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**69 LUKE STREET, EYNESBURY, ST NEOTS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 2TN**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 5274

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 1832 5960	Report No: 5561
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: ECB 5274
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P6547
	Date: 20 April 2018 Revised 10 May 2018

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Project details			
Project name	69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2TN		
<p><i>In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2TN (NGR TL 1832 5960; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 3no detached single storey dwellings and one detached dwelling with rooms in the roof together with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 17/01178/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed quarry pits in Trenches 1 and 2; horticultural beds in Trenches 3 and 4; and pits in Trenches 3 and 4. When dated the features were late post-medieval (late 18th – 19th century) – modern (19th + century). Two residual medieval (12th – 13th century) sherds were found.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	April 2018		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P6547	Site code	ECB 5274
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Vacant		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Quarry pits and horticultural beds		
Significant finds (+dates)	Sparse residual medieval (12 th – 13 th C) pottery		
	Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire	St Neots
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	PE19 2TN		
Area of site	0.19 ha.		
NGR	TL 1832 5960		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.18m AOD		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	HC Moss (Builders) Ltd		
Full title	69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2TN. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	5561		
Date (of report)	April 2018		

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SUMMARY

In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2TN (NGR TL 1832 5960; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 3no detached single storey dwellings and one detached dwelling with rooms in the roof together with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 17/01178/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The evaluation revealed quarry pits in Trenches 1 and 2; horticultural beds in Trenches 3 and 4; and pits in Trenches 3 and 4. When dated the features were late post-medieval (late 18th – 19th century) – modern (19th + century). Two residual medieval (12th – 13th century) sherds were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2TN (NGR TL 1832 5960; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 3no detached single storey dwellings and one detached dwelling with rooms in the roof together with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 17/01178/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET, Gemma Stewart; dated 19th October 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 23rd October 2017) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located in Eynesbury which forms the south-eastern sector of St. Neots. It is at the western end of Luke Street on its southern side, close to the junction with Montagu Street and Hardwick Road. The house on the site and the current site boundary appear to have been established between 1900 and 1926. Earlier buildings were present on the site and it appears to have been used as a dwelling and garden/arable plot for at least the last 200 years. The site extends to some 0.19ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c.18m AOD in the eastern part of St. Neots, approximately 230m to the east of the River Ouse and 470m to the south of the Hen Brook, which divides the old parish of St. Neots (based around the market square) from that of Eynesbury, where the site is located. The site lies on bedrock geology of mudstone of the Oxford Clay formation formed in the Jurassic period. Superficial deposits are river terrace deposits of sand and gravel formed in the Quaternary period.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential with nearby archaeological remains recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by AS (Cussans *et al* 2016) prior to the determination of the planning application. In summary:

Evidence for prehistoric occupation comes from finds of a Palaeolithic disc scraper, possible handaxe, flint flakes and faunal remains found at Hall Place, Church Street (CHER 00567c, 00568), a Mesolithic hammerstone in Eynesbury cemetery (CHER 00404), a Mesolithic tranchet axe (CHER 00619), lithic artefacts recovered from the area of the later Anglo-Saxon settlement at Hall Place (CHER 00567a), Neolithic and Bronze Age implements found at Eynesbury (CHER 00459, 04459a). Possible Neolithic features have been recorded at Ernulf School, Eynesbury (CHER MCB17395) and a double enclosure of this date has been interpreted as part of a possible prehistoric ritual complex at Eynesbury (CHER MCB17967); this site also yielded Bronze Age cremations (CHER MCB17703). Neolithic polished axes and Bronze Age beaker fragments have been found 'immediately to the south of Montagu Square' (CHER 00397) and hence very close to the present site. A late Neolithic long barrow has been excavated at Barford Road; this had mid to late Bronze Age cremation and a pit containing structured deposits of the same date inserted in to it (CHER 00381). Three possible cursus enclosures have been recorded in the Eynesbury area (CHER 11671). A Bronze Age bronze axehead has been found at Eaton Ford (CHER 02032). Iron Age pottery was found close to the river at St. Neots School (CHER 00550) and slightly to the south of this a sunken hut, originally thought to be Saxon but now thought much more likely to be Iron Age (CHER 00395). Tebbutt also notes the presence of a later Iron Age settlement near to Howits Lane, to the west of Luke Street. Iron Age artefacts were recovered from the Roman settlement site at Brickhills Estate (CHER 00403a).

Roman settlement close to the site is largely focused around the area of Conygeare to the south and west of the site. One of the major elements of the Roman settlement evidence is the remains of a defensive earthwork, less than 250m to the south-west of the site (CHER 00391 and possibly CHER 00394). Roman settlement remains were recorded in the 1960s at the Brickhills Estate (CHER 00403). Roman settlement remains have been recorded at Ernulf School playing fields (CHER 10898). Other Roman remains in the area include a hypocaust (CHER 00396a) and a rectangular enclosure (CHER 00396c), a possible villa (CHER 00684), ditches corresponding with a possible trackway identified from cropmark evidence (CHER 11671a), ditches at Tan Yard, St Neots (CHER 11935), features recorded at Church Lane, St Neots (CHER CB15258), ditches at Eaton Ford (CHER MCB18418). Roman coins (CHER 00396a and 00396d) and pottery (CHER 00560 and CHER 11290) have also been found in the vicinity.

