

An Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett, Norfolk.



Prepared for Mr & Mrs Dye

Giles Emery
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NORVIC archaeology

 www.norvicarchaeology.com

 01603 494685

 giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com

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**Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road,
Whissonsett, Norfolk. NR20 5TA.**

Location:	Whissonsett
Grid Ref:	TF 9210 2341
NHES Event No:	ENF142579
Date of fieldwork:	14 th September 2017

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Dye, to undertake an evaluation by trial trench of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett. The plot (c. 1700 m²) is located in the very south-west corner of an agricultural field to the east of the main settlement, where surface finds of Saxon metal work (including brooches) have led to suggestions of an Early Saxon cemetery. Multi-period objects have been previously recovered in the area, including Mesolithic, Roman Saxon and Medieval finds. To the west of the site, closer to the medieval church, previous archaeological investigations confirmed the presence of a Middle to Late Saxon settlement, including human remains, indicative of a possible cemetery.

This archaeological evaluation phase of work forms part of a programme of mitigation work undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF47195_1) on behalf of Breckland District Council. The aim of the evaluation work was to assess the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results and the archaeological interpretation of the evaluation. Recommendations for further archaeological mitigation work ahead of the proposed development will be made by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

2.0 Summary of Results

Two shallow archaeological features of probable Late Saxon date were investigated below the subsoil, which have survived 19th to 20th century ploughing truncation. One took the form of a ditch or gully, whilst the other was part of a larger square or rectangular hollow, with a fairly flat base and steep sides, tentatively suggested to be the rounded corner of a Sunken Feature Building.

Noteworthy finds include Saxon to early medieval pottery two fragments of lava quern and part of a medieval lead cloth seal.

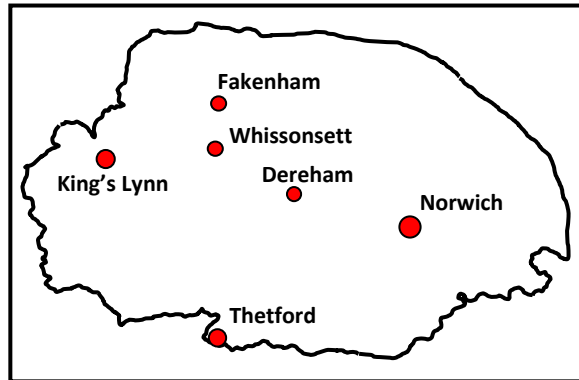


Figure 1. General Site Location Plan

3.0 Geology and Topography

The proposed development plot is located in the south-west corner of an agricultural field on the eastern edge of the current settlement of Whissonsett at c. 57m OD. Whissonsett is a small parish in the Breckland Local Government District, with an area of c. 555 hectares. The parish is situated c. 6km south of Fakenham, and is bordered by the parishes of Tittleshall, Colkirk and Horningtoft. A tributary to the River Wensum is situated c. 0.5km to the north of the site.

The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (Cretaceous Period), overlain by Lowestoft Formation (Quaternary Period) glacial outwash deposits of chalky-till together with gravels, silts and clays. An area of sand and gravel is recorded just to the south (Briton's Land Sand and Gravel Member) with cross bedded gravel and seams of rippled sand - 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 sand and poorly sorted gravel.

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in mid Norfolk in the parish Whissonsett, which has provided evidence of human occupation from multiple historic periods. A parish summary of the information held for Whissonsett's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated over 50 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity from most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

A relatively small number of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been collected from the fields around Whissonsett and a possible Bronze Age ring ditch (NHER 31879) has been identified from cropmarks within the parish. Scatters of Roman material have been found, including coins, personal objects, brooches and pottery. A possible Roman kiln and iron working site has been discovered to the west of the present village (NHER 7169), where ploughing in the 1960s brought a lot of Roman pottery sherds to the surface, as well as tesserae, the remains of a clay wall, iron slag and charcoal.

The name 'Whissonsett' is thought to derive from the Old English for *the fold of Wic's people* (Rye 1991). Significant evidence of Saxon occupation and a Middle Saxon inhumation cemetery close to the historic core of the medieval village has been identified through excavation ahead of development to the north of St Mary's Church (NHER 40453 & 44708). Repeated metal detection of fields to the immediate east (in the area of the proposed development) and south of the village has also recovered Middle Saxon and Late Saxon artefacts, including brooches, coins and pottery. The recovery of an Early Saxon cruciform brooch and Middle Saxon equal-armed brooches in the vicinity of the development area have been interpreted as indicators of a possible Early to Middle Saxon cemetery (NHER 31800).

