
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND OFF THORNEY ROAD,
EYE,
PETERBOROUGH
PHASE 5
(EYTR14)**

Work undertaken for
Larkfleet Homes Ltd
and
HSBC, 120 Edmund Street, 4th Floor,
Birmingham, West Midlands, B3 2QZ

March 2015

Report Compiled by
Neil Parker MA

National Grid Reference: TF 23310 02932
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-205547
Planning application No: 07/01978/FUL; 05/00008/FUL;
06/00455/FUL

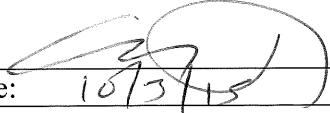
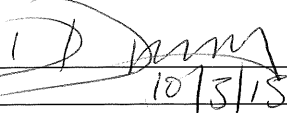
APS Report No. **25/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
Thorney Road
Eye
Peterborough
EYTR14

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Photographic Reproduction	Neil Parker
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Checked by Senior Project Manager	Approved by Team Leader
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Date: 10/3/15	Date: 10/3/15

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of trial trenching was undertaken prior to development on land off Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough due to the archaeological potential of the site. Prehistoric remains have been identified nearby previously, while post-medieval remains had been recorded immediately to the northwest of the site.

The evaluation trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies that turned out to be variations in the local geology. No archaeological features were present on the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning applications (07/01978/FUL; 05/00008/FUL; 06/00455/FUL) for housing development have been submitted to Peterborough City Council. Recommendations have been made by the planning authority that no development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme submitted to and approved by the planning authority has been

implemented. Previous evaluation had been carried out in the wider development area, to the north and west of the present site. The evaluation of the phase 5 area commenced with a geophysical survey (Archaeological Project Services 2013) followed by trial trenching (subject of this report).

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Larkfleet Homes Ltd and HSBC, 120 Edmund Street, 4th Floor, Birmingham, West Midlands, B3 2QZ, to undertake this evaluation which was carried out between 3rd and 4th March 2015, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the local planning archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Eye is located 5km northeast of the centre of Peterborough (Figure 1). The investigation site is in the east of the village, on the south side of Thorney Road at National Grid Reference TF 23310 02932 (Figure 2).

The site lies at about 6m OD with a slight rise at the northern end of the site. The remainder of the site slopes gently to the southeast. Soils at the site are Shabington Association argillic gleys developed on river terrace and Head deposits that are usually adjacent to river floodplains (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 309).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Numerous prehistoric remains and artefacts have been found previously in close proximity to the current site. To the northwest of the site, earlier investigations revealed prehistoric pits, ditches, postholes and a ring ditch of a probable house. Undated ditches have also been identified southwest of the proposed development.

Also to the southwest of the proposed development, a number of mesolithic artefacts have been found, including a scraper and macehead. A bronze spearhead and Palaeolithic artefacts have also been recovered nearby.

Additionally, Saxon funerary remains have been discovered to the north of the previous phases of development. Prior investigations immediately to the northwest revealed medieval furrows and undated ditches and yielded artefacts predominantly of post-medieval date (Archaeological Project Services 2008; 2009).

Geophysical survey of the Phase 5 site had identified several anomalies including linear alignments, thought to indicate the presence of ridge and furrow field systems and a boundary, together with possible pit type anomalies.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives of the work were to establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site, determine its likely extent and the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site; to determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site, their spatial arrangement and the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area and to establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Eight trenches (Fig. 3), 30m long and each 1.8m wide, were excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology. Removal of topsoil was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket working under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was recorded using survey-grade GPS.

5. RESULTS (Figure 4, Plates 1 & 2)

The natural geology across the site consisted of variable, mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel (101-801). The main variation was in Trench 4 where the gravel content was predominant.

Covering the natural site-wide was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil. It contained frequent small rounded and angular stones and had a thickness that varied between 0.2 and 0.3m (102-802).

No archaeological features or other deposits were exposed.

6. DISCUSSION

Eight trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies. At the northern edge of the site, the previous geophysical survey suggested the presence of a ridge and furrow field system; however, this was not evident below the level of the topsoil.

Trenches 2 and 3 were targeted on an east west aligned linear anomaly. This was exposed as a shallow land drain. Other anomalies were undetectable as archaeological features and may represent slight changes in the natural geology.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological investigation was undertaken on land off Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough due to the archaeological potential of the site. Post-medieval remains had been recorded immediately to the northwest of the site, with prehistoric remains found a little further away.

