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**LAND WEST OF 12 KYM ROAD, EATON FORD,
ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER: ECB 4626

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER: ECB 4626

Author: Gareth Barlow Peter Thompson	
NGR: TL 1734 5968	Report No: 5019
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: ECB 4626
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6514
Signed:	Date: 5 th January 2016

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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
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Land West of Kym Road, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambridgeshire	
<p>In December 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land west of 12 Kym Road, Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1734 5968). The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by AJB Homes & Utilities Ltd., and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of eight dwellings with associated works (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 1400135FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were present. Two modern pits, F1002 and F1004 (Trench 2) and a modern gully, F1006 (Trench 3) were the only recorded features.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		21 st -22 nd December 2015	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work N
P. number		6514	Site code ECB 4626
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		None	
Current land use		Open area of grass and hard standing in a residential area	
Planned development		8 new residential properties	
Main features (+dates)		Modern pits and a modern gully	
Significant finds (+dates)		None	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire St Neots
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)	
Post code (if known)		-	
Area of site		c.1,350m ²	
NGR		TL 1734 5968	
Height AOD (max/ min)		Approximately 15m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Gareth Barlow	
Funded by		AJB Homes & Utilities Ltd	
Full title		Land west of 12 Kym Road, Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Barlow, G., & Thompson, P.	
Report no.		5019	
Date (of report)		December 2015	

LAND WEST OF 12 KYM ROAD, EATON FORD, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land west of 12 Kym Road, Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1734 5968). The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by AJB Homes & Utilities Ltd., and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of eight dwellings with associated works (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 1400135FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council.

A Palaeolithic axe head was found 470m to the north-west and a small gully 430m to the north-east contained an early Neolithic blade. Roman settlement including a villa was located in St Neots, and a cemetery was located 880m to the north on Duloe Hill. Two Early Saxon burials were found 690m north-west of the evaluation site, and a Middle Saxon settlement was in St Neots. A Late Saxon vill and cemetery and succeeding medieval village, was located at Castle Hills 670m to the south. A ring work castle known as The Hillings was constructed and the site is a Scheduled Monument. A second scheduled monument is the site of St Neots Priory located across the Great Ouse in St Neots. The early OS maps show that the evaluation site remained open fields until c.1970 when it was developed essentially in the same plan as it is today.

No archaeological features or finds were present. Two modern pits, F1002 and F1004 (Trench 2) and a modern gully, F1006 (Trench 3) were the only recorded features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land west of 12 Kym Road, Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1734 5968; Figs.1 - 2). The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by AJB Homes & Utilities Ltd., and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of eight dwellings with associated works (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 1400135FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Andy Thomas, dated 9th December 2015, and a specification compiled by AS (dated 11th December 2015), and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Eaton Ford is a suburb of St Neots and was originally a separate village now incorporated into the town. The site is 25km west of Cambridge and 900m east of the A1. It comprises an irregular, roughly rectangular land plot approximately 50m long and 26m wide located between Kym Road and St Neots Road.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site is located at approximately 15m AOD on low lying ground 420m west of the River Great Ouse. It is situated on 2nd terrace river gravels, with the overlying soil comprising well drained fine loamy soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Numerous Palaeolithic flint tools have been found during gravel works along the Great Ouse valley over the last 150 years. The closest find is a Palaeolithic axe head from approximately 470m north-west of the evaluation Site (CHER CB14470). Neolithic colonisation in Huntingdonshire appears to have primarily taken place along valley corridors, and a prehistoric ritual complex is known at Eynesbury, in south St Neots, which includes two early Neolithic cursuses, a hengiform ring ditch, and a long barrow (Woolhouse 2006, 6). A number of Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have been found within a 1km radius of the evaluation site. Trial trenching to the north-east identified a small gully cut into alluvial deposits at a centre spot 430m from the site, which contained an early Neolithic blade although there is a possibility it could have been residual (CHER MCB18417). Early and Middle Bronze Age cremations have been found at Eynesbury, and a large Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age enclosure containing 440 pits was also present (Woolhouse 2006, 7). A Late Bronze Age bronze socketed adze was found approximately 470m north-west of the evaluation site (CHER 00407), and an axe head was found at an unrecorded location in Eaton Ford (CHER 02032). There is less evidence for Iron Age settlement east of the river, but a Middle Iron Age settlement has been excavated on Bushmead Road approximately 1km west of the evaluation site (CHER MCB16945).

