

# Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church, Church Lane, Marsham, Norfolk.



Prepared on behalf of the Marsham PCC

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Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church,  
 Church Lane, Marsham, Norwich. NR10 5RB.

<b>Location:</b>	Marsham
<b>Grid Ref (of church):</b>	TG 1966 2370
<b>NHES Event No:</b>	ENF141918
<b>Dates of fieldwork:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March & 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> of April 2017

## 1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Ken Grape of the Marsham PCC to undertake Archaeological Monitoring during the installation of a water pipe connection trench and a Trench Arch foul waste system on the north side of All Saints Church, Marsham.

All Saint's Church at Marsham is a 13th century and later parish church with a west tower, north aisle, south aisle, south porch, nave, clerestory, vestry and chancel. The south porch has a 13th century door and the north door is medieval. Most of the chancel dates to the 19th century restoration of 1853. Inside, there is a restored 15th century hammer beam roof with later tie beams and binders. Marsham Hall Park to the east was established by 1797 and just to the west of the church is the site of a WWI military airfield, first used in 1915. Reported metal detected finds are relatively common from the fields surrounding the church, with multi-period finds including Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, coinage and metalwork. In 1984, a 14th century seal matrix was found in the churchyard.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in consultation with Paula Kyriakou of the Historic Environment Service in accordance with a Faculty of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Norwich relating to the works. 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 description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

## 2.0 Summary of Results

Grave soils appeared to be deeper at the eastern end of the church, where no distinct grave cuts were recognised. Five graves were recorded in the Trench Arch trench, which included at least two separate phases of burial activity of medieval to late post-medieval date, with a further four graves recorded in the waterpipe trench.

The water pipe trench revealed some sub-surface detail of the brick blocked north doorway and the footings of the nave, where a hard granite threshold-stone may have served as a replacement to a medieval limestone threshold above the flint and mortar footings of the north aisle.

The trenching work revealed small quantities of residual evidence of human activity that pre-dates the church. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was collected, along with three sherds of Romano-British greyware and a 4<sup>th</sup>-century Roman coin. The Roman finds may relate to Roman activity recognised previously in the general area, through surface finds in fields around the church.

Two medieval halfpennies, two medieval to late medieval jettons, a 17th century halfpenny and a Georgian half penny were found through metal detection within the trenches. Other noteworthy finds include the neck of 17<sup>th</sup> century onion style wine bottle, a single musket ball and two pieces of medieval window glass (one of which has traces of paint from a stiff leaf grisaille design, suggesting a 13<sup>th</sup> century date).

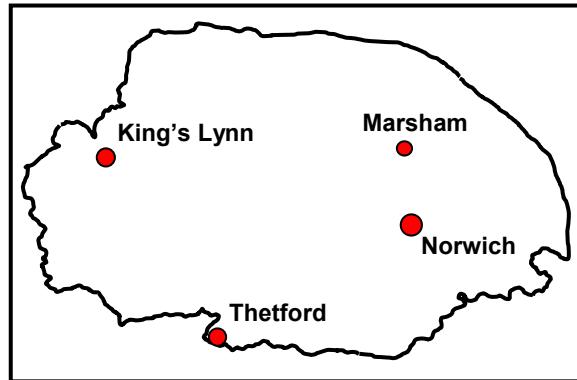


Figure 1. General site location plan

### 3.0 Geology and Topography

All Saints Church at Marham is located on the western side of the A140 at c. 30m OD. The main settlement lies mostly to the north, c. 15km north of Norwich in the district of Broadland. The northern parish boundary follows the course of a stream known as 'The Mermaid', situated to the north of the church by c. 700m, which is a tributary to the River Bure to the east.

The underlying geology is recorded as Quaternary Period sand and gravels (Wroxham Crag Formation), overlain by glacial outflow deposits of sands, 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 mineralised clay-sand.

#### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Marsham's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has generated well over 100 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

Marsham is called 'Marsam' in the Domesday Book of 1086. This Old English can be interpreted as 'homestead or village by the marsh' (Mills 1998). In 1086, King William I, the Bishop of Thetford, Ralph of Beaufour and Walter Giffard held land in the parish. Freemen, villagers, smallholders, ploughs, meadow, woodland, cattle, pigs, goats and beehives were recorded, as were links with manors in Cawston, Brampton and Stratton Strawless.

All Saint's Church at Marsham (NHER 7524) is a 13th century and later parish church with a west tower, north aisle, south aisle, south porch, nave, clerestory, vestry and chancel. The south porch has a 13th century door and the north door is medieval. Most of the chancel dates to the 19th century restoration of 1853. Inside, there is a restored 15th century hammer beam roof with later tie beams and binders, the remains of 15th century screen decorated with sixteen painted saints and a font that dates to about 1460.

Two small decorated fragments of medieval glass can be viewed in the tracery of a window in the North aisle – a crude medieval depiction of an elephant and a unicorn, the only two such beasts depicted in East Anglia. These are all that remain from a wealth of fine medieval stained glass removed in 1824. Some of the glass is now in a house in St Mary's Plain in Norwich and some is at Bramerton Hall (Marsham PCC 2017). Stained glass in the Chancel is by Charles Kemp, c.1900 and the east window dates to c.1908 and may be by J.Powell & Son (Pevsner & Wilson 607, 1997).

Marsham Hall Park was established by 1797 to the east on the other side of the A140 (NHER 45328). Just to the west of the church is the site of a WWI military airfield, first used in 1915 (NHER 13619).

Reported metal detected finds are relatively common from the fields surrounding the church, with multi-period finds which include Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, coinage and metalwork (NHER 22040, 45326, 33888, 33099, 11390, 18812). In 1984 a 14th century seal matrix was found in the churchyard.

The route of the Roman routeway known as the Fen Causeway (NHE2796) passes c. 325m south of the church and large numbers of Roman pottery sherds suggest a pottery production site c. 1.2km to the south-east (NHER 39705).

**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)*

##### *Selected Monument Records*

**NHER 13619: Site of a World War One military airfield just to the west of the Church.** The site of a World War One military airfield. It was first used in 1915. NB: Metal detecting finds from this area now recorded as NHER 45326. [c.120m W]

**NHER 45328. Marsham Hall Park.** A post-medieval landscape park associated with Marsham Hall (NHER 25917) lies on the eastern side of the A140 from the Church. It was established by 1797, when its extent was published on Faden's map of Norfolk. Between 1797 and 1826 it was reduced in size, with northern sections put to agricultural use. [c.160m E]

