

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT,
LAND TO THE NORTH OF 120 PARK LANE,
EASTFIELD, PETERBOROUGH**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Sam Egan (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 2052 9985	Report No. 4454
District: Peterborough	Site Code: AS 1646
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. 5545
Signed:	Date: 19 November 2013

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Land to the North of 120 Park Lane, Eastfield, Peterborough	
<p>In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north of 120 Park Lane, Eastfield, Peterborough (NGR TL 2052 9985). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of Cross Keys Homes Developments Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x28 new dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01031/R4FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.</p> <p>The site encompasses an area of some 0.87ha and lies at c.10m AOD, on a geology of Kellaway deposits. The site was formerly a school, built in the 1960s and demolished in the 2000s. A high earth bund is present in the northern and western part of the site and adjacent. The school buildings formerly extended across a large part of the site, shown on 1960s and 1970s OS mapping.</p> <p>No archaeological remains are known on the site, but sparse evidence for early activity has been recorded nearby. Recent investigations at St John Fisher Catholic School revealed undated, possibly prehistoric features and residual prehistoric artefacts, and investigations at Hereward Community College revealed undated pits/post holes sealed by a buried soil below bank material potentially associated with the Roman Car Dyke running to the east of the proposed development site.</p> <p>In the event the evaluation found no archaeological features or finds. Significant modern ground disturbance was evident particularly in Trenches 1 - 3 and would have removed archaeological remains if present. No residual finds were found.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		November 2013	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		5406	Site code
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		-	
Current land use		Vacant plot	
Planned development		Residential development.	
Main features (+dates)		None	
Significant finds (+dates)		None	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
HER/ SMR for area		Peterborough Historic Environment Record (PHER)	
Post code (if known)		-	
Area of site		0.87ha	
NGR		TL 2052 9985	
Height AOD (max/ min)		c.10 m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service	
Project supervisor/(PO)		Samuel Egan	
Funded by		Cross Keys Homes Developments Ltd	
Full title		Land to the North of 120 Park Lane, Eastfield, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation.	
Authors		Samuel Egan	
Report no.		4454	
Date (of report)		November 2013	

LAND NORTH OF 120 PARK LANE, EASTFIELD, PETERBOROUGH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north of 120 Park Lane, Eastfield, Peterborough (NGR TL 2052 9985). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of Cross Keys Homes Developments Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x28 new dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01031/R4FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

The site encompasses an area of some 0.87ha and lies at c.10m AOD, on a geology of Kellaway deposits. The site was formerly a school, built in the 1960s and demolished in the 2000s. A high earth bund is present in the northern and western part of the site and adjacent. The school buildings formerly extended across a large part of the site, shown on 1960s and 1970s OS mapping.

No archaeological remains are known on the site, but sparse evidence for early activity has been recorded nearby. Recent investigations at St John Fisher Catholic School revealed undated, possibly prehistoric features and residual prehistoric artefacts, and investigations at Hereward Community College revealed undated pits/post holes sealed by a buried soil below bank material potentially associated with the Roman Car Dyke running to the east of the proposed development site.

In the event the evaluation found no archaeological features or finds. Significant modern ground disturbance was evident particularly in Trenches 1 - 3 and would have removed archaeological remains if present. No residual finds were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north of 120 Park Lane, Eastfield, Peterborough (NGR TL 2052 9985). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of Cross keys Homes Developments Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x28 new dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01031/R4FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS) (dated 7 November 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 7 November 2013) and approved by PCC AS. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development areas;
- Provide 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 investigations (namely, targeted area excavations) with the ongoing programme of research;
- Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains; and
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

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. 1-2)

2.1 The site was formerly a school, built in the 1960s and demolished in the 2000s. A high earth bund is present in the northern and western part of the site and adjacent. The school buildings formerly extended across a large part of the site, shown on 1960s and 1970s OS mapping.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The site encompasses an area of some 0.87ha and lies at c.10m AOD, on a geology of Kellaway deposits.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 No archaeological remains are known on the site, but sparse evidence for early activity has been recorded nearby. Recent investigations at St John Fisher Catholic School revealed undated, possibly prehistoric features and residual prehistoric artefacts, and investigations at Hereward Community College revealed undated pits/post holes sealed by a buried soil below bank material potentially associated with the Roman Car Dyke running to the east of the proposed development site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The brief required a c.5% sample of the site to be subject to trial trenching, focussing on the areas of proposed new build in the parts of the site believed to have been least truncated by the previous school development. Five trenches each 40m x 2m and two trenches 20m x 2m were excavated. The trenches were moved slightly because of practical constraints.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a

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. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs.)

East-North-East end 0.00 = 8.35m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with rare sandstone flecks
0.12 - 0.45m	L1001	Demolition layer (1960's school). Mid greyish black, compact, silty clay with frequent brick, cement and tarmac.
0.45m+	L1003	Natural. Pale bluish grey/orange, compact, silty clay

West-South-West end 0.00 = 8.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.08 - 0.38m	L1001	Demolition Layer. As above.
0.38m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Figs.)