Romano-British

4.2 An extensive Late Iron Age and Roman settlement is known at Little Paxton. There is also abundant evidence for Roman settlement including building plans, an earthwork, and pottery and metal work from Conygeare on the opposite

bank of the river (CHER 00391, 00394). A Roman villa was also in the vicinity nearby in Eynesbury (CHER 00684). Iron Age and Roman occupation has also been identified at Bushmead Road to the west of the evaluation site, near the A1 (CHER 00370). Evidence for further Roman settlement including a large late Roman cemetery is located at Windmill Field, Duloe Hill, centred on 880m north-west of the evaluation site (CHER 00516, 05957). A number of ditches containing Roman pottery and fragmented animal bone were recorded in the same location where the Neolithic blade was found during trial trenching (CHER MCB18418).

Medieval

4.3 The distribution of Early Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries in Cambridgeshire largely correspond with the main river valleys and Roman roads. Two Early Saxon burials were found 690m north-west of the evaluation site (CHER 00517). A Middle Saxon cemetery was located due east of the site in Conygeare (CHER 00932, 00393), and seven Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings (SFBs) have also been excavated in Eynesbury. A Late Saxon settlement was excavated at Little Paxton, while another Late Saxon vill and cemetery and succeeding medieval village, was located at Castle Hills, Eaton Socon on a gravel terrace on the west bank of the Great Ouse (CHER 00374A). Part of the village was destroyed to make way for a ring work castle probably in the mid 12th century known in documentary sources as The Hillings, which is a Scheduled Monument (SAM DCB151). The northern limit of the scheduled area is approximately 670m south of the evaluation site. A second scheduled monument is the site of St Neots Priory located across the Great Ouse in Priory Lane (SAM DCB21, CHER 0548a, 0548c). St Neots Bridge built in stone which was near the ford of Eacon, was maintained by the priory until the dissolution, and the priory watermill stood adjacent to it (CHER 00545, 00546).

4.4 St Mary's Church in Eaton Socon dates from the 14th-15th centuries with modern renovation and additions (CHER 00371). Ford House, No. 140 St Neots Road, approximately 400m north-east of the evaluation site is a Grade II listed 15th century large hall and cross wing house (CHER 00515). Ridge and furrow of probable medieval date has been mapped by aerial photography in 1996 on open ground given a central grid reference 260m east of the evaluation site (CHER MCB18774).

Post-medieval

4.5 The closest listed building is White House located approximately 115m to the north-west which was built in 1842 which has a Grade I listing (DCB 3929). Eaton Ford Methodist church which fronts St Neots Road is located adjacent to the site (CHER MCB17193). Ditches of medieval or post-medieval date have been recorded on Crosshall Road 70m north-east of the evaluation site (CHER CB15260).

OS maps

4.6 The c.1888 OS map shows the site on open fields with the Methodist chapel fronting St Neots Road (Fig. 3). By the 1938 OS map St Neots Road has become more developed with houses along its length including those abutting the site, but the evaluation site still remains in open fields (Fig. 3). The c.1960 OS map shows no significant change to the previous one, but the c.1970 OS map shows the site is now in the plan it has today, except Kym Road has yet to be constructed (Fig. 3). The c.1974 OS map shows the site is essentially the same plan as it is today, and no previous buildings or structures were located there (Fig. 3).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trenches, each measuring 15m x 1.60m, were excavated using a mechanical excavator (Fig. 4)

5.2 The topsoil was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The open trenches and excavated spoil were searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> <i>West end, South facing</i> <i>0.00m = 15.79 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flints
0.41m+	L1001	Natural. Firm to friable mid brownish yellow/ orange chalky silty sand, areas with moderate to occasional medium to small angular flints and areas with frequent small sub-rounded chalk

Sample section 1B: East end, North facing 0.00m = 15.81 AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figs. 4 - 5)

Sample section 2A: North end, East facing 0.00m = 15.79 AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trial Trench 1.
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trial Trench 1.

