
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND ADJACENT TO 60 ELLWOOD AVENUE,
STANGROUND, PETERBOROUGH PE2 8LY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Antony Mustchin (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 21517 96517	Report No: 4991
Borough: Peterborough	Site Code: AS 1804
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6285
Signed:	Date: 26 November 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>Land Adjacent to 60 Ellwood Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8LY</i>		
<p><i>In November 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 60 Ellwood Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8LY (NGR TL 21517 96517). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new two-bedroom bungalow for rent, with associated external works, parking and access (Planning Ref.11/01698/FUL), based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS).</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within an area of extensive archaeological evidence, particularly from the Romano-British period. Five Roman burials were excavated 200m to the north of the site (HER 10090) and two Roman pottery kilns have been excavated 190m at Stanground Park Farm (HER 3128), 190m to the north. Surface finds of Roman date have been found 100m to the north (HER 3127). Aerial photographs of the area prior to development have indicated the presence of possible ditches and enclosures as well as medieval ridge and furrow.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>10 November 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6285</i>	Site code	<i>AS1804</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Peterborough City</i>	<i>Peterborough City</i>	<i>Stanground</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Peterborough HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 500m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 21517 96517</i>		
Height AOD	<i>c.10.40m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from Peterborough City Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Antony Mustchin</i>		
Funded by	<i>Cross Keys Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Adjacent to 60 Ellwood Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8LY. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Antony Mustchin</i>		
Report no.	<i>4991</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2015</i>		

LAND ADJACENT TO 60 ELLWOOD AVENUE, STANGROUND, PETERBOROUGH PE2 8LY

SUMMARY

In November 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 60 Ellwood Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8LY (NGR TL 21517 96517). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new two-bedroom bungalow for rent, with associated external works, parking and access (Planning Ref.11/01698/FUL), based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS).

The site is located within an area of extensive archaeological evidence, particularly from the Romano-British period. Five Roman burials were excavated 200m to the north of the site (HER 10090) and two Roman pottery kilns have been excavated 190m at Stanground Park Farm (HER 3128), 190m to the north. Surface finds of Roman date have been found 100m to the north (HER 3127). Aerial photographs of the area prior to development have indicated the presence of possible ditches and enclosures as well as medieval ridge and furrow.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 60 Ellwood Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8LY (NGR TL 21517 96517; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd on behalf of Cross Keys Homes Ltd and carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new two-bedroom bungalow for rent, with associated external works, parking and access (Planning Ref.11/01698/FUL), based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief prepared by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS; dated 14th May 2013), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 1st June 2015), and approved by PCC AS. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2014), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project objectives 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;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required, and
- to secure the analysis, 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 and 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 The site is at Stanground, southern Peterborough, on the eastern side of Ellwood Avenue adjacent to the north of Number 60. It comprises a garden attached to Number 60, in an area developed for housing in the 1960s/70s. The site extends to some 500m². The solid geology is Oxford Clay overlain by clay and silt lacustrine deposits, and the site lies at c.10m AOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within an area of extensive archaeological evidence, particularly dating from the Romano-British period. Although prehistoric occupation appears to have been concentrated on the higher land of the fen edge, the renowned Bronze Age site of Flag Fen, with its well-preserved timber causeway and possibly religious purpose, lies 2.5km to the north-east of the site. During the Roman period, there appears to have been major investment in communications and drainage works in the Fenland, and a possible Roman settlement site with finds of coins, pottery and tiles and a possible kiln has been suggested 1.7km to the north-north-west.

3.2 Romano-British find from the area immediately surrounding the site also indicates extensive occupation to the south of the River Nene. Five Roman inhumations were excavated 200m to the north of the site (HER 10090) and found to lie in supine positions. The burials were in a poor state of preservation and judged to have formed the residue of a larger family burial area on the edge of the settlement. Two Roman pottery kilns were also excavated at Stanground Park Farm 190m to the north of the site in 1965 (HER 3128). One had been almost ploughed out but the other was mostly intact, whilst both were found in association with much colour-coated ware. Another pair of kilns with an associated gully containing a kiln-load of wasters was subsequently found in the same area.