Although no mention of a church is made in the Domesday Book of 1086, the head of a Late Saxon cross was recovered from the graveyard of St Mary's Church (NHER 7159). The cross is now preserved in the church, the earliest surviving part of which is thought to date to the Early English period. However, the nave, tower and porch are all Perpendicular in style, reusing 14th century doorways, and the building received a thorough restoration between 1870 and 1875.

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)

Sites & Monuments

NHER 7159. St Mary's Church, Whissonsett. Inside St Mary's Church is the head of a Late Saxon cross, recovered from the graveyard around 1900. It is thought that this indicates the presence of an earlier church on this site, although the earliest recorded standing work is thought to be Early English in style. The nave, tower and porch are all Perpendicular in style, reusing 14th century doorways, though the building received a thorough restoration between 1870 and 1875. [c. 185m WSW]

NHER 13016: Possible medieval pottery works, Roman to post-medieval objects. In 1977, fieldwalking took place on the field south of Lower Farm following ploughing for the first time. The field is referred to as 'burntyards', and a large quantity of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the site, as well as some Roman, Late Saxon and post-medieval sherds. A few post medieval metal objects, as well as concentrations of shell fragments and brick were also noted. [c. 200m NNW]

NHER 44708: Possible Middle to Late Saxon settlement at North View Drive. An excavation in June 2005 to the north of the church demonstrated that the Middle to Late Saxon settlement recorded to the south at Church Close in 2005 (NHER 40453) extends into this area. The earliest features were ditches dating to the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850) representing field boundaries or stock enclosure ditches and these are contemporary with pits, post-holes and cemetery excavated in 2005. A possible sunken-featured or cellared building was also identified. Finds from the site included Middle Saxon to early medieval pottery and multi-period metal finds. [c. 200m W]

NHER 40453: Middle Saxon cemetery and Middle to Late Saxon occupation. An evaluation in 2004 to the north of the church revealed a Middle Saxon inhumation and disturbed human remains, suggesting this is the site of a Middle Saxon cemetery. In addition, undated gullies and ditches are believed to indicate Middle Saxon occupation in this location. [c. 200m W]

NHER 37157: Possible medieval linear features, medieval pottery sherds, Springwell Road. An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2002 recorded two linear features which are thought to be drainage channels or boundary ditches. They may date to the medieval period, as a number of early medieval pottery sherds were recovered from one of them. [c. 220m NW]

Find Spots

NHER 31800: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting of a large field off New Road in 1996 to 2007 has recovered a large number of objects from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post medieval periods. These include a possible Mesolithic flint drill bit, a Roman figurine, an Early Saxon cruciform brooch, small-long brooch and Middle Saxon equal-armed brooches, a Late Saxon 'Norse bell' fragment, a heavily gilded decorated medieval circular mount with projection and a penny of Queen Cynethryth, wife of Offa. [Site located in SW corner of this field]

NHER 40866: Roman coin. Prior to 2004 a 3rd century Roman coin was recovered from this area. [c. 140m NNW]

NHER 44769: Medieval coin. In 2004 a medieval halfpenny was recovered during gardening work for a property off New Road. [c. 150m NNW]

NHER 31648: Saxon and Medieval objects. Metal detecting on land east of the church in 1995 recovered a Middle Saxon strap end with a narrow elongated animal head, a 14th century medieval gilded copper alloy ring-brooch, a medieval convex disc mount, and an early post medieval sword-belt hooked fitting. [c. 155m SW]

NHER 50124: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting of a field east of Lower Farm in 2007 recovered a variety of artefacts. These include Roman, medieval and post medieval coins, Late Saxon and medieval sherds, and Late Prehistoric, Roman, Middle Saxon, medieval and post medieval metal objects, including a Roman hairpin, and 8th or 9th century strap end, and part of a guard from a medieval dagger. [c. 250m NNE]

NHER 39550: Medieval jetton. In 2003 an early post medieval jetton was dug up in the garden of Spring Bungalow. [c.260m NW]

NHER 39273: Multi-period finds scatter. Metal detecting in 2003 of former allotments recovered a number of objects from the Iron Age to post medieval periods, including a Roman brooch, Iron Age terret, and a number of Middle Saxon strap ends. [c. 260m SE]

NHER 35064: Undated human remains. Around 1940, a number of human skeletons were found on this site during the construction of an air raid shelter in the garden. As this site is close to the church it is thought likely that this land was originally part of the churchyard. [c.270m, WSW]

NHER 41715/53947/54141: Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval finds scatter. Metal detecting of fields surrounding the south of Whissonsett from 2005 to 2015 have recovered numerous artefacts which include Roman and medieval coins, an Early Saxon brooch, a Late Saxon disc-brooch and a medieval harness fitting. [c. 375m S]

