

Report 2749



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief at Bridge Close, St Olaves, Norfolk

ENF126816

Prepared for
Mr M Allard
Bridge Close
St Olaves
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk



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Location:	Bridge Close, St Olaves, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
District:	Great Yarmouth
Grid Ref.:	TM 4574 9949
HER No.:	ENF126816
OASIS Ref.:	105147
Client:	Mr Marty Allard
Dates of Fieldwork:	29 June 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Mr Marty Allard during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage at Bridge Close, St Olaves, Norfolk.

No significant archaeological features or finds were present.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological watching brief monitoring was maintained on groundworks associated with the construction of a garage at Bridge Close, St Olaves (Fig. 1), adjacent to St Olave's Priory (Scheduled Monument 398). The only groundworks to take place were the excavation of the foundation trenches.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by The Broads Authority (Ref. BA/2010/0123/FUL) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Heritage Environment Service (Ref. CNF42857). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2749/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Mr Marty Allard.

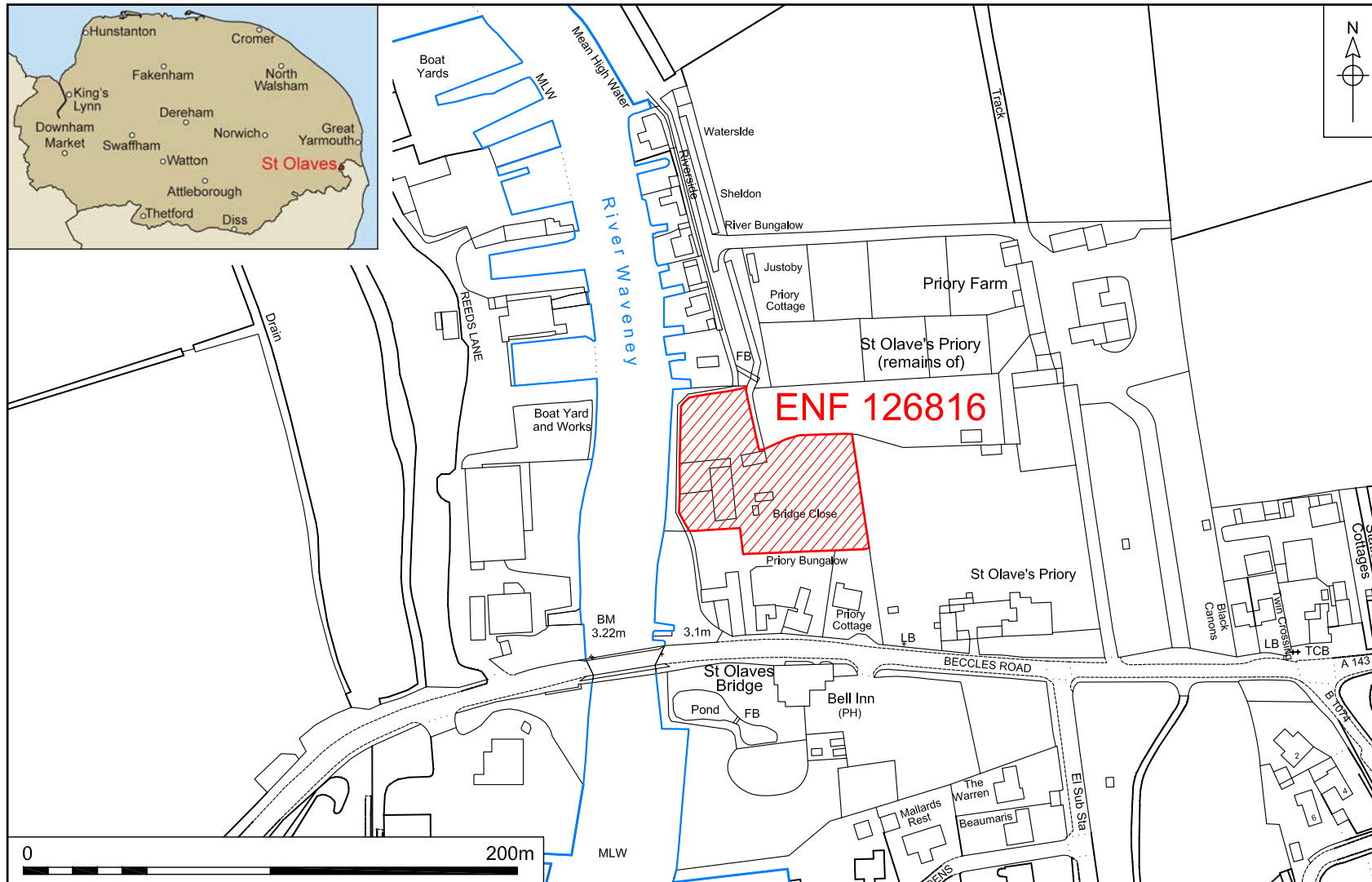
This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department of Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated on Flandrian alluvial deposits (BGS 1991) of marine, estuarine and freshwater sands, silts, clays and peats overlying Palaeogene London Clays (BGS 1985).