The Saxon period forms a key element of the history of St. Neots and Eynesbury. Evidence of pagan Saxon settlement comes from a cemetery containing both cremation and inhumation burials (CHER 00392). Finds of Saxon pottery have also been made in the vicinity of the site (CHER 00393, CHER 00550 and CHER MCB 17687). The 10th century saw the founding of a monastery in the parish of Ernulph's

Bury (Eynesbury). The site of this monastery is unknown but thought likely to have been at the site of the later Norman Priory (Scheduled Monument DCB21) c.700m to north of the site. The Benedictine Priory of St Neots was founded AD 972 - 975; it was destroyed in 1010 and refounded in 1082 (CHER 00548). There are no extant remains of the Priory and the area in which it stood is mostly covered by more recent buildings. Numerous finds of burials have been made under properties on the north side of the Market Square and on the High Street and these are considered to represent part of the Priory graveyard (CHER 00548a, 00551). The site of the priory gatehouse, pulled down in 1814, lies near to the present day Bridge Hotel (CHER 00548c). A Saxon vill has been identified a little over 1km to the south-west of the site in Eaton Ford, on the west side of the river (The Hillings, Scheduled Monument DCB151). A late Saxon settlement site has been recorded to the east of St Neots parish church at Church Street (CHER 00567, 00573). An early Anglo-Saxon cremation has been recorded at Avenue Road, St Neots (CHER 00574). Anglo-Saxon features have also been recorded at Cambridge Street (CHER 13051), Church Lane, St Neots (CHER CB15258), Hall Place, St Neots (CHER MCB17661, MCB17662), Church Street, St Neots (CHER MCB18498)

Post Norman Conquest, the town saw significant change and development, largely due to the Saxon monastery being gifted to the Benedictine monastery of Bec in Normandy. Following this, the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Eynesbury was built (CHER 00401/DCB2176), c.200m to the north of the site, and a charter was obtained to hold a weekly market and fairs. The Church of St. Mary's, Eynesbury originally dates to the 12th century or earlier with much of the surviving building dating to the 13th and 17th centuries. In the late 12th century the parish of Eynesbury was divided into two, with the northern part becoming St. Neots and being the main focus of urban development. Here a new parish church was built, a little over 500m to the north of the site, also called St. Mary's, dating to the 13th century, with much rebuilding in the 15th Century (CHER CB14932). Aside from the churches other evidence for medieval occupation in the area is present. Twelfth century building remains were found immediately to the west of the site at Montagu Court (CHER 00398); the house at 3 Berkley Street (DCB2172) is a Grade II listed building dating to the 13th century, and the Nags Head Inn (CHER 00400) dates to the 15th century. These latter two buildings are located close to St. Mary's Church, Eynesbury. Medieval building remains were recorded by C. F. Tebbut in the 1960s beneath the floor of an old factory (CHER 00402). Some medieval features (pits and ditches) were found during archaeological investigations further to the north (CHER 11511). Ford House, 140 St Neots Road, Eaton Socon is an extant mid to late 15th century listed building (CHER 00515). A bridge crossing the Ouse at the western end of the town is understood to have originated in the 14th century, although earlier bridge or crossings may have been located at the same spot (CHER 00545).

Part of the medieval cobbled road has been recorded adjacent to the Market Square, St Neots (CHER 00552). Medieval features and finds associated with the Priory were recorded during excavation in the 1950s along Priory Lane (CHER 00553). Structural remains associated with the Priory and burials were recorded during an evaluation in 1989 (CHER CB15396). A medieval well was identified close to the Cross Keys Hotel (CHER 00554), and a 15th century house is recorded on the High Street (CHER 00561). Medieval iron working deposits have been recorded in association with a Saxon ditch close to Cambridge Street (CHER 00565) and similar evidence

has been recorded at Huntingdon Street and East Street (CHER 00566). A medieval fish pond has been recorded close to Church Street (CHER 00567b). Medieval ditches and human remains have been recorded at St Neots Market Square (CHER 08953). Part of the medieval Priory burial ground was recorded during an evaluation to the north of the Market Square (CHER 11509). Human remains of medieval date and a shallow linear feature have been recorded at Cedar House car park (CHER 11976). Medieval and post-medieval features have been recorded at 11-13 New Street (CHER 13050, MCB17406), 15-17 South Street (CHER CB14643), 46 Market Square (CHER MCB16502).

The majority of the HER data relates to post-medieval evidence, mostly listed buildings largely of a domestic function, which are focused around the B1043 (St. Mary's Street/Berkley Street) running north-south through Eynesbury. A small number of these buildings date to the 17th century, but the majority date to the 18th and 19th centuries. A notable example is the 16th century Tudor House (CHER 00399). Listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site include Montagu House (DCB3393 – Grade II, 18th century), situated immediately to the west of the site and 84 Luke Street (formerly a pair of 18th century cottages, DCB2673, Grade II listed), situated across the road immediately to the north of the site. Other post medieval features are grouped in the north of the search area, just to the north of the Hen Brook and largely relate to industrial activity. These include tanning activity (CHER 11871), a malt extract factory (CHER MCB16650) a warehouse (CHER MCB16651, Paine's brewery (CHER MCB16649)) and a steam mill (CHER MCB19696).

A 17th century sewer was recorded at South Street during Tebbutt's investigations in the 1950s (CHER 00555). The remains of a red brick wall, possible representing an earlier bridge, have been recorded adjacent to Eynesbury Bridge (CHER 00562). A post-medieval tannery has been recorded at St Mary's Street, St Neots (CHER 11511) and similar activity has been identified at 43-45 Church Street (CHER 11871). Post-medieval riverside structures have been identified at 30 Market Square, St Neots (CHER CB14644). The remains of the 17th century house known as Hall Place have been identified at Church Street, St Neots (CHER MCB17655).

The modern period is represented on the CHER by St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (CHER CB14931), St Neot's United Reformed Church (CHER CB14958), St. Neots' Evangelical Church (CHER CB14972), a World War II pillbox on St Neots' Common (CHER CB15200), Paine's flour mill (CHER MCB16647), a 19th century riverside warehouse (CHER MCB16651), Eaton Ford Methodist Church (CHER MCB17193), and the Eynesbury ware memorial (CHER MCB21928).

