

An archaeological investigation in advance of residential development at Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrows Hole Lane, Little Dunham, Norfolk.



Prepared on behalf of East Coast Developments Ltd

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*Plot 4 in foreground showing area of a man-made pond, 2x2m scales

**An archaeological investigation in advance of residential development at
 Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrows Hole Lane, Little Dunham, Norfolk.
 PE32 2DP.**

Location:	Little Dunham
Grid Ref:	TF 8674 1235
NHES Event No:	ENF138206
Date of fieldwork:	22 nd to 25 th of June 2015

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Jon Titlow, on behalf of East Coast Developments Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of the development of land at Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrows Hole Lane, Little Dunham, Norfolk.

The proposed development is for a total of four residential dwellings on an area of land of c. 0.63 hectares. The field is known as Brick Kiln Pightle and is the site of a known Brick Kiln which appears on Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk. The same field was listed as Brick Kiln Yard on the 1838 tithe plan and a large pond is shown in the north-east corner of the field which could relate to such brick works.

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by James Albone of the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF45143) on behalf of Breckland District Council (planning ref: 3PL/2013/0888/F). The aim of the investigative work was to identify and excavate any surviving evidence for a brick kiln within the areas of the site where such archaeological features could not be preserved in situ, and which may be damaged or destroyed by development.

This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results and their archaeological interpretation. On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Norfolk Museums Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Summary of Results

The investigation work located the partial remnant of a post-medieval clamp kiln close to the street frontage of Barrows Hole Lane, along with a large man-made pond in the western part of the site. Clamp kiln sites are often ephemeral in the archaeological record, usually identified only from scatters of wasters and ash patches, so even the discovery here of just part of a clamp is worthy of note. The clamp was sited close to the Barrows Hole Lane, which may have aided transport of the finished products by cart away from the site.

The clamp scar found at Brick Kiln Pightle produced evidence that a variety of brick fabrics of likely 18th century date were produced at the same site, along with floor bricks and possibly also roof tiles. The recovery of a brick fragment from the site that has served as kiln furniture for a glazing process is also of interest.

Aside from the post-medieval ceramic building material fragments and wasters, other finds of note from the site include a single prehistoric flint collected from the lower subsoil, a single sherd of medieval pottery, a medieval strap-end fragment, a lava quern fragment and a large lead brooch of medieval to post-medieval date. Other post-medieval finds include a 19th century seed bag tag produced by Sutton and Sons, buttons and furniture fittings.

3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located on part of a chalk plateau, on relatively high undulating ground at c.84m OD at the southern end of the village of Little Dunham. The village is located c. 2.5km south of its sister village Great Dunham in mid Norfolk, c.2.4km north from the A47 with the towns of Swaffham located c.5.8km to the south-west and Dereham c.11.5km to the east.

The underlying geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk, overlain by part of an extensive sheet of chalky-till with flints (boulder clay of the Lowestoft Formation deposited in the Anglian Glaciation), together with glacial outwash deposits of sands, gravels, silts and clays - 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 sandy-clay with occasional flints and chalk flecked areas.

The field which makes up the site is bounded by overgrown hedges to the front and rear. Topographically the site dips centrally and is steepest to the west with an additional fall in the north-east corner, where a lost pond is known to have been sited into the 20th century.

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in mid Norfolk in the parish of Little Dunham. A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Little Dunham's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated over 70 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

Little Dunham is a small parish in the Breckland district of mid-Norfolk. It is located on a high chalk plateau and the village name derives from Old English and can be translated as 'homestead or village on the hill' (Mills, 1998). Little Dunham reaches heights of c.96m above sea level and as such is one of the highest parishes in the county. Although the village is mentioned in the Domesday Book, it has a joint entry with adjacent Great Dunham.

The earliest recorded finds from the village include several Neolithic axeheads and a few examples of Bronze Age metalwork. Unusually, several finds scatters have produced fragments of Iron Age pottery, with over sixty pieces recorded within fields in the north-west of the parish (NHER31112) and other Iron Age finds from the parish include a coin and a decorative bridle bit.

The North Pickenham to Toftrees Roman road (NHER 3697) passes through the parish and earthworks of a causeway flanked by ditches in fields close to Barrows Hole Lane may be an extension of this road (NHER 31197). Roman settlement in the parish may be indicated by good numbers of scatters of finds from several fields; which include coins, pottery and metalwork. For example, a large field to the east of the Barrows Hole Lane has produced Roman pottery and a lead weight (NHER 30404). Fewer numbers of Saxon finds have been collected, although these do include early Saxon brooches and also a concentration of Middle Saxon pottery (30236) close to the site of a possible medieval moated site in the north-west area of the parish (NHER 4180). Earthworks for a second medieval manor site (NHER 11351) are present to the west of St Margaret's Church (NHER 4207), which may suggest that the church may have originated as a manorial chapel.

Post-medieval buildings of note include the Old Rectory (NHER 44328) which is of brick construction and dates from the 1600s, the late 18th century brick farm house Canister Hall (NHER 44327) and the Georgian mansion of Dunham Lodge built on the 1780s (NHER 4202), which is set within a landscaped park including garden walls, stables, gardener's

cottage and a barn (NHER 51588). The Gatehouse to the estate (NHER 52863) was recently renovated and includes an original brick shed.

The development site is located at the site of a Brick Kiln which is annotated on Faden's map of 1797. It is possible that such a kiln served in the construction of Dunham Lodge located c. 1km to the north-east. A large pond is shown in the north-east corner of the field on early OS plans which may relate to extraction works relating to the brick workings and the field was listed as Brick Kiln Yard on the 1838 Tithe plan. The name Barrows Hole Lane is no doubt derived from clay works here and the place name 'Pightle' is an Old English term used to define a portion of land or an enclosure marked out from a larger field, which is visibly the case on the earlier plans and is still defined by the existing boundaries of the current plot which may have originally included the adjacent plot to the east.



Plate 2: Tithe Map of 1838. NB: Large Pond in the NE corner of the plot

One other probable brick working site is known within the parish at Cannister Farm c. 1km to the north-west, where several pits full of ashy soil and a circular brick structure were noted during pipe trenching works in 1979 (NHER 4180). A well preserved 17th or 18th century leather shoe was reportedly found buried close to one of the pits.

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 15158: Site of post-medieval brick kiln. This brick kiln is marked on Faden's map of Norfolk made in 1797 and the same field is named Brick Kiln Yard on the 1838 Tithe Map of Little Dunham. [area of the site itself]

NHER 4198: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting and fieldwalking of land south of Barrows Hole Lane between 1995 and 2012 recovered finds dating from the Iron Age to the post medieval period. These include a Bronze Age palstave; medieval coins, a heraldic pendant, an unusual 'm'-shaped brooch or harness fitting and a strap-end plus a post medieval jetton. Pieces of possible Iron Age or Early Saxon, Middle Saxon, medieval and post medieval pottery were also found. [c. 150m SW]

NHER 30404: Multi-period finds scatter. Fieldwalking and metal detecting of a large field adjacent to Necton Road recovered finds dating from the Roman to the post medieval period. These include a possible Roman lead weight, Roman and medieval building materials and undated metal working waste. Pieces of Roman, medieval and post medieval pot were also found. [c. 200m E]

NHER 31197: Possible Roman Road. An earthwork of a causeway with flanking ditches can be seen in fields close to the north-south run of Barrows Hole Lane. This could be a continuation of the Roman road NHER 3697 located on a similar alignment c. 600m to the south running along the eastern boundary of Sporle Wood. [c. 250m NW]

NHER 31203: Multi-period finds scatter. A few pieces of medieval Grimston-type pottery and prehistoric burnt flints were found all over a vegetable garden of a property on the south side of Sporle Road. More medieval pot and post medieval brick and tile was found when the foundations for a new building were excavated. [c. 365m NW]

