LAND AT 21 STAMFORD LANE, WARMINGTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA	A (field work & report)
NGR: TL 0763 9122	Report No. 3780
District: East Northants	Site Code: AS 1402
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4259
Signed:	Date: April 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details						
Project name	Land Northa	at mpton	21 shire	Stamford	Lane,	Warmington,

In April 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 21 Stamford Lane, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 0763 9122). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the pre-determination requirement of planning, in advance of the determination of an application to construct three dwellings.

The site is situated in Warmington, on Stamford Lane which follows the course of a major Roman road running from Water Newton to Thrapston. Warmington is documented from AD 655 onwards. The site had a potential for prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the evaluation revealed Roman and early modern features. The dating of Ditch F1006 is tentative (based on one Roman sherd). It may be associated with the undated postholes (F1016 & F1018), but the suggestion is speculative. The majority of features were 18th – 19th century, and the cluster of five inter-cutting pits (F1008, F1010, F1012 & F1014) may have been quarry pits.

	0 4 00 (0 4 (0 5			
Project dates (fieldwork)	04-06/04/201		-	
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N	
P. number	4259	Site code	AS	1402
Type of project	An Archaeol	ogical Evaluation		
Site status	-			
Current land use	Front garden	/lawn		
Planned development	Three new d	wellings		
Main features (+dates)	Possible Roman ditch, 18 th -19 th century quarry pits			
Significant finds (+dates)	Single sherd	of Roman (mid 2nd-4t	th cen	tury) pottery
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish	Northamptor shire	East Northamptons	hire	Warmington
HER/ SMR for area	Northampton	shire HER		
Post code (if known)				
Area of site	c. 1000m ²			
NGR	TL 0763 912	2		
Height AOD (min/max)	20.00/20.40			
Project creators				
Brief issued by	NCC			
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Po	zorski		
Funded by	Elton Estate			
Full title	Land at	21 Stamford	Lane,	Warmington,
	Northampton	shire. An Archaeolog	ical E	valuation
Authors	Pozorski, Z.			
Report no.	3780			
Date (of report)	April 2011			

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SUMMARY

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In the event the evaluation revealed Roman and early modern features. The dating of Ditch F1006 is tentative (based on one Roman sherd). It may be associated with the undated postholes (F1016 & F1018), but the suggestion is speculative. The majority of features were $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century, and the cluster of five inter-cutting pits (F1008, F1010, F1012 & F1014) may have been quarry pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of land at 21 Stamford Lane, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 0763 9122; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by John Martin & Associates and funded by the Elton Estate. It was undertaken in compliance with the pre-determination requirement of planning, in advance of the determination of an application to construct three dwellings (East Northamptonshire District Council Planning Ref. EN/2010/01200/OUT and EN/2010/01212/OUT).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC; dated 07/09/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31/01/2011) and approved by NCC. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised 2008).
- 1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present, and to provide information on integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological remains that may be present. The project also aimed to recover artefacts to

assist in the development of a type series within the region, and to recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located on the western side of Stamford lane in the village of Warmington (Fig. 1). It comprises an L-shaped plot of some 0.1ha, open ground adjacent to the terraced dwellings of 21-27 Stamford Lane. Some small garage structures and hedges are present within the site, which is also bisected by an existing access to the cottages. To the west of the site lies open agricultural land.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 The site is situated on relatively flat land at *c*. 20m AOD that forms the gentle far reaches of the eastern slope of the River Nene valley.
- 3.2 The solid geology of the area are sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rocks of Bathonian Great Oolite Group (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are argilic brown earths and alluvial gley soils of river terrace drift and associated alluvium (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). They are described as deep or moderately deep well drained loamy soils, locally shallow over gravel, associated with clayey or loamy soils with high groundwater.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Warmington area has been subject to extensive previous archaeological investigation, which has revealed abundant evidence for settlement from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman-British and Anglo-Saxon periods in particular. Large-scale archaeological work occurred prior to

the construction of the Warmington A605 by-pass to the north-west in 1996 and in the vicinity of the Manor House, which lies 150m to the north-east of the site. Warmington has also been subject to numerous programmes of fieldwalking that have also revealed multi-period artefact scatters dating from the lower Palaeolithic period (SMR 5958/0/0). The site therefore lies within an area of significant archaeological potential and has the potential to reveal further archaeological remains dating from several archaeological periods.