**2796: Fen Causeway Roman road.** The Fen Causeway is the name given to the Roman road which runs from a junction with Ermine Street and King Street near Peterborough across the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk fens. The route has been plotted on an east west alignment across agricultural fields just to the south of Marsham. The causeway was first recorded by Dugdale in 1772. In places the road is known to run along the crest of a roddon of a natural watercourse and is therefore quite sinuous, while straighter alignments may follow an artificial canal. In Norfolk, the Fen Causeway runs between Upwell and Denver, but in places there is more than one possible route. East of Denver, the road then probably divides into two, with one route heading due east to the Roman town of Venta Icenorum at Caistor St Edmund (NHER 9786) and the other heading northeast towards the Roman town at Brampton (NHER 1006 and 1124). The upland continuation of the Fen Causeway between Denver and Brampton is included under NHER 2796. In a number of places the road is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs, whilst in several places it survives as a landscape feature. Sections of the road have been excavated on a number of occasions, revealing a cambered metalled surface and side ditches. At Denver, it is dated to the 1st century AD, and there is evidence of extensive settlement and salt production beside it (NHER 4240). Excavations at Downham West in 1993 examined a complex sequence of deposits, including the roddon of a natural watercourse into which a canal had been dug, probably in the early 2nd century AD. The first road surface was found to predate the canal, while a second road surface probably ran beside the canal. [c.325m S]

**NHER 9873. Undated soilmarks and multi-period finds.** A number of undated dark soilmarks have been identified. It has been suggested that these could be these remains of a kiln or a hearth. Prehistoric pot boilers, Roman and medieval coins and a post medieval token have been collected, but unfortunately these do not provide a date for the soilmarks. [c. 560m S]

**NHER 44782. Bolwick Park.** A post-medieval landscape park that surrounds Bolwick Hall (NHER 7523). It includes open parkland, a number of plantations and a large lake. Two mounds (NHER 7485 and 11276) to the south of the Hall may be landscape features, although they could be Bronze Age round barrows. [c. 600m NNE]

**NHER 41686: Medieval buckle and post medieval crotal bell.** In 2005 a metal detectorist found a 13th century buckle and a post-medieval crotal bell on fields to the west of Shephard's Lane. [c. 750m W]

**NHER 24414 & 45327. Possible Roman kiln and multi-period finds plus undated enclosures and soilmarks.** Fieldwalking and metal detecting between 1988 and 1998 have identified a possible Roman kiln, a possible Roman settlement and multi-period finds (NHER 24414) on the site of undated enclosures and soilmarks (NHER 45327). The finds recovered include part of a Late Saxon brooch and Roman pottery, brick, tegulae, coins and possible kiln furniture. The finds suggest that there was a Roman settlement on the site and that enclosures visible on aerial photographs (NHER 45327) may have been an integral part of this. An area of dark soil may indicate the site of a Roman kiln; this may correspond with a soilmark visible on aerial photographs (NHER 45327). A group of Roman kilns (NHER 1006) are known from Brampton Roman town about 2km to the east. [c. 800m S]

**NHER 36465. Undated cropmarks and a possible Roman road.** A double-ditched linear feature, enclosures and other linear features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The double-ditched feature could be a section of the Roman road from Brampton to Denver (NHER 2796). One of the enclosures appears to pre-date the double-ditched feature. [c. 950m ESE]

**NHER 39705. Possible Roman pottery production site and multi-period finds.** Metal-detecting in 2003 and 2015 within fields close to the route of the Fen Causeway recovered a Neolithic/Bronze Age flint knife; Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and a medieval strap-end. The large number of Roman pottery sherds was recovered from a discreet area and could suggest pottery production on the site. [c.1.2km SE]

### *Selected Find spots from the immediate vicinity of the church*

**NHER 22040. Multi-period finds.** Metal detectorists have found Roman, Late Saxon, medieval and post medieval objects from a field immediately west of the Church They include a Roman cosmetic mortar, a coin of Edward the Confessor, medieval coins, part of a medieval dog-shaped padlock and a fragment of a musket ball mould. [c. 80m W]

**NHER 45326. Roman and Late Saxon to post-medieval finds.** Metal-detecting in 1986 and between 2012 and 2015 of fields to the west of the Church recovered a few Roman and Late Saxon to post-medieval pottery sherds; Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; medieval tokens; medieval to post-medieval jettons and Middle/Late Saxon to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include a Middle/Late Saxon hooked tag; medieval to post-medieval dress accessories; a medieval gold finger-ring, book clasp, thimble, lead weight and coin weight; a medieval/post-medieval hooked book fitting, purse bar fragment, discoidal lead weight, possible keyhole cover and a copper alloy vessel fragment and post-medieval cloth seals, harness mounts, a thimble, part of a pair of dividers and a rowel spur. [c. 120m W]

**NHER 33888. Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds.** In 1998 a field walker found fragments of Roman and medieval pottery. Metal detecting in 2008 produced further Roman, Medieval and post-medieval finds. [c. 140m E]

**NHER 33099. Roman to post-medieval finds.** A medieval decorated skillet handle was recovered as a stray find in 1995 while sporadic metal-detecting between 2000 and 2014 recovered Roman and medieval pottery sherds; Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; medieval and post-medieval jettons and Late Saxon to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include a Late Saxon/post-medieval spindle whorl; medieval dress accessories and an enamelled mount; medieval/post-medieval weights, including an apothecary weight and an unusual early post-medieval strap fitting. [c. 180m SW]

**NHER 11390. Multi-period finds.** A Mesolithic flint tranchet axehead and a broken and rechipped Neolithic polished flint axehead were found here by chance at some time prior to 1976. Subsequent metal-detecting between 1997 and 2007 recovered an undatable prehistoric flint flake; Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins; a post-medieval token and Roman to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include Roman brooches; an Early Saxon brooch fragment; a Late Saxon harness strap distributor and strap end; medieval to post-medieval dress accessories; a medieval signet ring, lead ampulla fragments, key and lead weight; medieval/post-medieval copper alloy vessel fragments and a post-medieval strainer, copper alloy seal matrix and silver thimble. [c. 300m NE]

**NHER 18812. Medieval and post-medieval finds.** Sporadic metal-detecting between 1983 and 2016 recovered medieval and post-medieval coins; post-medieval jettons and tokens and medieval to post-medieval metal objects. The metal finds include a medieval strap-end and a badly damaged ampulla; a medieval/post-medieval thimble and button and a post-medieval furniture handle, coin weight and button. [c. 400m W]

### *Selected Listed Building records in the immediate vicinity of the church*

**NHER 7524. All Saints' Church, Marsham.** A 13th century and later parish church with a west tower, north aisle, south aisle, south porch, nave, clerestory, vestry and chancel. The south porch has a 13th century door and the north door is medieval. Most of the chancel dates to the 19th century restoration. Inside there is a 15th century hammer beam roof with later tie beams and binders, the remains of 15th century screen decorated with sixteen painted saints and a font that dates to about 1460. In 1984 a 14th century seal matrix was found in the churchyard.

**NHER 53198. Church Farm Barn, Church Lane.** In April 2010 an historic building survey was undertaken at Church Farm Barn (contiguous with the southern wall of the church yard) ahead of plans to convert the building into a dwelling and demolish the builder's store. The barn is constructed from traditional Norfolk red brick with a Norfolk clay pantile roof and comprises a two-storey annex attached to one gable. The barn dates from the 1800's and is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition OS map.

**NHER 44524. The Old Rectory.** An early 19th century and later Grade II Listed house, formerly a rectory. It is built of brick, is colour washed and has two storeys, attics and slate roofs. There is a single storey service wing to the west. [c. 35m NNW]

**NHER 17214. Old Registry or Colenso Cottage.** A 17th or 18th century Grade II Listed brick house with a pantile roof. An extension added in 1837 was designed as a registry office and is probably one of the oldest purpose-built registry offices in Britain. The registry moved to Aylsham in 1850s when the parish clerk was transported for fraud. [c. 80m SE]

## 5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the groundworks. The trenchwork was carried out using a 1.5-ton 360° tracked machine fitted with a ditching bucket.

