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34 MINGLE LANE, STAPLEFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB. 3774

Authors:	Kamil Orzechow	vski (Fieldwork and report)
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	Antony Mustchii	n (Editor)
Illustrations:	Kathren Henry	
NGR: TL 470	0 5210	Report No: 4275
District: Sout	h Cambs	Site Code: AS1572
Approved: C	Halpin MlfA	Project No: 4846
		Date: March 2013
Signed:		Revised: 14/05/2013

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34 Mingle Lane, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation

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OASIS SUMMARY SH	EET		
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Project dates (fieldwork)	March 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	No	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4846	Site code	AS1572
Type of project	Archaeological E	Evaluation	·
Site status	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Postholes, ditche	es	
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	South Cambs	Stapleford
HER for area	Cambridge Histo	pric Environment Record	(CHER)
Post code (if known)	CB22 5SY		
Area of site	c. 1750m2		
NGR	TL 4700 5210		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 20m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire	County Council Historic	Environment Team
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological S	-	
Funded by		perty Developments Ltd	
Full title	34 Mingle Lane, Evaluation	Stapleford, Cambridges	hire. An Archaeological
Authors	K. Orzechowski	and M. Stoakley	
Report no.	4275	,	
Date (of report)	March 2013 (Re	vised 14/05/2013)	

34 MINGLE LANE, STAPLEFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 34 Mingle Lane, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire (TL 4700 5210). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval of the construction of two residential dwellings (South Cambs DC Ref.S/0286/12/FUL). It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a requirement of planning permission.

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential within the historic medieval/postmedieval core of the village of Stapleford. The site lies on the southern side of Mingle Lane and comprises the bungalow of No.34 set in mature plot. The Church of St Andrew lies close by to the north-west, on the northern side of Mingle Lane. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the Church of St Andrew (HER 04730) as being largely medieval in date, though likely with a Saxon precursor on the site. A further remnant of the medieval village is a moated site of likely medieval date located to the south east (HER 01004).

Features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2 (adjacent to Mingle Lane). Trench 1 and 3 (the southern area of the site) contained two (Tr.1) and three (Tr.3) features each. Three postholes (F1011 (Tr.1) and F1003 and F1007 (Tr.3)) and two ditches (F1009 (Tr.1) and F1005 (Tr.3)) were recorded. None contained finds and all the features are undated. A residual sherd of medieval $(13^{th} - 14^{th} \text{ century})$ was found within the subsoil (L1001).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 34 Mingle Lane, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire (TL 4700 5210; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval of the construction of two residential dwellings (South Cambs DC Ref.S/0286/12/FUL). It was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, as a requirement of planning permission.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (8 May 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 10 May 2013) and approved by CCC HET. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper* 14, and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 and 2)

2.1 Stapleford is a village and civil parish in the southern part of the county of Cambridgeshire. It is located *c*. 6.4km to the south of Cambridge and *c*. 11.1km to the north-west of Great Chesterford. The village lies near Trumpington *c*. 4km to the northwest, Sawston 2.5km to the south-east, Little Shelford *c*. 2km to the south-west and the Gog Magog Hills *c*. 2.5km to the north-east. The village of Great Shelford is situated adjacent (west) to Stapleford. The M11 motorway runs NW/SE *c*. 2.5km to the west of

the village and the River Granta runs roughly parallel to the M11 at c. 750m distant. The A1301 road runs through the centre of Stapleford from Trumpington in the northwest to Sawston in the south-east and the railway runs roughly north-south c. 500m to the west of the site.

2.2 The site is located in a residential area in the northern part of the village of Stapleford. It is situated on the southern side of the west to east aligned Mingle Lane and comprises a regular rectangular plot of rural terrain/ grass lawn to the rear of the residential property at No. 34. The total area of the site is c. 1750m².

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The site is located at a height of *c*. 20m AOD on the northern slope of a river valley. To the north-east the land slopes upwards towards Fox Hill (*c*. 50m AOD), some 1.5km distant. To the south-west the land slopes downwards towards the River Granta (*c*. 15m AOD), some 750m distant.