Sample section 2B: South end, East facing 0.00m = 15.84 AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trial Trench 1.
0.16m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trial Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained two modern pits, F1002 and F1004.

Pit F1002 was rectangular in plan (0.90+ x 0.80 x ?m). Its fill, L1003, was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained a modern glass jar and a tin can.

Pit F1004 was sub-rectangular in plan (1.50 x 0.35 x 0.32m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery (1g), CBM (1g) and coal (6g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 4 - 5)

Sample section 3A: East end, North facing 0.00m = 15.90 AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1008	Tarmac surface.
0.09 – 0.29m	L1009	Made ground. Compact, dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small angular to sub-angular flint and CBM flecks
0.29 – 0.39m	L1010	Layer. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flint and chalk flecks
0.39m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trial Trench 1.

Sample section 3A: West end, South facing 0.00m = 15.89 AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1008	Tarmac surface.
0.10 – 0.34m	L1011	Buried topsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flint
0.34m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trial Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained modern Gully F1006.

Gully F1006 was linear in plan (1.54 x 0.35 x 0.05m). It had gentle sloping sides, and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional medium to small sub-angular flint and coal flecks. L1007 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery (15g), animal bone (14g), and slate (4g).

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 stratigraphy in Trenches 1 and 2 was the same. Uppermost Topsoil L1000, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flints (0.41m thick). Below L1000 was the natural, L1001, a firm to friable mid brownish yellow/ orange chalky silty sand, areas with moderate to occasional medium to small angular flints and areas with frequent small sub-rounded chalk.

8.2 In eastern end of Trench 3, uppermost was L1008, a tarmac surface (0.09m thick). It overlay Made Ground L1009, a compact, dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small angular to sub-angular flint and CBM flecks (0.20m thick). Below L1009 was L1010, a firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flint and chalk flecks (0.10m thick). Below L1010 was the natural, L1001.

8.3 In the western end of Trench 3, uppermost was L1008. It overlay a buried topsoil, L1011, a firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium to small sub-angular flint (0.24m thick). Below L1011 was the natural, L1001.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
2	F1002	Pit	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)
	F1014	Pit	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)
3	F1006	Gully	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)

9.2 The site is located in on the land west of 12 Kym Road at Eaton Ford. It had a significant archaeological potential. It is situated on the south west edge of the former Eaton Ford settlement. Castle Hills motte and bailey castle was located to the south and was constructed on a late Saxon settlement. Evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement activity has also been found in the vicinity. Finds of Neolithic and late Bronze Age date have been located in nearby Eynesbury.

9.3 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or finds were present. Two modern pits, F1002 and F1004 (Trench 2) and a modern gully, F1006 (Trench 3) were the only recorded features.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, but no features or finds of archaeological features or finds were present.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the 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 would like to thank AJB Homes & Utilities Ltd. for funding the project and for assistance (in particular Mr Andrew Buchanan).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr. Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. CIfA, Reading

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

Concordance of Finds

ECB4626, P6514, Land West of 12 Kym Road, Eaton Ford, St Neots

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1002	1003		2	Fill of Pit	Modern					Glass Jar Tin	2 1	90 57
1004	1005		2	Fill of Pit	19th-20th Century	1	1	1		Coal		6
1006	1007		3	Fill of Gully	19th-20th Century	1	15		14	Slate	1	4

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

Introduction

The evaluation recovered two sherds of 19th to 20th century pottery from two features.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001 & MPRG 1998), and the fabric codes follow established codes used by the Museum of London (MoLAS).

The Pottery

Pit F1004 (L1005) contained a lightly abraded fragment (1g) from the rim of a plate decorated with green transfer printing (TPW). Gully F1006 (L1007) contained a second plate rim (15g) in quite good condition, of factory made refined white earthenware.

