

# An Archaeological Excavation on land to the rear of Pickwick House, New Buckenham, Norfolk.



Prepared on behalf of Margaret Hupton

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## An Archaeological Excavation on land to the rear of Pickwick House, New Buckenham, Norfolk. NR16 2AT.

<b>Location:</b>	New Buckenham
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TM 0887 9055
<b>NHES Event No:</b>	ENF142494
<b>Initial Monitoring Visit:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
<b>Excavation:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2017

### 1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by David Hupton on behalf of Margaret Hupton to undertake an excavation ahead of development for a single new home on land (c. 370m<sup>2</sup>) to the rear of Pickwick House, New Buckenham.

The site is located to the rear of Pickwick House, within the medieval planned town of New Buckenham. The town was laid out adjacent to William D'Albini's castle, between 1146 and 1176, and remains one of the more complete medieval planned towns in the country. The development site occupies a plot opposite St Martin's church (founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century) on the eastern side of the town, abutting the medieval town defences. Pickwick House is a timber framed Grade II Listed Building dating from c. 1600. It was built on a site recorded in a document dating to 1493, when it was in the hands of Thomas Joly, a turner. From at least 1614 to 1728, its owners were oatmeal-makers and in 1633 and 1728 the premises included an oat mill.

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by David Robertson of the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF46431) on behalf of Breckland District Council (Planning Ref: 3PL/2016/0228/F). The aim of the archaeological work was to investigate and record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features likely to be disturbed by the development. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results and the archaeological interpretation of the evaluation.

### 2.0 Summary of Results

Excavation amounted to the reduction of the new house footprint to a depth of c.0.55m to accommodate a raft construction. This shallow level of disturbance revealed only post-medieval and later deposits, with hand auger testing revealing sand and sandy-clay at a depth of c.1m below the modern ground surface (with demolition rubble of uncertain date encountered at a similar depth in the northern area of the site).

The demolished garage was a 20<sup>th</sup> century conversion of the remains of a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, part of the south-western wall of which has been reduced in height to form part of a new front boundary wall to the site. The cottage had relatively shallow footings and was constructed on an area of hard clay make-up and levelling material. A cache of beer and wine bottles was noted within the repaired fabric of the building.

Noteworthy finds include a copper-alloy horse-harness buckle, a Charles II farthing and a Westerwald Stoneware tankard rim sherd, which date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century; when this area of land formed part of a complex to the rear of Pickwick House, believed to have included an oat mill.

