
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT
CUCKSTOOL LANE,
CASTLE ACRE,
NORFOLK,
(ENF 141551)**

Work Undertaken For
Nigel Chambers Construction Services
On behalf of Mr Huib van Hoven

January 2017

Report Compiled by
Chris Moulis BA(Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 8192 1498
Planning Application No.: 16/01408/F
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-271013

APS Report No: **5/17**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required during works to extend an existing dwelling at Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre, Norfolk. This was because the site lay within an area of archaeological interest, immediately south of the earthwork and masonry remains of the castle and town defences. The site also lay close to the projected alignment of the Peddar's Way Roman road.

The investigation revealed a sequence of dumped deposits of probable early post-medieval date. Upon these deposits a flint and brick built terrace of cottages had subsequently been constructed, probably in the 19th century.

Finds comprised a sherd of 16th -17th century pottery and a fragment of late 19th to early 20th century brick.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning Permission (application number 16/01408/F) was granted by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the construction of a single storey side extension and the demolition of a rear garden room. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework, Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES)

specified that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of development groundwork was required. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Nigel Chambers Construction Services to undertake this work which was carried out on 8th December 2016 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Archaeological Project Services and approved by NHES.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Castle Acre is located 20km east of King's Lynn and 17km west of Dereham, in the administrative District of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Fig. 1). The site is at the southern edge of the village, approximately 200m south of the castle tower, on the south side of Cuckstool Lane at National Grid Reference TF 8192 1498 (Fig 2). The site is on the north bank of the River Nar. At its northern edge the site lies at approximately 32m OD, sloping gently down to 31.5 at its southern edge.

The site is at the boundary of two soil types. Brown rendzinas of the Newmarket 2 Association developed on chalk rubble are located to the north and Isleham 2 Association humic sandy gleys formed in glaciofluvial sands to the south (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 268; 231).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A Roman road, Peddar's Way, passes through Castle Acre. The stretch of the Peddar's Way from the northwest of Castle Acre to Holme Next the Sea is almost all still in use as a road or lane. However, where the road passes through the village, and beyond to the southeast, its course is no longer apparent for a distance of c.5km. However, it is assumed that the road would have continued along a straight line (Margary 1973, 258-60). If so, it would pass through or adjacent to the site.

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found

during the construction of a new bank dividing the parishes of Castle Acre and West Acre (Kennett 1980, 18). The cemetery was found in 1857, and further investigated in 1891 and 1961, with urns recovered from fields in both parishes, apparently from the same cemetery. These discoveries were made approximately 2.5km west of Castle Acre village centre, and a similar distance from the centre of West Acre (ibid).

Castle Acre is referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and had a substantial population, suggesting that it originated in the Late Anglo-Saxon period (10th/11th centuries). Domesday also refers to two mills, half a salt house, and a fishery (Morris 1984). Soon after Domesday, in about 1089, Castle Acre priory was founded. Dissolved in 1537, the priory is located approximately 0.5km west of the current development site, with the priory precinct eastern boundary following South Acre Road, about 330m from the site.

Castle Acre was the centre of the Norfolk estates of the Warenne Earls of Surrey who laid out an area with a gridded street pattern and enclosed this planned settlement within a rampart and ditch to the west of the motte and bailey castle, probably in the early 12th century (Wade-Martins 1994, 72). It is the construction of the Castle and planned settlement that is thought to have diverted Peddar's Way. Excavations at the castle in the 1970s uncovered the remains of a substantial stone-built 'country house', which predated the large fortified enclosure. This was the original hall of William de Warenne, and was only lightly defended by a bank and palisade (Platt 1984, 18). The earthworks are of considerable size, and in addition to the motte, bailey and keep is a substantial outer bailey, comprising the whole area between the inner bailey at the east, and the church at the west. Both the Castle and Bailey Gate are Scheduled Monuments (SM No. 146). The proposed development site lies immediately to the south of the

inner bailey of the Castle at its junction with the outer bailey surrounding the planned settlement.

During the medieval period Cuckstool Lane may have extended northeastwards beyond its current terminus 60m northeast of the site as a road surface associated with Late Saxon pottery was revealed. Further road surfaces of medieval and post-medieval date were identified at Bailey Street, northwest of the site.

