

**Report on Archaeological Monitoring at  
'The Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road,  
New Buckenham, Norfolk'**

**ENF134780**

Prepared for:  
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The Old Vicarage  
Castle Hill Road  
New Buckenham

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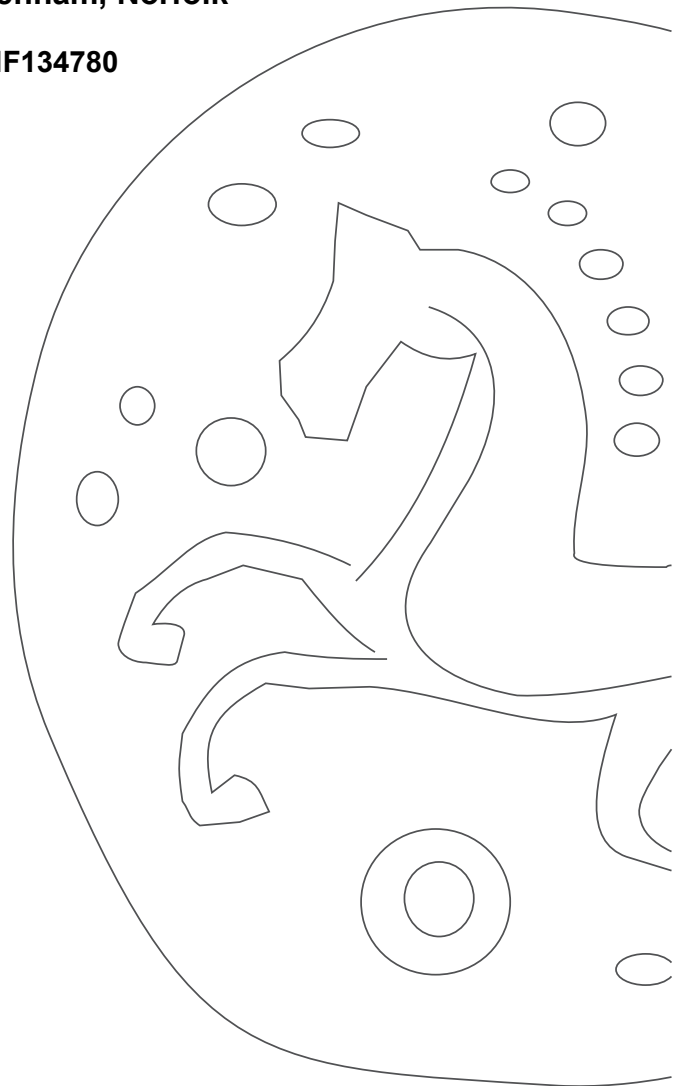
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### ***Acknowledgements***

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### ***Appendix 1 OASIS Record***

***Plate 1*** Trench and detail of 19<sup>th</sup> century extension foundation, looking approximately west

***Plate 2*** Trench showing a modern foundation, drain and earlier soakaway, looking approximately north

***Figure 1*** Site location plan

***Figure 2*** Site plan

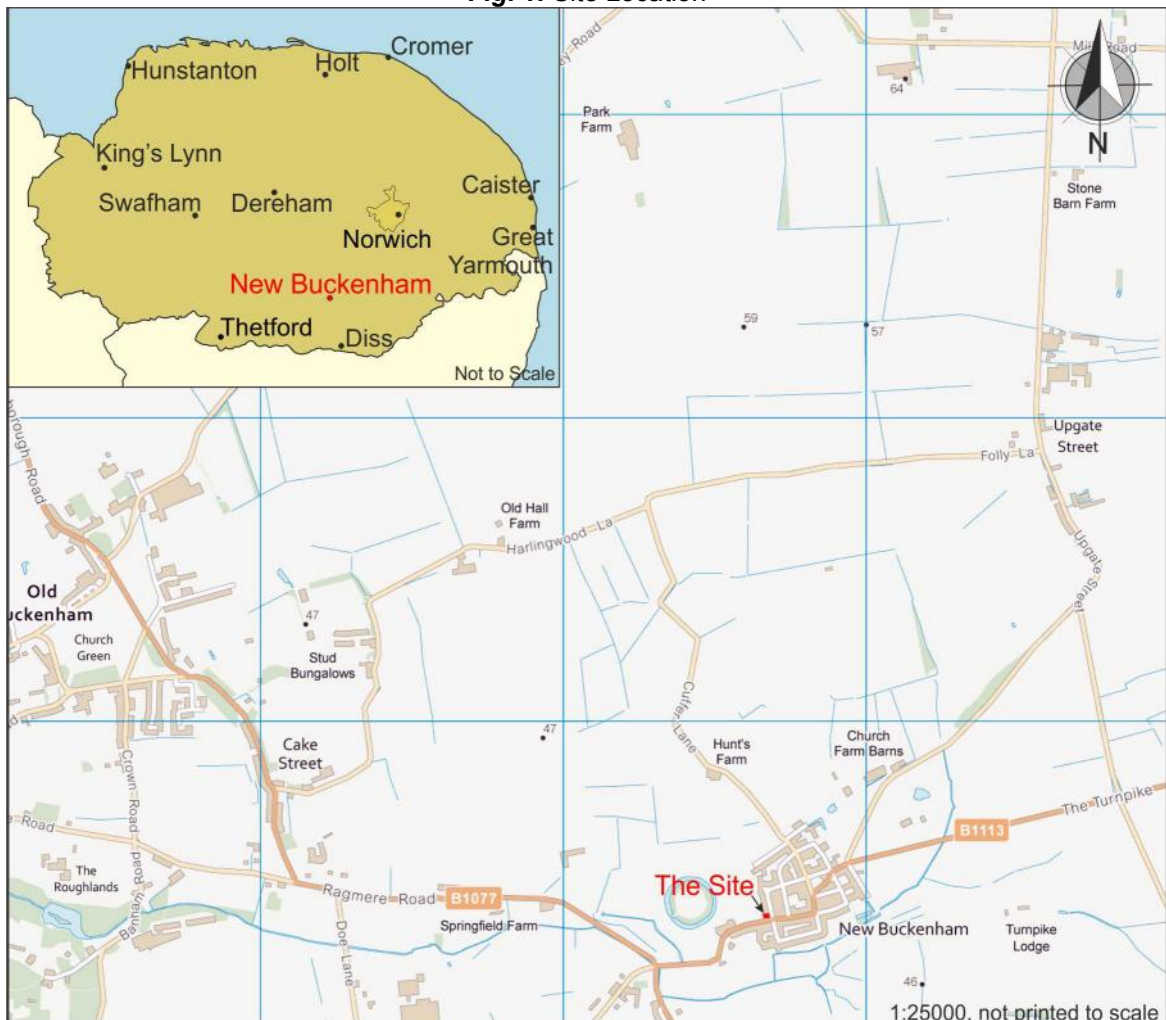
**Summary**

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at ‘Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road, New Buckenham, Norfolk’ (Norfolk Historic Environment Record ENF134780) in July 2014 during excavations associated with the construction of a new extension. No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring (“Watching Brief”) was carried out during ground works at ‘The Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road, New Buckenham, Norfolk’ (Grid refs. TM 08672 90377, centred at) and was requested by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service (generic Brief).
- 1.2 Breckland Council planning application number 3PL/2013/1073/LB. Norfolk Historic & Environment Record (NHER) ENF134780; Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) ID: chrisbir1-187649.
- 1.3 This report, CB373R, details how Chris Birks undertook these works and summarises the results. A copy has been submitted to the Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