3.1.2 The solid geology of the site comprises (Cretaceous) Middle Chalk with an overlying drift geology of river terrace gravels (BGS 1978). The soils of the site belong to the Swaffam Prior association (511e) and are defined as well drained calcareous and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble, with deep non-calcareous loamy soils in places and striped and polygonal soil patterns locally (SSEW 1983).

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains are scarce within the vicinity of the site and include a scatter of early Neolithic to late Bronze Age flint implements (CHER 04790) discovered *c*. 250m to the south-west of the site.

3.2.2 The Scheduled Ancient Monument Wandlebury Camp (CHER 04636, SAM 24406) is located *c*. 2.5km to the north-east of the site and comprises a multivallate Iron Age hillfort. It was originally defended by a triple bank and ditch, but the inner bank and ditch was destroyed in 1694 when the ground was landscaped for the house built within the enclosure by Lord Godolphin. The earthwork now comprises a double bank and ditch. Archaeological evaluations conducted at the hillfort revealed evidence that an earlier Iron Age settlement was located on the hilltop prior to the construction of the first rampart and ditch in the 5th century BC (French 2003). Settlement activity predominated in the 4th and 5th centuries BC, but continued on a lesser scale into the late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods. The second rampart and ditch, constructed on the interior of the first, was built during the 1st century BC. The features excavated comprised grain storage pits with evidence of closure deposits, including articulated animal burials, a male skeleton, small pottery vessels, decorative bone

plaques and spindle whorls (French 2004). Recent excavations at Dernford Farm in Sawton *c*. 1.25km to the south of the site have also recorded a probable late Iron Age slipway and enclosures adjacent to the river (Newton *forthcoming*).

Romano-British

3.2.3 Romano-British archaeological remains within the wider area comprise pottery (MCB18291) discovered in Great Shelford *c*. 1km to the west of the site. An archaeological evaluation at Granham's Farm *c*. 1.5km to the north-west of the site revealed evidence of a Roman settlement site (CB15538) comprising gullies, ditches, pits as well as the structural remains of a substantial timber-framed building and a field system (CBM15539) (Hinman 1999). Roman pottery (MCB16360) was discovered during a fieldwalking survey at Dernford Farm in Sawton *c*. 1.25km to the south of the site (Grant and Weston 2004). A Roman shackle/padlock (CHER 04766) was discovered on Priam's Way *c*. 550m to the south-west of the site.

Medieval

3.2.4 Archaeological remains of Anglo-Saxon date comprise a piece of carved stonework (CHER 04730a) located in the 11^{th} century St Andrew's Church (CHER 04730, LB 51610) located opposite to the site on the northern side of Mingle Lane. The earliest reference to Stapleford is a legal claim made by the monks of Ely, stating that King Edred had given the vill of Stapleford *c*. 15 hides to their church in *c*. 955. Stapleford certainly belonged to Ely by the 1030s and the Abbot of Ely held all 10 hides in Stapleford between 1066 and 1086 (Wright 1982). Recent excavations at Dernford Farm in Sawton *c*. 1.25km to the south of the site have also recorded a Saxon grubenhaus or sunken featured building overlooking the river (Newton forthcoming).

3.2.5 Medieval archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site comprise a moated site (CHER 01004) situated *c*. 300m to the south-east of the site and possible hollows/trackways (CHER 09897) located *c*. 500m to the west of the site. Earthworks (CHER 11273) comprising a ridge running east-west to the rear (north) of the churchyard are located *c*. 250m to the north-west of the site and a medieval pond (CHER 11275) is located *c*. 400m to the north-east of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

3.2.6 Post-medieval archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site. Stapleford Hall (DCB6290, LB 51600), located *c*. 470m to the west of the site comprises an early 17^{th} century timber-framed house. An 18^{th} century dove cote (CHER 10455, LB 51603) is located *c*. 200m to the south-east of the site. Consultation of the 1864 Kelly's Directory states that the vicar in residence at St Andrew's Church was the Reverend Robert Hawthorn (Kelly's 1864). Modern archaeological remains comprise a Second World War Type 24 thin-walled pillbox (CB15065) located *c*. 300m to the north-west of the site.