NHER 60427: Saxon to medieval finds scatter. Metal-detecting of fields between 2012 and 2015 recovered an Early Saxon brooch; a medieval lead weight; a medieval/post-medieval spur fragment, 'paper-clip' rivet and a copper alloy vessel foot fragment and a post-medieval harness mount. [c. 490m E]

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2 & 3)

The objective of the archaeological work was to investigate and record any archaeological evidence revealed during the evaluation. A single evaluation trench (20m long by 1.8m wide) was excavated under the control of an experienced archaeologist using a machine with a ditching bucket (2.5-ton 360° tracked-machine)

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

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



Plate 2. Exposed features. (looking N)
[1x1m Scale in foreground]

All levels were taken using a temporary benchmark of 56.38m OD located on a service cover on New Road opposite the development plot, tied to an OS Spot Height of 58.60m OD located on the junction of New Road with School Road.

The work was carried out on a day with repeated heavy showers.

6.0 Results (Appendix 1a) (Figure 3 to 5)

- **'Natural deposits'**

Natural sand and poorly sorted gravel (102) was revealed at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m below the current ground surface, observed to slope very slightly from south to north within the confines of the evaluation trench. The surface of the natural was mottled by root and burrow action.

- **Lower Subsoil and Ploughsoil**

Above the natural was thin layer of mid-brownish-grey silty-sand subsoil (101) with thickness of up to 200mm. Above this was c. 0.4m of well-mixed ploughsoil (100 = 108), which comprised of a fairly silty sandy-loam with moderate stones. At the time of works the surface crop was a rather fragrant coriander.

- **?Late Saxon Features (10th to 11th-century date range)**

Two archaeological features were partly exposed and investigated within the confines of the evaluation trench. Both features were shallow in nature, most likely the result of 19th to 20th century ploughing methods. Metal detection of the features showed that no iron or other metal artefacts were present within their exposed fills.

The rounded corner of a distinct straight edged, shallow feature (greater than 2m in length and greater than 1.5m in width) was revealed which can be tentatively interpreted as part of a larger square or rectangular hollow with a fairly flat base and steep sides. This feature survived to a maximum depth of c. 0.25m. It contained a soft, mid-brownish grey silty-sand with occasional flecks of charcoal (104), from which a single sherd of Late Saxon pottery was collected, along with a single fragment of lava quern.

The intended function and overall character of this feature remains uncertain, although it appears to be too shallow for a midden or extraction pit. It may currently be interpreted as a hollow for a timber structure along the lines of a sunken feature building, or possibly a hollow created for a less conspicuous wattle and daub shelter. No associated postholes or stakeholes were identified within the confines of the evaluation trench to grant any further merit to this theory.



Plate 3. Ditch [105]. (looking SW)
[1x1m Scale in foreground]

A shallow ditch base or possible gully ([105]) was investigated, which terminated within c. 0.2m of the feature [103]. This linear feature was aligned south-north running 'away' from feature [103], for a distance of c. 5m before kinking to the north-east. It had a concave to wide V-shaped profile, undulating in depth from c. 100mm to 200mm. It contained a soft,

mid-brownish grey silty-sand with very rare flecks of charcoal (106 = 107), from which a single piece of daub, three fragments of animal bone and five sherds of pottery of Late Saxon date (Thetford-type ware) were retrieved.



Plate 4. Feature [103] and terminus of [105]
(looking W) [2x1m & 1x0.5m Scales]

7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

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

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

Twenty-one sherds of pottery weighing 320g were collected from five contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included in Appendix 1.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt(g)	Eve	MNV
Sandy Ipswich Ware	SIPS	650-850	1	8		1
Thetford-type ware	THET	10th-11th c.	10	107	0.27	10
Thetford Ware (Grimston)	THETG	10th-11th c.	6	165	0.26	4
Grimston-type coarseware	GRCW	11th-M.13th c.	1	29	0.05	1
Medieval coarseware	MCW	12th-14th c.	1	3		1
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	L.12th-14th c.	1	4		1
Ely-type glazed ware	ELYG	12th-15th c.	1	4		1
Grand Totals			21	320	0.58	19

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series (Anderson unpub). Form terminology is based on MPRG (1998). Thetford-type ware rim forms are based on Anderson (2004) and forms on Dallas (1984) and Little (1994).

Pottery by period

Middle Saxon

An abraded body sherd from subsoil (101) appears to be from a small Ipswich Ware vessel. However, the fabric is similar to Thetford-type ware and this could simply be a poorly-made example.

Late Saxon

Sixteen sherds (272g) from 14 Late Saxon vessels were recovered. All pottery of this date was Thetford-type ware. Fabrics were generally medium sandy, although some finer and coarser sherds were also present and colours were varied from very light grey to black. A few pieces were micaceous. Grimston (or Bircham) Thetford-type ware formed a small proportion of the group, with three sherds from a single vessel.