NHER 19546: Medieval pottery. Medieval pot from a building site on the opposite side of the road from the Post Office. Pieces of medieval Grimston-type ware and late medieval transitional ware were found on a spoil heap on a building site. [c. 375m N]

NHER 37318: Post-medieval features. Post medieval ditches and pits at The Paddocks. Archaeological monitoring of footings for a new dwelling off Sporle Road recorded post-medieval ditches and pits probably

relating to land management. A number of small rubbish pits were dug here in the Victorian period. [c. 420m NW]

NHER 4199: Undated rectangular enclosure and multi-period finds scatter. Soilmarks of a rectangular enclosure, possibly levelled earthworks, can be seen on aerial photographs. Metal-detecting and fieldwalking recovered finds dating from the Middle Saxon to the post-medieval period. These include a medieval coin, a medieval seal matrix, a late medieval purse bar, a medieval belt chape, a medieval bell and an undated binding. Pieces of Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pot were also found. Metal-detecting in 2011 recovered a medieval pot mend, medieval/post-medieval weight or spindle whorl and vessel handle, undated casting waste and other metalworking debris. [c. 465m NW]

NHER 60615: Multi-period finds scatter and geophysical survey. A geophysical survey (magnetometry) of this large field area undertaken in 2010 failed to identify potentially archaeologically significant anomalies. Fieldwalking in March 2010 recovered struck flint of late prehistoric date, part of a Bronze Age spearhead or rapier, a Late Saxon stirrup strap mount, medieval coins and a number of medieval and post-medieval metal objects. [c. 500m SSE]

NHER 52863: The Gatehouse, Dunham Estate. Gatehouse to the Dunham Estate, supposedly built between 1783 and 1785 by Edward Parry. A grade II listed building it was renovated in 2011 with brick floors lifted but reinstated along with an original brick shed. [c. 500m NNE]

NHER 11890: Ring ditch. Cropmarks of an undated ring ditch can be seen on an aerial photograph. A geophysical survey of this area in 2010 (see NHER 60615) failed to identify any trace of this feature, although it is possible that geological conditions had masked archaeologically significant anomalies. [c. 540m SSE]

NHER 35109: Possible prehistoric burnt mound. A concentration of prehistoric burnt flints, perhaps a burnt mound, was recorded on the surface of a field in an area at least 30m by 15m in a fairly dense spread. [c. 650m W]

NHER 31931: Dairy Farm House The left hand gable of this Grade II Listed farmhouse is built of small 17th century bricks. The main section of the house has three bays of galletted flint with much reused stones, perhaps from St Mary's Church, Great Dunham (NHER 4200). Inside are some reeded early 19th century fire surrounds. [c. 650m N]

NHER 31955: Sporle Wood. A visit to the woods here in 1996 recorded various earthworks including wood boundaries, water courses, possible wagon soaks and osier beds. A number of burnt ?prehistoric flints were also recovered. [c. 675m SW]

NHER 4207. St Margaret's Church, Little Dunham. This medieval flint church has an Early English nave, chancel, north aisle and demolished chapel. The tower is in Perpendicular style as is the south porch. Inside is a remarkable head corbel of a horned head on the chapel arcade. Some medieval wall paintings remain on two arches in the chancel north arcade. The church may originally have been a manorial chapel within a medieval enclosure now visible as earthworks (NHER 11351). [c. 700m NW]

NHER 11351. Possible Medieval Manor. Earthworks of enclosures, pits, raised areas, early roadside banks and an early drive can be seen in parkland surrounding St Margaret's Church (NHER 4207). The enclosure banks and ditches probably include a road or park boundary partially enclosing an earlier manorial site. The site is called Manor Close on the 1838 tithe map. If this is the site of an early manor it suggests the church may originally have been a manorial chapel. The causeway of an earlier drive to the Old Rectory (NHER 44328) passes to the east of the church. Metal-detecting between 2010 and 2012 has recovered a variety of Late Saxon, medieval and post medieval metalwork and pottery. [c. 700m NW]

NHER 51588. Post-medieval Park. The landscape park associated with Dunham Lodge (NHER 4202) which includes garden walls, stables and a barn. [c. 700m NE]

NHER 44328. Old Rectory. The earliest parts of this brick former rectory (Grade II Listed) date back to the 17th century. The building was heightened and enlarged in 1731 according to a datestone on the rear wall. The cross wing and stair block were added in 1783. Inside is a fine staircase with a swept mahogany handrail, turned balusters and shaped tread ends. [c. 730m NW]

NHER 4197. Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting and fieldwalking north of Dairy Farm House recovered finds dating from the Roman to the post medieval period. These include Roman coins, a possible Early Saxon brooch and buckle, a Middle Saxon brooch and a post medieval token and jettons. Pieces of Late Saxon, medieval and post medieval pot were also found. [c. 750m N]

NHER 30403. Multi-period finds scatter. Fieldwalking and metal detecting recovered finds dating from the Roman to the post medieval period. These include Roman coins and a medieval buckle and a post medieval buckle. Pieces of Roman, Late Saxon, medieval and post medieval pot were also found. [c. 750m NE]

NHER 33712: Possible prehistoric burnt mound. A concentration of prehistoric burnt flints within an area of c. 35m by 20m has been identified on a field to the east of Sporle Wood which may be part of a prehistoric burnt mound. Other scatters of prehistoric burnt flint have been found nearby in and to the west of Sporle Wood (NHER 31953) [c. 800m SW]

NHER 4202: Dunham Lodge. (Grade II* Listed). This Georgian red brick great house was built in the early 1780s. The building has five bays and three storeys with an outer staircase with two flights of stairs curving up to the entrance. The Lodge is claimed to be the highest situated mansion in Norfolk at 96m above sea level. William Cowper stayed here in 1795. [c. 1km NE]

NHER 4180. Possible medieval moat and kiln site. Medieval and post medieval finds have been found when parts of a possible medieval moat were bulldozed west of Cannister Farm in 1963. The finds include medieval to post medieval building material, pieces of pot, a 17th or 18th century leather shoe and a circular brooch. Pits 'full of black soil' and a possible brick kiln were recorded when a pipe trench was cut in 1979. Near the pit a brick circular structure was seen and thought to be a brick kiln. Also near pit 'at a great depth' a well preserved 17th to 18th century leather shoe. [c. 1km NW]

NHER 44327: Canister Hall. This late 18th century brick former farmhouse (Grade II Listed) has an almost square plan. The building has two storeys and a basement. The panelled front door stands at the head of six stone steps with metal railings and swept handrails. [c. 1km NW]

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The specific objective of the archaeological investigation was to reveal and record any archaeological evidence related to a former Brick Kiln on the site which may be disturbed by the development. As requested by the Brief, all four house footprints were machine stripped, under direct archaeological supervision, of upper soils and late post-medieval to modern make-up and subsoils i.e. to the level at which any kiln associated deposits might be revealed. A 12-ton 360° machine assisted by a 3-ton dumper was used, with all arising stored as a bund to the rear of the site for use as levelling material.

In addition to the requested works and in consultation with the Historic Environment Service, a linear investigation trench was excavated under controlled archaeological conditions between the house footprints and the street frontage in order to mitigate against the future positioning of soakways and treatment plants.

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 photographic images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were calculated using a topographical site survey, kindly provided by Mark Kemp of Rigour Survey.

The excavation work of the kiln scar was carried out in hot dry weather, a stand pipe on the site fixed with a spray hose allowed for the area to be wetted down to aid in the excavation process where hard set clays were otherwise difficult to tackle.