3.3 Two Roman bronze vessels were also found 200m to the north of the site (HER 2972). One comprised a bronze cauldron dated 300 - 700 AD, the other a bronze pan, complete except for some corrosion holes and missing handle, very similar to Frankish vessels found elsewhere. During the construction of Park Farm housing estate, Roman pottery was found with a human skeleton 170m to the north-west of the site (HER 3129). Roman surface finds from Park Farm and only 100m to the north of the site also include four pieces kiln furniture and numerous pottery sherds (HER 3127). An aerial photographic assessment was carried out in advance of development of Park Farm 330m to the south-east of the site, indicating several possible archaeological features (HER 50561). It indicated several possible archaeological features of Roman and medieval date, yet was deemed to have only a very low archaeological potential.

3.4 Occupation of the Stanground area continued into the Anglo-Saxon period, as attested by a Saxon brooch found as a result of metal detecting 200m to the north of the site (HER 10090a). Viking swords and spears have also been recovered 1.5km to the west-north-west, whilst the manor was mentioned briefly in Domesday Bok as *Stangrun*. No medieval remains are recorded in the area surrounding the site, presumably as it consisted of agricultural land, although a ferry Horsey and to the south-east was mentioned in 1555 (Page *et al* 1936). The Civil War fort located on Horsey Hill and 1km to the south-east comprises a pentagonal earthwork with bastions probably built 1643 - 44. It guarded the toll road from Peterborough and Stangate to Whittlesey, yet the area was strongly controlled by Parliament and the fort is unlikely to have been involved in any significant campaign or military action.

3.5 Historic Ordnance Survey maps reveal that the site remained undeveloped as late as 1959, although the creation of the residential areas had begun to be laid out

to the west. The site consisted of agricultural land associated with Park Farm, which lay to the south-east. Ordnance Survey maps of 1926 and 1959 reveal a small rectangular enclosure to the north of the site and along the course of the extant footpath, yet it was labelled as a sump pit, presumably associated with the Back River Drain further to the north. A World War II airbase used for repairing Hawker Hurricane aeroplanes was formerly located at Horsey Toll Airfield and to the site's east. The date of discovery of the majority of the aforementioned archaeological finds suggest that Park Farm housing estate, including the site, was built in 1964 – 66.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed new dwelling.

4.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including demolition works general ground reduction, and the excavation of foundations. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i> <i>0.00m = 10.38m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L2000	Topsoil. Firm, dark brown silty clay with occasional small angular flints and moderate CBM rubble.
0.18 – 0.90m	L2001	Subsoil. Compact, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and rounded flints, and very occasional charcoal flecks.
0.90 – 1.10m+	L2002	Natural deposits. Compact, mid yellow brown clay.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> <i>0.00 = 10.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L2000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.18 – 0.88m	L2001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.88 – 1.07m+	L2002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample Section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 10.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L2000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.21 – 0.79m	L2001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1.
0.79 – 1.05m+	L2002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1.

Description: The stratigraphy was consistent across the site. A modern soakaway (F1003) was encountered on the south-eastern side. It was 0.95m wide and 0.75m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (L2004) was a friable, dark grey brown sand with frequent modern CBM rubble.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L2000, a firm, dark brown silty clay with occasional small angular flints and moderate CBM rubble (c.0.18 – 0.21m thick). Below L2000 was Subsoil L2001, a compact, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and rounded flints, and very occasional charcoal flecks (c.0.58 - 0.72m thick). Below L2002 was the natural geology L2003, compact, mid yellow brown clay.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located within an area of extensive archaeological evidence, particularly from the Romano-British period. Five Roman burials were excavated 200m to the north of the site (HER 10090) and two Roman pottery kilns have been excavated 190m at Stanground Park Farm (HER 3128), 190m to the north. Surface finds of Roman date have been found 100m to the north (HER 3127). Aerial photographs of the area prior to development have indicated the presence of possible ditches and enclosures as well as medieval ridge and furrow.

8.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were present within the limited new groundworks.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough City Museum. 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 Cross Keys Homes Ltd for funding the work and The Design Partnership (Ely) Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance (in particular Mr Dan Rose).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney (2003). 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*.

Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. ClfA Reading.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Post-excavation view of site looking north-east



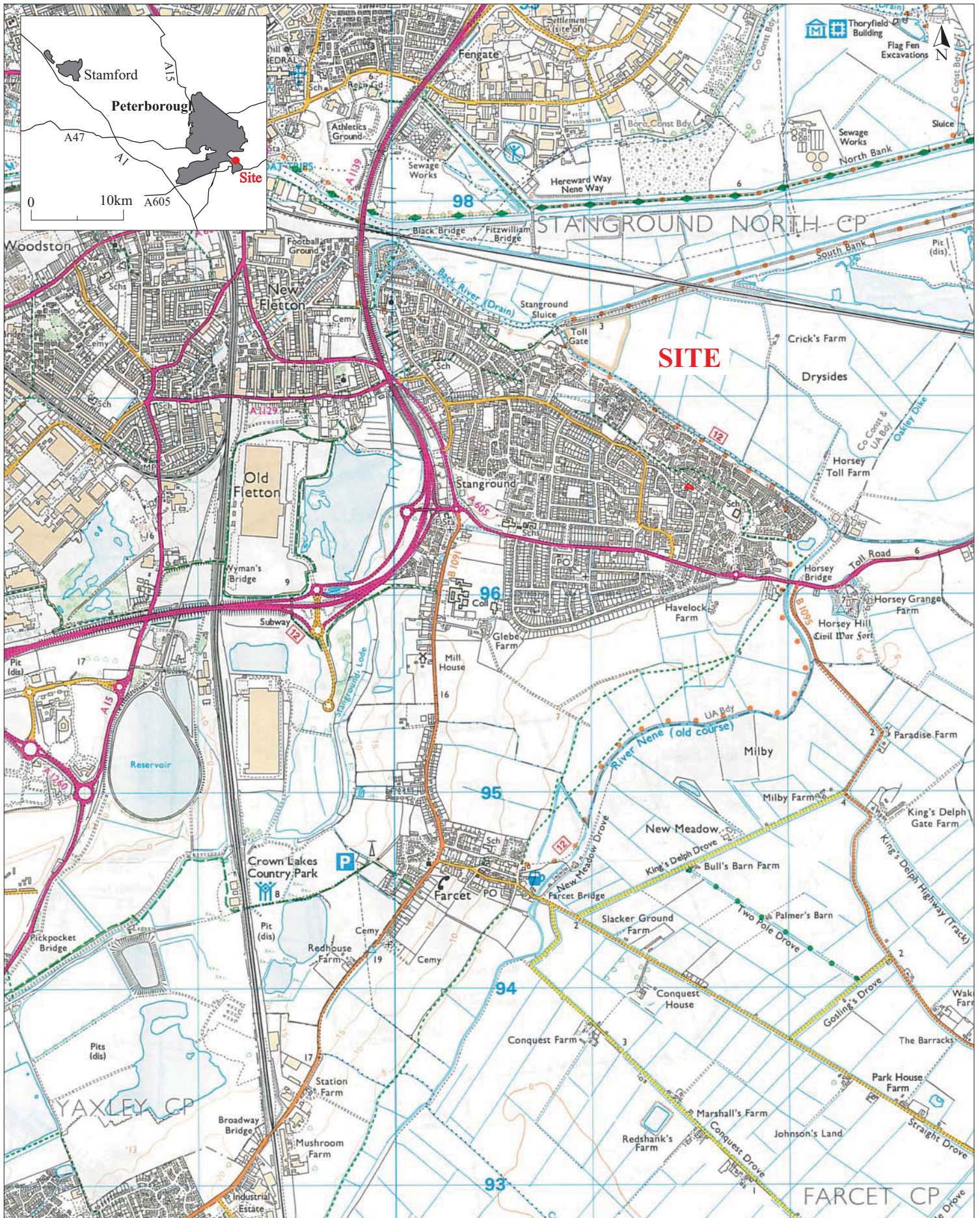
2
Sample section 1 looking south



3
Sample section 2 looking north

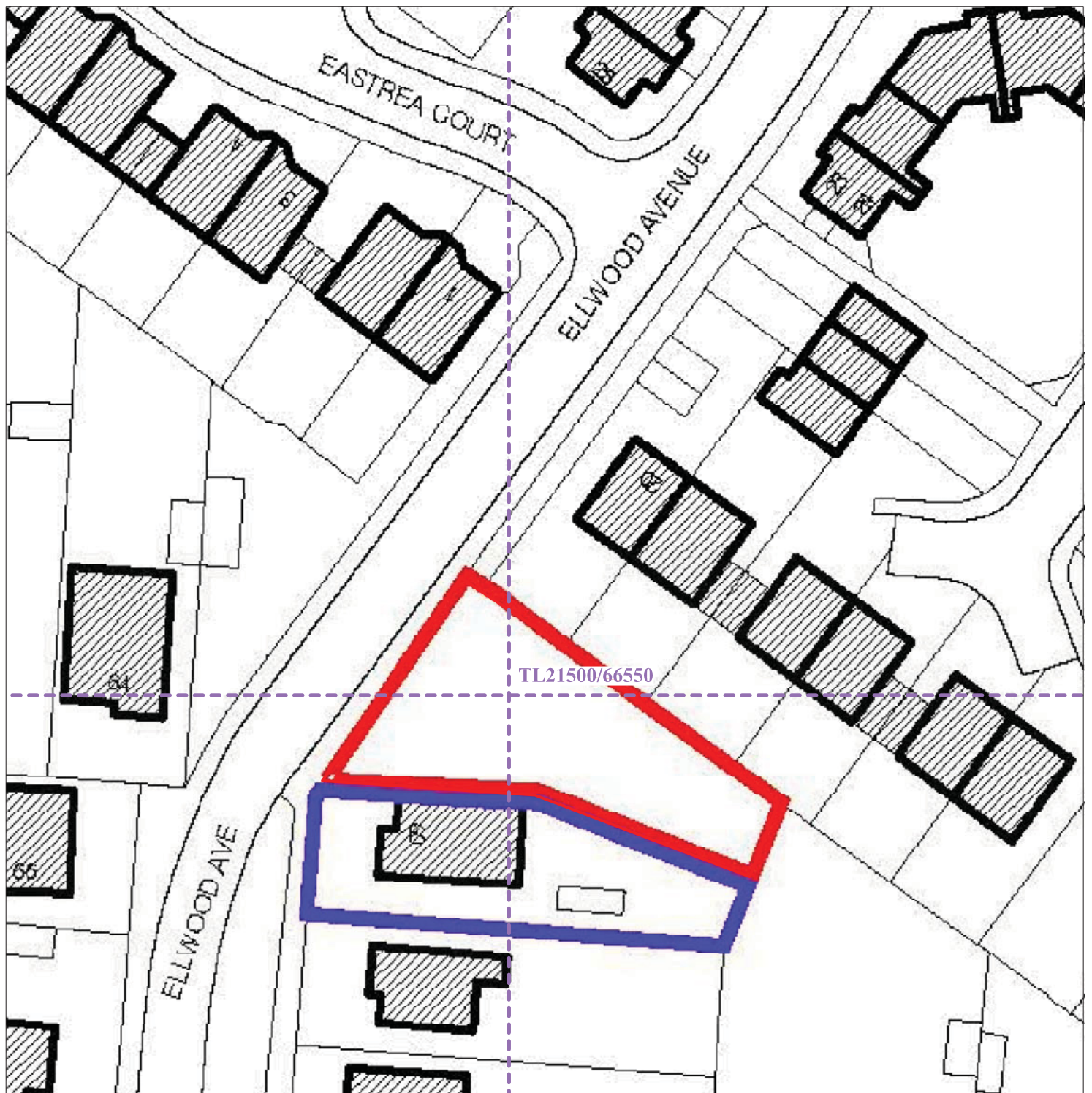


4
Sample section 3 looking south



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Ellwood Avenue, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (P6285)



0 25m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
Ellwood Avenue, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (P6285)