East-North-East end 0.00 = 8.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.09 - 0.32m	L1001	Demolition layer (1960's school). As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

West-South-West end 0.00 = 8.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1
0.10 - 0.40m	L1001	Demolition Layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.40m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1 .

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs.)

North-North-East end 0.00 = 8.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.17 - 0.36m	L1001	Demolition layer (1960's school). As Above Tr.1
0.36m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

South-South-West end 0.00 = 8.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1
0.15 - 0.50m	L1001	Demolition Layer. As above Tr.1
0.50m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Figs.)

North-East end 0.00 = 8.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1
0.14 - 0.37m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small sub-round/angular sandstone
0.37m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr.1

South-West end 0.00 = 8.73m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1
0.13 - 0.31m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Figs.)

East-South-East end 0.00 = 9.23m AOD		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1
0.07 - 0.22m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr.4
0.22m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Figs.)

North-East end 0.00 = 8.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.12 - 0.29m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.4
0.29m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

South-West end		
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0.00 = 9.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.17 - 0.69m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.4.
0.69m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 7 (Figs.)

East-South-East end 0.00 = 8.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.16 - 0.25m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.4
0.25m+	L1003	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a mid orange brown, silty clay with rare sandstone flecks (0.08 – 0.17m thick). Topsoil L1000 overlay Demolition layer L1001, a mid greyish black, compact silty clay with frequent modern bricks, cement and tarmac. The demolition layer overlay the natural, L1003. and was present in Trenches 1, 2 and 3.

7.2 Topsoil L1000 overlay Subsoil L1002, a mid orangish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular sandstone. The subsoil sealed the natural, L1003, in Trenches 4 – 7.

7.3 The natural, L1003, was a compact pale bluish grey/orange, compact silty clay 02.25 – 0.69m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located in an area with the potential for archaeological activity. No archaeological remains were known on the site, but sparse evidence for early activity has been recorded nearby.

8.2 In the event the evaluation found no archaeological features or finds. Significant modern ground disturbance was evident particularly

in Trenches 1 - 3 and would have removed archaeological remains if present. No residual finds were found.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in Wass (2003). In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the client Cross Keys Homes Developments Ltd for funding the project, and the Design Partnership for commissioning the evaluation, in particular Mr Ben Mitchell for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

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WEB SITE
Heritage Gateway

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



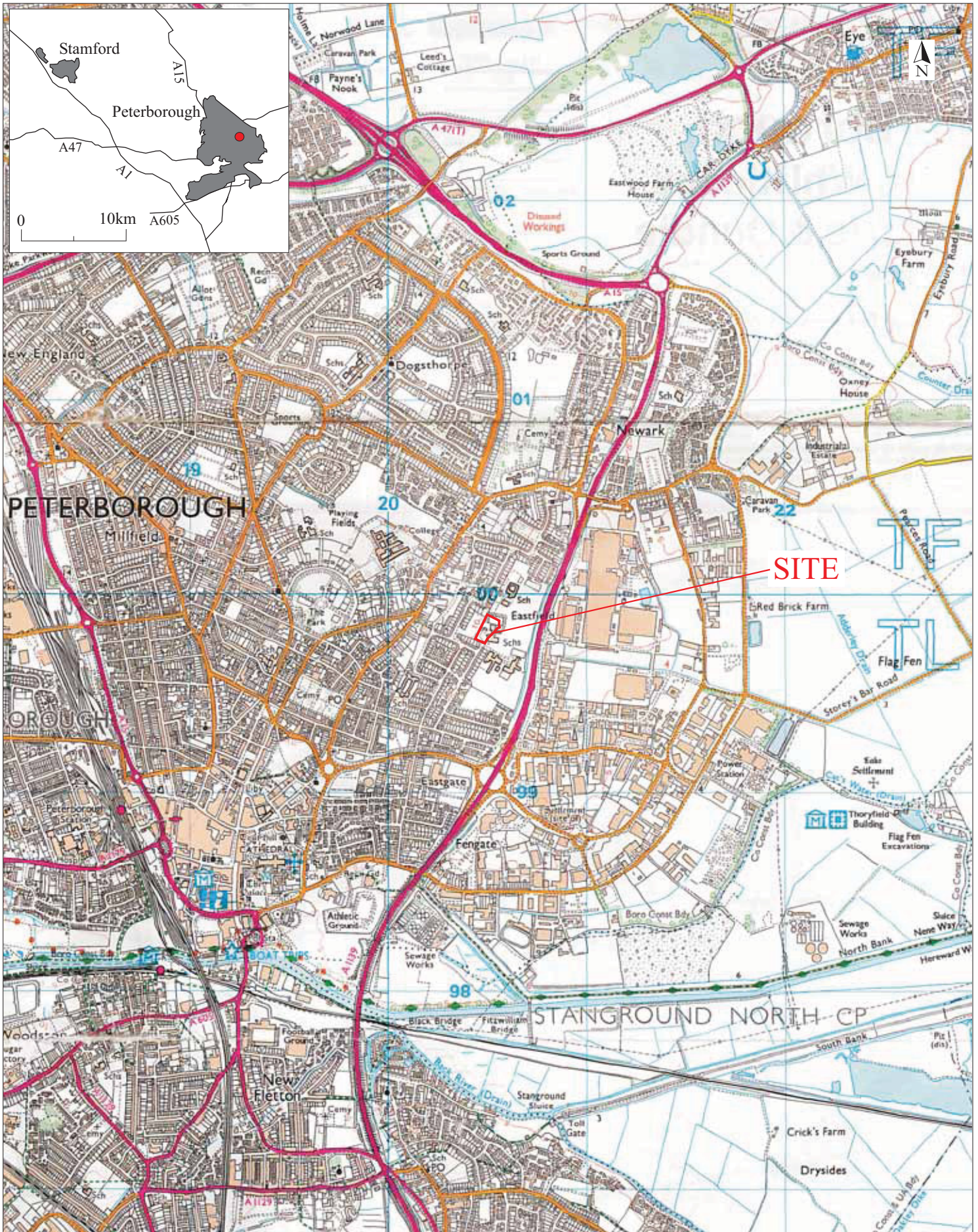
1
General view post excavation, Trench 6 looking South-West



