

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PLOT 1, HILLTOPS, 85 NURSERY LANE,
SOUTH WOOTTON, KING'S LYNN,
NORFOLK PE30 3NB**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPEN AREA EXCAVATION

Authors:	Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: 563950 323403		Report No: 5320
District: Kings Lynn		Site Code: ENF141805
Oasis ID:	archaeol7-287442	Project No: P7017
Approved:	Claire Halpin MCIfA	Date: 20 February 2017

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Plot 1, Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 3NB</i>		
<p><i>In February 2017, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Plot 1, Land South of Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB (NGR 563950 323403). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Planning Ref.CNF45818_7), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, where pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date has been found, in addition to evidence of medieval early ironworking and medieval sherds and pottery wasters suggesting that clamp kilns may also have been present in this area.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features were revealed. Only two modern land drains were present. Subsoil L1001 contained two sherds of medieval (12th - 14th century) pottery (2; 14g).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>7017</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ENF141805</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	Oasis ID	<i>archaeol7-287442</i>
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>-</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of a new residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern land drains</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>12th-14th century pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Kings Lynn</i>	<i>South Wootton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE30 3NB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.025ha</i>		
NGR	<i>563950 323403</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>West Norfolk Builders Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Plot 1, Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 3NB. Archaeological Open Area Excavation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G..</i>		
Report no.	<i>5320</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2017</i>		

**PLOT 1, HILLTOPS, 85 NURSERY LANE,
SOUTH WOOTTON, KING'S LYNN,
NORFOLK PE30 3NB**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPEN AREA EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In February 2017, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Plot 1, Land South of Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB (NGR 563950 323403). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Planning Ref.CNF45818_7), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, where pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date has been found, in addition to evidence of medieval early ironworking and medieval sherds and pottery wasters suggesting that clamp kilns may also have been present in this area.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features were revealed. Only two modern land drains were present. Subsoil L1001 contained two sherds of medieval (12th - 14th century) pottery (2; 14g).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2017, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Plot 1, Land South of Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB (NGR 563950 323403; Figs. 1 - 2). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Planning Ref.CNF45818_7), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)

1.2 The excavation was conducted in accordance with a generic brief prepared by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 26/01/2017), approved by NCC HES. The excavation was carried in accordance with ClfA, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). It also adhered to Gurney (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

Requirements

1.3 *The requirements of the project were:*

- Archaeological open area excavation of the proposed new dwelling;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report; and
- The dissemination and publication of the project results, as appropriate.

Archaeological Open Area Excavation

1.4 The objectives of the excavation were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the area subject to development in accordance with the requirements of NCC HES;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 The site is located on the western side of Nursery Lane, South Wootton. It comprises a plot to the south of Hilltops which lies some distance to the rear of properties fronting Nursery Lane. It is proposed to erect a detached dwelling. The site is currently a garden/paddock.

3 SOILS, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The site is located at c.5m AOD on low lying marshland punctuated by numerous ponds and water channels. The area was reclaimed from The Wash in recent centuries. The current coastline is c.5km to the north-west of the site. The River Babingley flows E/W through South Wootton some 250m south of the site, and the River Great Ouse feeds into The Wash c. 3km to the west. The underlying geology comprises the quaternary alluvium and Jurassic clay of the Ampthill and Kimmeridge Formations.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, where pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date has been found, in addition to evidence of medieval early ironworking and medieval sherds and pottery wasters suggesting that clamp kilns may also have been present in this area.

4.2 Scattered finds of Anglo-Saxon pottery are known from the vicinity of South Wootton (NHERs 13831, 3288 and 51179), and Roman sherds are recorded to the east (NHER 19715). In the medieval period a large settlement developed around the Royal Manor of Wootton and the late Anglo-Saxon church of St Mary's. The Domesday Book records Wootton as having a population of 48 households and an economy based on agriculture and salt making, with 14 salterns listed. Numerous finds of medieval pottery are known from the area (e.g. NHERs 3288, 11343, 16829, 19801 and 51179), including a scatter found to the east of Nursery Lane (NHER 24117).

4.3 Building remains, thought to be medieval shipping warehouses (NHER 3293) were excavated to the south west; these would likely have served in the export of local agricultural produce via the tidal inlet of St Catherine's Creek (now the course of the River Babingley). Further local evidence includes finds of iron smelting debris and domestic refuse has been excavated to the north east.

4.4 Investigations in 1983 some 400m north of the site, revealed a large post-medieval pit with a paved brick floor and sandstone walls; interpreted as a tanning or retting pit (NHER 19578). Aerial photographs have also revealed earthworks in the area probably representing post-medieval drainage channels.

4.5 Investigations by AS on the opposite site of Nursery Lane at No. 88 in 2014 (Mustchin *et al* 2014) revealed no archaeology.

5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 The project comprised the archaeological open area excavation of the new plot.

