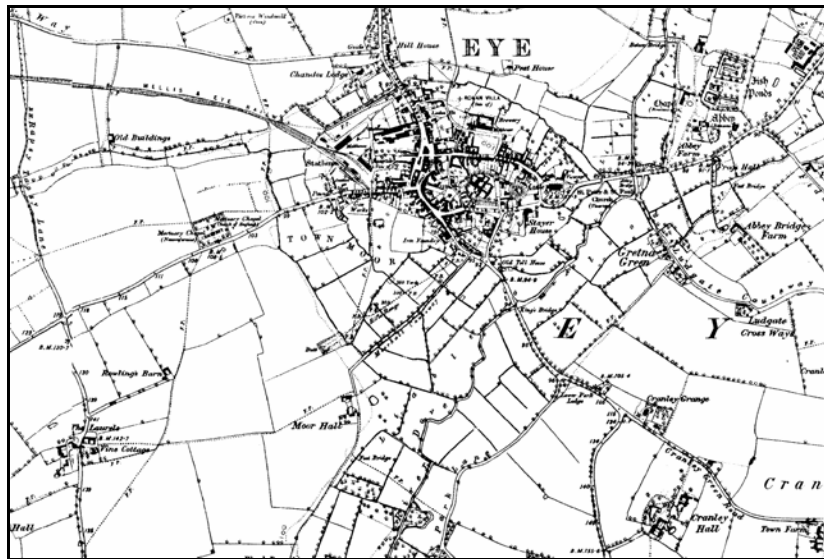




Northamptonshire Archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at
Tomlinson's Depot
Wellington Road, Eye
Suffolk
January 2006**



Mark Spalding

January 2006

Report 06/028

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

t. 01604 700493/4

f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk



STAFF

Project Manager Adam Yates BA AIFA
Text Mark Spalding BSc
Fieldwork Mark Spalding
Illustrations Andrew Smith BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Ant Maull		
Approved by	Bill Boismier		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Wellington Road, Eye, Suffolk	
Short description (250 words maximum)	In January 2006, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the excavation of 13 geotechnical test pits by Knight Environmental at Tomlinson's Depot, Wellington Road, Eye, Suffolk. The work was undertaken on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants acting for Bennett Homes, who have been granted planning consent to develop the site for residential purposes. No archaeological features were observed, although evidence for modern build-up and the truncation of natural deposits was seen.	
Project type (e.g. DBA, evaluation etc)	Site investigation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current Land use	Disused workshops and storerooms	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Suffolk	
Site address (including postcode)	Tomlinson's Yard, Wellington Road, Eye, Suffolk	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	614680 273970	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator		
Director/Supervisor	Mark Spalding	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA) Simon Mortimer (JSAC)	
Sponsor or funding body	Bennett Homes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	26/01/2006	
End date	27/01/2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT..... 1

1 INTRODUCTION..... 1

2 BACKGROUND..... 1

3 METHODOLOGY..... 2

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS 2

5 FINDS 3

6 DISCUSSION 4

BIBLIOGRAPHY 4

Tables

Table 1: Summary of test pit stratigraphy 3

Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Test pit locations

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT TOMLINSONS DEPOT,
WELLINGTON ROAD, EYE, SUFFOLK
JANUARY 2006

Abstract

In January 2006, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a watching brief on the excavation of 13 geotechnical test pits by Knight Environmental at Tomlinson's Depot, Wellington Road, Eye, Suffolk. The work was undertaken on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants acting for Bennett Homes, who have been granted planning consent to develop the site for residential purposes. No archaeological features were observed, although evidence for modern build-up and the truncation of natural deposits was seen.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on 26th and 27th January 2006, during the excavation of 13 geotechnical test pits by Knight Environmental at Tomlinson's depot, Wellington road, Eye, Suffolk (NGR TM 1468 7397). The work was undertaken on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants acting for Bennett Homes, who been granted planning consent to develop the site for residential purposes (Planning Application No OL/177/03).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

Eye is situated just south of the town of Diss, which is just off the main A140 road to Norwich, the nearby river Dove flows through Eye. The site is located on the northern side of Eye and on the edge of the flood plain (Fig 1).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in an area of archaeological importance. A possible Roman villa (EYE 024), the remains of which were reported in 1857, lies 100m to the south-east. The medieval castle (EYE 016) lies 150m to the north-east. Recently the site has been used as brewery and malt house.