**Fig. 1. Site Location**



**2.0 Project Background**

- 2.1 A proposal for the construction of a new extension at ‘Old Vicarage, New Buckenham’ was approved by Breckland Council subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological work. Archaeological monitoring (“Watching Brief”) was required at a level of constant attendance.

- 2.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a generic Brief issued by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service and a generic Project Design and Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring by Chris Birks (Birks 2004). Specific aims of the project are to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features. This forms part of the research agenda for the eastern counties of England in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). Contributions to environmental archaeology research aims (Murphy 2000) may also be made. Full details of research aims, methodology and standards are provided in the Project Design.
- 2.2 The site archive will be held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards. An OASIS record has been raised – reference number chrisbir1-187649.

### **3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 A great number of records exist in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for New Buckenham and the surrounding area. One hundred records were identified within 500m of the development alone. Due to the lack of significant archaeological finds, features or deposits encountered during the current scope of work, only a brief summary of these records is provided in this report. Further details of these and all other entries held in the NHER can be seen at the NHER office at Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham by prior arrangement.
- 3.2 A Neolithic flaked flint axehead was found next to a barn on the south side of the village in 1972 (NHER 9194). In this area, a Norfolk Museum Record (1933 -1973) indicates that this was the site of two Bronze Age barrows (NHER 9196) though they can no longer be seen. Prehistoric worked flints and medieval and Post-medieval pot fragments were recovered when foundations were dug for the new village hall (NHER 30609).
- 3.3 A multi-period finds scatter (NHER 31207) includes a Bronze Age socketed axehead, an Iron Age brooch and harness fittings, Roman coins, brooches, pottery and other metalwork, medieval coins, metalwork, pottery and a seal, Post-medieval coins and other metalwork, all found through metal detecting since the 1990s. Fieldwalking of a field southeast of New Buckenham (NHER 40624) recovered multi-period finds including fragments of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and Post-medieval pottery, medieval roof tile, a Post-medieval buckle and fragments of undated lava quern.
- 3.4 A series of linear earthworks (NHER 57350) crossing New Buckenham Common appear to represent a former road or trackway, visible on aerial photographs. It is possible this may be a Roman Road, possibly part of the projected route from Caistor to Icklingham, at least one section of which may have been recorded to the southwest in Snetterton (NHER 6035). It is also possible that it represents a medieval to Post-medieval road or causeway across an area that may have been waterlogged in the past.
- 3.5 Haugh Ditch (NHER 31005) is an oval enclosure of land that predates New Buckenham castle and town. It was formerly part of the Bishop's Manor of Eccles and was transferred to D'Albini as part of the arrangements for the new castle. It was used as the town field of New Buckenham.
- 3.6 Buckenham deer park (NHER 44620) was laid out by William d'Albini around 1100 AD. The park was expanded by his son, William the Strong, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, probably as part of his development of the new castle (NHER 40577) and the planned town of New Buckenham (NHER 9200). The park is marked on maps made in 1597 and 1693. It probably went out of use in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- 3.7 New Buckenham (NHER 9200 ) was laid out as a rectangular planned and fortified Norman town on a simple grid pattern attached to the D'Albini's castle (NHER 40577) in Old Buckenham parish between 1146 and 1176. It functioned as a small borough and market town. This is a remarkable example of a planned town that has generally kept to its original boundaries and layout. Within the defensive ditch are many very fine 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century houses and the mostly 15<sup>th</sup> century parish church (NHER 40579).
- 3.8 New Buckenham Castle (NHER 40577) was established by the D'Albini's around 1146. The ringwork contains the oldest, and perhaps the largest, Norman circular keep in the country. The castle has two baileys; the east bailey (recorded as Knightriders Ward in an old document) is the earliest and was reached via an east gateway that was destroyed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when the bank of the ringwork was enlarged, almost burying the gatehouse. A second bailey, gatehouse and barbican-like defensive enclosure were constructed at the same time to the southwest. Massive earthworks of these features still remain and the keep and its dividing wall with a pointed doorway still stand around 6m in height. Cropmarks of other buildings inside the ringwork can be seen on aerial photographs. The castle was besieged twice in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and was defortified in the 1640s.
- 3.9 The former chapel of St Mary (NHER 39594) was founded by William d'Albini in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to serve the parishioners of his planned town and the inhabitants of his castle. At some stage in its history it was served by the canons of St James. When the parish church of St Martin (NHER 40579) was built in New Buckenham during the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the chapel became the private chapel to the castle. At some time in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, large traceried windows were inserted. The chapel appears to have survived the Reformation, perhaps continuing in use until the defortification of the castle. It was converted for use as a barn, with the large windows being blocked-in using flint rubble and Tudor brick and since converted into a residential dwelling.
- 3.10 An archaeological evaluation on the site of the Former Snooker Hall, Church Farm Lane (NHER 39661) recorded the 12<sup>th</sup> century town boundary ditch and two Post-medieval or modern animal graves. Each of these graves contained the skeleton of a dog. The site was significantly disturbed by building during the Victorian and modern periods. An archaeological evaluation in 2008 (NHER 51520) revealed a section of the town ditch (NHER 41233) in the area immediately to the south of the old Village Hall. Post-medieval features were also identified in this area and probably relate to small-scale cultivation during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.11 The medieval town ditch (NHER 41233), with probable sites of gateways, formed the original boundary of the planned town of New Buckenham laid out in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the south ditch was infilled as the town expanded. Parts remain as open water because they were used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as tanning pits. Excavations for the foundations of a new bungalow on the southeast corner of Marsh Lane (NHER 40623) in 1992 revealed a black soil infill of a deep ditch to a depth of 3.6m. Sloping sides were visible and white chalky and sandy matter and oak timbers were exposed at the base. This may be associated with the canal in the grounds of The Rookery, approximately 300m to the east, which was previously assumed to be a garden feature. An archaeological evaluation at a site on Marsh Lane (NHER 52831) in 2009 produced no evidence of the southern arm of the town ditch. Instead, it revealed several Post-medieval features including a pit and post-holes, as well as an undated ditch that has been interpreted as a boundary within the marshy area to the south of the medieval town.
- 3.12 A fragment of medieval pottery (probably late 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century) and a Post-medieval trader's farthing token made by Francis Watts in 1657 were found in the garden of Senton, King Street (NHER 40640). Twenty-two fragments of a single wheel-turned 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery vessel were recovered from a contractors' test pit to the rear of a former garage site in 2000 (NHER 40622). An archaeological watching brief in 2003 to the northwest of this site recorded a medieval pit (NHER 39460). Pieces of medieval pot and fragments of animal bone were recovered.



