

**LAND OFF NEWBOROUGH ROAD,
PASTON,
PETERBOROUGH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TF 1993 0254



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
(OASIS ID: independ1-431894)

OCTOBER 2021

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants on land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire for the construction of a new school. The project was stretching from January to September 2021. The site had previously not been developed, but had been used for grazing. No finds or features of archaeological interest were being uncovered during the construction works.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located on land off Newborough Road at Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 1993 0254) (Figure 1-3). The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2021, as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa Hatton, Archaeological Officer at Peterborough City Council. The project complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2021).
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2021), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (17/01769/R3FUL, AR01P) by Peterborough City Council for a new development on land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough. The development comprised the construction of new school buildings on land off Newborough Road including footings, new access road, drainage, a new swale, street lighting and provision of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facility (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The development site was located in Paston, a few miles north of central Peterborough. It enclosed an area of some 100 000m² at an average height of about 13m aOD. The site was limited by a new development at Norwood Lane in the north, Newborough Road in the east and A47 in the south. In the west there was the Paston Parkway. The geology maps indicated that the site contained River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel over Oxford Clay Formations (British Geological Survey).

2.3 The site was located within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER. Therefore, archaeological monitoring and documentation was required prior to the proposed construction works. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in the *NPPF* (2021).



Figure 1. The location of Peterborough in England. Map produced with Licence Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