There are numerous historic buildings, some of them Listed, in Castle Acre. Most are within the outer bailey though a late medieval house is located a little, *c.* 40m, to the southwest of the current site. There is a barn and former dovecote, both of 16th century date, about 100m west of the site, within the outer bailey. The 1837 Castle Acre tithe map shows buildings at the street frontage of the site. Late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show a terrace of buildings along the street frontage of the site. Probably in the 1960s these were removed and replaced by the current bungalow at the site. These sequences of construction and demolition are likely to have impacted archaeological remains at the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the investigation was to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundworks.

The objectives of the investigation were to determine the form and function and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered; as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from them, and to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Archaeological monitoring was carried out

on groundworks in the footprint of the new extension. The area was initially stripped of turf, and the site level reduced. At the higher northern end of the extension the general level was reduced by up to 0.2m, whereas at the southern end the reduction was minimal. When the site was levelled and prepared, the foundation trenches for the new extension were then excavated. The stripped areas and trench sides were examined, and a record made of the archaeological features and deposits revealed by the works. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits, recognisable relationships between them, and artefact dating.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted with reference to the client's site plans.

5. RESULTS (Fig. 4)

At the northern end of the new extension, the earliest deposit revealed was a compact light yellowish white deposit of chalk fragments (014), provisionally interpreted as a natural deposit. Above (014) were a sequence of dumped deposits gently dipping down the slope towards the south. Firstly a compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments with occasional flints (013), followed by a soft light brownish grey deposit of sand and small chalk fragments (012), by a compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments with moderate flints (011), and by a loose

light brownish grey deposit of sand and small chalk fragments with occasional brick or tile fragments (010). Pottery of 16th-17th century date, recovered from the excavation and numbered as context (025), probably dates context (012).

To the south some variation was noted in the sequence of deposits. The earliest deposit exposed was a compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments with moderate flints (017). Deposit (017) may have represented a continuation of deposit (011), recorded to the north. Above (017) was soft mid brownish grey sand (016), with frequent small chalk fragments and moderate flints. This deposit was recorded as a subsoil, but may have originated as a continuation of deposit (010).

Approximately 2.6m south of the northern end of the extension, deposits (016) and (010) were cut by east to west aligned foundation trench [009], in which wall (002) was constructed. The wall was built of a coursed mix of flint cobbles and brick, bonded by brownish white sandy lime mortar containing frequent small chalk fragments. Soft dark greyish brown deposit (008) comprised backfill in the foundation trench. At the eastern side of the new extension, to the north of wall (002), cut [018] was the shallow construction trench for narrow wall (003). Sand deposit (004), abutting (003) to the east, may have been the base for a former floor level. A layer of yellowish and brownish white mortar with frequent brick fragments (005), abutting wall (003) to the west, probably represented material deposited in the course of the demolition of the structure indicated by walls (002) and (003).

At the southern end of the extension, the earliest context exposed was a compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments (022). The excavations did not confirm that this represented an undisturbed natural deposit. Above (022),

soft dark brownish grey chalky sand (021) and soft dark brownish grey sand (020) were provisionally recorded as subsoil. These deposits may originally have accumulated as part of the pattern of dumping revealed toward the northern end of the works, and therefore probably represented a continuation of deposit (016).

The foundation cut and footing of the existing bungalow were exposed and recorded as contexts [023] and (024). The modern topsoil was variously recorded across the site as deposits (015), (007), (019) and (001).

6. DISCUSSION

It was not possible to confirm that natural deposits were exposed by the excavations. Contexts (014) and (022), both composed of chalk fragments, may have been naturally formed, or may have been just the earliest exposed elements of the subsequent pattern of dumping and accumulation.

The episodes of dumping were most clearly revealed at the northern end of the site by the sequence of contexts comprising (013), (012), (011), (010) and (016). Pottery recovered from the trench suggests that these deposits accumulated during the early post-medieval period. The dip of the deposits appeared to follow the general fall of the ground towards the south.

The dumped deposits were truncated by the construction of a building represented by walls (002) and (003). Wall (002) formed the southern wall of the structure, wall (003) probably represented a less substantial internal division within the building, and deposit (004) was the sand bedding for a former internal floor. The location and orientation of the building matched that recorded on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping. The building

shown on an earlier tithe map was drawn in less detail, but may also have represented the same structure.