- 3.13 Metal detecting recovered a medieval harness stud, a Post-medieval knife handle, a 17<sup>th</sup> century fastener and hook and a Post-medieval jetton (NHER 30103).
- 3.14 St Martin's Church (NHER 40579) was founded in the 1240s, between 50 and 100 years after the laying out of the town. Only parts of the chancel and possibly the base of the tower now date to this period. The south doorway and perhaps the south arcade were built around 1300 to 1330 and the north aisle and chapel in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. The tower, south aisle, clerestory and chancel belong to a grand rebuilding in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The church contains an Easter Sepulchre or tomb dated to 1512.
- 3.15 An early medieval gully and undated ditch (NHER 37648) were identified in the garden of Saffron House during an archaeological excavation and excavations at The Moat House (NHER 39357) recorded deposits associated with a medieval moat.
- 3.16 Corner Cottage and Crawfords, Market Place (NHER 40611) comprise a 15<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed Wealden house, documented from 1542. It stands on the site of an earlier building recorded during archaeological excavations. The decay and repair of the chimney in the 16<sup>th</sup> century may have also resulted in the flooring of the open hall. The house has been owned by a number of craftsmen including a hoopmaker or cooper.
- 3.17 Old Vicarage, Chapel Street (NHER 40581) is a timber-framed 15<sup>th</sup> century hall house, originally a guildhall. The central truss of the open hall was extremely decorative. The building was acquired by the community after the guilds were dissolved in the 1540s and was used as a 'maultery'. The building was reconstructed between 1612 and 1614 when the fabulous stepped gable end and the roof were built. Later, the building housed a minister of the parish. The brick front was added in 1867 and the east end was demolished in 1949. Tree ring analysis indicates that this building was constructed around 1452. The English Heritage National Heritage List for England (record number 220309) states that the south range is 15<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed with wattle and daub infill and 19<sup>th</sup> century brick infill. It describes the building as a 15<sup>th</sup> century hall house with sooted roof, the west chimney is 16<sup>th</sup> century but the brick gable wall was built out flush with it in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has a 19<sup>th</sup> century rear wing but the eastern half of the original block was demolished in the 1940s. A survey of the timber frame during a building survey in 2002 (Brown & Brown 2002).revealed the remains of a large open hall and possible service room, both originally open to the roof. The central truss of the open hall was of very decorative character, suggesting that identification of this building as a Guildhall may be correct. Longcroft (2005) provides a description of the guilds and associated use of Old Vicarage; *There were two parish guilds in New Buckenham. St Mary's guild is documented by bequests from 1450 and that of St Martin from 1461. It is not known of which guild this was the hall. After the dissolution of religious guilds in 1540 it was acquired by the community. The kitchen is referred to in 1567 and 1571 and by 1605 to 1606 the town had established a 'maultery'. Major reconstruction was carried out between 1612 and 1614, the date of the present roof and spectacular stepped gable end. Later it housed the minister of the parish, a perpetual curate not a beneficed priest. The brick front was added about 1867 and the eastern end was demolished by the ecclesiastical authorities in 1949. In 2004, six samples were obtained from the building for dendrochronological analysis, all of which proved usable (Tyers et al 2004). The sample complete to bark edge was felled in the winter of 1451-2 and the other samples appear to be contemporaneous and from a single phase of construction. The timbers were used green, so it is reasonable to assume a date of construction shortly after the felling date. This building has produced the earliest tree ring date obtained within the parish.*
- 3.18 9 Church Street (NHER 41041) is a classic medieval open hall house with a cross passage within the hall and twin service rooms to the south. The original building must have been built around or before 1500 and was owned by Old Buckenham Priory. The building has been altered and has a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick façade. Inside is plank and muntin screen constructed from local oak.

- 3.19 Dial House (formerly Nostradomus), King Street (NHER 40621) is a large two-celled medieval hall house built around 1500. This seems to have been the prototype for other buildings in New Buckenham, apparently adapted mainly for storage or other commercial purposes. The house become 'waste next the street' in 1561 and the consequent repair might provide a date for the insertion of the floors, chimney stacks and internal divisions. The roof was raised in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and replaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the early 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the property included a tanyard.
- 3.20 Tudor Rose Cottage, King Street (NHER 40592) is a timber-framed and thatched house built around 1500 and was altered and refronted in 1738. The central date plaque has the inscription '17 IEL 38'. 'IEL' are the initials of Joseph and Elizabeth Lucas.
- 3.21 Blair House and St Mary's Cottage, Queen Street/Market Place (NHER 40604) originated as a tripartite medieval hall house probably built around 1500. St Mary's was the storied end of the hall. A chimney was inserted in the north end of the house in the 16<sup>th</sup> century but was in decay in 1624. Its repair may have encouraged several 17<sup>th</sup> century adaptations. The house was owned by shearers and a woollen draper in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and wasn't subdivided until 1695.
- 3.22 Lovell's Stores, Market Place (NHER 41391) seems to be an early 16<sup>th</sup> century hall with a storeyed end, probably the service wing. There may also have been a parlour but if so it no longer survives. Documents record an extension that was moved here from close to the churchyard in 1596 but has now gone. The building was The Crown inn in 1596. Unlawful gaming had gone on here in 1582. The inn ceased trading by 1750. The building has since been used as a shop and house.
- 3.23 The Thatched Cottage, Marsh Lane (NHER 40606) is an early 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed and thatched house probably extensively remodelled around 1600, perhaps even being re-erected in this slightly out of the way location outside the medieval planned town and beyond the town boundary ditch. It became an inn in 1713 until de-licensed at the end of the century. It was owned by tanners in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and had been divided into three tenements by 1817 but has since been remade into a single property.
- 3.24 Cobwebs, formerly The Green formerly The House, Boosey's Walk (NHER 40615) is an early 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house with wattle and daub infill and a black glazed pantile roof. Documents indicate that there was a butcher's shop on this site. Excavations for building work in 1978 revealed a square brick structure, possibly of 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Finds included a copper alloy candle snuffer and medieval pottery from beneath the kitchen floor.
- 3.25 The Pleasance, Queen Street (NHER 40608) is an early 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house adapted for use as a warehouse. A shop belonging to it but on the market place is documented in 1611 and 1634. The oddly-placed, wide front door at the extreme east end would have given access to the shop and the market. From at least the late 16<sup>th</sup> century it was owned by traders whose business required bulk storage. One of the owners, Robert Turner, was a haberdasher, grocer-apothecary, tallow-chandler, cheeseman and general dealer. It became a house sometime in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and was faced in brick in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.26 Number. 3, Oak Cottage and Priory Cottage (formerly Yellow Cottage), Market Place (NHER 40616) comprises three timber-framed jettied cottages, once one property. Oak Cottage was the hall, Priory Cottage was the crosspassage and service section and number 3 was the parlour. The building was erected when the market place was narrowed in the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century by Old Buckenham Priory. The building was always floored and heated by a chimney. From the 1630s to 1711 it was owned by the leading family of Barber, butchers and graziers. It had been subdivided into three cottages by 1840.