3 METHODOLOGY

The location of the 13 geotechnical test pits was determined by Knight Environmental (Fig 2), who also kindly supplied the relevant information for use in this report. Two test pits were abandoned during excavation due to live services (test pits 3 and 11).

The test pits were excavated using a JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.7m wide toothed bucket, to a depth of approximately 3m. All test pits were backfilled as soon as they had been recorded.

Details of each test pit were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets and a photographic record was made of the work, using both 35mm colour transparency and black and white negative films.

Spoil from deposits of potential archaeological interest was spread out by machine in order to maximise finds recovery.

All works were carried out accordance with the IFA *Code of Conduct* (1995, revised 2000) and the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994, revised 2001). All procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS

No archaeological remains were encountered and few archaeological artefacts were recovered from the resulting spoil. The following deposits were encountered:

Modern surfaces: Concrete, tarmac (test pits 1-2 and 4-13) or topsoil (test pit 3).

Aggregates: Make up layer for concrete surface of cemented aggregates (test pits 4-6, 8-11 and 13).

Previous surfaces / structures: Wall foundations of 1-2 courses of red bricks with a cement bond (test pits 2, 3 and 7), tarmac or asphalt surfaces (test pits 5 and 9), probably associated yard activity at Tomlinson's depot. Some old services (test Pit 5).

Buried topsoil: Mid grey to light black friable loam, contained modern detritus probably resulting from levelling (test pits 1-3, 9-10 and 13).

Subsoil: Light grey silty loam, with frequent gravels and stones, some modern disturbance and hydro carbon presence (test pit 10).

Brown Earth: Dry and compacted soil with frequent gravels no artefacts (test pits 1-2 and 4-9).

Natural: Firm orange / yellow coarse sands and gravels at higher depths and a finer paler white sands at an increased depth, often contaminated with hydro carbons (strong smell).

Table 1: Summary of test pit stratigraphy

Test Pit / Depths (m)	Modern surface	Aggregates	Previous structures / surface	Buried topsoil	Buried Subsoil	Brown earth	Natural
1	0-0.1			0.1-0.5		0.5-1.5m	1.5+
2	0-0.08		0.08-0.3	0.3-0.65		0.65-1.7	1.7+
3	0-0.25 (topsoil)		0.25-0.4	0.4-0.75			
4	0-0.1	0.1-0.15				0.15-1.1	1.1+
5	0-0.05	0.05-0.25	0.25-0.75			0.75-1.2	1.2+
6	0-0.12	0.12-0.25				0.25-0.9	0.9+
7	0-0.2		0.2-0.35			0.25-0.9	0.9+
8	0-0.22	0.22-1.1				1.1-1.7	1.7+
9	0-0.15	0.15-0.4	0.4-0.55	0.55-0.9		0.9-1.5	1.5+
10	0-0.35	0.35-0.45		0.45-0.8	0.8-1.2		1.2+
11	0-0.1	0.1-0.31					
12	0-0.05						0.05+
13	0-0.1	0.1-0.3		0.3-0.9			0.9+

5 FINDS

by Pat Chapman

An assemblage was recovered comprising one flint flake and fourteen items, date to between the 18th and 20th centuries. The thirteen items from test pit 8 were found between 0.70m and 1.40m below the ground surface. The two pottery sherds from test pit 9 were in the brown earth deposit 0.75m to 1.50m below the surface.