Five rims were found, of which three were jars and two bowls or dishes. There were two small 'AA' jars, a large 'AC' jar, a bowl with a flat-topped everted rim (Dallas type BB5) and a bowl/dish with an upright rim and curving side (Little type BF, or Dallas type BA1/BB3). Three base-angle sherds were found, two sagging and one flat. All of the five Thetford jar rims were late 10th/11th-century forms (Anderson 2004, types 4 and 6).

Early and high medieval

Four sherds of early and high medieval date were recovered, all from ploughsoil (108) and all showing a degree of abrasion. A large fragment of a rimsherd in Grimston (or similar) coarseware appeared handmade and was relatively thick – the fragment was from a bowl with a tapered everted and thumbbed rim. A medieval coarseware body sherd was in a fine sandy fabric. There were two sherds of glazed wares, one in a Grimston fabric and the other an Ely or Fenland product. The former had traces of ?clear glaze externally but the latter was unglazed.

Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by context is provided in Table 2.

Fill of	Context	Interpretation	Fabrics	Spot date
-	101	Subsoil	SIPS THET THETG	11th c.+
[103]	104	?SFB hollow	THET	11th c.
[105]	106	Ditch-fill	THET	L.9th-11th c.
[103]	107	?SFB hollow	THET	L.9th-11th c.
-	108	Ploughsoil	THET THETG GRCW MCW GRIM ELYG	13th-14th c.+

Table 2. Pottery types present by context: spot dates given for pottery assemblage only

Most of the pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil and subsoil. The medieval wares were probably deposited during manuring, but the Thetford-type wares may have been disturbed from underlying Late Saxon features, two of which were identified during the fieldwork.

Discussion

Excavations at nearby Church Close and North View Drive have produced relatively large quantities of Middle and Late Saxon pottery (Anderson 2006a and b). This group adds to the Late Saxon assemblage and provides evidence for 11th-century activity in the vicinity. As seen at other sites (Anderson 2016), there is a variety of fabrics in the assemblage, suggesting the possibility of more local production sites supplying the area, as well as the known urban and rural potteries.

The medieval group is relatively small and quite abraded. This may indicate deposition via manuring and the spreading of night soil, suggesting that the excavated area had reverted to agricultural fields by the 12th/13th centuries.

- **Lava Quern Fragments**

Two abraded fragments of vesicular lava quern were collected. The piece collected from the surface of the ploughsoil (108), weighs 51g and with one small area of surface surviving. The smaller fragment (22g) is a surface fragment collected from the fill (104) of a shallow Late Saxon feature. No peck marks are evident on either piece and only a broad Saxon to medieval date can be assigned. Such pieces are commonly found in Late Saxon and medieval deposits across East Anglia, where they are usually classified as Rhenish lava stone. The presence of these quern fragments may indicate domestic scale grain processing in the vicinity of the site.

- **Iron Nail**

A single, near complete hand-made iron nail was collected from the subsoil (101), weighing 2g. The nail measures 47mm in length, with a square shank and a sub-oval head and is likely to be of medieval to post-medieval date.

- **Lead Cloth Seal**

A single circular half from a two-disc medieval lead cloth seal was collected from the ploughsoil (108). The piece measures 17mm in diameter with a central hole (to receive the rivet disc) and weighs 2.33g

- **Lead**

Four small pieces of lead of uncertain date were collected from the ploughsoil (108), with a combined weight of 15g. Three of the pieces are melted and one is a small off-cut scrap.

- **Burnt Stone**

A single cracked fragment of a heavily burnt quartzite stone (a glacial erratic), was collected from the subsoil (101), weighing 60g. Such stone may be burnt incidentally from hearth activity of any historic or prehistoric period.

- **Fired Clay**

A single small piece (7g) of hard fired clay was collected from the fill (106) of a probable Late Saxon ditch/gully [105]. The fabric is a pale pinkish orange, with moderate chalk inclusions and a single flat surface. The presence of a surface indicates that the piece may be burnt daub derived from a structure, such as an oven, furnace or walling.

- **Animal bone**

Just three fragments of animal bone in moderate condition were collected from the fill (106) of a probable Late Saxon ditch/gully ([105]), with a combined weight of 23g. Two of the pieces are spirally broken limb fragments, smashed to remove the marrow. The other is a fragment of bovine vertebrae. The bone indicates the minor disposal of butchered animal waste, although it is unclear if this material may have been brought onto the site as midden material to be spread onto the fields.

- **Iron harness buckle**

A robust iron harness buckle with fixed strap-end of probable post-medieval date with a roughly square loop was collected from the ploughsoil (108), weighing 31g.

