

Archaeological Monitoring at Glebe Cottage, Rockland All Saints, Norfolk.



Prepared for Mr K. Leslie

Giles Emery
March 2014


Report No: 42


NHES Event No: ENF 133235

Job Ref: NVC/2013/GE181

OASIS ID: norvicar1-174717

NORVIC archaeology

 www.norvicarchaeology.com

 07759016372

 giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com

Contents

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Summary of Results	2
3.0	Geology and Topography	4
4.0	Brief Archaeological and Historical Background	4
5.0	Methodology	5
6.0	Results	6
7.0	Finds Analysis	6
8.0	Conclusions	7
9.0	Acknowledgements	7
10.0	Bibliography	7
	Appendix 1a: Context Summary	8
	Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table	8
	Appendix 2a: Finds by Context	8
	Appendix 2b: Finds summary table	8
	Appendix 3: OASIS Form	11

Figures

Figure 1	General site location plan	3
Figure 2	Site plan	9
Figure 3	Groundworks Plan	10

Plates

Cover	General shot of the site looking west*
-------	--

*taken by Sarah Bates

**Archaeological Monitoring at Glebe Cottage, No.16, The Street,
Rockland All Saints, Norfolk. NR17 1TT.**

Location:	Rockland All Saints
Grid Ref:	TL 9907 9704
NHES Event No:	ENF 133235
Date of fieldwork:	20 th to 24 th and 27 th of January 2014

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Kenneth Leslie, to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a rebuild and enlargement of Glebe Cottage along with a cart lodge at Rockland All Saints (Planning Ref. 3PL/2013/0803/F), on an overall plot size of c. 1650m².

The site is located c. 35m east of the curtilage of St Peter's Church and as such, may be located within an area likely to be a settlement focus in the early medieval period.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF44343_2) 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

Map sources indicate that Glebe Cottage was constructed in the latter part of the 19th century, prior to the 1883 OS plan. The cottage was constructed on fairly light foundations, which made use of brick and pavement tiles as wall footings and a thin chalk raft below the chimney stack.

No significant archaeological deposits were revealed during the groundworks for the new house and cart lodge. The work did reveal that the area may have been subject to some form of levelling activity associated with the construction of Glebe Cottage in the late 19th century. The well and cess pit that served the cottage were encountered and their locations recorded.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was collected from machine spoil and a post-medieval strap-end was collected as a residual find from levelling deposits within a hollow in the area of the cart lodge.