Table 2: Finds catalogue

Location	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
Test pit 8	1		Secondary cortical flint flake, prehistoric
Test pit 8	7	97	18th to 20th century pottery sherds
Test pit 8	1		Clay pipe stem
Test pit 8	1	58	Brick fragment
Test pit 8	2	66	Bottle glass fragments, 1 green, 1 brown
Test pit 8	1		Iron spike 140mm long, rubber washer, 20th century
Test pit 9	2	27	19th century pottery sherds

6 DISCUSSION

No deposits or features of archaeological interest were present. Most of the site appears to have been built up in modern times, with up to 0.75m of material overlying recent topsoil and subsoil.

In the northern part of the site a deep brown earth deposit up to 1.05m in depth was present overlying the natural gravels, this was absent in the southern part of the site. The depth of this soil would argue against it being derived from normal processes and may imply deliberate importation of material to level the site. Artefactual evidence would indicate that this took place in the late post-medieval period. The lack of any remnant topsoil or subsoil beneath this deposit may indicate that any such levelling was preceded by the removal of these deposits, probably truncating any archaeological features.

The presence of natural gravels immediately below the modern surface in test pit 12 implies that this area has been heavily truncated.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 1994 *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, revised 2001, Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA 1995 *Code of Conduct*, revised 2000, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Northamptonshire Archaeology

