

Land at St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



August 2016

**Client: Lanpro Services on behalf
of FW Properties**

OA East Report No: 1967

OASIS No: oxfordar3-259687

NGR: TG 30877 18212

Land at St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

By Ashley Pooley

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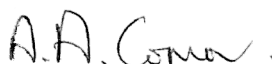
Report Date: August 2016

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Site Name: Land at St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, Norfolk
HER Event No: ENF141137
Date of Works: August 2016
Client Name: Lanpro Services on behalf of FW Properties
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Grid Ref: TG 30877 18212
Site Code: ENFHOV16
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Summary

A single 30m long evaluation trench was excavated on the north-eastern boundary of St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, adjacent to the western boundary of St John's Church. No archaeological features or artefacts were found, with only modern topsoil and natural deposits being encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on 15th August 2016 at St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, Norfolk. The area evaluated is the subject of a planning application in preparation for the construction of a new car park serving the Primary School and the adjacent church of St. John's.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Lanpro (Gajos 2016).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by Norfolk County Council, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on land at the eastern edge of the village of Hoveton, Norfolk. The specific area evaluated was situated on the north-eastern edge of St. John's Primary School's property adjacent, to the western boundary of St. John's churchyard to the east and Horning Road to the north. School playing fields extend to the south of the proposed development, whilst the western side is occupied by the access road for the school and the caretaker's house.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 sheet records the underlying geology as belonging to sands and gravels of the Crag Group Formation. The site lies approximately 550m to north of the River Bure, on a north-west facing slope, and at approximately 12m AOD its south-eastern part and 8m AOD in its north-western part.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 No previous archaeological investigations have occurred on or in close proximity to the site. However, pre-application advice issued by James Albone of Norfolk County Council highlighted the potential for Anglo-Saxon and early medieval archaeological remains being present. The present church building, now somewhat isolated from the modern settlement of Hoveton, is known to have 11th or 12th century origins and might be the sole surviving relic of an earlier settlement (Gajos 2016, p. 2). The presence of the church so close to the proposed development further suggests that burials associated with the churchyard might be present.
- 1.3.2 A search of the Historic Environment Record was commissioned for an area within 1km of the site (12th August 2016, Appendix B). This showed a number of stray finds of uncertain provenance and those found by metal-detecting or field-walking. Most relevant to the immediate area of the site, Iron Age and medieval pottery was found in the churchyard in 1996-97, whilst a watching brief (also in the churchyard) carried out in 2002 encountered graves and a substantial assemblage of medieval pottery.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 This fieldwork was commissioned by Paul Gajos of Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of FW Properties. Aileen Connor of Oxford Archaeology managed the project, whilst the fieldwork was carried out by the author. Survey was undertaken by Pat Moan (Oxford Archaeology), and the illustrations produced by Charlotte Walton. The excavator was supplied by Bryn Williams, and operated by Karl Webber.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the project were specified in the WSI (Gajos 2016) as follows:
- 2.1.2 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works will be to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site. This will be achieved through the following objectives:
- 2.1.3 • To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
 - 2.1.4 • To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
 - 2.1.5 • To assess the impact of previous land use on the site, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits
 - 2.1.6 • To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence
 - 2.1.7 • To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
 - 2.1.8 • To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Norfolk HER.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology conformed with that set out in the WSI (Gajos 2016) such that a single evaluation trench measuring 30m in length was excavated on a north to south alignment adjacent and parallel to the western boundary of St. John's churchyard.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Pat Moan using a Lecia GS08 GPS with Smartnet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 The fieldwork was conducted in dry weather conditions with clear visibility.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A single trench measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide was excavated on the eastern edge of the proposed development area. This was situated approximately parallel, and as close as to it as practicable, to the boundary shared with St. John's churchyard, given the presence of tree cover.

