

Report 2014/1299

nps archaeology



## Archaeological Watching Brief on the Neatishead S101a Sewerage Scheme, Norfolk

ENF135708, ENF135709



**Prepared for**  
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March 2015

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Plate 1 The open trench facing north

Plate 2 Drill Pit 7 facing northwest

Location:	Neatishead, Norfolk
District:	North Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TG 34422 19721, and between TG 34014 20814 and TG 34609 20292
Planning Ref.:	n/a
HER No.:	ENF135708, ENF135709
OASIS Ref.:	195958
Client:	Anglian Water Services Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	24–28 November 2014

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Anglian Water Services during the installation of a new discharge main to upgrade the sewerage system at Neatishead, Norfolk.*

*Two areas were monitored. An absence of archaeological remains in Area 1 is not considered unusual, as roadways rarely contain archaeological features.*

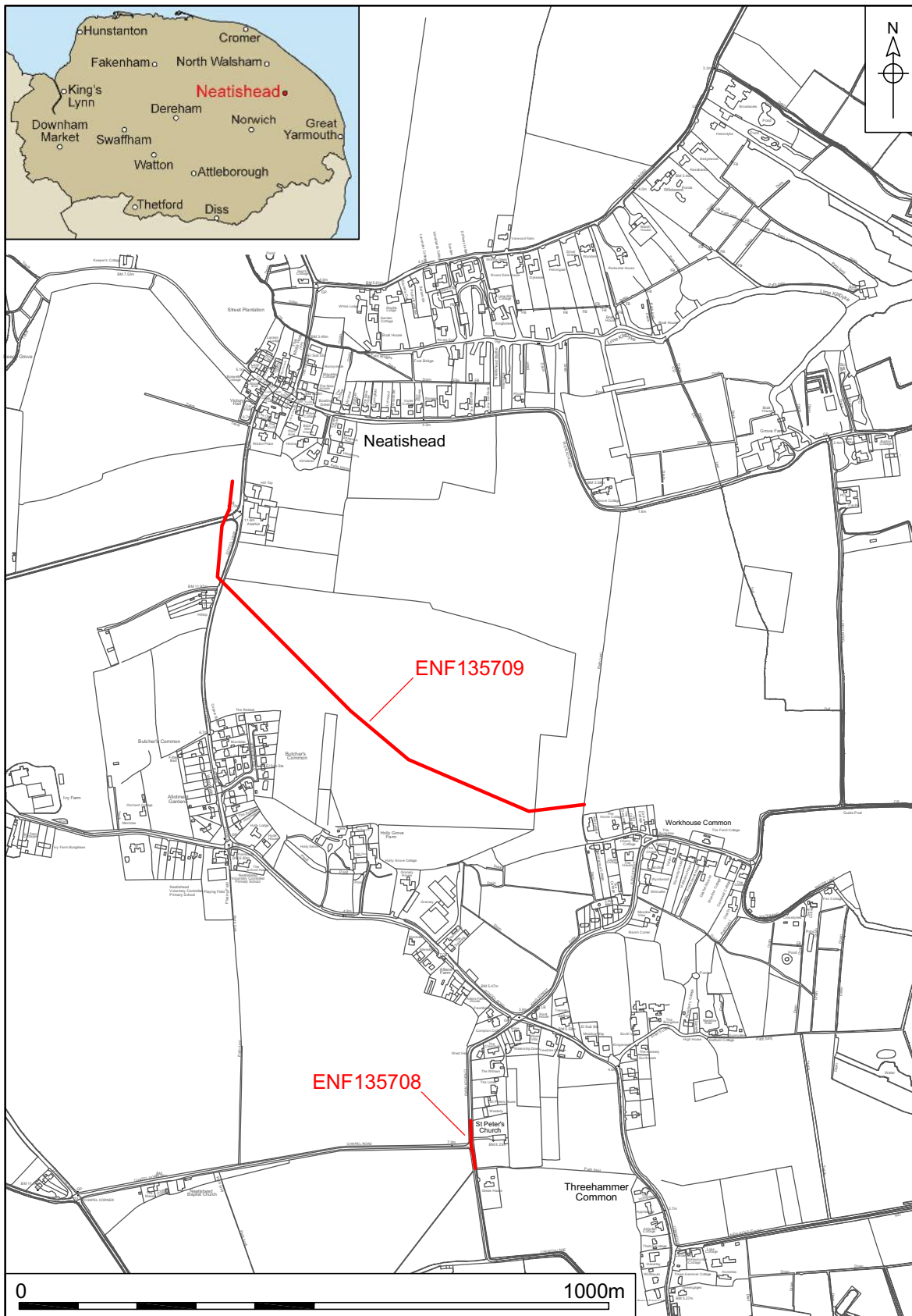
*Area 2 revealed a small concentration of burnt flint on the surface of the field, which may suggest that prehistoric activity had occurred in the area.*

