
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND EAST OF SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK, ALBION STREET,
KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK**

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

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NGR: TF 62085 20170		Report No: 4803
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk		Site Code: ENF 135902
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA		Project No: 6039
Signed:		Date: 19 March 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land East of Sainsbury's Car Park, Albion Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>In January 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control of Land East of Sainsbury's Car Park, Albion Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the line of defences of the medieval town. The immediate area also contains medieval and post-medieval/ modern industry, including the site of an 18th century glassworks and 19th century smithy. The site was considered to have good archaeological potential, especially for remains of medieval and post-medieval date.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring encountered heavily truncated sections of a Victorian red brick wall in the north-eastern corner of the site. It is thought that the walling formed part of a cellar. All other areas of the site had been subject to significant modern truncation and no further archaeological deposits were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>01/12/2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5884</i>	Site code	<i>ENF 135902</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>brownfield</i>		
Planned development	<i>residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Victorian</i>	<i>Red brick walling (cellar)</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Modern</i>	<i>Pottery</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 100m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 62085 20170</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 5m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Vinny Monahan</i>		
Funded by	<i>Norfolk Pride Developments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land East of Sainsbury's Car Park, Albion Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control</i>		
Authors	<i>Monahan, V. and Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4803</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>19 March 2015 (Revised 04/11/2016)</i>		

LAND EAST OF SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK, ALBION STREET, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

In January 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control of Land East of Sainsbury's Car Park, Albion Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the line of defences of the medieval town. The immediate area also contains medieval and post-medieval/ modern industry, including the site of an 18th century glassworks and 19th century smithy. The site was considered to have good archaeological potential, especially for remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

In the event the monitoring encountered heavily truncated sections of a Victorian red brick wall in the north-eastern corner of the site. It is thought that the walling formed part of a cellar. All other areas of the site had been subject to significant modern truncation and no further archaeological deposits were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control of land east of Sainsbury's Car Park, Albion Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 62085 20170; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a block of 1-bedroom apartments (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council Ref. 13/01359/F & 14/01200/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 06/11/2014), 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 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 The site is situated in central King's Lynn, at the northern end of Albion Street. The N-S route of Railway Road passes immediately to the east of the site. King's Lynn railway station is located c. 230m to the south-east, while the bus station is located some 70m to the south. The modern A17 passes c. 2.1km to the south. The site itself comprises a sub-rectangular plot, measuring c. 100m², at the northern end of Albion Street, immediately east of Sainsbury's car park.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located some 630m to the east of the River Great Ouse, which flows into The Wash c. 10km to the north of King's Lynn. The town sits at approximately 5m AOD on the boundary between fenland to the west and low chalk hills to the east. The site's soils are unsurveyed; the solid geology comprises the Ampthill and Kimmeridge clay formations (British Geological Survey 1991).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The earliest notable evidence of settlement close to the site is attributed to the Anglo-Saxon period, with scattered finds of pottery (NHER 25906) and evidence for sea defences constructed during this period (NHER 5486). However, it was not until the 12th century that a substantial occupation of the area occurred, when Herbert de Losinga founded St Margaret's Church and established a market in the area between the Purfleet and Millfleet (Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk 2008). Later, in the mid 12th century, Bishop Turbe brought an expansion of the town north of the Purfleet with the construction of the Church of St Nicholas and the establishment of a second market (*ibid.*). By this time, the town had become a significant regional trading centre necessitating an upgrade of the town's existing sea defences and the construction of town walls in the 13th to 15th centuries (NHER 5486).

4.2 The success of the medieval town attracted a number of religious houses, including the Dominican Friary in the 13th century (NHER 1176), and the Augustinian Friary in the 15th century (NHER 1025). The prosperity of King's Lynn continued throughout the Middle Ages and into the post-medieval era, which witnessed the eastward expansion of the town. Associated land reclamation was aided by major drainage works in the 17th century with a network of sluices, relief channels and drainage ditches to control water levels. However, sea trade declined during the Napoleonic wars and the later focus of the town shifted towards the newly-constructed railways and local industries to the east. The railway station was built in 1846; several lines ran through King's Lynn connecting the town to Dereham, Hunstanton and Ely.