3.2 Evaluation trench

- 3.2.1 Machine-excavation proceeded beyond the modern topsoil (which was a uniform 0.40m thick) to the top of the underlying natural sands and gravels. The total depth of the trench was 0.5m. No archaeological features were encountered
- 3.2.2 Given the concern that burials or other significant archaeological features might be present and concealed by apparently natural deposits it was decided to further evaluate by machine excavating three deeper test pits (0.30m to 0.35m depth) into the base of the trench. These were designated Test Pits 1 to 3 and were situated respectively at the southern end, mid-point and northern end of the trench. Only further natural deposits were encountered at these locations.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 No artefacts were recovered from the evaluation.

3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 No suitable deposits for environmental sampling were found during this evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 Neither archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered within the evaluation trench. As a result of close inspection, it was noted that the topsoil was very fine and well sorted with relatively few flint pebbles or cobbles being present. Charcoal and coal were entirely absent and only a small undiagnostic fragment of brick was present.
- 4.1.2 Very occasional plough scars were visible during machining and the underlying natural deposits were investigated to assess their character. This strongly suggests that no archaeological features were present and that the topsoil derives from the establishment of the playing fields rather than being from a reworked relict graveyard deposit.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 Overall, the evaluation provided evidence that no archaeological remains were present.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 2		
General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a deposit of firm natural sand. The natural sand was tested in three places to assess the potential for concealment of archaeological features.	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

APPENDIX B. SUMMARY LIST OF HER RESULTS

Monument UID	Monument Record Type	Period	GridRef	Description
MNF11795	Find Spot	Neolithic	TG 2997 1767	Neolithic polished flint axehead
MNF13517	Monument	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 333 167	Medieval and later peat cuttings along the River Bure
MNF13518	Monument	Medieval	TG 300 182	Bridge Broad, medieval peat cuttings
MNF13586	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	Not displayed	East Norfolk Railway (later Great Eastern), Cromer line
MNF13587	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 14271 22756	Route of East Norfolk Railway, Aylsham Branch, including Bure Valley Railway
MNF14927	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 3035 1816	Part of post medieval watermill, Hoveton St John, north of bridge
MNF15423	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 299 188	Site of post-medieval windmill at Mill Farm
MNF15938	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 3029 1780	Site of post medieval brick kiln
MNF17353	Find Spot	Medieval	TG 3039 1746	Site of medieval stone vessel fragments
MNF20493	Building	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 3098 1785	Church Farm, Horning Road
MNF23035	Building	Post Medieval	TG 3173 1761	Home Farm House
MNF23451	Monument	Modern	TG 3163 1742	Site of a cricket pitch
MNF23991	Find Spot	Medieval	TG 3183 1724	Medieval pottery scatter
MNF25901	Find Spot	Late Saxon to Post Medieval	TG 31 17	Multi-period finds
MNF28925	Find Spot	Roman	TG 31 17	Roman metal finds
MNF29148	Find Spot	Lower Palaeolithic to Post Medieval	TG 3057 1843	Multi- period finds
MNF30513	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 318 175	Hoveton House Park
MNF32579	Monument	World War Two	TG 302 180	Site of World War Two pillbox
MNF32921	Find Spot	Beaker	TG 3042 1844	Bronze Age flint find
MNF39402	Find Spot	Lower	TG 31 17	Multi-period finds

