
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
PRIORY ROAD,
CASTLE ACRE,
NORFOLK**

ENF128922

Work Undertaken For

Mr N Chambers

May 2012

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 8142 1506
Planning Application: 12/00082/F
Accession Number: 2012.128
OASIS ID: archaeo11-125862

APS Report No. **34/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
 Priory Road
 Castle Acre
 Norfolk
 ENF128922**

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Project Officer	Vicky Mellor
Site team	Bob Garland
Illustration	Vicky Mellor
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor
Post-excavation Analyst	Vicky Mellor

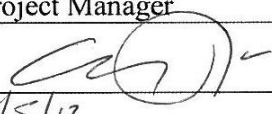

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 8/5/12	Date: 10.5.12

Table of Contents

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION.....	4
6.	CONCLUSION	6
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
9.	PERSONNEL	6
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	6

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Finds <i>by Alex Beeby & Paul Cope-Faulkner</i>
3	Glossary
4	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location map
- Figure 3 Trench location plan
- Figure 4 Trench Plan and Sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the site from southwest corner, looking northeast
- Plate 2 View of Trench 1, looking southeast
- Plate 3 Section 2, looking northeast
- Plate 4 Section 1, looking northeast
- Plate 5 Feature [112], Section 3, looking northeast

1. SUMMARY

Trial trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed development at Priory Road, Castle Acre, Norfolk, as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to previous discoveries of burials of probable Late Saxon date. Additionally, the development area lay immediately north of the medieval Castle Acre Priory, whose precinct's northern boundary is fossilised by Priory Road.

A single undated feature of uncertain type was identified during the investigations. One oyster shell and a fragment of fired clay, possibly daub or part of a mud or clay structure such as an oven, were the only artefacts retrieved from its fill.

Thick overburden recorded across the site, probably representing the accumulation of colluvium on the slope down to the Nar River valley to the south.

The southeastern part of the site, adjacent to Priory Road, may have been deliberately made-up in the post medieval or later periods through the dumping of material which included small quantities of medieval or later building materials. A single carved ashlar block and brick of possible late medieval date may derive from the Priory to the south of the site.

A single sherd of 14th to 15th century pottery was retrieved during the investigations, in addition to small quantities of animal bone and 18th to 19th century pottery.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a*

specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (12/00082/F) was submitted for the construction of a dwelling at the site.

Norfolk Historic Environment Service advised that an archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of trial trenching should be undertaken so that an informed and reasonable planning decision could be taken regarding archaeological deposits which might survive at the site.

The trial trenching was carried out on the 25th April 2012, in accordance with the specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Castle Acre is located 6km north of Swaffham and 20km southeast of King's Lynn in the administrative district of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Figure 1). The site is located near the western edge of the village, about 200m west of the parish church, on the north side of Priory Road, and south of Back Lane, at National Grid Reference TF 8142 1506 (Figure 2).

The site stands at a height of c.50m OD on land that slopes down to the south, towards the valley of the River Nar. Local soils are of the Newmarket 2 Association, typically brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 268). These are developed on the boundary between glacially derived till and Cretaceous Upper Chalk Formation.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Castle Acre sits astride the Peddars Way Roman thoroughfare and Roman coins have been found in the parish.

Several graves, believed to be Late Saxon, have been found a short distance to the northwest at The Eyrie, on Back Lane.

Castle Acre was a planned settlement centred on the holdings of the de Warennes, earls of Surrey. A gridded street pattern was enclosed by a rampart and ditch and a motte and bailey castle was constructed.

Immediately south of the proposed development area, on the opposite side of Priory Road, are the remains of the medieval Castle Acre Priory, which are a Scheduled Monument. The northern boundary of the priory precinct is fossilised by Priory Road.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives of the work were to determine the type, spatial arrangement, date, function, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological features present within the site, to establish the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area, and to establish how any archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Trial trenching was used to determine the

location, nature and density of archaeological features present on the site.

A single 15m long trench was excavated across the area, positioned to test the potential for archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Figure 3).

The trench was stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

As a water pipe was encountered near the southeastern end of the trench a small length of the trench was left unexcavated to avoid further damage to buried services.

The exposed surfaces of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled using colour digital and black and white print formats. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1.

The location of the excavated trench was surveyed using hand tapes with reference to site boundaries.

5. RESULTS

Deposits at the southeastern end of the trench were separated from those in the northwestern portion as a small part of the trench was left unexcavated due to the presence of buried services. This meant that the correlation of deposits on either side of this break in the trench was not always possible, and so the majority of

deposits were recorded as separate entities.

Northwestern portion of trench

The earliest identified deposit in the trial trench was (104), a naturally-formed layer comprising chalk fragments with sand (Plates 2 & 3).

Near the centre of the trench a patchy layer (103) was recorded overlying natural (104). Deposit (103) comprised a mid to dark reddish-brown silty clayey sand with frequent pebbles, and was apparently a subsoil layer, perhaps formed within solution hollows in the upper surface of natural chalk (104) (Figure 4 Section 2, Plate 3).

