ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND TO THE NORTH OF MATLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, MATLEY, ORTON BRIMBLES, PETERBOROUGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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LAND TO THE NORTH OF MATLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, MATLEY, ORTON BRIMBLES, PETERBOROUGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)				
NGR: TL 15050 96127	Report No. 4865			
District: Peterborough City	Site Code: AS1750			
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No. 5976			
Signed:	Date: 10 December 2015			

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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

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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





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details					
Project name	Land to	the no	orth of Matley	Primary	School, Matley, Orton
	Brimbles,	Peterb	orough		
In May and July 2015 An archaeological monitoring an Brimbles, Peterborough (NGI the construction of an extra c with ancillary facilities, car pa required as a condition of pla programme of archaeological No archaeological features or	d recording R TL 15050 are housing arking, land anning appi work.	of lan 96127 develo Iscapin roval (F	d north of Matle). The monitorin opment of x54 or g, and new vehi Planning Ref. 14,	y Prima Ig was i ne-and icle acc	ary School, Matley, Orton undertaken in advance of two-bedroom apartments sess. The monitoring was
Project dates (fieldwork)	12 - 13, 14	5. 21 M	ay and July 2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N		e work	N	
P. number	P5976	Site c		AS175	50
Type of project	Archaeolo	gical M	Ionitoring & Reco	rding	
Site status	-	0	9	9	
Current land use	Overgrow	n field			
Planned development	Ů,		ousing developm	ent	
Main features (+dates)	Modern m		÷ .		
Significant finds (+dates)	None				
Project location					
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire Peterborough City Orton Waterville Council		Orton Waterville		
HER/ SMR for area	Peterboro	ugh Cit	y Council Histori	c Enviro	onment Record
Post code (if known)	-				
Area of site	6,200m ²				
NGR	TL 15050	96127			
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.15m AOD				
Project creators					
Brief issued by	Peterboro	ugh Cit	y Council Archae	ologica	l Service
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeolo	gical S	olutions Ltd		
Funded by	Lovell Partnerships				
Full title	Land to the north of Matley Primary School, Matley, Orton				
	Brimbles,	Peterb	orough. Archaeo	logical	Monitoring & Recording
Authors	Barlow, G.				
Report no.	4871				
Date (of report)	December	2015			

LAND TO THE NORTH OF MATLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, MATLEY, ORTON BRIMBLES, PETERBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In May and July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of land north of Matley Primary School, Matley, Orton Brimbles, Peterborough (NGR TL 15050 96127). The monitoring was undertaken in advance of the construction of an extra care housing development of x54 one- and two-bedroom apartments with ancillary facilities, car parking, landscaping, and new vehicle access. The monitoring was required as a condition of planning approval (Planning Ref. 14/00575/R4FUL) which required a programme of archaeological work.

No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and July 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of land north of Matley Primary School, Matley, Orton Brimbles, Peterborough (NGR TL 15050 96127; Figs.1 - 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships and undertaken in advance of the construction of an extra care housing development of x54 one- and two-bedroom apartments with ancillary facilities, car parking, landscaping, and new vehicle access. The monitoring was required as a condition of planning approval (Planning Ref. 14/00575/R4FUL) which required a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS; dated 17th September 2014), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 20th March 2015) and approved by PCC AS. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

1.3 The principal objectives of the archaeological monitoring & 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;

- 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 nonrenewable 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 Peterborough is a Unitary Authority within the county of Cambridgeshire, c.43km south-west of the Wash coastline. The area of Orton is in the south-western sector of the city, south of the River Nene as it curves through Peterborough to the north. Orton Brimbles is one of many housing estates in an area that covers Orton Longueville, Orton Waterville and Orton Wistow.

2.2 Orton Brimbles is central within the Orton area of Peterborough, between the junction of the A605 and A1129. The site is directly north of Matley Primary School occupying a rectangular area of grassland approximately 6,200m² and bordered by residential streets on three sides.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The area of Orton Brimbles is on fairly level ground at *c*.15m AOD within a residential housing development. The Ferry Meadows Country Park is to the north beyond the Nene Valley Railway where the land slopes gently downwards, and the River Nene curves around the park.