Monument UID	Monument Record Type	Period	GridRef	Description
		Palaeolithic to Post Medieval		
MNF40943	Monument	Unknown	TG 2995 1881	Site of undated enclosure
MNF42497	Find Spot	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 30 18	Medieval and post medieval finds
MNF42499	Find Spot	Neolithic	TG 3187 1915	Neolithic flint find
MNF43318	Find Spot	Post Medieval	TG 30591 19005	Post medieval pottery and glass finds
MNF43344	Find Spot	Prehistoric	TG 31 18	Prehistoric flint find
MNF43346	Find Spot	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 31 18	Medieval and post medieval finds
MNF46746	Monument	Unknown	TG 30300 18112	'Bog bodies' at Wroxham Bridge footbridge
MNF48710	Building	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 31485 17874	Drive Cottages
MNF48712	Building	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 3031 1864	Wroxham signal box
MNF48897	Monument	Medieval	TG 31194 16816	Wroxham Broad, medieval peat cutting
MNF48900	Monument	Medieval	TG 31213 17557	Snape's Water
MNF50726	Building	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 3061 1747	Rivercroft Cottage, Beech Road
MNF50734	Building	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 3009 1793	The Grange, Norwich Road
MNF54471	Monument	Neolithic	TG 3164 1832	Cropmarks of a possible mortuary enclosure
MNF54472	Monument	Bronze Age	TG 3174 1839	Cropmark of an incomplete curvilinear enclosure or ring ditch
MNF54473	Monument	Unknown	TG 3155 1864	Enclosure and linear ditch cropmarks
MNF54474	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 3149 1837	Cropmarks of a road of probable post medieval date
MNF54475	Monument	Medieval	TG 3111 1823	Cropmarks of undated and possibly medieval field boundaries and ditches

Monument UID	Monument Record Type	Period	GridRef	Description
MNF54479	Monument	Unknown	TG 3156 1761	Undated linear ditch cropmark
MNF54480	Monument	Unknown	TG 3166 1727	Undated linear ditch cropmark
MNF54481	Monument	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 3184 1742	Cropmarks of possible medieval to post medieval enclosures and ditches
MNF54482	Monument	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 3189 1717	Cropmarks of enclosures and linear ditches
MNF54505	Monument	World War Two	TG 3031 1802	Site of a World War Two pillbox
MNF54524	Monument	Roman to Medieval	TG 3012 1919	Cropmarks of a rectilinear field system of possible Roman date
MNF54526	Monument	Roman	TG 3038 1917	Cropmarks of a trapezoidal enclosure of possible Roman date
MNF54577	Monument	Bronze Age	TG 3122 1787	Possible ring ditch cropmark
MNF54862	Monument	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 3011 1983	Cropmarks of a medieval to post medieval field system
MNF57062	Monument	Roman to Post Medieval	TG 29981 18715	Cropmarks of field boundaries of possible Roman and post medieval date
MNF57329	Building	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 30570 18299	11 Stalham Road, former St. Gregory's Hospital
MNF62321	Monument	Post Medieval to Cold War	TG 3035 1732	Site of Wroxham House Park
MNF62393	Monument	Post Medieval to Cold War	TG 3037 1726	Site of Wroxham House, now occupied by 76 and 78 Charles Close
MNF62394	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 3044 1742	Late 18th century hexagonal walled garden enclosure, formerly associated with Wroxham House
MNF62468	Monument	Post Medieval to Unknown	TG 3088 1749	Site of 19th-century hollow post drainage mill
MNF62475	Monument	Post Medieval to Unknown	TG 3001 1815	Site of 19th-century hollow post drainage windmill
MNF63063	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	TG 3132 1888	A defaced milestone, originally marking Norwich 8 miles
MNF63501	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 3004 1793	A milestone possibly marking 7 miles

Monument UID	Monument Record Type	Period	GridRef	Description
		to Modern		to Norwich
MNF63798	Monument	Lower Palaeolithic to Post Medieval	TG 3116 1894	Post medieval field boundaries and prehistoric activity
MNF65462	Find Spot	Post Medieval	TG 30 18	Post-medieval tokens
MNF7344	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 302 185	Site of post medieval brickworks and post medieval object scatter
MNF8424	Find Spot	Medieval to Post Medieval	TG 3028 1816	Human remains
MNF8425	Monument	Post Medieval	TG 3031 1812	Wroxham Bridge
MNF8429	Place	Modern	TG 3073 1764	Skeleton Reach
MNF8433	Building	Medieval to Modern	TG 3093 1817	St John's Church, Hoveton

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gajos, P., 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Land at St. John's Primary School, Hoveton, Norfolk*, Unpublished Lanpro Services Ltd report. July 2016.