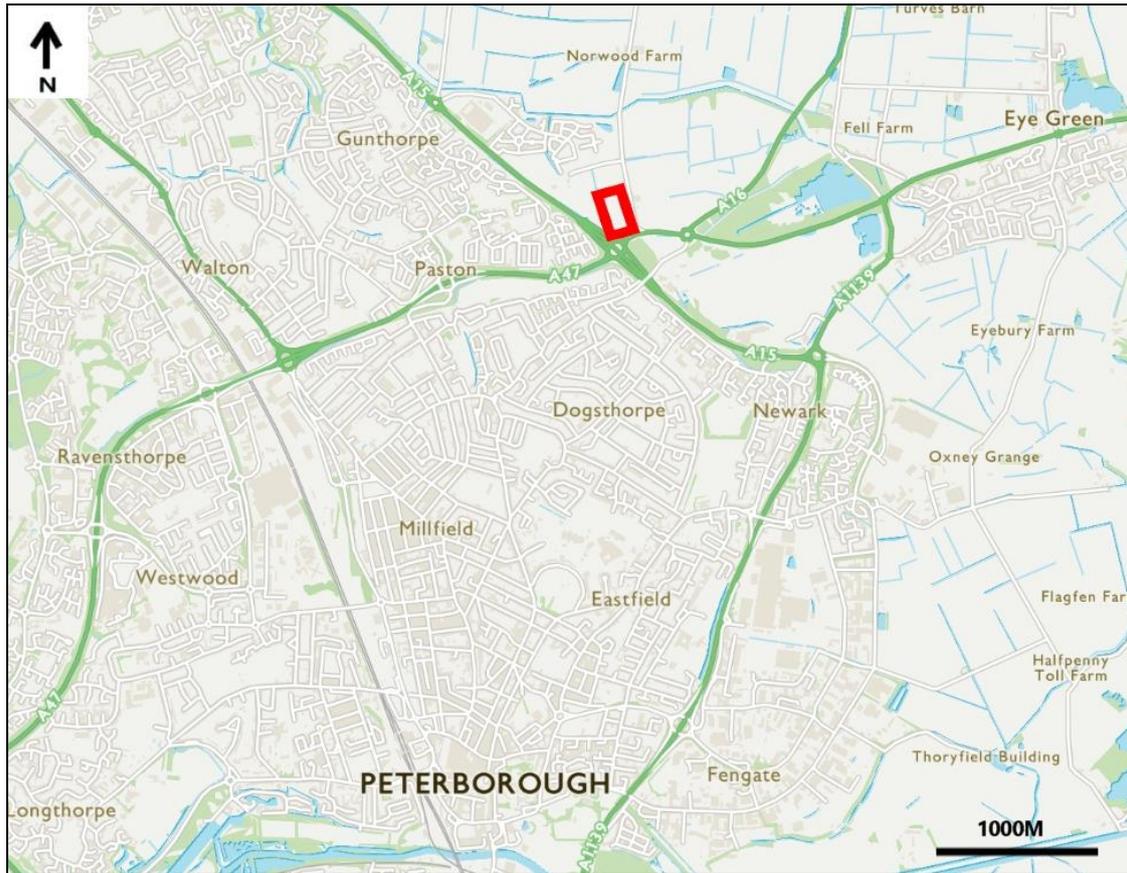


Figure 2. Site Location in Peterborough. Map produced with Licence Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