4.3 A number of important archaeological features are known within the immediate vicinity of the site, including the site of St John the Baptist medieval hospital, thought to be located at 50 Norfolk Street, c. 84m north-east of the site (NHER 5487). Approximately 134m south-east of the site is evidence pertaining to glass production in the town, including finds of blue glass slag (NHER 21502). The site of the Dominican Friary (NHER 1176), occupied between AD 1256 and 1538 is situated c. 144m south-west of the site. Additionally, detailed archaeological investigations have recorded extensive evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation c. 161m north-east of the site, including several structures relating to medieval industry (NHER 3193).

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 eight sample sections:

<i>Sample section 1 (Figs. 3-4; DP2)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.50m	L1000	Made ground. Friable, mid yellow to light greyish brown silty sand with moderate, small to medium modern CBM (brick) rubble
0.50-0.63m	L1001	Made ground. Compact, dark brown silty sand with occasional, small CBM (brick) rubble

Description: Sample Section 1 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample section 2 (Figs. 3-4; DP3)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.40m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.40-0.70m	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1

Description: Sample Section 2 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample section 3 (Figs. 3-4; DP4)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.20m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.20-0.60m	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.60-1.31m+	L1007	Disturbed layer. Friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate, small mixed Victorian building rubble

Description: Sample Section 3 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample section 4 (Figs. 3-4; DP5)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.26m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.26-0.61m	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.61-1.50m+	L1007	Disturbed layer. See Sample Section 3

Description: Sample Section 4 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample section 5 (Figs. 3-4; DP6)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.30m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.30-1.04m+	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1

Description: Sample Section 5 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample section 6 (Figs. 3-4; DP7)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.28m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.28-0.88m+	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1

Description: Sample Section 6 contained no archaeological deposits.

<i>Sample Section 7 (Figs. 3-4; DP8)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.10m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.10-0.40m+	L1006	Rubble backfill. Loose, light greyish yellow sand with frequent mixed CBM (brick) rubble
0.40-0.75m+	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1

Description: Sample Section 7 contained Wall M1003 (incorporating Mortar L1005) and Construction Cut F1004.

In Sample Section 7, M1003 was a N-S aligned section of brick wall, forming part of a structure (possibly a cellar) with an E-W aligned section of the same wall (see Sample Section 8). M1003 comprised high fired, unfrogged red bricks (each measuring 200 x 100 x 80mm) in stretcher bond, bonded by a pale yellow/ grey/ white mortar (with occasional small pebble inclusions; L1005). In Sample Section 7, M1003 survived to a height of 0.64m+. The wall was contained by Construction Cut F1004 (see below) and was stratigraphically sealed by Rubble L1006.

In Sample Section 7, Construction Cut F1004 truncated Made Ground L1001. The cut appeared linear in plan and had vertical sides; its base was not reached (recordable dimensions: 1.00+ x 0.38m+). Within the exposed section, F1004 was stratigraphically sealed by Wall M1003. The cut appeared to have been deliberately excavated to contain M1003.

<i>Sample Section 8 (Figs. 3-4; DP9)</i> 0.00 = 4.95m AOD		
0.00-0.20m	L1000	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.20-0.80m+	L1001	Made ground. See Sample Section 1
0.20-0.80m+	L1006	Rubble backfill. See Sample Section 7

Description: Sample Section 8 contained Wall M1003 (incorporating Mortar L1005) and Construction Cut F1004.

In Sample Section 8, M1003 was an E-W aligned section of brick wall, forming part of a structure (possibly a cellar) with a N-S aligned section of the same wall (see Sample Section 7). M1003 is described above. In Sample Section 8, M1003 survived to a height of 0.60m+. Once again, the wall was contained by Construction Cut F1004 (see below) and was stratigraphically sealed by Rubble L1006.