A further patchy deposit (115) was recorded at the northwestern end of the trench (Figure 4 Section 3, Plate 5). This soft to loose mottled dark to mid brown and light yellowish-white clayey sandy silt and chalk and sand may have represented a mixture of natural (104) and buried soil (102), perhaps as the result of bioturbation at the interface of these two layers.

Cut into this layer, at the far northwestern end of the trench, was feature [112] (Figure 4, Plate 5). As this feature was not fully exposed in plan its overall form was uncertain, although it may potentially have been either a pit or a ditch. It was over 1.55m by over 1.40m wide and 0.73m deep with irregular, stepped sides. The earliest excavated fill of this feature (113) was a 0.13m thick dark brownish-grey clayey sandy silt, possibly formed through gradual silting. Sealing this was a 0.50m thick fill of dark brownish-grey clayey sandy silt (114), from which an oyster shell and a single fragment of what may have been daub or part of a structure such as a clay oven were retrieved (Appendix 2). Fill (114) was of similar composition to various topsoil and subsoil layers recorded in the trench, suggesting this feature had been infilled with this material, either through gradual inwash or more rapid backfilling.

The similarity of fill (114) to topsoil and subsoil layers meant that this was indistinguishable from deposit (102) which was recorded in this part of the trench, and the stratigraphic relationship between these two deposits was uncertain (Figure 4 Section 3). Buried soil or subsoil layer (102) was a 0.30m thick dark brown slightly clayey sandy silt, which extended throughout the northwestern portion of the trench.

Sealing both layer (102) and feature fill (114) was layer (101), a 0.29m thick dark blackish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt with frequent small pebbles of chalk and flint, occasional ceramic building material fragments and flecks, which extended throughout the northwestern portion of the trench (Figure 4 Sections 2 & 3, Plates 3 & 5). This topsoil layer was distinguished from overlying 0.23m thick layer of topsoil and turf (100) only by the increased number of inclusions within (101). Together these formed the topsoil and turf of the existing garden.

Unstratified finds were retrieved during machine excavation of the northwestern portion of the trench (111). These included a single sherd of 14th to 15th century pottery, part of a Grimston Ware type jug fragment. A single sherd of 18th to 19th century pottery, a fragment of 16th to 19th century brick, a tile fragment and a small quantity of animal bone were also retrieved.

Southeastern portion of trench

Although this part of the trench was machined to a depth of 1.30m, natural deposits were not encountered. It was not considered safe to machine to greater depths, and further investigation of deposits in the base of this area of the trench was prevented by the burst water service here.

The earliest encountered deposit in this part of the trench was (110), perhaps a buried soil layer (Figure 4 Section 1, Plate

4). This soft mid to dark brown silty sandy clay with moderately frequent pebbles was over 0.66m thick.

Sealing this was layer (109), a mid brown, dark brown and whitish mixed silty sandy clay and chalk (redeposited natural) and clayey sandy silt (similar to topsoil and subsoil layers) which was 0.38m thick (Figure 4 Section 1, Plate 4). This contained a single worked stone, an ashlar block of Barnack Rag which was undiagnostic but potentially of medieval or post-medieval date (Appendix 2). This layer apparently comprised a mixed dumped deposit, which included the masonry block along with redeposited natural which might potentially also have been used as building material.

Overlying layer (109) was buried soil layer (108), which may have been equivalent to layer (102) identified in the northwestern part of the trench (Figure 4 Sections 1 & 2). This soft dark brown clayey sandy silt was 0.36m thick.

This was sealed by deposit (117), a soft dark blackish-brown clayey sandy silt layer which was 0.25m thick and possibly a continuation of layer (101) recorded in the northwestern part of the trench.

The upper horizon of buried soil layer (110) became significantly lower towards the southeastern end of the trench, falling by approximately 0.64m over a distance of c.2m (Figure 4 Section 1, Plate 4). Deposits (109) and (108) also thickened towards the southeast, and it is possible that these two deposits might have been contained within a large cut feature at the boundary between deposits (109) and (110). Alternatively, it could be that the upper horizon of (110) represents the natural contours of the area, with possible dumped deposit (109) and soil (108) forming levelling layers raising the ground level in this part of the site.

The existing ground level in this part of the trench was slightly higher than the rest

of the garden area, and a low mound was evident here. Within the trench the surface of this low mound was up to 0.30m higher than the ground level at the northwest end of the trench.

A modern water pipe trench [106] was recorded cutting into layer (117) and contained a live water service pipe.

A possible dumped layer (105) was recorded at the southeastern end of the trench and comprised a 0.12m thick mid yellowish-brown and dark blackish-brown mottled slightly clayey sandy silt with inclusions of pebbles and ceramic building material. This was sealed by topsoil and turf layer (100) (Figure 4, Plate 4).

Unstratified finds retrieved during machining of this part of the trench were allocated context number (116). These comprised a sherd of 19th century pottery, two sheep or goat bones and brick fragments which included 15th to 17th century, 17th to 19th century and 15th to 19th century examples (Appendix 2).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits identified within the trench were naturally-formed and largely comprised chalk.