14th February 2006

A service of Northamptonshire County Council

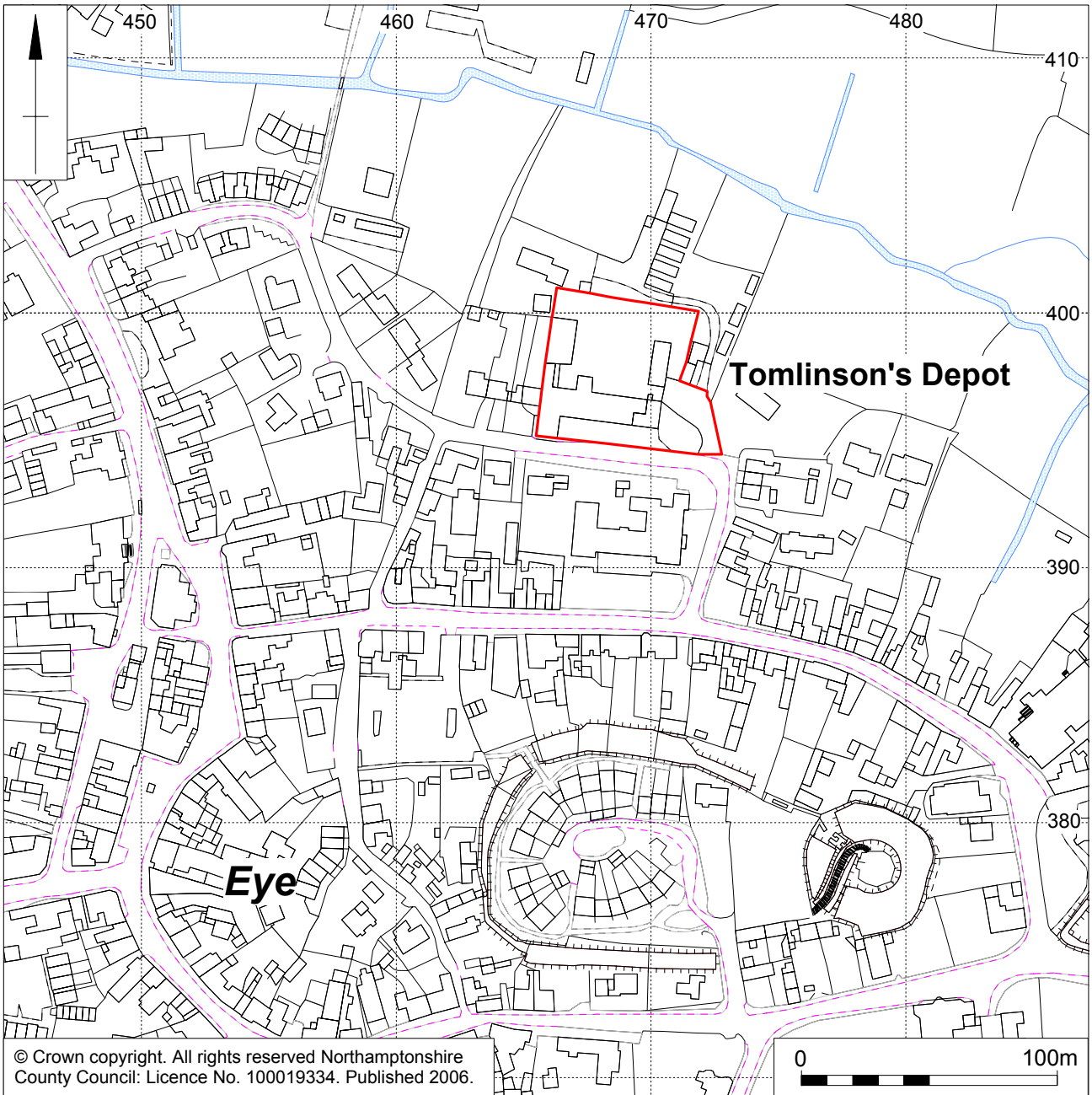
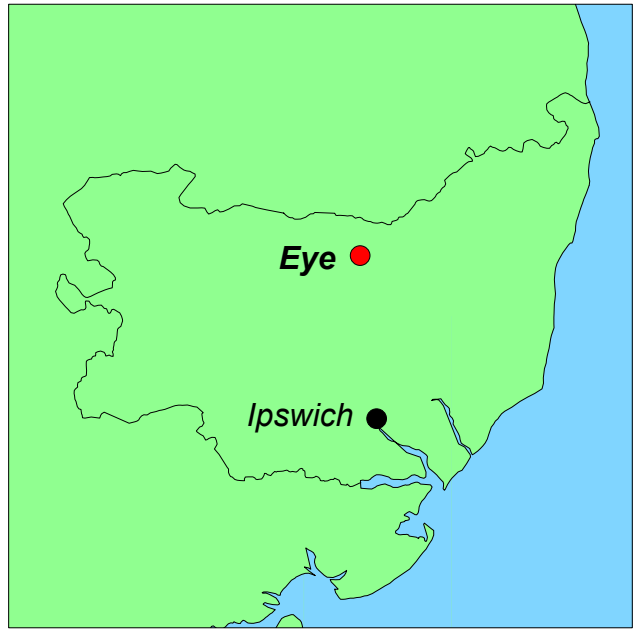
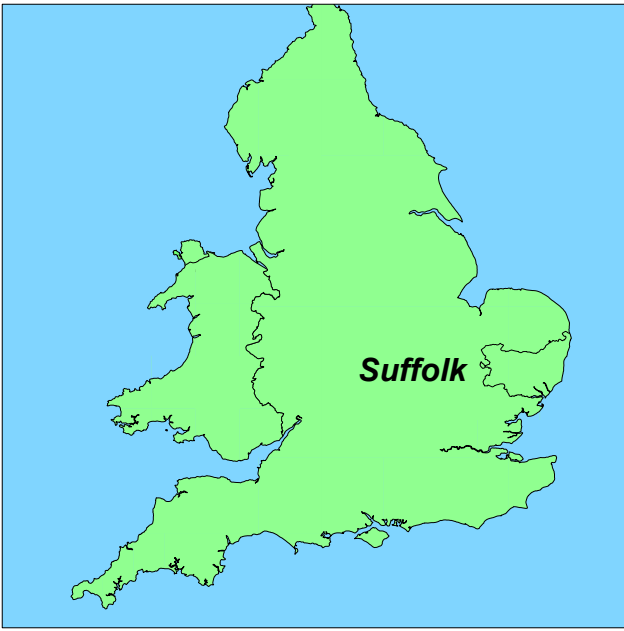
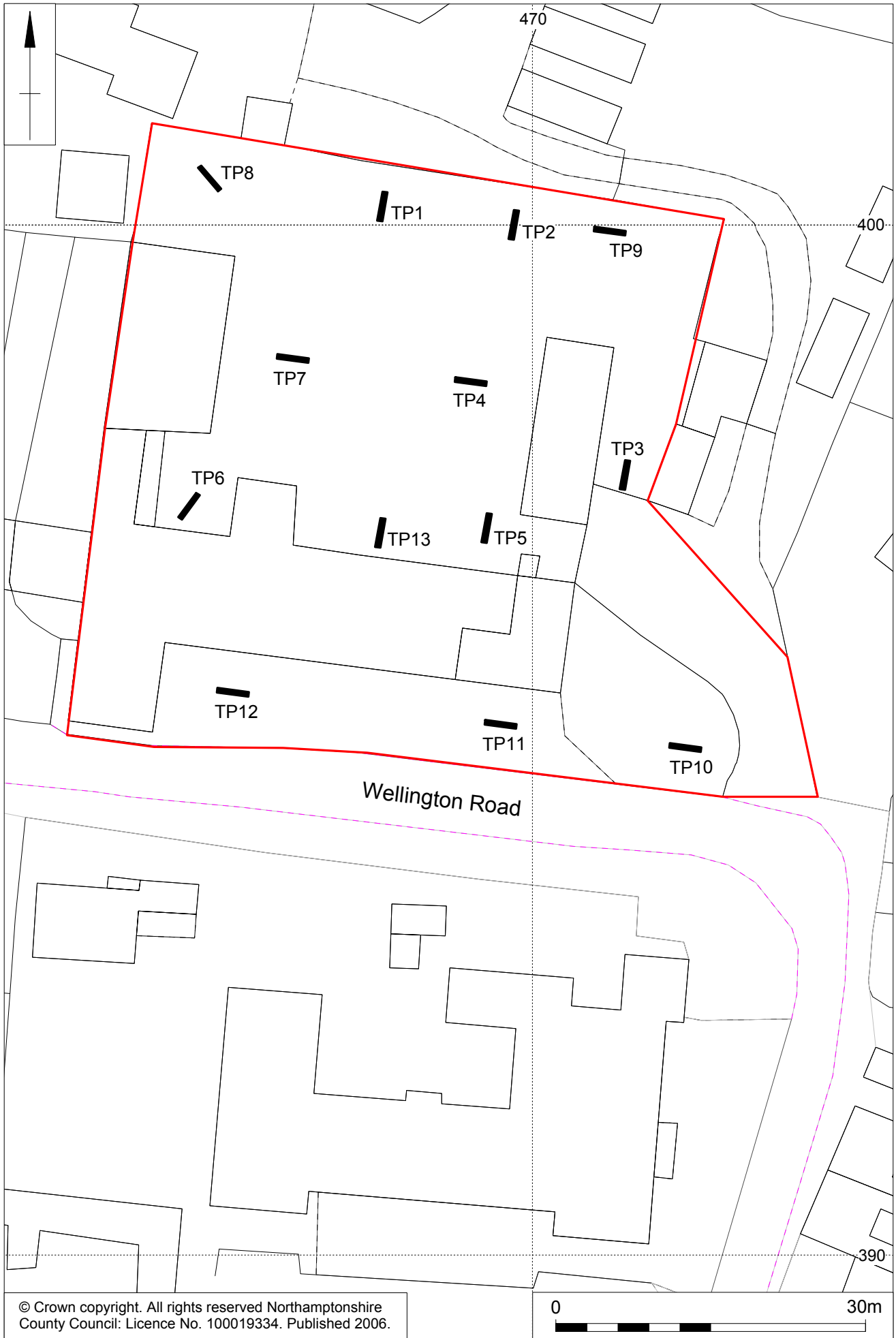


Fig 1 Wellington Road, Eye - Site Location

Scale 1:2500



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019334. Published 2006.

0 30m

Fig 2 Wellington Road, Eye - Test Pit Locations

Scale 1:500