3.1.2 The underlying bedrock of the area comprises Kellaways Formation and the Oxford Clay Formation of mudstone, siltstones and sandstone. The overlying soils are generally a lime-rich loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Palaeolithic lithic implements and a handaxe have been recorded to the east (PCCHER 2072 & 7988). Neolithic artefacts have also been found in this area, including Peterborough ware from a Neolithic settlement in Orton Longueville to the east (PCCHER 01807b). Scattered flints (PCCHER 853), and a possible muller which would have been used in conjunction with a saddle quern to grind grain almost like a mortar and pestle (PCCHER 7861), are known.

3.2.2 Numerous ring ditches and cropmarks are known; *c*.700m to the south-west a ring ditch was identified by aerial photography (PCCHER 50346), and *c*.350m to the north-east a ring ditch was excavated revealing Bronze Age flints and pottery (PCCHER 51614). About 300m to the west a group of five ring ditches are visible on aerial photographs. An excavation in 1989 recorded encircling ditches and worked flint including a blade (PCCHER 1436). An evaluation in 2007 revealed an isolated east/west ditch which contained pottery, flint and a quern stone (PCCHER 50544). It was concluded a settlement is likely to have been located in the close proximity to the site. A settlement at Orton Longueville over a kilometre to the east also revealed Bronze Age burials (PCCHER 01807c).

Iron Age and Romano-British

3.2.3 Approximately 800m to the north an Iron Age coin was found (PCCHER 52101), and during an excavation in 2003 an irregular curving ditch of late Iron Age date was revealed *c*.760m to the west (PCCHER 51736). Iron Age and also Roman features were recorded at Orton Longueville (PCCHER 01807d & 01807e). The closest Roman finds to the site were found *c*.200m to the south and include a jar and vase, tesserae and tile, a loom weight and part of a bone needle or awl (PCCHER 8000).

Medieval

3.2.4 There was an Anglo-Saxon village to the east at Orton Longueville (PCCHER 01807f). An archaeological evaluation in 2003 revealed pits, post holes and ditches containing early Saxon sherds (PCCHER 51270). The settlement at Orton Longueville appears to have been occupied into the medieval period with evidence of medieval buildings revealed (01807g). It is probably during this period that the settlement of Orton Waterville was established, and the parish church of St Mary dates from the 11th century (PCCHER 1389). There is a moated site to the north of the village (PCCHER 1023), and houses dating from the medieval period on the main street (PCCHER 51271).

3.2.5 Ridge and furrow is recorded *c*.300m to the west (PCCHER 01436a) and *c*.700m to the south (PCCHER 51593).

Post-medieval

3.2.6 The evidence suggests the site was part of agricultural fields into the post-medieval period. Field drains and plough furrows are recorded *c*.900m to the west. The village of Orton Waterville continued to expand and houses along the main street date from the early 16th century to 19th century (PCCHER 50957, 50944 & 50937).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

3.3.1 As the 1889 Ordnance Survey map shows (Fig. 3), the site lies within agricultural land to the west of the parish of Orton Waterville. The railway curves from west to east to the north and the River Nene is beyond. The site and its surroundings remain much the same in the 1901 (Fig. 4), 1926 (Fig. 5) and the 1938-53 editions (Fig. 6). In the 1977-85 edition (Fig. 7) the historic core of Orton Waterville remains visible but the modern expansion of Peterborough has engulfed the parish. Further estates have been constructed to the south, east and west of Orton Goldhay, Orton Southgate and Orton Brimbles. The East of England Showground has been built to the west and the modern footprint of the area has been established. The site itself remains

undeveloped but the school to the south has been constructed and the housing estate to the west also.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording was conducted during the groundworks i.e. the initial extensive ground reduction across the site and the digging of the foundations (Figs. 8 - 10). A 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was utilised.

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

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Ground reduction (DP 3-6)

6.1 Due to the slope of the ground the amount of ground reduction required tapered from 1.20m on the southern side to zero at the extreme northern edge. As a result the natural deposits (L1007) were only exposed in the southern half of the site, and in the northern half a layer of made ground remained.