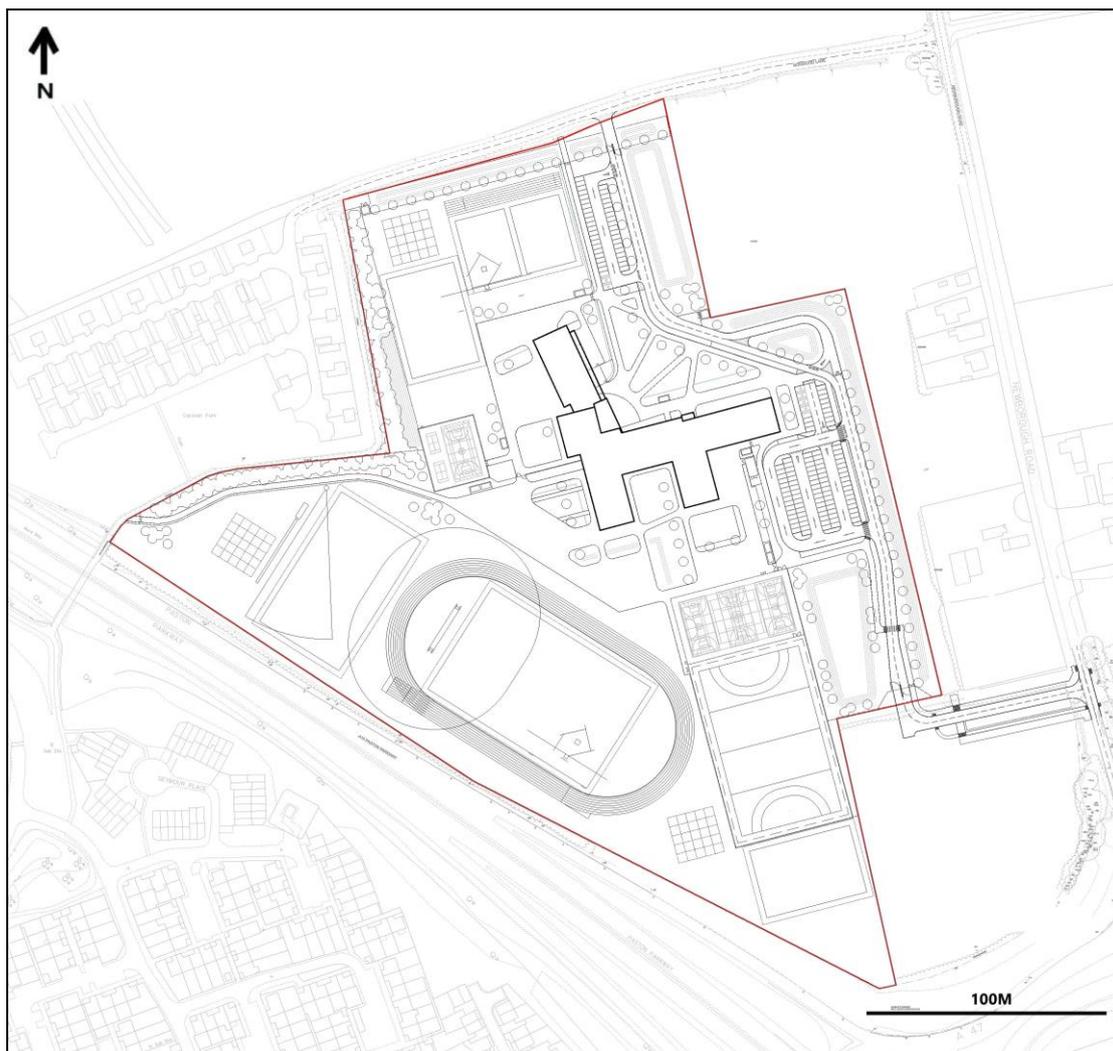


Figure 3. Site Outline and Monitoring Areas. Map produced with Licence Ordnance Survey 0100031673.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site was located on the west side of Newborough Road, a few miles north of central Peterborough. Within 1km from the proposed development site there was one Scheduled Monument. This monument consisted of a section of the Car Dyke between Whitepost Road and Fen Bridge. Car Dyke was constructed during the Roman period, but was probably still used during the Medieval Ages (35725 (formerly PE 219)).
- 3.2 Within 1km from the proposed development site there were also a number of other archaeological remains and findspots: There were for instance traces of a medieval ridge and furrow system some 700m southwest of the proposed development site (5682-MPB1346).

- 3.3 At Paston Riding Farm, some 500m west of the proposed development site, a medieval bone ice skate has been found during construction works (2204 - MPB1629).
- 3.4 Manor Farm was located some 250m northwest on the proposed development site, at the same location as an older manor house (2207 - MPB1906).
- 3.5 The site of the post medieval Eye Field Windmill was located some 250m north east of the proposed development site. It was marked on the 1779 map and on the 1824 Ordnance Survey map. The windmill was sold and dismantled in 1838 (50610 - MPB2086).
- 3.6 The possible remains of a Roman road have been shown as a cropmark in the landscape some 300m west of the proposed development site (8372 - MPB4442).
- 3.7 The possible location of the deserted medieval settlement at 'Cathwaite' was located some 500m northwest of the proposed development site. The Nene Valley Research Committee has an outline plan that suggests the presence of enclosures/tofts on either side of a north-south street. Cathwaite is mentioned with Paston from the early 13th century. This interpretation is based on an arrangement of tracks recorded on a map of 1791 bound with a survey of the parish dated 1826. The site has since been developed upon, and all earthworks lost (50138 - MPB4553).
- 3.8 One of two large areas of dark soil containing occupation debris and Roman sherds were revealed by field walking within a prospective housing development at Paston some 500m north of the proposed development site (8017 - MPB4630).
- 3.9 Possible ditches and enclosures of unknown date were located some 500m northeast of the proposed development site (50254 - MPB5321).
- 3.10 A track way, stepped in places, was located some 450m west of the proposed development site. It was buried below some 0.60m of farmyard material over which over 0.20m of domestic rubbish had been deposited. The track way was made of Oolitic Freestone, large faced-up blocks some 0.60m by 0.50m in size, some blocks voussoirs, rebated and chamfered and a window mullion in Barnack Rag (50130 - MPB5403).
- 3.11 The remains of a medieval ridge and furrow system were located some 50m north of the proposed development site (50133 - MPB5405).
- 3.12 Possible medieval/post medieval ditches were located some 350m northwest of the proposed development site (50135 - MPB5407) and cropmarks of unknown age were located some 400m north of the site (50136 - MPB5408).

- 3.13 Within the area there was also one Listed Building. This structure consisted of the so-called Paston Ridings Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building complex some 500m west of the proposed development site, with details possibly dating from the 18th century (DPB947).