A single undated cut feature was recorded at the northwestern end of the trench [112]. As this feature was only partly exposed its form and type remain uncertain, but it might be either a pit or ditch. The only artefacts retrieved from its fill were a single oyster shell and one small fragment of possible daub or oven fabric, which provide little evidence as to the function or dating of this feature. However, the absence of significant quantities of material within this feature suggests it was unlikely to have been used for refuse disposal.

Several buried soil, subsoil and topsoil deposits were recorded throughout the

trench. Overall these formed a relatively thick overburden of c.0.80m at the northwestern end of the trench, c.1.05m near the centre of the trench, and over 1.32m at the southeastern end of the trench (Figure 4). Part of this thickening to the southeast was associated with a drop in the upper horizon of the underlying natural chalk. The site lies on a general slope down to the south, towards the valley of the River Nar, and this natural slope is likely to explain this drop in levels. The position of the site on this slope may also indicate the presence of colluvium, which might explain the overall thickness of overburden through material gradually migrating down the slope, from north to south. A marked drop was noted from the ground level within the site down to the level of Priory Road, perhaps due to a combination of the reduction in ground level of the road through prolonged use and the build up of colluvium at the northern edge of the road, within the investigation site. The difference in ground level between the area of the southeastern end of the trench and the present surface of Priory Road was c.1.40m.

The migration of deposits down the slope may also help to explain why the upper fill (114) of feature [112] was indistinguishable from layer (102), with both of these deposits possibly having been subject to post-depositional movement.

The thickness of overburden deposits within the site might also potentially be the result of medieval ploughing further up the slope. This could have led to the formation of a 'headland', a characteristic of which is thick overburden, to the north side of Priory Road. However the nature of landuse in this parcel of land in the medieval period remains uncertain, and it is not clear whether it would have been under the plough.

Whilst colluvial action might well explain the thickness of overburden at the northwest end of the trench, the sequence

at the southeastern end was more complex. This included probable dumped deposit (109), which contained a large fragment of medieval or post-medieval masonry. Unstratified fragments of late medieval to post-medieval brick retrieved from this part of the trench were also likely to have derived from this deposit, although this is uncertain. It seems most likely that this material was dumped across a lower area of the site at some time in the post-medieval or later periods, and this may include at least some building materials originating from the Priory. This may have been dumped during levelling of the site, with this lower area being deliberately made-up.

Towards the top of the deposit profile in this end of the trench was layer (105), a further possible dumped layer. This succession of possible deliberately dumped layers might explain the low mound visible in the existing ground surface here.

Whilst this mound could represent the site of a former building, the presence of only small quantities of building material argues against this. Historic maps and aerial photographs of the area were briefly examined using Norfolk County Council's E-Map Explorer (www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer). No structures were evident within the area on aerial photographs dating from 1988 and 1946. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 ('England - Norfolk: 047/NW', Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 - Epoch 1) and Tithe map of 1839 (Norfolk Record Office Ref. DN/TA 238) were also examined, and again no structures were depicted in this area.

A single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery of 14th to 15th century date was retrieved during the investigation. This confirms the known presence of medieval remains in the general vicinity, but the absence of further sherds suggests a lack of intensive medieval activity within the site itself. This probably reflects the

location of the site just beyond the Priory boundary as fossilised by Priory Road.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in advance of proposed development at Priory Road, Castle Acre, as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area.

Burials of probable Late Saxon date had previously been discovered nearby and the development area lay immediately north of medieval Castle Acre Priory, whose precinct's northern boundary is fossilised by Priory Road

An undated feature of uncertain type was identified during the investigations. Artefacts retrieved from this feature were restricted to a single oyster shell and a fragment of fired clay, possibly daub or part of a mud or clay structure such as an oven.

Thick overburden was recorded across the site, the depth of these deposits probably representing the accumulation of colluvium on the slope down to the Nar River valley to the south.

The southeastern part of the site, adjacent to Priory Road, may have been deliberately made-up in the post medieval or later periods through the dumping of material which included small quantities of medieval or later building materials. A single ashlar block and brick of possible late medieval date may derive from the Priory to the south of the site.

A single sherd of 14th to 15th century pottery was retrieved during the investigations, in addition to small quantities of animal bone and 18th to 19th century pottery.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N Chambers who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Project Officer: Vicky Mellor
 Site staff: Bob Garland
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor
 CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor
 Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 IfA Institute for Archaeologists (formerly Institute of Field Archaeologists)
 OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