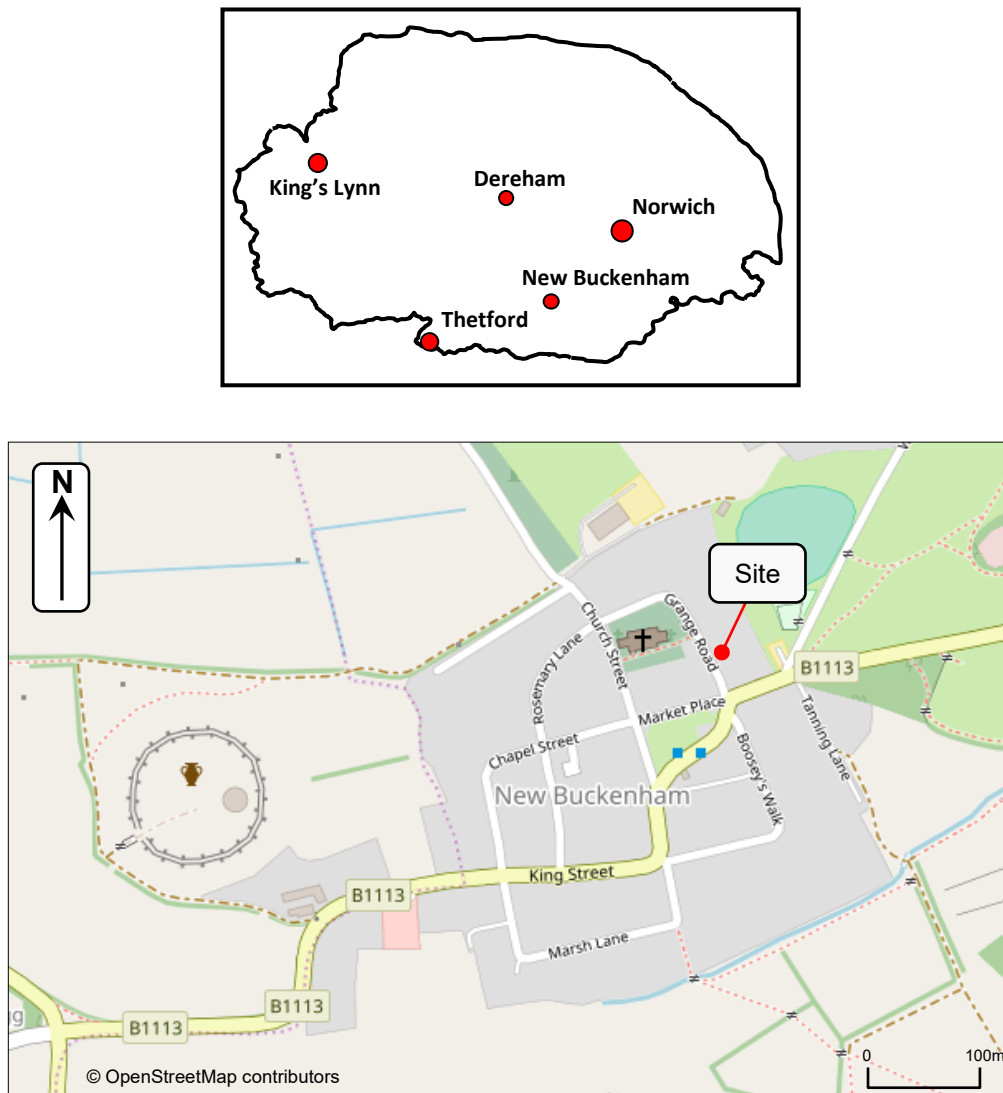


Figure 1. General Site Location Plan

### 3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located on the eastern side of New Buckenham, within the eastern limits of the planned medieval town at c.48.5m OD. New Buckenham is located in the Breckland District of mid-Norfolk, between the towns of Diss (c. 11km SSE) and Attleborough (c. 6km NW). The village is close to Old Buckenham (c. 2.5km NW). The site slopes down from the street frontage from c. west to east. Aside from the newly established fence boundary with the rear of Pickwick House the plot is surrounded by a flint and brick boundary wall. The adjacent garden of beech croft is c. 0.5m lower than the ground level within the development plot. The boundary wall here is therefore also serving as a retaining wall to this presumed terracing, the lower brick work of which is indeed of a thicker construction.

The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (Cretaceous Period), overlain by superficial deposits of glaciogenic sand and gravel outwash (Lowestoft Formation) associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary - 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 sandy-clay, identified by hand auger at a depth of c. 0.95m below the modern ground level in the southern area of the plot.

#### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

A parish summary of the large amount of information held for New Buckenham'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.

The site is located to the rear of Pickwick House within the medieval planned town of New Buckenham (NHER 41233). The town was laid out adjacent to William D'Albini's new castle (NHER 40577), between 1146 and 1176, and remains one of the more complete medieval planned towns in the country. The town itself was planned on a grid pattern and surrounded by a substantial wet moat that connected it to the castle. In some places the moat was up to nine metres wide and three metres deep with an internal bank (Blomefield 1805-10). It was referred to as the 'burgh ditch' in 1493 and the area within it was known as 'the burgage' (Rutledge 2002). By 1600, the moat was no longer being maintained and was becoming clogged with rubbish and the southern ditch was infilled as the town expanded, although some parts remained open water as they were used as tanning pits. (NHER 41233). In 1632, Charles Gosling, the owner of the Rookery, was given leave to build a barn across it (Dymond 2005).

St Martin's Church (NHER 40579) is located c. 40m to the west of Pickwick House, founded in the 1240s, several decades after the laying out of the town. Prior to this, the 12<sup>th</sup> century Chapel of St Mary (NHER 39594) at the castle served the parishioners of the town, before becoming a private chapel.

New Buckenham remained as a market centre and was joined to Norwich by a turnpike road in 1772 (Pevsner & Wilson 1999). However, it never grew into a larger settlement, meaning that it has retained much of its original layout with very little development beyond its medieval boundaries. There is a wealth of half-timbered housing hiding behind 19<sup>th</sup> century brick frontages and over sixty dwellings are Grade II listed.

Pickwick House is a timber framed Grade II Listed Building on Grange Road dating from c. 1600 (NHER 40600). It was built on a site recorded in a document dating to 1493, when it was in the hands of Thomas Joly, a turner. By 1542, it had acquired part of its neighbour's curtilage (Brown 2004). The earliest part of the house is the parlour (south) end. From at least 1614 to 1728, its owners were oatmeal-makers and in 1633 and 1728 the premises included an oat mill. Many alterations were made inside the house in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The 1st Edition OS plan of 1883 shows the plot occupied by a small building off the street frontage, which is shown in more detail on the 1905 plan as two joined cottages, each with a very small outbuilding (rear outdoor toilet?). Remnants of the front part of the flint and mortar cottages survived into the later 20<sup>th</sup> century as a garage, with two additional outbuildings. At the time of demolition works, the plot was occupied by the garage, the front wall of which is part of the boundary wall, with

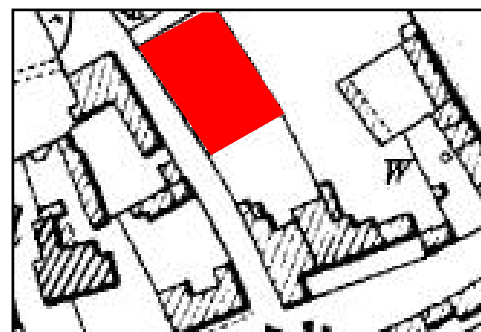


Figure 2. OS Plan 1905 (site shaded)

a single outbuilding in the north-east corner of the site in the form of a relocated cricket pavilion.

An archaeological evaluation in 1995, ahead of development of land contiguous with the northern boundary of the development plot, showed that the area may have suffered from lowering for The Old Bowling Green (NHER 40627). Only post-medieval pits, a posthole and a possible pond containing post-medieval building rubble were recorded.

**Sites in the immediate proximity 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 40600: Pickwick Cottage, Market Place.** This timber framed cottage dates back to around 1600. It was built on a site recorded in an old document dating to 1493, when it was in the hands of Thomas Joly, a turner. By 1542 it had acquired part of its neighbours curtilage. The earliest part of the house is the parlour (south) end. From at least 1614 to 1728 its owners were oatmeal-makers and in 1633 and 1728 the premises included an oat mill (Brown & Brown 2004). Many alterations were made inside the house in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century with brick facing added c. 1830 (Pevsner 1999). [c. 30m SSE]

**NHER 40607: Beech House, Norwich Road (formerly The Bull Inn).** This Grade II Listed 17th century timber framed house has a brick skin and a slate roof. It incorporates a much earlier 15th century timber framed building, The Bull Inn. This was the largest pub in the town in the 16th century and despite being accused of being a disorderly house in 1561 and permitting unlawful games in 1577 it remained an inn until the late 18th century. [c. 35m SE]

**NHER 40601: The Retreat, Market Place.** This Grade II Listed late 16th century timber framed house was remodelled around 1750, refaced in brick around 1840 and restored in the 1970s. At the rear are two 18th century gabled wings forming an F-shaped plan. [c. 60m SE]