A small number of undated entries are present in the HER. These are St. Neots' Methodist Church (CHER CB14933), St. Neots' Baptist Church (CHER 14971) a gully found during an evaluation (CHER CB14995), ditches at Crosshall Road, Eaton Ford (CHER CB15260), and a cemetery chapel (CHER MCB17192).

The assessment site is located in an area of significant archaeological potential with evidence of settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. Within the immediate area of the site, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity appears to be most prominent, including the remains of a 12th century building close to the west, and former buildings identified on the site towards the street frontage on the 1800 parish

map. Furthermore, within the Great Ouse valley prehistoric remains are common and the medieval centre of St. Neots has significant Saxon roots.

Previous ground disturbance at the northern end of the site is likely to be extensive from the construction of 69 Luke Street and previous dwellings. Towards the south of the site ground disturbance is likely to have been limited to the effects of agriculture and gardening.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The brief required a 5% sample of the development area (0.19ha.) to be investigated by trenching. Four trenches of 15m x 1.80m were excavated (Figs. 2 - 3).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised 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. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.3 A one-metre square of topsoil and subsoil were bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content. Soil from this sampling procedure was kept separate from the main spoil heaps. Site records were completed to reflect this exercise and an on-site record was made of the finds recovered. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey was conducted when the trenches were opened, and the detector was not set to discriminate against iron. The spoil tips were also surveyed. The finds recovered during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil, and the metal detecting survey were all of 19th and 20th century date.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 17.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.72m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.72 – 1.45m+	L1026	Fill of Pit F1023. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Sample Section 1B 0.0 17.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.66m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.66m +	L1037	Fill of Quarry pit. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Description: Trench 1 revealed intercutting late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) possible gravel quarry pits (F1023, F1027, F1036, F1037, F1038, F1060, F1061 and F1062). Two, F1023 and F1027, at the southern end of the trench were excavated. On the surface of F1036 was late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (1; 13g) and slate (1; 14g). And on the surfaces of F1037 and F1038 was modern (19th+ century) pottery (5; 54g and 6; 26g respectively).

Pit F1023 was sub-rectangular (2.60+ x 1.52+ x 0.73+m). It had vertical sides and it was not bottomed due to a continuous ingress of water as a result of the high water table. Its lower fill (L1024) was a firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. The secondary fill (L1025) was a firm, mid brown orange silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. The upper fill (L1026) was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (7; 40g). F1023 cut Pit F1027.

Pit F1027 was a sub-rectangular (2.10 x 1.50+ x 0.40+m). It had vertical sides and its base was flattish. Its fill (L1028) was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (5; 26g), CBM (146g) and clay pipe (1; 4g). F1027 was cut by Pit F1023.

Trench 2 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 17.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39m +	L1032	Fill of Quarry Pit F1031. Mixed patches of firm mid grey brown and pale-mid orange grey silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 17.88m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.27 – 0.43m	L1006	Layer. Mixed patches of firm dark grey brown and pale brown orange silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.43m +	L1001	Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown orange silty sand with moderate-frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Description: Trench 2 revealed a modern (19th + century) ditch (F1029), a large late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) possible gravel quarry pit (F1031), and a large tree hollow.

Ditch F1029 was linear (2.50+ x 1.10 x 0.40m), orientated northeast / southwest. It had steep slightly irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1030) was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained modern (19th + century) pottery (3; 61g), CBM (118g), and animal bone (32g).

Pit F1031 was a sub-rectangular (7.30 x 1.80+ x 1.71m). It was not bottomed due to a continuous ingress of water as a result of the high water table. Augering of the feature established that it was 1.17m deep. Its lower fill (L1033) was a firm, dark blue grey silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (1; 1g) and CBM (31g). Its upper fill (L1032) comprised mixed patches of firm mid grey brown and pale-mid orange grey silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (2; 234g), CBM (98g) and animal bone (31g).

Trench 3 Figs. 3 & 5

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 17.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 17.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.52m	L1039	Subsoil or the fill of a shallow garden feature. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
0.52m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained three shallow linear features, orientated east/west, that were probably horticultural beds (F1040, F1042 and F1044). Six sub-rectangular pits, all similar in plan were present (F1021, F1034, F1046, F1048, F1050 and F1052). Two, F1021 and F1034, were excavated. F1021 contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery, and a residual medieval (12th – 13th century) sherd. F1034 contained an abraded sherd of medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (1; 5g) which was likely residual.

Pit F1021 was sub-rectangular pit (2.10+ x 1.50 x 0.20m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1022) was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained late post-medieval - modern (late 18th - 19th century) pottery (2; 2g). One of the pottery sherds was a residual medieval (12th – 13th century) sherd.

Pit F1034 was sub-rectangular (2.70 x 1.00+ x 0.30m). It had near vertical sides and an irregular concave base. Its fill (L1035) was a friable, mid brown grey silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained an abraded sherd of medieval (12th – 13th century) pottery (1; 5g) which was likely residual.

Trench 4 Figs. 3 & 5

Sample Section 4A 0.00 = 17.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39m +	L1003	Fill of linear F1002. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

Sample Section 4B 0.00 = 17.88m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.27m +	L1059	Fill of F1058. Firm, grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints

Sample Section 4C 0.00 = 17.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.39 – 0.81m	L1003	Fill of linear F1002. As above.
0.81m +	L1001	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained seven linear features, orientated east / west (F1002, F1004, F1007, F1009, F1013, F1054 and F1056) (the latter two were unexcavated); three pits (F1011, F1017 and F1019); a post hole (F1015); and an unexcavated square/rectangular pit/linear terminus (F1058). The linears were probably horticultural beds

F1002 was a probable horticultural bed (1.80+ x 1.70 x 0.60m), orientated east / west. It had irregular steep and moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1003) was a firm dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (8g), and Fe. fragment (1; 14g).

