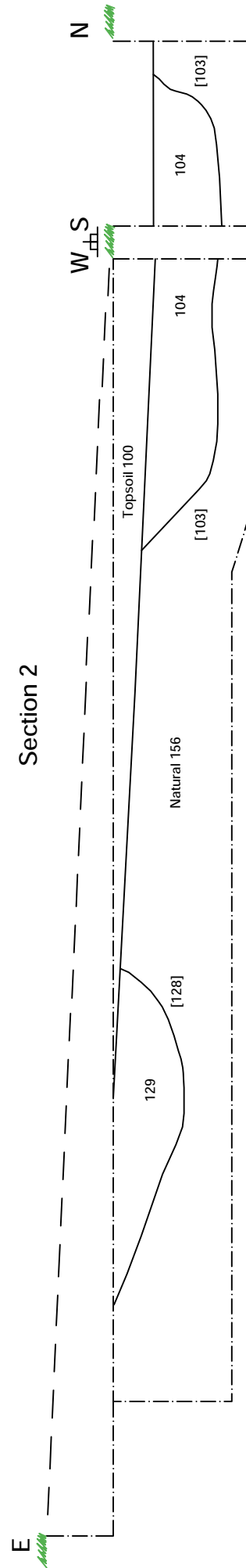
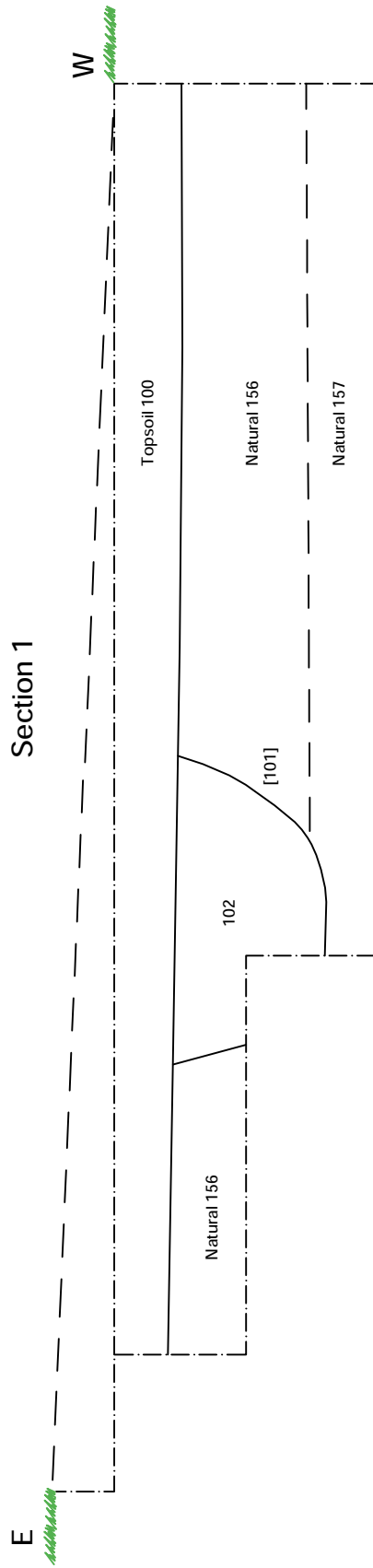
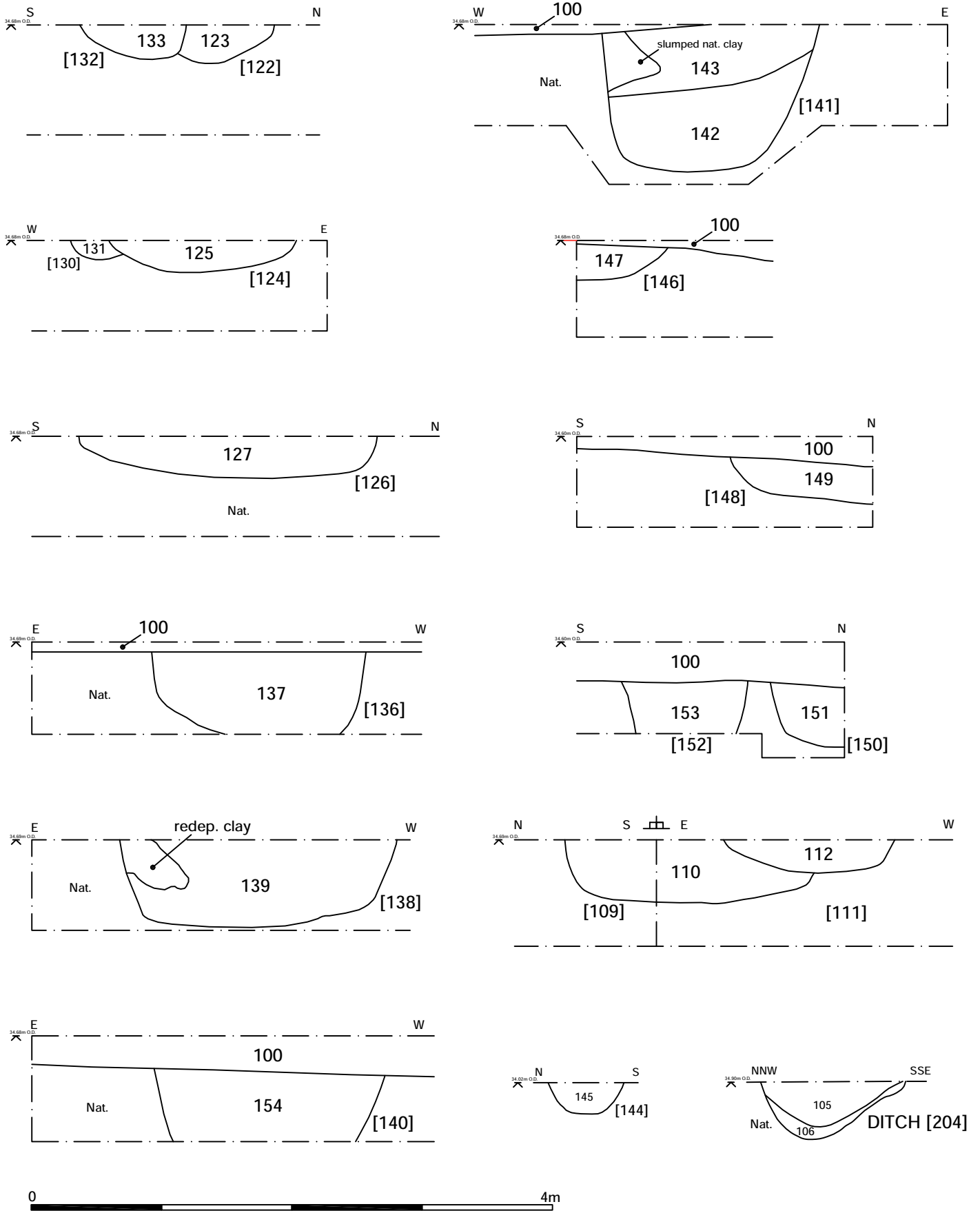