Bibliography

MPRG, 1998 A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper No. 1

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Site looking north-east



2
Site looking south-east



3
Trench 1 contained no archaeology



4
Sample section 1A



5
Sample section 1B



6
Trench 2 looking south



7
Modern pit F1002 in Trench 2



8
Modern pit F1004 in Trench 2



9
Sample Section 2A



10
Sample Section 2B



11
Trench 3 looking west



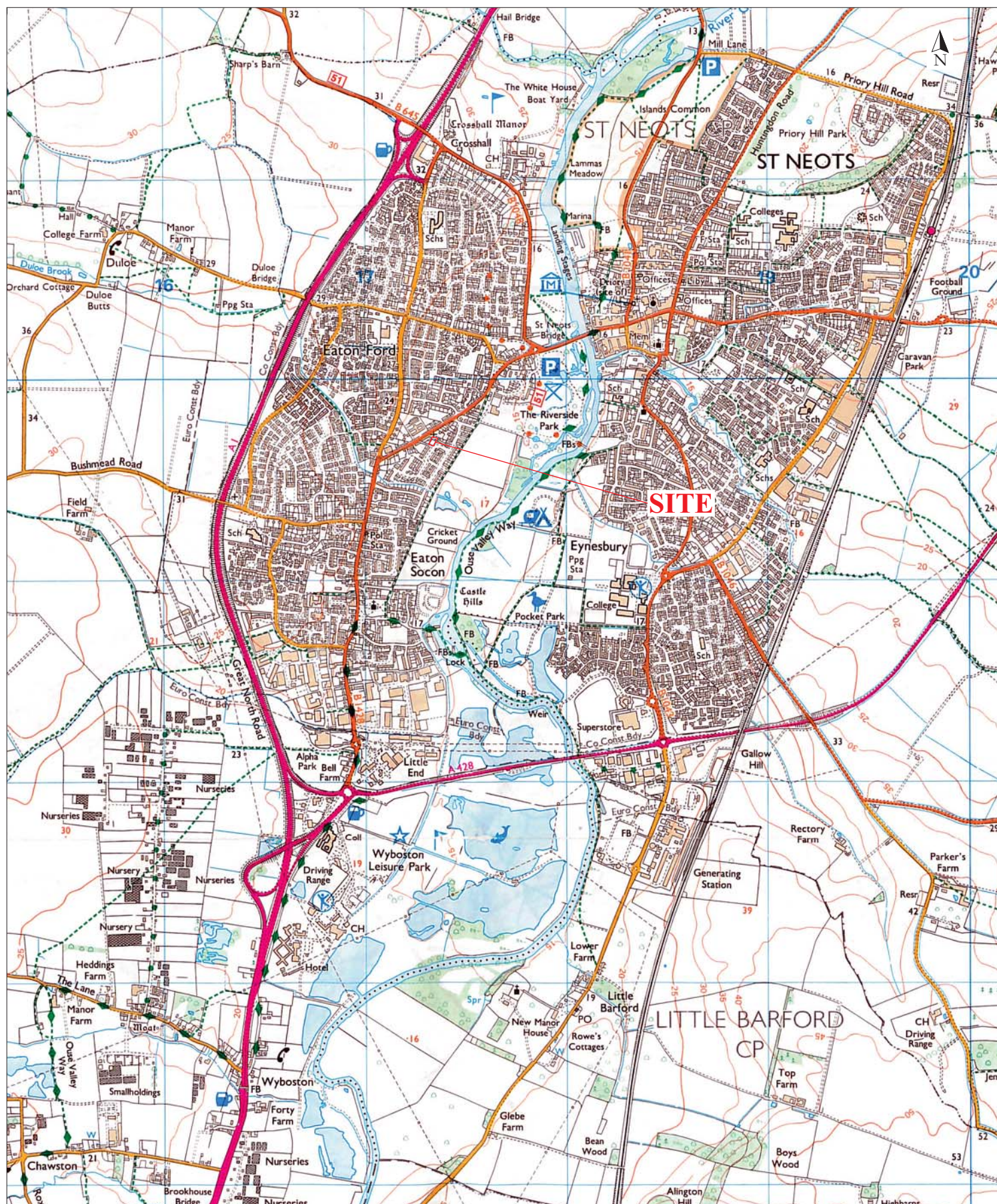
12
Gully F1006 in Trench 3



13
Sample Section 3A



14
Sample Section 3B



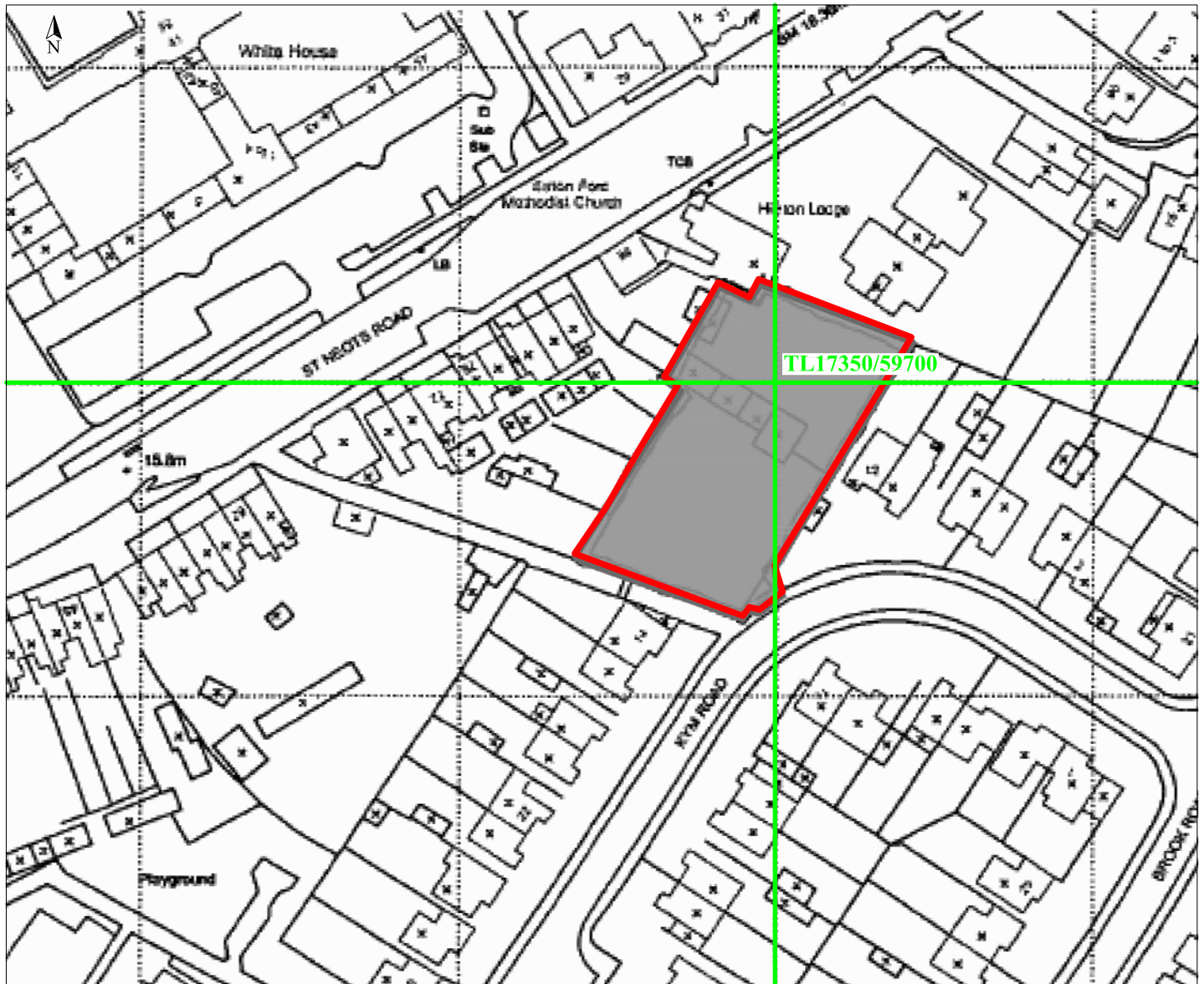
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Kym Rd, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs (P6514)



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0 50m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Kym Rd, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs (P6514)