6.0 Results (Appendix 1a)

- **Natural deposits**

Natural sandy-clay was partly revealed across the site, although its depth from the modern surface ranged from c. 0.5m to 0.3m and its exact character was variable. In general, the natural sub-surface geology comprised of mid orange to pale yellow very sandy-clays, with chalk-flecked areas and some sandy pockets, with the clay in the area of Plot 3 being noticeably grey and heavily chalk flecked.

- **Lower Subsoil, Subsoil and lateral make-up deposits**

Above the natural in both the area of Plot 4 and the front of the site, a lower subsoil of c. 100mm thickness was identified. It comprised of a fairly sterile yellowish-brown clay-sand with occasional chalk flecks and very rare brick flecks ((111) and (121)). The only find recovered from this deposit was a single prehistoric flint.

The subsoil measured around 0.35m deep and where revealed by Plots 1, 2 and 4 was the same mottled orangey-grey clay-sand with occasional chalk, charcoal fleck and cbm flecks/small pieces ((101), (104) & (110)), although noticeably less frequent inclusions at Plot 1. The subsoil as revealed at Plot 3 (107) was similar but of more brownish-grey hue and with notably higher levels of residual chalk, brick flecks and charcoal flecks.

Finds collected from the subsoil included a single sherd of medieval pottery and a medieval strap end fragment. The remainder of the finds are of 18th to early 20th century date and include buttons, brick and tile, a 19th century lead seed bag tag and brass furniture fittings.

The active topsoil was generally up to 0.2m in depth ((100), (103) & (119)). It was a mid-greyish-brown silty/sandy loam flecked by chalk and brick/tile pieces with relatively high quantities of modern rubbish in the form of iron, plastic and patches of charcoal and ash from modern rubbish burning across much of the site. In the north-west area of the site the modern gravel and rubble make-up for hard standing associated with the 1980s occupancy of the site had removed all replaced all areas of topsoil ((1060) & (109)).

- **Plot 4**

Several modern pits containing household rubbish were revealed of 1980s or later date in the western half of the footprint for Plot 4, along with a particularly recent dog burial wrapped within a black plastic bin-liner. The dog was of relatively large, short haired breed and was quickly reburied at some depth along the southern edge of the site.



Plate 3: Plot 4 – Man-made pond [117]. (looking NE) [2x2m Scales]

A very large feature ([117]) of over 11m in length and greater than 7.5 in width was identified below modern make-up deposits (109). This feature contained highly silty and odiferous deposits generated through pond-like conditions, although a test hole and several finds recovered from these deposits show that the feature was unlikely to be a natural pond.

It was more likely to be a form of man-made hollow created through the extraction of sub-surface clay and may have served as a water containment area (i.e. a man-made pond) for the post-medieval brickworks. It measured c. 0.8m in depth and its western edge was fairly ill defined and mottled, possibly a result of either cattle or human activity along its margins.

The primary fill was a fine, dense, soft dark greyish-brown sandy-silt (114), auger tested to a depth of between 0.25m to 0.4m. This has been interpreted as a water settled deposit which contained a few flecks and pieces of fired clay and sticky grey clay lumps. Two discrete deposits were identified along the edge of this feature, one was a dump of clean yellow sandy-clay (113) and the other was a tip of silty-sand mixed with highly fragmentary fired clay/brick waster fragments and rare flecks of charcoal (112). Four larger brick fragments were collected which are of a type also present within the fabric of a clamp kiln remnant found on the site (123).

More centrally within the pond area, and stratigraphically later, was an odiferous, anoxic and dense accumulation of greenish-clay-silt with occasional examples of preserved branches and twigs and occasional burnt clay pieces (115). This soft and sticky deposit appears to have accumulated slowly in wet conditions to a depth of c. 0.4m. A small number of late post-medieval metal finds were collected from this deposit with the use of a metal detector, which include a single brick fragment, a lead ingot, iron nails, an iron suspension loop and a 19th century coat button.

Above (115) was a continued build-up of slightly odiferous, dense material, rich in sandy-silt and with rare pieces of fired clay present (116). This deposit measured up to 0.45m in depth and seems to represent further silting up of the hollow into the 19th and 20th century. A modern machine part and shotgun cartridge cap was collected from within this material. This area of 'boggy ground' received over 0.35m of modern levelling material in the form of concrete rubble and gravel hoggin to create an area of hard standing during the 1980s (109).

- **Clamp kiln remnant**

A linear investigation trench was located between the house footprints and the street frontage in order to mitigate against the future positioning of soakways and treatment plants. The modern cess pit and foul pipes for the former static caravan were uncovered, along with two modern soakway pits loosely filled with large fragments of brick and concrete rubble.

In the central area of the trench, a dense patch of oxidised burnt clay pieces was noticed in the subsoil which was further uncovered and proven to be part of a dense patch of similar material. This was hand excavated and defined as the eastern edge of a former clamp kiln (123). The exact form and scale of the clamp remains unknown but a minimum diameter of c. 3.5m can be estimated from this remnant.

This represents only the very base of part of the structure, which was formed from brick and waster fragments and occasional large flints set within highly oxidised clay. The



Plate 4: Clamp kiln remnant (123)
(looking E) [1x1m & 1x2m Scales]

structural material had survived to a very shallow depth of c. 150mm. It was highly root mottled and many of the fragmentary brick and wasters had been weakened from their prolonged exposure to high temperatures. The natural clay here, which formed the base of the clamp, was fire baked to a deep red colour and the clamp seemed to only occupy a very shallow depression in the natural clay, which sloped gently here from west to east. Examples of the more consolidated material forming the clamp structure were collected for further analysis and included brick fragments, brick wasters and two examples of floor tile wasters.

No density of wood ash or charcoal was present in the vicinity of the kiln and the material directly overlaying it (122) appeared to be redeposited subsoil with only moderately higher concentrations of charcoal and burnt clay than the surrounding subsoil.

The area of the clamp appeared to have been partly machine levelled as part of the modern activity for the 1980s occupancy, which may go some way to explaining why such a small percentage of it had survived.



Plate 5: Clamp kiln scar (123). (looking NNE) [1x1m & 1x2m Scales]

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

• Pottery

Just two sherds of pottery were collected during the work, with a combined total weight of 27g:

- A sherd of refined white earthenware of 19th to 20th century date was collected from the subsoil of Plot 1 (101), weighing 8g.
- A body sherd of well abraded Grimston-type ware of 13th to 14th century date was collected from the subsoil of Plot 2 (104). It weighs 19g and traces of splashed green glaze survive on its exterior surface.

• **Ceramic Building Material**

The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. A total of 36 pieces were collected with a combined weight of 9,457g. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of all bricks and tiles were measured where available. The brick fabrics generally fall into the fabric type and size range for late bricks of medium sandy type as categorised by Brunskill and Drury, although a detailed and site specific type series has been created here due to the expectation that many may have been manufactured at the site.

Type 1

A mid to dark 'buff' coloured fabric, lightly sanded on multiple surfaces. Made from a dense, well mixed clay. Well to over-fired. Occasional grit, chalk flecks, flints (sub-angular) up to 7mm and vitrified particles. Single wiped surface (from mould manufacture). Thick residue of highly vitrified glaze residue on the upper surface of one example which shows that this brick was used within a kiln producing glazed ceramic products.

Type 2

A dense, well-fired pinkish buff to dark-orange, v.sandy-clay, some exhibit single wiped surfaces. Very similar fabric and inclusions to Type 1.

Type 3

Sanded stretcher faces only. A non-uniform fine clay fabric, with a single wiped surface. Fabric is a swirling mix of pale cream, pale pink and dark orangey-red, with rare traces of chalk flecks and ferrous particles and rare flints (sub-angular) up to 6mm. Well fired.