Earlier Archaeological Investigations in the Area

- 3.14 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Hereward Community College and John Mansfield School, some 250m south of the proposed development site, in March 2007 by staff from Northamptonshire Archaeology. No archaeological features were identified (51434 - MPB2340).
- 3.15 In October 2016 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a geophysical (magnetometer) survey, covering approximately 70 hectares, on land east of Newborough Road, Peterborough, to inform future archaeological strategy in relation to the proposed development of the site. The survey identified three discrete areas of probable archaeological activity which are all possibly associated with the post-medieval manufacture of bricks and/or tiles. An extensive rectangular anomaly was interpreted as a possible brick clamp (oven). An area of industrial activity and an area of possible industrial dumping have also been clearly defined. Two anomalies of uncertain origin were also identified as well as anomalies due to an extensive network of field drains and to former boundaries. On the basis of the geophysical survey, the archaeological potential across the majority of the site as assessed as being low or very low but with a moderate to high potential in the vicinity of the probable industrial activity (54104 - MPB2648).
- 3.16 In July 2016 a number of surveys were commissioned to assess the archaeological potential of 13ha of land to the east of Paston Parkway, Peterborough. A cart-based fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed. Other than a scatter of magnetic debris associated with a former pump house, no anomalies of probable or possible archaeology were detected. The geophysical results primarily reflect past agricultural activity (former field boundaries), as well as modern ferrous waste and disturbances (54020 - MPB2796).
- 3.17 A programme of archaeological investigations was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services along the Eye-Crowland section of the proposed re-alignment of the A1073 from Spalding (Lincolnshire) to Eye Green (Peterborough). This programme included trial trenching, field walking, and an augering and dyke survey. Trial trenching focused on the gravel 'upland' south of the Car Dyke at the fen edge, with one trench being also located within the fen just north of car Dyke, to investigate a geophysical anomaly thought to represent a possible kiln. Of all the trenches only those located directly north and south of the Car Dyke identified archaeological remains, although these were undated. The trench located to the south (Trench 25) contained 'dumped deposits' overlaying the natural gravels. These deposits could either represent material from the excavation of the Roman Car Dyke, or

be the result of later cleaning out. The trench to the north of the Car Dyke (Trench 23) contained 4 field drains. The trench opened further north to investigate the geophysical anomaly interpreted as a possible kiln (Trench 24) revealed a field boundary ditch filled by burnt peat. This trench also contained an isolated post hole. Finally, Trench 13 located approximately half-way along the proposed route identified isolated features, including a pit and a shallow gully of uncertain, possibly agricultural, function. Field walking produced no artefacts, although only a small percentage of the whole route could be investigated. The dyke and auger survey was also very restricted. It confirmed the established sequence of deposits previously identified in the Fenland Survey. No gravel islands or ancient buried soils were identified (50523 - MPB3008).

- 3.18 Cambridge Archaeology conducted an archaeological excavation and trial trenching on land at Manor Drive to the south of the Car Dyke at Paston Parkway, Peterborough. The investigations took place between October 2007 and January 2008 and consisted of an open area investigation, two trial trenches and a watching brief, all within the area of a proposed development. The investigation identified three phases of activity: Iron Age/transitional; late 2nd/early 3rd century AD; and late 3rd/early 4th century AD. The excavation area recorded Iron Age enclosures/field systems not previously identified by other investigations with the presence of two enclosures and a driveway (51938 - MPB3107).
- 3.19 Cambridge Archaeology conducted an archaeological excavation and trial trenching on land at Manor Drive to the south of the Car Dyke at Paston Parkway, Peterborough. The investigations took place between October 2007 and January 2008 and consisted of an open area investigation, two trial trenches and a watching brief, all within the area of a proposed development. The investigation identified three phases of activity: Iron Age/transitional; late 2nd/early 3rd century AD; and late 3rd/early 4th century AD. The investigation identified the approximate location and the extent of the Roman settlement first found in the 2006 evaluation and provided yet further evidence of building activity during the Roman period. The two phases of Roman activity were represented by a series of boundary ditches which possibly formed part of a field system. A number of undated features were recorded within close association to Car Dyke and these may have represented associated Roman activity. A single sherd of Saxon pottery was recovered in a short linear feature though to be part of the late Roman activity (51939 - MPB3108).
- 3.20 In January 2013 Allen Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a drainage trench through the Car Dyke Scheduled Monument. The excavation revealed a sequence of deposits relating to the bank on the southern side of the Car Dyke. No finds or archaeological deposits were recorded during the groundworks (53544 - MPB3159).

