
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**12 RIVER LANE, KING'S LYNN,
NORFOLK**

**MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

Authors: Gareth Barlow MSc (Report) Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork)	
NGR: TF 6345 2067	Report No: 4276
District: Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: ENF125460
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No: P4138
Signed:	Date: March 2013

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party replies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
Tel 01992 558170

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
3	THE EVIDENCE
4	METHODOLOGY
5	DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
6	CONFIDENCE RATING
7	DEPOSIT MODEL
8	DISCUSSION
9	DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
11	BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>12 River Lane, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring during groundworks at 12 River Lane, Norfolk (NGR TF 6345 2067). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 6 new dwellings (Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 10/01041/F).</i></p> <p><i>A trial trench evaluation of the site by AS in November 2010 revealed a rectangular construction cut which contained 15th-16th century brick and a ditch, a gully and a pit, all undated. A residual 14th – 15th century brick was present in the subsoil.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring of the excavation of footing trenches in September 2012 revealed no archaeological finds or features.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17th September 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4138</i>	Site code	<i>ENF125 460</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision & Control</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Open ground</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	<i>Gaywood</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (NHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.100m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 6345 2067</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>4.5/0.5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Norfolk Pride Developments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>12 River Lane, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control.</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4276</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2013</i>		

12 RIVER LANE, KINGS LYNN, NORFOLK

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring during groundworks at 12 River Lane, Norfolk (NGR TF 6345 2067). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of housing (Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 10/01041/F).

Roman tile and pottery has been found approximately 300-350m to the north of the site along the Gaywood River (NHER 52930). In the same location a large quantity of Middle Saxon pottery was found. Several find spots of Early to Middle Saxon metalwork have also been recorded in this area (NHER 52930, 14673, 5544) suggesting settlement. In the medieval period the Gaywood River was diverted (NHER 28800) whilst the area to the north and west was used for salt production and agriculture. The nearest saltern is some 650m to the north-west (NHER 27909) and ridge and furrow is recorded 600m to the south-west.

A trial trench evaluation of the site by AS in November 2010 revealed a rectangular construction cut which contained 15th-16th century brick and a ditch, a gully and a pit, all undated. A residual 14th – 15th century brick was present in the subsoil.

Monitoring of the excavation of footing trenches in September 2012 revealed no archaeological finds or features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring of groundworks at 12 River Lane, Norfolk (NGR TF 6345 2067; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a terrace of 6 new dwellings (Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council Planning Ref. 10/01041/F).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC) (Ken Hamilton, dated 27/04/2012), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 03/05/2012), and

approved by NCC. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

Planning policy context

1.3 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.

1.4 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

2.1 Kings Lynn is 70km west of Norwich and 8km south of the Wash to which it is linked by the Lynn Channel. Gaywood is a residential suburb of Kings Lynn directly east of the historic core of the city. The site is just north and west of where the A148 joins the A1076. It comprises open ground of grass and trees bounded on the west side by the Gaywood River and River Lane from which it is accessed. A metalled path/track bounds the east side beyond which are houses, and more houses are located immediately to the south. To the north is open ground with houses beyond.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig.1)

3.1.1 The low lying site is between 0.5 and 4.5m AOD just to the east of the Gaywood River which is a tributary of the Lynn. The local soils are unsurveyed owing to the urban setting and the site's underlying geology is close to the meeting of Ampthill Clays (west) with Dersingham Beds and Sandringham Sands (east), with drift geology of Alluvium and till overlying them.

3.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

3.2.1 Evidence for prehistoric remains is relatively sparse from the Kings Lynn area, which may partly be due to the destruction of sites during the medieval and later building of the town and also to the marshy nature of much of the immediate environs. A double Bronze Age ring ditch containing a cremation and pits between the ditches was found during digging of the Bacton to Kings Lynn gas pipeline (NHER 37622).

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

3.2.2 The picture is similar for the Romano-British period with a fairly low number of sites in the area. A probable Roman Road is inferred south of Kings Lynn running west-east towards Brampton, and Roman settlement including a substantial building is known to the north, near the coast (Wade Martin 1993). Closer to the site, a scatter of Roman roof tile and pottery was found in gardens at 137-139 Wootton Road (NHER 52930) indicating the presence of a building in the area, and Romano-British pottery was reused in a soakaway some 850m to the north (NHER 2295). Further Romano-British pottery and tegulae and undated pits and ditches were identified during excavations in the 1980s and 1990s at South Wootton, over 2km to the north (NHER 19715). Isolated Roman coins have also been found within 1km of the site (Appendix 1).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)