Type 4

Similar to Type 3 but much paler in hue, being pinkish to buff in hue and weakly fired (bordering on fired clay). Although at first glance this material appears to be relatively amorphous, it is made up of wasters and/or dried bricks re-used within the kiln structure, some of which have partial forms and surfaces lost to steam explosion or breakage. Some of the material is more heavily oxidised on one side than another. Two examples of floor tile wasters are present as corner fragments with bevelled edges.

Type 5

A mid-orange (uniform) coloured, very sandy-clay (gritty) fabric with rare chalk flecks and occasional small flints (sub-angular). A typical post-medieval tile fabric.

Context	Form	Fabric	no	wt(g)	L	W	H/T	comments	date
101	?Brick	Type 4	2	110	-	-	-	Abraded	Post-med.
101	R.tile	Type 5	1	9	-	-	13	Single smooth surface	Post-med.
104	Brick	Type 2	3	916	-	-	60	Abraded	Post-med.
104	R.tile	Type 5	2	86	-	--	14	Single wiped smooth surface. Poss. ridge tile	Post-med.
107	Brick	Type 3	1	1973	1578	110	51	Whole brick	Post-med.
107	R.tile	Type 5	1	49	-	-	16	Uniform fabric	Post-med.
112	Brick	Type 2	4	1763	-	106	57	Abraded	Post-med.
115	Brick	Type 1	1	718	-	110	50	End frag, vitrified residue on upper surface	Post-med.
122	R.tile	Type 5	1	41	-	-	13	Soft fired - ?waster	Post-med.
123	Brick	Type 1	2	325	-	-	60		Post-med.
123	Brick	Type 2	4	1789	-	-	60	Some friable frags.	Post-med.
123	Brick	Type 4	12	1554	-	-	-	Some abraded, some clearly wasters with partial brick forms	Post-med.
123	F.tile	Type 4	2	124	-	-	22	Floor tile (waster) corner frags, with bevelled edges	Post-med.

Discussion

All of the brick forms appear to have been pallet-moulded by hand. No bricks with frogs were present and overall their form is similar to that expected for bricks of 16th to 18th century date ranges. Interestingly, none show evidence of mortar and, despite the variation in fabric type, the examples collected from the fabric of the kiln show that all types appear to have been manufactured at the site.

Some of the examples may be wasters and rejects and those collected as reused material from the structural remnant of the kiln are certainly so. Two examples of floor tile wasters were also collected from within the kiln walling and a single brick collected from the pond-like feature to the west of the site in Plot 1 yielded a brick fragment with a vitrified residue, as indirect evidence of a glazing process, possibly for floor or even roof tiles.

- **Animal bone**

A single example of butchered animal bone fragmented into two pieces was collected, from the deposit (122) directly above the kiln remnant (123). The bone weighs 86g and is in moderate condition. It is the distal end of a cow humerus with heavy cop marks present. This is the only example of residual food waste of pre-modern date noted on the site.

- **Worked Flint**

A single piece of utilised worked flint weighing 19g was collected from the lower subsoil (121) along the front of the site. This is a relatively fresh, squat secondary flake of relatively poor quality flint with a dark orange/amber colour and a thin chalky cortex. The flake is a fairly soft hammer struck piece from a roughly abraded platform and shows sure signs of use/wear along a single edge, with minor notches and possible use/wear at its thicker distal end where it may have briefly preformed as an end scraper. Overall, the flint is likely to be of late Neolithic to Bronze Age date based upon its form and ad hoc use as a non-specific and short-lived scraping tool.

- **Lava stone – quern fragment**

A single abraded fragment of vesicular lava stone was collected from the post-medieval subsoil (101) of Plot 1. The piece weighs 80g and is part of a hand quern with a maximum thickness of 28mm. Such pieces are commonly found in Late Saxon and medieval deposits across East Anglia, where they are usually classified as Rhenish lava stone. This fragment may indicate domestic scale grain processing in the vicinity of the site.

- **Metal Objects**

A variety of finds were collected across the site, the majority of which are post medieval in date (see table below). They include the broken half of an 18th century tombac button with a fairly common central rose design, which was collected from the subsoil of Plot 1 (101) and a complete copper-alloy cast discoidal 19th century coat button was collected from the silty fill (115) of a post-medieval hollow or pond thought to be part of the brickworks.

A fragment from a small late-medieval to early post-medieval copper-alloy strapend with an iron rivet was collected from the subsoil of Plot 3 (107).

Two fragments of furniture fittings include a cabinet or drawer handle and half of an Art Nouveau style decorate door plate and are probably derived from rubbish dumping at the site.

A late medieval to post-medieval large lead cast brooch was collected from the spoil which is crudely made and had recently had a neat square nipped out of its edge, perhaps showing that this artefact was part of a recently discarded modern collection.

A complete but fairly worn cast lead bag seal tag of 19th century date was collected from the subsoil (101) of Plot 1. The seal tag is octagonal in shape and is perforated through its vertical length by two holes for wire or textile ligatures used to secure a seed bag. The obverse is stamped with central capitalised text which reads SUTTON AND SONS in three lines, surrounded by SEEDSMEN BY APPOINTMENT READING [ENGLAND]. The reverse is stamped with the text TRADE MARK REGISTERED around a crowned emblem inscribed in very small text GOOD SEEDS // SUTTON & SONS // CARRIAGE FREE.

Suttons Seeds was founded in Reading in 1806 by John Sutton and originally traded as corn merchants. In 1832, John Sutton was joined in the business by his son Martin and in 1837 the business moved to Reading's Market Place and expanded to provide flower and vegetable seed. In 1858, Suttons received royal patronage when Queen Victoria requested Martin Hope Sutton supply seeds to the royal household. The company have held the Royal Warrant ever since and are currently suppliers to Queen Elizabeth.

Context	Feature	SSD	Material	Object	Object Date	Feature Period
101	Subsoil	Plot 1	Cu Alloy	Loop	Med. to -Post-med.	-
A simple hand crafted suspension loop of 35mm diameter. 3.07g						
101	Subsoil	Plot 1	Cu Alloy	Button	18 th	-
The broken half of a discoidal tombac button. Central rose design. 233g. 23mm diameter.						
101	Subsoil	Plot 1	Lead	Seed bag seal	19 th	-
Lead seed bag tag/seal. Octagonal shape stamped with circular design. Fairly worn but legible. Reads SUTTON AND SONS surrounded by SEEDSMEN BY APPOINTMENT READING [ENGLAND]. The reverse is stamped with the text TRADE MARK REGISTERED around a crowned emblem inscribed in very small text GOOD SEEDS // SUTTON & SONS // CARRIAGE FREE. Max. diam. 22mm, thickness 5mm. Weighs 13.57g.						
104	Subsoil	Plot 2	Cu Alloy	Handle	19 th -20 th	-
A small drawer or cabinet handle (circular) with iron bolt. 20mm diameter. Weighs 21g						
107	Subsoil	Plot 1	Cu Alloy	Strap-end	15 th -16 th	-
Part of a simple rectangular strap end with iron rivets, 12mm width. Weighs 1.62g						
107	Subsoil	Plot 1	Lead	Puddled	-	-
An amorphous lump of melted and puddled lead. Weighs 21g.						
115	[117]	Plot 1	Cu Alloy	Button	19 th	Post-medieval
Complete cast discoidal coat button with silver tinning and large iron suspension loop. Well preserved. Diameter 26mm, weight 5.46g						
115	[117]	Plot 1	Lead	Ingot	Post-medieval	Post-medieval
A heavy piece of recycled lead made from folded and heated lead to form a bar with a roughly triangular cross-section. 108mm L, 20mm W, max. 7mm T. Weighs 136g						
115	[117]	Plot 1	Iron	Nails	Post-medieval	Post-medieval
Two highly corroded nails, 'one fat one thin'. (6g and 19g)						
115	[117]	Plot 1	Iron	Loop	-	Post-medieval
Highly corroded ?suspension loop. Diameter 30mm. Weighs 12g.						
116	[117]	Plot 1	Cu Alloy	Shotgun cap	L19-M20 th	Post-medieval
A 16 bore shotgun cartridge cap (fired) marked 'ELEY - KYNOCH'. Weighs 4g.						
116	[117]	Plot 1	Iron	Machine part	L19-20 th	Post-medieval
A well corroded hexagonal shaped machine part. Weighs 160g						
120	Subsoil	Linear Tr.	Cu Alloy	Furniture fitting	L19-E20 th	
Half of an Art Nouveau door plate fitting. Highly decorated surface and edging with stylised ivy design. A single screw hole of 6mm at the top. 40mm by 74mm. Weighs 28g						
125	-	U/S	Lead	Brooch	Late Med. To - Post-med.	
An unusually large discoidal cast lead brooch with lugs for a catch plate on the reverse. Has bold relief design of a blank central circle surrounded by ropework, encircled by crude foliate decoration. 36.86g. NB: a rectangular piece has recently been freshly snipped out of the edge – it is possible that this is a discarded metal detectorist's find. Diameter of 50mm, weighs 36.86g. Was possibly originally tinned or painted to crudely mimic a central glass piece set in a more expensive metal.						