**NHER 40599: The Limes, Market Place.** This early 19th century Grade II Listed brick house has two storeys and a slate roof. [c. 40m S]

**NHER 55248: Former 19<sup>th</sup>-century school.** The original school of 1849 forms the long school room while a later extension in Board room style has been added in front by 1903. Now a private house. [c. 40m SW]

**NHER 40579: St Martin's Church, New Buckenham.** This church was founded in the 1240s, between 50 and 100 years after the laying out of the town. Only parts of the chancel and possibly the base of the tower now date to this period. The south doorway and perhaps the south arcade were built around 1300 to 1330 and the north aisle and chapel in the late 15th century. The tower, south aisle, clerestory and chancel belong to a grand rebuilding in the early 16th century. The church contains an Easter Sepulchre or tomb dated to 1512. [c. 40m W]

**NHER 40627: Post medieval pits and post hole on The Old Bowling Green.** An archaeological evaluation in 1995 by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit revealed only post-medieval pits and a posthole and perhaps a pond. This probably indicates that when the ground was lowered to form the bowling green all archaeological evidence for the medieval town was destroyed. [c. 30m N]

**NHER 40625. Possible medieval town boundary ditch near Tanning Lane.** Gardening recovered a piece of post-medieval pot and a lead weight. Later excavations in 1993 revealed a medieval to post-medieval ditch. This maybe the southern boundary ditch of the medieval town. [c. 80m SE]

**NHER 39357: 12th century town boundary ditch on the site of the Former Snooker Hall, Church Farm Lane.** An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation recorded the 12th century town boundary ditch and two post medieval or modern animal graves. Each of these graves contained the skeleton of a dog. The site was significantly disturbed by building during the Victorian and modern periods. [c. 120m NW]

**NHER 39357: Medieval moat at The Moat House.** In 2003 deposits associated with New Buckenham's medieval town ditch (NHER 41233) were recorded during archaeological monitoring of the construction of a new bridge. [c. 115m NW]

**NHER 40629: Post-medieval industrial activity at The Old Police House, Chapel Street.** An archaeological evaluation in 1999 recorded a post medieval gully and undated postholes and a pit. The gully and the pit contained iron smithing residues indicating industrial activity on the site. [c. 220m WSW]

**NHER 39460: Medieval pit at Former Garage Site.** An archaeological watching brief at the site of a former garage recorded a medieval pit. Pieces of medieval pot and fragments of animal bone were also recovered. [c. 165m SSW]

**NHER 40628: Market Place.** Archaeological excavation revealed several deep post-medieval cellars and dumps of post-medieval material. The digging of the cellars probably destroyed all archaeological evidence for the planned medieval town. [c. 150m S]

**NHER 37648. Medieval gully and undated ditch in the garden of Saffron House.** An archaeological excavation in 1993 recorded an early medieval gully and an earlier, but undated, ditch. [c. 115m SE]

**NHER 57350. Possible Roman Road.** A series of linear earthworks crossing New Buckenham Common parallel to the B1113, which appear to represent a former road or trackway, are visible on aerial photographs. It is possible that this may be a Roman Road, possibly part of the projected route from Caistor to Icklingham, at least one fragment of which may have been recorded to the south west in Snetterton (NHER 6035). It is also possible that it represents a medieval to post-medieval road or causeway across an area which may have been waterlogged in the past.

**NHER 9200. New Buckenham, a medieval planned town.** New Buckenham was laid out as a rectangular planned and fortified Norman town on a simple grid pattern attached to the D'Albini's castle (NHER 40577) in Old Buckenham parish between 1146 and 1176. It functioned as a small borough and market town. This is a remarkable example of a planned town that has generally kept to its original boundaries and layout. Within the defensive ditch are many very fine 15th to 18th century houses and the mostly 15th century parish church (NHER 40579).

**NHER 40577. New Buckenham Castle.** This substantial castle was established by the D'Albini's around 1146. The ringwork contains the oldest, and perhaps the largest, Norman circular keep in the country. The castle has two baileys. The east bailey (recorded as Knightriders Ward in a documentary source) is the earliest and was reached via an east gateway that was destroyed in the 13th century when the bank of the ringwork was enlarged almost burying the gatehouse. A second bailey, gatehouse and barbican-like defensive enclosure were constructed at the same time to the southwest. Massive earthworks of these features still remain and the keep and its dividing wall with a pointed doorway still stand around 6m in height. Cropmarks of other buildings inside the ringwork can be seen on aerial photographs. The castle was besieged twice in the 13th and 15th centuries. It was defortified in the 1640s. [c. 400m WSW]

**NHER 41233. Medieval town boundary ditch.** The town ditch, with probable sites of gateways, formed the original boundary of the planned town of New Buckenham which was laid out in the 12th century. In the 16th century the south ditch was infilled as the town expanded. Parts remain as open water because they were used in the 16th century as tanning pits. [c. 30m E]

## 5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

A defined programme of archaeological mitigation work was stipulated by the Historic Environment Service, required to ensure that any archaeological features, deposits and structures which may be damaged or destroyed by the development were investigated and recorded via controlled excavation to recognised standards. The general objectives of the excavation with monitoring was to recover as much information as reasonably possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and the nature of social, economic and industrial activities of any archaeological information encountered.

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on initial small scale ground and footing testing at the site to provide information to their appointed structural engineer, dug by a 2-ton 360° tracked machine with a small ditching bucket. The testing was limited to a 0.5m deep hole against the boundary wall on the east side of the garage, a 0.6m deep hole against the western wall of the garage and a 0.4m deep hole c. 3.5m east of the garage. Probing and auger testing showed that clean natural sand to be c. 1m below the ground surface in this last hole, below 19<sup>th</sup> century soils.

