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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND AT AVON ROAD,  
SOUTH WOOTTON, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK**

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

Authors:	Antony R.R. Mustchin (Fieldwork and report) Peter Thompson (Archaeological background)	
Illustrations:	Kathren Henry	
NGR: TF 6432 2285	Report No: 4761	
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: ENF 135675	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5884	
Signed:	Date: 19 January 2015	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

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

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,  
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF  
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail: [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Land at Avon Road (Rear of Leaside, Nursery Close), South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk</i>		
<i>In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control at Land at Avon Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 6432 2285).</i>			
<i>Based on previous sites/ finds and extant remains in the immediate area, the site had good potential for archaeological features and finds, especially those dating to the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring identified no archaeological remains.</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>01/12/2014</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>5884</i>	<b>Site code</b>	<i>ENF 135675</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>None</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Private garden</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>New single dwelling</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	<i>South Wootton</i>
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>PE30 3LS</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>Approximately 330m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TF 6432 2285</i>		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	<i>c. 10m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Antony R.R. Mustchin MSc BSc DipPAS</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>Suiters Ltd</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>Land at Avon Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Mustchin, A.R.R., Thompson, P.</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>4761</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>January 2015</i>		

## LAND AT AVON ROAD, SOUTH WOOTTON, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

### MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

#### **SUMMARY**

*In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control at Land at Avon Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk.*

*Based on previous sites/ finds and extant remains in the immediate area, the site had good potential for archaeological features and finds, especially those dating to the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.*

*In the event the monitoring identified no archaeological remains. Modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) services were observed truncating the subsoil along the eastern edge of the site.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control at Land at Avon Road (Rear of Leaside, Nursery Close), South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 6432 2285; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a dwelling (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council Ref 14/00820/F).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a generic brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES; dated 24/09/2012) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28/07/2014), and approved by NCC HES. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2013), as well as Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

### *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**

2.1 South Wootton is a village and civil parish adjoining the northern edge of Kings Lynn, north-west Norfolk (Fig. 1). The development site comprises a rectangular block of land (private garden) to the south of Avon Road (Fig. 2; DPs 1-2).

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site is located on low lying ground at approximately 10m AOD. To the west lie salt marshes and the River Great Ouse which drains into The Wash some 11.5km to the north-west. To the east the land slopes gradually upwards to 50m AOD.

3.2 The local soils are of the Blackwood Association described as 'Deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils. Groundwater controlled by ditches' (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983, 19). These soils overlie glaciofluvial drift. The solid geology predominantly comprises Lower Cretaceous Sandringham Sands including the Roxham and Runcton Beds (British Geological Survey 1991).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Multi-period prehistoric finds have been recovered from within 1km of the development site including Palaeolithic handaxes (NHERs 13831 and 14416), a Neolithic polished axe (NHER 3280), Beaker pottery (NHER 5497), and an Iron Age imported Greek coin (NHER 3314). A prehistoric pot boiler was found 230m north-east of the site suggesting the possible presence of a burnt mound (NHER 25005). A possible Bronze Age round barrow was located 800m to the north-east which has since been built over (NHER 13900). A number of Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites/ finds have been identified nearby, and the area is notable for its large number of salterns (NHERs 27094, 27100, 27119 and 27130). A medieval sea bank is located to the west (NHER 27127).

4.2 In 1977-78 a number of prehistoric flints and Anglo-Saxon/ medieval pottery sherds were found at Nursery Close, some 10-15m south of the development site (NHER 12946). A test pit also contained a possible medieval clay floor and an Anglo-Saxon ditch, both yielding associated pottery. The spread of medieval sherds extended into the gardens on either side of the property. In 1977 the rim of a late Anglo-Saxon Thetford-type Ware vessel was found approximately 170m to the west of the site (NHER 17967). The Grade II\* listed church of St Mary is located 300m to the west (NHER 3295). It may have late Anglo-Saxon origins while the chancel dates to around 1300, and the church has very unusual transepts that date to about 1400. The tower is a later addition dating to the 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

4.3 During 1983-84, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds and Roman tegulae were found during development works c. 560m to the north of the site. A subsequent archaeological excavation found several ditches and pits of unknown date, and quantities of unusual middle Anglo-Saxon pottery. Several prehistoric worked flints and a medieval roofing tile were also found. Further investigation in 1999 found additional Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery and metalworking slag (NHER 19715).