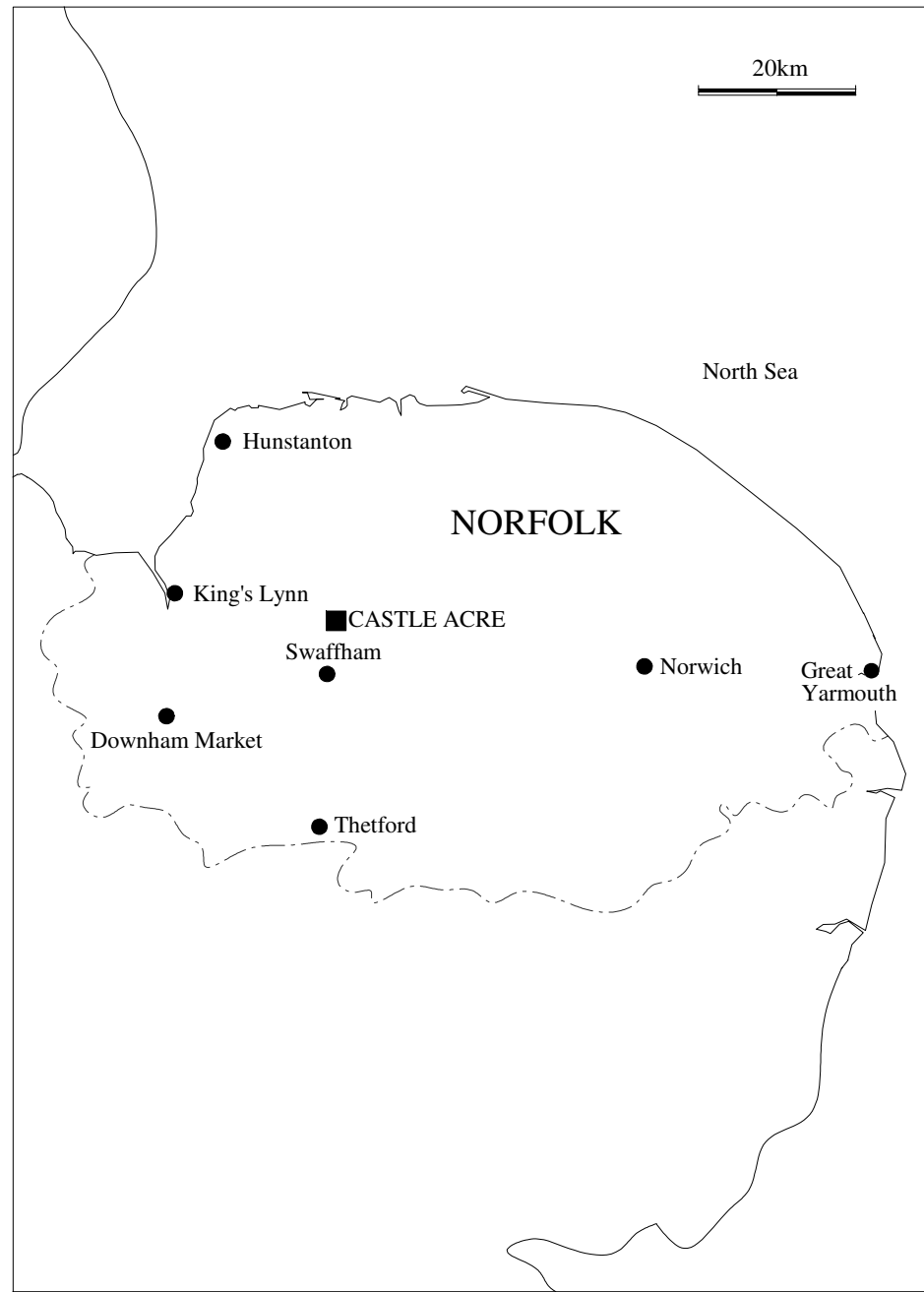
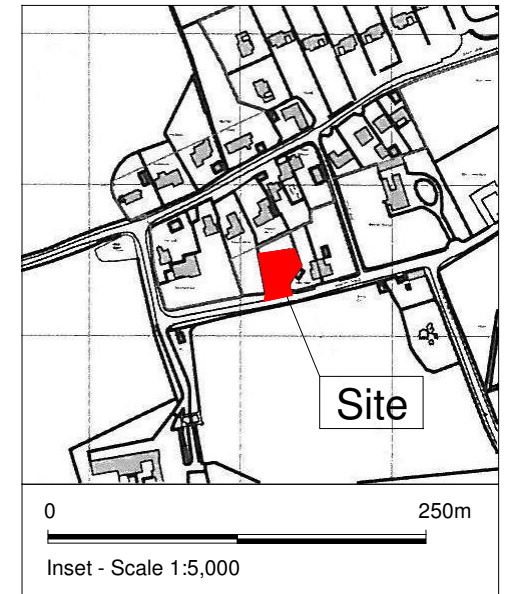