Sample Section 1		
North facing		
0.00m = 17.93m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1001	Modern made ground. Firm, mid orange brown very silty sand with occasional small and medium sub- rounded and rounded limestone, and sparse medium sub-angular flint.
0.45 – 0.55m	L1002	Modern made ground. Firm, pale brown yellow silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded pale yellow brown stone.
0.55 – 0.73m	L1003	Modern made ground. Firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint, and sparse medium sub-angular pale yellow brown stone.
0.73 – 1.00m+	L1004	Modern made ground. Mixed lenses of firm, pale yellow brown silty clay, mid blue grey clay, and mid brown orange silty sand with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint, and medium sub-rounded chalk.
0.60m – 1.00m+	L1005	Modern made ground. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular,

sub-rounded,	and	rounded	flint,	and	sparse	large
rounded flint a	ind m	edium rou	inded	chalk		

Sample Section 2 North facing 0.00m = 18.07m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown organic silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub- rounded flints.
0.16 – 1.00m	L1006	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub- rounded flints, and sparse charcoal flecks.
1.00 – 1.20m	L1007	Natural deposits. Friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

Sample Section 3 West facing 0.00m = 17.98m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.24m	L1012	Modern made ground. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.24 – 0.31m	L1011	Modern made ground. Friable, very pale brown yellow silty coarse sand with occasional – moderate medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded stone.
0.31 – 0.46m	L1010	Modern made ground. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular, sub- angular, and rounded flint, and occasional charcoal flecks.
0.46 – 0.65m	L1008	Modern made ground. Firm, dark mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional – moderate small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and rounded flint, and occasional medium sub- angular stone and charcoal flecks.
0.65m - 0.78m+	L1006	Subsoil. As Sample section 2.

Sample Section 4 North facing 0.00m = 18.21m A0	D	
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample section 2.
0.50 – 0.92m	L1006	Subsoil. As Sample section 2.
0.92 – 1.15m	L1007	Natural deposits. As Sample section 2.

Description. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.

Foundations

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

Sample Section 5 North facing 0.00m = 18.14m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L1009	Modern made ground. Mixed patches of sandy silt and coarse sand.
0.25 – 0.60m	L1008	Modern made ground. Firm, dark mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional – moderate small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and rounded flint, and occasional medium sub- angular stone and charcoal flecks.
0.60 – 1.00m+	L1007	Natural deposits. Friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

Sample Section 6 North facing 0.00m = 18.21m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.23m	L1008	Modern made ground. Firm, dark mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional – moderate small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and rounded flint, and occasional medium sub- angular stone and charcoal flecks.
0.23 – 0.70m+	L1007	Natural deposits. Friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

Sample Section 7 North facing 0.00m = 18.25m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.08m	L1008	Modern made ground. Firm, dark mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional – moderate small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and rounded flint, and occasional medium sub- angular stone and charcoal flecks.
0.08 – 0.90m+	L1007	Natural deposits. Friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

Sample Section 8 North facing 0.00m = 18.31m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.08m	L1014	Modern made ground. Mixed patches of very firm clay silt and silty clay with occasional sub-angular and sub- rounded, and rounded flint.
0.08 – 0.64m+	L1007	Natural deposits. Friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

Description. No archaeological finds or features were revealed, in particular the east / west aligned Bronze Age ditch revealed during the trial trench evaluation on the site in 2007 was not evident.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The uppermost layer was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (0.16 - 0.50m thick).

7.2 In the southern half of the site (Sections 2 and 4) L1000 overlay Subsoil L1006, a firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and sparse charcoal flecks (0.42 – 0.84m thick). L1006 in turn overlay the natural deposits (L1007), a friable, pale brown yellow coarse sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded, and rounded stone, and sparse medium angular flint.

7.3 Elsewhere the ground had been built up to level the slope and layers of made ground were present below the topsoil.

7.4 In the north east of the site (Sample Section 1) this comprised numerous tips and dumps of differing material. The sample section (No.1) records L1001, a firm, mid orange brown very silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and rounded stone, and sparse medium sub-angular flint, varying in thickness between 0.00m and 1.00m+. Below this was a 0.10m thick band (L1002) of firm, pale brown yellow silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded pale yellow brown stone. Below L1002 was L1003, a 0.16

– 0.40m thick layer of firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint, and sparse medium sub-angular pale yellow brown ?limestone. This in turn overlay L1004, a 0.10 - 0.25m thick layer comprising mixed lenses of firm, pale yellow brown silty clay (c.60%), mid blue grey clay (c.30%), and mid brown orange silty sand (c.10%) with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint, and medium sub-rounded chalk. Finally, at the base of the exposed sequence was L1005, a 0.40m+ thick layer of firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint, and sparse large rounded flint and medium rounded chalk.