F1004 was a probable horticultural bed (1.80+ x 0.80 x 0.60m), orientated east / west. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1005) was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

F1007 was a probable horticultural bed (1.80+ x 1.40 x 0.20m), orientated east / west. It had steep sides and a flat base. It re-cut F1009. Its fill (L1008) was a firm mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

F1009 was a probable horticultural bed (1.80+ x 0.50 x 0.30m), orientated east / west. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular flat base. It was re-cut by F1007. Its fill (L1010) was a firm mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1011 was a sub-circular (0.90 x 0.75 x 0.30m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by F1013. Its fill (L1012) was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1017 was a sub-circular (0.98 x 0.71 x 0.32m). It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It was cut by F1019. Its fill (L1018) was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Pit F1019 was a sub-circular (0.94 x 0.71 x 0.21m). It had step to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It cut Pit F1017. Its fill (L1020) was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1015 was a sub-circular pit (0.42 x 0.39 x 0.360m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1016) was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Some of the features (F1023, Trench 1 and F1031 Trench 2) were not bottomed due to a continuous ingress of water as a result of the high water table, and water was present in the bases of Trenches 2 and 3. That said, the objectives of the evaluation (to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development) was achieved.

7.2 Numerous late post-medieval and modern features were excavated and these will have removed earlier underlying features if present, for example Trench 1 where quarry pits encompassed much of the trench. Just two residual medieval sherds were recorded in Trench 3 (Pits F1021 and F1034), and this suggests an absence of medieval activity.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (0.27 – 0.72m thick).

8.2 L1000 overlay L1006 a layer of mixed patches of firm dark grey brown and pale brown orange silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (0.16m thick) (Trench 2). And L1000 overlay L1039, a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-

rounded flints (0.15m thick) (Trench 3). L1039 was interpreted on site as either a subsoil or the fill of a shallow garden feature. The latter interpretation is more likely given the absence of a subsoil elsewhere within the trenches. In the area of Trenches 2 – 4, the former use of the site for horticultural purposes (and associated deep digging) will have caused disturbance of the subsoil and the intermixing of the horizons to create a single horticultural soil. Similarly in the area of Trench 1, the extensive digging associated with the quarry pits will have caused significant disturbance and intermixing of the soil horizons. The features were observed in plan to cut the natural, for example Trench 1 (Fig. 4), and were observed in section to cut the natural, for example Trench 4 (Fig. 5).

8.3 At the base of the stratigraphy the natural, L1001, was a firm, pale brown orange silty sand with moderate-frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints (0.38 – 0.81m below the current ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1023	Quarry Pit	Late post-medieval – modern (late 18 th – 19 th C)
	F1027	Quarry Pit	Late post-medieval – modern (late 18 th – 19 th C)
	F1036	Quarry Pit	Late post-medieval – modern (late 18 th – 19 th C)
	F1037	Quarry Pit	Modern (19 th + C)
	F1038	Quarry Pit	Modern (19 th + C)
	F1060	Quarry Pit	-
	F1061	Quarry Pit	-
	F1062	Quarry Pit	-
	2	F1029	Ditch
F1031		Quarry Pit	Late post-medieval – modern (late 18 th – 19 th C)
-		Tree Hollow	-
3	F1021	Pit	Late post-medieval – modern (late 18 th – 19 th C)
	F1034	Pit	Residual medieval (12 th – 13 th C) sherd
	F1040	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1042	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1044	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1046	Pit	-
	F1048	Pit	-
	F1050	Pit	-
	F1052	Pit	-
4	F1002	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1004	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1007	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1009	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1011	Pit	-
	F1013	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1015	Post Hole	-

	F1017	Pit	-
	F1019	Pit	-
	F1054	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1056	Horticultural Bed	-
	F1058	Terminus	-

9.2 Features were present in each trench and were numerous (Trench 1: 8; Trench 2: 3; Trench 3: 9; and Trench 4: 12).

9.3 Quarry pits encompassed much of Trench 1 and were also recorded in Trench 2 (F1031). The fills of the pits, and the surface finds, are late post-medieval – modern (late 18th – 19th century), and modern (19th + century).

9.4 Linear features, interpreted as horticultural beds, predominated in Trench 4 and also extended into Trench 3. A sample were excavated in Trench 4 (F1002, F1004, F1007, F1009 and F1013) but they did not contain finds.

9.5 The six pits in Trench 3 were similar in plan, and their fills were comparable. Pit F1021 contained late post-medieval – modern (late 18th – 19th century) pottery and a residual sherd of medieval (12th – 13th century). Pit F1034 also contained a residual sherd of medieval (12th – 13th century).

9.6 The excavated post hole and pits in Trench 4 (F1015, F1011, F1017 and F1019) contained no finds.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a potential for multi period remains. Quarry pits were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2; horticultural beds in Trenches 3 and 4; and pits in Trenches 3 and 4. When dated the features were late post-medieval (late 18th – 19th century) - modern (19th + century). Two pits in Trench 3 contained isolated, abraded residual sherds of medieval shelly ware pottery (12th-13th century). The sherds likely represent detritus dispersed from the historic nucleus of the town including the market square and priory. The bulk of the artefactual evidence from the pits and quarry pits comprises late 18th - 19th century pottery, in particular stone ware, earthen ware and porcelain; CBM including floor tile and red brick; and animal bone including cattle, sheep/goat and horse, all with butchery marks. Collectively these artefacts are likely resultant from the deposition of domestic waste from properties fronting on to Luke Street that had been established by the early/mid 19th century, and were further expanded by c.1901. The horticultural beds were aligned approximately east/west in the southern part of the site, and correspond to what would have been an open plot, accessed from the rear of any properties fronting on to Luke Street. Though undated they were likely associated with contemporary domestic cultivation or market gardening.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds following the transfer of title from the site at Cambridge County Council Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank HC Moss (Builders) Ltd for funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Mr Paul Ursell and Mr Bob Norman) and Mr Martin Vincent-Rogers for assistance