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 images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were tied to an OS benchmark of 29.80m OD located c. 0.2m above ground level on the south-east diagonal buttress of the church.

All human remains collected during the work were reburied within two hand excavated sondages within the area of the groundworks. The work was carried out in dry, overcast weather.

The water pipe trench was excavated to an approximate depth of 0.8m and a width of c.0.4m, while the Trench Arch trench was dug to a maximum depth of c.0.6m and measured c.1m wide by c.16m long.



Plate 2. Water pipe trench.  
(looking W)

## 6.0 Results (Appendix 1a) (Figures 3 & 4)

- **'Natural deposits'**

Natural firm, mineralised clay-sand (05 & 14) was partly exposed within the confines of the water pipe trench at a depth of c.0.9m on the north side of the church. Elsewhere within the service trench, the natural geology was at a greater depth, sealed by cemetery soils.

- **Subsoil/Cemetery Soils**

Above the natural on the north side of the church was a homogenous and soft but dense, mid-yellowish brown very silty-sand (06/33). This subsoil deposit was very damp and only rarely were fragmentary pieces of human bone present. Above this was a more mixed cemetery soil (02/23) of c. 0.5m depth, which can be characterised as a mid-yellowish brown mottled clay-silt and silty-clay. This deposit undoubtedly included grave disturbance (although grave cuts were unable to be clearly defined) and contained a moderate frequency of human bone fragments (nearly exclusively adult remains in variable condition), more frequent at the east end of the church.

The topsoil comprised of an approximately 0.3m deep, mid-brown sandy-loam with occasional fragments of human bone (01/22).



- **Graves**

Nine burials were able to be identified, all of which were recorded within the area north of the nave, where the cemetery soils were shallower than the eastern part of the cemetery. The grave cuts were generally difficult to discern, with several only realised once the level of skeletal remains was encountered.

Four graves were recorded within the base of the water-pipe trench ([07], [10], [11] & [15]). The highly fragmentary and poorly preserved remains of a juvenile individual (SK08) within grave [07] were partially disturbed upon discovery by the trenchwork, while the well-preserved feet and lower legs of an adult were exposed (SK16) within grave [15] with some machine damage – the trench depth being raised slightly to leave the remainder of the individual undisturbed. The two other graves ([10] & [12]) were deeper than the c. 0.8m deep service trench. Grave [10] had been truncated by the insertion of the juvenile burial within grave [07]. These graves are suggested to be of medieval to post-medieval date, primarily based on the lack of residual post-medieval material and evidence of coffin fittings or nails.



Plate 3. Trench Arch trench.  
(looking W) [1x0.5m & 1x1m in fore]

All fragmentary human remains collected from the water pipe trench work were reburied within a slot at the eastern end of grave [07], while a separate slot in the Trench Arch trench accommodated remains collected or excavated from there.

Evidence of five burials were recorded within the Trench Arch trench, along with a distinct cluster of redeposited human bone. Three graves were defined which were deeper than the 0.6m depth of the trench ([24], [34] & [31]) and are suggested to be of late post-medieval date. All three contained a similar mottled mix of silty-sand with occasional small degraded pieces of redeposited human bone and small pieces of late brick. Grave [24] may relate to a broken 18<sup>th</sup>-century headstone.

Two burials were of a shallower depth, both of which were truncated by the later, deeper graves. Only the heavily truncated and poorly preserved right side of an adult pelvis, femur and phalanges of SK26 were present within the trench, the remainder having been cut away by graves [24] and [35]. A poorly preserved juvenile (SK27) was also uncovered, which had been truncated by grave [34] above the lumbar vertebrae. Just to the north-east of this burial was a jumbled cluster of large skeletal fragments (HSR30) from a single adult. These remains appeared to have been resting within the base of a shallow cut, although they may have been redeposited within the backfill of an unrecognizable grave cut. They included tibias, ilium, ulna and femur pieces, which aside from the missing skull, would make up the larger bones more likely to have been collected for reburial following the disturbance of a pre-existing grave.

No grave furniture, coffin nails or residual post-medieval material was present within the excavated burials and their poor preservation, combined with their shallower depth compared to the later post-medieval graves which cut them, suggest medieval to early post-medieval dates for these individuals.

- **Broken headstone and subsurface packing material**

Brick packing material (36) was exposed around the base of a broken 18<sup>th</sup>-century headstone, a stone which at the time of work was resting against an adjacent leaning headstone. The bricks show no sign of mortar bond and are reused Norfolk red bricks, which could be contemporary with the initial setting up of the stone.

- **North doorway**

The service trenching revealed some sub-surface detail of the blocked north doorway and the footings of the nave. The doorway was blocked with two types of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks; a late gault-type brick (18) above current ground level with less attractive sandy Norfolk Red-type bricks below (19). Several large fragments of face-down gravestones had been laid to form hard ground during the blocking work, extending out from the doorway. Below the brick blocking was a hard granite threshold-stone (20), which may have served as a replacement to a medieval limestone threshold. The masonry footings of the north aisle below this were of random fractured flint cobbles set in a pale yellow, gritty sandy mortar (21).



Plate 4. Blocked North Door.  
(looking S) [1x0.5m]

The ground level appears to have been raised in this area by the north door, contemporary with the blocking activity, by as much as 0.5m, with a stony mix of soil (37), occasional late brick and limestone pieces noted in the area immediately adjacent to the north door.

## 7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

- **Pottery**

By Sue Anderson

Nine sherds of pottery weighing 91g were collected from just two contexts during the monitoring. Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Post-Roman wares were identified from Jennings (1981). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric and Table 2 by context.

Description	Fabric	Date Range	No.	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Iron Age flint-tempered	IAFT	Iron Age	1	3		1
Roman greyware	RBGW	1st-4th c.	3	35	0.10	3
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th-12th c.	1	2		1
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	11th-14th c.	1	3		1
Medieval coarseware	MCW	12th-14th c.	1	7		1
Late Medieval & Transitional or GRE	LMT/GRE	16th c.?	1	18	0.05	1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16th-18th c.	7	23		1
<b>Total</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric

Context	Fabric	Type	No.	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date
23	IAFT	U	1	3	1			Iron Age
23	RBGW	U	2	8	2			Roman
23	EMW	U	1	2	1			C11-12
23	LMU	U	1	3	1			C11-14
23	LMT/GRE	R	1	18	1	jar?	complex everted	C16
23	GRE	B	1	23	1			C16-18
28	RBGW	R	1	27	1	bowl	flanged	C2-4
28	MCW?	U	1	7	1			C12-14?

Table 2. Pottery by context and type

Seven sherds were recovered from subsoil (23). These comprised three abraded body sherds of prehistoric and Roman date, body sherds of early and high medieval sandy coarsewares (EMW, LMU), a rim fragment of a late medieval or early post-medieval jar with orange lead glaze containing spots of copper internally, and a base fragment of a post-medieval glazed red earthenware flatware with orange glaze internally.