Cartographic Sources (Figs. 3-5)

3.2.7 The 1812 Inclosure map (Fig. 3) depicts a rural landscape with the west-east Church Road (modern Mingle Lane) running centrally through the village. The site is depicted as rural terrain and is situated on land owned by Frances Smith at a value of five acres, three roods and twenty-two perches.

3.2.8 Some residential development has occurred to the south and south-east of the village in 1891 (Fig. 4), including a large residential complex at Vine Farm, Stapleford Hall, a school and a vicarage. Some residential development has occurred along the southern side of Mingle Lane (not labelled) and includes buildings named 'the Lodge' and 'Sunnyside'. Consultation of the 1922 Kelly's Directory states that a cemetery was built in *c*. 1880 to the north of St Andrew's Church (Kelly's 1922, 212) and a small south-north lane is depicted leading to the cemetery on the northern side of Mingle Lane. The site is undeveloped and is located adjacent (east) to the property 'Sunnyside' and to the south-west of St Andrew's Church.

3.2.9 The 1946 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) depicts a landscape with some minor changes. Residential development is depicted along the northern side of Mingle Lane (not labelled), including a property named 'the Limes'. Gravel pits are depicted further west on the southern side of Mingle Lane (not labelled). The footprint of the property named 'Sunnyside' located west of the site remains unchanged and consultation of the 1933 and 1937 Kelly's Directories states that a William King was in residence (Kelly's 1933 and 1937). The site remains undeveloped. The 1993 Ordnance Survey map depicts a dwelling on the northern part of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Three trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 6). The trench locations were approved by CCC HET.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 7)

Sample section 0.00 = 20.37m A		-west end
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark blackish grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional small angular gravel and CBM.
0.45 – 0.71m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt.
0.71m+	L1002	Natural. Mid reddish yellow, firm, clayey silt with patches of sand and gravel.

Sample section 0.00 = 20.45m A		east end
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1009 and Posthole F1011. Neither feature contained finds.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (10.00+ \times 0.40 \times 0.35m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid grey brown, friable, silty sand with sparse flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Shallow Posthole F1011 was square in plan ($0.30 \times 0.26 \times 0.05m$). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a light orange brown, friable, sandy silt with sparse flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 0.00 = 20.24m A		east end
0.28 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.89m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.89m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 0.00 = 20.19 m		-west end
0.23 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.42 – 0.87m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.87m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

34 Mingle Lane, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 0.00 = 20.41m A		-east end
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section	3B: north-	west end
0.00 = 20.47m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.34 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Postholes F1003 and F1007, and Ditch F1005. None of the features contained finds.

Posthole F1003 was circular in plan (0.40 x 0.12m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid orange brown, friable, silty sand with sparse flint gravel and chalk. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1005 was curvilinear in plan ($2.50 + x 1.50 \times 0.45m$). It had irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid grey brown, firm, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel and chalk. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1007 was oval in plan ($0.46 \times 0.40 \times 0.13m$). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid grey brown, friable, sandy clay with sparse flint gravel. It contained no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was the uppermost layer. It comprised a dark blackish grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional small angular gravel and CBM (c. 0.25 – 45m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt (c. 0.25 – 0.65m thick). Subsoil L1002 sealed the natural, L1002, a mid reddish yellow, firm, clayey silt with patches of sand and gravel. L1002 was c. 0.70 - 0.90m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	1009	Ditch	Undated
	1011	Posthole	Undated
3	1003	Posthole	Undated
	1005	Ditch	Undated
	1007	Posthole	Undated

8.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential within the historic medieval/ post-medieval core of the village of Stapleford. The medieval church of St Andrew lies close by to the north-west, on the northern side of Mingle Lane. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the Church as being largely medieval in date, though likely with a Saxon precursor on the site (HER 04730). A further remnant of the medieval village is a moated site of likely medieval date located to the south-east (HER 01004).