The main building footprint required suitable ground reduction for a raft with a formation depth of c. 0.55m below the current ground surface. This area was excavated under archaeological conditions, using a 2-ton machine and a 5-ton machine (with ditching buckets), with a 1-ton dumper. Spoil was removed from site using a grab lorry. Due to the confines of the site, the excavation was carried out in three continuous phases, with the



southern area partly used to accommodate spoil arising once all necessary archaeological investigation had been undertaken there. A small number of hand auger tests were made during the excavation to assess the deposits below the formation level.

The west wall of the garage forms part of the brick and flint boundary wall which was left in place following initial demolition, to be partly reduced in height and extended to form a continuous boundary wall along the street frontage. The boundary wall and cottages had shallow footings of c. 0.4m deep, with heights of between 2m to 3m. A baulk was maintained against the walls during the archaeological work to minimise the possibility of disturbance to the masonry.

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.



Plates 2 & 3. Front of the site (looking SE) and garage building prior to works (looking SW) [1x1m Scale]

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/monochrome images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were taken using a temporary benchmark of 49.10m OD located on the brick wall at the entrance to the site (0.97m above the road level), tied to an OS Benchmark of 48.72m located on the south-east corner of St Martin's church tower.

## 6.0 Results *(Appendix 1a)*

- **'Natural deposits'**

Clean natural sand and sandy-clay (14) was revealed by hand auger at a depth of c. 0.95m below the pre-development ground level, although in the northern area part of the pad footprint natural was not able to be reached, with make-up deposits of rubble encountered at a similar depth.

- **Post-medieval make-up horizons**

The north-western part of the trench revealed only soils with ashy lenses from modern rubbish burning (08), below modern sand and hoggin for the concrete driveway. The



modern water supply cut these soils. Pottery ranging from post-medieval to early 20th century date was collected from the soils.

Hand auger testing (C & D) showed that the soil layer (08) sealed a mixed dark brownish-grey silty clay flecked by charcoal, coke and late brick c. 0.4m deep (similar to context 02 described below). A very thin spread of mortar debris (11) was seen below the soil (08) in Auger Test C, which may relate to 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition activity. At a depth of c. 1m from the modern ground level impassable deposits of brick rubble (12) and flint and mortar rubble (13) were encountered, suspected to be demolition deposits which predate the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage.

Deposits associated with the construction of the former 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages were identified in the main area of excavation below the modern topsoil (18); which was c. 0.25m deep and contained occasional pieces of demolition debris in the form of mortar lumps, building flints and late brick.

A very firm layer of chalk flecked pale greyish-brown sandy-clay (05) up to 0.15m thick appeared to have been laid as a preconstruction levelling material, acting as a rough pad for the shallow walls of the cottage. Above this was a firm mix of mid-grey clay-loam and silty-clay (02) of c. 0.4m thickness, which included occasional late brick fragments, and patches of charcoal from rubbish burning.

Below the clay layer (05) in the south-east corner of the trench, was a firm layer of redeposited orange clay-sand (03), from which a post-medieval roof-tile and brick of probable 17-18<sup>th</sup> century date were retrieved. This layer seems to be another make-up/levelling deposit associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage construction. Below this was a very friable, mottled brownish-grey to brownish-orange silty-sand (04), with occasional charcoal and coal flecks. A 17<sup>th</sup> century coin, a Westerwald Stoneware tankard rim sherd and two large fragments of cattle bone were collected from this deposit, which is suspected to be either a subsoil layer or the fill of a 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pit which pre-dates the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage construction.

- ***Subsoil***

An area of firm, mottled brownish-yellow (silty) clay-sand (07) flecked by chalk and rare pieces of charcoal was partly exposed below the clay make-up (05), closer to the street frontage. Hand auger testing showed this subsoil deposit to be c. 0.35m deep, laying above clean natural clay-sand (14). Two abraded sherds of residual medieval pottery were collected from the subsoil.

- ***Garage remains (including 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage fabric)***

The demolished garage was made from the much altered remains of a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, the south-western wall of which also forms part of the front boundary wall (01). The wall fabric was predominantly flint cobbles and mortar with late brick. Internally, the walls retained some of the original render, with a blocked doorway converted to a window noted in the north-eastern wall. A late brick repair to the south-west corner of the building included a cache of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century beer and wine bottles set within the wall fabric.

Below the concrete floor of the garage, were the remains of a rough pavement tile floor (19), set above a firm clay make-up, sealed by a thin skim of lime mortar. A shallow remnant of flint and mortar wall footing (06) was recorded which contained occasional reused fragments of late brick. This was part of the footings for the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, which ordinarily extended from south-west to north-east on this exact orientation.

- **C20th features**

A large machine disturbed area of ground ([15]) was present in the eastern area of the trench, which contained a mixed infill of soil with occasional fragments of modern brick and lengths of steel posts (16). Part of a 1960s-garage footing (17) was identified at the southern end of the footprint, which made use of modern red brick and mortar over a bed of re-used flint cobbles.



Plate 4. Southern area of trench (looking SE)  
[2x2m Scales]



Plate 5. Trench (looking ESE) [2x2m Scales]

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

### • Pottery

Jut fourteen sherds of pottery weighing a combined total of 304g were collected from five contexts, all of which are soil or make-up layers containing small quantities of domestic waste. Table 1 shows the quantification by context/fabric. Pottery categories and fabric codes follow the Sue Anderson type series.