7.5 In the centre west of the site (Sample Section 3) Topsoil L1000 overlay Made Ground L1012, a 0.24m thick layer of firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint. Beneath L1012 was Made Ground L1011, a 0.07m thick layer of friable, very pale brown yellow silty coarse sand with occasional - moderate medium and large sub-angular and subrounded stone. Beneath this was Made Ground L1010, a 0.15m thick layer of firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular, sub-angular, and rounded flint, and occasional charcoal flecks. Beneath this and overlying the subsoil (L1006) was Made Ground L1008, a 0.19m thick layer of firm, dark mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional - moderate small and medium angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded and rounded flint, and occasional medium sub-angular stone and charcoal flecks. The subsoil (L1006) was only reduced by 0.13m at this point, not completely removed.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The presence of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery 300m to the west of the site and an east / west aligned Bronze Age ditch revealed during a trial trench evaluation on the site in 2007 suggested a high potential for further prehistoric remains. However, none were revealed. In particular no trace of the ditch was revealed.

8.2 No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

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 also like to thank the client Lovell Partnerships for funding the project and for assistance (in particular Mr Oliver Crocker).

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief. CifA, Reading

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. Harpenden

Wass, G, 2003, Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. Standards for Archaeological Archive Preparation.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



General shot of site during topsoil stripping



Sample section 1



General shot of site after topsoil stripping



4 Sample section 2



Sample section 3



Sample section 4



Sample section 7



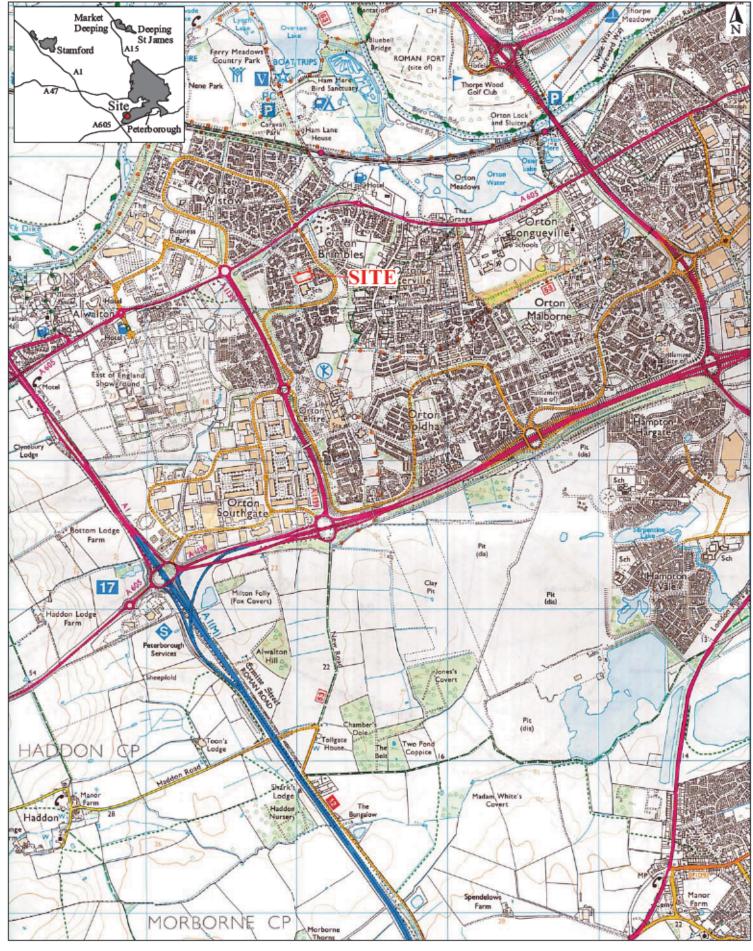
9 View of footings looking north



8 Sample section 8

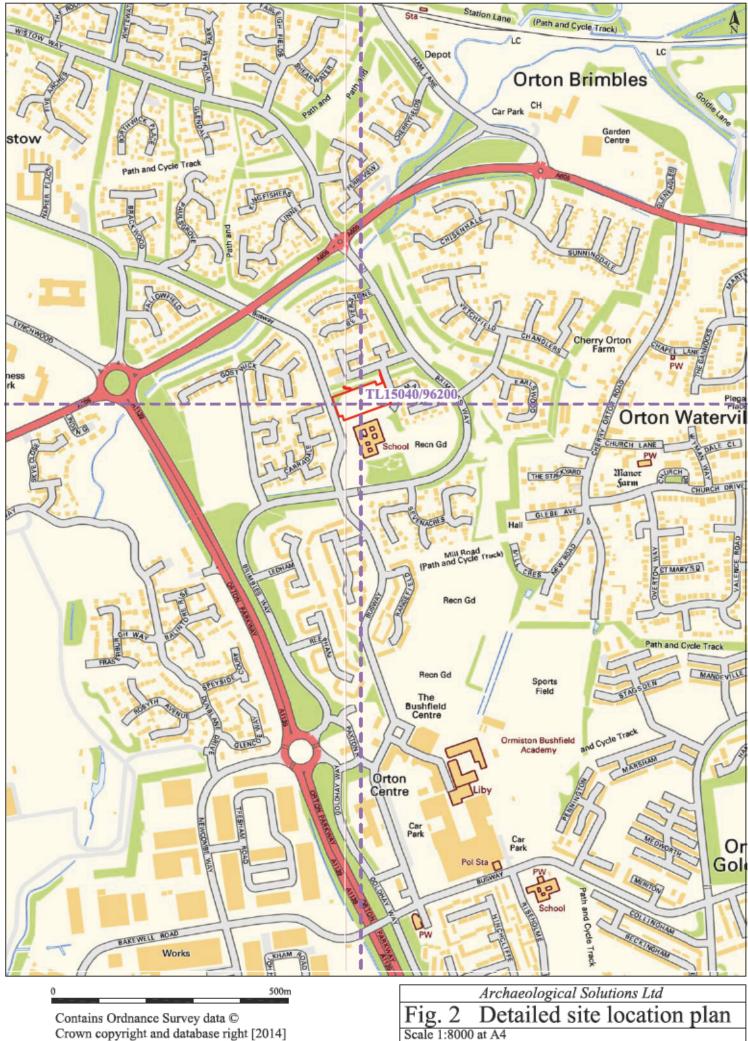


10 View of footings looking north-east

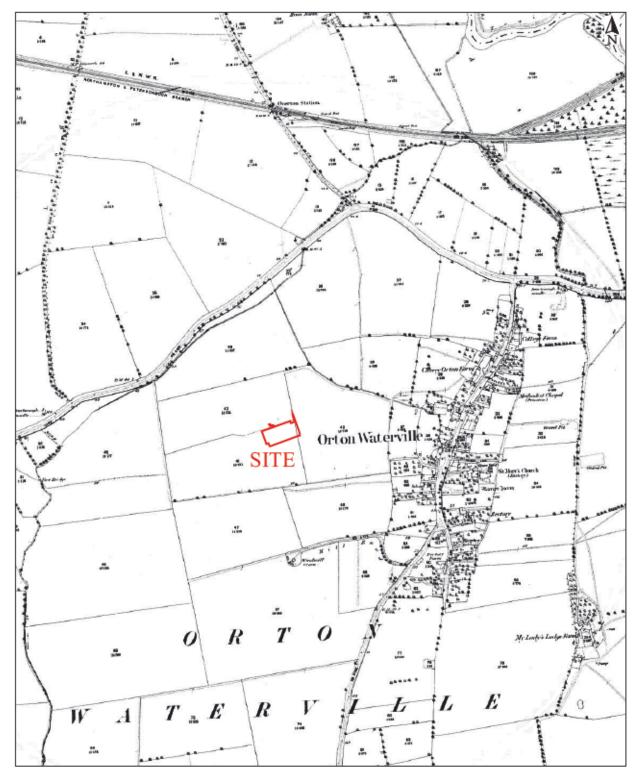


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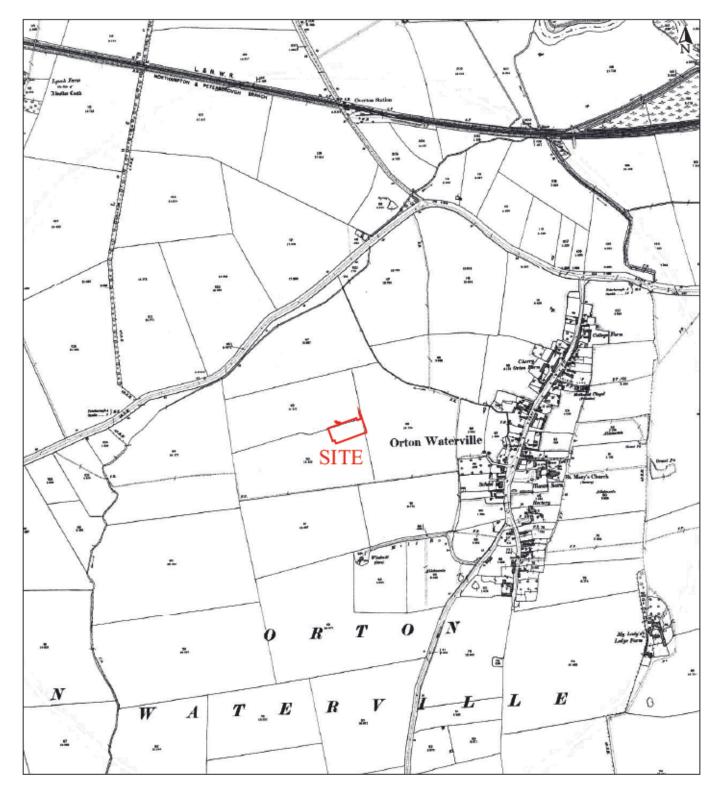
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4
Matley, Peterborough (P5976)



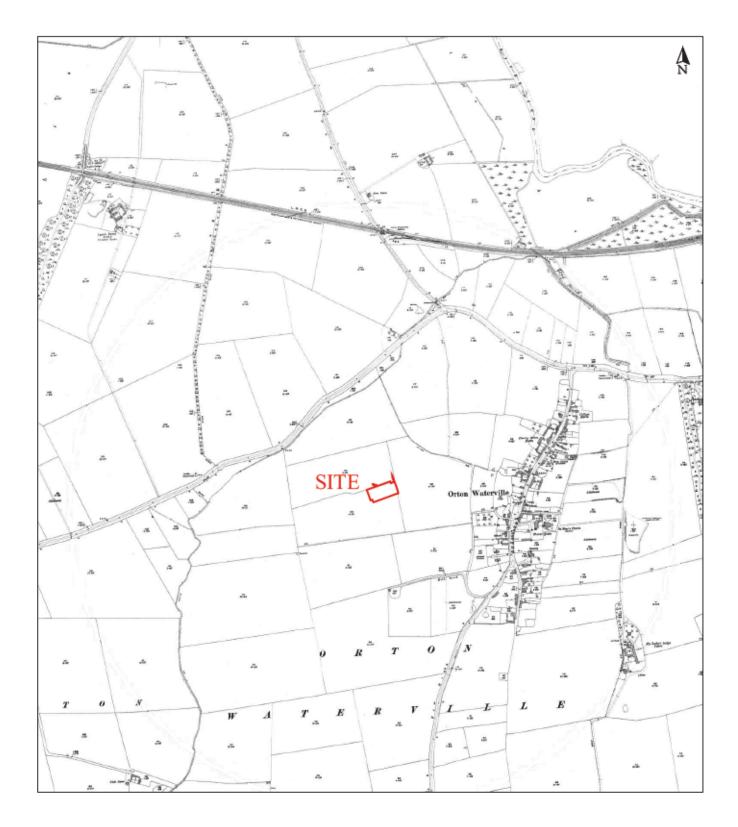
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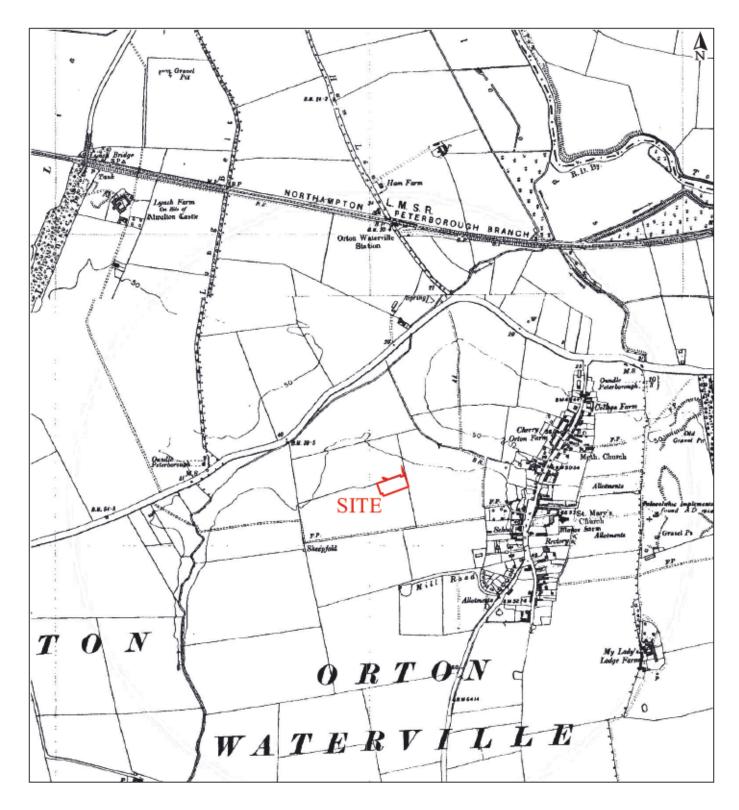
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 First ed. OS map, 1889
Not to scale
Matley, Peterborough (P5976)