3.2.3 There is increasing archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period. A small Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing 25 inhumations, 2 cremations and an empty grave was found during the digging of the Bacton to Kings Lynn pipeline (NHER 37622). Saxon pottery, including unusual Middle Saxon sherds, was excavated at the South Wootton site (NHER 19715). The 137-139 Wootton Road site, some 300-350m to the north, produced a large assemblage of Middle Saxon pottery including Ipswich ware, along with a Middle Saxon knife and some Late

Saxon sherds (NHER 52930). In the same area an Early Saxon spearhead was recovered (NHER 14673), whilst some 250m to the east, a rare Middle Saxon brooch and Late Saxon buckle were also found (NHER 5544). A 7th century Byzantine coin was found at an unrecorded location (NHER 15750) within the 1km search radius. The Domesday Survey of 1086 names the Anglo-Saxon settlement as *Lun* (Lynn) probably deriving from the British word for lake or body of water.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

3.2.4 The medieval town was founded between the rivers Purfleet and Mill Fleet by the bishop of Thetford in 1101 who granted a market and named it Bishops Lynn. It was not a true plantation due to the existing Saxon settlement already in the area. The town was walled in the 13th-14th centuries, part of which is a Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed (NHER 5486). The Red Mount Chapel (NHER 5478) which may stand on the site of a castle motte is also a Scheduled Monument. St Faith's parish church dating from the 14th century is Grade II* listed and built over a Norman church (NHER 5556). The medieval town became the third most important port in England trading with the Hanseatic League. Salt production was also an important industry for the town and the environs of Kings Lynn contained the highest concentration of salterns in the county. In particular 12th century documents record the bishop of Norwich as having the highest concentration of salt pans situated in Gaywood (Barlow et al 2008).

3.2.5 The course of the Gaywood River is a re-cut carried out in 1425 to bring freshwater to the town (NHER 28800). Medieval pottery has been found at the multi-period site along Wootton Road (NHER 52930). The majority of medieval sites outside the historic core of the town are salterns which were located behind what was the Old Sea Bank of the River Great Ouse until the mid 19th century (NHER 5528). The closest known sites are approximately 650-900m to the north-west of the site (NHER 27909, 27910, 27893, 27894). Areas of ridge and furrow also survive, for example, at King Edwards Grammar School playing fields 600m to the south-west (NHER 37679).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

3.2.6 Following the Dissolution Henry VIII changed the town's name to Kings Lynn and during the post-medieval period the town expanded eastwards. However, there was decline in the salt production industry partly due to flooding which saw the building or rebuilding of the sea walls. Some of the abandoned saltern areas were given over to agriculture seen in ridge and furrow and stack stands (NHER 16312, 27864, 27865, 27891). It is possible that some were also incorporated as military defences, for example undated banks are located at a saltern 800m to the north (NHER 27864). Kings Lynn was fortified in the Civil War during which it fell to Parliament after a three week siege in 1643; a post-

medieval cannon ball was recovered 200m west of the site (NHER 16312). In the late 17th century Kings Lynn was in decline but revived with the arrival of the East Anglian railway in the mid 19th century (NHER 13594). It was after 1961 that Gaywood was developed as a new estate.

3.3 Previous Investigation

3.3.1 A trial trench evaluation of the site by AS in November 2010 (Thompson & Adams 2010) revealed a rectangular construction cut which contained 15th-16th century brick and a ditch, a gully and a pit, all undated. A residual 14th – 15th century brick was present in the subsoil.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording mainly encompassed the excavation of the foundation trenches.

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all ground works, inspection of subsoil, make-up layers, and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new house plots were undertaken using a mini 360° mechanical excavator. The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.50m and 0.65m, with a width of 0.60m.

Three sample sections were recorded:

<i>Sample section 1.</i> <i>0.00 = 3.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L2000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt.
0.39 – 0.65m	L2001	Subsoil. Reddish grey, firm, clay silt with occasional small stones.
0.65m+	L2002	Natural. Light blue grey, firm, sandy gravel with clay

<i>Sample section 2.</i> <i>0.00 = 3.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.45m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.45m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 3.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.52m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.52m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the monitoring.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L2000 was the uppermost layer across site. It was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt (0.30 - 0.39m thick). Below L2000 was Subsoil L2001, a firm, reddish grey clay silt with occasional small stones. The natural drift geology, L1002, present below the subsoil as established in the trial trenches excavated in 2010 was not reached on this occasion.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Roman tile and pottery has been found approximately 300-350m to the north of the site along the Gaywood River (NHER 52930). In the same location a large quantity of Middle Saxon pottery was found. Several find spots of Early to Middle Saxon metalwork have also been recorded in this area (NHER 52930, 14673, 5544) suggesting settlement. In the medieval period the Gaywood River was diverted (NHER 28800) whilst the area to the north and west was used for salt production and agriculture. The nearest saltern is some 650m to the north-west (NHER 27909) and ridge and furrow is recorded 600m to the south-west.