Context	Description	Fabric	Date Range	No	Wt/g	MNV
02	Late medieval and transitional	LMT	15-16 <sup>th</sup>	1	21	1
02	Refined white earthenwares	REFW	L18-20 <sup>th</sup>	3	42	3
02	Porcelain (late)	LPORC	L19-20 <sup>th</sup>	1	29	1
04	Westerwald Stoneware (tankard rim)	GSW5	E17-19 <sup>th</sup>	1	19	1
05	English Stoneware, Nottingham type	ESWN	L17-L18 <sup>th</sup> c.	1	30	1
07	Local medieval unglazed	LMU	11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c.	1	3	1
07	Medieval coarseware	MCW	12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c.	1	6	2
08	Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	16-18 <sup>th</sup> c.	1	34	1
08	Late glazed red earthenware	LGRE	18-19 <sup>th</sup> c.	1	14	1
08	English Stoneware, Nottingham type	ESWN	L17-L18 <sup>th</sup> c.	2	60	1
08	Refined white earthenwares	REFW	L18-20 <sup>th</sup>	1	46	1
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>14</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>13</b>

Pottery quantification by context/fabric.

Just three small body sherds of relatively abraded medieval pottery were collected, with one piece of similarly abraded late medieval transitional ware.

The majority of the assemblage is of late post-medieval date, representing the disposal of common household vessel fragments, contemporary to local occupation of either the former cottage or the surrounding properties. The Nottingham type stoneware is well-decorated with moulded bands of pellets and incised floral bands and includes the body and rim sherd of a large bowl or chamber pot of 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Refined white earthenware and porcelain of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date includes a spongeware plate, a large meat dish and transfer printed (blue and white) plate and two press moulded plates.

### • Clay Tobacco Pipe

Seven stem pieces of clay tobacco pipe (13g) in fair condition were collected, weighing a combined total of 13g. The pieces are from late post-medieval to modern make-up/soil horizons (02/03/08). The bore sizes indicate broad 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date ranges, with one large bore (straw moulded) example of likely earlier date.

### • Ceramic building material

Three pieces of ceramic building material were retained for further analysis:

- A 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century iron glazed roof-tile fragment was collected from the garden soil make-up layer (02), weighing 25g.
- A small abraded fragment of post-medieval flat roof tile in a typical mid-orange sandy fabric (7g) was collected from the make-up layer (03), along with fragment of post-medieval brick (87g). The brick is a medium sandy fabric in a pinkish-buff hue, with occasional clay pellets and flint grit and is of probable 17-18<sup>th</sup> century date.

- **Bottle glass**

Six large pieces of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century bottle glass were collected, all in good condition with fresh breaks:

- A near complete, large clear glass machine moulded ink well (191g) of early 20<sup>th</sup> century date was collected from the make-up deposit (08).
- Three fragments (703g) of broken dark green cylindrical glass bottles were taken from a collection of bottles bonded into the internal fabric of a brick wall repair to top of the south-west corner of the cottage (01). A dark green neck piece has a hand-finished applied lip, one of the bases has a high kick (no pontil scar) while the other has a flat moulded base with a factory number – 293. These beer and wine bottles date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Two neck pieces of bottles (153g) were collected from the garden soil/make-up deposit (02). Both are mould blown, hand finished bottles of 19<sup>th</sup> century date with hand applied lips. One is a dark brown beer bottle and the other is a vivid green drink bottle with a long neck.



Plate 6. Bottle glass set within cottage wall fabric (01) (looking SW)

- **Animal bone**

A small assemblage of animal bone was collected (nine pieces, weighing 241g), all of which is of post-medieval to late post-medieval date. The bone is generally in good condition with minor insect damage on some pieces and dog gnawing evidence on one, less well-preserved bovine rib:

- A large fragment of bovine pelvis (ilium) and a cranium fragment were collected from the make-up deposit (04), weighing 150g.
- A fragment of juvenile sheep/goat mandible was collected from the make-up deposit (08), weighing 4g.
- A bovine metacarpal fragment was collected from the make-up deposit (07), weighing 27g.
- Two chopped bovine ribs (one with gnawing damage), a chopped sheep/goat tibia, and a sheep/goat humerus were collected from gardens soil/make-up layer (02), along with a single bird bone (galliforme). Total weight 60g.

- **Shell**

The base of an oyster (25g) was collected from the make-up deposit (05) and a single whelk (7g) was collected from the garden soils (02). They represent residual food waste of probable late post-medieval date.



- **Metal Objects**

Three copper-alloy objects were found which include a 17<sup>th</sup> century Charles II farthing, a horse-harness buckle and a 17<sup>th</sup> century button.

Context No.	Material	Object	Object Date
04	Cu Alloy	<b>Horse-harness Buckle</b>	Post-medieval
A robust round buckle with a central bar with a pivoting long, rectangular folded plate (for a leather strap), with three large rivets. This is a functional horse harness-type buckle (probably from a head collar). Buckle diam. 29mm, plate length 59mm, plate width 16mm. Weight 28.78g			
04	Cu Alloy	<b>Coin</b>	1662-1685
A Charles II farthing in poor condition. Obverse is worn (Legend: CAROLVS A CAROLO) and the reverse is illegible from corrosion. 23mm diam. Weight 6.44g			
08	Cu Alloy	<b>Button</b>	C17th
A copper-alloy discoidal button, cast with integral large/long suspension lug (rectangular). The button has a simple decoration with a central dot within two outer circles. Diam. 23mm. Weight 7.87g.			

## 8.0 Conclusions

Excavation ahead of development amounted to the reduction of the new house footprint to a depth of c. 0.55m to accommodate a raft construction. This shallow level of disturbance revealed only post-medieval and later deposits.

The demolished garage was a 20<sup>th</sup> century conversion of the remains of a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, part of the south-western wall of which has been reduced in height to form part of a new front boundary wall to the site. A cache of beer and wine bottles which date to around the 1900s was noted, set within the repaired wall fabric of the south-west corner of the cottage. The cottage had relatively shallow footings and was constructed on an area of hard clay make-up and levelling material.