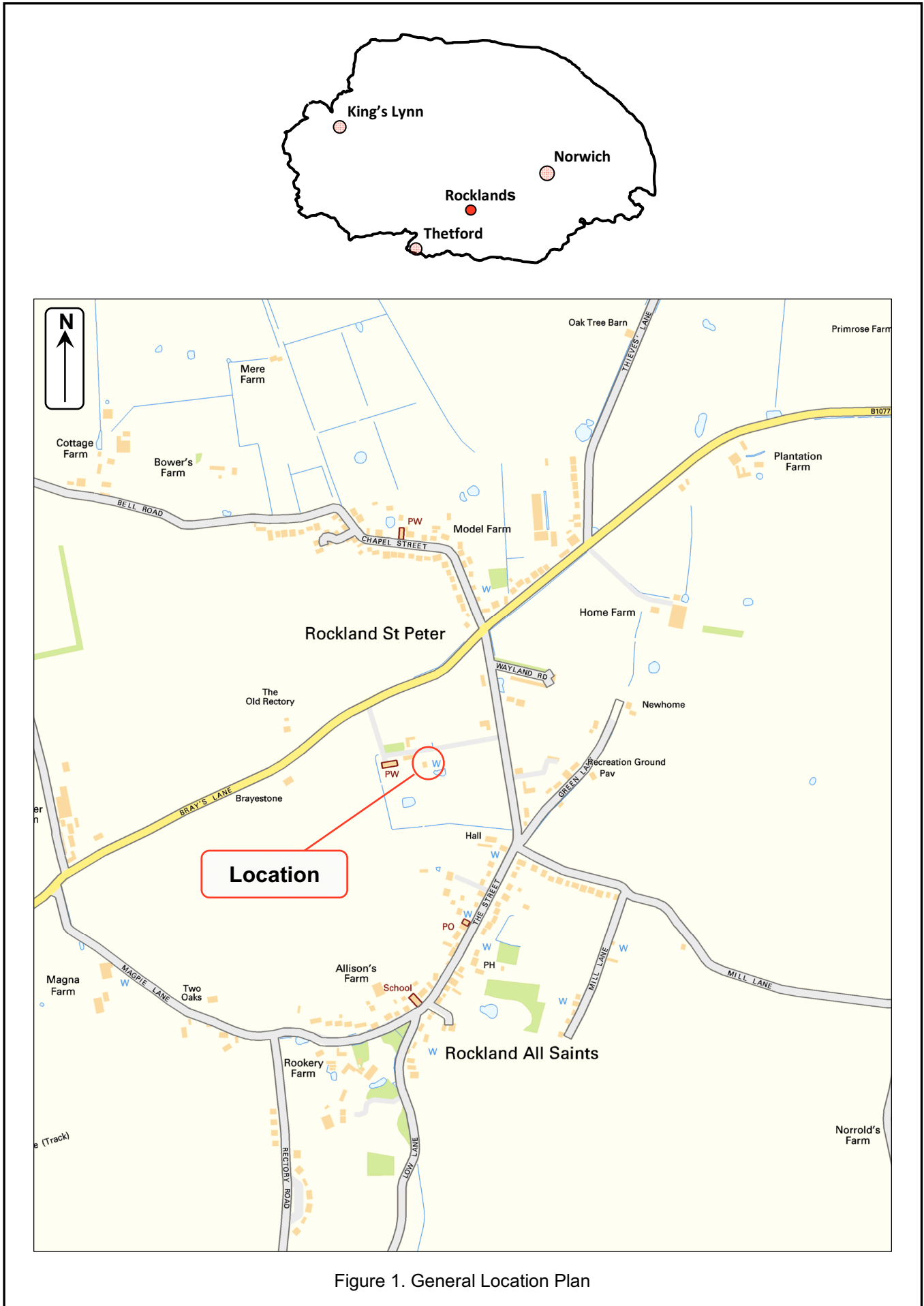


Figure 1. General Location Plan

3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located at Rockland St Peter, a small village with the civil parish of Rocklands located c. 5km west of Attleborough. The parish of Rocklands contains the villages of Rockland St Peter and Rockland All Saints, situated in the Breckland Local Government district.

The site is located on relatively high ground at c. 53m OD. The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (Cretaceous), overlain by superficial glacial outwash deposits of sands, gravels, silts and clays (Lowestoft Formation) - 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 a pale yellow to orange chalky-clay ('boulder clay') with occasional flints.

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in mid Norfolk in the parish of Rockland which has provided evidence of human occupation from all historic periods.

A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Rockland's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated over seventy records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

The proposed development site is located to the immediate east of St Peter's Church (NHER 8987), the fabric of which dates largely to the 14th century.

The 1883 OS plan shows the same plot of land and the site of the cottage and associated well. The same arrangement survives into the 21st century when this cottage, or an early 20th century version of it, fell into major disrepair. This building was of clay lump walls with a tiled roof. Although original plans were to incorporate elements of this building into the new construction, it was considered too far beyond repair and was demolished in favour of a total rebuild. The mid-19th century tithe map does not depict a cottage on the site, with only a north to south orientated ?barn to the west of the plot shown, closer to the church. A later 19th century barn complex (Glebe Barn), on the site of this building, and another to the north of the site (Church Barn) have been subject to recent domestic conversion/restoration. These buildings comprised primarily of clay lump walls on dwarf flint and mortar footings.

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 8987: St Peter's Church, Rockland St Peter. This church has a round west tower with an octagonal belfry and a south stair turret, all of which are probably 14th century. The thatched nave and shallow transepts are also 14th century. The chancel was rebuilt on a smaller scale in 1908. The light and airy interior of the church is the result of a sympathetic restoration after it was gutted by fire in 1950. There is a neat scissor-brace roof topping white-painted walls. The most striking feature inside is the fine medieval rood screen, moved here from Tottington church in 1951, together with the pulpit and a set of medieval benches. It is understood that the benches have now been returned to Tottington. At the west end of the nave is a large medieval octagonal font. A Late Saxon/medieval pottery sherd was collected from the grounds here in 1992. [*Located c. 60m W*]

NHER 8988: Former Workhouse The site of a former workhouse, now mostly demolished, at the junction of The Street and Green Lane. [*c. 200m SE*]

NHER 51060: Site of a Windmill. The 1883 Ordnance Survey map records a Windmill (corn) at the site of Mill House. [*c. 220m NE*]