4.4 An archaeological evaluation 400m to the south, in the garden of The Manor House (NHER 55653), revealed no archaeological features, although several sherds of medieval to post-medieval pottery were recovered along with a fragment of medieval brick, suggesting possible settlement activity (NHER 57978). Excavations 500m to the north-west carried out in 1959, encountered late medieval buildings. The remains included carrstone and brick wall footings. The buildings were thought to be warehouses. At some point prior to 1974 a number of medieval sherds were found at the same site, including pieces of a Grimston Ware jug (NHER 3292). Fieldwalking in an area c. 670m north-west of the current site recovered finds including early medieval pottery and iron slag (NHER 11343).

4.5 In 1974 a collection of human skeletal remains were recovered during the laying of a pipe 340m to the east in Castle Rising Road. No date was assigned to the remains (NHER 15697). Aerial photographs taken in 1961 of a location some 470m to the north of the site, showed the cropmarks of a possible undated structure in addition to several unidentified features. It was speculated that the building may have been rectangular in plan, multi-celled and of timber construction. The

remaining features may relate to archaeological or natural features/ deposits (NHER 27923).

4.6 Aerial photographs taken in 1967 of an area c. 300m to the north-north-west show earthworks and cropmarks associated with a series of post-medieval drainage channels and water meadows (NHER 27924). Later aerial photographs also show cropmarks relating to a linear and curvilinear feature some 520m to the west of the site. No date or function was assigned to the latter although it may be a ploughed out bank (NHER 27921). The line of the King's Lynn to Hunstanton railway, dated 1862-1969, is located 870m west of the site (NHER13591).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all groundworks likely to affect archaeological remains, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.2 The foundation trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (under close archaeological supervision) and were 0.50-0.70m wide and up to 1.13m deep.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in two sample sections:

<i>Sample section 1 (Fig. 4; DP3)</i> <i>0.00 = 9.84m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.16m	1000	Topsoil: loose, dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal lumps (c. 10-40mm), frequent small angular flint and frequent roots
0.16-0.48m	1001	Subsoil: loose, mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flint and roots
0.48-0.91m	1002	Natural layer: loose, mid brown silty sand with frequent small to medium rounded flint and quartz (c. 5-40mm)
0.91-1.13+m	1003	Natural geology: Loose, mid brown silty sand and gravel

<i>Sample section 2 (Fig. 4; DP4)</i> <i>0.00 = 9.95m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.16m	1000	Topsoil: as above
0.16-0.42m	1001	Subsoil: as above
0.42-0.66m	1005	Natural geology: Firm, light brown/ yellow brown slightly clayey sand with occasional small rounded flint
0.66-0.94+m	1003	Natural geology: as above

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.



6.2 A modern, 20<sup>th</sup> century drain (F1006; L1004) was identified truncating Subsoil L1002 in Sample Section 1 (Fig. 3; DP3). No cut for this feature was observable within the overlying soil profile. The c. N-S line of F1006 was traceable across the excavated area, and was present immediately to the west of Sample Section 2 (Fig. 3; DP4). The loose, pea gravel fill of F1006 (L1004) surrounded a ceramic pipe (not numbered).

6.3 The easternmost foundation trench truncated the eastern edge of a modern earth-cut soakaway (F1007) containing a loosely compacted fill of 20<sup>th</sup> century CBM (predominantly tile and brick fragments; L1008; Fig. 3; DP5). This feature was c. 1.20m wide and c. 0.60m deep; it may have been associated with adjacent Drain F1006, immediately to the west. This relationship remains uncertain, however.

## **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, comprising loosely compacted, dark brown slightly clayey silt (0.16m deep) with occasional charcoal lumps (c. 10-40mm), frequent small angular flint and frequent roots. L1000 contained modern CBM and clear, moulded glass. The topsoil sealed Subsoil L1001, also present across the site. L1001 was up to 0.32m deep and comprised loose, mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flint and roots; no finds were present. In the south of the site (Sample Section 1), L1001 sealed a natural accumulation of loose, mid brown silty sand with frequent small to medium rounded flint and quartz (L1002); L1002 was 0.43m deep and was devoid of finds. In the north of the excavated area (Sample Section 2), Subsoil L1001 sealed a thin (0.24m deep), natural horizon of firm, light brown/ yellow brown slightly clayey sand with occasional small rounded flint (L1005). The basal deposit in all trenches was Natural L1003, comprising loose, mid brown silty sand and gravel. The upper horizon of L1003 was encountered at 0.66-0.91m below the modern, stripped surface level.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Based on recorded archaeological sites and finds in the immediate area, including extant structures and structural remains, the Avon Road site had good potential for archaeological remains, especially those of prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date.