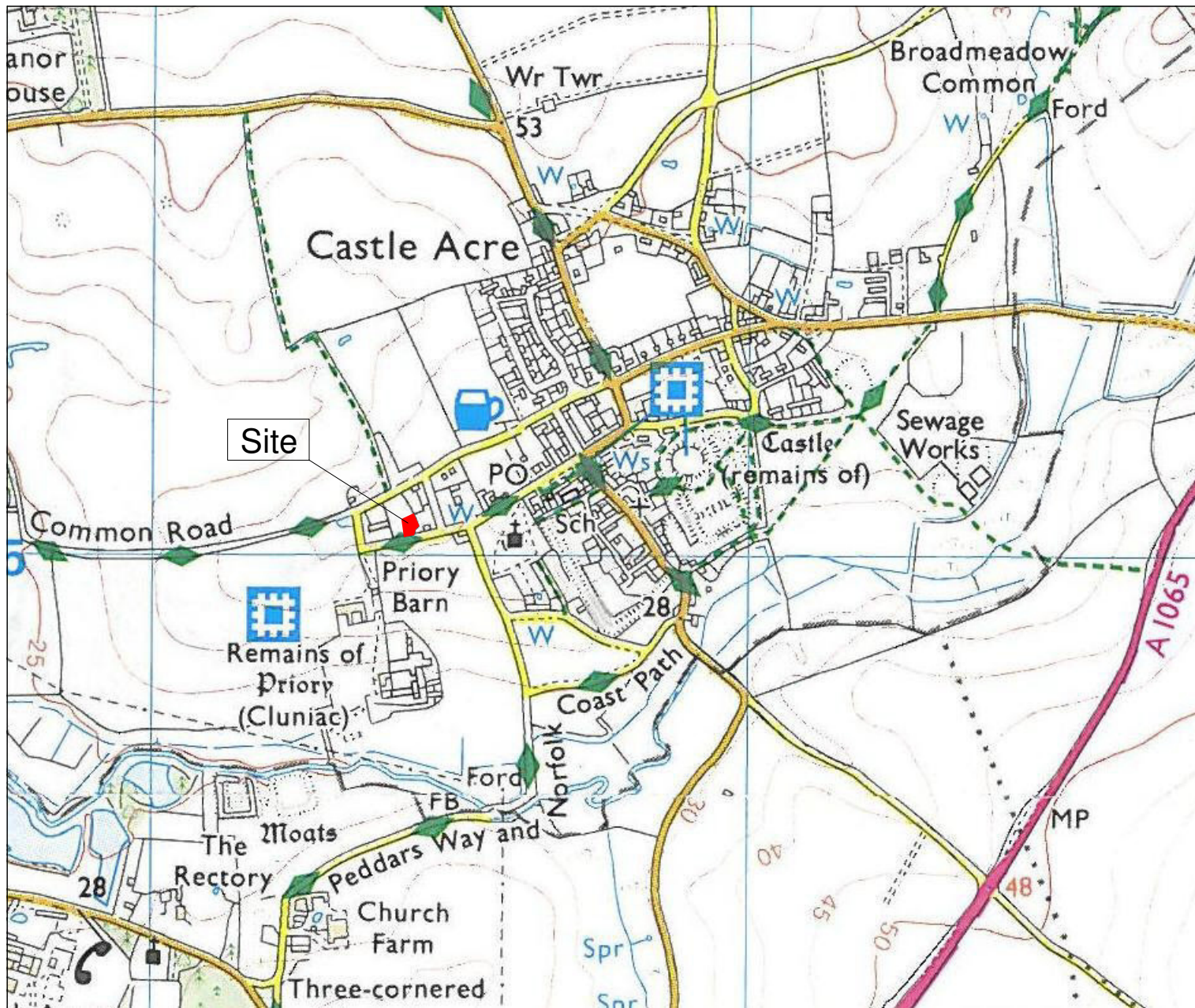