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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Four sample sections were recorded as presented below:

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>0.00m = 5.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown, silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint.
0.38 – 0.85m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, dark-mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint.
0.85m+	L1002	Natural. Mixed patches of friable, pale brown orange and pale brown grey (60/40%) silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint.

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>0.00m = 5.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.38 – 0.75m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.75m+	L1002	Natural. As Sample Section 1

<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>0.00m = 5.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.35 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. As Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 4</i> <i>0.00m = 5.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.37 – 0.79m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1
0.79m+	L1002	Natural. As Sample Section 1

Description: Two modern drains, aligned east/west were revealed. Subsoil L1001 contained medieval (12th - 14th century) pottery (2; 14g) and animal bone (14g). No other archaeological finds or features were present.

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 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark grey brown, silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint. (0.35 - 0.38m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a friable, dark-mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint. (0.24 - 0.47m thick). Below L1001 was the natural L1002, comprising mixed patches of friable, pale brown orange and pale brown grey (60/40%) silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded flint. (0.59 – 0.85m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, where pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date has been found, in addition to evidence of medieval early ironworking and medieval sherds and pottery wasters suggesting that clamp kilns may also have been present in this area.

9.2 Building remains, thought to be medieval shipping warehouses (NHER 3293) were excavated to the south west; these would likely have served in the export of local agricultural produce via the tidal inlet of St Catherine's Creek (now the course of the River Babingley). Further local evidence includes finds of iron smelting debris and domestic refuse has been excavated to the north east.

9.3 Investigations in 1983 some 400m north of the site, revealed a large post-medieval pit with a paved brick floor and sandstone walls; interpreted as a tanning or retting pit (NHER 19578). Aerial photographs have also revealed earthworks in the area probably representing post-medieval drainage channels.

9.4 Despite this archaeological potential no archaeological features were revealed. Only two modern land drains were present. Subsoil L1001 contained medieval (12th - 14th century) pottery (2; 14g).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Norwich County Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank West Norfolk Builders Ltd in particular Karl Tucker.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute For Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Mustchin, ARR, Waring, W, Monahan, V & Henry, K, 2014, *88 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control*, AS Report 4695

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

ENF141805, P7017, Nursery Lane, South Wootton

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)
	1001		subsoil	12th-14 th C	2	14		14

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Medieval Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered two sherds of abraded medieval pottery from the topsoil L1001. One sherd is a Grimston coarseware, the second is in a similar sandy fabric but a little grittier. Both sherds would fit a mid 12th –14th centuries date.

Methodology

The sherds were examined in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). The pottery fabric codes in brackets are appropriate for Norfolk.

Key:

MCW (3.20): Medieval Coarseware – common fine to medium sub-rounded to rounded mainly grey and white quartz. Occasional other inclusions including red ironstone and coarse flint or other stone/mineral. Orange core, brown surfaces surfaces quite gritty 12th-14th

GRCW (3.22): Grimston ware mid 12th-14th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil	1001		1x9g MCW 1x4g GRCW	

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

Bibliography

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, 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*.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-287442

Project details

Project name	Plot 1, Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
Short description of the project	In February 2017, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Plot 1, Land South of Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB (NGR 563950 323403). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Planning Ref.CNF45818_7), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, where pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date has been found, in addition to evidence of medieval early ironworking and medieval sherds and pottery wasters suggesting that clamp kilns may also have been present in this area. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features were revealed. Only two modern land drains were present. Subsoil L1001 contained two sherds of medieval (12th - 14th century) pottery (2; 14g).
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2017 End: 28-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P7017 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141805 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	LAND DRAINS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK SOUTH WOOTTON Plot 1, Land South of Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3NB
Postcode	PE30 3NB

Study area 0.25 Hectares
 Site coordinates TF 63950 23403 52.78289229505 0.431247416297 52 46 58 N 000 25 52 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 5m Max: 5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator NCC HES
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum
 Paper Contents "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Plot 1, Hilltops, 85 Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 3NB
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of site looking north-west