8.2 A trial trench evaluation of the site by AS in November 2010 revealed a rectangular construction cut which contained 15th-16th century brick and a ditch, a gully and a pit, all undated. A residual 14th – 15th century brick was present in the subsoil.

8.3 In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Norfolk County Council Museum Store (NCCMS). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Norfolk Pride Developments Ltd for funding the monitoring (in particular Mr Mark Attridge for his assistance).

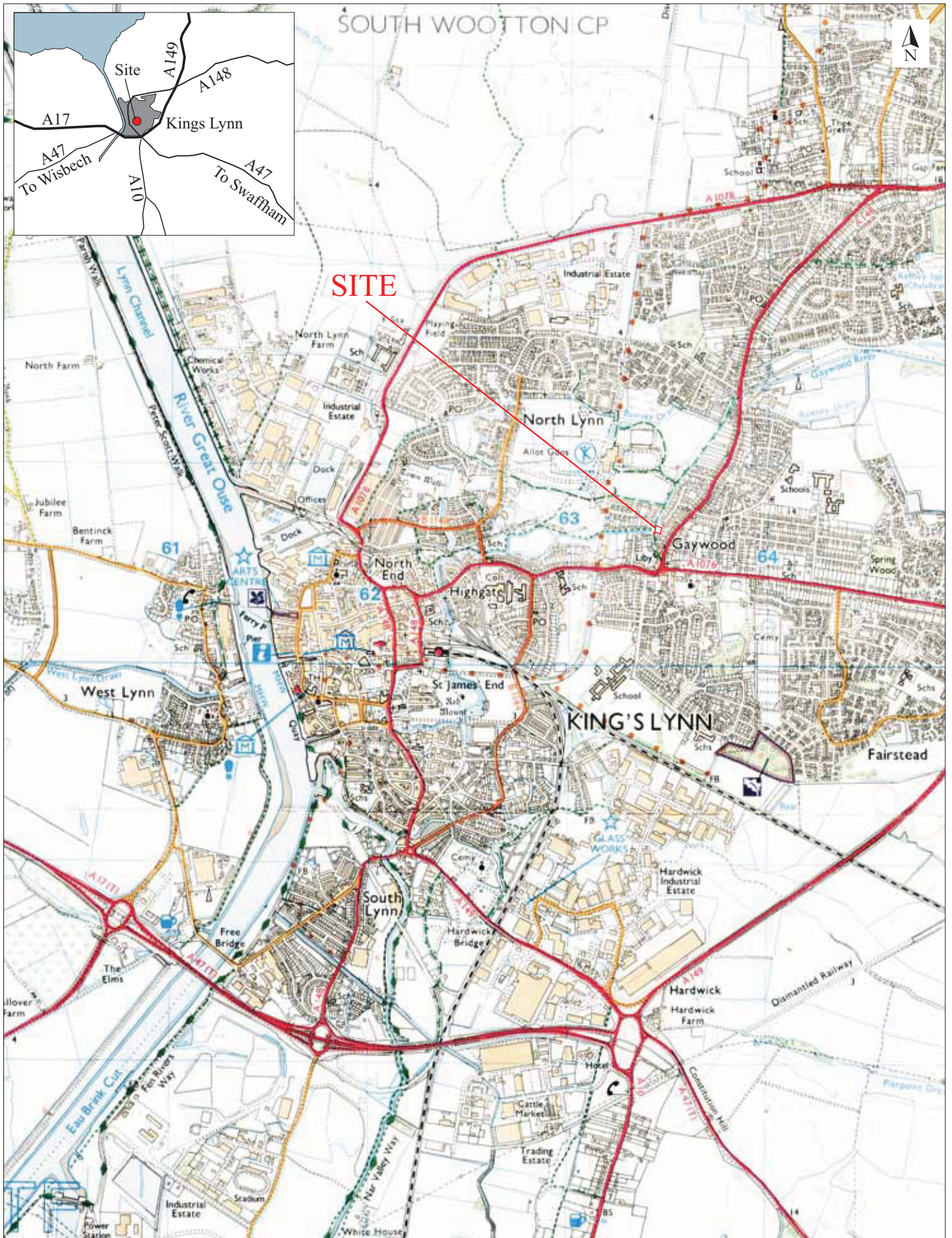
Archaeological Solutions Limited also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Dr Ken Hamilton of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