- 3.21 A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Paston Reserve between 9th and 15th October 2014 in advance of proposed residential development. No archaeological features or finds were identified (53932 - MPB3422).
- 3.22 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the proposed site of a new pumping station off Newborough Road, Paston by Oxford Archaeology East on 13th January 2015. A 20m length trench was excavated. No archaeological features or deposits were identified (53895 - MPB3456).
- 3.23 In November 2006 staff of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Manor Drive, Paston Parkway, immediately south of Car Dyke, in advance of the construction of houses, business, leisure and school sites. The area to the north of Manor Drive revealed soils sequences possibly associated with an upcast bank from the Car Dyke, as well as a large water-management feature. The area to the south contained three Roman ditches associated with the enclosure system previously excavated to the west. Finds from the evaluation included pottery generically assigned to the Roman period (2nd-4th century), slag and a small assemblage of faunal remains (51454 - MPB4084).
- 3.24 Between the 21st August and the 18th September 2017 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at land east of Newborough Road, Peterborough in advance of proposed development of the site. A total of 96 evaluation trenches totalling 5760 linear meters were excavated, targeting both geophysical anomalies and blank areas across the site, 40 of which contained archaeological features. The vast majority of these pertained to the post medieval period and included drainage gullies and ditches. However, trenches towards the southwestern area of site contained large ditch and pit features dating to the Bronze Age prehistoric period, indicating the presence of large scale field systems with attached settlements. A linear ditch in the south-eastern corner of site, probably used for drainage, contained eleven fragments of sandy ware pottery from the Romano-British period (1st to 4th century) but the pot fragments from this era were highly abraded indicating that they were not found at their primary site of deposition. The ditch also contained one fragment of sheep/goat bone and CBM which included a fragment of Roman tile, probably from a tegula, and twelve fragments with flattened surfaces most likely derived from a single tile or clay plate. Additionally, eight fragments of fired clay were recovered which were flattened and oxidized on one side indicating the presence of discarded kiln lining fragments/broken kiln furniture (54199 - MPB4086).
- 3.25 An excavation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in October and November 1997 in advance of proposed development some 150m south of the proposed development site. The excavation followed a geophysical survey and evaluation trenching which located an area of Roman features. The excavation revealed that a north-south ditched field boundary, the earliest feature identified, had been used to lay out a number of

small rectangular enclosures. These lay to the south of an east-west running ditch which continued beyond the limits of the excavation. Associated with the enclosures was a small number of post-holes and pits and considerable quantities of pottery and building materials, the later including hypocaust tiles. One piece of painted wall plaster was recovered. Pottery dates indicate 2nd to 4th century AD habitation at the site. No major structural features were identified, however. There is some doubt as to whether the main focus of the settlement was actually located, or whether such features had been ploughed away. Some worked flint was recovered (50526 - MPB4634).