Figure 1 General location map



15

TF



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

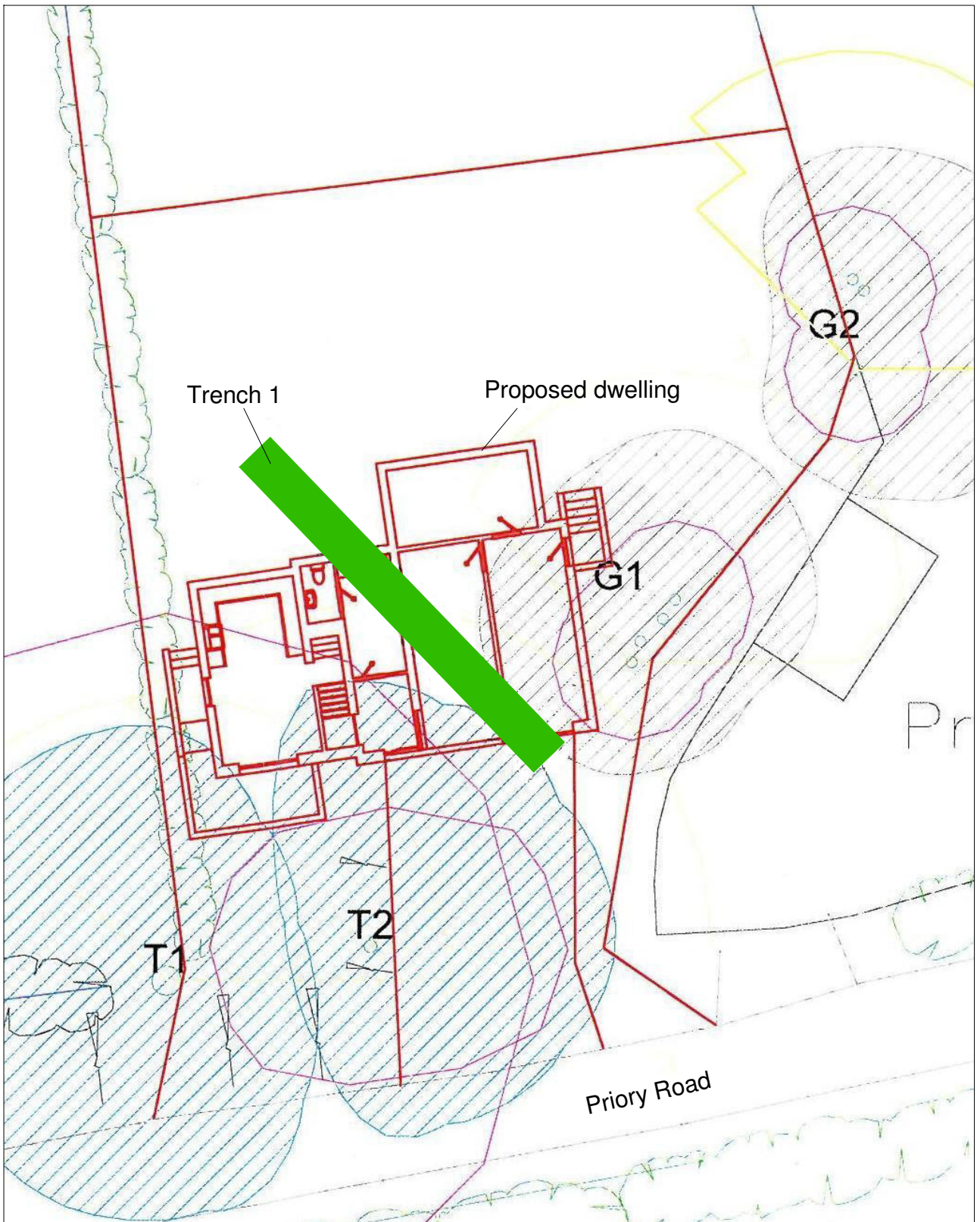


Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Castle Acre Priory Road ENF128922

Scale 1:10,000 | Drawn by: VM | Report No: 34/12

Figure 2 Site location map



0 10m




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Castle Acre Priory Road ENF128922		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 34/04