- 3.27 Park House, Market Place (NHER 40643) is a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building, an inn called the White Hart in 1600 when it was the subject of a celebrated dispute among the county justices. The religious faction wanted to close it as a disorderly house whilst others supported the owner, Richard Hulse. It remained an inn. Illicit games were reported in 1608. It is last described as an inn in 1676. In 1737 it was owned by William Colman a carpenter. The building has been much altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 3.28 Lane's End on Marsh Lane (NHER 40578 ) is an L-shaped timber-framed house that consists of two buildings; one fronting Boosey's Walk and the other Marsh Lane. The structure is built of rendered and colourwashed wattle and daub infill and later brickwork. The part fronting Boosey's Walk consists of the hall, service wing and parlour of a house of the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Inside this house are a series of scratched apotropaic marks on the mantle beam. It was owned by the Payne family from 1542 to 1729. The roof of this house was raised in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Marsh Lane building was built against the Boosey's Walk range in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The L-shaped building has been split into two houses in the modern period. Flintside occupies the parlour end of the Boosey's Walk range whilst Lane's End consists of the hall and service room and the building on Marsh Lane.
- 3.29 The Wine Cellars, Market Place (NHER 41641) is a brick-fronted house that dates to about 1880 though it contains part of a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-frame. The frame is part of the western end of a house that was subdivided in 1805. The house is documented from 1528. There are extensive 19<sup>th</sup> century wine cellars. The eastern end was destroyed by fire in 1880 and most of the structure was rebuilt after.
- 3.30 Market House or Market Cross (NHER 40580) is a timber-framed, rendered brick, wattle and daub infill market cross, originally two 16<sup>th</sup> century shops. They were bought by the town in 1715 and the market cross was moved here in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The cross has an open ground floor with a meeting chamber raised on timber Tuscan columns resting on iron shoes and stone plinths. On the ground floor a central whipping post and large hook were inserted.
- 3.31 Number 1 Chapel Street (NHER 40584) is a 16<sup>th</sup> century two-storey timber-framed house with roughcast wattle and daub infill and occasional brick repairs. The upper storey is jettied. Inside it has a medieval town house plan. It probably started life as the gatehouse of a building of some importance. It belonged to the Verdon family, the retainers of the Knyvetts at the castle, and leading townsmen from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the gatehouse was converted into a residential dwelling.
- 3.32 Flintside Cottage, Boosey's Walk (NHER 41039) is an L-shaped timber-framed house comprising two buildings; one fronting Boosey's Walk and the other Marsh Lane. The structure is built of rendered and colourwashed wattle and daub infill and later brickwork. The part fronting Boosey's Walk consists of the hall, service wing and parlour of a house of mid-16<sup>th</sup> century date. Inside this house are a series of scratched apotropaic marks (to ward off evil) on the mantle beam. It was owned by the Payne family from 1542 to 1729. The roof of this house was raised in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Marsh Lane building was built against the Boosey's Walk range in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The L-shaped building has been split into two houses in the modern period. Flintside occupies the parlour end of the Boosey's Walk range whilst Lane's End consists of the hall and service room and the building on Marsh Lane.
- 3.33 A survey of Bakehouse Pottery, King Street (NHER 40594) indicated that this house was part of a large house with Bakehouse Cottage (NHER 40595) built in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century as a floored hall. The west end appears to have been added in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century with an impressively high ceiling. The westernmost bay, with its less impressive timbers, may be a 17<sup>th</sup> century infilling of a cart entrance or alleyway between this and the next house. However, documents do not agree with this survey and record that The Old Bakehouse was 'lately built' in 1608 and Bakehouse Cottage was in existence before 1534. The bakery became a pottery workshop.

- 3.34 Pinchpot (formerly McIntyre House), Chapel Street (NHER 40585) is a two-bay timber-framed house built between 1623 and 1625 on a site that was newly developed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Older timbers appear to have been used in the timber frame which is infilled with wattle and daub. The west wing probably dates from 1680 to 1740 and the southern extension is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The name is derived from the 17<sup>th</sup> century owner, Widow Stacy, who had a habit of pinching the leather pot at The Bull Inn to increase the profit margin on her beer. This practice may have paid for the showy plaster and woodwork inside the house! Francis Watts a grocer who issued a New Buckenham halfpenny in 1657 also lived here.
- 3.35 The Old White Horse Inn and White Horse Cottage, King Street (NHER 40586) is a two-storey timber-framed house built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was set into the curtilage of the Verdon's extensive house. By 1634 the house had been split into two. A shop may have replaced the service end and the parlour was rebuilt around 1600. This part of the house is now separate and is called White Horse Cottage. The building remained in two sections both successively becoming inns in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, first the Bell and then the White Horse. By 1750 the Bell had become the parish poorhouse.
- 3.36 An architectural survey of Diken Cottage, The Old Swan and The Beams, King Street (NHER 40617) indicated that this range of timber-framed buildings was originally two separate houses. The eastern house became The Old Swan and the east half of Diken Cottage. This was originally a tripartite house with a hall, shop and parlour or service end. The western house became The Beams and the west part of Diken Cottage. This was a single room and hall. These two timber-framed houses were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The western house was built before the eastern. Despite the modern name it was the western house (now The Beams and part of Diken Cottage) that is recorded in documents as being The Swan Inn in 1676 although brewers and tapsters had been living here from 1601 onwards. The range was subdivided into the more recent arrangement in 1818 and was refronted in brick in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.37 Fairview (NHER 40590) is a timber-framed house that appears to date to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. A survey has suggested that it was once part of a medieval four bay open hall. It was floored in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Inside the mantle beam bears ritual apotropaic marks. There are also salt shelves (or candle alcoves) at the rear of a chimney and evidence of a bread oven on the north side. It was fully restored between 1976 and 1978.
- 3.38 The Retreat, Market Place (NHER 40601) is a late 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house that was remodelled around 1750, refaced in brick around 1840 and restored in the 1970s. At the rear are two 18<sup>th</sup> century gabled wings forming an F-shaped plan.
- 3.39 King's Head Public House, Market Place (NHER 40602) comprises a house first documented in 1542. It was originally part of a large courtyard house called Broadgates until Holly Lodge was sold off in 1692 (NHER 40609 - a two-storey gault brick house built around 1830 with a gabled slate roof). The surviving 16<sup>th</sup> century bays are the extension built to the rear of an earlier and now disappeared range facing the market. They may have been constructed when the building was owned briefly in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century by the leading Verdon family. The earlier range was replaced with the 17<sup>th</sup> century bays of the rear bar and the 19<sup>th</sup> century front range. The building was not named as an inn until 1762.
- 3.40 Tanyard Cottage (NHER 40641) existed as a separate medieval open hall with a service end and a floored parlour, the back wing of The Swan (NHER 40617). The floor was inserted in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is not recorded in documents until it had declined into a stable and was sold off separately in 1742. It had been subdivided by 1859. An archaeological watching brief in the front garden during ground works associated with the construction of a new garage in the front garden in 2001 revealed no archaeological features or finds.
- 3.41 Pickwick Cottage, Market Place (NHER 40600) is a timber-framed cottage that dates back to around 1600. It was built on a site recorded in an old document dating to 1493. The earliest part