- 3.26 An archaeological desktop assessment and pre-evaluation survey was carried out for a 48 hectare proposed development some 300m north of the proposed development site in 1996. The assessment comprised a geophysical survey (broad and detailed magnetic gradiometer survey), an aerial photograph assessment, and appraisal of documents and maps. Remains of ridge and furrow were noted and one area of possible Roman settlement was located (50527 - MPB4635).
- 3.27 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during March 1990 in advance of an industrial development some 550m northwest of the proposed development site. Eight trenches, totalling 1030m, were excavated. Possible traces of ridge and furrow were observed, but no other significant features were noted. A local source claimed that soil was removed from the site after the last war, possibly accounting for the slight depth of soil noted at the site (50528 - MPB4636).
- 3.28 A total of twelve trial trenches were excavated by Cotswold Archaeological Trust some 500m north of the proposed development site in February 1997. The trenching followed an earlier desktop assessment. In Trench 1 pits and ditches of Romano-British date were examined. These appear to relate to a settlement within the north-western part of the study area. Fragments of tegula, imbrex and combed box flue point to this settlement containing a structure of some status, which the pottery suggests may be of late 3rd - 4th century date. Trench 5 was situated near the Car Dyke and may have exposed part of the cut for the south bank. It is uncertain whether this could be part of the original cut for the Dyke or belongs to a later phase of re-cutting. The remaining trenches revealed little of archaeological interest. A bore hole survey was also carried out on the adjacent Car Dyke. Here 12 hand drilled holes revealed organic deposits containing a rich assemblage of plant macro remains, overlying earlier inorganic sediments. Depending upon its date this stratigraphy could be of high archaeological interest (50529 - MPB4637).
- 3.29 Between the 21st August and the 18th September 2017 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at land east of Newborough Road, Peterborough in advance of proposed development of the site. A total of 96 evaluation trenches totalling 5760 linear meters were excavated, targeting both geophysical anomalies and blank areas across the site, 40 of which contained archaeological features. The vast majority of these pertained to the

post medieval period and included drainage gullies and ditches. However, trenches towards the southwestern area of site contained large ditch and pit features dating to the Bronze Age prehistoric period, indicating the presence of large scale field systems with attached settlements. Six struck flints were located on site, one from a ditch and one from a watering hole. They were probably worked in the Middle Bronze Age period and in some cases display the unskilled hallmarks of flint work production characteristic of other flint assemblages post-dating the Early Bronze Age period. One hundred and seventy two sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered mainly. The earliest pottery stemmed from the Early Bronze Age period (2500-1500BC) and there were also sherds from the Middle Bronze Age typical of Bronze Age pottery in the Fen Basin. Fired clay loom weights have been interpreted as having been used on warp-weighted looms and have been found in early to late Bronze Age. The presence of very large and deep waste pits and watering holes, indicate the presence of a probable settlement in the southwestern corner of site (54198 - MPB4672).

3.30 Between the 21st August and the 18th September 2017 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at land east of Newborough Road, Peterborough in advance of proposed development of the site. A total of 96 evaluation trenches totalling 5760 linear meters were excavated, targeting both geophysical anomalies and blank areas across the site, 40 of which contained archaeological features. The vast majority of these pertained to the post medieval period and included drainage gullies and ditches. However, trenches towards the southwestern area of site contained large ditch and pit features dating to the Bronze Age prehistoric period, indicating the presence of large scale field systems with attached settlements. The site formed part of the medieval outfields of 'Doddesthorp' (modern Dogsthorpe), which was granted a charter in 1189. A drainage channel containing abundant small pieces of postmedieval/modern CBM, pot (horticultural pot vessels) and object fragments that were identified as originating from the later post-medieval/modern period were excavated. Another drainage ditch contained a tile and charcoal suggesting a postmedieval/modern date. More than one clay cylindrical field drain was found dating to the post-medieval/modern period (54200 - MPB4673).

