



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation on
Land Adjacent to 75 Coates Road, Eastrea
Whittlesey
Cambridgeshire

Event No ECB 2110



Tim Upson-Smith

February 2006

Report 06/21

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name		
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 75 Coates Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire in January 2006. Although the trench was located within an area of high archaeological potential with ditches showing up as cropmarks recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) no archaeological features were noted within the evaluation trench. The lack of any archaeological features within the evaluation area may indicate that the adjacent cropmarks are field boundaries, but associated settlement may still lie within the more extensive pattern of boundaries.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)		
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address (including postcode)	75 Coates Road Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	NGR 52971 29731	
Height OD	4.3m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec Development Control Archaeologist Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Owner	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	January 2006	
End date	January 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no. ECB 2110)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc) none
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological Evaluatiuon on Land Adjacent to 75 Coates Rd, Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire	
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)	Tim Upson-Smith	
Page numbers	9	
Date	February 2006	

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QUALITY CONTROL

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Approved by	A Chapman		

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Frontispiece: Evaluation trench looking south

Plate 1: Evaluation trench looking east

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON
LAND ADJACENT TO 75 COATES ROAD, EASTREA,
WHITTLESEY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. F/YR05/0350/FUL

EVENT NO ECB 2110

NGR TL 2971 9731

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 75 Coates Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire in January 2006. Although the trench was located within an area of high archaeological potential with ditches showing up as cropmarks recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) no archaeological features were noted within the evaluation trench. The lack of any archaeological features within the evaluation area may indicate that the adjacent cropmarks are field boundaries, but associated settlement may still lie within the more extensive pattern of boundaries.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 75 Coates Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2971 9731). Planning consent has been granted for residential development (Planning Application No. F/YR02/0350/FUL) which comprises the construction of a single dwelling, garage and access on land to the rear of the present road.

The small development area is located immediately north of the A605 on the eastern edge of the former island of Eastrea, close to the north-eastern side of the present village. The underlying geology comprises gravels and sands overlying Oxford clay.

The evaluation was designed to meet the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (Gdaniec 2005). The evaluation of the area of land has been allocated the event number ECB2110 by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The archive generated through the evaluation of the site will be deposited in the Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development is sited within a rich area of archaeological interest. Extensive cropmarks are known to envelop the area and include a concentration of important Late Neolithic/Bronze Age to Saxon settlement sites and cemeteries. It is located c85m south of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CB109; MB3544) (Fig 2), where late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditches defining burial mounds or other ritual monuments have been recovered in addition to a series of sunken Saxon buildings. The application site also lies to the south of the Fen Causeway, a major Roman road crossing the fen from Peterborough to Norfolk (MCB 15033).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence of archaeological remains and to ensure their preservation through record.

The specific aims of the project were to:

- Determine the extent and character of any archaeological remains on site
- Ensure the preservation of the remains by record through a programme of archaeological excavation and recording
- Obtain a chronological sequence for the human activity on the site and to place it within its regional context(s).
- To assess the environmental potential of the site through an examination of suitable deposits.

The national framework for research is set out by English Heritage (1997). An assessment of the resource for the Eastern Counties has been carried out (Glazebrook 1997). The broad research frameworks for the eastern counties of England are set out in Brown and Glazebrook (2000).

4 METHODOLOGY

A single L-shaped trench was excavated across the footprint of the new building extending south into the access road. Soil removal was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The trench was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, and levels were related to Ordnance Survey Datum.

The trench was recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained, with additional digital photographs.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

A single L shaped trench measuring 22m east to west and 8m north to south and 2m wide by 0.7m deep, was excavated over the footprint of the proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to 75 Coates Road Eastrea (Fig 3, Plate 1 and frontispiece).

The natural horizon, comprising an orange brown sandy gravel (003) was exposed at a depth of 0.7m below the modern ground surface. The natural was overlain by a 0.37m deep layer of brown orange clay loam subsoil (002), which in turn was overlain by a 0.33m deep layer dark brown sandy loam topsoil (001). No archaeological features were noted within the area of the evaluation trench.