Grave fill (28) contained an abraded rim fragment from a Roman flange-rimmed bowl, together with a body sherd of ?medieval coarseware in a medium sandy fabric with an oxidised outer surface. This latter fragment could be earlier (perhaps Roman or prehistoric) but on balance a medieval date seems more likely.

This small assemblage provides evidence for activity of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date on this site, although the condition of the pottery suggests that much of it was redeposited.

- **Bottle Glass**

Two fragments of green bottle glass in moderate and flaky condition were collected from the cemetery soil (23), with a combined weight of 178g. The larger fragment (143g) is the complete neck of an onion style wine bottle of c.1680-1730, the form of the string-rim suggests a pre-1700s date (after Shopland 147, 2005). The other piece is a base fragment from a more cylindrical type of bottle with a fairly high kick of mid-18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

- **Musketball**

A single lead musket ball with a white patina was found in the cemetery soils (23) using a metal detector. The ball has a diameter of 15mm and weighs 13.54g. Despite a relatively rough casting sprue scar, the ball appears to have been fired and has struck a solid object, causing approximately one-quarter of it to have deformed and fragmented away.

- **Thimble**

A copper-alloy cast thimble (5.56g) [height 20mm, diameter 17mm], was collected from subsoil/cemetery soils (02). This thimble is a simple late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century type, with an ill-defined band at the base.

- **Tobacco pipe**

Three clay tobacco pipe stem pieces (8g) were collected as stray finds from the cemetery soils (23). The stem pieces are of likely 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date based on the general range of bore sizes.

- **Slate**

A single fragment of purple slate roof tile (32g) of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date was collected from the cemetery soils (23).

- **Worked stone**

A single small and abraded fragment of Barnack-type limestone (77g) was collected from the topsoil (01). The clawed tooling marks on a surviving surface suggest a broad medieval date range.

- **Animal bone**

A small fragment of sheep or goat mandible along with its recently erupted molar (9g) was collected from the cemetery soils (23).

- **Medieval Window Glass**

Two pieces of medieval window glass were collected from the cemetery soils (23):

- A small piece of medieval ruby-red window glass (3g) with grozed edges in moderate condition
- A very small piece of opaque painted medieval window glass of 13th to 14th century date in poor condition (1g). A trace-line survives along one edge which could be part of a stiff leaf grisaille design, suggesting a 13th century date.

- **Lead waste**

Sixteen pieces of lead waste were collected from the topsoil and cemetery soils, associated with the construction and maintenance of the church from medieval to modern periods:

- Three pieces of lead were collected from the cemetery soils (02) with a combined weight of 36g. They include two off-cuts and one large droplet.
- Eight from (23): total weight of 352g includes: three puddle lead, two folded off-cuts and three poured lead masonry joints used for bonding architectural stone.
- A further five pieces from the topsoil (01) four folded off-cuts and one puddled lump.

- **Ceramic Building Material**

A small assemblage (11 fragments) of ceramic building material was collected during the monitoring work, with a combined weight of 470g. The assemblage has been counted, weighed and examined to assess fabric and forms present and to identify any unusual or diagnostic pieces (see accompanying table). All the material was residual and fragmentary within the topsoil and cemetery soil. Aside from a single fragment of late medieval floor tile, the assemblage comprises of roof tile of medieval and post-medieval date, which may be attributed to elements of the church building.

Context	Material	No.	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Description/comment	Period
01	Roof tile	5	257	15	Medium-sandy, pinkish-ornage to mid-orange (one over-fired grey). Flat plain roof tiles, two peg-holes present.	Post-medieval
23	Floor tile	1	10	19	Medium sandy, mid orange fabric. Uneven thickness, knife-cut chamfered edges. .Mod. abraded.	Late Medieval
23	Ridge tile	1	101	25	Well-abraded, medium-sandy, pale orange, to grey with well-oxidised core	Medieval
23	Roof tile	3	85	10-17	Medium sandy, pale to mid orange. Flat roof tiles, e, trace of green glazed on one piece, abraded.	Medieval
23	Roof tile	1	17	13	Medium-sandy, pinkish-orange	Post-medieval
<i>Totals</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>470</i>			

Ceramic Building Material Catalogue

- **Coins & Tokens** (Appendix 3)

By Andy Barnett

During the monitoring of the service trench and Trench Arch trench within the churchyard, five coins and two jettons were recovered by metal detector survey. All the coins and jettons were issued Small Find numbers (SF1-7) for ease of reference. They ranged in date from the Roman period to Post-Medieval period. Three of the coins and the two jettons were struck in copper alloy and two of the coins were struck in silver. A detailed catalogue of the coins is included in Appendix 3.

*The Coins*

The earliest coin found (SF7), was a House of Constantine AE3, Beata Tranquilitas. 321-324 AD. It was quite worn with chipped edges and this has hindered further identification.

Next in date were two medieval round halfpennies. SF6 was worn almost smooth and undateable and had been snapped in half at some point in time. The only visible feature of this coin was a set of three pellets that would have been located on the reverse in the angles of the long cross. SF5 was a halfpenny of Henry VI, 1422-1461 dated to 1453 and, in comparison, was fairly well preserved; except for a smooth area at the edge of the coin between the 6 and 10 o'clock position on the obverse that translated itself to the reverse. This rendered those parts of the legends illegible.



Plate 5. SF:5  
(halfpenny of Henry VI)

The last two coins were both post-medieval copper-alloy halfpennies. The first (SF2) is of William III 1689-1702 dated to 1695-1698 and the other was an Irish 'HIBERNIA' halfpenny (SF1) of George III dated to 1769. Both are well worn and have seen lengthy service.

*The Jettons*

Of the two copper alloy jettons found SF4 is the best preserved. This Jetton is a Dauphine-type issued c.1480-1500, although it is probably closer to 1500 due to the non-literate legend (Mitchener, Vol I p345). It has a broad flan with some vestiges of silvering remaining and is in reasonable condition. By contrast SF3 is very worn, has been struck by something that has left dimples on the flan, and has also been bent in half. It dates to the 16th or 17th century and is probably a Rose/Orb Jetton minted in Nuremberg.



Plate 6. SF:4.  
(French Medieval Jetton)

*Summary*

Although this is a relatively small assemblage it is notable that six of the coins/tokens all came from the eastern half of the Trench Arch trench located on the northern side of the church.

**8.0 Conclusions**

Grave soils appeared to be deeper at the eastern end of the church, where no distinct grave cuts were recognised. A moderate quantity of fragmentary human bone was collected during the work, more frequent at the east end of the church, possibly as a result of late post-medieval grave digging.

Five graves were recorded in the Trench Arch trench, which included at least two separate phases of burial activity. Three of these may be attributable to late post-medieval burials, while two were much shallower and the partial remains of two individuals required excavation to allow for the 0.6m deep formation depth of the Trench Arch. Both were truncated by later graves, one was a poorly preserved juvenile and the other an adult. In addition, a jumbled cluster of bone from a single adult was encountered, which was probably reburied during grave digging activity. Four graves were recorded within the base of the waterpipe trench which include the poorly preserved remains of a juvenile and an adult. No grave furniture, coffin nails or residual post-medieval material were present within the excavated burials and their poor preservation, combined with their shallower depth compared to the later post-medieval graves which cut them suggest medieval to early post-medieval dates for these individuals.