*Advance notice of works to the west of School Lane was not given and the pipeline excavations were not monitored in this area*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Figure 1

- 1 A proposal to install a new discharge main to improve sewerage disposal at Neatishead, Norfolk, required archaeological monitoring of the open-cut pipe trench at two locations: close to St Peter's church (Area 1, ENF135708), and where the proposed discharge main crosses open land (Area 2, ENF135709). Monitoring near to the church was necessary due to the possibility the churchyard may once have extended beyond its current boundary into the modern road. There are no Norfolk Historic Environment Record entries within Area 2, although there are numerous sites between 0.50km and 1.00km away, including evidence for late prehistoric and/or Roman field systems.
- 2 The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Anglian Water Services Ltd and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (CNF44056). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-15-2-1299). The work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.
- 3 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development areas, following guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

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

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5 The underlying geology in Area 1 consisted of Quaternary and Neogene sands and gravels of the Crag Group.<sup>1</sup>
- 6 The underlying geology of Area 2 consisted of Quaternary-period diamicton of the Bacton Green Till Member at the west end, and Quaternary-period sands and gravels of the Briton's Lane Sand and Gravel Member at the east end.<sup>2</sup>
- 7 Both of the monitored areas are sited on flat topography; Area 1 is at a height of 7.00m OD, Area 2 slopes gently down to the southeast from a height of 11.60m OD at the junction of School Lane and Norwich Road.
- 8 Barton Broad lies c. 1km to the northeast of the pipeline.
- 9 Area 1 is a public highway, Area 2 is arable fields which were under cultivation at the time of the work.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 10 The information for the following section of the report came from a search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for entries within 500m of the two sections of pipeline to be monitored, and from research of historical maps.

### **Area 1 (ENF135708)**

- 11 The pipeline runs along Church Road, Neatishead, where it borders the west side of the churchyard of the parish church of St. Peter.
- 12 The oldest parts of St Peter's church (NHER 8432) are the two eastern bays that formed the medieval chancel. The nave, two aisles and tower of the medieval church are said to have been destroyed in 1790, when the west bay was built.
- 13 Two early 18th-century thatched brick cottages lie near to the pipe route: Alderfen Cottage (NHER 40456) on Common Road, 320m southeast, and The Thatch Cottage (NHER 44679), 370m southeast of the pipeline. Allen's Farmhouse (NHER 50044), 220m north of the monitored pipeline, is an early 18th-century brick farmhouse with a pan-tile roof.
- 14 The General Baptist chapel (NHER 44673), 500m west of the pipeline, was built in 1809 and enlarged with a rear wing in 1857.
- 15 Sunnysdene (NHER 44678) on Sow's Loke, 470m east of the pipeline, is a flint and brick house with a thatched roof built in 1816. The letters and numerals I. H. 1 8 1 6 are picked out in brick above the windows.

1

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<sup>1</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

- 16 There is a standby-generator house at Allens Farm (NHER 35784), 275m north of the pipeline. The generator house is part of RAF Neatishead's radar station. Built to resemble a simple chapel with attached belfry, it is camouflaged in the landscape. Dating from the Cold War era, the building is a rare surviving example of the early 1950s ROTOR plan to refurbish Britain's radar defences.

## **Area 2 (ENF135709)**

- 17 A medieval harness pendant (NHER 37233) was found by metal-detecting to the east of the monitored area.
- 18 A brick kiln (NHER 16676) is shown 110m northeast of the west end of the monitored route on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of c. 1885.<sup>3</sup>
- 19 There is a probable World War Two radar- or radio-related site (NHER 49479) at Butcher's Common, 210m southwest of the west end of the monitored route. It is visible on aerial photographs as a group of structures consisting of two radar or communications towers and a hut, and was probably related to RAF Neatishead.
- 20 Faden's map of 1797 suggests the road pattern around Neatishead has changed considerably, presumably in part due to parliamentary enclosure of commons or common open fields (Barringer 1998). Other historical maps for the area, namely the Tithe map of c. 1840 and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1885, also indicate that formerly there were more, but smaller fields with boundaries.<sup>4</sup> The small fields have evidently been amalgamated in the 20th century.