The site lay on the east bank of the River Waveney, on flat land at a height of 3.1m OD, within the area of the Broads Authority, a Special Statutory Authority with the same status of a National Park.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record and historic mapping sources have been consulted in the preparation of this section.

The development is adjacent to the south-western border of St Olave's Priory (NHER 10715), founded at the beginning of the 13th century and dissolved in the 1530s. It was a small Augustinian priory, which after the dissolution was converted into a private house which in turn was demolished in 1784. The site now has some priory ruins and earthworks.

St Olaves Bridge (NHER 11913), lying 85m south-west of the development area was built in 1847, replacing an early 16th-century bridge.

The Bell Inn (NHER 15097) is a 16th-century building, much altered and lies 80m south of the present development.

Priory Farmhouse, 140m north-east of the development area, is of 16th-century date, mainly built of reused medieval masonry (NHER 42877).

The New Cut (NHER 13535), positioned 530m south-west of the development site, is a canal built in 1833, linking the River Yare at Reedham to the River Waveney at St Olaves.

St Olaves Marsh drainage mill (NHER15098) is a smock-type drainage mill dating to 1910 and lies 220m north of the development site.

On the opposite side of St Olaves Bridge is a World War I pillbox (NHER18083).

An archaeological watching brief at the Priory Restaurant, 160m north-east of the development area in 2004 found no archaeological artefacts or features (NHER40561).

There are earthworks of medieval/post-medieval drainage ditches, salterns and other features (NHER49240) are visible on aerial photographs 525m north-north-west of Bridge Close.

The 1946 aerial photograph and the first edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1885) both show the development area as paddocks/gardens.