8.0 Conclusions

The investigation work located the partial remnant of a post-medieval clamp kiln close to the street frontage of Barrows Hole Lane, along with a large man-made pond in the western part of the site. Clamp kiln sites are often ephemeral in the archaeological record, usually identified only from scatters of wasters and ash patches, so the discovery here of even just part of a clamp is worthy of note. The clamp was sited close to the Barrows Hole Lane, which may have aided transport of the finished products by cart away from the site.

The clamp scar found at Brick Kiln Pightle produced evidence that a variety of brick fabrics of likely 18th century date were produced at the same site along with floor bricks and possibly also roof tiles. The recovery of a brick fragment from the site that has served as kiln furniture for a glazing process is also of interest.

A clamp kiln is essentially formed from a stack of unfired bricks alongside timber fuel, which was then walled, capped and left to burn. Brick kilns evolved on a regional level over the post-medieval period, from the clamp, with its minimum of permanent features, to structured kilns which were suited to long-term regular use (Crossley 285, 1994).

By the 16th to 17th centuries, brick production was becoming more common, particularly in relation to specific building projects of the 18th century. On a vernacular level, brick was used initially for hearths and chimney stacks within new-timber framed houses and large houses set a fashion for the large scale use of brick. Such projects required high quality brick of predictable size and colour which naturally led to the greater use of permanent kilns rather than clamps, although clamps were still used on construction sites into the 19th century (Palmer et al 117, 2012). It is suggested that the early 1780s construction of the great house of Dunham Lodge and its numerous ancillary buildings within the estate may account for such brick works at Little Dunham.

This discovery has some parallels to a well cited example of a post-medieval clamp kiln which was excavated between 1966 and 1969 at Shotesham St Mary in Norfolk (Wade 1980; NHER 17385), where there remained a fragmentary brick wall around an area of wood ash, with scatters of burnt clay and broken brick. No built flues or flue arches were present and bricks had been stacked leaving five channels marked by wood ash, for the circulation of flame and heat from wood fires burning either in the base of the stack or immediately alongside the ends of the channels. It was thought to date to the 18th-19th century although 16th-17th century brick fragments were found in the plough soil nearby.

The preparation of clay for brick making demanded a whole range of process housed in a variety of buildings. Ancillary features to a kiln, which form part of the brick working process, can include moulding sheds, outbuildings, ponds, pug mills, drying racks, clay dumps and even sluices as the controlled supply of water is essential for brick production. It is likely that the now infilled pond, shown on early maps in the north-east corner of the site, formed a key part of the brick making process here and the discovery of an additional man-made pond in the western area of the site (which could have been initiated as a clay extraction site) shows that the operation here was a relatively serious one. Therefore it is likely that several kilns operated at the site, producing a variety of ceramic building materials over a period of several years. Once it had fallen out of use, the secondary pond silted up fairly rapidly but was still present as an area of boggy ground into the 20th century.

The production of brick and tile is also dependent not just upon the raw clay but also access to large quantities of accessible wood fuel. It is possible that Sporle Wood located to the south-west provided such material, a brief survey of the woods in 1996 highlighted the presence of various earthworks, watercourses and possible wagon soaks and osier beds which may indicate that the woods were very much part of such an economy, providing an economic source of wood fuel and charcoal. One other probable brick working site of a similar period is known within the parish at Cannister Farm c. 1km to the north-west, where

several pits full of ashy soil and a circular brick structure were noted during pipe trenching works in 1979 (NHER 4180).

Aside from the post-medieval ceramic building material fragments and wasters, other finds of note from the site include a single prehistoric flint collected from the lower subsoil, a single sherd of medieval pottery, a medieval strap-end fragment, a lava quern fragment and a large lead brooch of medieval to post-medieval date. Other post-medieval finds include a 19th century seed bag tag produced by Sutton and Sons, buttons and furniture fittings.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Jon Titlow of East Coast Developments Ltd who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to the on-site team for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER data was obtained directly from the archives of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service at Gressenhall.

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Accessed July 2015

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	SSD	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
100	Deposit	Plot 1	-	Firm, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand/loam, dry, mod. chalk pieces, occ. brick/tile frags., occ. stones, mod. modern Fe and plastic plus ash patches from modern rubbish burning at the surface, freq. roots	Topsoil	Modern
101	Deposit	Plot 1	-	Firm, mottled mid-orangey-grey clay-sand, rare. cbm, occ. chalk, occ. charcoal flecks	Subsoil	Post-medieval
102	Deposit	Plot 1	-	Friable/sticky (when wet), mid. orange to pale yellow v.sandy-clay	Natural Geology	-
103	Deposit	Plot 2	-	Firm, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand/loam, dry, mod. chalk pieces, occ. brick/tile frags., occ. stones, mod. modern Fe and plastic plus ash patches from modern rubbish burning at the surface	Topsoil	Modern
104	Deposit	Plot 2	-	Firm, mottled mid-orangey-grey clay-sand, occ. cbm, occ. chalk, occ. charcoal flecks	Subsoil	Post-medieval
105	Deposit	Plot 2	-	Friable/sticky (when wet), mid. Orange to pale yellow v.sandy-clay	Natural Geology	-
106	Deposit	Plot 3	-	Gravel surface spread from 1980s caravan occupancy	Hard standing	Modern
107	Deposit	Plot 3	-	V.firm, mid-brownish-grey sandy-clay, freq. chalk, mod. cbm, mod. charcoal flecks	Subsoil	Post-medieval
108	Deposit	Plot 3	-	Firm, chalk flecked pale to mid yellow sandy-clay, occ. flints with pockets of sand and very chalky-grey clay	Natural Geology	-
109	Deposit	Plot 4	-	Loosely compacted gravel make-up of gravels with asphalt lumps, freq. modern rubbish, freq. concrete rubble	Make-up	Modern
110	Deposit	Plot 4	-	Firm, mottled mid-orangey-grey clay-sand, occ. cbm, occ. chalk, occ. charcoal flecks	Subsoil	Post-medieval
111	Deposit	Plot 4	-	Friable, mid-yellowish-brown clay-sand, occ. chalk flecks, v.rare cbm flecks	Lower subsoil	'Pre-p.med'
112	Deposit	Plot 4	[117]	Firm, orangey-grey mottled by orangey-brown silty-sand, freq. bright orange fired clay lumps/flecks, rare charcoal flecks	Tip/dump	?C18th
113	Deposit	Plot 4	[117]	Patch of v.firm pale-yellow sandy-clay	Redeposited sandy-clay	?C18th
114	Deposit	Plot 4	[117]	V.fine/soft/dense, v.dark greyish-brown sandy-silt, rare fired clay flecks/pieces, rare chalk flecks, occ. stones, rare sticky grey clay lumps	Pond fill	?C18th
115	Deposit	Plot 4	[117]	Dense/soft/sticky mid-greenish-grey clay-silt, odiferous sedimentary deposit, anoxic (occ. preserved branches/twigs, occ. burnt clay pieces	Pond fill	C18th-C19th
116	Deposit	Plot 4	[117]	Fine/dense v.dark-grey sandy-silt, slightly odiferous, rare fired clay/chalk pieces. occ. stones.	Pond fill	C19th-C20th
117	Feature	Plot 4	-	Ephemeral edge of a large hollow containing deposits formed under pond-like conditions	Man-made pond	Post-medieval
118	Deposit	Plot 4	-	Firm, mid-orange v.sandy-clay	Natural Geology	-
119	Deposit	Linear Trench	-	Firm, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand/loam, dry, mod. chalk pieces, occ. brick/tile frags., occ. stones, mod. modern Fe and plastic plus ash patches from modern rubbish burning at the surface. NB:	Topsoil	Modern