The water pipe trench revealed some sub-surface detail of the blocked north doorway and the footings of the nave. The doorway was blocked with 18th to 19th century brick, with several face-down grave stones laid to form hard ground during the blocking work, extending out from the doorway. Below the brick blocking was a hard granite threshold-stone, which may have served as a replacement to a medieval limestone threshold above the flint and mortar footings of the north aisle.

The trenching work revealed small quantities of residual evidence of human activity that pre-dates the church. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was collected, along with three sherds of Romano-British greyware and a 4<sup>th</sup>-century Roman coin. The Roman finds may relate to general Roman activity recognised previously in the area though surface finds in fields around the church.

Two medieval halfpennies, two medieval to late medieval jettons, a 17<sup>th</sup> century halfpenny and a Georgian half penny were found through metal detection within the trenches. Other noteworthy finds include the neck of 17<sup>th</sup> century onion style wine bottle, a single musket ball and two pieces of medieval window glass (one of which has traces of paint from a stiff leaf grisaille design, suggesting a 13<sup>th</sup> century date).

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Lt Col Ken Grapes of the Marsham PCC who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Ruth Brennan (Architect) and Michael Sparkes (Building Service Easton) for their assistance and cooperation throughout the project. The field work was carried out by Andy Barnett and the author. The post-excavation analysis work was carried out by the author with contributions by Sue Anderson (pottery) and Andy Barnett (coinage). NHER data was supplied by the Historic Environment Service

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

SSD	Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
Water Tr.	01	Deposit		Soft, mid-brown (silty) sandy-loam. Occ. HSR frags. occ. stones. c. 0.3m deep	Topsoil	Modern
Water Tr.	02	Deposit		Soft/dense, mid-yellowish-brown mottled clay-silt/silty-sand, mod. HSR frags. occ. stones. >0.5m deep	Subsoil/Cemetery soils	P.Med+
Water Tr.	03	Deposit		Firm, mid-yellowish-grey silt and gravel 0.35m thick (upper part of 37)	Gravel make-up	L.P.Med
Water Tr.	04	Deposit		Firm, mid-yellowish-grey silty-sand, occ. late brick frags (part of 37)	Make-up	L.P.Med
Water Tr.	05	Deposit		Firm, mineralised sand and clay-sand, v. pale brownish-yellow	Natural Sand Geology	Quaternary
Water Tr.	06	Deposit		Soft/dense, mid-yellowish-brown v.silty-sand (v.damp), fairly homogenous, rare HSR frags.	Subsoil/Cemetery soils	Med+
Water Tr.	07	Cut		c. W-E grave cut	Grave	?Medieval
Water Tr.	08	Skeleton	[08]	V. poorly preserved juvenile remains	Inhumation	?Medieval
Water Tr.	09	Deposit	[08]	Soft, mottled yellowish-brown + mid-grey, rare stones, rare degraded redeposited HSR	Grave-fill	?Medieval
Water Tr.	10	Cut		E. end (rounded) of a grave dist. by [07]	Grave	?Medieval
Water Tr.	11	Deposit	[10]	Soft, mottled yellowish-brown + mid-grey, rare stones	Grave-fill	?Medieval
Water Tr.	12	Cut		c. W-E grave cut c. 2m in length	Grave	?Medieval
Water Tr.	13	Deposit	[12]	Soft, mottled yellowish-brown + mid-grey, rare stones, rare degraded redeposited HSR	Grave-fill	?Medieval
Water Tr.	14	Deposit		Firm, mineralised sand and clay-sand, v. pale brownish-yellow	Natural Sand Geology	?Medieval
Water Tr.	15	Cut		C. W-E ephemeral grave cut	Grave	?Medieval
Water Tr.	16	Skeleton	[15]	Well-preserved adult	Inhumation	?Medieval
Water Tr.	17	Deposit	[15]	Soft/dense, mid-yellowish-brown v.silty-sand, rare limestone pieces	Grave-fill	?Medieval
Water Tr.	18	Masonry		Late gault-type brick blocking of north door, set in lime mortar	Brick blocking	C18-19th
Water Tr.	19	Masonry		Late brick (Norfolk Reds) with hard lime mortar	Brick blocking	C18-19th
Water Tr.	20	Masonry		Hard granite stone threshold – poss. replacement to an earlier limestone threshold?	?Threshold	?L.Med+
Water Tr.	21	Masonry		Fractured flint cobbles set in pale yellow, hard, v.gritty coarse sandy mortar	Footings	C14-15 <sup>th</sup>
Tr. Arch	22	Deposit		Soft, mid-brown (silty) sandy-loam. Occ. HSR frags. occ. stones.	Topsoil	Modern
Tr. Arch	23	Deposit		Soft/dense, mid-yellowish-brown v.silty-sand (v.damp), fairly homogenous, rare HSR frags.	Subsoil/Cemetery soils	Med+
Tr. Arch	24	Cut		c. W-E grave, c. 2.3m length with rounded ends	Grave	L.P.Med.
Tr. Arch	25	Deposit	[24]	Soft, mottled mid-brownish-grey + brownish-yellow silty-sand. Rare cbm pieces (late brick), occ. stones, occ. degraded HSR pieces	Grave-fill	L.P.Med.
Tr. Arch	26	Skeleton		Poorly preserved right side of adult pelvis/femur/phalanges only	Inhumation	?Medieval
Tr. Arch	27	Skeleton	[29]	Poorly preserved juvenile, hands resting over pelvis – truncated above lumbar vert. by [34]	Inhumation	?Medieval



SSD	Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
Tr. Arch	28	Deposit	[29]	Soft/dense, mid-brownish-grey v.silty-sand, damp, occ, stones	Grave-fill	?Medieval
Tr. Arch	29	Cut		W-E grave cut	Grave	?Medieval
Tr. Arch	30	HSR		Redeposited cluster of single adult Human Skeletal Remains (inc. large frags. of tibiae, ilium, fibula, ulna, femur).	HSR	?P.med
Tr. Arch	31	Cut		W-E grave cut in area of frequent tree rooting	Grave	L.P.Med
Tr. Arch	32	Deposit	[31]	Soft, mottled mid-brownish-grey + brownish-yellow silty-sand. Rare cbm pieces (late brick), occ. stones, occ. degraded HSR pieces	Grave-fill	L.P.Med
Tr. Arch	33	Deposit		Soft/dense, mottled mid-yellowish brown, mod. sandy patches, occ, stones	Cemetery soils	Medieval
Tr. Arch	34	Cut		c. W-E grave cut c. 2.25m length	Grave	P.med
Tr. Arch	35	Deposit	[34]	Soft, mottled mid-brownish-grey + brownish-yellow silty-sand. Rare cbm pieces (late brick), occ. stones, occ. degraded HSR pieces	Grave-fill	L.P.Med.
Tr. Arch	36	Masonry		Sub-surface prop for an C18th gravestone: Late brick (Norfolk Red - sandy), no mortar present	Grave-stone prop	C18th
Tr. Arch	37	Deposit		Friable, mid-orangey-brown to yellowish-grey well-mixed soil and gravel, occ. cbm and limestone pieces, occ. stones	Mixed gravel + soil make-up	L.P.Med