9.2 In the event, the monitoring encountered only modern features, comprising a 20<sup>th</sup> century service pipe/ drain and earth-cut soakaway, both truncating Subsoil L1001.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Norwich Castle Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Mark Suiter of Suiters Ltd for commissioning and funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kelly Powell of NCC HES.

Peter Thompson would like to thank Ms Anj Beckham of Norfolk County Council for the provision of Historic Environment data.

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1: General site shot, looking NE



DP2: General site shot, looking SW



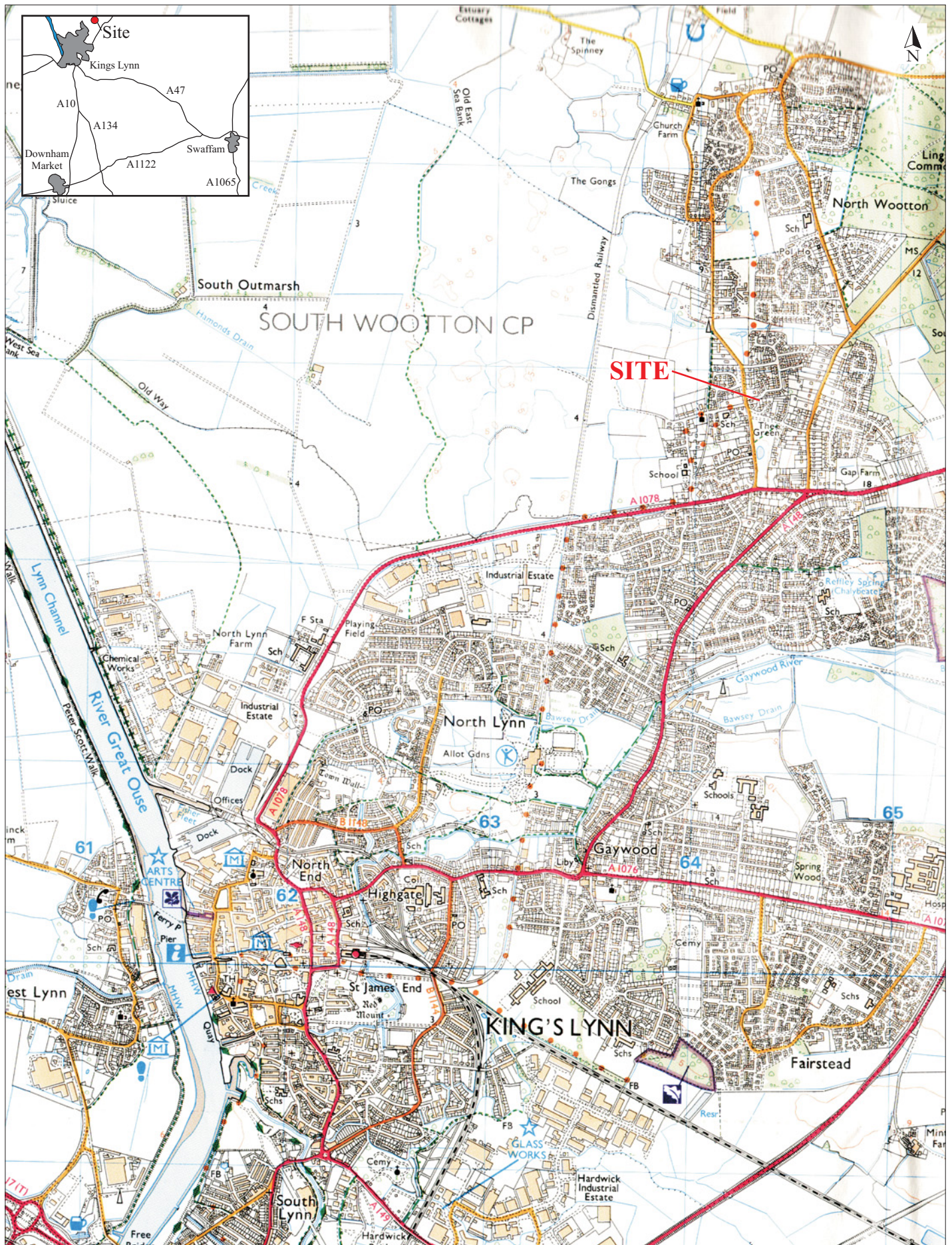
DP3: Sample Section 1 (including modern Drain F1006), looking S