- 4.2 In addition to the lower Palaeolithic flint scatter, the early prehistoric period is also attested by prehistoric pits identified from cropmarks and soilmarks by aerial photography (SMR 2590/0/5) and unstratified prehistoric flints found during the construction of the by-pass (SMR 2608/0/0). An unstratified Neolithic macehead (SMR 2615/0/0) and Neolithic polished greenstone axe (SMR 2602/0/0) have also been discovered in the area. Bronze Age occupation is indicated by a palstave found in the churchyard (SMR 2610) and extensive funerary evidence in the form of a possible burial site (SMR 2608) and a crouched Beaker burial with a radiocarbon date of c.1920BC and grave goods (SMR 5811/0/4), both found to the south-west of the village. A possible Bronze Age barrow indicated by cropmarks is situated to the immediate west of site (SMR 2608/0/1), with at least two others known in the area. The site is also judged to lie within a possible Iron Age, Romano-British & early to middle Saxon settlement, which extends to the immediate west (SMR 2606).
- 4.3 The site lies along the western frontage of Stamford Lane, which is known to follow the course of a major Roman road running from Water Newton to Thrapston (SMR 1897/1). It is possible that the original course of the Roman road ran north to south through the eastern section of the site (SMR 1897/1/1), rather than along the present course of Stamford Lane. Part of a Roman rotary quern has been found close to the course of the Roman road to the south-west (SMR 2678/0/0). Evidence for Romano-British settlement has been found in three separate areas of Warmington, in particular to the south-west of the site which has revealed numerous Romano-British finds of pottery, roof tiles, coins and oyster shells (SMRs 2609 & 2609/0/0)
- 4.4 The settlement of Warmington is documented from AD 655 onwards, when the Saxon *Medehamstede* (Peterborough) Abbey was founded. Placename evidence suggests that it developed as *Wyrma's tun* (Wyrma's farm), which had become *Warmintone* by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 (Page 1930). The Anglo-Saxon occupation of Warmington, possibly focussed on Burystead Manor (SMR 2600/4), is confirmed by numerous programmes of fieldwalking that have also revealed early Saxon occupation remains (SMR 6489), whilst a possible early Saxon burial site is known to the south of the site (SMR 2603). Although the village of Warmington apparently comprised two separate components, Abbotsthorpe and Southorpe, which merged in a process of agglomeration around a series of greens, many sites around the village reveal a continuation of settlement throughout the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

- 4.5 Aerial photography taken throughout Warmington has identified cropmarks and soilmarks indicative of Saxon and medieval building platforms as well as associated undated linear features. Occupation is also attested by late Saxon and medieval pottery finds (SMRs 2586/0/0 & 2600/0/0), Saxon and medieval structures and features in the vicinity of the Manor House (SMRs 2600/0/44 2600/0/49) and Saxon features (SMRs 2600/0/55 & 2600/0/6) found during the by-pass construction. Areas of surviving medieval ridge and furrow are recorded throughout the village (SMRs 2586/0/8 2586/0/16), and the manor was divided into four fields by the late 14th century (Page 1930). Extant medieval remains include a moat at Little Green (SMR 2600/0/1), St Andrew's Chapel (SMR 2600/5/1) and the Grade I listed Church of St. Mary the Virgin, which dates to the late 12th century (SMR 2600/1/1).
- 4.6 Both documentary and archaeological evidence attest to noticeable desertion and shrinkage of Warmington in the late medieval period, possibly as a result of the Black Death (Page 1930; SMR 2600). The village includes extant post-medieval and later historic buildings, many of which are listed buildings, although no listed buildings lie within the immediate vicinity of the site. The Manor House, which lies 150m to the north-east of the site, is a 17th century Grade II* listed structure (SMR 2600/0/41), with associated medieval and later outbuildings. The Peterborough to Wellingborough Turnpike road, which dates to 1753 54, runs east to westwards through Warmington and is known locally as Church Street (SMR 7380/1). Post-medieval and early modern remains were also revealed during the by-pass construction, including a possible late or post-medieval farmyard (SMR 2600/0/60).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches locations were approved by NCC. Trench 1 was shortened slightly for practical reasons.
- 5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-3)