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

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		4	Fill of Ditch					8			
1021	1022		3	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C (residual medieval sherd)	2	2					
1023	1026		1	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C	7	40					
1027	1028		1	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C	5	26	146		Clay Pipe	1	4
1029	1030		2	Fill of Ditch	19th C+	3	61	118	32			
1031	1032		2	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C	2	234	98	31			
	1033		2	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C	1	1	31				
1034	1035		3	Fill of Pit	12th-13th C	1	5					
1036			1	Fill of Quarry Pit	Late 18th-19th C	1	13			Slate	1	14
1037			1	Fill of Quarry Pit	19th C+	5	54					
1038			1	Fill of Quarry Pit	19th C+	6	26					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 33 sherds weighing 462g from seven features. With the exception of two medieval sherds, all the remaining pottery was of a late post-medieval to modern date. Both of the medieval sherds were abraded shell tempered body sherds of 12th-13th centuries date. One of these came from Pit F1034 (L1035) and was the only find from the feature. The second medieval sherd was residual in Pit F1021 (L1022).

Methodology

The sherds were recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001; Table 1). Fabric codes are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series which are appropriate for Cambridgeshire.

KEY:

MSHW (3.50): medieval shelly ware 12th-13th

ESW (8.201): late 17th+

SWSW (8.41): Staffordshire type white stoneware 18th -19th

PORC (8.30): English porcelain mid 18th+

LGRE (8.50): late glazed red earthenware 18th+

YELL (8.13): Yellow ware late 18th+

RWE (8.03): refined white earthenware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1021	1022	1x1g MSHW 1x1g TPW	late 18 th -19 th	
Pit 1023	1026	6x39g RWE 1x1g YELL	late 18 th -19 th	
Pit 1027	1028	2x3g RWE 2x4g TPW 1x19g ESW	late 18 th -19 th	
Ditch 1029	1030	2x58g LGRE 1x3g RWE	19 th +	
Pit 1013	1032	1x229g LGRE 1x5g SWSW	late 18 th -19 th	
	1033	1x1g TPW	late 18 th -19 th	
Pit 1034	1035	1x5g MSHW	12 th -13 th	abraded
Quarry Pit	1036	1x13g TPW	late 18 th -19 th	
Quarry Pit	1037	2x34g YELL 3x20g RWE	19 th +	
Quarry Pit	1038	3x18g TPW 1x3g PORC 1x2g ESW 1x3g RWE	19 th +	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

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

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of nine fragments (393g) of late post medieval to early modern CBM in a highly abraded and highly fragmented condition. The small group included a single fragment of floor tile with traces of dark green glaze, with the remainder comprised of small fragments of locally-produced peg tile (Table 2).

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification, extant dimensions measured and further technological/decorative traits recorded as free text; with all data entered in a Microsoft Excel spread sheet that forms part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Frequency	Weight (g)
Floor tile	Late 18 th -19 th C	1	146
Peg tile		8	247
<i>Total</i>		9	393

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

Pit F1027 contained a single fragment of floor tile, manufactured in a very hard fired red fabric with inclusions of abundant calcareous/limestone grains (generally <1mm). The tile was 23mm thick with sharp edges, and preserved traces (small dots) of dark green lead glaze on the upper surface and sides. Tiles in this tradition were produced from the medieval period onwards, but the highly-fired fine fabric of this example indicates a late post-medieval origin for this tile, while they declined rapidly in the 19th century as industrialisation produced higher quality glazes and thinner tiles. The peg tile contained in Pit F1013 and Ditch F1029 was produced in high volume locally, utilising naturally calcareous and shelly clays (present as common to abundant voids, 0.5-3mm). The peg tiles range from cream/pale brown to pale orange, and 12mm thick and not particularly good quality; however they are too highly fragmented and poorly-preserved to allow further analysis of technological traits. The limited quantity and poor preservation of the post-medieval CBM suggests it is not directly associated with a structure or demolition deposit, but may represent detritus from houses that were established along the frontage of Luke Street by the early/mid 19th century.

The Animal Bone

Julia E.M. Cussans

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during trial trench excavations at Luke Street; these derived from two ditch fills and a pit fill (Table 3). Bone preservation was rated as ok or good on a five point scale ranging from very poor through to excellent with bones showing occasional abrasion and fresh breakages. No bone gnawing or burning was noted.

In total four bone fragments were recorded and three taxa were represented (Table 3). Bones present were a neonate cattle humerus fragment, a cattle first phalanx, a sheep/goat proximal radius and a fragment of horse first phalanx. The sheep/goat radius has a series of very fine horizontal cut marks up the anterior face of the proximal shaft, probably resulting from filleting of meat off the bone. The horse phalanx had been chopped or sawn through in the vertical plane across the proximal articulation, presumably as part of the process of carcass dismemberment. No other butchery marks were observed and no pathological modifications were noted.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Preservation	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Horse	Total
1002	1003	4	Fill of Ditch		ok	1			1
1029	1030	2	Fill of Ditch	19th C+	good	1	1		2
1013	1032	2	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-19th C	ok			1	1
					Total	2	1	1	4

Table 3. Quantification of animal bone from Luke St, Eynesbury

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation at 69 Luke Street, St Neots, three bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The majority of the features identified in the evaluation were of late 18th-19th century date but the sampled deposits contained no dateable remains. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, and discusses the nature and origin of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power

stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4. Only two carbonised cereal grains were encountered during the assessment, including a single oat (*Avena* sp.) grain in ditch fill L1008 (F1007). In addition to cereal remains were fragments of coal and clinker throughout, which is likely a reflection of the recent (c.18th-19th century) origin of the material.