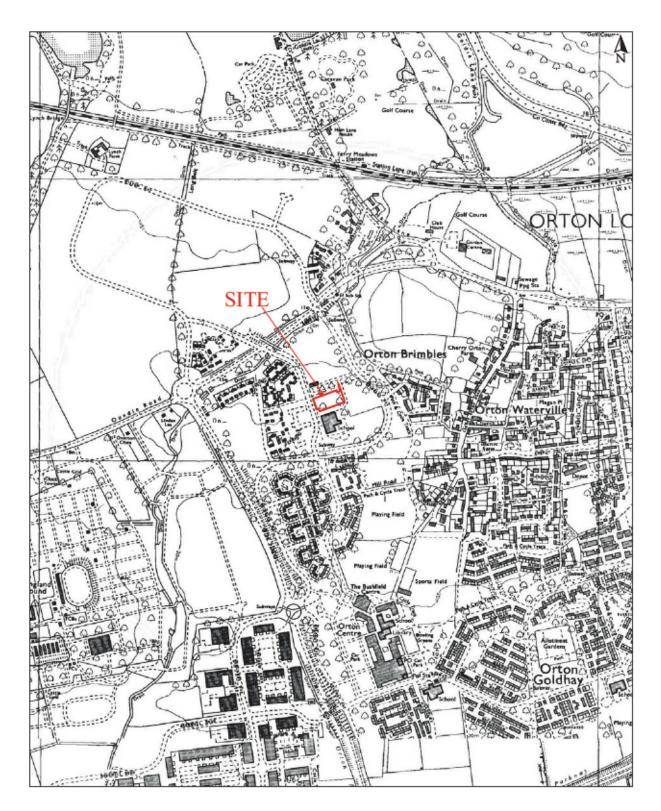
Archaeol	ogical Solutions Ltd	
Fig. 4 Se	econd ed. OS map	, 1901
Not to scale		
Matley, Peterboro	ough (P5976)	



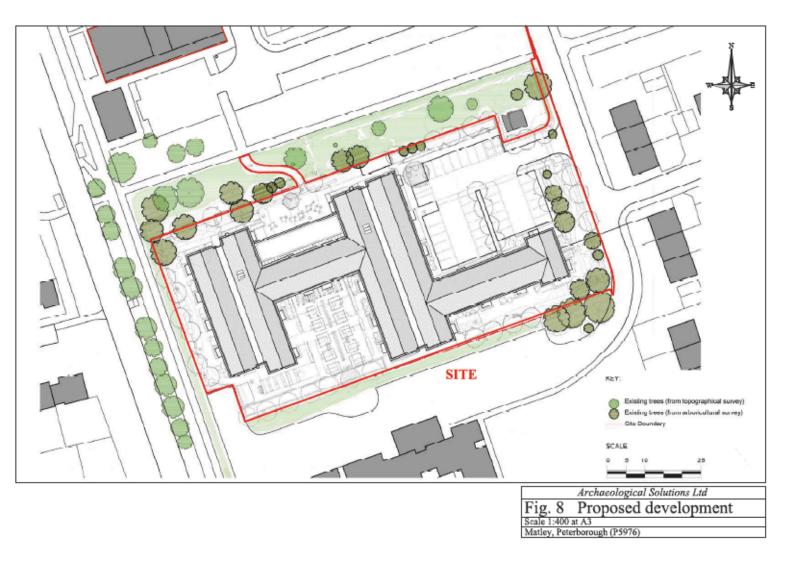
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 OS map, 1926
Not to scale
Matley, Peterborough (P5976)