The excavations also revealed the modern foundations of the existing bungalow, and the present day topsoil of the site.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks to extend an existing single storey dwelling at Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre, Norfolk. The site was considered to be of archaeological interest as it lay immediately south of the remains of the castle and town defences, and also close to the projected ancient course of Peddar's Way, a Roman road.

A sequence of dumped deposits dated 16th-17th century were revealed, dipping gently down the slope towards the south. A flint and brick-built terrace of cottages was subsequently constructed over the dumped deposits in the late 19th century. This building was replaced in modern times by the existing bungalow on the site.

Finds comprised 16th-17th century pottery and 19th-20th century brick.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance Nigel Chambers and Mr Huib van Hoven for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
 Photographic reproduction: Chris Moulis

CAD Illustration: Chris Moulis
Post-excavation analysis: Chris Moulis

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Morris, J (gen ed), 1984 *Domesday Book, Norfolk*

Platt, C, 1984 *Medieval Britain from the Air*

Wade-Martins, P (ed), 1994 *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* (2nd edition)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

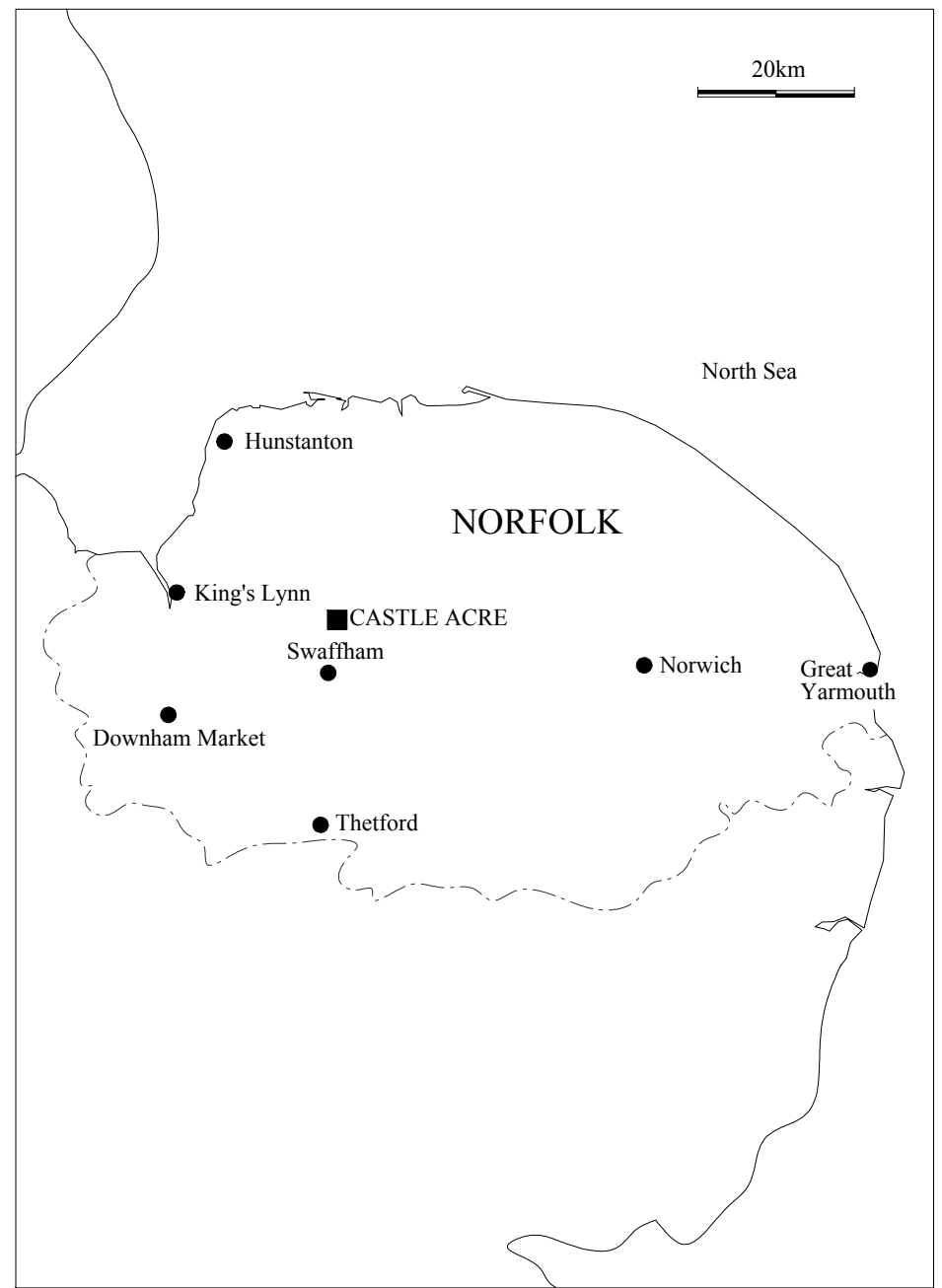
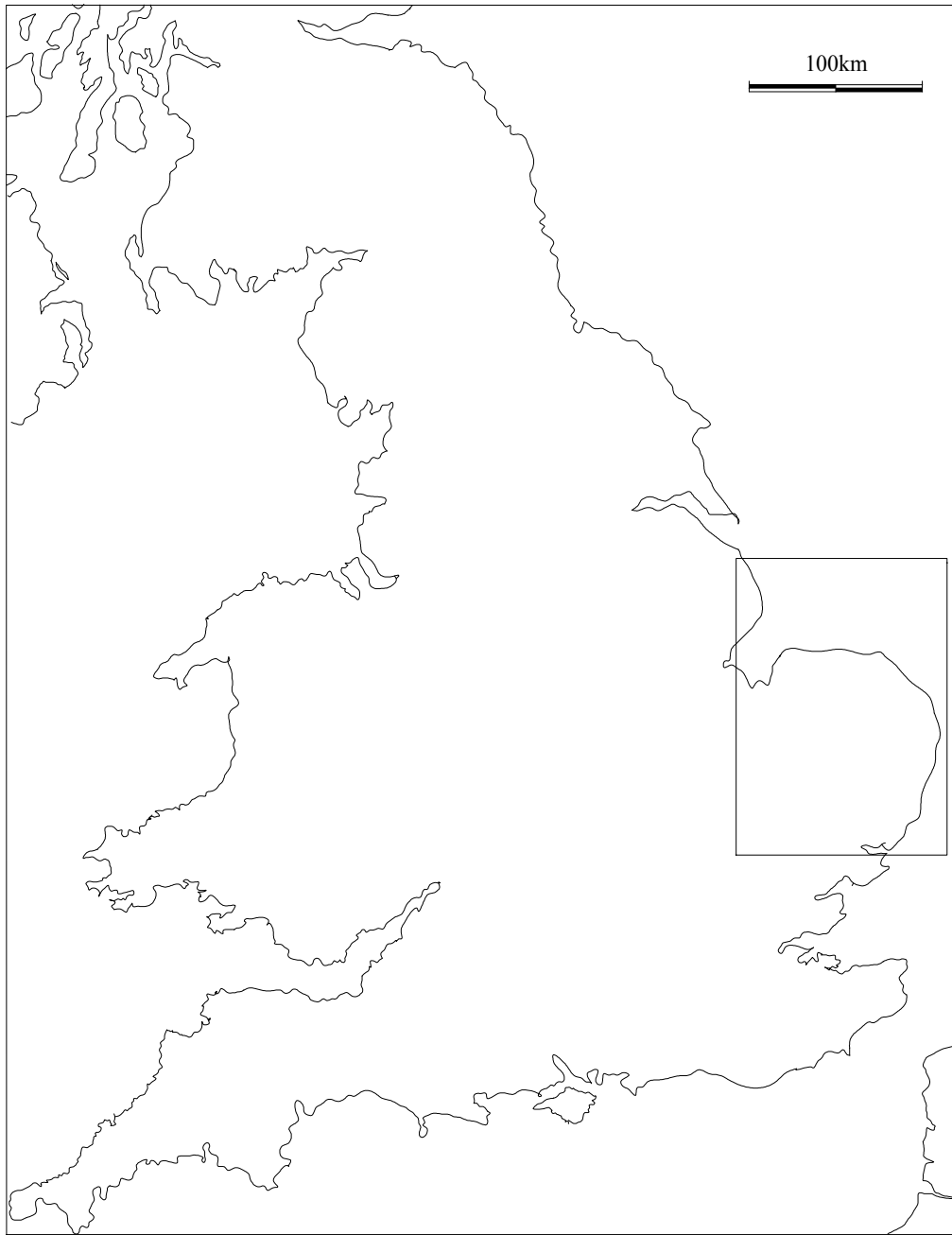