Sample section	n 1A (DP	4): S end, E facing	
0.00 = 19.50m	AOD		
0.00 - 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey, soft, sandy silt.	
0.25 - 0.80m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown, friable, sandy silt with	
		occasional gravel.	
0.80 – 1.18m	L1020	Natural light yellow, loose, sand	
1.18m +	L1002	Natural dark yellow, loose, sandy gravel.	

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 5-6)

Sample section	n 2A (DP	7): E end, S facing
0.00 = 19.51m	AOD	
0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.		
0.28 – 0.50m L1001 Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.		
0.50m +	L1002	Natural gravel. As above, Tr. 1.

Sample section	n 2B (DP	8): W end, N facing	
0.00 = 19.63m	0.00 = 19.63m AOD		
0.00 - 0.30m	0.00 – 0.30m L1000 Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.		
0.30 – 0.62m L1001 Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.			
0.62m +	L1002	Natural gravel. As above, Tr. 1.	

Description: Nine archaeological features in total were present within the trench. They comprised six pits (F1003, F1008, F1010, F1012, F1014 and F1021), two postholes (F1016 and F1018) and a ditch (F1006).

F1021 was a rectangular pit (1.50 x 0.49+ x 0.31m) located in the western end of the trench (DP 18). It had steep sides and flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a blackish dark grey, loose, silty sand. Late $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (67g) and CBM (21g) were recovered from the fill.

In the centre of the trench was a cluster of four pits (F1008, F1010, F1012 and F1015).

Pit F1014 was a subcirular (2+ x 1.80 x 0.38m; DP 14-15). It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a dark orangey brown, firm, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent gravel. It contained Late $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (3g). F1014 was likely a pit and it cut F1012.

Pit F1012 was oval (2+ x 0.60+ x 0.60m; DP 14-15) truncated by F1014 and F1010. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark orangey brown, firm, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent gravel. Mid $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (13g), clay pipe (5g), Fe fragment (23g), CBM (4g) and animal bone (270g) were present.

F1010 was a subcircular pit (2+ x 1.84 x 0.48m; DP 13). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a dark orangey brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent gravel. It contained mid $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century pottery (28g) fragments, Fe fragment (63g), CBM (179g) and animal bone (70g). F1010 was cut by F1008.

Pit F1008 was subcircular (2+ x 2.90 x 0.40m; DP 12). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a dark orangey brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent gravel. 18th century pottery (82g), CBM (1414g), Fe fragment (15g) and animal bone (108g) were recovered from the fill. F1008 cut F1010.

The remains of a structure was recorded above Pits F1008 and F1010. It comprised a layer (0.10-0.15m thick and 0.65-0.75m wide) of greenish grey, compact clay with limestone fragments (M1023 and M1024) formed into roughly rectangular shape $(4 \times 1.90+)$. The north-eastern part of the structure was not present, likely truncated. M1023/M1024 may have been a foundation for a modern light garden building.

Two postholes (F1016 and F1018) were recorded. F1016 was circular (0.50 x 0.48 x 0.45m; DP 16), and it had steep sides and slightly concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a light brown, loose, silty sand. No finds were present. F1018 was also circular (0.55+ x 0.41+ x 0.31m; DP 17), and it had vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a light brown, loose, silty sand. It contained no finds.