of the house is the parlour (south) end. From at least 1614 to 1728 its owners were oatmeal-makers and in 1633 and 1728 the premises included an oat mill. Many alterations were made inside the house in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup>.

- 3.42 Eastview (number 1) and number 2, Chapel Hill (NHER 40614) are timber-framed houses built as one around 1630. They have a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick facing. The house seems to have always been floored with fireplaces on both the ground and first floors. This is the earliest building in the terrace. It is possible the row was built to let, perhaps as small shops or workshops, in stages as need demanded. They were restored in the 1980s.
- 3.43 Thyme Cottage, formerly Charliz, formerly The Cottage, Rosemary Lane (NHER 40630) contains a one-storey timber-framed building with heightened walls and an inserted first floor. It is unclear when it was built and its unusual structure has led to the suggestion that this was a medieval guildhall. It is not recorded in documents until 1640 when it was described as a cottage. It was later split into three cottages, perhaps when the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick front was added, but by 1859 had been re-combined into one house.
- 3.44 The antique shop and Post Office, King Street (NHER 40591) are shops and domestic quarters built on a plot assembled by the purchase of two separate pieces of land in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The timber framed structure was built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building was subdivided before 1675 and then rejoined by 1825. The house was owned by John Gall in 1877 who was probably responsible for the continuous refacing of the building in brick.
- 3.45 King's Stores, King Street (NHER 40593) comprises an early 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house and shop refronted in gault brick in the 1860s. It has a 19<sup>th</sup> century double fronted shop fascia. A late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century wall painting was found over an upper floor fireplace in 1979.
- 3.46 Senton and Red Roof, King Street (NHER 40589) are two timber-framed houses that appear to date to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. A survey has suggested that these may originally have been part of a medieval four bay open hall. If so this was before 1562 when Senton/Red Roof was already in separate ownership. These two houses were not split until after 1854. The back of the houses dates to the 1970s.
- 3.47 Numbers 3 to 6 Chapel Hill (NHER 40613) are 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed rendered cottages with pantile roofs that replaced a single house that was here around 1563. The cottages were built as single- and two-celled buildings and most had first floors and chimneys inserted at a later date. The earliest is number 3 and the latest is number 6. It is possible the row was built to let, perhaps as small shops or workshops, in stages as need demanded. They were restored in the 1980s.
- 3.48 Three houses west of Tudor Rose Cottage, King Street (NHER 40618) have been interpreted as 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed houses refronted in brick in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. A survey of the eastern part of the range (Butcher's Shop) indicated that this is a mid-16<sup>th</sup> century three-cell timber-framed house. Documents record this as being owned by tanners and bakers.
- 3.49 Saffron House, formerly Rookery Lodge, Booseys Walk (NHER 40619) is a house that was once part of a much larger early 17<sup>th</sup> century three-storeyed house. One stepped gable of this house and a contemporary garden wall still survive. The building was converted into a lodge or steward's house for The Rookery (NHER 40636) in 1627. The Rookery (NHER 40636) was built as a 17<sup>th</sup> century tripartite house with a central hall and service and parlour wings by Charles Gosling. The hall reused older timbers and the gabled parlour wing was replaced by 1820 and further modernised in the Victorian period. The house formerly had a garden house which contained some carved stone coats of arms.
- 3.50 Houses west of Eastell Cottage, King Street (NHER 40587) are two-timber framed houses date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. They were refronted in brick in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 3.51 Market Cross Cottage, Market Place (NHER 40596) is a cottage that adjoins the Market Cross (NHER 40580) and originated as one or more of the shops set up when the Market Cross was reconstructed in its present position after 1716. The roof was raised in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the south elevation was rebuilt and remodelled in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.52 St Mary's, Market Place (NHER 40603) is a brick house that dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century though built around an earlier timber-framed house. The name dates back to 1713 when the owners also had a brewhouse on Rosemary Lane. The building became a nursing home.
- 3.53 Numbers 4, 5, 7 and 8 Chapel Street (NHER 40620) are four 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, partly timber-framed. They have two-storeys with pantiled roofs.
- 3.54 Fragments of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century lead-glazed earthenware pottery and a lead weight were found in grounds of The Retreat during gardening in 1986 (NHER 40625). In 1993, excavations revealed a medieval to Post-medieval ditch, possibly the southern boundary ditch of the medieval town. Evidence of this ditch was also revealed at Dicken Cottage, Marsh Lane (NHER 40626) during excavations in 1996. The finds indicated that there was some accumulation of refuse within the Town Ditch, albeit in small quantities. Pottery from the later fills indicated that the backfilling of the ditch probably occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.55 An archaeological evaluation on The Old Bowling Green (NHER 40627) in 1995 revealed Post-medieval pits, a posthole and possibly a pond. This probably indicates that when the ground was lowered to form the bowling green, archaeological evidence for the medieval town was destroyed.
- 3.56 Archaeological excavation of three trenches at the Market Place (NHER 40628) in 1995 revealed several deep Post-medieval cellars and dumps of Post-medieval building material. At the northern end of the site deep Post-medieval cellar excavation has removed earlier archaeological deposits and it is unlikely that evidence of medieval activity survives on the site.
- 3.57 Archaeological excavations in 1999 at The Old Police House, Chapel Street (NHER 40629) revealed a Post-medieval gully, undated postholes and a pit. Both the gully and the pit contained iron smithing residues indicating industrial activity on the site. Residual prehistoric and medieval pottery fragments were also recovered.
- 3.58 Excavations for the foundations of a new house to the rear of number 8 Chapel Street (NHER 40631) in 1983 revealed no archaeological features or finds indicating the area has never been built over (although the excavations were not reported until concrete for the foundations had been poured). The land had previously been used for allotments and large quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick, tile, china, glass and ironwork were present in topsoil. A piece of architectural carved limestone presumed to have come from the castle, church or a chapel may have brought to the site making part of a rockery during the modern period.
- 3.59 Medieval and Post-medieval pottery fragments were recovered from the garden of Rotherham Cottage, Chapel Street (NHER 40634).
- 3.60 Wysteria House and Cottage, Market Place (NHER 40597) is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century house, partly timber-framed and rendered. It has a gabled roof of black glazed pantiles. Documentary sources refer to a house being on this site in the 1540s. The house has been split into two separate properties.
- 3.61 One piece of medieval pottery and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century building rubble was found on a new building plot in Marsh Lane (NHER 40637) in 1986. No other finds or features were recorded indicating that this area was not built on during the medieval period. The plot was occupied only by garden shed since 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.62 A single sherd of late medieval pottery was found on a house building plot between Marsh Lane and King Street (NHER 40638) in 1986. No other finds or features were recorded.