## **METHODOLOGY**

- 21 The objective of the watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits in the development area.
- 22 The Brief required that excavations in two specific areas should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. The two areas were: in the road adjacent to the boundary of the parish church of St Peter (Area 1, ENF135708), and where the proposed discharge main crosses open land (Area 2, ENF135709).
- 23 Machine excavation was carried out by a hydraulic 360° excavator.
- 24 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those that were obviously modern were retained for inspection.
- 25 Site conditions were variable, and the work took place in wet weather.
- 26 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>



## RESULTS

Figure 2

### Area 1

- 27 The trench in the road by St Peter's church was excavated between 26 and 28 November 2014. The trench was 0.50m wide x 1.30m deep. The stratigraphy observed consisted of the modern tarmac road surface down to 50mm below ground level (bgl), flint hoggin make-up layer for the road surface down to 100mm bgl, with natural orange silt below that.
- 28 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.



Plate 1. The open trench facing north

### Area 2

- 29 The pipe was installed in Area 2 by directional drilling between 25 and 28 November 2014. Each directional drilling pit was approximately 3.00-3.50m wide and long x 1.50m deep. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.45m of dark brown silty clay topsoil with occasional flint gravel, above natural yellow clay, silt and sand. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil and several fragments of possibly prehistoric burnt flint were recovered from the topsoil between Drill Pits 5 and 6.
- 30 No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