### ***Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table***

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Churchyard	1
	Grave	6
	Inhumation	4
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Grave	3
	Headstone	1

**Appendix 2a: Finds by Context**

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
01	Ceramic building material – roof tile	5	257	Post-medieval
01	Lead	5	180	
01	Worked stone	1	77	Medieval
02	Coin – Copper Alloy	1	7.2	Post-medieval
02	Copper-alloy object - thimble	1	5.56	
02	Lead	3	36	
23	Animal bone	1	9	
23	Ceramic building material – floor tile	1	10	Medieval
23	Ceramic building material – roof tile	6	213	Medieval
23	Clay tobacco pipe	3	8	
23	Coin – Copper Alloy	1	10.12	Medieval
23	Coin (Jetton) Copper Alloy	1	1.26	L.Med.-E.P.Med.
23	Coin (Jetton) Copper Alloy	1	5.56	Medieval
23	Coin – Silver	1	0.49	Medieval
23	Coin – Silver	1	0.29	Medieval
23	Glass – bottle	2	178	
23	Lead	8	352	
23	Lead object – musketball	1	13.54	
23	Pottery	7	57	
23	Slate – roof tile	1	32	
23	Window Glass – Medieval	2	4	Medieval
28	Pottery	2	34	

**Appendix 2b: Finds summary table**

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Animal bone	1
	Lead	16
Iron Age (800BC to 42AD)	Pottery	3
Roman (42 to 409AD)	Coin – copper-alloy	1
	Pottery	3
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Ceramic building material (roof tile)	5
	Coin – silver	2
	Coin (jetton) – copper-alloy	2
	Pottery	4
	Worked stone	1
	Window glass	2
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Ceramic building material (roof tile)	6
	Copper-alloy – Thimble	1
	Clay tobacco pipe	3
	Coin – copper-alloy	2
	Glass – bottle	2
	Lead – musketball	1
	Pottery	7
Slate	1	

**Appendix 3: Coins & Jettons**

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
1	02	Copper Alloy	Halfpenny	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Halfpenny (Irish)				Obverse Description: Laureate head, right
State: Britain				
Period: Post-medieval				
Ruler: George III r. 1760-1820				Obverse Legend: GEORGIVS REX III
Date: 1769				
Mint: -				Reverse Description: Crowned Harp
Weight: 7.2g				
Diameter: 27mm				Reverse Legend: HIBENIA 1769
Comments: Worn nearly smooth. General outline and legend still recognisable				
Reference: <a href="http://www.irishcoinage.com/MILL4CAT.HTM">http://www.irishcoinage.com/MILL4CAT.HTM</a>				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
2	23	Copper Alloy	Halfpenny	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Halfpenny Type 2				Obverse Description: Laureate bust, right
State: Britain				
Period: Post-medieval				
Ruler: William III r. 1689-1702				Obverse Legend: GVLIELMVS [TERTIVS]
Date: 1695-1698				
Mint: -				Reverse Description: Britannia seated, left
Weight: 10.12g				
Diameter: 28.5mm				Reverse Legend: [BRIT] - NIA
Comments: Worn and corroded, Legend almost legible				
Reference: Peck, C.W. 1994. English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958. P.172/P674				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
3	23	Copper Alloy	Jetton	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Rose/Orb? Jetton				Obverse Description: Alternating Fleur de lis and Crowns with a central ?rose
State: Nuremberg				
Period: Late Med./Early P.Med.				Obverse Legend: NO[...]SOHVN[...]
Ruler: -				
Date: C16th				
Mint: Nuremberg				Reverse Description: Double stranded tressure with imperial orb within
Weight: 1.26g				
Diameter: 29.5mm				Reverse Legend: BCHV[...]
Comments: Worn, dented and bent in half. ?Love token				
Reference: Mitchener, M. 1988. Jettons, Medalets and Tokens Vol I. Seaby				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
4	23	Copper Alloy	Jetton	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Jetton for the Dauphin				Obverse Description: 8 Fleur de Lis within a circle
State: France				
Period: Medieval				Obverse Legend: Fictitious legend of repeating letters separated by two circlets
Ruler: -				
Date: 1480-1500				
Mint: Nuremberg				Reverse Description: Long-cross with alternating dolphins and 3 Lis in the quadrants
Weight: 5.56g				
Diameter: 33mm				Reverse Legend: Fictitious and partially illegible. Similar to Obverse
Comments: Worn but mostly legible. Some silvering traces				
Reference: Mitchener, M. 1988. Jettons, Medalets and Tokens Vol I. Seaby. P.345-348				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
5	23	Silver	Halfpenny	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Halfpenny First Coinage				Obverse Description: Crowned bust facing out
State: England				
Period: Medieval				Obverse Legend: IM Cross Fleuretty Henricvs [REX ANGL]
Ruler: Henry VI r. 1422-1461				
Date: 1453				
Mint: London				Reverse Description: Long cross with three pellets in each quarter
Weight: 0.49g				
Diameter: 13.5mm				Reverse Legend: CIVI-TAS-LON-DON
Comments: Slightly worn on one half. Otherwise in reasonable condition				
Reference: Withers, P. and B. 2003. Halfpennies and Farthings, Henry IV, V and VI. P.35				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
6	23	Silver	?Halfpenny	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: Halfpenny?				Obverse Description: illegible
State: England				
Period: Medieval				Obverse Legend: illegible
Ruler: Unknown				
Date: C13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>				
Mint: -				Reverse Description: Only three pellets visible
Weight: 0.29g				
Diameter: 14.5mm				Reverse Legend: illegible
Comments: Broken in half. Worn smooth.				
Reference: Withers, P. and B. 2003. Halfpennies and Farthings				

SF No.	Context	Metal	Type	Context Type
7	23	Copper Alloy	AE3	Subsoil/cemetery soils
Denomination: AE3 Beata Tranquillitas				Obverse Description: Bust, left. Victory on globe?
State: Rome				
Period: Roman				
Ruler: House of Constantine				Obverse Legend: illegible
Date: 321-324 AD				
Mint: Unknown				
Weight: 1.14g				Reverse Description: Globe on Altar
Diameter: 16mm				
Comments: Very worn, some corrosion. Details just visible.				Reverse Legend: illegible
Reference: Sutherland and Carson. 2003. RIC Vol. VII				