Conclusions

The small number of remains within the sampled deposits are likely of relatively recent origin. The low density of carbonised cereal grains and charcoal is insufficient for any detailed comment regarding diet or economy associated with the site.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume processed (litres)		% processed	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains			
							Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)		Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs		Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
ECB5274	1	1003	1002	Fill of Ditch	4	-	20	10	50%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	XXX	-	X	-	-	-	Wood (XX), Clinker (X)
ECB5274	2	1008	1007	Fill of Ditch	4	-	20	10	50%	X	-	Oat (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	Coal (X), Clinker (XX)
ECB5274	3	1020	1019	Fill of Pit	4	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	X	-	-	Coal (X), Clinker (XX)

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 69 Luke Street, St Neots. Abbreviations: Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-318566

Project details

Project name	69 LUKE STREET, EYNESBURY, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 2TN
Short description of the project	In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 69 Luke Street, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2TN (NGR TL 1832 5960; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 3no detached single storey dwellings and one detached dwelling with rooms in the roof together with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Huntingdon District Council Approval Ref. 17/01178/FUL), based on the advice of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The evaluation revealed quarry pits in Trenches 1 and 2; horticultural beds in Trenches 3 and 4; and pits in Trenches 3 and 4. When dated the features were late post-medieval (late 18th - 19th century) - modern (19th + century). Two residual medieval (12th - 13th century) sherds were found.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2018 End: 30-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5274 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P6547 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	QUARRY PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	HORTICULTURAL BEDS Uncertain
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERD RESIDULE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERD Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate

Prompt Planning condition
 Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE ST NEOTS 69 LUKE STREET, EYNESBURY, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 2TN
 Postcode PE19 2TN
 Study area 0.19 Hectares
 Site coordinates TL 1832 5960 52.221472584375 -0.267694893551 52 13 17 N 000 16 03 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 18m Max: 18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Type of sponsor/funding body HC Moss (Builders) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Council Archaeological Store
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Cambridge Council Archaeological Store
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Council Archaeological Store
 Paper Contents "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 69 LUKE STREET, EYNESBURY, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 2TN

Author(s)/Editor(s) Barlow, G

Other bibliographic details Report Number: 5561

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Kate Cooper (info@ascontracts.co.uk)

Entered on 1 June 2018

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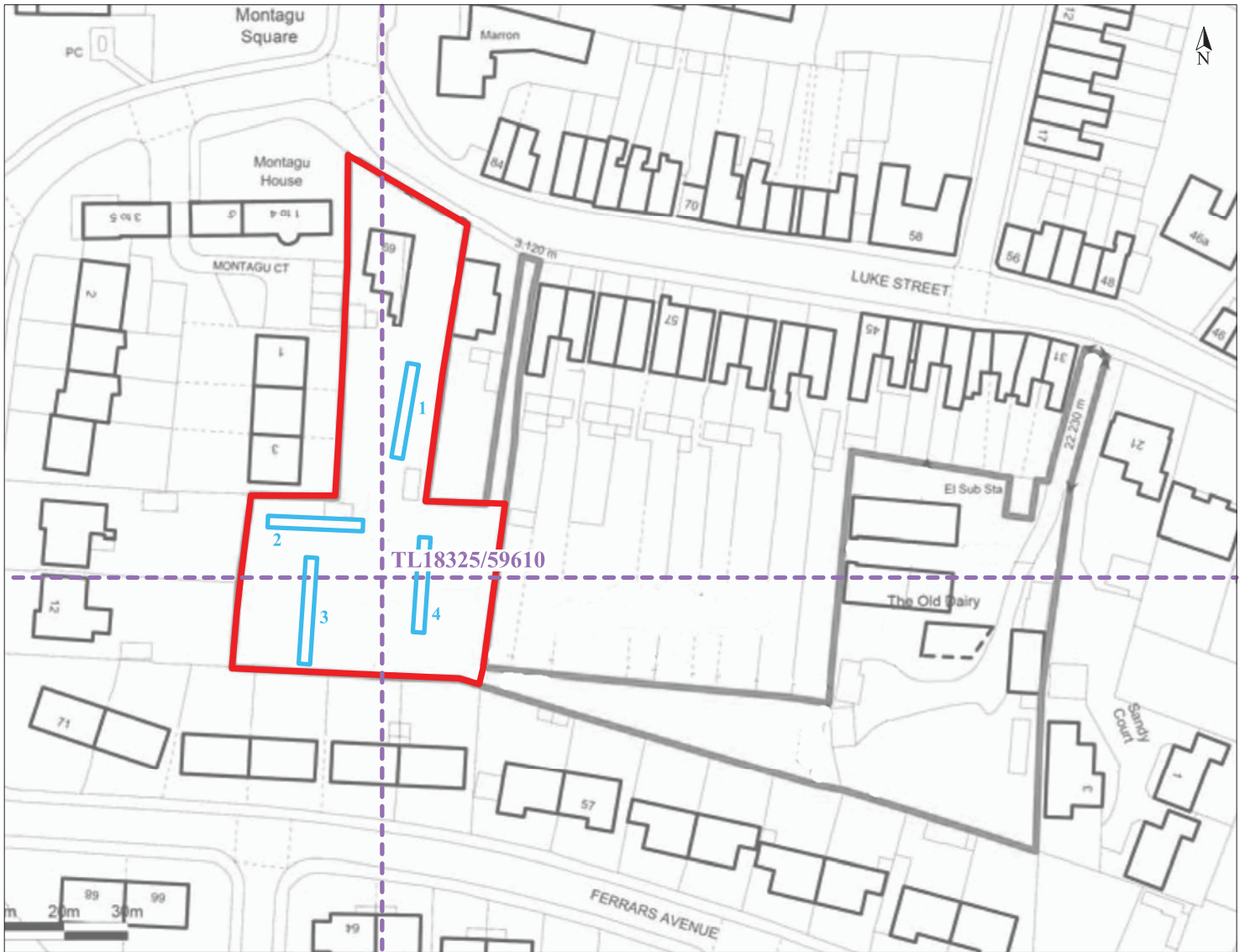