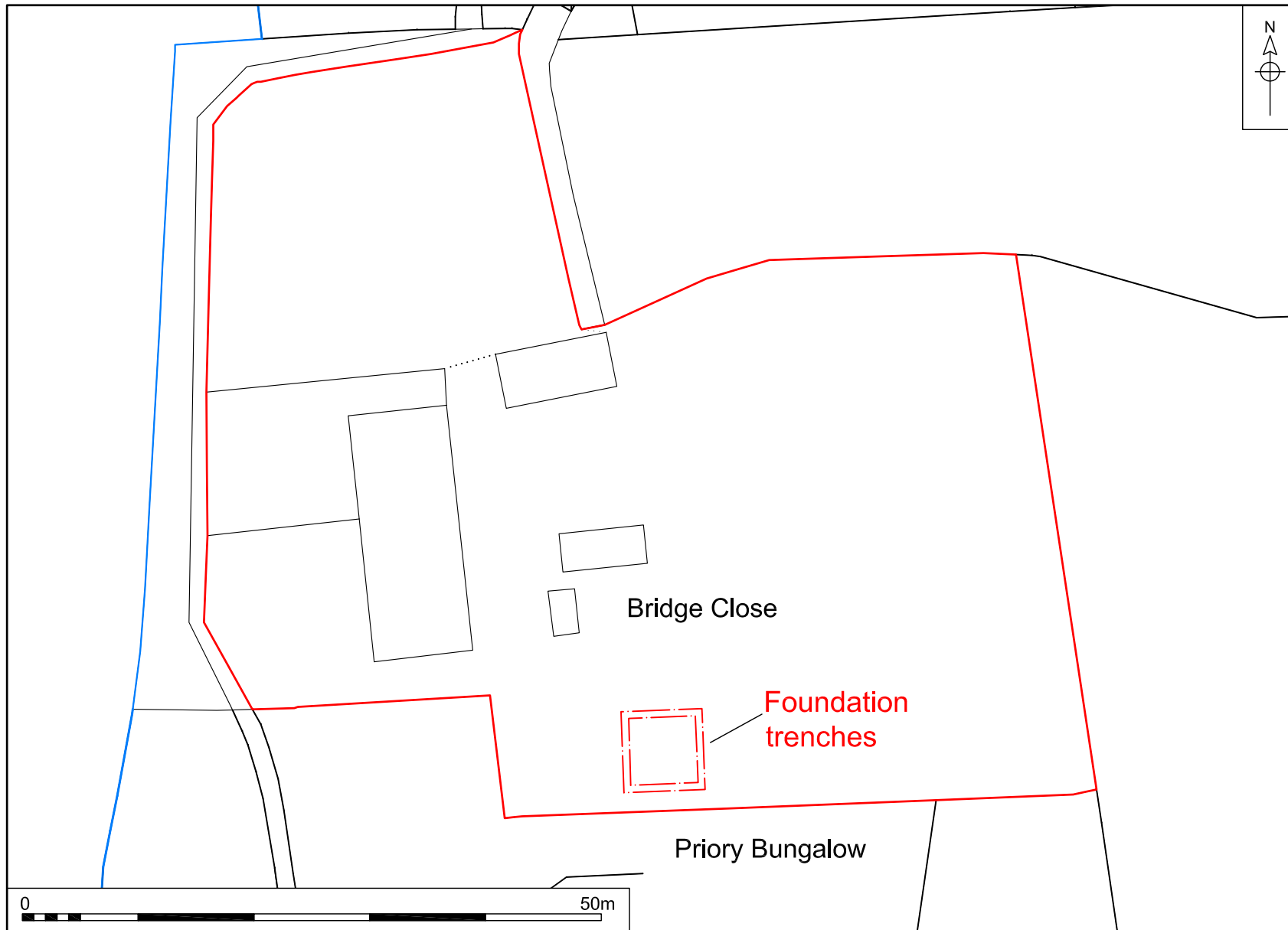
4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to minimise the potential impact of the scheme by appropriate levels of archaeological excavation and recording. In accordance with the brief and project design, any archaeological remains exposed during the works were to be reported on. The brief required that the excavation of the garage foundation trenches be monitored (Fig. 2).

Machine excavation was carried out using a one tonne hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

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

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were present.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

The foundation trenches formed a square (Fig. 2) and measured 0.6m wide and c.0.7m deep; only two layers were exposed.

Layer (1) was modern compacted hardcore, 0.15m deep.

Layer (2) was a black, waterlogged peat with very few pieces of flint gravel and modern (20th-century) brick fragments. Also present were two sherds of pottery (one of 16th- to 18th-century date and one of 18th- to 20th-century date).



Plate 1: The site facing south-east

6.0 THE FINDS

by Lucy Talbot

6.1 Pottery

Two body sherds of post-medieval date weighing a total of 5g were recovered from peat (2). One sherd, identified as Tin Glazed Earthenware, is of 16th- to 18th-century date; whilst the other, a Refined White Ware, dates from the 18th to 20th centuries.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or finds were exposed during the excavation of the footings for a garage at Bridge close, St Olaves.

The presence of 17th- to 18th-century pottery fragments in the lowest, waterlogged peaty deposit suggests that medieval priory remains are not present in this area.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to Marty Allard for commissioning and funding this project.

The author would like to thank Lucy Talbot for processing and identifying the pottery finds, David Dobson for completing the illustrations and Jayne Bown for editing this report.

Bibliography

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| British Geological Survey | 1991 | <i>East Anglia Sheet 52N00 Quaternary</i> |
| Department of Communities and Local Government | 2010 | <i>Planning Policy statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i> TSO, Norwich |

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1	Deposit	Modern hardcore	Modern
2	Deposit	Peat	Uncertain

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Pottery	1	3g	Post medieval	Body sherd
2	Pottery	1	2g	Post medieval	Body sherd

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post medieval	Pottery	2