A small number of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century finds were collected from the surface of a deposit partly revealed in the south-east corner of the excavation trench, which appears to pre-date the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages. They include a copper-alloy horse-harness buckle, a Charles II farthing and a Westerwald Stoneware tankard rim sherd and are probably residual finds associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century phase of Pickwick House, when this area of land formed part of a complex believed to have included an oat mill.

A small area of subsoil was revealed, from which just two sherds of abraded medieval pottery were recovered. The majority of deposits encountered were soil horizons associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages and later use of the site for garages and outbuildings. Hand auger testing showed that clean natural sand and sandy-clay lay at a depth of c. 1m below the modern ground surface, although at a similar depth in the northern part of the trench area brick, mortar and flint rubble was encountered which may be demolition waste from a structure which predates the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to David Hupton who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Darren Rush (Builder) and Adam Power (Adam Power Associates) for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER and cropmark 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
01	Deposit		0.4m wide even coursed mod. sorted flint cobbles with v.sandy pale yellowish-white gritty mortar. Occ. late brick repairs, internal render on some walls (friable straw and chalky-clay plus lime mix, with white-wash)	Cottage/garage masonry	C19th to C20th
02	Deposit		Firm, mid-grey clay-loam/silty-clay mix, mod. flint/chalk/mortar, occ. CBM frags, occ. charcoal flecks and patches	Garden soil/make-up	
03	Deposit		Firm, 'dirty' orange clay sand, occ. stones (redeposited natural)	Make-up	
04	Deposit		V.friable, mottled mid-brownish-grey and brownish-orange silty-sand, occ. charcoal flecks, occ. late brick frags, occ. stones	Subsoil/make-up	
05	Deposit		V.firm, pale greyish-brown sandy-clay, freq. chalk flecks, occ. charcoal and coal pieces, mod. stones		
06	Masonry		Irregular flint cobbles, occ. large late brick frags, with a yellowish-white v.sandy friable mortar. 50mm deep only.	Cottage footings	C19th
07	Deposit		Firm, mottled mid-brownish-yellow fairly silty clay-sand, mod. chalk flecks, rare charcoal pieces.	Subsoil	Med. to p.med
08	Deposit		Friable, dark-greyish-brown silt-loam, occ. ashy lenses from modern rubbish burning, occ. cbm.	Soil/Make-up	
09	Deposit		Firm, dark brownish-grey silty-clay, mod. charcoal, mod. coke, occ. chalk flecks, occ. late CBM similar to (02)	Make-up	
10	Deposit		Firm, mid-yellowish-brown silty-clay, mod. charcoal, mod. cbm flecks above cbm rubble rich layer	Make-up/rubble	
11	Deposit		Thin spread of loose yellowish mortar c. 60mm thick		
12	Deposit		V.similar to (09)		
13	Deposit		Coarse, yellowish-white sandy mortar and flint rubble	Demolition make-up	
14	Deposit		Firm mid yellowish-orange clay-sand with pockets of pale yellow soft sand and stony-sand.	Natural geology	
15	Cut		Irregular area of machine disturbed ground		C20th
16	Deposit	[15]	Friable, mix of dark-brownish-grey silty-loam, mod. late brick and modern CBM, occ. steel post lengths		
17	Masonry		Modern red brick and mortar over loose cobble base, 0.25m deep	1960s garage footings	C20th
18	Deposit		Friable, mid-grey clay-loam, occ. flint/chalk/mortar, occ. CBM frags, occ. charcoal flecks and patches	Topsoil	Modern
19	Deposit		Thin skim of pale-brownish-white lime mortar over firm/dry (sandy) clay make-up similar to (05), with floor paments above partly surviving along edge of wall (revealed below conc. Floor of garage)	Floor	L19 <sup>th</sup> -E20th

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

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

**Appendix 2a: Finds by Context**

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
01	Glass – bottle	3	703
02	Animal bone	2	60
02	Ceramic building material	1	25
02	Clay tobacco pipe	1	2
02	Glass – bottle	2	153
02	Pottery	4	92
02	Shell – whelk	1	7
03	Ceramic building material	2	94
03	Clay tobacco pipe	1	2
04	Animal bone	2	150
04	Cu Alloy – coin	1	6.44
04	Cu Alloy Object – horse harness buckle	1	28.78
04	Pottery	1	19
05	Shell – oyster	1	25
05	Pottery	1	30
07	Animal bone	1	27
07	Pottery	2	9
08	Animal bone	1	4
08	Cu Alloy – button	1	7.87
08	Clay tobacco pipe	4	9
08	Glass -bottle	1	191
08	Pottery	5	154

**Appendix 2b: Finds summary table**

Period	Material	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	3
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Animal bone	9
	Ceramic building material	3
	Copper alloy button	1
	Copper alloy coin	1
	Clay tobacco pipe	7
	Glass – bottle	6
	Iron object – horse harness buckle	1
	Pottery	11
	Shell	2