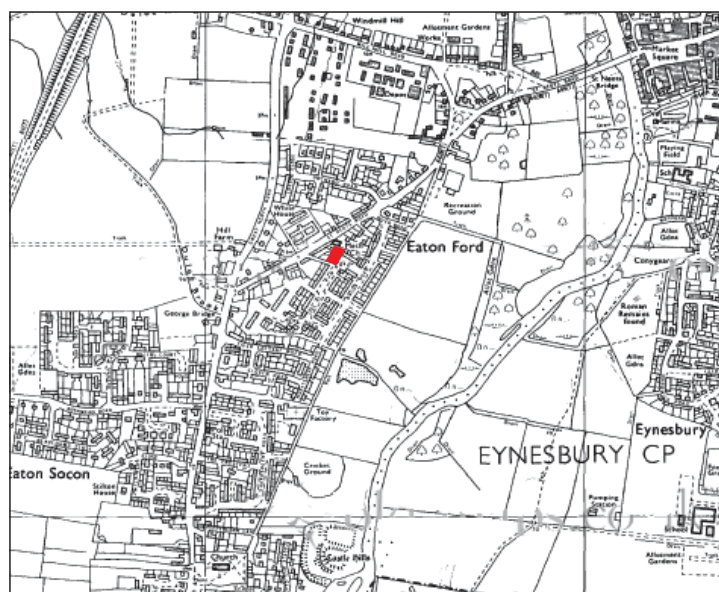
OS map c. 1888



OS map 1938

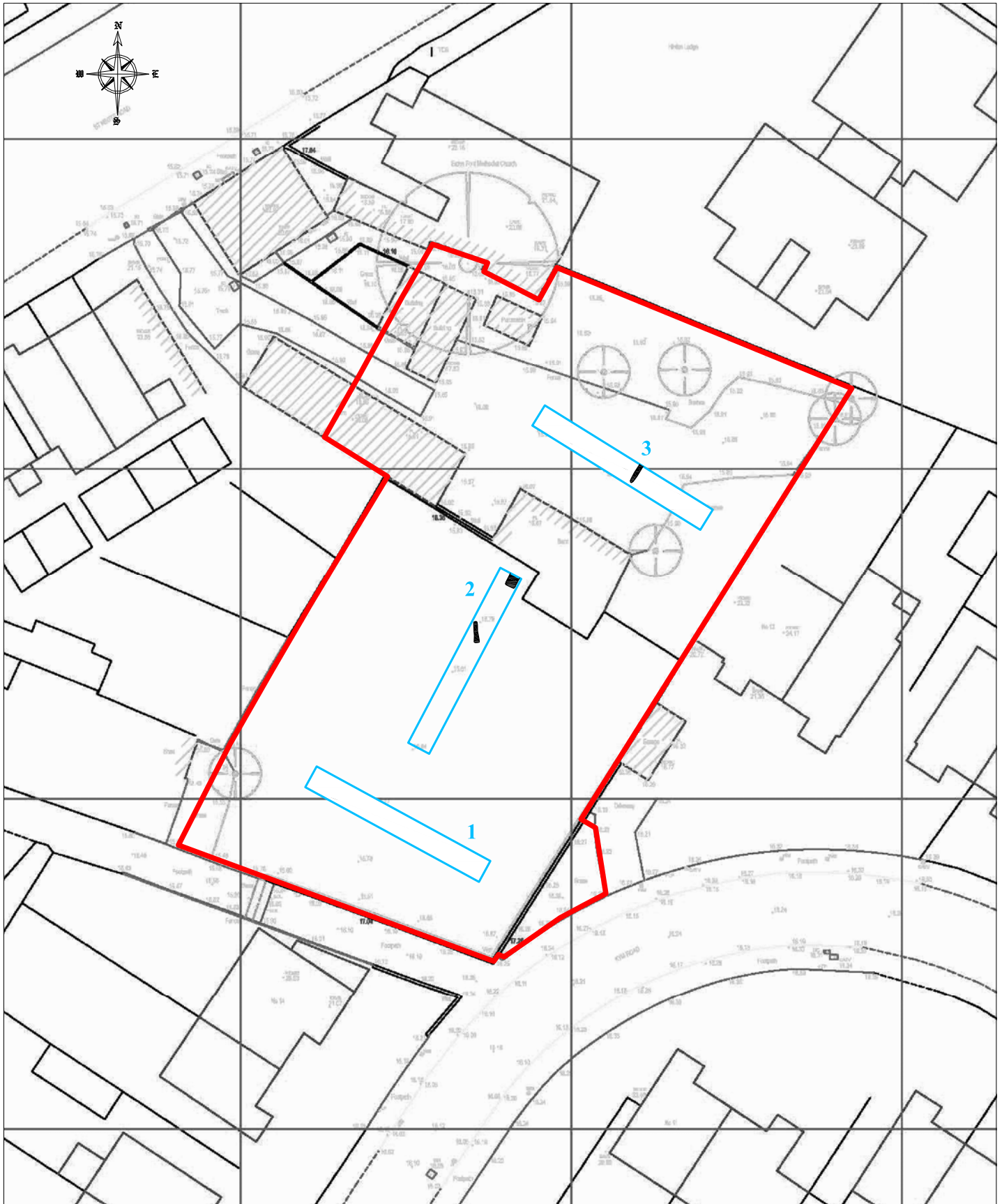


OS map 1970



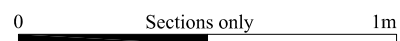
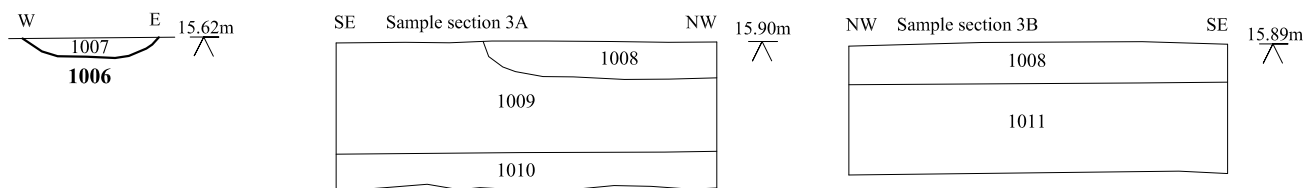
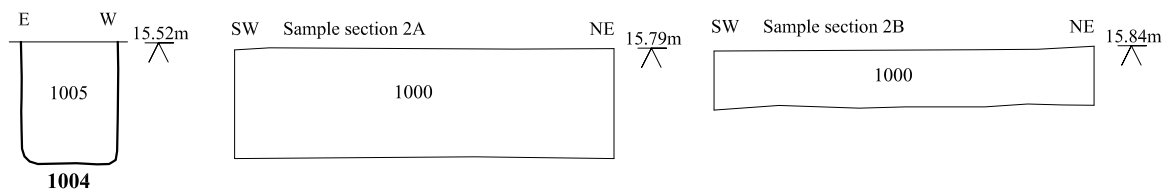
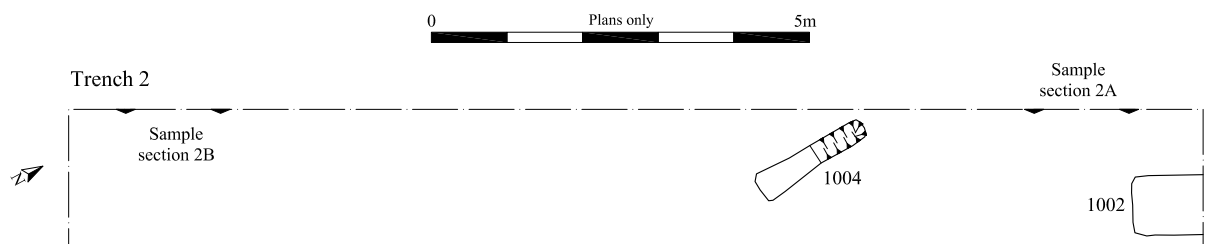
OS map 1974

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Fig. 3 OS maps 1888-1974
Not to scale
Kym Rd, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs (P6514)



0 25m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Trench location plan
Scale 1:400 at A4
Kym Rd, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs (P6514)



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4

Kym Rd, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs (P6514)