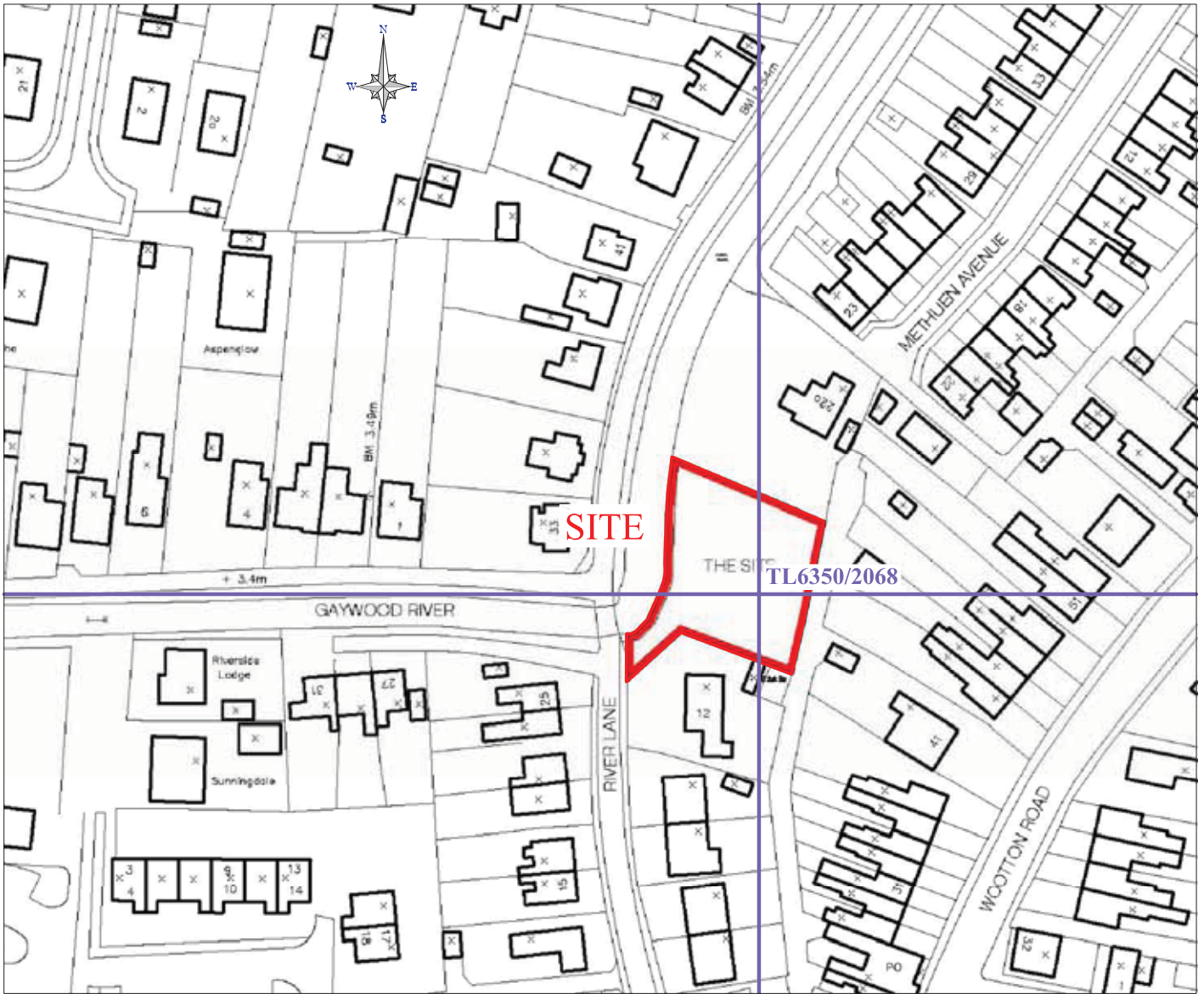
Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

Thompson, P. and Adams, M. 2010. *12 River Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk. An Archaeological Evaluation*. AS Report No. 3691.