Context	Category	SSD	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
				plus layers of modern gravel/rubble around areas of 1980s occupancy		
120	Deposit	Linear Trench	-	Firm, mottled mid-orangey-grey clay-sand, occ. cbm, occ. chalk, occ. charcoal flecks	Subsoil	<i>Post-medieval</i>
121	Deposit	Linear Trench	-	Friable, mid-yellowish-brown clay-sand, occ. chalk flecks, v.rare cbm flecks	Lower subsoil	<i>'Pre-p.med'</i>
122	Deposit	Linear Trench	<u>123</u>	Firm, mottled mid-orangey-grey clay-sand, occ. cbm, rare chalk, occ. charcoal flecks, mod. orange burnt clay pieces (orange)	Soil overlaying <u>123</u>	?C18th+
123	Feature	Linear Trench	-	Eastern curved edge/base of a kiln 'scar': weathered/rooted burnt clay, brightly oxidised orange to pale and dark red at v. base. Occ. flints and frags. of cbm and fired clay	Kiln remnant	?C18th
124	Deposit	Linear Trench	-	Firm, mid-orange v.sandy-clay with pockets of sand and very chalky-grey clay	Natural Geology	-
125	Unstratified	-	-	Finds from the spoil	-	-

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pond	1
	Brick Kiln	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
101	Cu Alloy – Suspension loop	1	3.07	Medieval +
101	Cu Alloy – Button	1	2.33	C18th
101	Lead – Seed bag seal/tag	1	13.57	C19th
101	Pottery	1	8	Modern
104	Ceramic building material	5	1002	Post-medieval
104	Cu Alloy – Furniture handle	1	21	C19-20th
104	Pottery	1	19	C13-14th
107	Ceramic building material	2	2022	Post-medieval
107	Cu Alloy – Strap-end	1	1.62	C15-16 th
107	Lead – Puddled	1	21	?Post-medieval
112	Ceramic building material	4	1763	Post-medieval
115	Ceramic building material	1	718	Post-medieval
115	Lead	1	136	?Pos-medieval
115	Iron – Loop	1	12	Post-medieval
116	Cu Alloy - Shotgun cap	1	4	Modern
116	Iron – machine part	1	160	Modern
120	Cu Alloy – Furniture fitting	1	28	L19-E20th
121	Flint – worked	1	19	Prehistoric
122	Animal bone	1	86	?Post-medieval
122	Ceramic building material	1	41	Post-medieval
123	Ceramic building material	20	3792	Post-medieval
125	Lead – Brooch	1	36.86	L.Med-P.Med.

Appendix 2b: Finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Late Prehistoric (4000 BC to 42 AD)	Flint - worked	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Copper Alloy – strap-end	1
	Lava quern	1
	Lead – brooch	1
	Pottery	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Animal bone	1
	Ceramic building material	36
	Copper Alloy – buttons	2
	Lead – tag	1
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Pottery	1