Figure 1 General location map

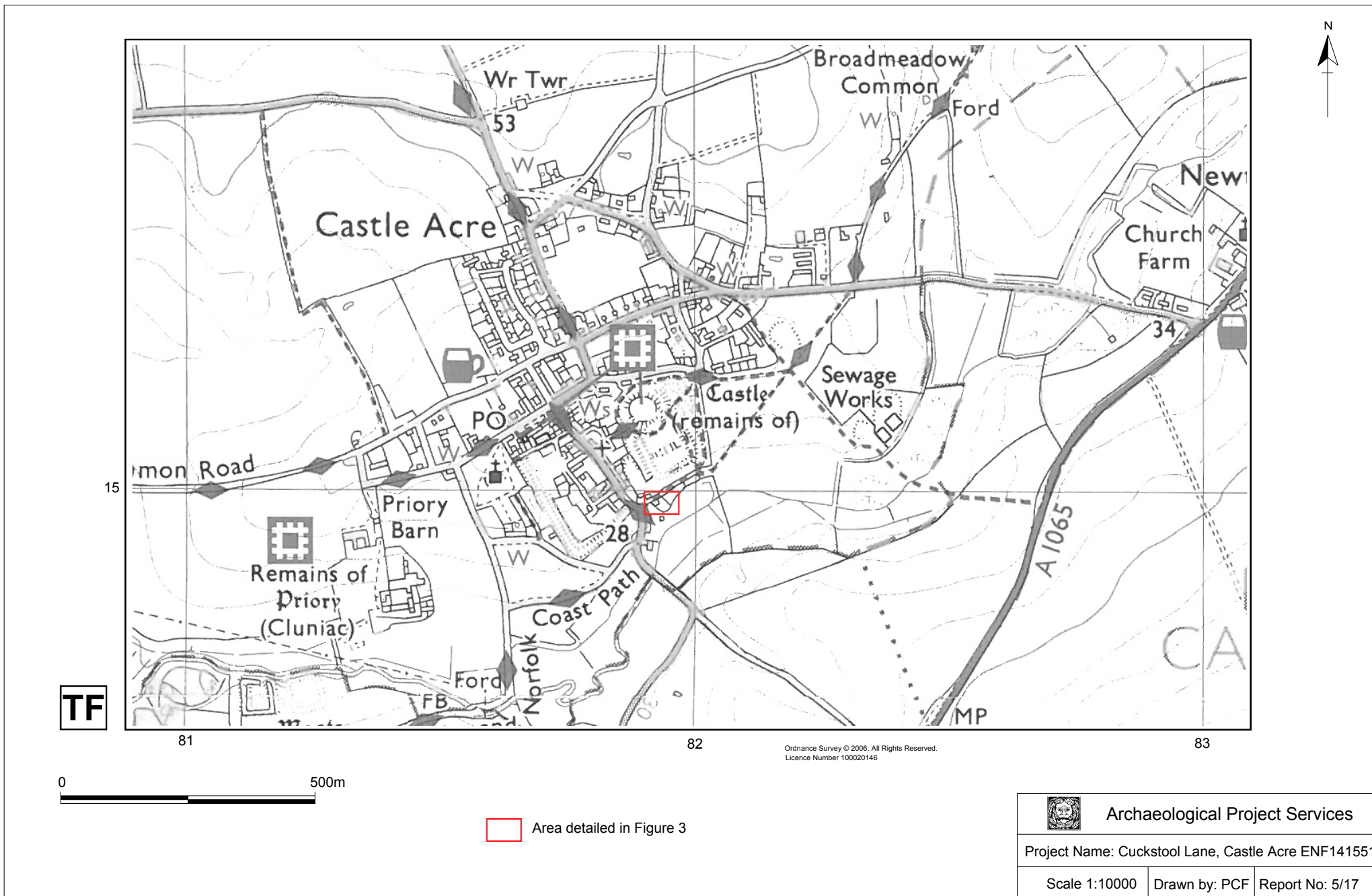


Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3. Site plan