In Sample Section 8, Construction Cut F1004 truncated Made Ground L1001. The cut appeared linear in plan and had vertical sides; its base was not reached (recordable dimensions: 2.24 x 0.60m+). Within the exposed section, F1004 was stratigraphically sealed by Wall M1003.

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 modern surface (a mix of concrete and bituminous material) had been stripped prior to archaeological works. The exposed area was commonly overlain by Made Ground L1000, comprising friable, mid yellow to light greyish brown silty sand with moderate, small to medium modern CBM (brick) rubble. L1000 was up to 0.50m deep and stratigraphically sealed Made Ground L1001; in the north-eastern corner of the excavation, L1000 sealed Rubble Backfill L1006. L1001 was a compacted, dark brown silty sand layer with occasional, small CBM (brick) rubble (up to 0.40m deep). In Sample Section 4, L1001 sealed disturbed Layer L1007. The latter comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate, small mixed Victorian building rubble, up to 0.89m+ deep.

8.2 Rubble Backfill L1006 stratigraphically sealed Wall M1003 in the north-eastern corner of the site. L1006 comprised loose, light greyish yellow sand with frequent mixed CBM (brick) rubble. The brick from this layer was identical to that forming Wall M1003. Other finds from L1006 were of modern date (Appendix 1).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Based on recorded archaeological sites and finds in the immediate area, including extant structures and structural remains, the Albion Street site had good archaeological potential, particularly for remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

9.2 In the event, the programme of monitoring encountered two sections of a Victorian wall (M1003) and associated deposits in the north-eastern area of the site. The high fired, unfrogged red bricks forming M1003 each measured 200 x 100 x 80mm and were laid in stretcher bond (The Heritage Directory 2009), bonded by a light coloured pebbly mortar (L1005). The form and relatively large size of the recovered bricks suggest an early modern date; in Britain, bricks generally increase in size between the medieval and Victorian periods (Brunskill 1997, 36). The walling had been constructed within a purposeful cut (F1004; overall depth unknown) and is thought to have formed part of a possible cellar. The alignment of M1003 was similar to extant structures fronting Railway Road, a short distance to the east. A similar Victorian cellar, backfilled with 19th/ 20th century material was excavated at South Gates Park (Cope-Faulkner 2009, 5), less than 1km to the south of the current site.

9.3 The interior of the above ?cellar was partly infilled by rubble (L1006), which included complete red bricks identical to those forming M1003. Other finds from this context comprise acrylic (25g), modern glass (14g), rubber hosepipe (10g), roofing felt (12g) and slate (26g). It appears that L1006 had resulted from the demolition/levelling of M1003 at some point in the modern era.

9.4 The remainder of the site had been subject to considerable modern truncation. Consecutive layers of made ground (L1000 and L1001) sealed the recorded structural remains/ backfill. Finds from uppermost layer L1000 comprise mortar (361g), oyster shell (352g) and a single sherd of 19th century pottery. A deep, disturbed layer (L1007) was the earliest deposit encountered in the south-western area of the site. L1007 yielded a single sherd of 19th century pottery. It appears that the site had been subject to one or more levelling events following an episode of modern demolition.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory and any donated finds, 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 (AS) would like to thank Mr Mark Attridge of Norfolk Pride Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the project and for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service

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

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other
1001	Made Ground	19th C	(1) 7g			Mortar - 361g O. Shell - 352g
1003	Wall			5686		
1006	Backfill					Acrylic - 25g Glass (1) - 14g Hosepipe - 10g Roofing Felt - 12g Slate - 26g
1007	Layer	19th C	(1) 3g		62	

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1: General site shot, looking NE