6 CONCLUSION

Although the trench was located within an area of high archaeological potential with ditches showing up as cropmarks recorded by the SMR no archaeological features were noted within the evaluation trench. The closest cropmarks to the evaluation trench have been plotted onto Fig 3 and this clearly shows that the northern linear cropmark if projected would fall outside the evaluation trench area. The lack of any archaeological features within the evaluation area may indicate that the extensive pattern of linear ditches are field boundaries and at least in the excavated area there was no associated settlement activity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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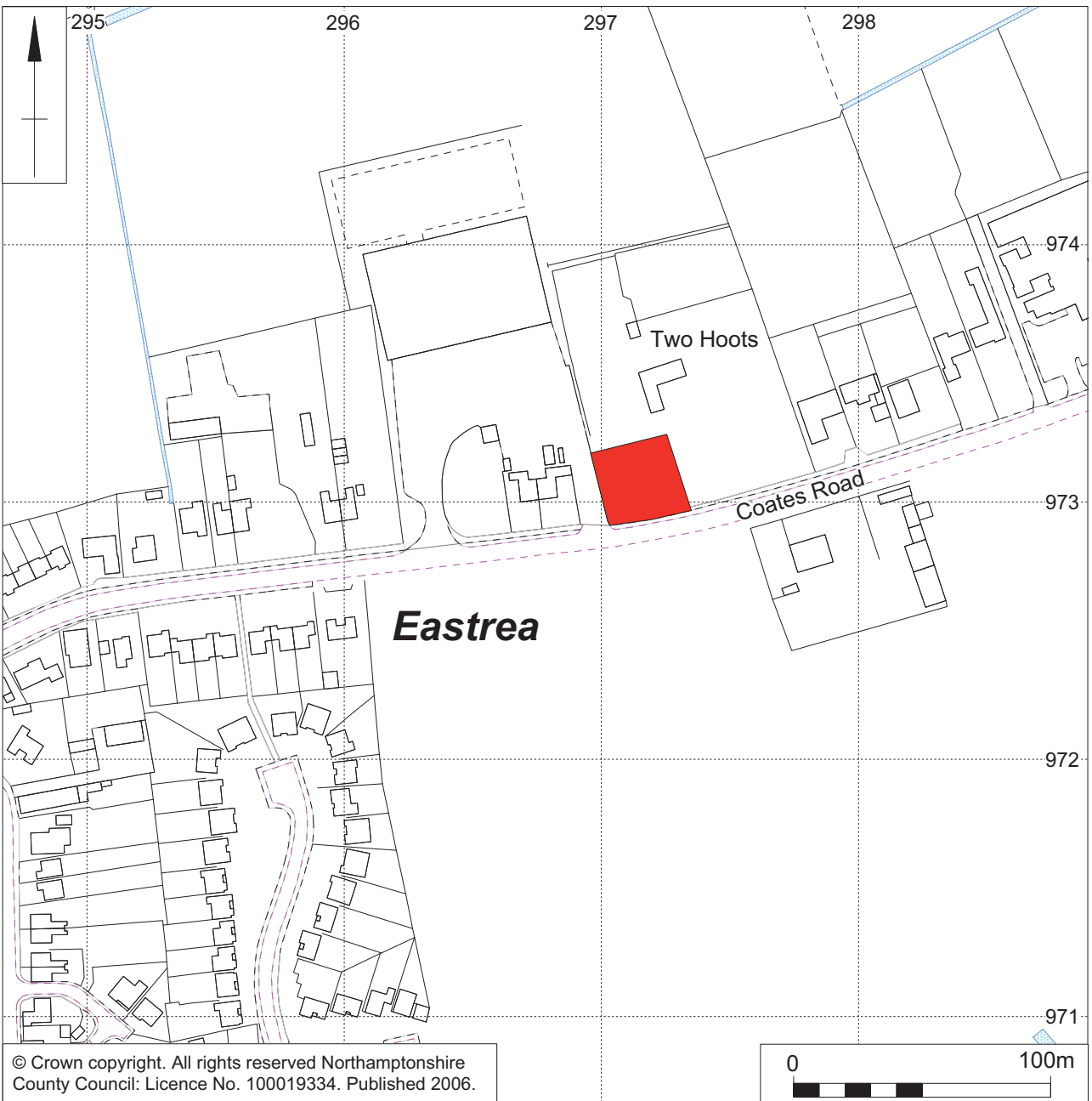
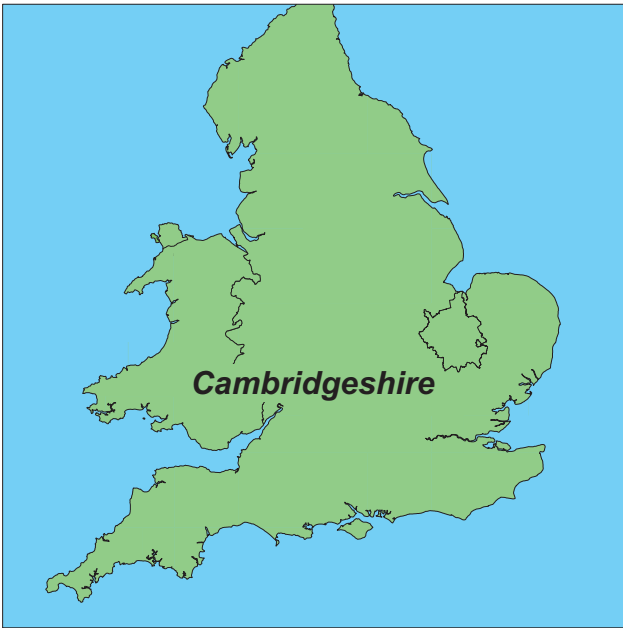