21
Pit 1019 in Trench 4 looking west



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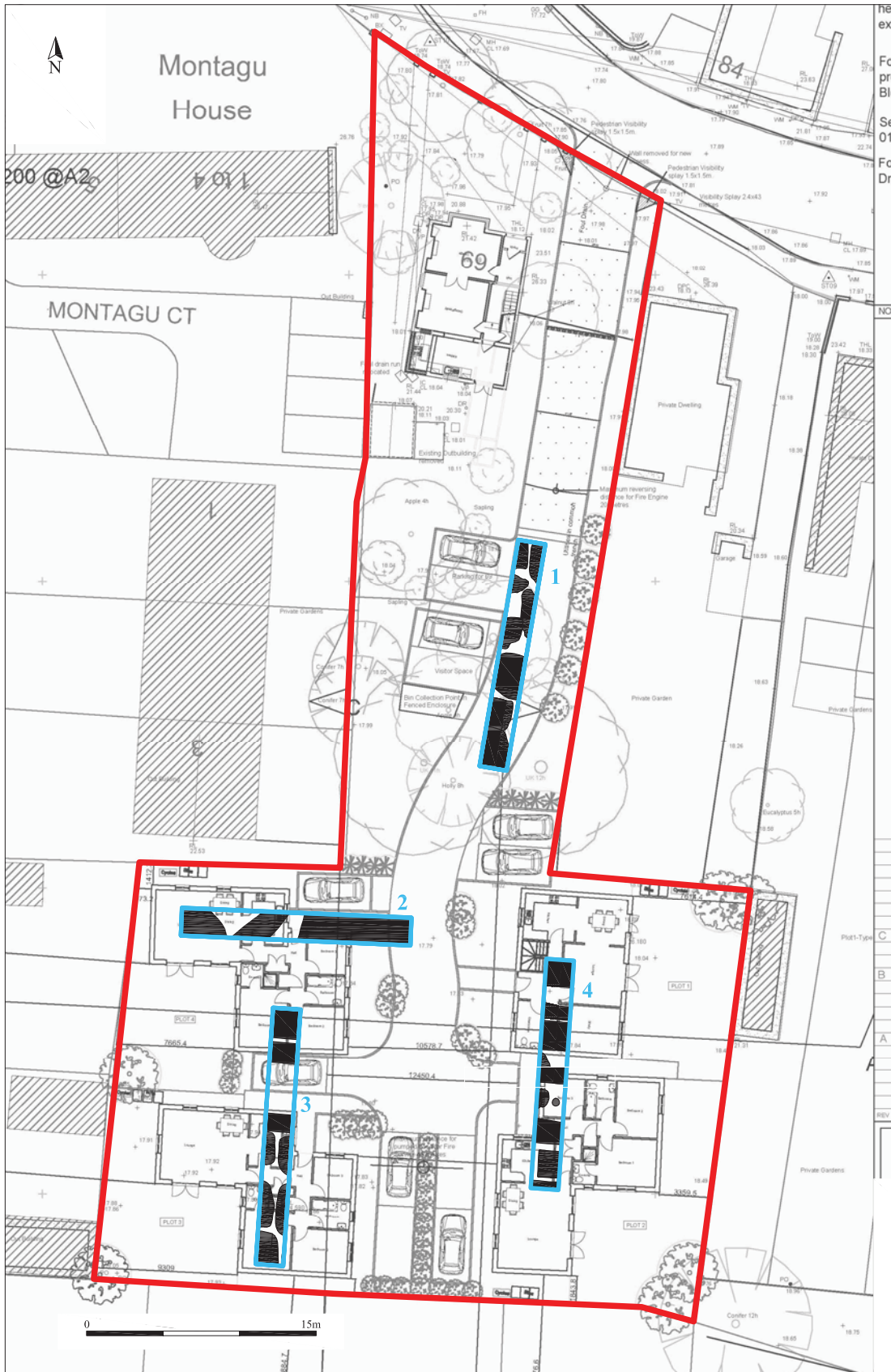
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 69 Luke St., St. Neots, Cambs (P6547)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
69 Luke Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (P6547)