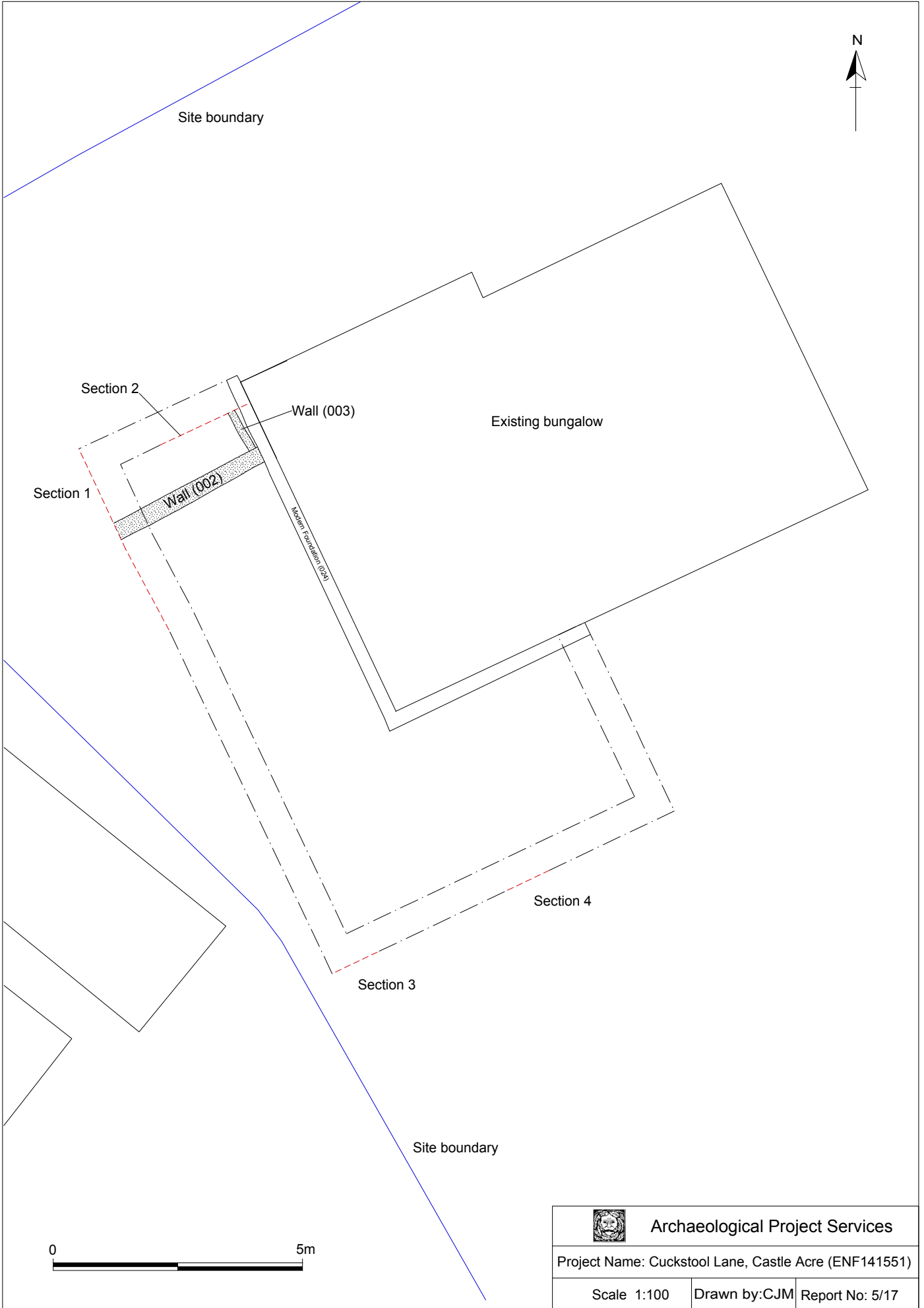
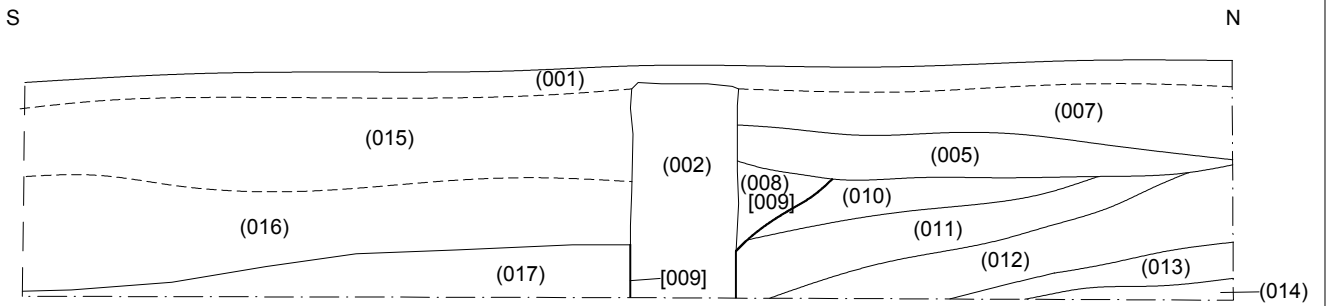
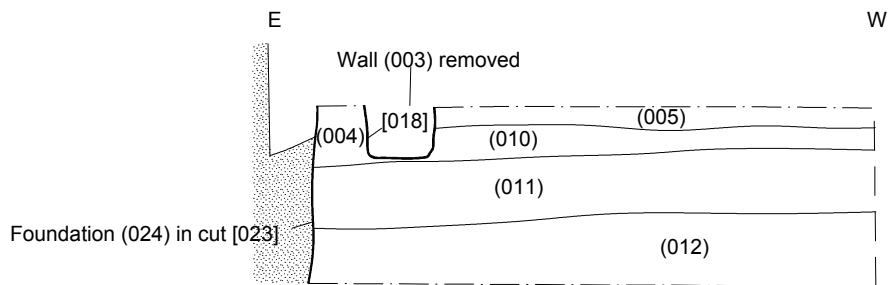