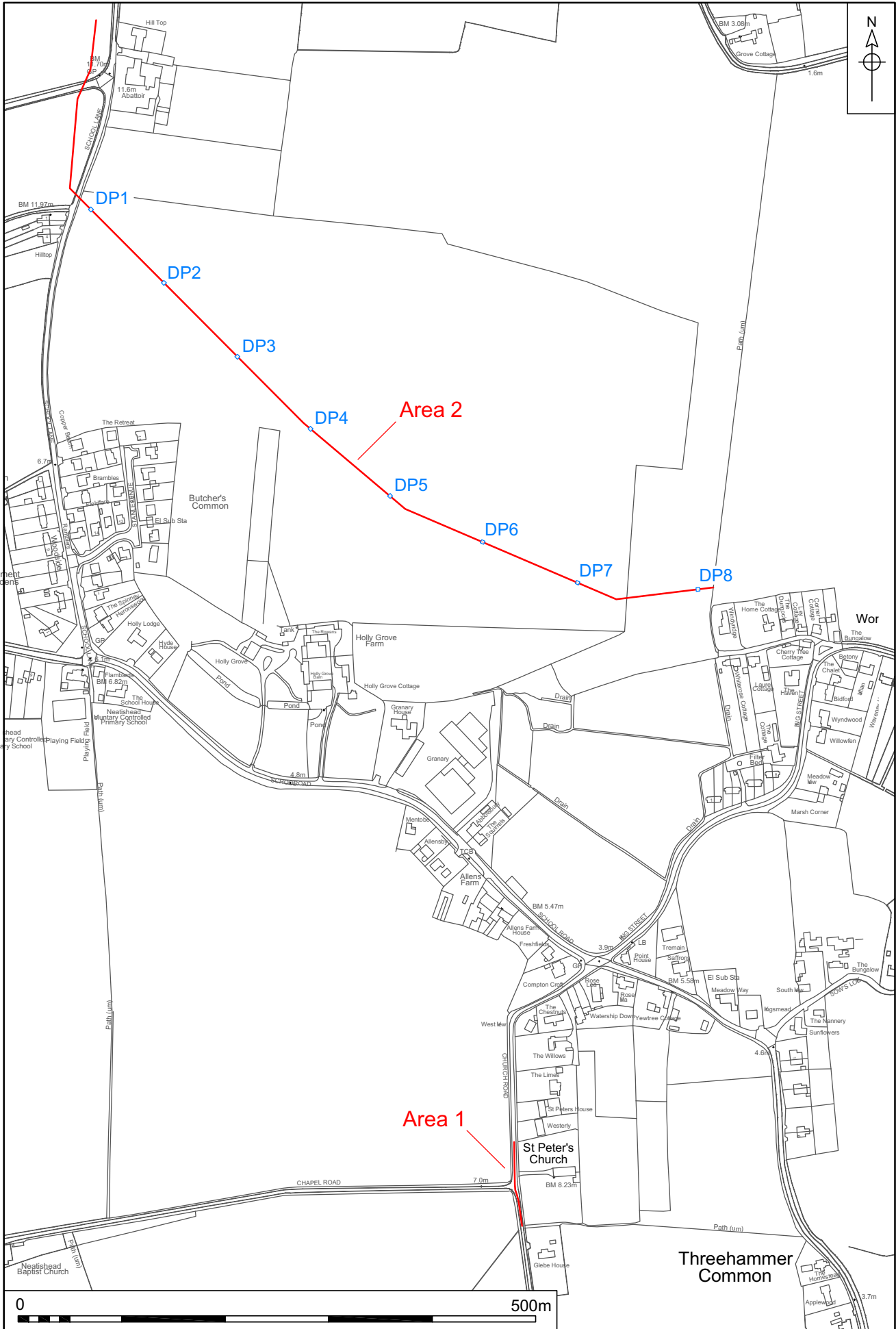


Figure 2. Location of Areas 1 and 2. Scale 1:5000

- 31 Advance notice of works to the west of School Lane was not given and the pipeline excavations were not monitored in this area.



Plate 2. Drill Pit 7 facing northwest

## **THE ARTEFACTUAL MATERIAL**

By Rebecca Sillwood

- 32 All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each category was considered separately and is included below organised by material. A full list of all finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

### **Pottery**

- 33 A single piece of post-medieval pottery (7g) was recovered unstratified from Area 2 topsoil (1). The piece is a fragment of a handle from an iron-glazed earthenware vessel of probable 18th–19th-century date. It has been discarded.

## Flint

- 34 Three fragments of burnt flint were recovered unstratified from Area 2 topsoil (1). The pieces are small and weigh 10g. They were possibly used in the prehistoric period as 'pot-boilers' (heated stones used to warm liquids), although as they are unstratified and of uncertain origin they cannot be dated or identified more closely. The flint fragments have been discarded.

## CONCLUSIONS

- 35 Area 2 was the only part of the monitored pipe-trench excavations to reveal any archaeological evidence, and this was limited. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from spoil, and a small concentration of burnt flint was found on the surface of the field. The burnt flint spread may be evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, but this is not certain.
- 36 The lack of archaeological remains in Area 1 is not considered unusual, as roadways rarely contain archaeological features. Although churches in Norfolk are often associated with Late Saxon/early medieval estate centres, providing a possible context for the presence of archaeological evidence in the area of the road adjacent to St Peter's, map evidence suggests that the road may not be of any significant age. Further, the results of the watching brief in Area 1 suggest that the churchyard never extended as far west as the line of the pipe trench.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the staff at Barhale for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of the project. The project was managed on behalf of NPS Archaeology by Jayne Bown. The project was monitored by Norfolk Historic Environment Service who also supplied HER data and the site code.

The finds were processed by Louise Weetman and recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

## Bibliography and Sources

Department for Communities and Local Government    2012    *National Planning Policy Framework*

Barringer, J.C.    1998    *Faden's Map of Norfolk*. Guist Bottom: Larks Press

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>    Accessed 01.12.2014

<http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>    Accessed 09.01.2015



## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description
1	Deposit			Topsoil, Area 2

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight	Period	Notes
1	Flint – burnt	3	10g	Unknown	DISCARDED
1	Pottery	1	7g	Post-medieval	DISCARDED

## Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Pottery	1
Unknown	Flint – burnt	3

**Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: norfolka1-195958**

## Project details

Project name	Neatishead S101a Scheme
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on two areas for Anglian Water Services during the installation of a new discharge main to upgrade the sewerage system at Neatishead, Norfolk. Area 2 was the only part of the monitored pipe-trench excavations to reveal any archaeological evidence, and this was limited. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from spoil, and a small concentration of burnt flint was found on the surface of the field. The burnt flint spread may be evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, but this is not certain. The lack of archaeological remains in Area 1 is not considered unusual, as roadways rarely contain archaeological features. Although churches in Norfolk are often associated with Late Saxon/early medieval estate centres, providing a possible context for the presence of archaeological evidence in the area of the road adjacent to St Peter's, map evidence suggests that the road may not be of any significant age. Further, the results of the watching brief in Area 1 suggest that the churchyard never extended as far west as the line of the pipe trench.
Project dates	Start: 24-11-2014 End: 28-11-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135708 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	135709 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK NEATISHEAD Neatishead S101A sewerage scheme
Study area	0 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TG 34422 19721 52.7237263832 1.47188298958 52 43 25 N 001 28 18 E Point
Site coordinates	TG 34014 20814 52.7337128032 1.46663119721 52 44 01 N 001 27 59 E Point
Site coordinates	TG 34609 20292 52.7287688723 1.47505482823 52 43 43 N 001 28 30 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 11.60m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Steve Hickling
Project supervisor	NPS Archaeology

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief on the Neatishead S101a Sewerage Scheme, Norfolk
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