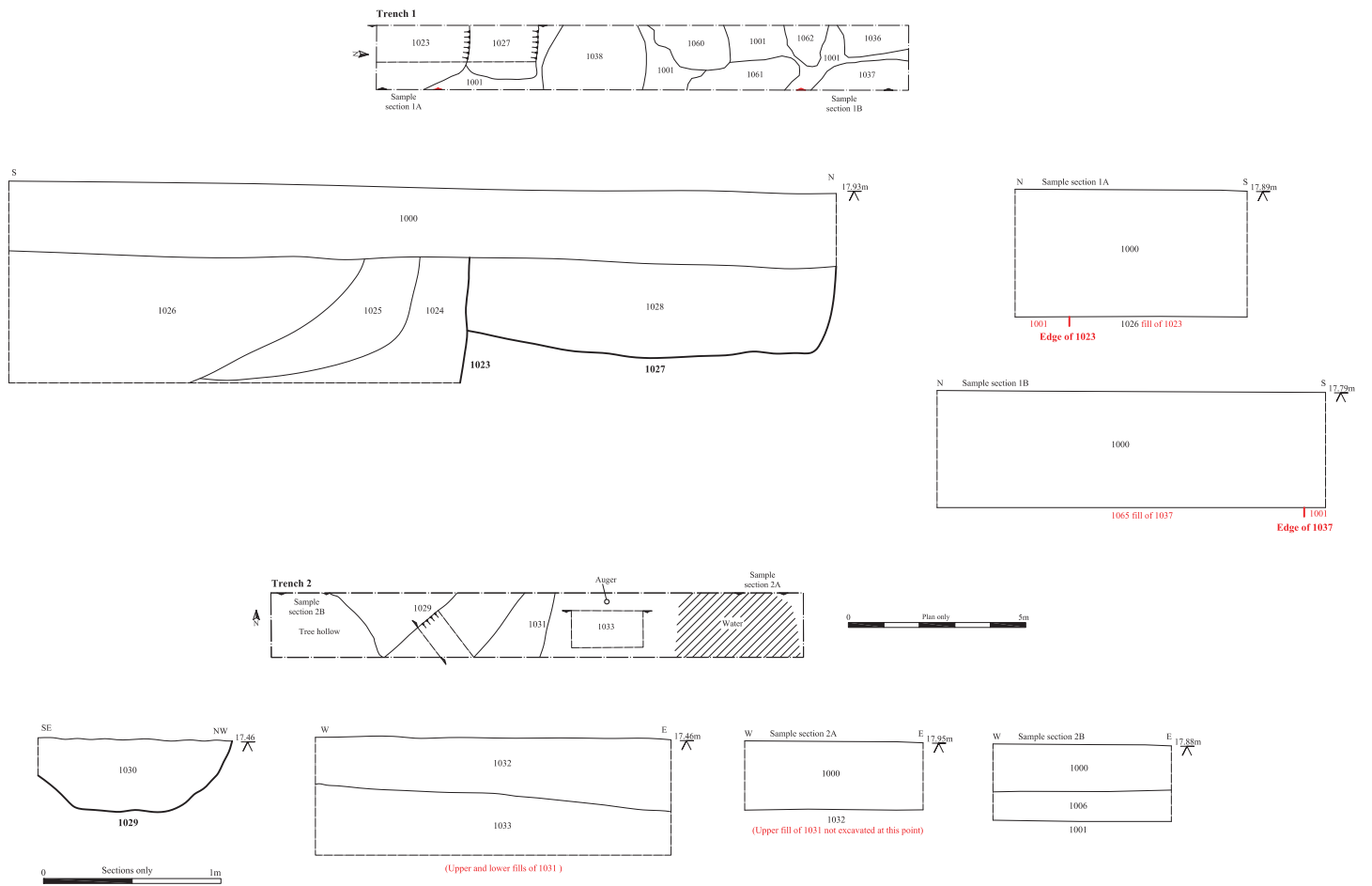


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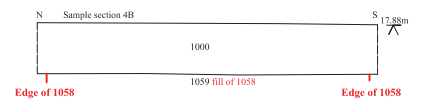
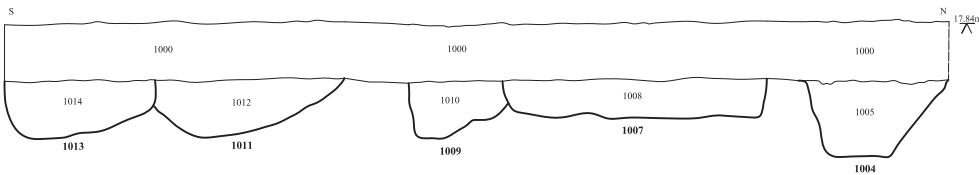
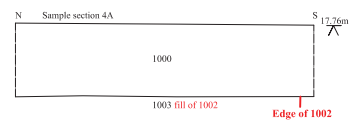
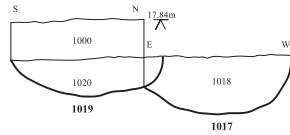
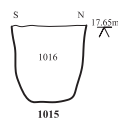
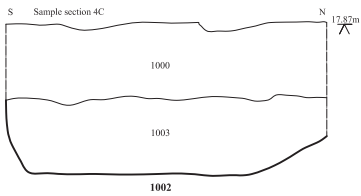
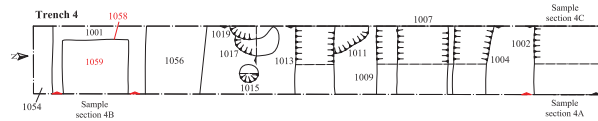
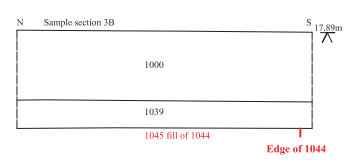
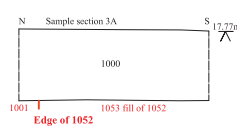
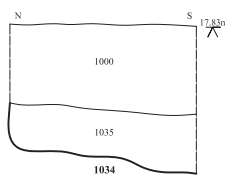
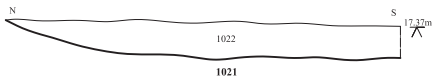
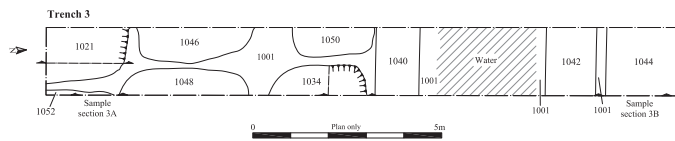
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:400 at A4

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Fig. 4 Plan and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
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Fig. 5 Plan and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
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