2
Sample Section 6B, looking North West

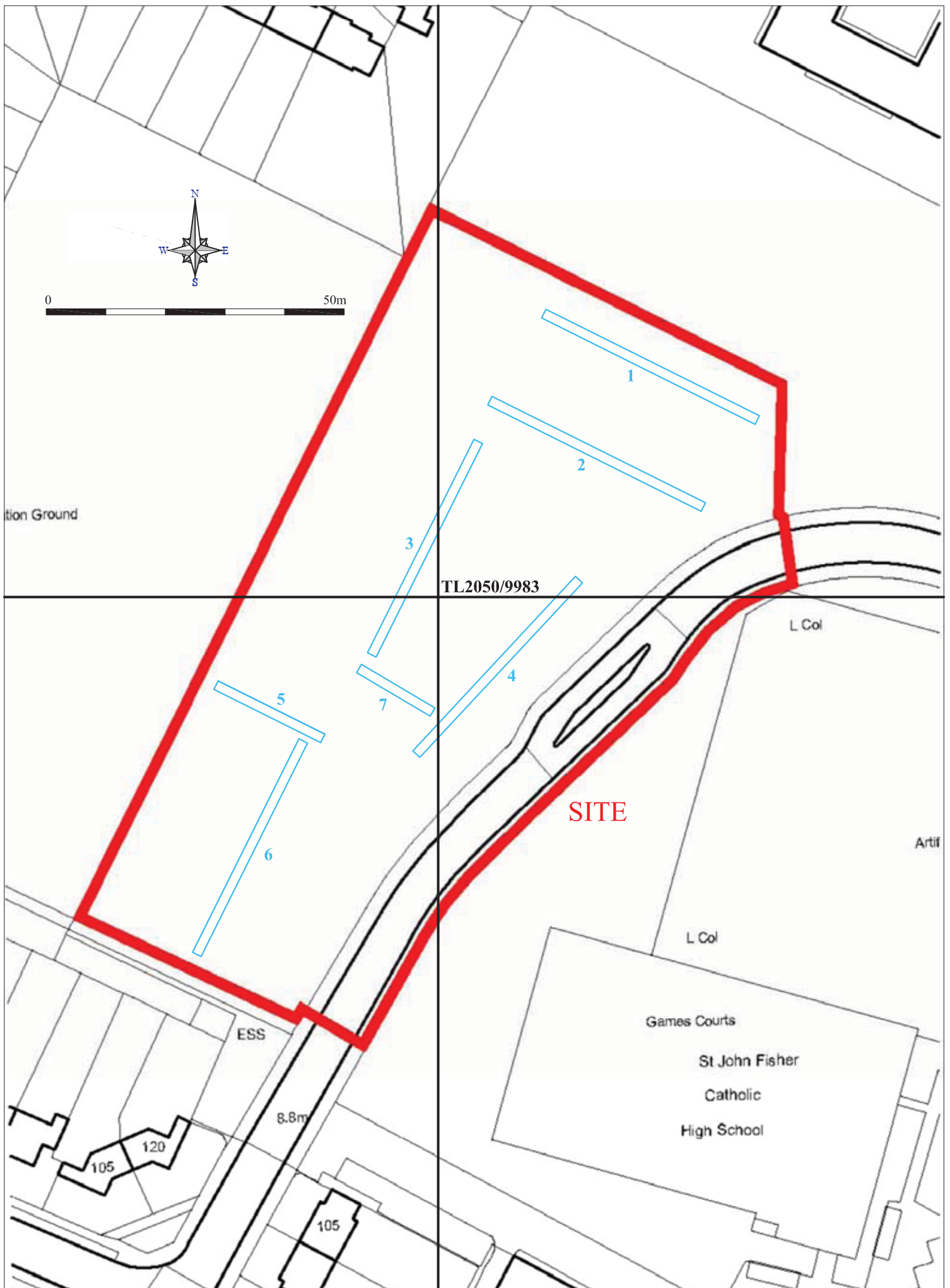


3
General site view looking North



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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 1:250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4