F1003 was a large pit (5+ x 1.90+ x 0.65m+) located in the eastern end of the trench (DP 9). It had an irregular profile. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1004, was present only in the western part of the pit and comprised a brownish mid grey, friable, sandy silt (0.15m thick). The basal fill, L1004, was a greyish light brown, friable, sandy silt (0.50m+ thick). Both fills contained early modern (18^{th} – early 19^{th} century) pottery (274g) and animal bone (14g). L1004 also contained a clay pipe fragment (3g), and L1005 contained glass (3g). The pit was not fully excavated being large and modern.

Ditch F1006 was a linear (0.45+ x 0.83 x 0.45m) aligned north/south. It was cut by Pit F1003 (DP 10). It had moderate to nearly vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a light to mid brown, loose, sandy silt. One sherd of mid $2^{nd}-4^{th}$ century pottery (5g) and animal bone (39g) were recovered from the fill.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid grey, soft, sandy silt (0.25 0.30 m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional gravel (0.30 0.60 m thick).
- 8.2 The natural gravel, L1002, was present at 0.50-1.20m below the existing ground level and comprised a dark yellow, loose, sandy gravel. Within the southern part of the Trench 1, the gravel was overlain by L1020, a pocket of light yellow, loose, sand (0.30m thick).

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology. Stamford Lane is on the route of a Roman road and Warmington dates from the Saxon period.
- 9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed Roman and early modern features in Trench 2. No archaeological features were present in Trench 1. The dating of Ditch F1006 is tentative (based on one Roman sherd). It may be associated with the undated postholes (F1016 & F1018), but the suggestion is speculative. The majority of features were 18th 19th century, and the cluster of five inter-cutting pits (F1008, F1010, F1012 & F1014) may have been quarry pits.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Northampton Borough Museum Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the Elton Estate for funding the project and for their assistance, and their agents, Ms Chloe Renner of John Martin and Associates for her assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Liz Mordue, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. SSEW, Harpenden

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

							A. Bone	
Feature	Context	Trench	Context Trench Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	(g)	Other
1003	1004	2	Pit	18th-early 19th C	(2) 15g		10	10 C. Pipe 3g
	1005			late 18th-19th C	(16) 259g		4	4 Glass 3g
1006	1001	2	Ditch	mid 2nd-4th C	(1) 5g		39	
1008	1009	2	Pit	18th C	(7) 82g	1414	108	Fe Fragment 15g
1010	1011	2	Pit	mid 18th -early 19th C	(13) 28g	179	20	Fe Fragment 63g
12	1013	2	Pit	mid 18th -early 19th C	(3) 13g	4	279	C. Pipe 5g
								Fe Fragment 23g
1014	1015	2	Pit	late 18th-19th C	(2) 3g			
1021	1022	2	Pit	late 18th-19th C	(3) 67g	21		

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 40 sherds weighing 382g varying from abraded to good condition. A single abraded Roman sherd from Ditch F1006 is a Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat dated between the mid 2nd and 4th centuries. The remaining pottery is all 18th to 19th century and is quantified by feature below.

KEY:

NENE: Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat mid 2nd -4th PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16th-19th PMBL: Post-medieval black earthenware 17th-19th

CPO: Chinese porcelain 18th-19th

STMO: Staffordshire-type ware with mottled brown glaze mid 17th-18th

STMO: Staffordshire-type marbled slip ware late 17th-18th

NOTS: Nottinghamshire-type stoneware 18th

SWSG: Staffordshire-type white salt glazed stoneware early 18th-late 18th

CREA: Cream ware mid 18th-late 19th ENPO: English Porcelain mid 18th+

REFWE: Refined factory made white earthenware mid 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18th-19th

MOCH: 'Mocha ware' late 18th -19th KW: 'Kitchen ware' late 18th-19th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1003	1004	1x6g PMRE 1x9g STMO	18 th /early 19 th	STMO: flat base
	1005	2x60g PMBL 8x115g REFWE 2x5g TPW 2x30g ENPO 2x33g MOCH	Late 18 th -late 19 th	PMBL: squared bowl rim with internal black glaze REFWE: upper jug profile MOCH: mugs or bowls with white panels of blue and black decoration
Ditch 1006	1007	1x4g NENE	Mid 2 nd – 4 th	
Pit 1008	1009	1x4g NOTS 1x36g PMBL 1x2g SWSG 2x35g STMO 1x3g CREA 1x1g REFWE	Mid-late 18 th	CREA: speckled brown slip deco
Pit 1010	1011	1x8g CPO? 12x19g SWSG	Mid-late 18 th	
Pit 1012	1013	1x12g CREA	Mid 18 th -mid 19 th	CREA: tea pot lid with polychrome decoration