DP2: Sample Section 1, looking E



DP3: Sample Section 2, looking S



DP4: Sample Section 3, looking W



DP5: Sample Section 4, looking S



DP6: Sample Section 5, looking W



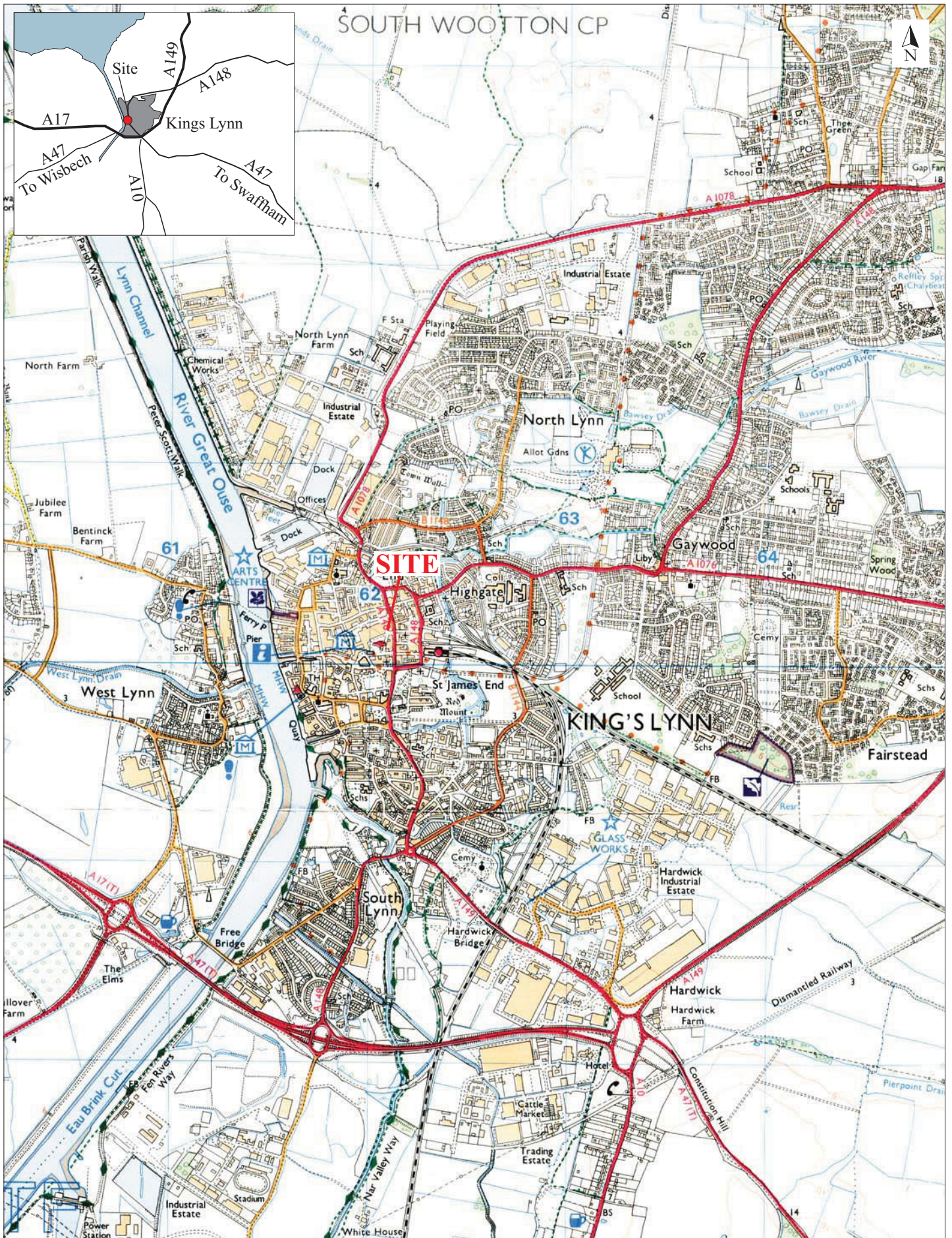