Fig 1 Site Location - Proposed New House, Eastrea

Scale 1:2500

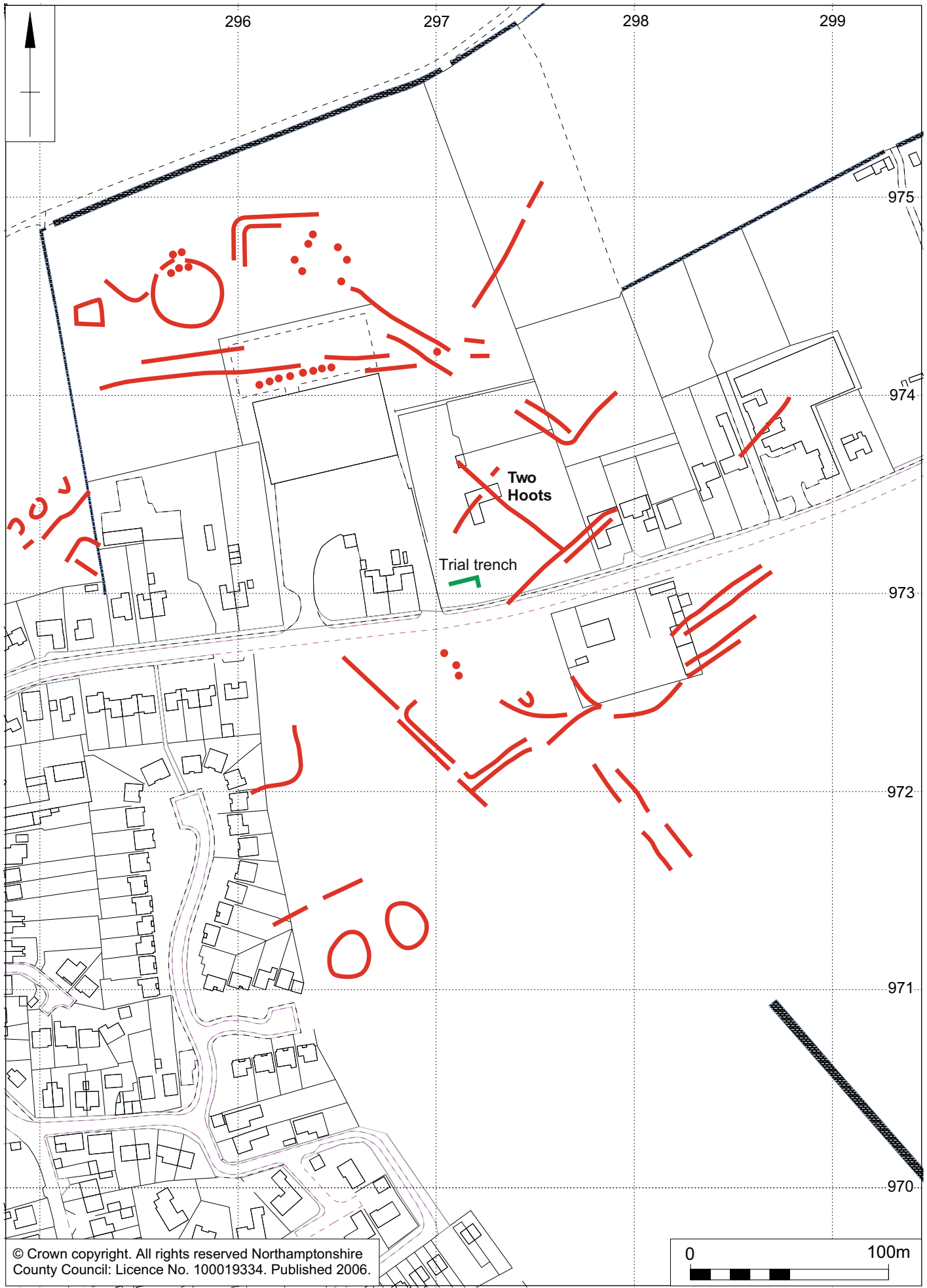


Fig 2 SMR data, Eastrea

Scale 1:2500



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Fig 3 Trench Location



Plate 1