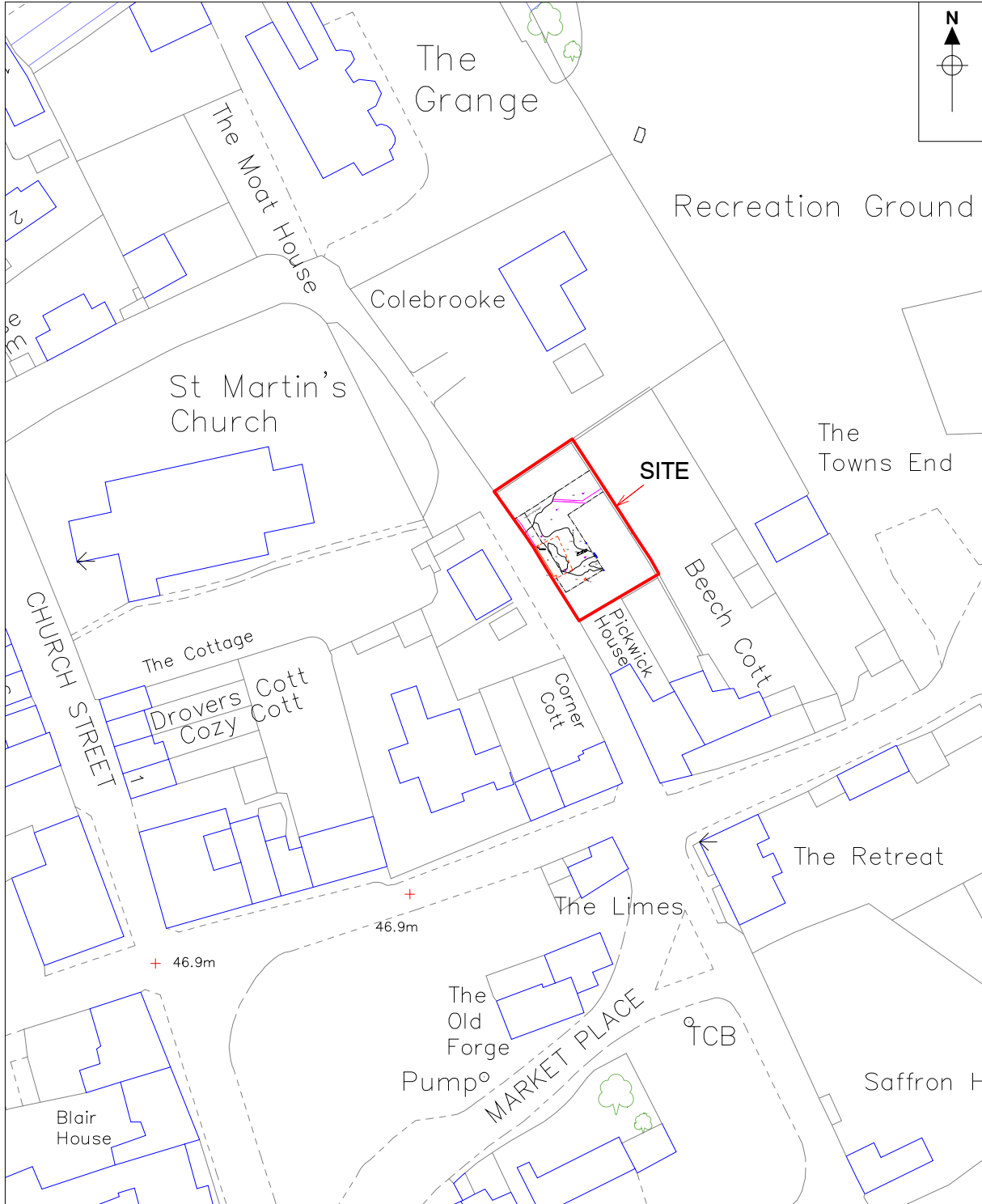


Figure 3. Site plan. Scale 1:1000

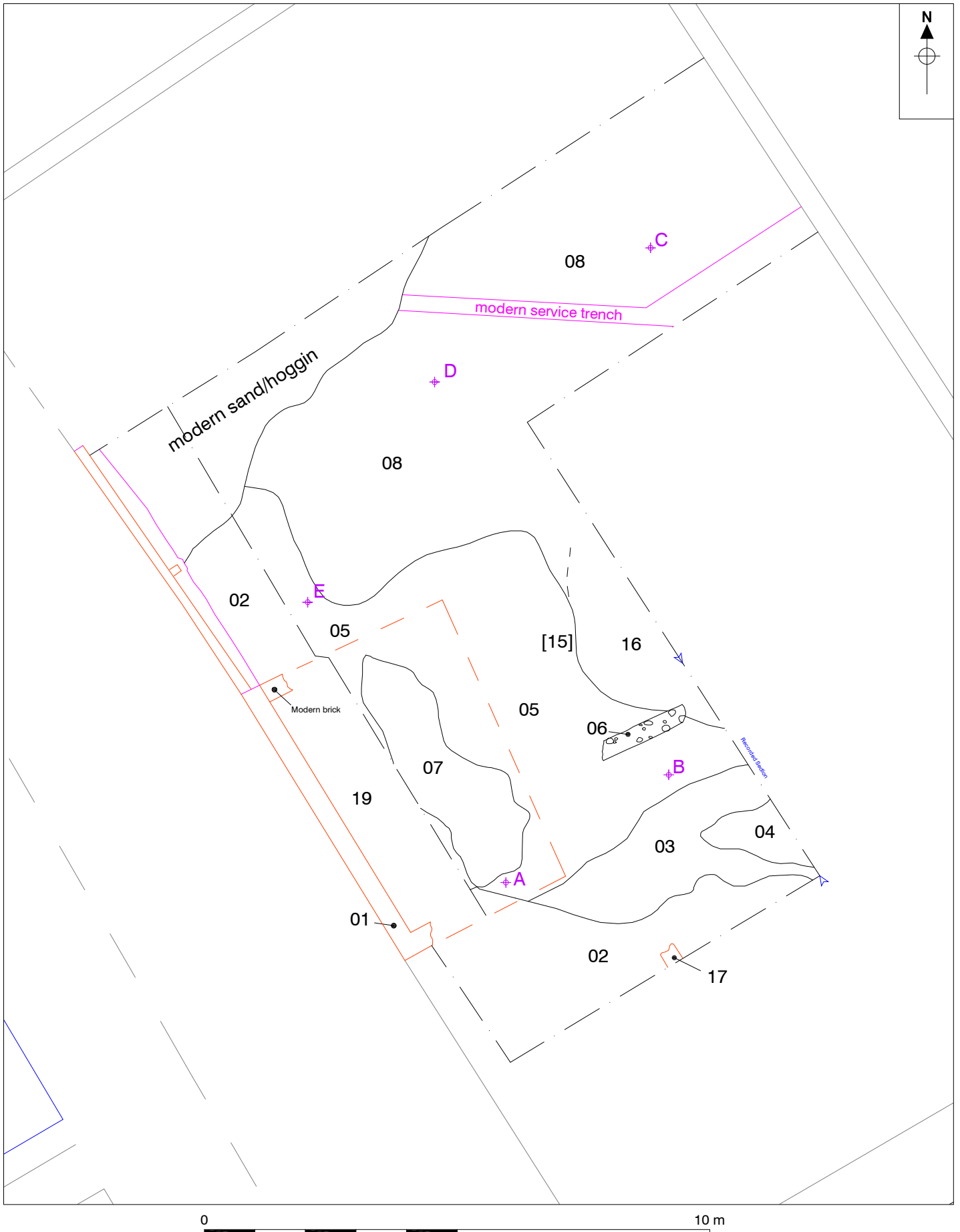
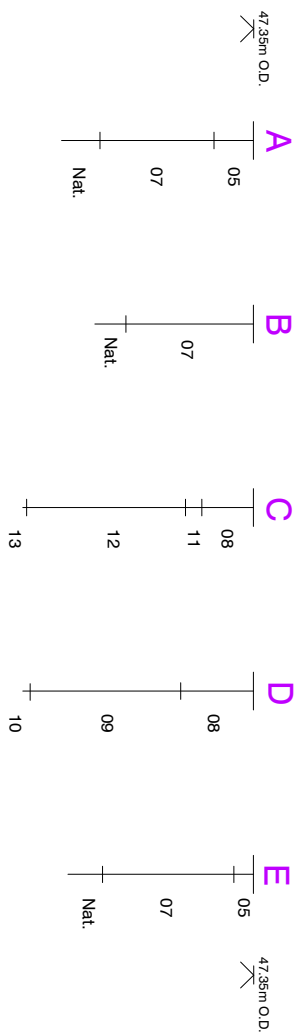