DP7: Sample Section 6, looking N



DP8: Sample Section 7, looking E

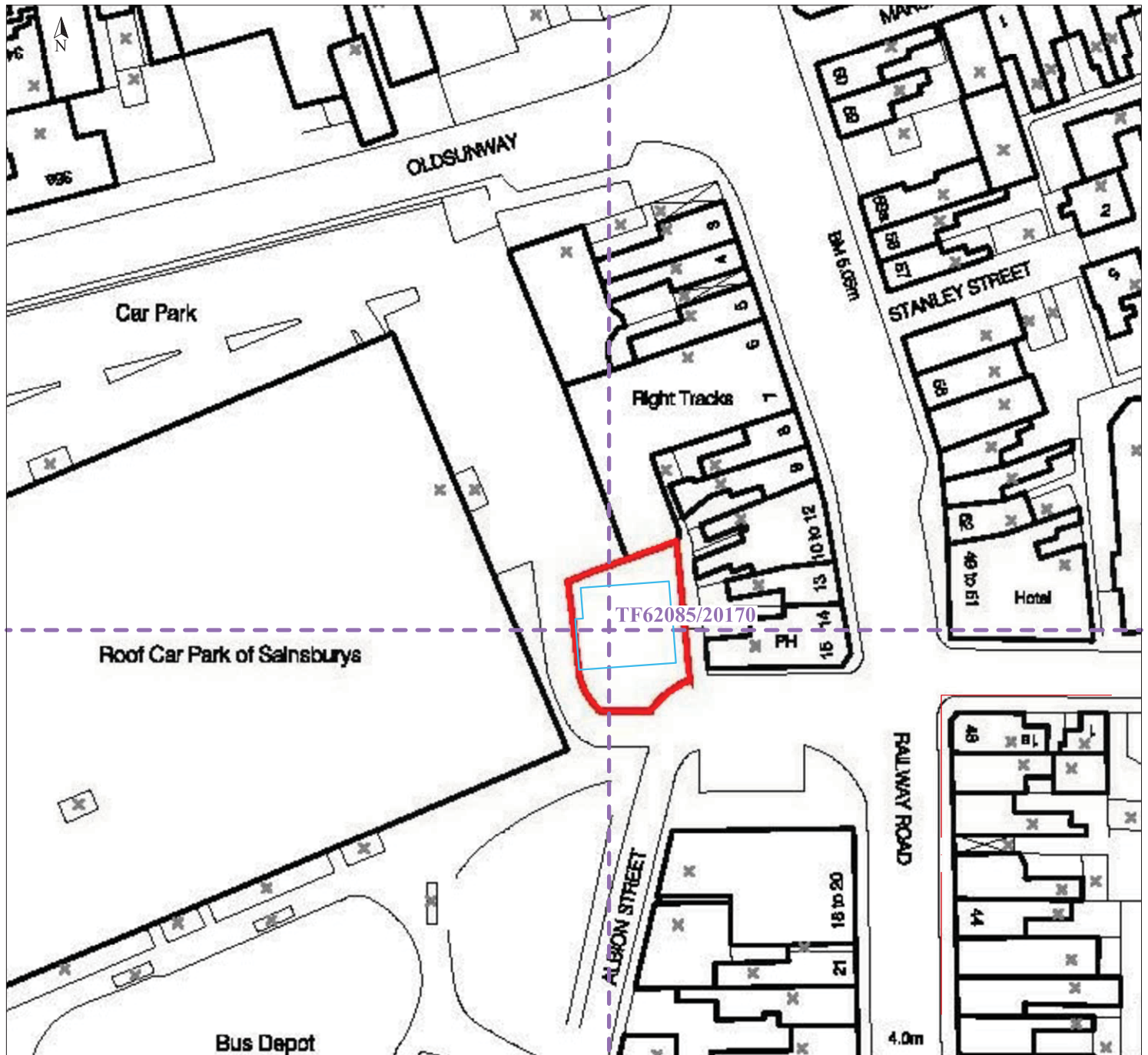


DP9: Sample Section 8 (W end), looking N



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Albion Street, Kings Lynn (P6039)