NHER 8966: Multi-period Finds Scatter Two Roman pottery vessels were ploughed up in fields south of Bower's Farm in 1948 and subsequent excavations unearthed fragments of Roman pottery and a strip of copper alloy, possibly from a Roman bucket. Metal-detecting between 1995 and 2013 recovered Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; medieval jettons; post-medieval tokens and Roman to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include a Roman enamelled seal box lid, bow brooch and dolphin brooches; a Middle Saxon/Late Saxon strap end; medieval to post-medieval dress accessories; a medieval/post-medieval coin weight, thimble, crotal bell and end cap from a scale-tang knife; a post-medieval rowel from a spur, part of a spoon and a furniture mount or escutcheon and undatable metalworking waste. [c. 500m NW]

NHER 31699: Multi-period Finds Scatter Metal-detecting within fields to the north-west of The Old Rectory between 1995 and 2012 recovered Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; a Roman coin blank; a post-medieval jetton and Roman, Early Saxon and Late Saxon to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include a Roman bracelet fragment; a magnificent Early Saxon square-headed brooch; a Late Saxon spindle whorl and stirrup; a medieval seal matrix, incomplete belt mount and a buckle; medieval/post-medieval buttons, a headdress pin and belt mount and a post-medieval lead weight and book clasp. [c. 430m NW]

NHER 36655: Multi-period Finds Scatter. Metal detecting of fields to the south-west of the site between 2001 and 2007 recovered a wide range of objects, including a Late Mesolithic blade core, later prehistoric worked flints, Iron Age coins, a brooch and pottery fragments, Roman coins and pottery fragments, Saxon, medieval and post medieval metalwork and pottery fragments. [c. 360m SW]

NHER 55024: Multi-period Finds Scatter Metal-detecting of a field east of Cottage Farm between 2010 and 2012 recovered medieval and post-medieval coins; a post-medieval jetton; medieval, medieval/post-medieval and post-medieval pottery and undatable, Roman, Roman/Early Saxon and medieval to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include undatable lead casting waste; a Roman dolphin brooch; a Roman/Early Saxon buckle frame; medieval to post-medieval dress accessories; a medieval padlock case; a post-medieval cloth seal, sword belt fitting and a lead weight. [c. 640m NW]

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during machine excavation of the footprint and footing trenches for the new house and cart lodge.

The trenching was carried out by a 'JCB'-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, assisted by two dumpers. Glebe Cottage had been cleared to ground level prior to the start of works.

Site conditions proved challenging for the groundworks, with highly water-saturated heavy clays prone to collapse when trenched. Sheet shoring methods were employed to stabilise footing trenches, which were excavated to as much as 2m in depth. The area of the cart lodge was mostly stripped of overburden and churned up surface deposits to allow an assessment of archaeological potential to be made more easily. This proved that the area was negative for archaeological features, although a large infilled 'hollow' was noted, which may be the result of post-medieval levelling activity associated with Glebe Cottage.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. 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.

6.0 Results *(Figure 3) (Appendix 1a)*

- **'Natural deposits and levelling make-up'**

Natural chalk flecked heavy clay was revealed at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.4m, observed to slope gently from north-west to south-east. This was covered by a well-mixed topsoil of dark greyish-brown clay-loam (02). No subsoil horizon was present, which may indicate that the area has been subject to some form of extensive levelling activity associated with the 19th to 20th century cottage. A zone of post-medieval redeposited soil was recorded in the area of the cart lodge which may also relate to such levelling activity.

- **Shallow Remnants of Glebe Cottage**

An area of soil below the footprint of the cottage was noted which included shallow pavement tile and brick footings, along with a chalk raft in the area of the former chimney stack (14). A linear robber trench of recent date was also noted here ([13]), which contained a mix of soil and brick rubble backfill (12).

- **Well (19th century)**

The flint & mortar lined well that formerly served the 19th century dwelling had been capped by concrete prior to the monitoring works. The well was to be left undisturbed and bridged by the modern foundations.

- **Late 19th to 20th century pits**

The locations of two pits were recorded; a rubble filled pit which contained construction/demolition rubble, presumably associated with the cottage ([05]) and a large cess pit [16]. The cess pit measured c. 1.8m in length and was deeper than the 1.2m excavated for the cart lodge footings. It contained highly organic rich deposits of relatively recent 19th to 20th century date.

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

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

A single body sherd of medieval courseware was collected as an unstratified find from the spoil (01). The sherd weighs 6g and is moderately abraded. As this is a single find from an unknown source - it is uncertain whether it may be indicative of localised medieval activity as opposed to the widespread practice of manure/midden spreading across agricultural land.