- 3.63 A large pit was recorded to the rear of No. 2, Chapel Hill (NHER 40612) when foundation trenches were excavated for a new extension in 1999. The pit contained late medieval/transitional pottery and a piece of late medieval or early Post-medieval Flemish floor tile.
- 3.64 A fragment of late medieval or Post-medieval pottery was found in an overgrown broad bean garden at the Village Hall, Marsh Lane (NHER 40639) in 1992. Metal detecting in a field to the south/southeast of the village in 2004 (NHER 40678) recovered a Post-medieval coin.
- 3.65 Beech House, Norwich Road (formerly The Bull Inn, NHER 40607) is a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house with a brick skin and a slate roof. It incorporates a much earlier 15<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building, The Bull Inn. This was the largest pub in the town in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and despite being accused of being a disorderly house in 1561 and permitting unlawful games in 1577 it remained an inn until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.66 Cosy Cottage, Church Street (NHER 41043) is a late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century barn, not documented until 1825 when it was described as a barn with a stable and yard. By 1849 it had been split into four cottages with a butcher's shop. The upper parts of the end gables were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.67 Hill House, Chapel Street (NHER 40583) is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house, altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.68 Forge, Market Place (NHER 40598), an early 19<sup>th</sup> century forge, is a one-storey building with a timber frontage on a brick plinth. Inside is a pair of forges.
- 3.69 The Limes, Market Place (NHER 40599) is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick house has two storeys and a slate roof.
- 3.70 A 19<sup>th</sup> century flint shed (NHER 41284) north of the church contains reused limestone blocks, possibly from the church that was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.71 An archaeological watching brief in 2006 at Church Farm (NHER 49104) revealed a pit containing animal bones and a Post-medieval pipe stem. A fragment of a 19<sup>th</sup> century glass bottle was also found.
- 3.72 Post-medieval windmills existed on New Buckenham Common (NHER 15303). A single windmill is marked here on Faden's map of Norfolk 1797. Two windmills are marked here on Bryant's map of 1826. The latter were both post mills and were demolished in 1920.
- 3.73 A windmill is marked at the site of Dambrigg Mill (NHER 15304) on Faden's map of Norfolk 1797 - a post mill, last worked here in 1900 and was pulled down between 1910 and 1914. An area to the northwest of the village was examined as part of the National Mapping Programme in 2012 (NHER 9196). It was possible to make out some evidence of a possible mound on aerial photographs, centred on TM 0832 9087, although it was considered more likely to be a modern agricultural mound and was not mapped.
- 3.74 A watching brief in 2007 on land to the rear of Bakehouse, Marsh Lane (NHER 49983) located two pits that produced Post-medieval brick and tile fragments. A dark organic deposit, possibly a ditch fill, containing a horn core and a fragment of Post-medieval tile, was also revealed.
- 3.75 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during house construction on a plot to the south of Viron, Marsh Lane (NHER 41286) in 1985. No archaeological features or finds were recorded. It is known that the plot had been vacant since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and these observations indicate it was never built over.
- 3.76 Eastell Cottage, King Street (NHER 40588) is a brick house was built around 1840. It has a gabled roof of black glazed pantiles.

- 3.77 The original school of 1849 (NHER 55248) forms the long school room while a later extension in Board room style has been added in front by 1903, since converted into a residential dwelling.
- 3.78 Almshouses Nos 1 & 2, Marsh Lane (NHER 40605) are brick one storey almshouses built in 1861. They have shaped gable ends and were made into one property. Further almshouses (numbers 1-4) were built on Castle Hill Road (NHER 40610) in the same year.
- 3.79 Hunt's Farmhouse and barn (NHER 37612) is a 19<sup>th</sup> century flint and brick farmhouse with a modern pantile roof that replaced the original slates. The flint and brick barn was built at the same time as the house.
- 3.80 The site of a Wesleyan Chapel (NHER 40582) is recorded. The Wesleyan chapel was a single-storey 19<sup>th</sup> century structure with a flint façade with brick dressings built in an unusual mixed Tudor-Gothic-Norman style. It went into disuse when the new chapel was built in Chapel Street. It seems to have been used later as a house and was demolished in 1985. A Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (NHER 58181) is also recorded and dates to 1884. It is connected to a Sunday school of the same date.
- 3.81 Gable Cottage, Marsh Lane (NHER 40642) is a 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage that links two formerly separate dwellings. The west street façade is decorated with knapped flint, and the date 1820 is outlined in bottles.
- 3.82 A telephone kiosk in the Market Place (NHER 43200) is recorded as a type K6 cast iron telephone box designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935.
- 3.83 A fragmentary linear bank earthwork (NHER 57351) is visible on aerial photographs to the northeast of Church Farm, New Buckenham. It is possible that these fragments relate to a southern section of 'Bunn's Bank' (NHER 9206), as recorded by the National Monuments Record (NMR TM 09 SE 1), although it may be possible that the earthworks relate to part of a park pale enclosing New Buckenham (NHER 44620).
- 3.84 Several undated linear features (NHER 57352) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs on land to the east of Haugh Road. They are showing against a background of geological patterning, and many of the linear marks are likely to relate to recent agricultural activity, though the features that have been mapped may include a possible undated trackway.
- 3.85 Earthworks of modern ridge and furrow caused by horses treading into drainage furrows and building ridges from each side during ploughing are recorded to the northwest of the village (NHER 41673). The site consists of straight north-to-south aligned strips parallel to west field boundary. East-to-west shallow depression in the south of the field crosses the strips. The features are considered by farmer to be probably of early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, the furrows facilitating drainage on very heavy land. The features are too straight and narrow to be convincingly medieval, although field boundaries do exist by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **4.0 Geology and Topography**