- **Post-medieval buttons**

Two copper-alloy discoidal buttons of 18th to 19th century date were collected from the ploughsoil (108). One is a small tombac button, missing its suspension loop (18mm diameter, weighing 2.65g). It has a large sunflower like design, with cross-hatched centre. The other is a simple copper-alloy button, with a soldered loop and traces of silver tinning (20mm diameter, 3.16g).

8.0 Conclusions

The ploughsoil proved to be c. 0.4m deep, overlaying a thin subsoil of up to c. 0.2m thick. Pottery collected from these soil horizons include both Saxon and early medieval wares, the medieval sherds being relatively small and abraded and more likely spread here via manuring activity. This may suggest that the area had reverted to agricultural fields by the 12th to 13th centuries.

Two shallow archaeological features of probable Late Saxon date were investigated below the subsoil, which have survived 19th to 20th century ploughing truncation. A few sherds of Late Saxon pottery were collected from them, along with a single piece of daub and three fragments of animal bone. One took the form of a ditch or gully, while the other appeared to be the rounded corner of a distinct straight edged, shallow feature (greater than 2m in length and greater than 1.5m in width; currently interpreted as part of a larger square or rectangular hollow with a fairly flat base and steep sides. The intended function and overall character of this feature remains uncertain, although it appears to be far too shallow for a midden or extraction pit. It may be tentatively interpreted as a hollow for a timber structure along the lines of a sunken feature building, or possibly a hollow created for a less conspicuous wattle and daub shelter. No associated postholes or stakeholes were identified within the confines of the evaluation trench to grant any further merit to this theory.

Noteworthy finds include two fragments of lava quern and part of a medieval lead cloth seal.

Any recommendations for further archaeological mitigation work ahead of the proposed development will be made by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Sally & Matthew Dye who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. The fieldwork was carried out by Andy Barnett and the author. The post-excavation analysis work was carried out by the author, with a contribution from Sue Anderson (Pottery). NHER data was supplied by the Historic Environment Service

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
100	Deposit		V.Friable, dark grey, silty/sandy loam, mod. stones	Ploughsoil	<i>Modern</i>
101	Deposit		Soft, mid-brownish-grey, silty-sand, mod. stones	Subsoil	<i>Medieval to P.med.</i>
102	Deposit		Soft-firm, bands of coarse, poorly sorted gravel and sand, ranging from pale yellowish-grey to orange	Natural geology	<i>Quaternary</i>
103	Cut		Shallow, with a rounded corner and straight sides	Feature	<i>Late Saxon</i>
104	Deposit	[103]	Soft, mid-brownish-grey silty-sand, occ. stones, v.rare charcoal flecks	Fill	<i>Late Saxon</i>
105	Cut		Shallow, wide concave to slightly wide V-shaped profile	Gully/Ditch-base	<i>Late Saxon</i>
106	Deposit	[105]	Soft, mid-grey silty-sand, mod. stones, occ., sand lumps	Fill	<i>Late Saxon</i>
107	Deposit	[103]	Same as (104)	Fill	<i>Late Saxon</i>
108	Deposit		Same as 100 – surface finds in area of trench	Ploughsoil	<i>Modern</i>

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Late Saxon (851 to 1065AD)	Ditch	1
	(Possible) Sunken Feature Building	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
101	Burnt stone	1	60
101	Iron Nail	1	2
101	Pottery	6	126
104	Lava Quern fragment	1	22
104	Pottery	1	12
106	Animal bone	3	23
106	Fired clay -daub	1	7
106	Pottery	4	39
107	Pottery	1	2
108	Copper-alloy buttons	2	5.81
108	Iron object – harness buckle	1	31
108	Lava Quern fragment	1	51
108	Lead	4	15
108	Lead object – cloth seal	1	2.33
108	Pottery	8	133

Appendix 2b: Finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Burnt stone – quartzite	1
	Lead	4
Middle Saxon (651 to 850AD)	Pottery	1
Late Saxon (851 to 1065AD)	Animal bone	3
	Fired clay – daub	1
	Lava Quern fragments	2
	Pottery	16
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Lead cloth seal	1
	Pottery	4
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Copper-alloy buttons	2
	Iron harness buckle	1
	Iron Nail	1

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Rims*	No.	Wt/g	Spot date	Sherd date range
101	SIPS			1	8		650-850
101	THET			1	13		10th-11th c.
101	THET	Small AA jar	4	1	12	L.10-11	10th-11th c.
101	THETG			1	9		10th-11th c.
101	THETG		flat-topped everted	3	92		10th-11th c.
104	THET	Small AA jar	6	1	12	11	10th-11th c.
106	THET			4	39		10th-11th c.
107	THET			1	2		10th-11th c.
108	ELYG			1	4		Med-LMed
108	GRCW	Bowl	tapering everted	1	29		11th-M.13th c.
108	GRIM			1	4		L.12th-14th c.
108	MCW			1	3		L.12th-14th c.
108	THET			2	29		10th-11th c.
108	THETG		upright plain	1	12		10th-11th c.
108	THETG	Large AC jar	4	1	52	L.10-11	10th-11th c.