Figure 6. Garage Footings Recorded Sections. Scale 1:40



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OASIS ID: norvicar1-172366

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a replacement house and detached double garage at the site of Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall. The site is positioned at a former common-edge location adjacent to Clippings Green. The excavation of the garage footprint revealed two ditches attributable to later post-medieval land divisions, one of which aligns with the former boundary of a garden or orchard depicted on early 20th century plans. A medieval boundary ditch was revealed in the south-east corner of the site which may be the original medieval boundary to the plots now defined by Greenacres and Hillcrest. This could suggest that this area was demarcated as a parcel of land from as early as the 13th century, most likely in association with the medieval moated site at Clippings Green Farm. The excavation of the footprint for the new house showed that, despite 19th century landscaping and the presence of a former cottage on the site, a large number of medieval pits were present below the modern topsoil. Twenty-three pits of varying shapes and sizes can be attributed to medieval clay extraction activity of a likely 13th century date, while a stone packed oval pit could be part of a former post-pit. The boundaries of two north to south plots measuring c. 6m in width can be loosely defined from the distribution of the pits. Finds collected from the topsoil include a Romano-British brick, several late post-medieval buttons and an 18th century crotal bell.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2013 End: 26-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2012/0995/F - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2012/GE125 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 131135 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project

Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	POST-PIT Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Palaeolithic
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY DAUB Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUTTONS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER CROTAL BELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER SUSPENSION RING 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 BRECKLAND MATTISHALL Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall, Norfolk.
Postcode	NR20 3RG
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 0476 1247 52.6707424042 1.02878090866 52 40 14 N 001 01 43 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	Developer
Name of	William Cheetham

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	NMAS
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)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring at Hillcrest, Clippings Green, Mattishall, Norfolk.
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