Pit 1014	1015	2x4G TPW 2X1g CPO?	Late 18 th -19 th	
	1022	1x3g TPW 1x2g PMBL 1x60g KW	Late 18 th -19 th	

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered eight fragments (1618g) of 18th to early 19th century red brick. A single large fragment (1414g) contained in Pit F1008 (L1009) had extant partial dimensions of ?x100x65mm with slightly irregular faces and arrises. It was manufactured in a very hard-fired (near vitrified) oxidised red fabric with inclusions of sparse fine sand (<0.2mm). The remaining CBM contained in Pits F1010 (L1011), F1012 (L1013) and F1021 (L1022) comprised sparsely distributed, small fragments in a comparable fabric, and although no further dimensions were extant, are almost certainly from the same type of brick.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Land at 21 Stamford Lane, Warmington, Northants. View SW.



DP 3. Trench 1. View S.



DP 5. Trench 2. View ENE.



DP 2. Trench 1. View SE.



DP 4. Trench 1. Sample section. View W.



DP 6. Trench 1. View E.



DP 7. Trench 2, E end. Sample section. View N.



DP 8. Trench 2, W end. Sample section. View S.



DP 9. Trench 2, Pit F1003. View N.



DP 10. Trench 2, Ditch F1006. view S.



DP 11. Trench 2, Foundation M1023. View N.



DP 12. Trench 2, Pit F1008. View S.



DP 13. Trench 2, Pit F1010. View N.



DP 15. Trench 2, Pits F1008, F1010, F1012 and F1014. View SE.



DP 17. Trench 2, Posthole F1018. View E.



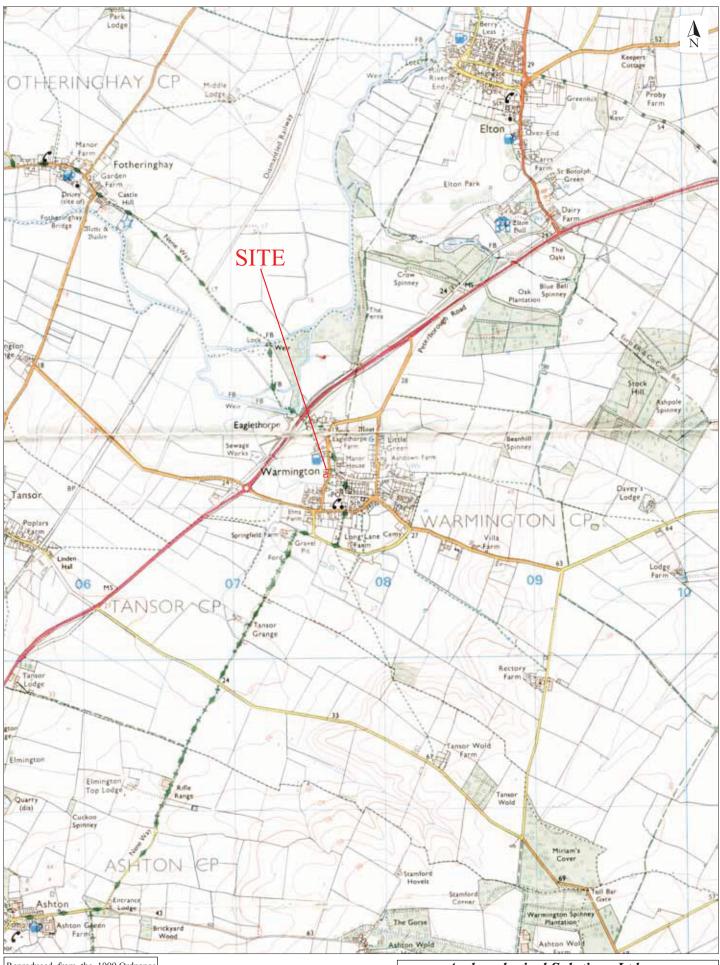
DP 14. Trench 2, Pits F1012 and F1014. View N.