*Rims: Thetford types 1–7 (Anderson 2004).

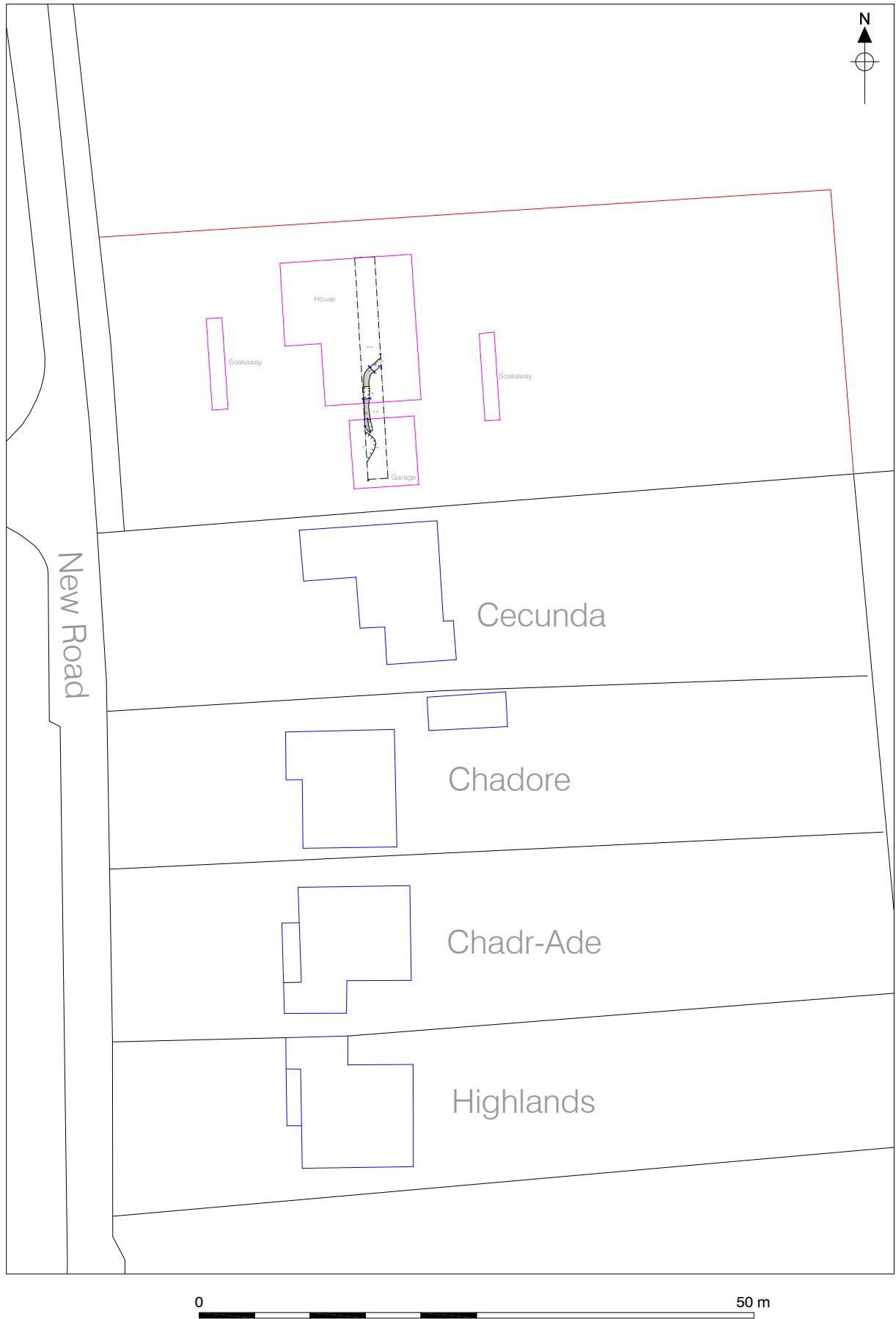
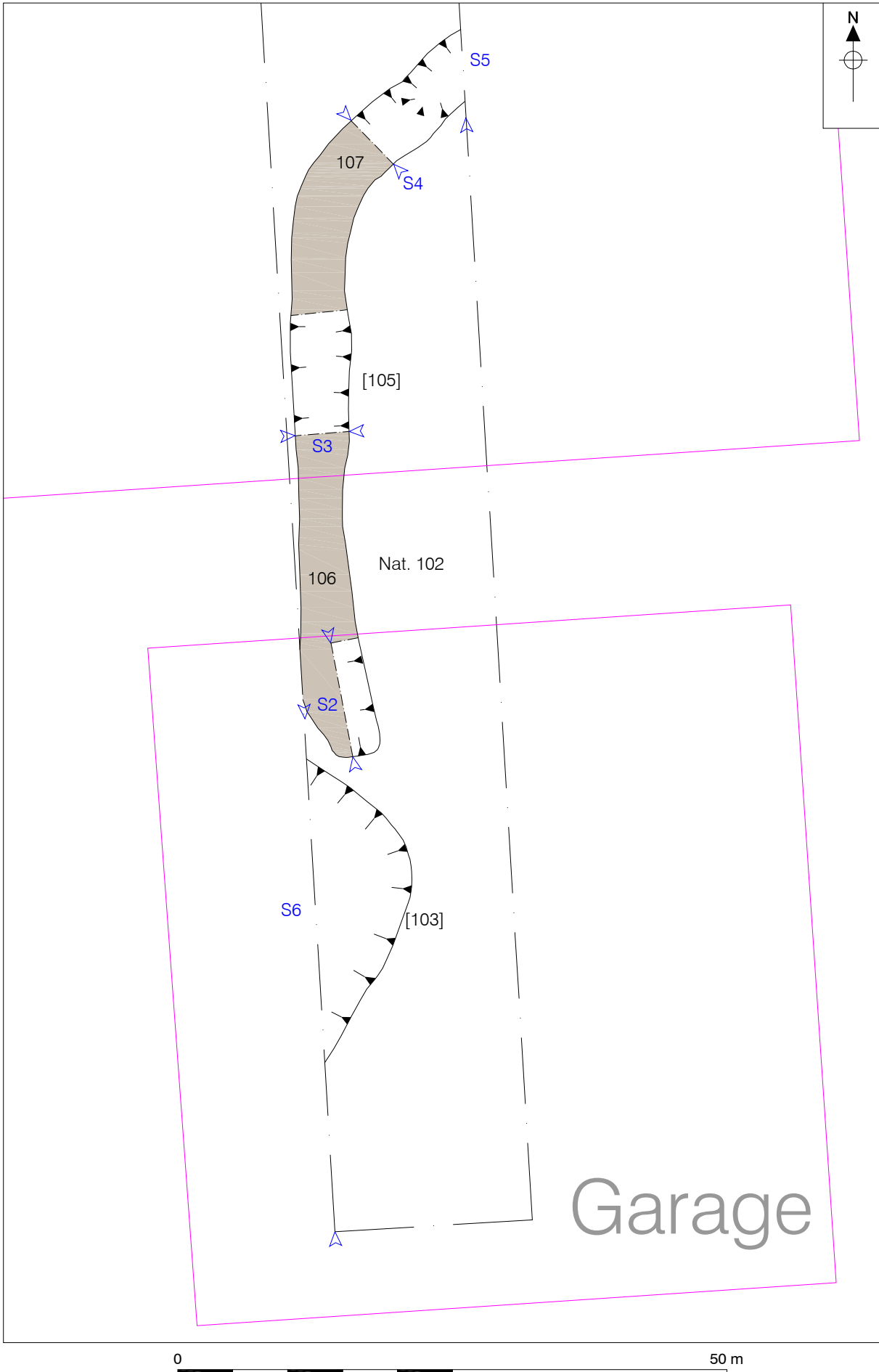