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start <input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text"/>
Development Type	<input type="text"/>

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

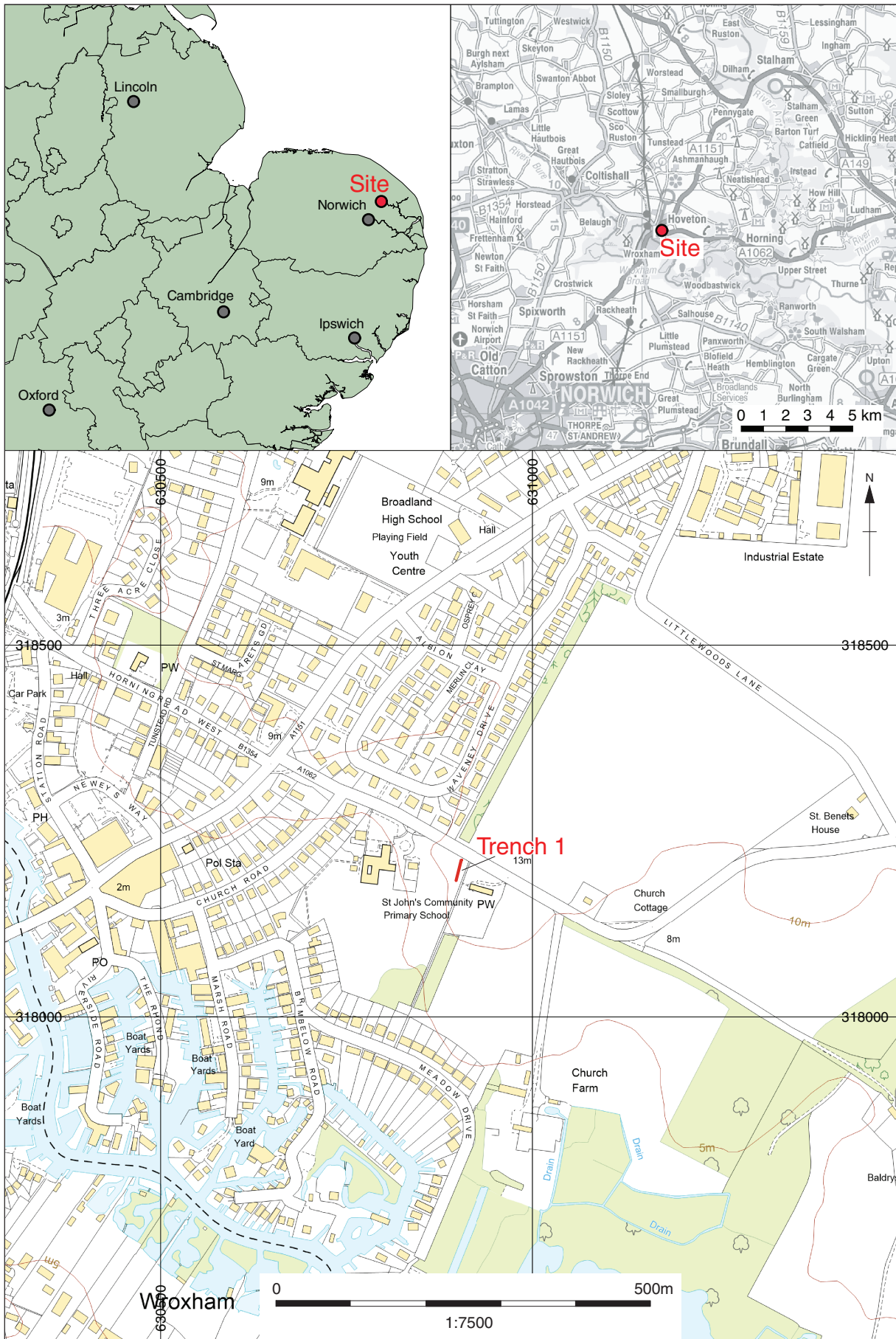
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Archive Contents/Media

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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (red)