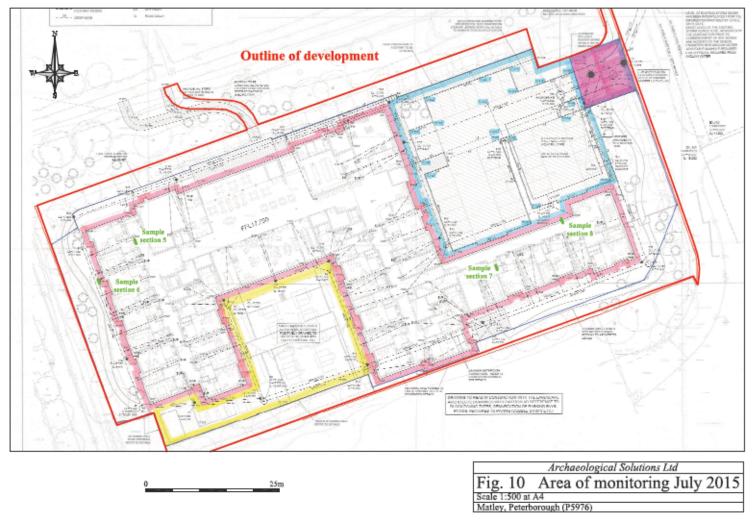
Arch	aeological So	lutions Ltd
Fig. 6	OS map	, 1938-1953
Not to scale		
Matley, Pete	rborough (P5970	5)

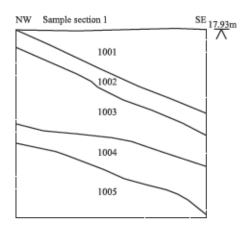


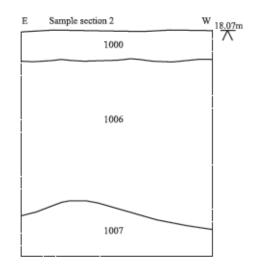
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 7 1977-1985
Not to scale
Matley, Peterborough (P5976)

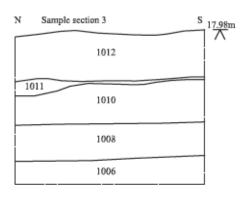




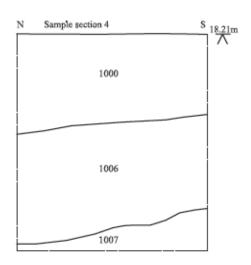




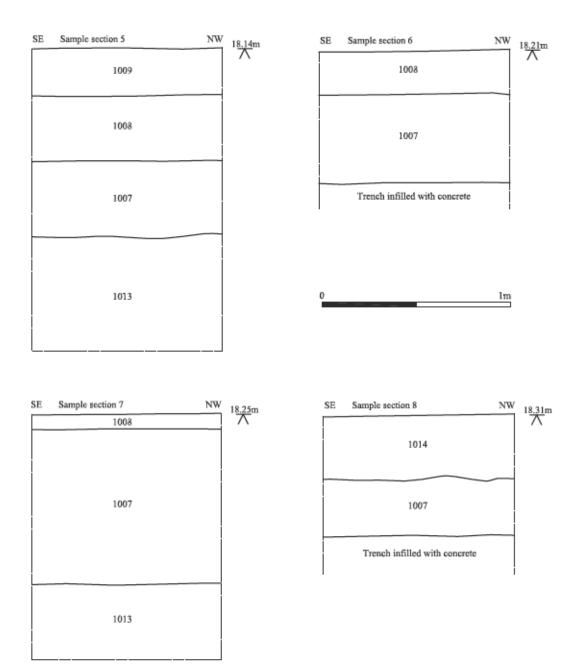








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Fig. 11 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Matley, Peterborough (P5976)



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Fig. 12 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
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