3.31 Between the 21st August and the 18th September 2017 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at land east of Newborough Road, Peterborough in advance of proposed development of the site. A total of 96 evaluation trenches totalling 5760 linear meters were excavated, targeting both geophysical anomalies and blank areas across the site, 40 of which contained archaeological features. The vast majority of these pertained to the post medieval period and included drainage gullies and ditches. However, trenches towards the southwestern area of site contained large ditch and pit features dating to the Bronze Age prehistoric period, indicating the presence of large scale field systems with attached settlements. A drainage channel containing abundant small pieces of post-medieval/modern CBM, pot (horticultural pot vessels) and object fragments that were identified as

originating from the later post-medieval/modern period were excavated. Another drainage ditch contained a tile and charcoal suggesting a post-medieval/modern date. More than one clay cylindrical field drain was found dating to the post-medieval/modern period. The abraded pot fragments may have originated from intrusive farming activities like ploughing. Horticultural pot vessels and object fragments were identified as originating from the later postmedieval/modern period were excavated. A large ditch evident on the tithe map contained traces of glass dated to the late post-medieval/modern period (54201 - MPB4674, 54202 - MPB4675 and 54203 - MPB4676).

- 3.32 An Archaeological and Heritage Assessment was produced to inform planning permission for a site at Leed's Farm east of Newborough Road. The site's boundary has the scheduled monument of Car Dyke as its northern boundary. The geophysical survey carried out by Headland Archaeology is included in the site report (53842 - MPB4688).
- 3.33 An archaeological evaluation and excavation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Paston Reserve between 24th April and 26th May 2017. The excavation focused on an area to the north-west of the site where previous trial trenching had identified Roman remains. A small-scale Roman farmstead was located c.150m south of Car Dyke. A cast copper alloy ingot was retrieved from a ditch and is possibly of Roman to Medieval date as well as post holes and furrows of uncertain date (54223 - MPB4689, 54219 - MPB4691, 54220 - MPB4692, 54221 - MPB4693 and 54222 - MPB4694).
- 3.34 Evaluation in 2016 and excavation in 2017 The fieldwork identified a small-scale Roman farmstead located c.150m south of the Car Dyke identified a Roman farmstead. The farmstead consisted of a series of short segments of ditch, which would likely have formed a system of enclosures and field systems. No evidence for dwellings was identified (54011 - MPB4800).
- 3.35 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at the former recreation ground at Honey Hill Primary School, Paston in September 2012 by Archaeological Solutions Ltd in advance of proposed residential development. The recorded features consisted of a likely modern pit and an undated gully which contained a highly abraded (probably residual) sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery (52246 - MPB4808).
- 3.36 Trial trenching was carried out at Paston Reserve by staff of Northamptonshire Archaeology, Northamptonshire County Council in August 2006, in advance of development. The evaluation uncovered three ditches, one of which contained fragments of animal bone and sherds of Roman colour-coated ware. A tile fragment was recovered from the fill of another ditch. Trenches close to the Car Dyke revealed a possible buried soil which may have been sealed by upcast material from the dyke. Wood charcoal from the buried soil was radiocarbon dated to the Early Iron Age and interpreted as deriving from activity pre-dating the bank (51431 - MPB4884).

- 3.37 Trial trenching was carried out at Paston Reserve by staff of Northamptonshire Archaeology, Northamptonshire County Council in August 2006, in advance of development. Two fragments of 16th-17th century stone mouldings possibly from a former manor house located nearby were retrieved from a posthole (51889 - MPB4885).
- 3.38 Between the 5-10 December 2018, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a watching brief for an Anglian Water scheme at East Peterborough and Paston Growth, west of Newborough Road, Paston. The only archaeological feature encountered was a single modern ditch. Single abraded sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were found in the topsoil (MPB5648).

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- Gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development areas;
 - Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
 - Inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
 - mitigate potential threats;
 - Inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely, targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
 - Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
 - Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context.
 - If applicable, provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals.
 - If applicable, provide an impact assessment.
- 4.2 The monitoring also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional

Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Monitoring of Groundworks

A programme of controlled archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken during all groundworks of site. The archaeological monitoring, therefore, consisted of the continuous observation of removal of overburden within the development area, followed by the investigation and recording of any potential archaeological features that were revealed. All service trenches were also monitored.

The program of fieldworks took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The development areas were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

The monitoring was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and

relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was acceptable.

The developer was informed that provision must be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording, or bad weather.