8.3 Features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2 (adjacent to Mingle Lane). Trench 1 and 3 (the southern area of the site) contained two (Tr.1) and three (Tr.3) features respectively.

8.4 Three postholes (F1011 (Tr.1), F1003 and F1007 (Tr.3)) and two ditches (F1009 (Tr.1) and F1005 (Tr.3)) were recorded. None contained finds and all the features are undated.

8.5 A residual sherd of medieval (13th to 14th century) date was found within the subsoil (L1001).

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 Although the encountered features were devoid of finds, it is possible that they dated to the medieval/ post-medieval period. All earlier periods are poorly represented in the immediate vicinity. This conclusion remains extremely tentative however. The residual medieval coarseware sherd from Subsoil L1001 attests only to 13th/ 14th century activity somewhere in the near vicinity, in keeping with the site's location within the historic village core.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site

summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) would like to thank Mr Andrew Kyprianou for commissioning the project and for his assistance, as well as Mark Winter Property Developments Ltd for funding the archaeological evaluation.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and the assistance of the Cambridgeshire HER.

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http://www.old-maps.co.uk

http://www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm

http://www.british-history.ac.uk

http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

HER No.	NGR SP	Description
Neolithic	•	
04790	TL 468 519	Flints - 1 flake, 1 leaf shaped arrowhead (broken), 1 retouched flake.
Medieval		
04730	TL 4710 5211	Saint Andrew's Church, Stapleford. A small flint church. Norman chancel arch, with two orders of shafts with scalloped capitals; the arch decorated with a kind of crenellation motif. Zig-zag fragments on the W window- sill of the N aisle. Grade II* LB 51610.
04730a	TL 4710 5211	Saxon carved stonework, Stapleford. The Stapleford base and shaft is preserved in the church.
01004	TL 4726 5186	Moated site, Stapleford. The interior is relatively flat and featureless, with no evidence for the existence of a causeway or buildings, and is covered by mature trees and scrub possibly due to 19 th century landscape gardening.
11273	TL 472 522	Medieval earthworks, Stapleford. An east-west ridge runs along back of churchyard.
11275	TL 474 522	Pond formerly on north side of village green, near Lordship Close. Now ornamental duck pond. Shown on 1812 inclosure map.
09897	TL 475 520	Possible medieval hollow ways, Stapleford.
Post-med	ieval	
10455	TL 4721 5201	Dovecote, Gog Magog Way, Stapleford. Possibly 18 th century. Formerly part of Bury Manor estate. Converted to a house and altered again <i>c</i> .1980.
Modern		
CB15065	TL 469 523	Type FW3/24 thin walled pillbox, with steps down to entry.
Undated		
MCB176 07	TL 474 519	Undated features, former Green Hedges School, Stapleford. Pit, ditch, drain & gully.

APPENDIX 2 DETAILS OF 1812 INCLOSURE AWARD OF STAPLEFORD

Plot No	Owner	Description		Valu	е
			Α	R	Р
31	Frances Smith	Allotment	5	3	22
32	Frances Smith	Allotment	1	0	30
33	Frances Smith	Allotment	1	1	29
-	James Banks	Allotment	1	1	25
-	T. Willis	Allotment	0	3	25
82	William Parkin	Allotment	2	2	22
85	TAJ Johnson	Allotment	0	4	41
86	Vicar	Grounds of Cemetery	0	2	28

APPENDIX 3

AS1572, P4846, 34 Mingle Ln, Stapleford, Cambs Concordance of finds by feature

Feature Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)
1001			Subsoil	13th-14th C	(1) 10g		

APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

A body sherd of wheel-made medieval coarseware (10g) was recovered from Subsoil L1001. The fabric contains common fine to medium quartz with occasional coarse to very coarse rounded to angular quartz and flint. The core and inner surface is grey with an orange outer surface and margin. It is probably of 13th-14th century date.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