DP4: Sample Section 2 and modern services, looking N



DP5: Modern Soakaway F1007, looking W

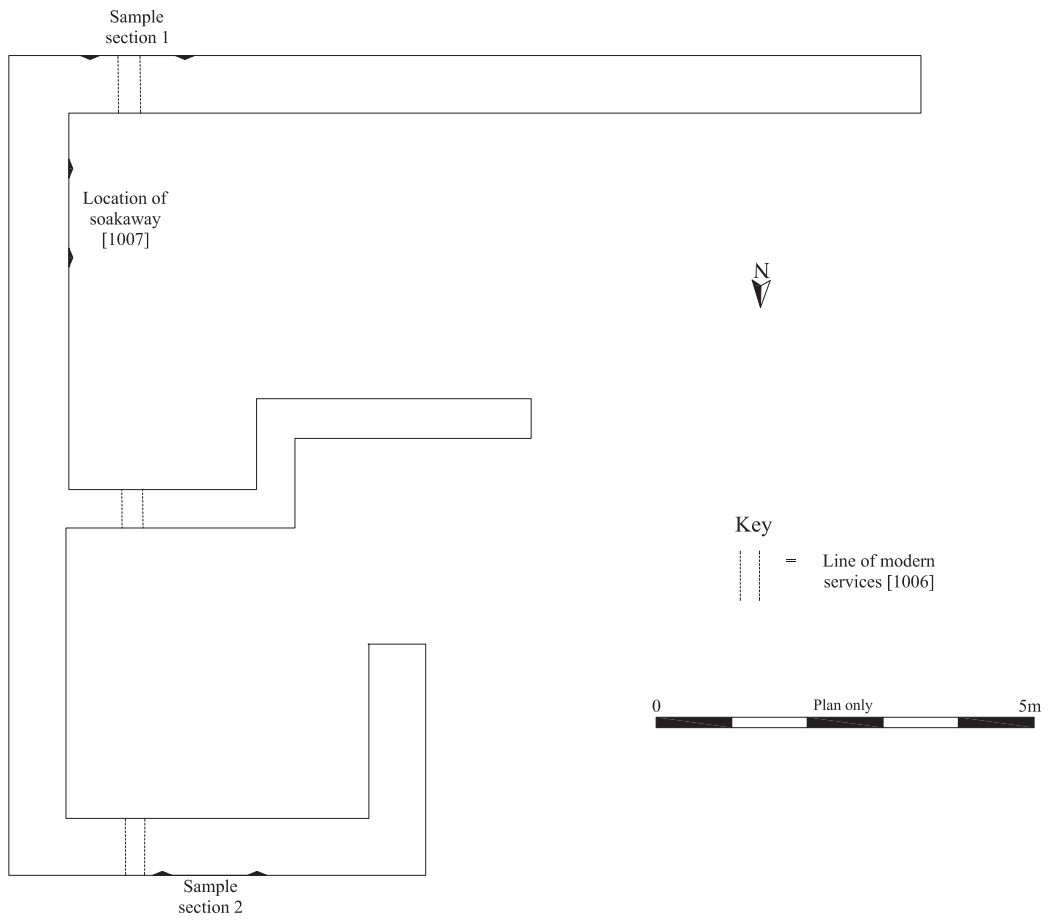


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1: 25,000 at A4



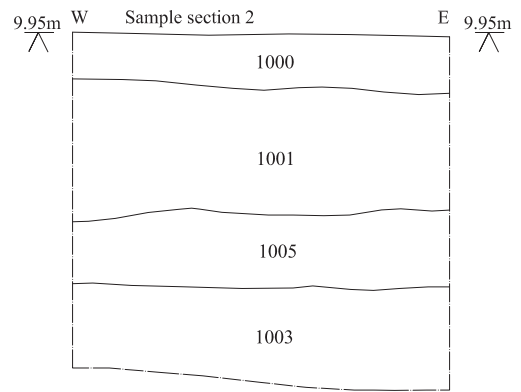
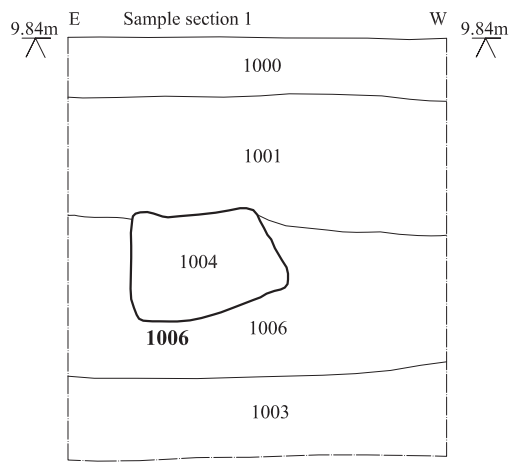
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:750 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Sample section location plan**

Scale 1:100 at A4



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<b>Fig. 4 Sample sections</b>
Scale 1:20 at A4