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:500



Figure 3. Evaluation trench plan. Scale 1:200



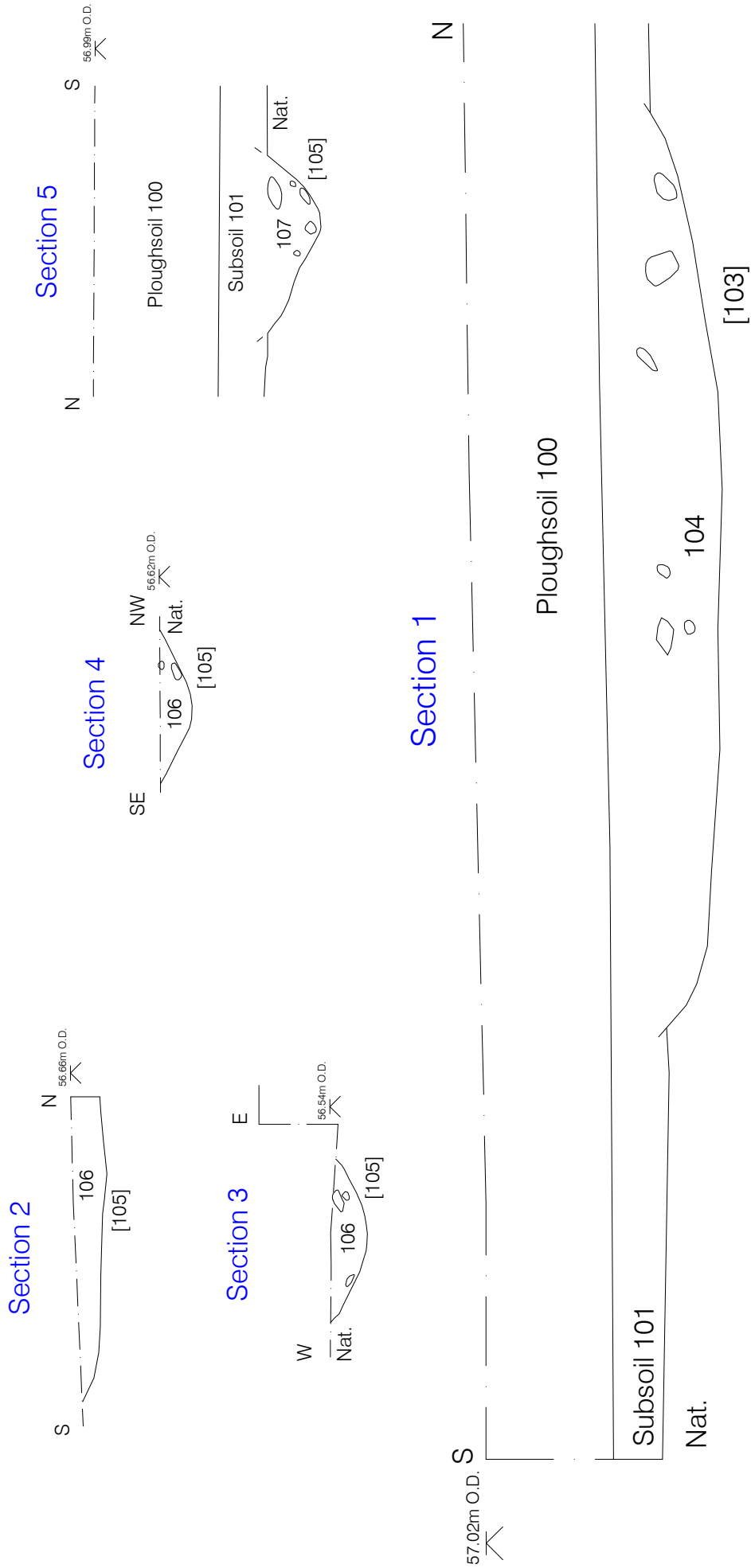


Figure 2. Recored Section 1 to 5. Scale 1:20

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OASIS ID: norvicar1-298288

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of an evaluation by trial trench of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett. The plot (c. 1700 m2) is located in the very south-west corner of an agricultural field to the east of the main settlement, where surface finds of Saxon metal work (including brooches) have led to suggestions of an Early Saxon cemetery. Multi-period objects have been previously recovered in the area, including Mesolithic, Roman Saxon and Medieval finds. To the west of the site, closer to the medieval church, previous archaeological investigations confirmed the presence of a Middle to Late Saxon settlement, including human remains, indicative of a possible cemetery. Two shallow archaeological features of probable Late Saxon date were investigated below the subsoil, which have survived 19th to 20th century ploughing truncation. One took the form of a ditch or gully, while the other was part of a larger square or rectangular hollow with a fairly flat base and steep sides, tentatively suggested to be the rounded corner of a Sunken Feature Building. Noteworthy finds include Saxon to early medieval pottery two fragments of lava quern and part of a medieval lead cloth seal.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2017 End: 14-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF142579 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2017/365 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2016/1520/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	SUNKEN FEATURE BUILDING? Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BURNT STONE - QUARTZITE Uncertain
Significant Finds	LEAD Uncertain

Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY - DAUB Early Medieval
Significant Finds	LAVA QUERN FRAGMENTS Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD CLOTH SEAL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY BUTTONS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON HARNESS BUCKLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND WHISSONSETT land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett, Norfolk.
Postcode	NR20 5TA
Study area	1700 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 9210 2341 52.773635765709 0.848173048996 52 46 25 N 000 50 53 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Norvic Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Norvic Archaeology
Project director/manager	Giles Emery
Project supervisor	Giles Emery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Dye

Project archives

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

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Cecunda, New Road, Whissonsett, Norfolk.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Emery, G
Other bibliographic details	Norvic Archaeology Report No. 99
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