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

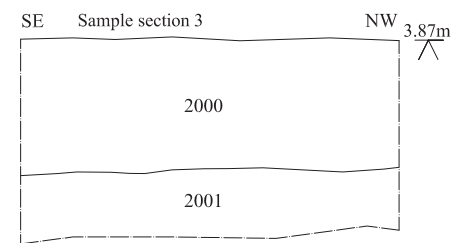
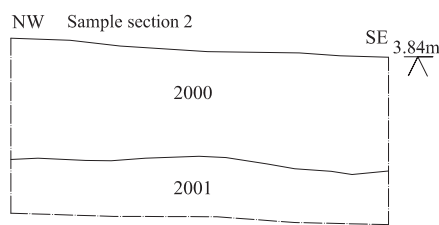
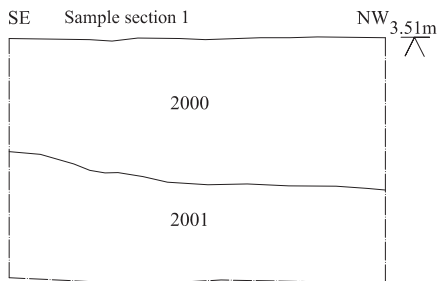
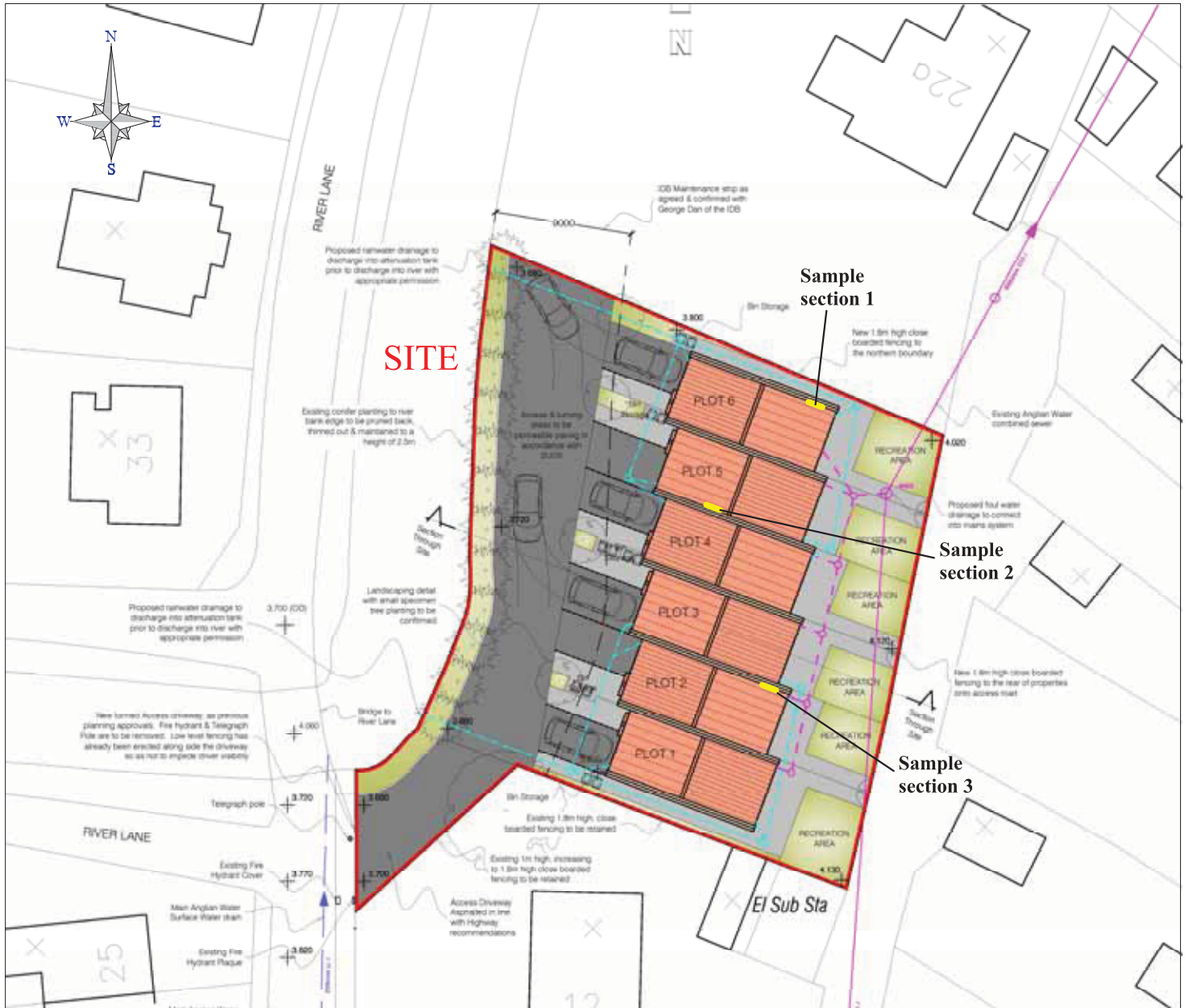
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



Reproduced from the 2010 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

0 75m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 3 Proposed development plan with sample sections
 Scale Plan 1:400, sections 1:20 at A4