DP 16. Trench 2, posthole F1016. View E.

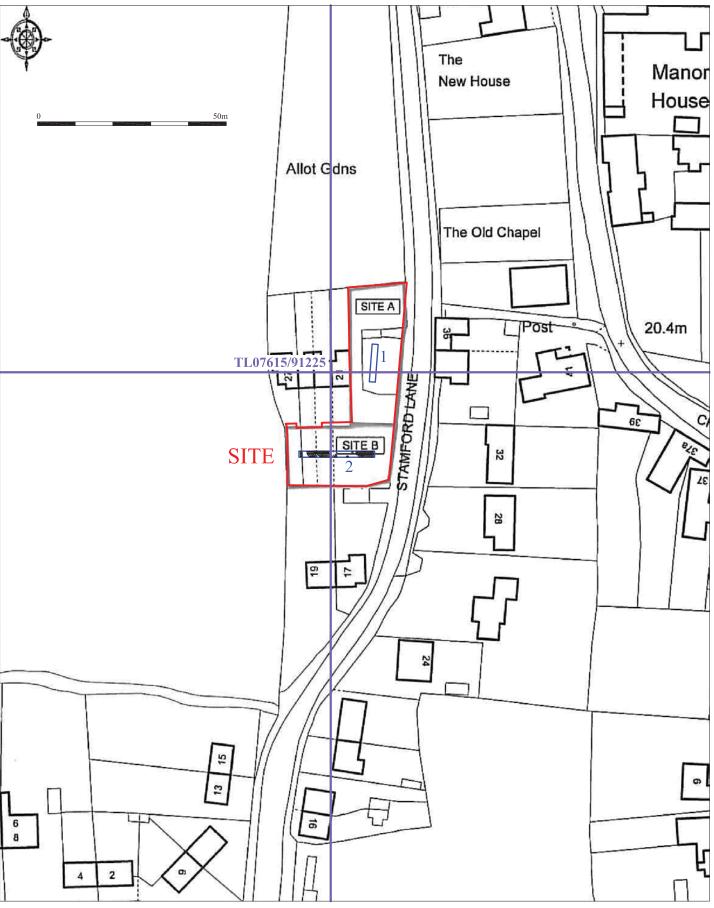


DP 18. Trench 2, Pit F1021. View S.



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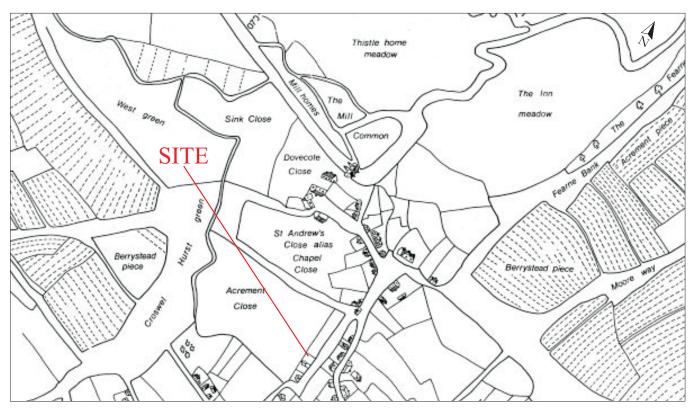
Fig. 1 Site location plan Scale 1:25,000 at A4