Figure 3 Trench location plan

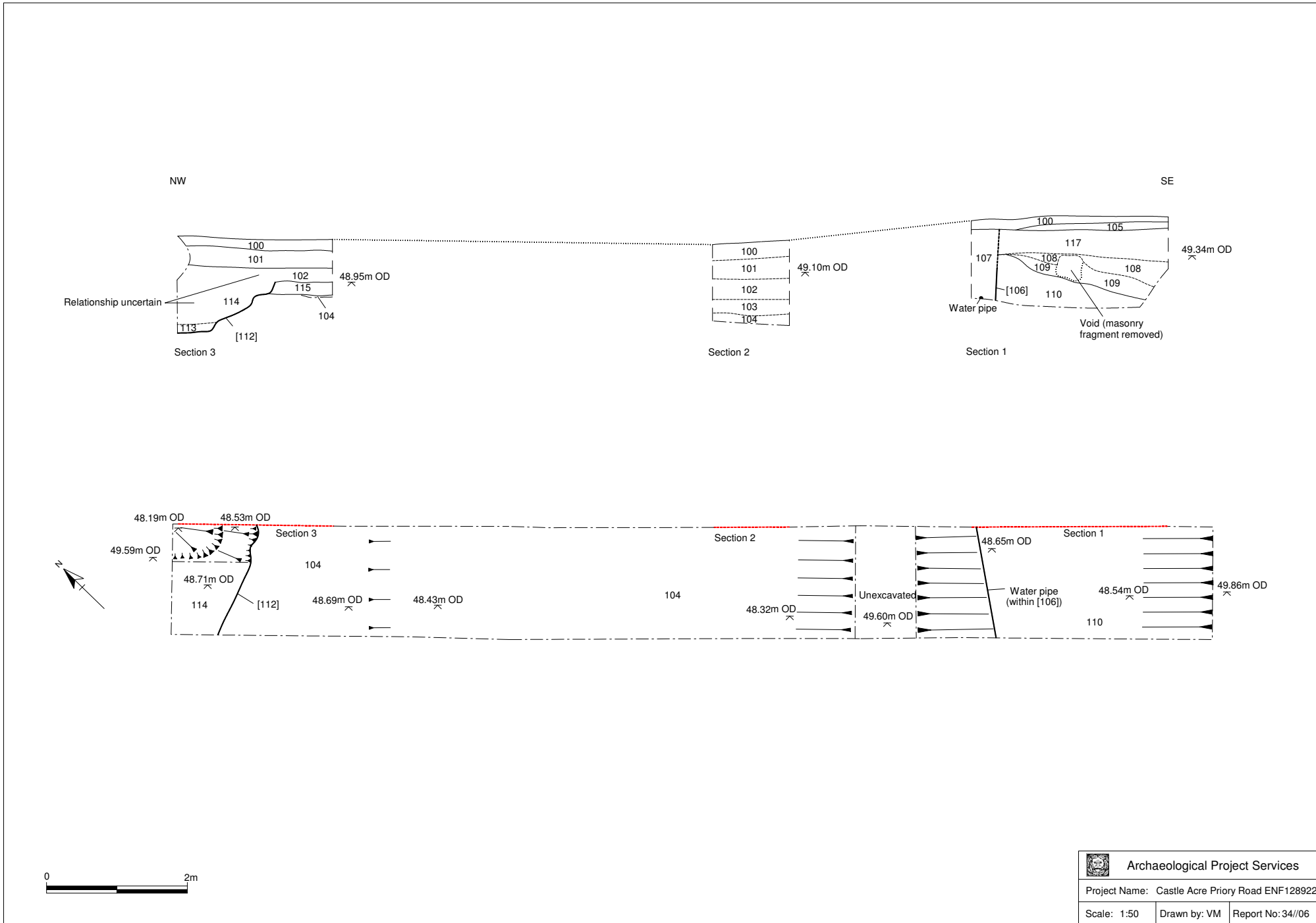


Figure 4 Trench Plan and Sections



Plate 1
General view of the
site from southwest
corner, looking
northeast



Plate 2 View of Trench 1, looking southeast



Plate 3 Section 2, looking northeast



Plate 4 Section 1, looking northeast



Plate 5 Feature [112], Section 3, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXTS

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Soft dark blackish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt with moderately frequent small pebbles and occasional flecks of ceramic building material, 0.23m thick, throughout trench	Topsoil and turf of garden
101	Moderately soft dark blackish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt with frequent small pebbles of chalk and flint, occasional ceramic building material fragments and flecks, 0.29m thick, throughout northwestern half of trench but absent from southern half	Topsoil, distinguished from (100) only by increased inclusions within this layer
102	Moderately soft to soft dark brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional flint nodules (cracked), occasional animal bone, occasional flecks of ceramic building material and moderately frequent small pebbles of chalk and flint, 0.30m thick, throughout northwestern half of trench but absent from southern half	Buried topsoil or subsoil layer
103	Moderately soft mid to dark reddish-brown silty clayey sand with frequent pebbles, flint nodules and chalk fragments, 0.23m thick, patchy deposit in central part of trench only	Patchy deposit at junction of subsoil (102) and natural (104), apparently being subsoil, perhaps material accumulated in solution hollows of chalk natural
104	Loose light yellowish-white sand and chalk fragments, over 0.13m thick	Natural chalk and sand
105	Moderately soft mid yellowish-brown and dark blackish-brown mottled slightly clayey sandy silt with black tree roots, moderately frequent pebbles and cobbles of flint and chalk and occasional flecks of ceramic building material. 0.12m thick, in southeastern part of trench only	Layer, perhaps a dumped deposit
106	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, over 0.40m wide and over 1.00m deep with near-vertical sides	Modern water service pipe trench
107	Soft dark blackish-brown clayey sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, over 1.00m thick	Fill of water pipe trench [106]
108	Soft dark brown clayey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and tree roots, 0.36m thick, in southeastern part of trench only	Buried topsoil layer, possibly equivalent to (102), apparently thickening and deepening towards southeast
109	Moderately soft mid brown, dark brown and whitish mottled silty sandy clay and chalk (redeposited natural) and clayey sandy silt (similar to topsoil and subsoil layers) containing a single masonry block, 0.38m thick, in southeastern end of trench only	Layer, apparently a mixed dumped deposit including single masonry block along with redeposited natural which may potentially have been used as a building material.

Context	Description	Interpretation
110	Soft mid to dark brown silty sandy clay with moderately frequent pebbles, over 0.66m thick, in southeast end of trench only	Layer, possibly a further buried soil, apparently thickening and deepening towards southeast
111	Unstratified finds from machining of northwest portion of trench	Finds
112	Feature, not fully exposed in plan, over 1.55m by over 1.40m wide and 0.73m deep with steep and gently concave sides at south, with gently sloping to flattish steps with several breaks of slope and changes in angle of sides, with a gently concave to flat base	Feature of uncertain nature and not fully seen in plan, potentially a pit or ditch.
113	Moderately firm dark brownish-grey clayey sandy silt with occasional black (charcoal?) fragments, 0.13m thick	Earliest excavated fill of feature [112]. Nature of deposition uncertain, but perhaps gradual silting.
114	Moderately soft dark brownish-grey clayey sandy silt with moderately frequent chalk fragments, occasional ceramic building material and black (charcoal?) fragments, 0.50m thick	Main fill of feature [112] of uncertain type and function. Similarity of this deposit to topsoil and subsoil layers in trench suggests gradual or rapid infilling with surrounding topsoil and similar layers.
115	Loose to soft mottled dark to mid brown and light yellowish-white clayey sandy silt and chalk and sand, 0.18m thick	Layer at the interface between natural (104) and buried soil (102), perhaps representing a mix of these deposits due to bioturbation.
116	Unstratified finds from machining southeast portion of trench	Finds
117	Soft dark blackish-brown clayey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and tree roots, 0.25m thick, in southeastern part of trench only	Buried topsoil layer, possibly equivalent to (101)

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which also covers surrounding counties. A total of three sherds from three vessels, weighing 53 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The pottery is fragmentary; one sherd is also classed as abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Decoration	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
111	GRIMT	Grimston Type Ware	Jug	Multiple wavy line on shoulder	BS		14th-15th	1	1	38
111	LERTH	Late Earthenware	Garden Pot?		BS	Abraded	18th-19th	1	1	4
116	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware	Bowl	Engine turned decoration	Rim		19th	1	1	11
Total								3	3	53

Provenance

All of the pottery was recovered during machine excavation of the evaluation trench. Finds from the northern area of the trench were given context number (111), whilst those from southern end were labelled (116).