- 4.1 New Buckenham parish lies upon a solid geology of Upper Chalk (Funnell 2005) with overlying boulder clays; stiff grey clay with chalk stones throughout, the impermeable subsoil supports a perched water table. (Funnell 2005).
- 4.2 The soil landscape of New Buckenham is that of the Boulder-clay Plateau, the topsoil texture being directly related to the depth of the coversand. The most common soil being a gley with sandy clay loam topsoil. (Corbett and Dent 1994).
- 4.3 The site lies on the west side of New Buckenham village on level ground at an elevation of c. 48m OD (*Fig. 1, Plate 1*).



## 5.0 Observations

- 5.1 Monitoring was carried out on 16 July 2014 during excavations associated with construction of the new extension (*Fig. 2*). No context numbers were allocated due to the lack of archaeological remains. Site conditions were good and access was gained from Chapel Street to the east of the site. The weather was warm and sunny.
- 5.2 A single L-shaped trench was excavated for the foundations of the new extension. It measured a total c. 9.3m long, c. 0.5m wide and a maximum 1m depth beneath present ground level. Disturbed dark grey silty clayey sand deposits extended the full depth of the trench and areas of light to mid brown sand undisturbed 'natural' deposits were revealed centrally within the approximately north-to-south orientated section of the trench. Three fragments of animal bone including a molar tooth and 2 fragments of pottery of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from these deposits.
- 5.3 The foundations of the existing extension at the west end of the trench were revealed and comprised a stepped-foundation of red brick above c. 0.3m of crushed brick bedding layer (*Plate 1*). The extension is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**Plate 1.** Trench and detail of 19<sup>th</sup> century extension foundation, looking approximately west

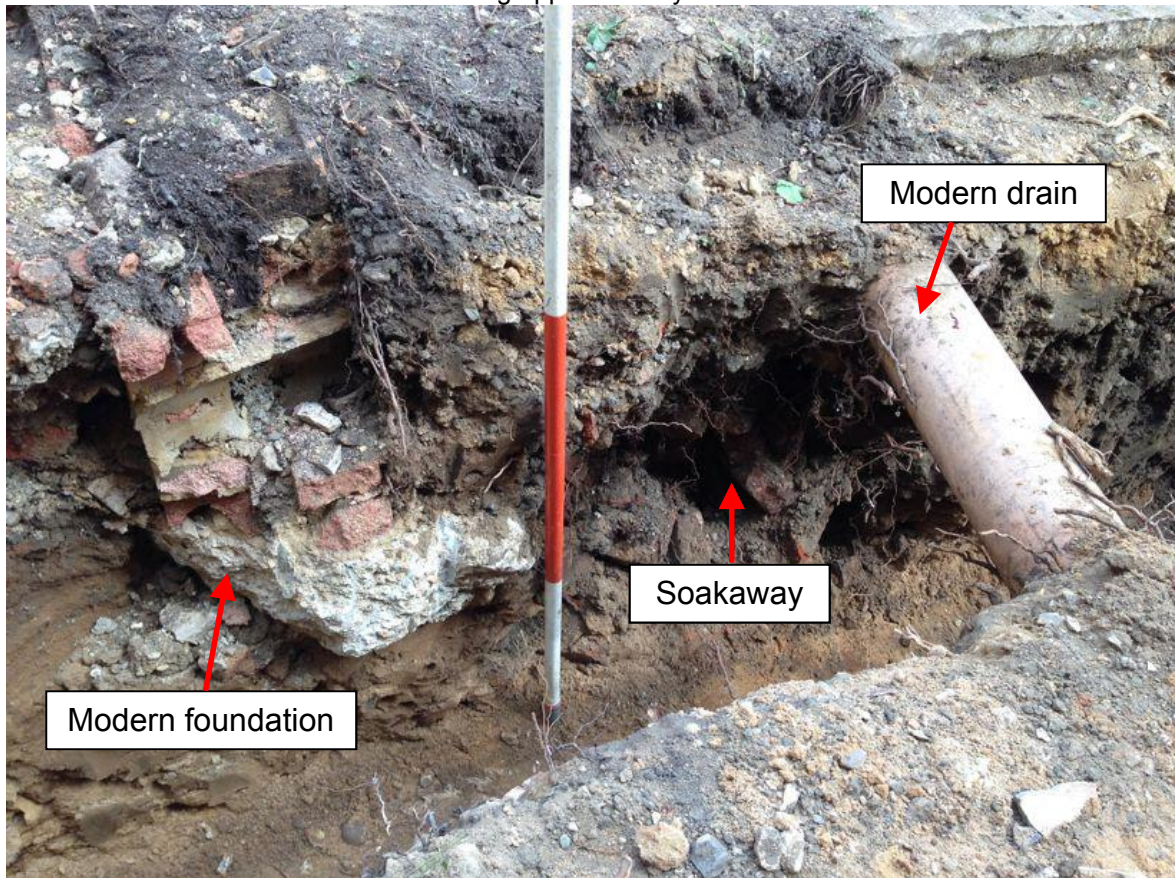


Scale is 2m in 0.5m intervals

- 5.4 Modern, existing surface water drains extended across the east-to-west section of trench towards the north to a known soakaway beneath the garden area beyond and these were left intact by the contractor carrying out the building works (*Plate 2*). A garden water supply pipe was present in the east end of the east-to-west section of the trench. Two approximately north-to-south foundations were also present in this section of the trench, seemingly associated with a previous modern extension at this location, since demolished. A broken-brick soakaway on the east side of the west foundation was present, possibly associated with the former extension.



**Plate 2.** Trench showing a modern foundation, drain and earlier soakaway, looking approximately north



Scale is 2m in 0.5m intervals

## 6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Monitoring carried out during groundworks associated with the new extension did not reveal any finds or features of archaeological significance. The exact reasons for this are unknown though the minimal extent of the excavations may have precluded archaeological remains being revealed. The disturbed deposits observed throughout the trench may relate to large, domestic rubbish pits of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date based on the finds recovered from these deposits, albeit in small quantities. The more recent disturbance through modern foundations and services precluded further identification of such remains.