- **Copper-alloy Strap-end**

A single metal artefact was collected from the post-medieval fill of a large hollow (11) in the form of an undecorated, tongue shaped, post-medieval copper-alloy hinged strap-end weighing 3.46g. The hinge pin is of iron and still present, as are the two copper rivets.

8.0 Conclusions

No significant archaeological deposits were revealed during the groundworks for the new house and cart lodge. The work did reveal that the area may have been subject to some form of levelling activity associated with the construction of Glebe Cottage in the late 19th century. The cottage was constructed on fairly light foundations, which made use of brick and pavement tiles as wall footings and a thin chalk raft below the chimney stack. The well and cess pit that served the cottage were encountered and their locations recorded.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was collected from machine spoil and a post-medieval strap-end was collected as a residual find from levelling deposits within a hollow in the area of the cart lodge.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Ken Leslie who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to the team from Brand Construction Ltd for their assistance and cooperation on site. On-site monitoring was carried out by John Percival and Sarah Bates. Post-excavation analysis work was carried out by the author. NHER data was obtained directly from the archives of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service held at Gressenhall.

10.0 Bibliography

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|
| Adkins, L & R. | 1998 | <i>The Handbook of British Archaeology</i> . London. |
| Ashwin, T. & Davidson, A.(ed.) | 2005 | <i>An historical atlas of Norfolk</i> . (3rd edition). Phillimore press |
| Jennings, S. | 1981 | <i>Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich</i> . East Anglian Archaeology 13. |
| MPRG | 1998 | <i>A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms</i> . Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1. |
| Shopland, N. | 2005 | <i>Archaeological Finds, a guide to identification</i> . Tempus |

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	RF	-	Unstratified Finds from spoil		
02	Deposit		Friable, dark greyish-brown clay-loam c. 0.25-0.4m deep, occ. cbm flecks & stones	Topsoil	<i>Modern</i>
03	Deposit		Firm, orangey-brown clay-silt	Natural Geology	
04	Deposit		Firm, pale yellow to orange chalky-clay, occ. flints	Natural Geology	
05	Cut		U-shaped profile, 1.2m wide, 0.6m deep	Pit	<i>L19th to 20th</i>
06	Deposit	[05]	Firm, greyish-brown silt & rubble (inc. L.P.Med tile and red brick frags.)	Pit fill	
07	'Cut'		?Linear, ephemeral ?periglacial feature (sterile), gently concave, 0.35m deep	Natural feature	
08	Deposit	[07]	Firm, orangey-brown clay-silt		
09	'Cut'		?Linear, ephemeral ?periglacial feature (sterile), gently concave, uncertain depth	Natural Feature	
10	Deposit	[09]	Firm, orangey-brown clay-silt		
11	Deposit		Similar to (03) but redeposited within a large hollow. ?levelling material, with occ. later post-medieval cbm, charcoal and coal	Fill of hollow	<i>L.Post-medieval</i>
12	Deposit	[13]	Firm, dark-brown clay-loam, abundant brick rubble		
13	Cut		Linear trench containing rubble at surface	Robber Trench	<i>C21st</i>
14	Deposit		Firm, dirty clay ?redeposited natural/subsoil mix	Floor make-up	<i>L19th to 20th</i>
15	Deposit		Firm, chalk, abundant brick (Norfolk Reds) and flints	Hearth base	<i>L19th to 20th</i>
16	Deposit	[17]	Steep sided pit, 1.8m wide, >1.2m deep	Cess Pit	<i>L19th to 20th</i>
17	Cut		Soft/Sticky, brownish/green, organic rich with faecal concretions	Cess Pit fill	

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Well	1
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Pit	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
01	Pottery	1	6	Medieval
11	Copper-alloy object	1	3.46	Strap-end

Appendix 2b: Finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Copper-alloy object (Strap-end)	1