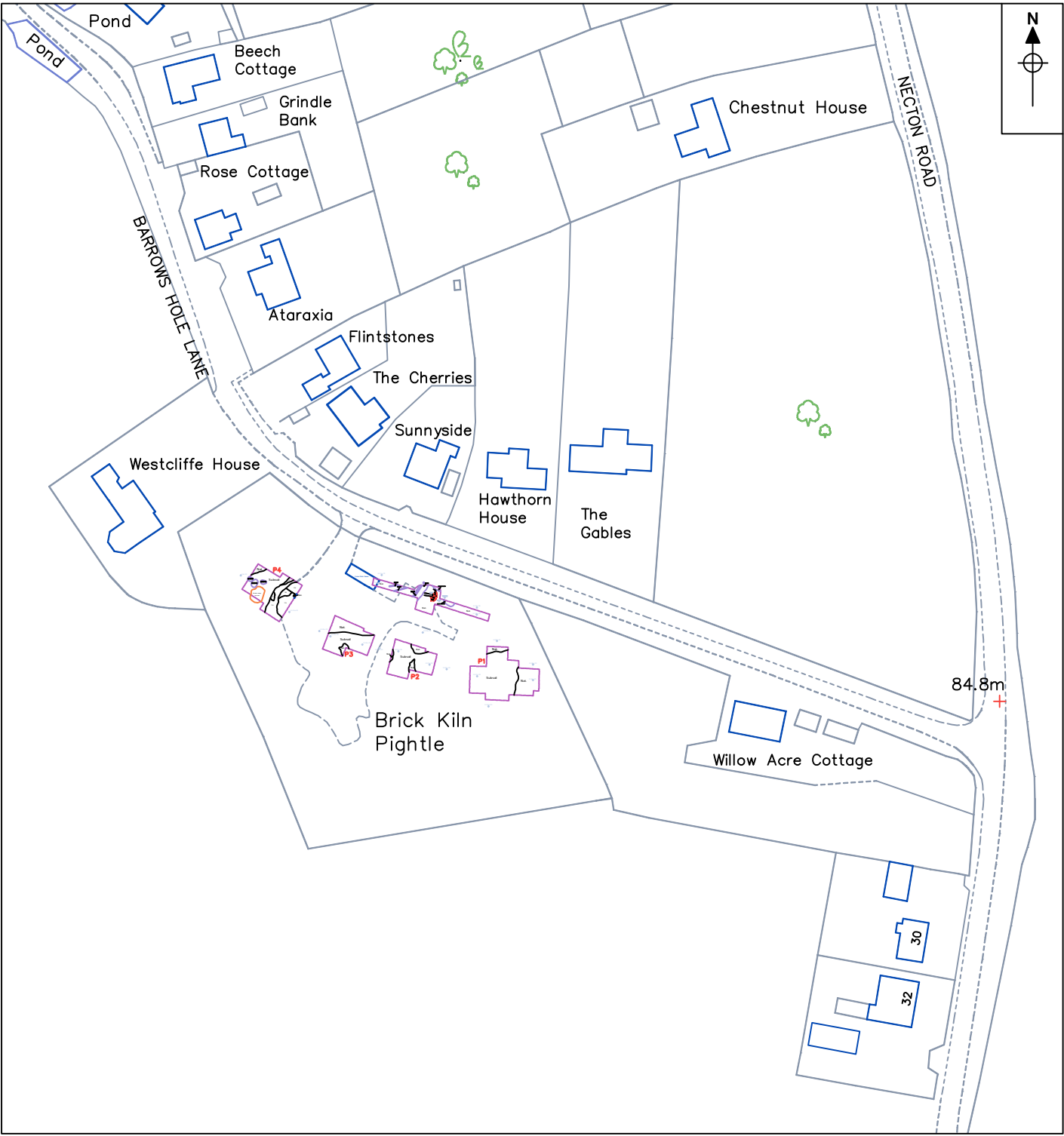


Figure 2. Site location plan. Scale 1:1500

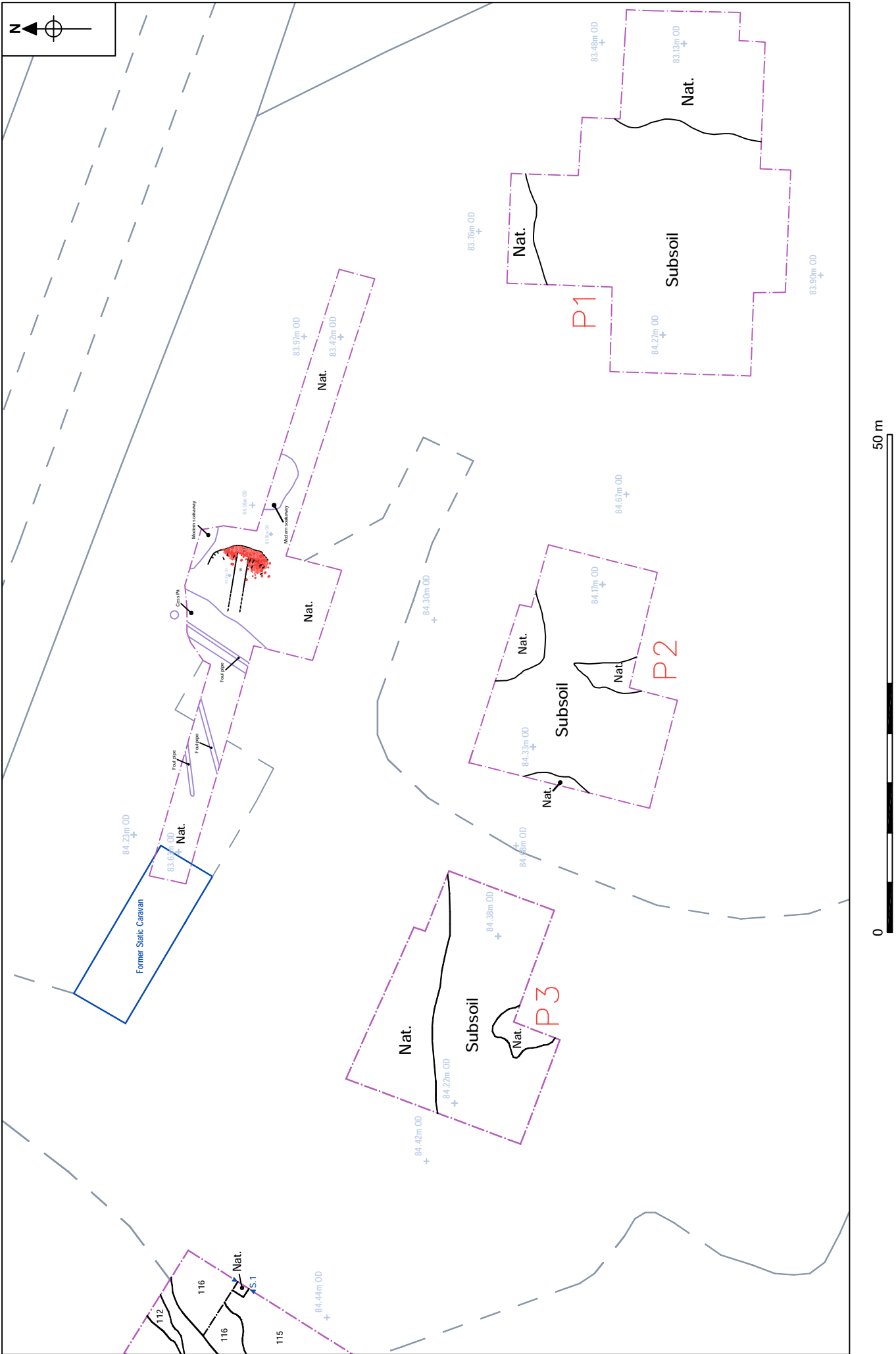


Figure 3. Site plan (to show Plots 1 to 3) Scale 1:500

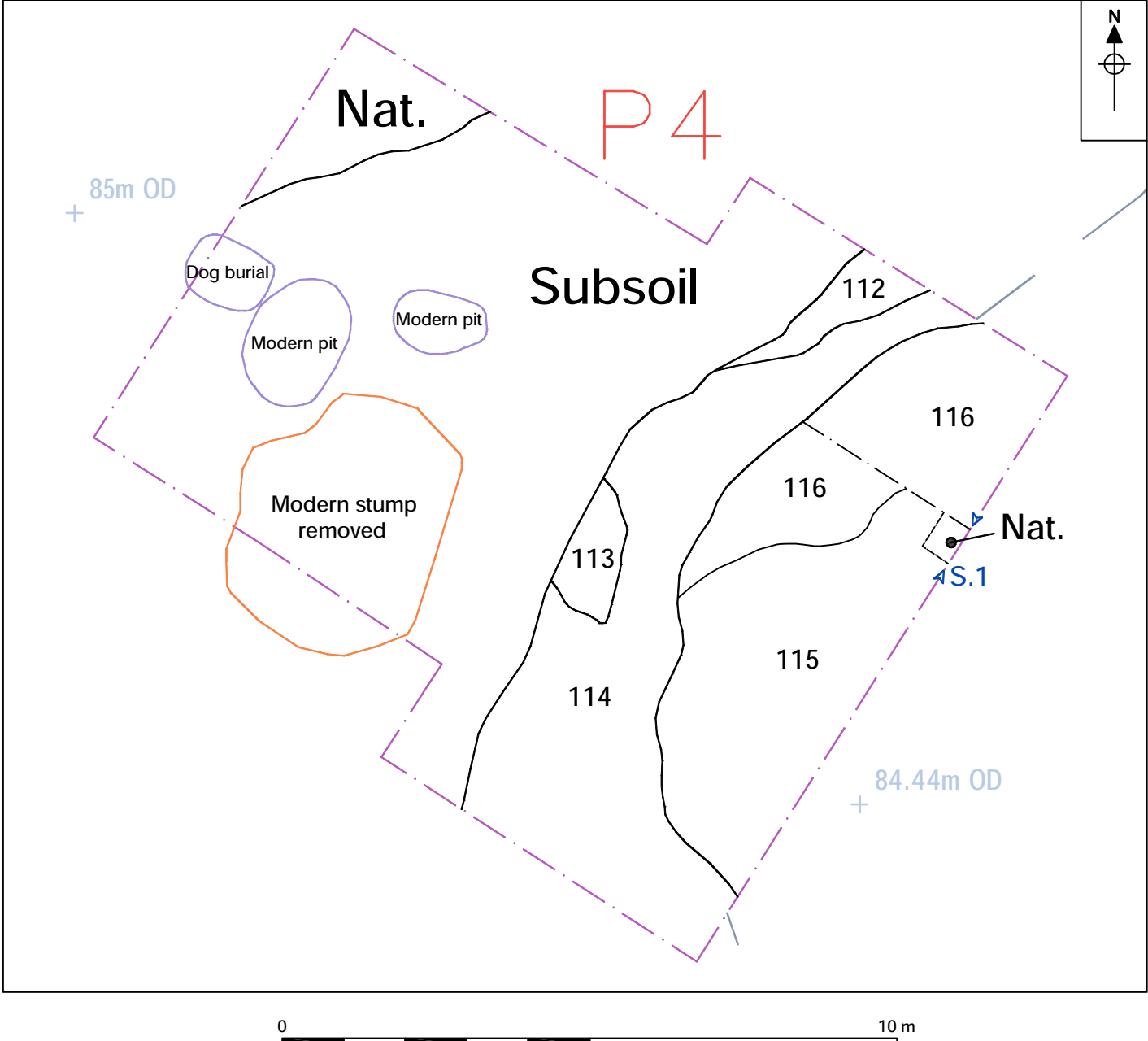
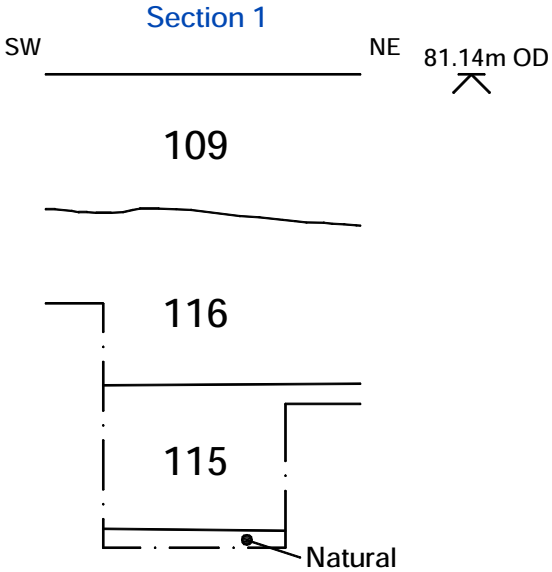