Trench 1 post excavation looking south-west



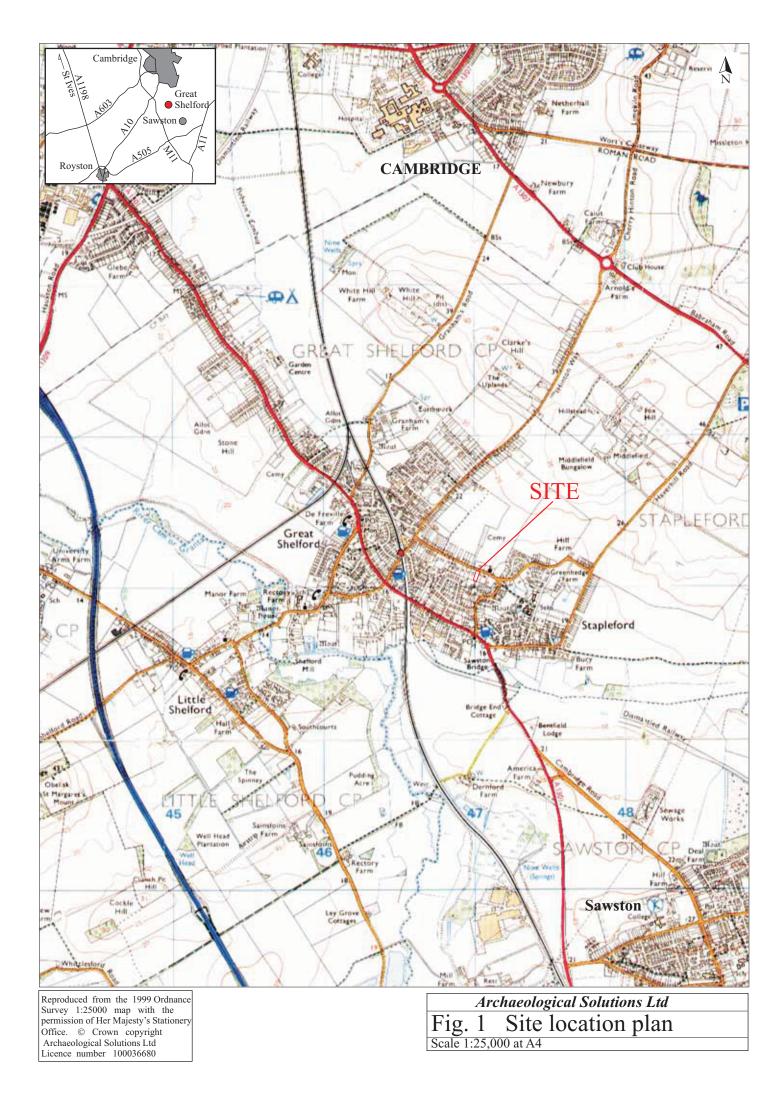
3 F1009 in Trench 1 looking south-west

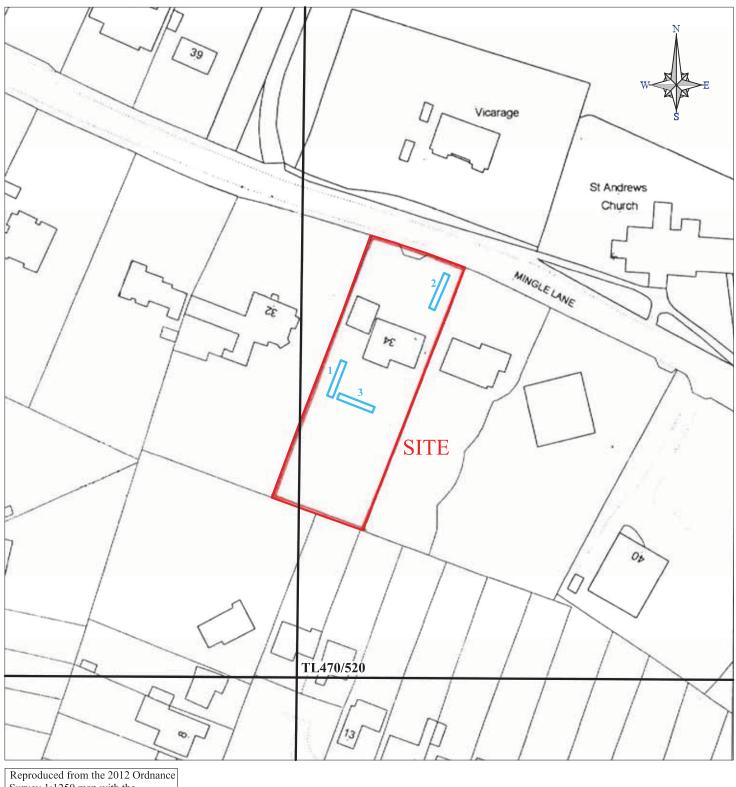