## **Acknowledgments**

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## Appendix 1 OASIS Record

**OASIS ID: *chrisbir1-187649***

### Project details

Project name	Old Vicarage, New Buckenham
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 'Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road, New Buckenham, Norfolk' in July 2014 during excavations associated with the construction of a new extension. No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.
Project dates	Start: 16-07-2014 End: 16-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF134780 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	GUILDHALL Medieval
Monument type	HALL HOUSE Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL TOOTH Uncertain
Significant Finds	BODY SHERD Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND NEW BUCKENHAM Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road, New Buckenham
Study area	4.65 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 08672 90377 52.4708967072 1.07264815723 52 28 15 N 001 04 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47.00m Max: 47.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Birks
Project director/manager	Chris Birks
Project supervisor	Chris Birks

Type of sponsor/funding body      Landowner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive Exists?      No

Paper Archive recipient      Norfolk Museums Service

Paper Archive ID      ENF134780

Paper Contents      "none"

Paper Media available      "Report","Unpublished Text","Plan"

Paper Archive notes      Report includes 4 colour digital images

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      Report on Archaeological Monitoring at 'Old Vicarage, Castle Hill Road, New Buckenham, Norfolk'

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Birks, C.

Other bibliographic details      Report Number CB373R

Date      2014

Issuer or publisher      Chris Birks

Place of issue or publication      Contractor's Report

Description      Bound A4 single-side printed report with text, site location plan, colour digital images and site plan drawing.

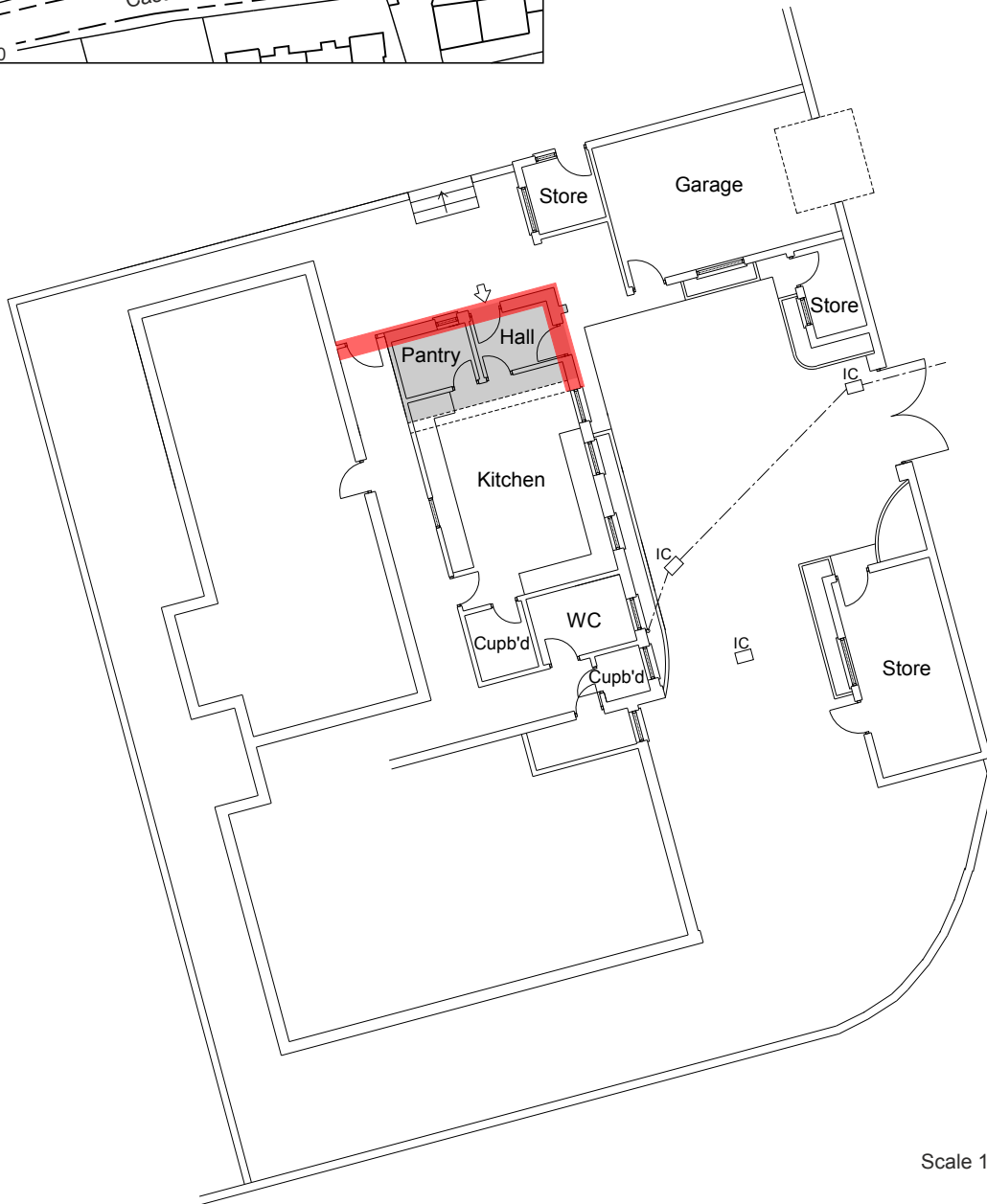
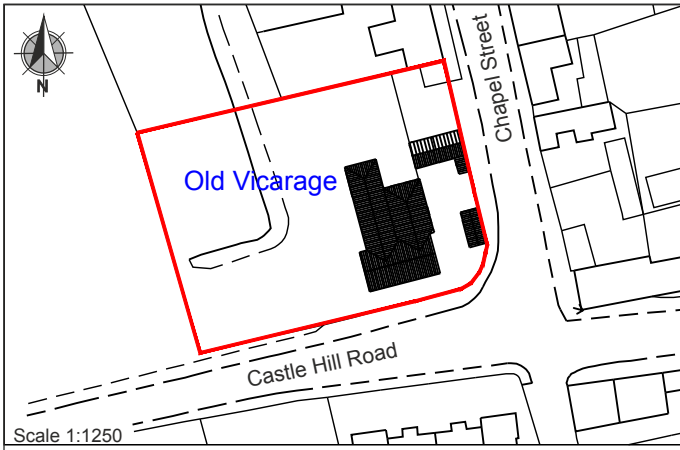
Entered by      Chris Birks (chris@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk)





Entered on      16 August 2014

## OASIS:

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-  Site boundary
-  New extension
-  Foundation trench
-  IC Inspection chamber

**Chris Birks** Archaeological Services - Urban & Rural

Old Vicarage, New Buckenham, Norfolk

Scale 1:1250, 1:200

Report Number CB373R

Based on a drawing by Lucas Hickman Smith Limited

**Figure 2.** Site plan