5.4 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced to show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photographs was also used in this report (a maximum of two photographs per A4 sheet).

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The site works were stretching out over a period of about 9 months, from January to September 2021. Staff from Independent Archaeology Consultants were present during all stages of the construction to monitor the progress of the works. The various stages consisted of the excavation of new footings, new access road, parking drainage, a new swale, street lighting and provision of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facility.
- 6.2 The site only contained a limited number of various deposits. The lowest deposit encountered was the Natural, which consisted of mixed yellow and blue, plastic clay with occasional sand lenses. No archaeological features were seen cutting into the Natural in any of the areas that were covered by the archaeological monitoring program.
- 6.3 Covering the Natural was the up to 0.25m thick Subsoil (102), which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. No artefacts of archaeological interest were found in the Subsoil.
- 6.4 Overlying the Subsoil was the up to 0.30m thick Topsoil (101), which consisted of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. No artefacts of archaeological interest were found in the Topsoil.

- 6.5 Once the topsoil and subsoil had been stripped across the areas of construction a typical Fenland deposit occurred across most of the site. It consisted mainly of mixed yellow and blue, plastic clay with occasional sand lenses. No man-made features were seen cutting through this layer within the site, and the site therefore gave the impression of having been relatively untouched by human activity. The siteworks have been documented through a large number of photos from various stages of the construction works for the new school (Figure 4-13).



Figure 4. Overview of the southern part of the development area along A47. West facing photo.



Figure 5. Overview of the northern parts of the site, facing the new development at Norwood Lane. North west facing photo.



Figure 6. Example of a trench for drainage pipes in the northern parts of the site. West facing photo.



Figure 7. A drainage pipe has been put into a trench, and the trench is being backfilled with shingle. North west facing photo.



Figure 8. A quadratric trench for a new electrical substation in the eastern parts of the site. North facing photo.



Figure 9. The digging of the new swale along the eastern edge of the site revealed no archaeological features. East facing photo.



Figure 10. Digging the trenches for the new foundations between the concrete piles that had already been driven into the ground in some areas of the site. East facing photo.



Figure 11. Digging the trenches for the new foundations between the concrete piles that had already been driven into the ground in some areas of the site. South facing photo.



Figure 12. The water table was hit from time to time when the new footings were being excavated, and pumps had to be brought in to remove the water. North facing photo.



Figure 13. The concrete was being added between the existing piles to create a stable foundation for the new school building. West facing photo.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological monitoring on land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough for a new school building was carried out between January and September 2021.
- 7.2 No artefacts or features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the investigation. Once the topsoil and subsoil had been stripped across the areas of construction a typical Fenland deposit occurred across most of the site. It consisted mainly of mixed yellow and blue, plastic clay with occasional sand

lenses. No man-made features were seen cutting through this layer anywhere within the site.

- 7.3 Even though a large number of archaeological sites are known from the surrounding landscape the archaeological monitoring project, which is described in this report, found no evidence for older settlements.
- 7.4 The fields north of Peterborough are otherwise known for having been inhabited during both Prehistoric times as well as later periods in British history. Future archaeological investigations in the area may therefore uncover further evidence for such settlements.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants. The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections at Peterborough Museum.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Wass, G. 2003. *Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Standards for Archaeological Archive Preparation*

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
(101)	0.30	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(102)	-
(102)	0.25	Light brown, soft silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Mixed yellow and blue, plastic clay with occasional sand lenses	-	(102)

Land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring

OASIS ID: independ1-431894

Project details

Project name	Land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring for the construction of a new school on land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2021 End: 30-09-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NRP20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	17/01769/R3FUL, AR01P - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH NEWBOROUGH Land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough
Postcode	PE4 7AA
Study area	50000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 1993 0254 52.60790270279 -0.23977932164 52 36 28 N 000 14 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8m Max: 10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Digital Contents	"none","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Paper Contents	"none","other"

Land off Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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