2 Trench 3 post excavation looking south-east



4 F1003 in Trench 3 looking south

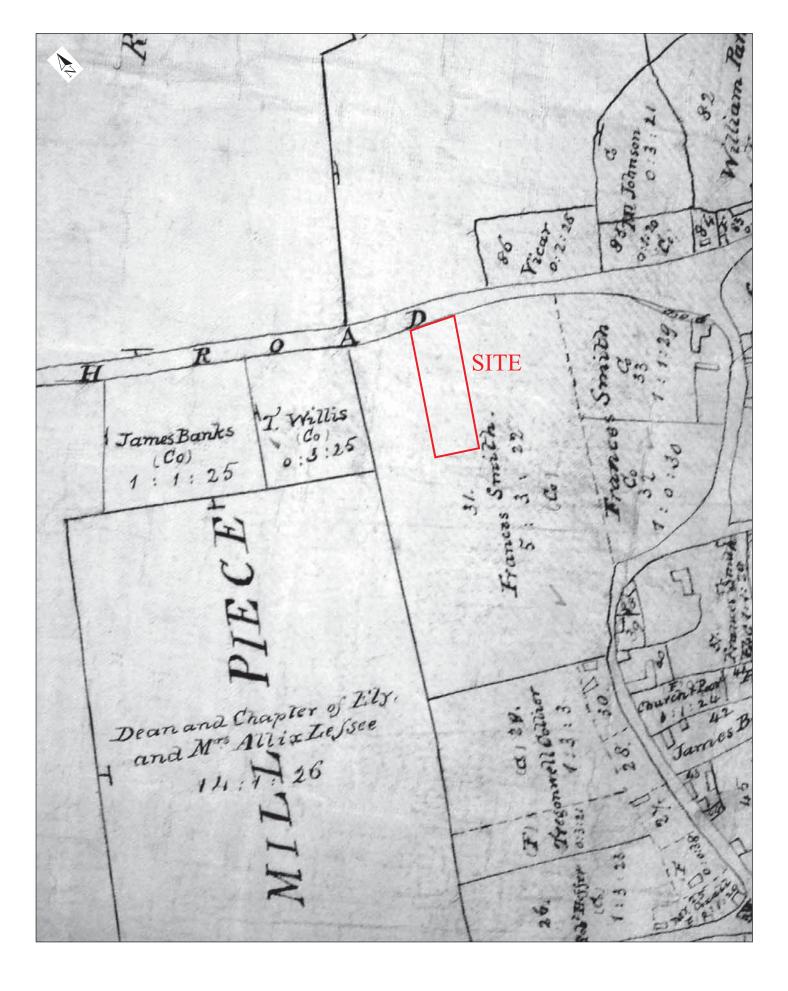




Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.

> Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan Scale 1:1000 at A4

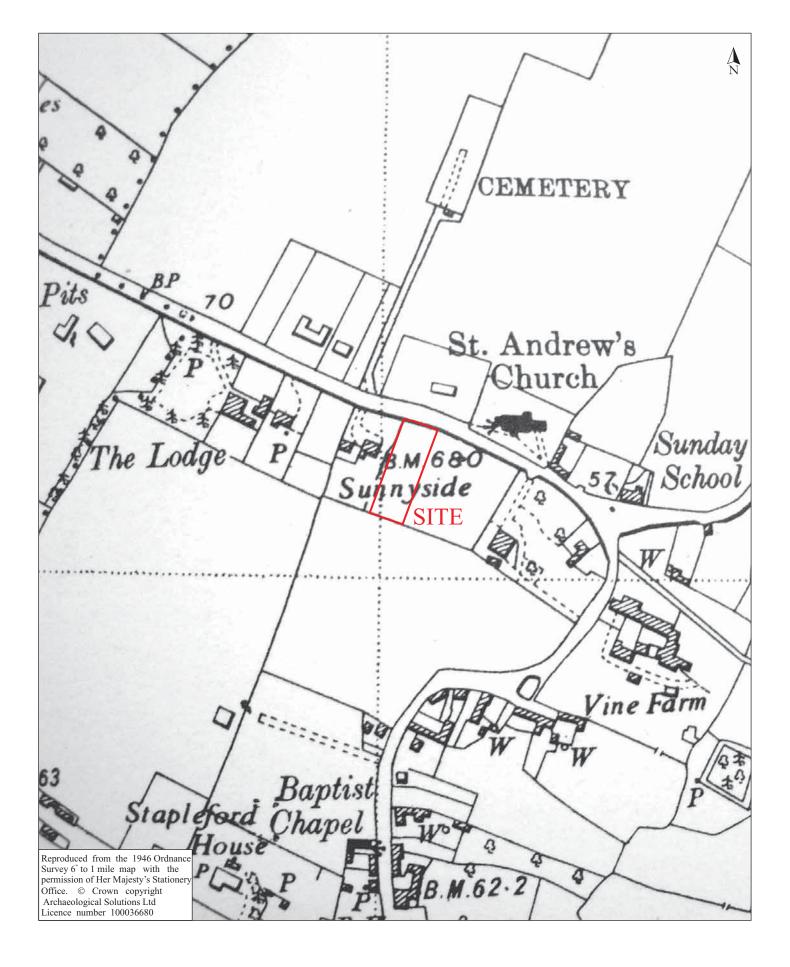
50m



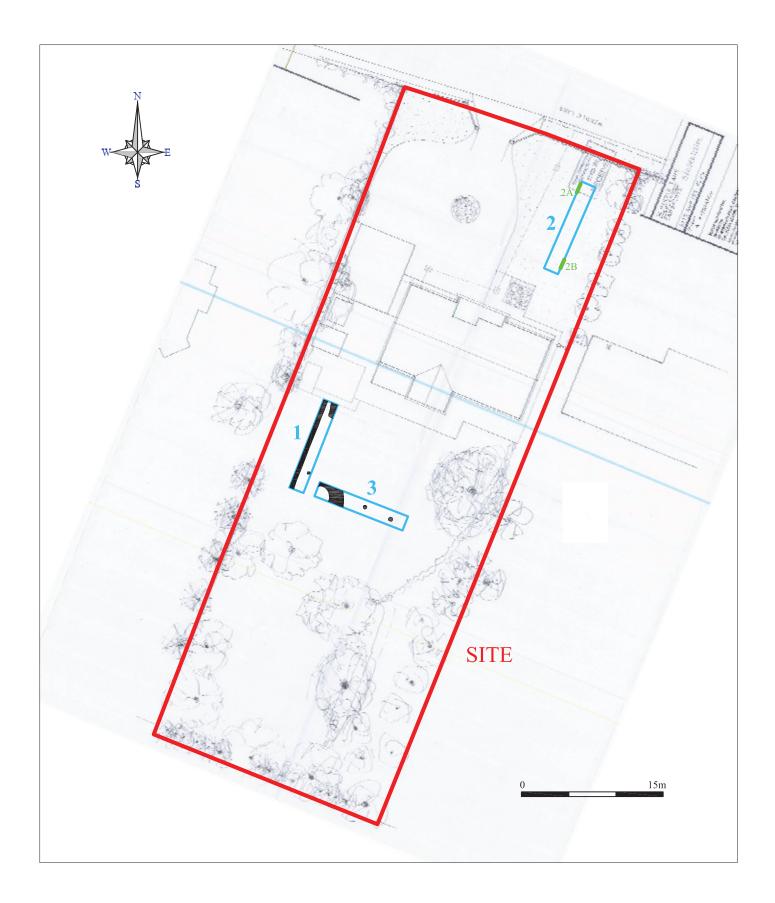
Archaeological Solutions Ltd				
	Inclosure map, 1812			
Not to scale				