Figure 4. Foundation plan

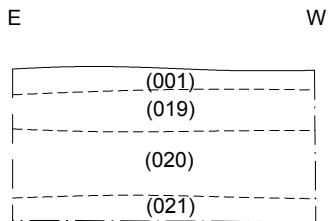
Section 1



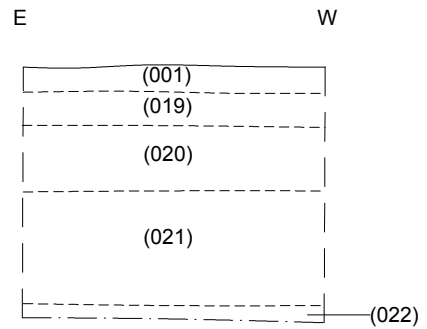
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre (ENF 141551)

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: CJM

Report No: 5/17

Figure 5. Sections

ENF 141551. Plates



Plate 1. Stripping turf and topsoil, looking north



Plate 2. Wall (002), looking northeast



Plate 3. Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 4. Section 2, looking southeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft very dark brownish grey humic sand. Moderate small chalk fragments, occasional small brick or tile fragments, and occasional flints. 0.1m thick	Topsoil (turf)
002	East to west aligned flint and brick wall, bonded with brownish white sandy lime mortar. 0.34m thick and at least 3.2m long, and remaining to at least 0.7m high	Wall
003	North to south aligned brick wall. 1 brick thick, bonded with brownish white lime mortar. At least 1.45m long	Wall
004	Soft light yellowish brown sand, 0.12m thick.	Sand deposit. Possible base of former flooring
005	Loose light yellowish and brownish white deposit mainly composed of mortar fragments. Includes frequent brick fragments. Up to 0.16m thick	Demolition debris
006	Soft light brown and light brownish white mix of sand and mortar fragments. Occasional brick or tile fragments.	Deposit. Same deposit as (016)
007	Soft very dark brownish grey humic sand with frequent small chalk fragments. Up to 0.22m thick	Topsoil
008	Quite soft. Dark greyish brown with some light yellowish brown mortar mixed in. Moderate mortar fragments and occasional small brick or tile fragments. 0.13m thick	Backfill in construction cut [009]
009	Linear cut, 0.7m wide and at least 0.7m deep. Very steep sides, vertical on the south side.	Construction cut for wall (008)
010	Quite loose light brownish grey deposit. 80% sand and 20% small chalk fragments. Occasional brick or tile fragments. 0.16m thick	Dumped deposit
011	Quite compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments. Moderate flints. 0.2m thick. Deposit dipping down slope towards the south	Dumped deposit
012	Quite soft light brownish grey deposit. 70% sand and 30% small chalk fragments. 0.23m thick. Deposit dipping down slope towards the south	Dumped deposit
013	Compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments with occasional flints. 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
014	Compact light yellowish white deposit of chalk fragments	Possibly a natural deposit (not proven)
015	Soft very dark brownish grey humic sand with frequent small chalk fragments. 0.28m thick	Topsoil
016	Soft mid brownish grey sand. Frequent small chalk fragments and moderate flints. Up to 0.4m thick	Subsoil deposit. Same deposit as (006)
017	Compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments, with moderate flints. At least 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
018	Linear cut, 0.22m wide. Vertical sides with a sharp break to a flat base. Aligned north to south	Construction cut for wall (003)
019	Soft very dark brownish grey deposit of humic sand with frequent small chalk fragments and occasional flints. 0.15m thick	Topsoil
020	Soft dark brownish grey sand with frequent small chalk fragments. 0.3m thick	Subsoil deposit