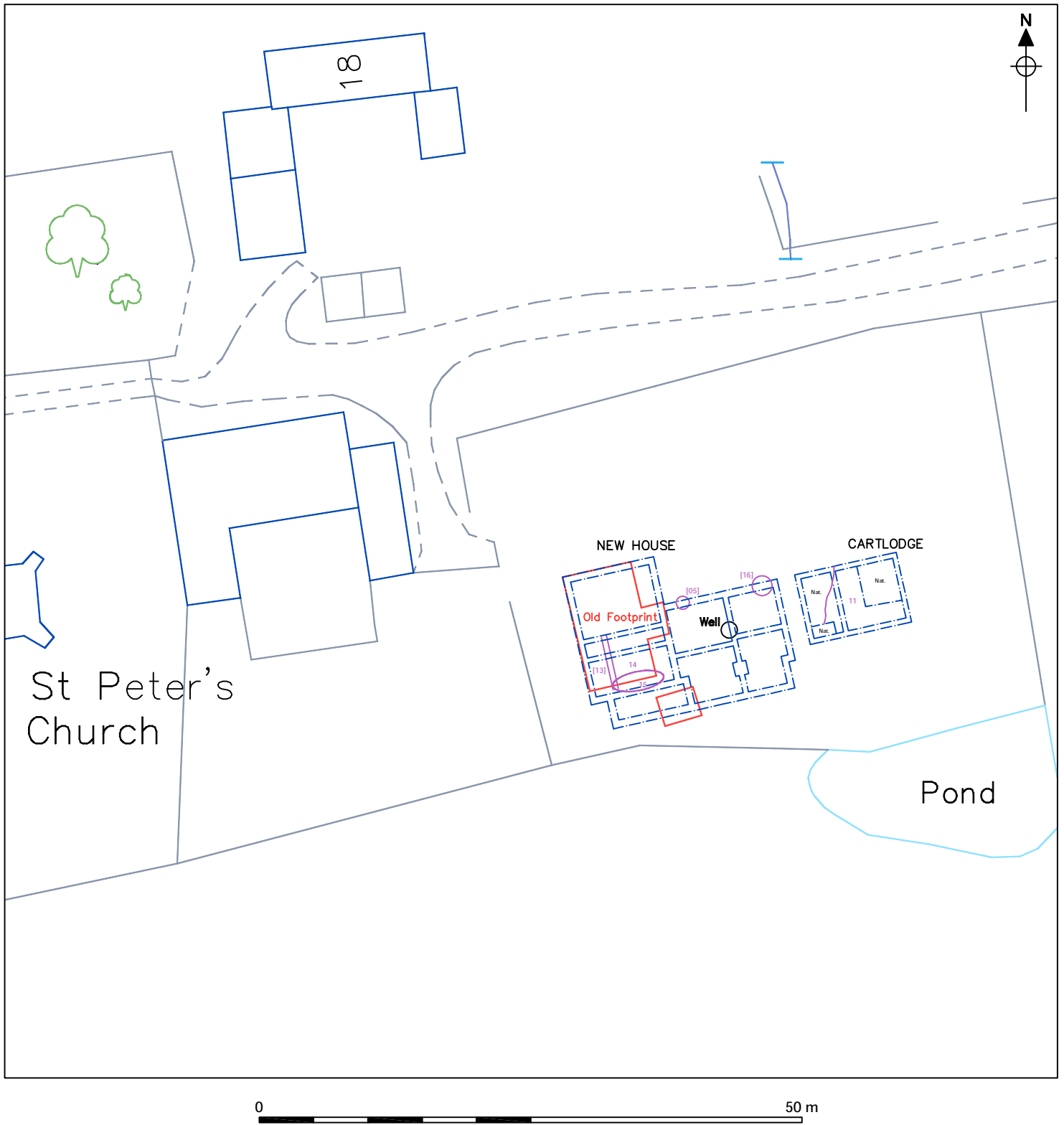


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:500

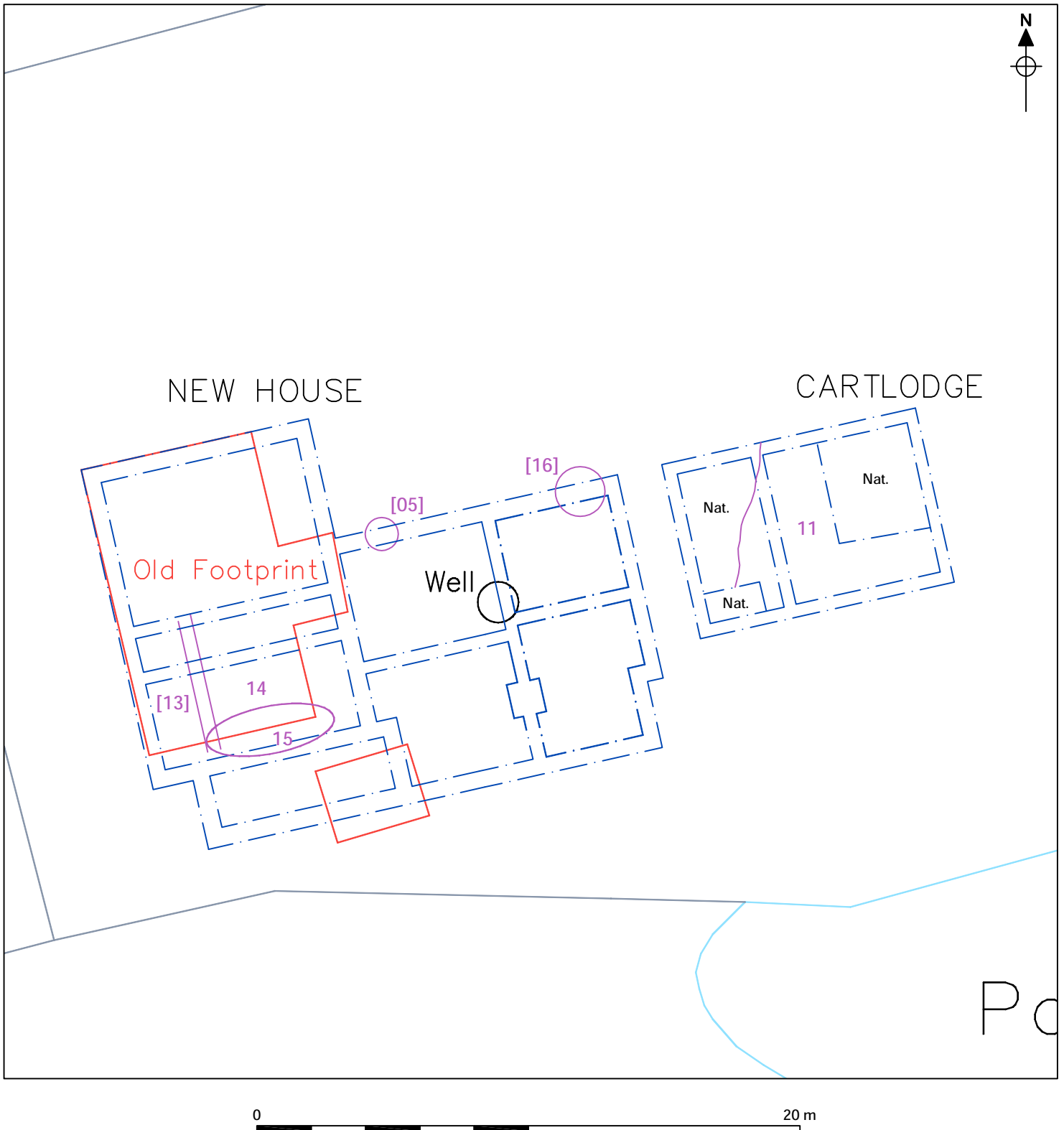


Figure 3. Groundworks Plan. Scale 1:200

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

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

Printable version

OASIS ID: norvicar1-174717

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at Glebe Cottage, Rockland All Saints, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a rebuild and enlargement of Glebe Cottage along with a cart lodge at Rockland All Saints (Planning Ref. 3PL/2013/0803/F), on an overall plot size of c. 1650m ² . The site is located c. 35m east of the curtilage of St Peter's Church and as such may be located within an area likely to be a settlement focus in the early medieval period. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed during the groundworks for the new house and cartlodge. The work did reveal that the area may have been subject to some form of levelling activity associated with the construction of Glebe Cottage in the late 19th century. The well and cess pit that served the cottage were encountered and their locations recorded. A single sherd of medieval pottery was collected from machine spoil and a post-medieval strap-end was collected as a residual find from levelling deposits with a hollow in the area of the Cart lodge.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2014 End: 27-01-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2013/GE181 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF133235 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2013/0803/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Protected sites under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds COPPER ALLOY STRAP END Post Medieval
Investigation type "Watching Brief"
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND ROCKLANDS Glebe Cottage, No.16, The Street, Rockland All Saints, Norfolk.
Postcode NR17 1TT
Study area 1650.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 9907 9704 52.5343287397 0.935452729326 52 32 03 N 000 56 07 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 John Percival
Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body Kenneth Leslie

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents "Ceramics","Metal"
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 Glebe Cottage, No.16, The Street, Rockland All Saints, Norfolk. NR17 1TT.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Emery, G.

Other bibliographic details Norvic Archaeology Report No. 42

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Norvic Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Norwich

Description Spiral bound

Entered by Giles Emery (giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com)

Entered on 15 March 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](mailto:English.Heritage@EnglishHeritage.org) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page