Figure 4. Plot 4. Scale 1:100

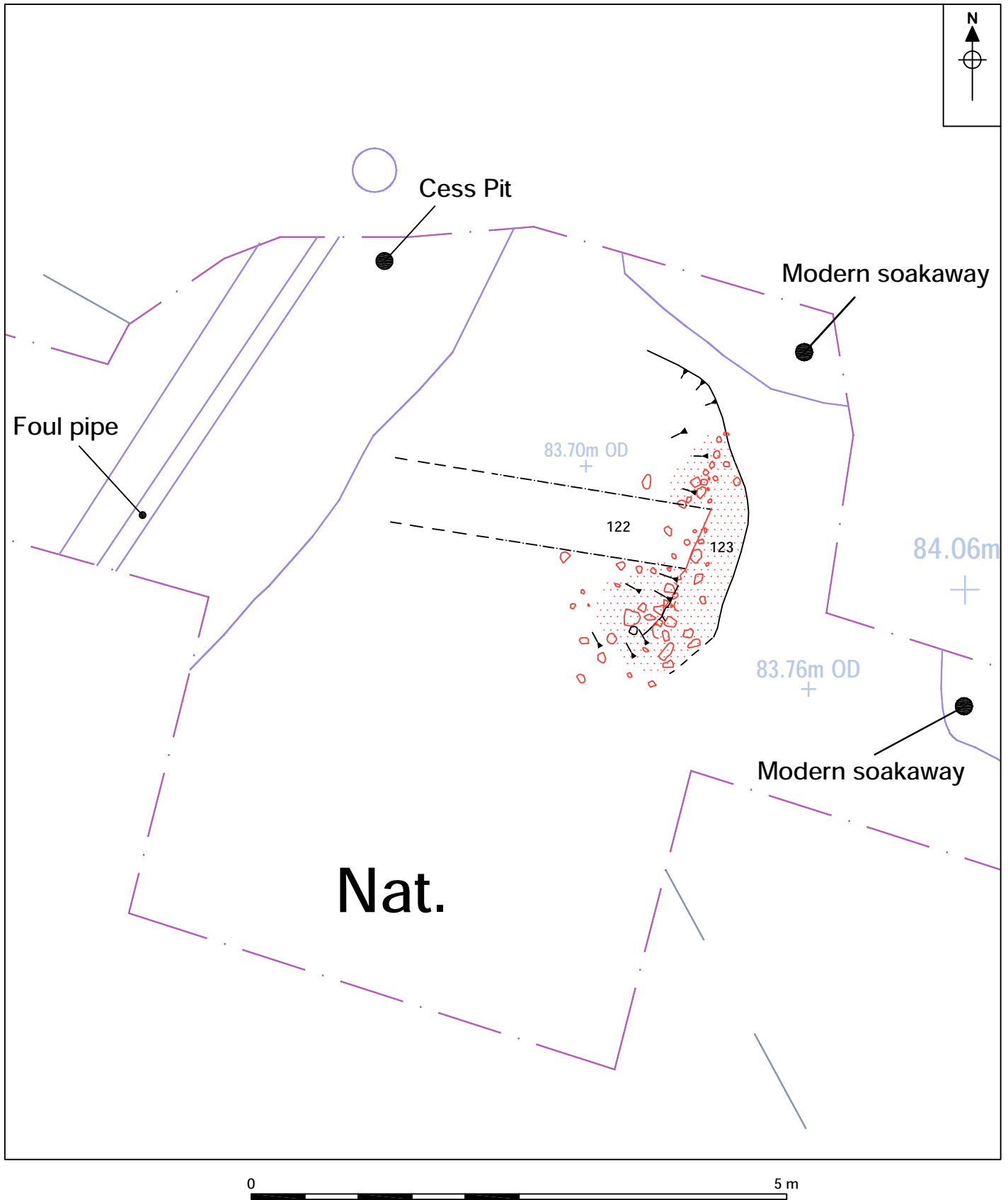


Figure 5. Clamp kiln (123). Scale 1:50

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OASIS ID: **norvicar1-218958**

Project details

Project name	An archaeological investigation in advance of residential development at Brick Kiln Pightle, Little Dunham, Norfolk
Short description of the project	The results of a programme of archaeological work in advance of the development of land at Brick Kiln Pightle, Little Dunham, Norfolk. The proposed development is for a total of four residential dwellings on an area of land of c. 0.63 hectares. The field is known as Brick Kiln Pightle and is the site of a known Brick Kiln which appears on Fadens 1797 map of Norfolk. The aim of the investigative work was to identify and excavate any surviving evidence for a brick kiln within the areas of the site where such archaeological features could not be preserved in situ, and which may be damaged or destroyed by development. The investigation work located the partial remnant of a post-medieval clamp kiln close to the street frontage of Barrows Hole Lane, along with a large man-made pond in the western part of the site. Clamp kiln sites are often ephemeral in the archaeological record, usually identified only from scatters of wasters and ash patches, so even the discovery here of just part of a clamp is worthy of note. The clamp was sited close to the Barrows Hole Lane, which may have aided transport of the finished products by cart away from the site. Aside from the post-medieval ceramic building material fragments and wasters, other finds from the site include a single prehistoric flint collected from the lower subsoil, a single sherd of medieval pottery, a medieval strap-end fragment, a lava quem fragment and a large lead brooch of medieval to post-medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2015 End: 25-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF138206 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2015/GE236 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2013/0888/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological investigation in advance of residential development at Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrows Hole Lane, Little Dunham, Norfolk.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Emery, G.
Other bibliographic details	Norvic Archaeology Report No. 65
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Norvic Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	Spiral Bound
Entered by	Giles Emery (giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com)
Entered on	27 July 2015

Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK KILN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY STRAP END Medieval
Significant Finds	LAVA QUERN Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD BROOCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY OBJECT - BUTTON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD TAG Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND LITTLE DUNHAM Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrows Hole Lane, Little Dunham, Norfolk
Postcode	PE32 2DP
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 8674 1235 52.6762047761 0.76251680409 52 40 34 N 000 45 45 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 sponsor/funding body	Jon Titlow

Project archives

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

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