2
Sample Section 1 looking south-west



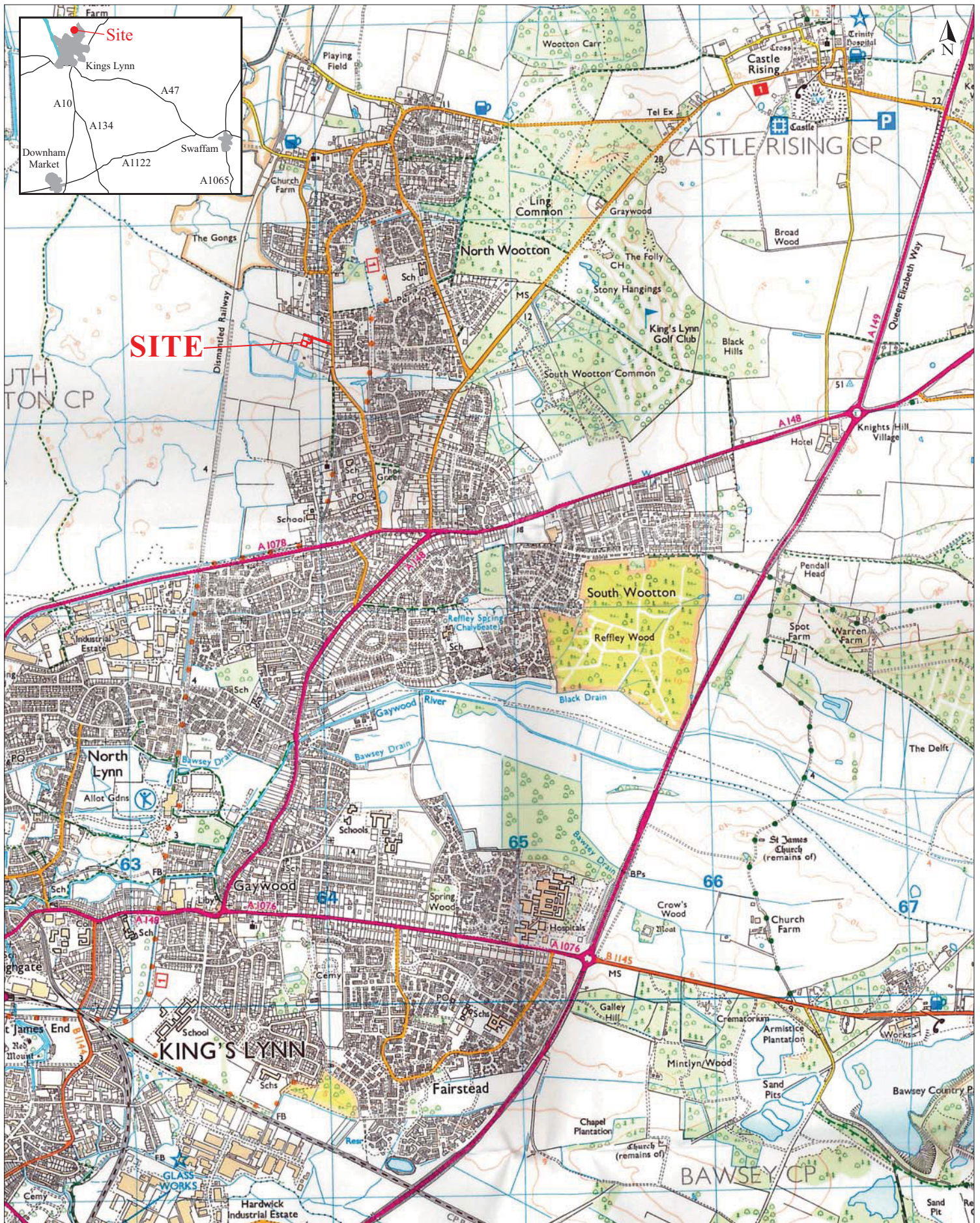
3
Sample Section 2 looking north-west



4
Sample Section 3 looking north-west

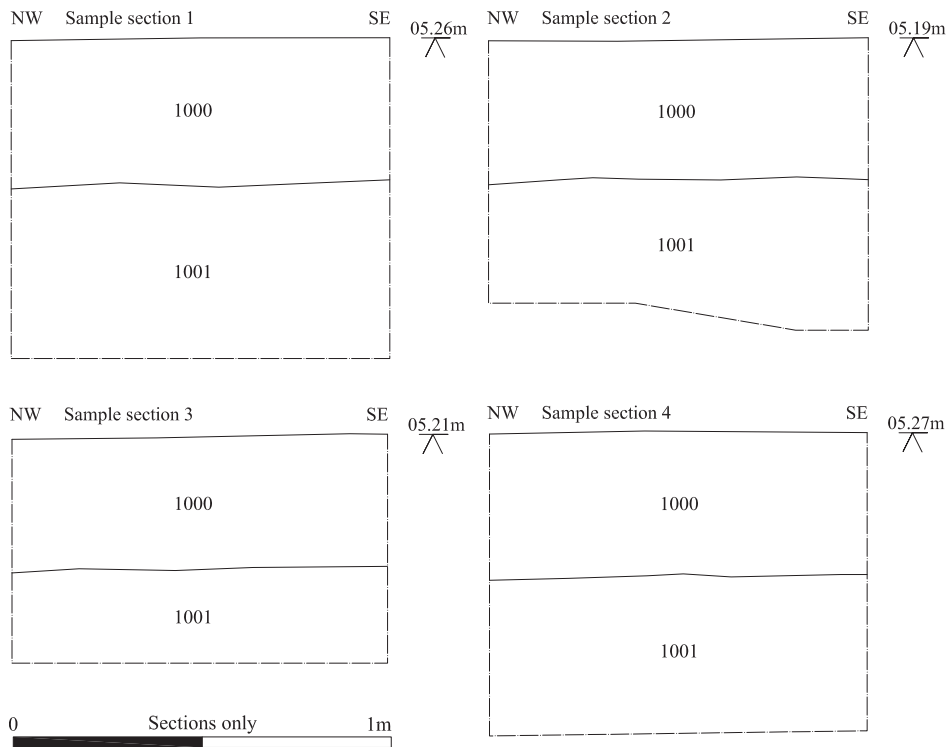
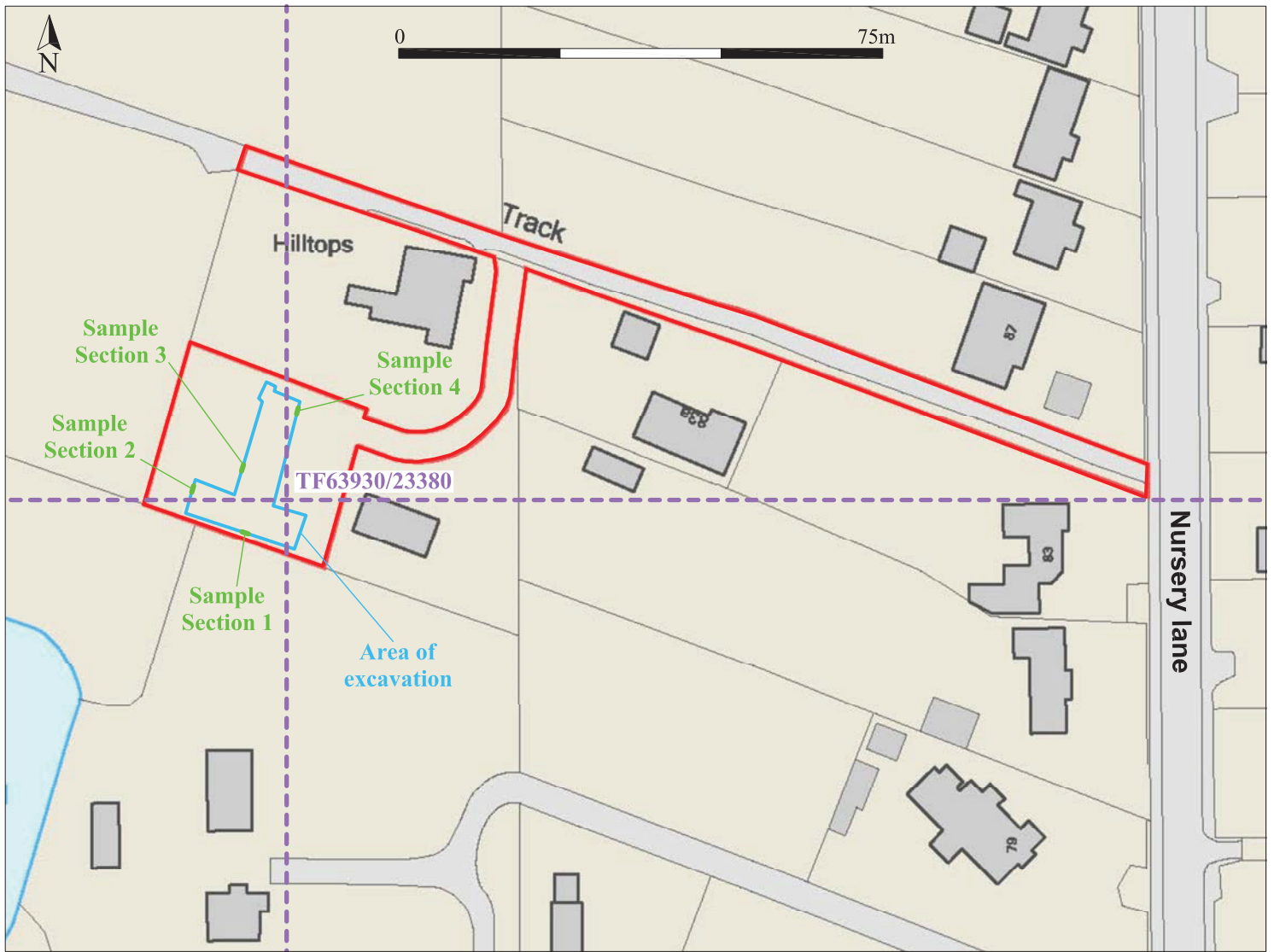


5
Sample Section 4 looking south-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P7017)



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Fig. 2 Site location plan and sample sections
 Scale 1:1000 and 1:20 at A4
 South Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P7017)