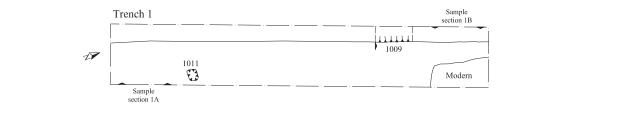
Archaeological Solutions Ltd				
Fig. 4	OS map, 1891			
Not to scale				

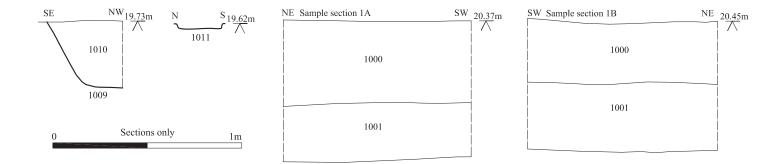


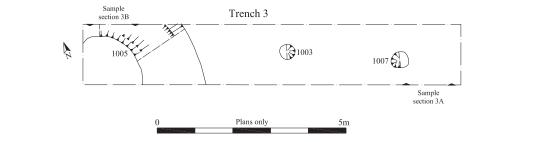
Archaeological Solutions Ltd				
	OS map, 1946			
Not to scale	—			

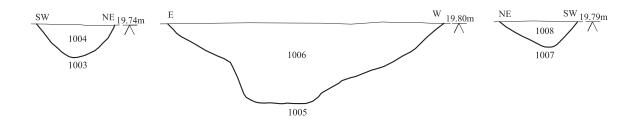


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Fig. 6	Trench location plan	
Scale 1:400	at A4	



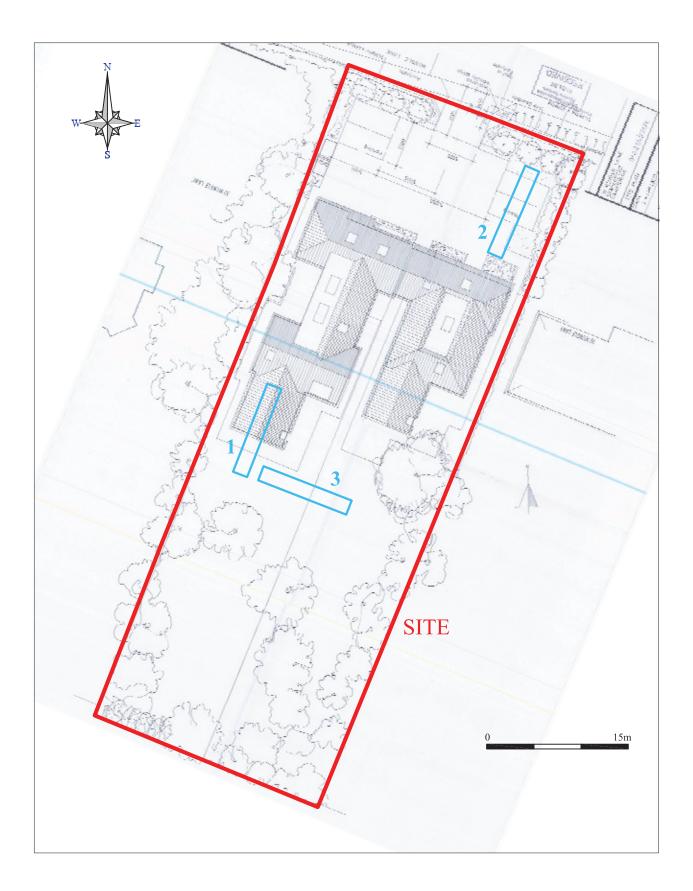






SE Sample section 3A	NW 2 <u>0.41</u> m	NW Sample section 3B	SE 2 <u>0.47</u> m
1000		1000	
1001		1001	

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Fig. 7	Trench plans and sections	
Scale 1:100	and 1:20 at A4	



Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 8 Proposed development plan Scale 1:400 at A4