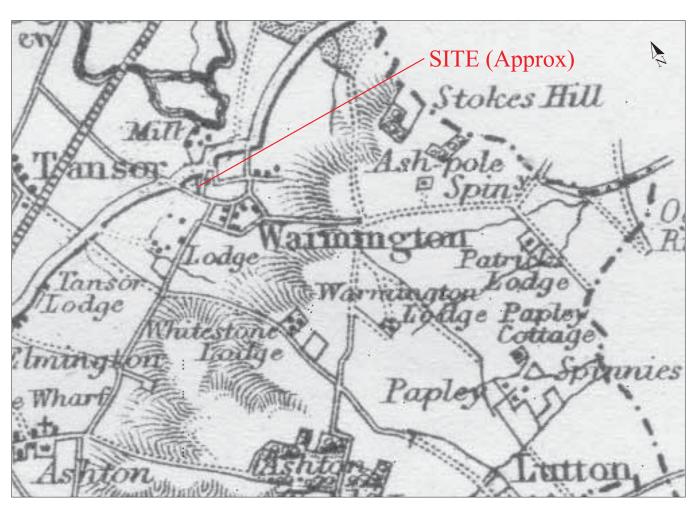
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Fig. 2 D
Scale 1:1000 A4 Detailed site location

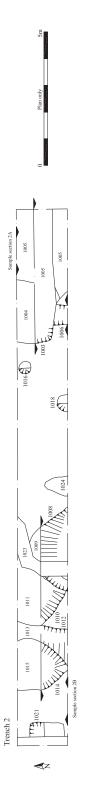


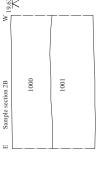
Map of Warmington, 1621



Map of Warmington, 1860

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Fig. 3	Historic maps
Not to scale	







Sample section 2A



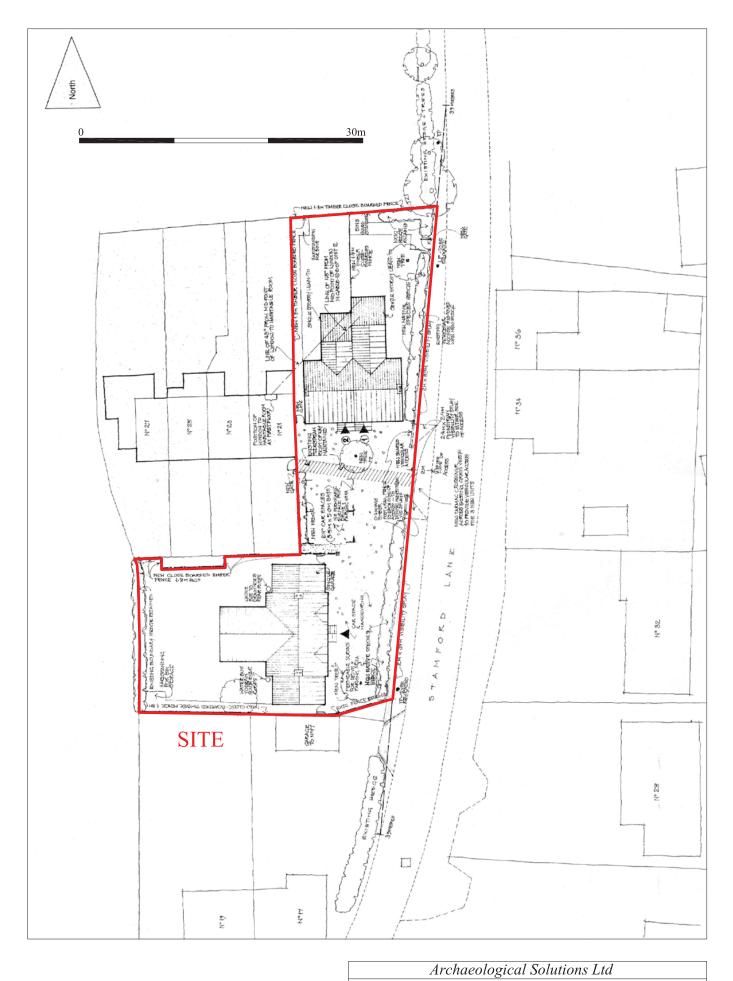


Fig. 5 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:400 at A4