Range

There is a single piece from a medieval jug in Grimston Type Ware (GRIMT) and two further fragments of early modern pottery. These are all common types in this area.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problem for long term storage.

Summary

Three fragment of pottery, one of which is medieval, were retained during the machine excavation of the evaluation trench.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of seven fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1887 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

The material is a mix of moderately large and relatively fresh pieces as well as smaller fragments. One piece is counted as abraded. A brick from (116) appears to have been roughly reshaped, perhaps for decorative purposes.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
111	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; Calcareous	Corner; handmade; sag bar impression; leached; slop moulded	16th-19th	1	93
111	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; medium sandy	Single clean flat surface; tile?		1	24
116	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; Calcareous	117mm wide; 48mm deep; sag bars; leached	15th-17th	1	681
116	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; medium sandy; flint	Shaped decorative brick; unusual; slop moulded	17th-19th	1	340
116	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; Calcareous	Leached; mortar over broken edge		1	136
116	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; Calcareous	Leached; slop moulded; sag bars; mortar over broken edge; reshaped - curved?	15th-19th	1	597
116	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine; mica	Abraded; surfaceless		1	16
Total						7	1887

Provenance

The ceramic building material was retrieved during machine excavation of the evaluation trench. Finds from the northern area of the trench were given context number (111), whilst those from southern end were labelled (116).

Range

Most if not all of the fragments of ceramic building material are from handmade bricks. Unfortunately these pieces are largely undiagnostic. A single large piece from context (116) is probably a late medieval or post medieval type, which is likely to date from the 15th to 17th century. The remainder cannot be securely dated.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The assemblage should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

A small unstratified assemblage of ceramic building material, mostly brick, was recovered during the machine excavation of the trench. One piece is likely to be late medieval to early post medieval in date, but the remainder is undiagnostic.

FIRED CLAY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001).

Methodology

The material was laid out, viewed and then weighed. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Table 3 below.

Condition

There is a single, small abraded fragment.

Results

Table 3, Fired Clay Archive

Cxt	Fabric	Sub type	NoF	W (g)	Description
114	Oxidised; calcareous	Fired Clay	1	10	Single bleached flat surface; daub?; straw impressions large rounded calcareous grits; abraded

Provenance

The fired clay was recovered from unclassified feature [112].

Range

There is a single small and abraded fragment of fired clay. This piece has a single bleached surface and grass or straw impressions. It maybe a fragment of daub or some other mud/clay structure such as an oven.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The fragment should be retained as part of the site archive and should be carefully packaged in acid free paper to prevent further degradation

Summary

A fragment of fired clay, possibly daub, was recovered during the evaluation. The piece came from unclassified feature [112].

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 7 fragments of animal bone weighing 155g was recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from the fill of a pit or ditch (114) and as unstratified material (111 and 116).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 4, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
111	large mammal	skull	-	3	25	
	sheep/goat	humerus	R	1	22	
114	oyster	shell	Top	1	77	
116	sheep/goat	tibia	-	1	15	Chopped at both ends
	sheep/goat	radius	-	1	16	

Summary

As a small assemblage and primarily unstratified, the animal bone is of limited potential. It should be retained as part of the site archive.

WORKED STONE

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

Two fragments of stone were retrieved from a layer (109) and as unstratified material (111).

Results

Table #, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	Date
109	Barnack Rag	Ashlar block, 285mm x 232mm x 165mm, drag tooling evident on joint along with two parallel grooves (20mm deep) which may be bedding grooves. Abraded and eroded on exposed surfaces	Not diagnostic
111	Mudstone	Possible roofing slate 135mm x 70mm x 17mm	Post-med?

Potential

The large ashlar block indicates that buildings were once located in the vicinity. This stone is heavily abraded which may indicate it has been re-used. It is undiagnostic and can conceivably be medieval or post-medieval in date, although the sites proximity to Castle Acre priory may support the former. Furthermore, the stone derives from the Barnack region of Northamptonshire which was a common building material for architectural detail in the west of Norfolk during the Middle Ages.

The second stone may be a roof tile and, if so, its thickness would suggest a post-medieval date.

Summary

Two fragments of stone were recovered during trial trenching at Priory Road, Castle Acre, of which one may be medieval in origin. The stone should be retained as part of the site archive.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <<http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>>
- Lyman, R. L., 1996, *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Colluvium	A loose deposit accumulated through gravity at the base of a cliff or slope.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Headland	Strip of uncultivated land left between areas of ridge and furrow which was used for turning the plough. These strips provided access and often became lanes or roads.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Daily record sheet
1	Annotated site plan
1	Levels sheet
1	Plan register sheet
1	Section register sheet
1	Photographic register sheet
1	Context register sheet
18	Context record sheets
5	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

Norfolk Environment Service Site Code: ENF128922

Oasis Record No: archaeo11-125862

Accession Number: 2012.128

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.