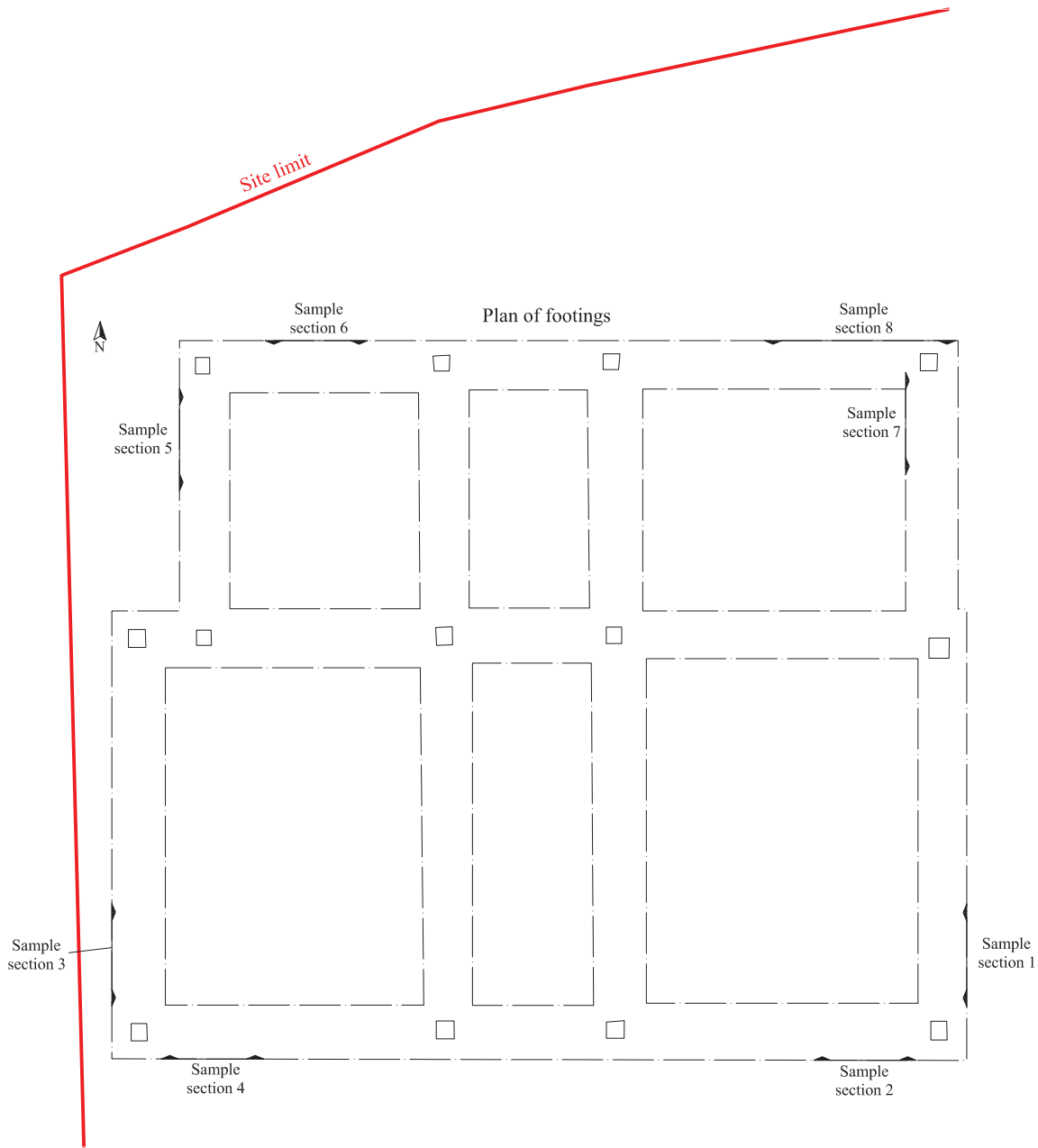


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

Albion Street, Kings Lynn (P6039)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Plan of footings
Scale 1:100 at A4
Albion Street, Kings Lynn (P6039)

