

Archaeological Sites

The Norfolk Archaeological Unit at Union House, Gressenhall maintains a County Sites and Monuments Record. Each site and find has a record card filed on a parish basis and plotted on a series of 6" O.S. sheets. To date there are over 22,000 entries. The system may be consulted by prior arrangement with the Records Officer (Tel. Dereham 860528) and has been used to identify the following sites.

- A1** Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, Beaker period. Found 1958, now in Norwich Castle Museum. Record Number 3040
- A2** Remains of mammoth, reindeer and a flint handaxe, found 1966. Norwich Castle Museum. 3035
- A3** Earthworks, possible moated site. 12303
- A4** Medieval glazed pottery whistle, found 1932. 18583
- A5** Church of St. Margaret. See LB 7. Chancel once twice as long as the present one, the foundations were uncovered when a trench was dug, also found the bases of two staircases; one to the porch and the other to rood stair. 3061
- A6** Medieval pottery, found 1977. 12904
- A7** Paper mill, was there before 1764, burnt out in 1778 and rebuilt in 1781 but was burnt out by Luddites in 1832 and again rebuilt and worked until 1865. 12698
- A8** Old Rectory, sits inside the remains of a moat which used to go all round the house. It was almost certainly the site of the Manor House of Sir John de Norwich who was given a licence to crenellate his house in 1343 the house was then sometimes called Lyng Castle and is often confused with the Nunnery on top of a hill to the south east.

In the Old Rectory gardens two 16th century pottery pieces were found in 1985 and a number of glazed tiles and old bricks found in 1940 in the moat, there were also 3 fish ponds near the moat.

16744

- A9** Pottery found when a tree blew over; glazed Grimston pottery 12th - 14th century, a fragment of lava grinding stone and 16th - 17th century pottery. 12905
- A10** Fishponds, details unknown. 3049
- A11** Silver coin of the Roman Emperor Trajan, found 1955, Norwich Castle Museum. 3047
- A12** Neolithic flint scraper, found 1959. Norwich Castle Museum. 3041
- A13** Mesolithic flint working site, excavated 1911-1916, materials found now in Norwich Castle Museum. 3036
- A14** 2 lime kilns dating from before 1836, now used as a store. 16656
- A15** Two prehistoric flint flakes and one piece of 17th century pottery. Found 1976 11852
- A16** Thought to have been a cropmark (variations on aerial photographs caused by differing crop growths due to soil changes on site of habitation etc.) of a ring ditch, excavated in 1985 but no dating evidence. Fragment of clay loom weight and a few flint flakes found. Possible ?? Bronze Age burial mound, too eroded to ascertain. 17593
- A17** Teeth of fossil elephant found 15 feet below water level in 1956. 3056

- A18 Coin of Emperor Antoninus Pius , found 1943. 3043
- A19 Fragment of glazed jug handle 13th - 14th century found 1958,
Norwich Castle Museum. 3050
- A20 Roman pottery and the remains of a pottery kiln found
1949-59, some in Norwich Castle Museum. 3046
- A21 Cropmark of ringditch, possible site of Bronze Age burial
mound. 17821
- A22 Buried foundations and medieval Grimston Ware pottery
found. Probably medieval houses on the site. 12460
- A23 Working pottery production site in the late 16th to early
17th century, also some fragments of medieval pottery in the
soil. 12459
- A24 Medieval pottery fragments. 12461
- A25 Great Stone of Lyng Easthaugh. A glacial erratic (boulder
carried by ice from another area and dumped when the ice
retreated). 13057
- A26 Cropmark of possible moat, bisected by the road. 14402
- A27 Farmer reported having dug up brick arches - suggests a brick
kiln. 12943

A28 Medieval pottery, found 1977. 12944

A29 Medieval pottery, found 1977, also remains of buildings. 12945

A30 St. Edmund's Chapel (Nunnery)
Benedictine Nunnery in Priory form founded at an unknown date, was transferred to Thetford in 1176, but nuns were still at the site in 1250, and in 1287 the prioress of St. George's, Thetford had a fair there. In 1730 the ruins were described as being 14 by 4½ yards, only the North doorway being recognisable. In the 19th century several skeletons were found "between the Chapel and the King's Wood" (King's Wood is now marked as The Grove), which was said to be the course of a Walsingham Way and is still locally known as an ancient way. Another local legend is of a silver chalice having been found in a drain near the Chapel said to be the old river course, the workmen who found the chalice argued over it and one "uttered a fearful oath" whereupon the chalice leapt back into the stream and was lost. Finds are medieval pottery fragments, a double looped copper alloy object, age unknown, perhaps a harness fitting. The field with the remains of the Chapel has been ploughed, after ploughing 3 flint flakes were found, 4 Ipswich Ware fragments, 13 Medieval fragments and fragment of a lava quern (grinding stone).

The following archaeological sites have not been located;

Neolithic flints, also various Roman coins and pottery.

In a gravel pit a Neolithic/Bronze Age axe-hammer was found in 1922, an uncommon find as it was made from stone not found in this area.

Quartzite mace head, found in 1853 somewhere in the Easthaugh area.