Figure 4. Trench plan. Scale 1:100



### Hand Auger Tests



### Recorded Section

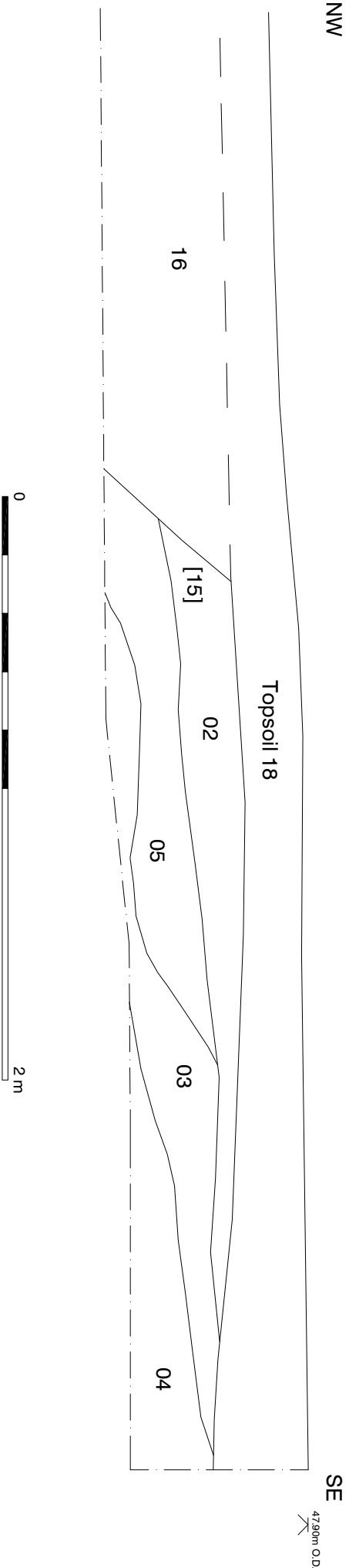


Figure 5. Recorded Section and Auger Tests. Scale 1:20

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norvicar1-299536**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Excavation on land to the rear of Pickwick House, New Buckenham, Norfolk.
Short description of the project	The results of an excavation ahead of development for a single new home on land (c. 370m <sup>2</sup> ) to the rear of Pickwick House, New Buckenham. The site is located to the rear of Pickwick House, within the medieval planned town of New Buckenham. Excavation amounted to the reduction of the new house footprint to a depth of c.0.55m to accommodate a raft construction. This shallow level of disturbance revealed only post-medieval and later deposits, with hand auger testing revealing sand and sandy-clay at a depth of c.1m below the modern ground surface (with demolition rubble of uncertain date encountered at a similar depth in the northern area of the site). The demolished garage was a 20th century conversion of the remains of a pair of 19th century cottages, part of the south-western wall of which has been reduced in height to form part of a new front boundary wall to the site. The cottage had relatively shallow footings and was constructed on an area of hard clay make-up and levelling material. A cache of beer and wine bottles was noted within the repaired fabric of the building. Noteworthy finds include a copper-alloy horse-harness buckle, a Charles II farthing and a Westerwald Stoneware tankard rim sherd, which date from the 17th to 18th century; when this area of land formed part of a complex to the rear of Pickwick House, believed to have included an oat mill.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2017 End: 04-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF142494 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	NVC/2017/368 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2016/0228/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	COTTAGE Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY BUTTON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY COIN Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval  
 Significant Finds GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval  
 Significant Finds IRON HORSE HARNESS BUCKLE Post Medieval  
 Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval  
 Significant Finds SHELL Post Medieval  
 Investigation type "Part Excavation"  
 Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND NEW BUCKENHAM Pickwick House, New Buckenham  
 Postcode NR16 2AT  
 Study area 370 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TM 0887 9055 52.472373769578 1.075667486588 52 28 20 N 001 04 32 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Norvic Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)  
 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 Mrs Hupton

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

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