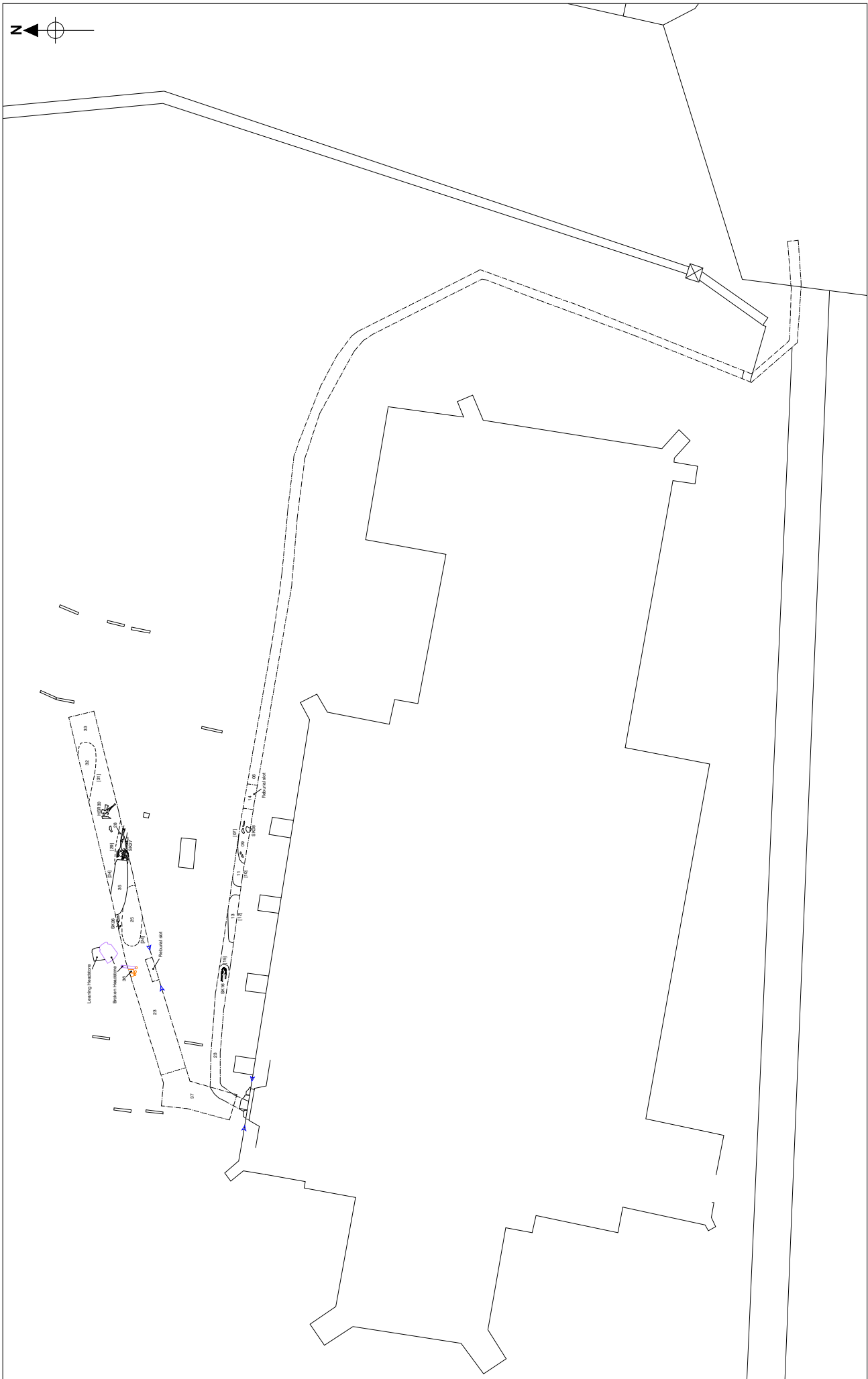


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:200

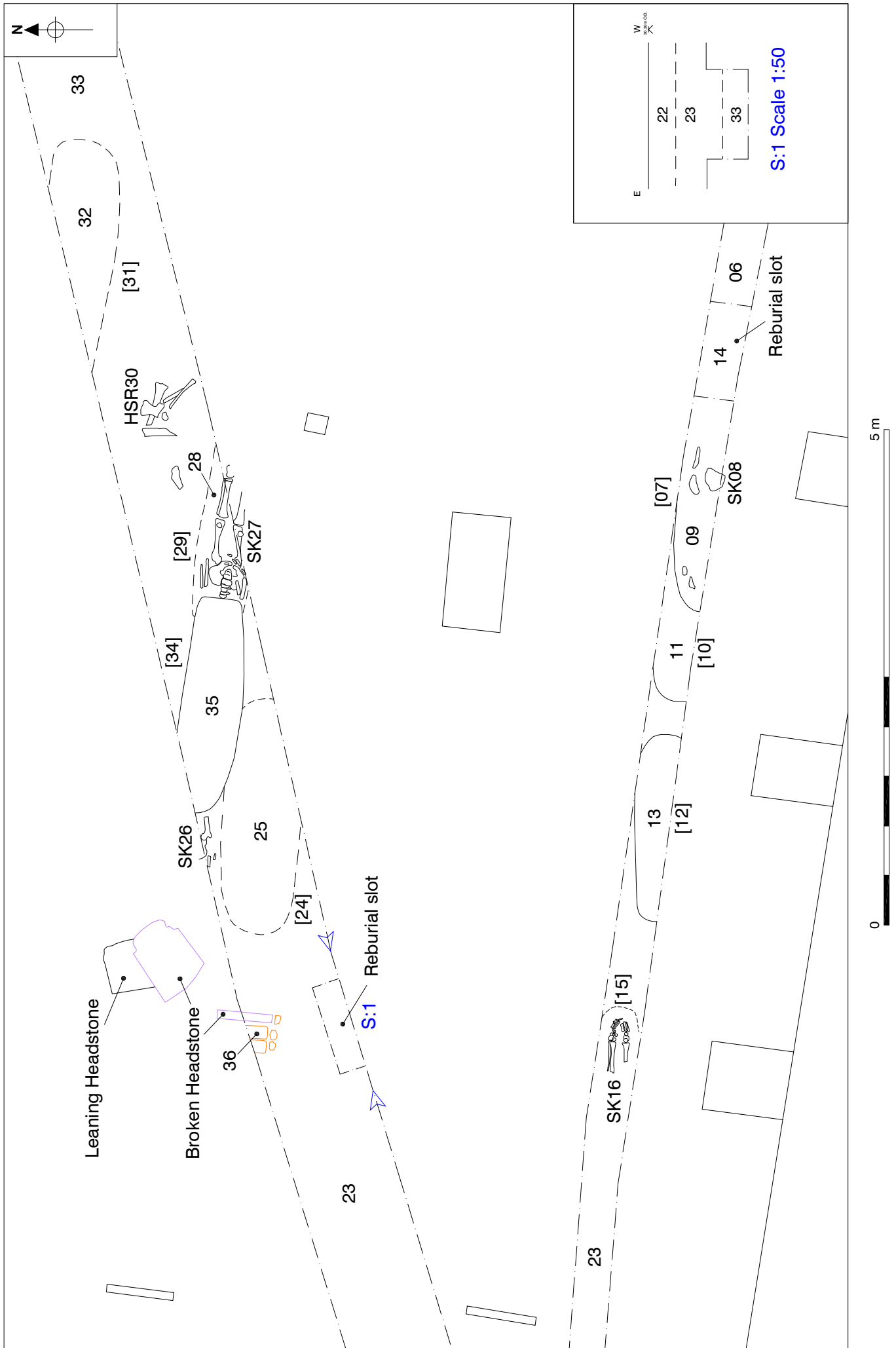


Figure 3. Site plan (features). Scale 1:50

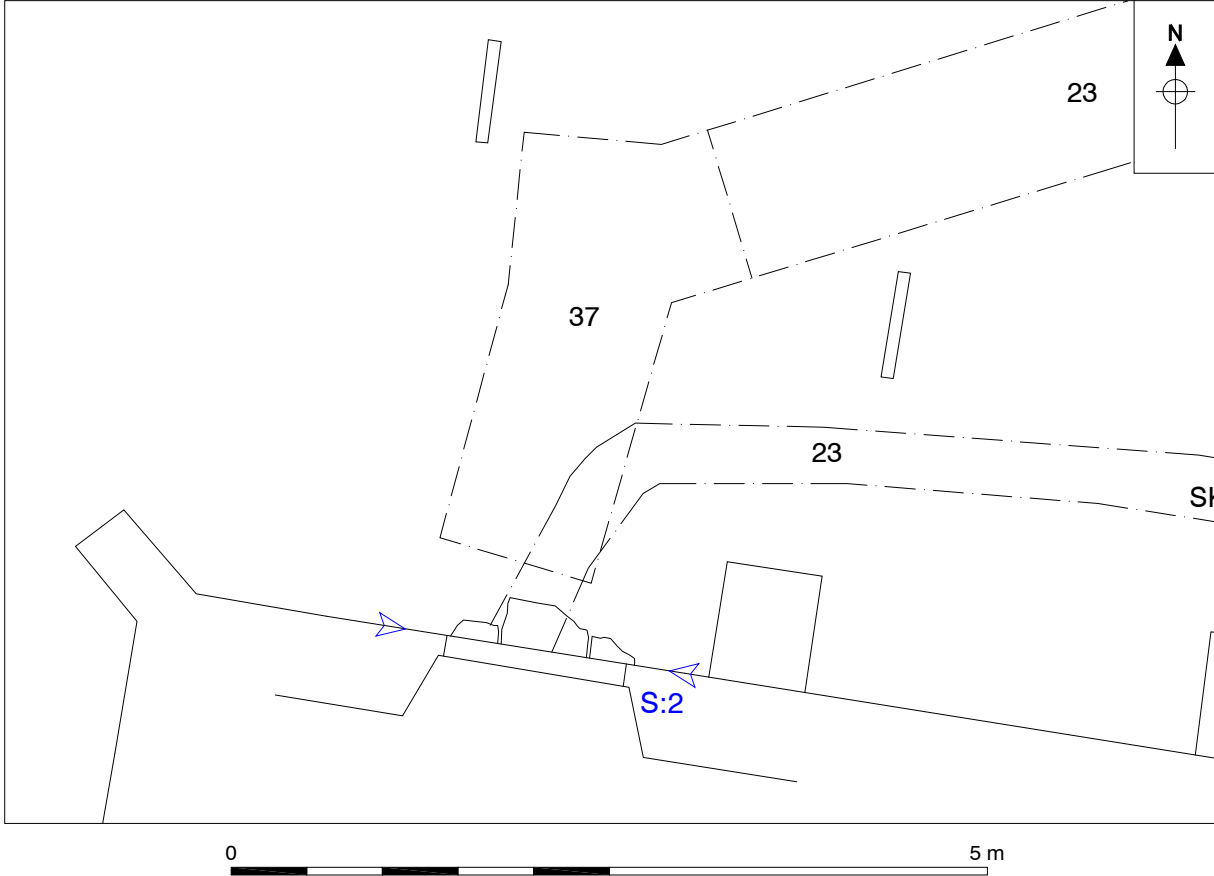
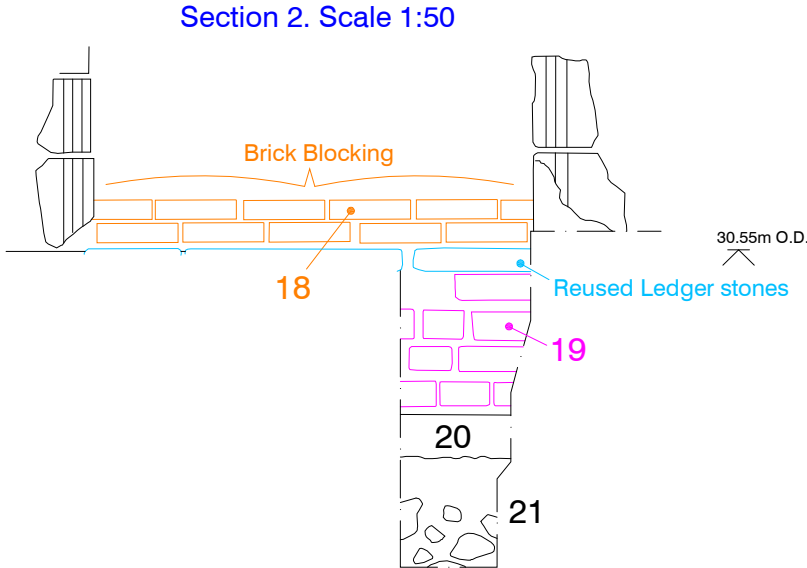


Figure 4. North door area. Scale 1:50



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**OASIS ID: norvicar1-299535**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at All Saints Church, Church Lane, Marsham, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of archaeological monitoring during the installation of a water pipe connection trench and a Trench Arch foul waste system on the north side of All Saints Church, Marsham. All Saint's Church at Marsham is a 13th century and later parish church. The south porch has a 13th century door and the north door is medieval. Most of the chancel dates to the 19th century restoration of 1853. Inside, there is a restored 15th century hammer beam roof with later tie beams and binders. Grave soils appeared to be deeper at the eastern end of the church, where no distinct grave cuts were recognised. Five graves were recorded in the Trench Arch trench, which included at least two separate phases of burial activity of medieval to late post-medieval date, with a further four graves recorded in the waterpipe trench. The water pipe trench revealed some sub-surface detail of the brick blocked north doorway and the footings of the nave, where a hard granite threshold-stone may have served as a replacement to a medieval limestone threshold above the flint and mortar footings of the north aisle. Two medieval halfpennies, two medieval to late medieval jettons, a 17th century halfpenny and a Georgian half penny were found through metal detection within the trenches. Other noteworthy finds include the neck of 17th century onion style wine bottle, a single musket ball and two pieces of medieval window glass
Project dates	Start: 24-03-2017 End: 04-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NVC16/346 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141918 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE Medieval
Monument type	INHUMATION Medieval
Monument type	GRAVE Post Medieval
Monument type	HEADSTONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	LEAD Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval

Significant Finds	COIN SILVER Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN (JETTON) COPPER ALLOY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Medieval
Significant Finds	WINDOW GLASS Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY THIMBLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD MUSKETBALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLATE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND MARSHAM All Saints Church, Church Lane, Marsham
Postcode	NR10 5RB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 1966 2370 52.765677417311 1.256312776584 52 45 56 N 001 15 22 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	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Marsham PCC

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	NMAS and Norvic Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Industrial","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", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

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