021	Soft dark brownish grey deposit. 70% sand and 30% small chalk fragments. Occasional flint cobbles	Probably a dumped deposit
022	Compact light brownish white deposit of chalk fragments. Moderate flints	Chalky deposit, possibly natural, but not proven
023	Linear cut	Foundation cut for existing bungalow
024	Masonry	Structure of existing bungalow
025	Pottery recovered from the excavations; probably from deposit (012)	Finds

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

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 can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 69 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 dates to the post medieval period.

Condition

There is a single fragment. The piece is not overly abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Part	Description	Date
025	DUTW	Dutch White Earthenware	Bowl	1	1	70	Rim	Complex rim; fine buff fabric; orange glaze	16th-17th

Provenance

The origin of the pottery is uncertain, although the piece is thought to derive from dump deposit (012). The item has been labelled with context number (025).

Range

There is a single fragment from an open form, probably a bowl, in a fine, buff coloured glazed earthenware. The item is probably a Dutch import.

Potential

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

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 2398 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

There is a single brick fragment, which represents around 70% of the total brick. Mortar is adhered to the base and both headers. Two thin layers of brick deriving from the bricks which were placed below this brick, within the structure, are also adhered to the base mortar.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	NoF	W(g)	Description	Condition	Date
002	MODBRICK	Modern Brick	1	2398	Red brick; 230x115x70mm	Fresh; handmade; encased in mortar; surface of lower bricks adhered to mortar	Late 19th to Early 20th

Provenance

The brick derives from wall [002].

Range

There is a single fragment from a modern brick.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The item has been discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
002	Late 19 th to early 20 th century	
025	16 th -17 th	

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
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <<http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm>>
- 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

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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).
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context register sheets
25	Context record sheets
1	Daily record sheets
1	Plan register sheet
1	Section register sheet
1	Photographic register sheet
4	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Bag 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:

Norwich Castle Museum
Castle Meadow
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 3JU

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	CACL16
Historic Environment Service Site Code:	ENF141551
OASIS Record No:	archaeo11-271013

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.

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-271013

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre, Norfolk
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks to extend an existing single storey dwelling at Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre, Norfolk. The site was considered to be of archaeological interest as it lay immediately south of the remains of the castle and town defences, and also lay close to the projected ancient course of Peddar's Way, a Roman road. A sequence of dumped deposits were revealed, of probable early post-medieval date, dipping gently down the slope towards the south. A flint and brick-built terrace of cottages was subsequently built, probably in the 19th century, over the dumped deposits. This building was replaced in modern times by the existing bungalow on the site.
Project dates	Start: 08-12-2016 End: 08-12-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CACL16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141551 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK CASTLE ACRE Cuckstool Lane
Postcode	PE322AH
Study area	779 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 8192 1498 52.701470588488 0.692753078978 52 42 05 N 000 41 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30m Max: 32m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services

Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service

Project design originator Archaeological Project Services

Project director/manager Gary Taylor

Project supervisor Chris Moulis

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Manuscript","Map","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on land at Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre, Norfolk (ENF141551)

Author(s)/Editor(s) Moulis, C

Other bibliographic details 5/17

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Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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