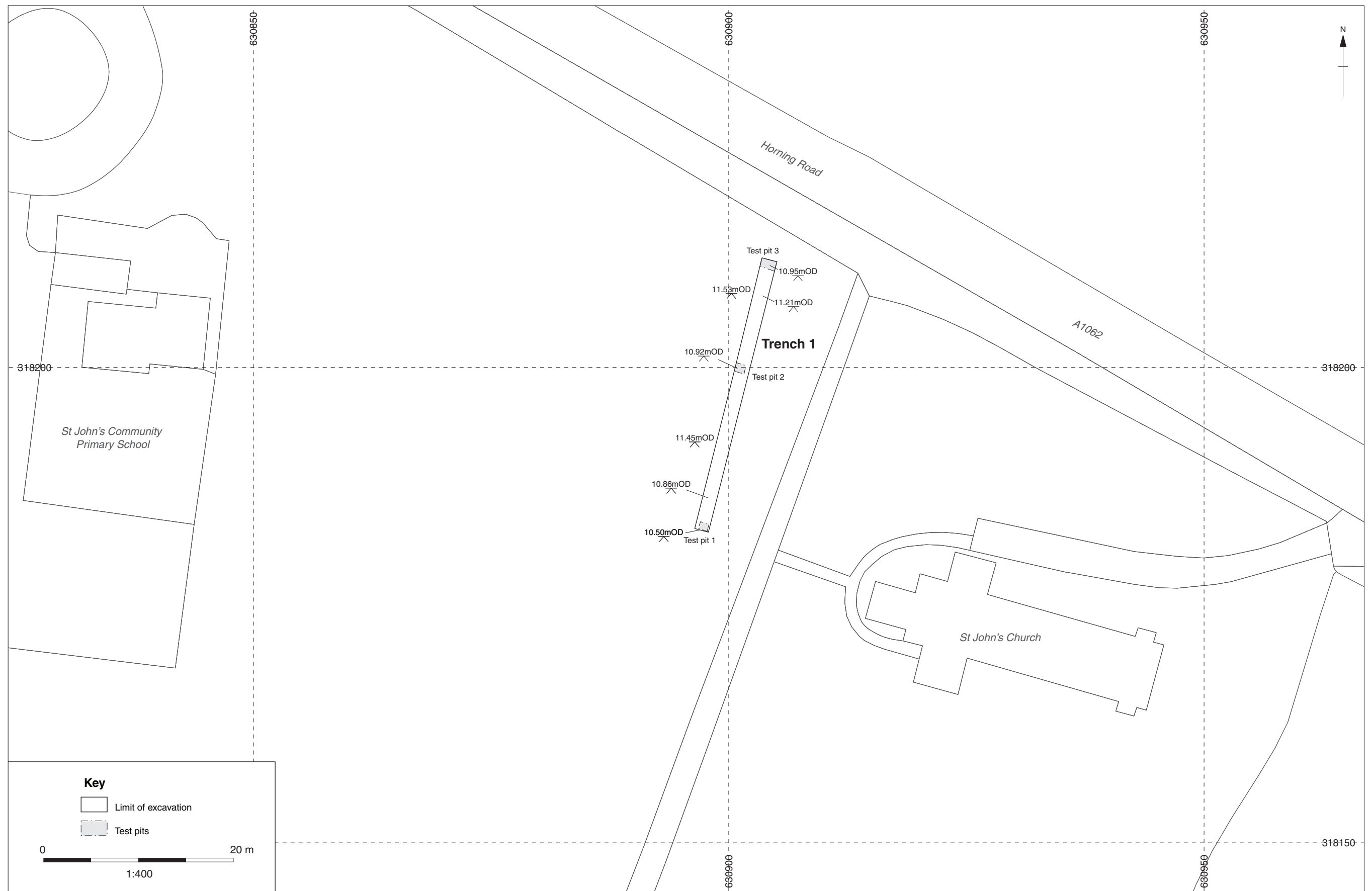


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench

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Plate 1: Excavated trench, looking north



Plate 2: East-facing section of trench



Plate 3: East-facing section of test pit 2



Plate 4: East-facing section of test pit 3



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