The evaluation revealed topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge Larkfleet Homes Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Staff: Neil Parker
 Photographic reproduction: Neil Parker

CAD Illustration: Neil Parker
 Post-excavation Analyst: Parker

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2008 *Archaeological Investigations on land at Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough (EYTR07)*, unpublished APS report no. **21/08**

Archaeological Project Services, 2009 *Archaeological Investigations on land at Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough (EYTR09)*, unpublished APS report no. **52/09**

Archaeological Project Services, 2013 *Land off Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough (EYTR13) Geophysical Survey*, unpublished APS report no. **117/13**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

CifA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

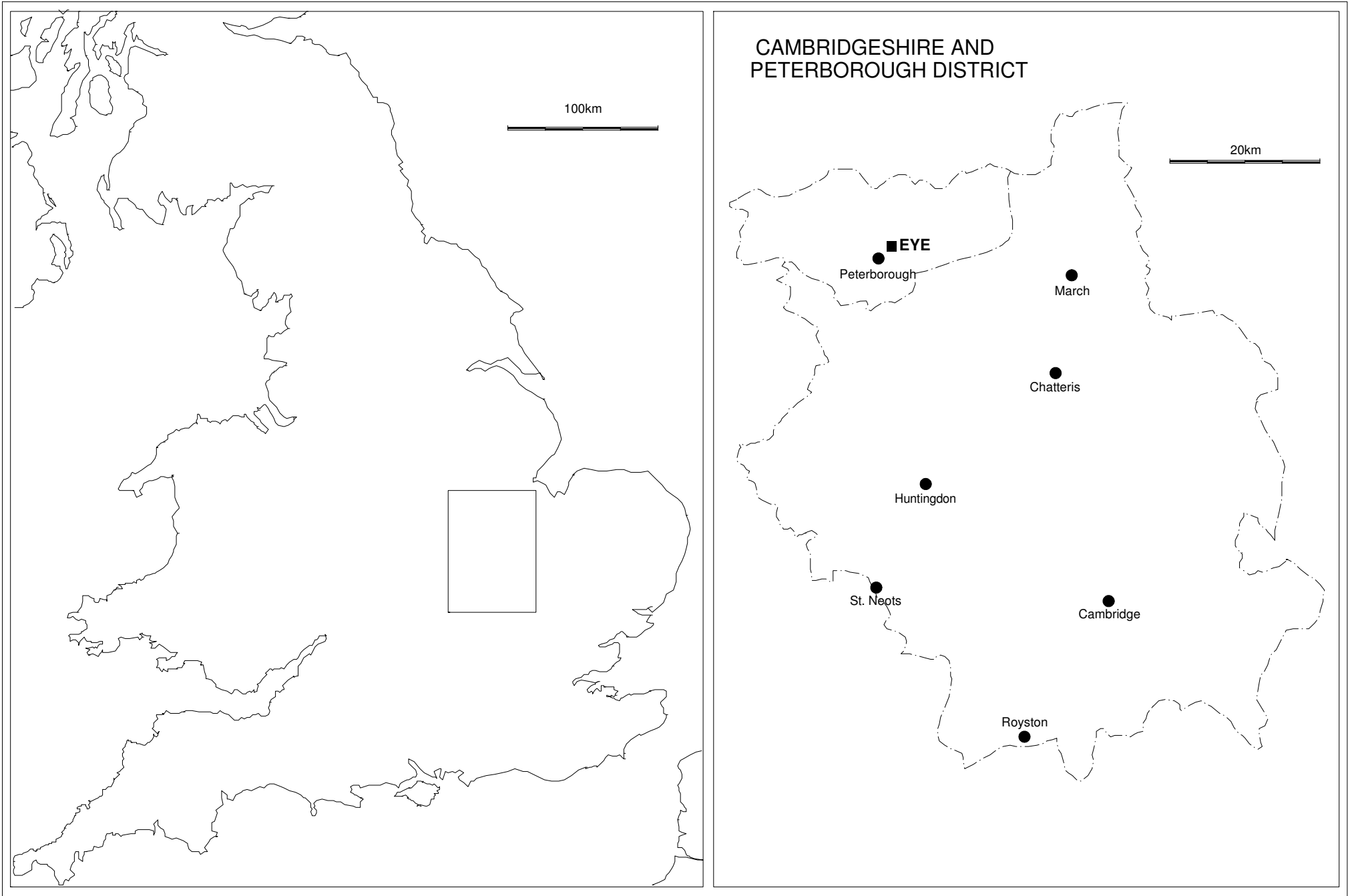
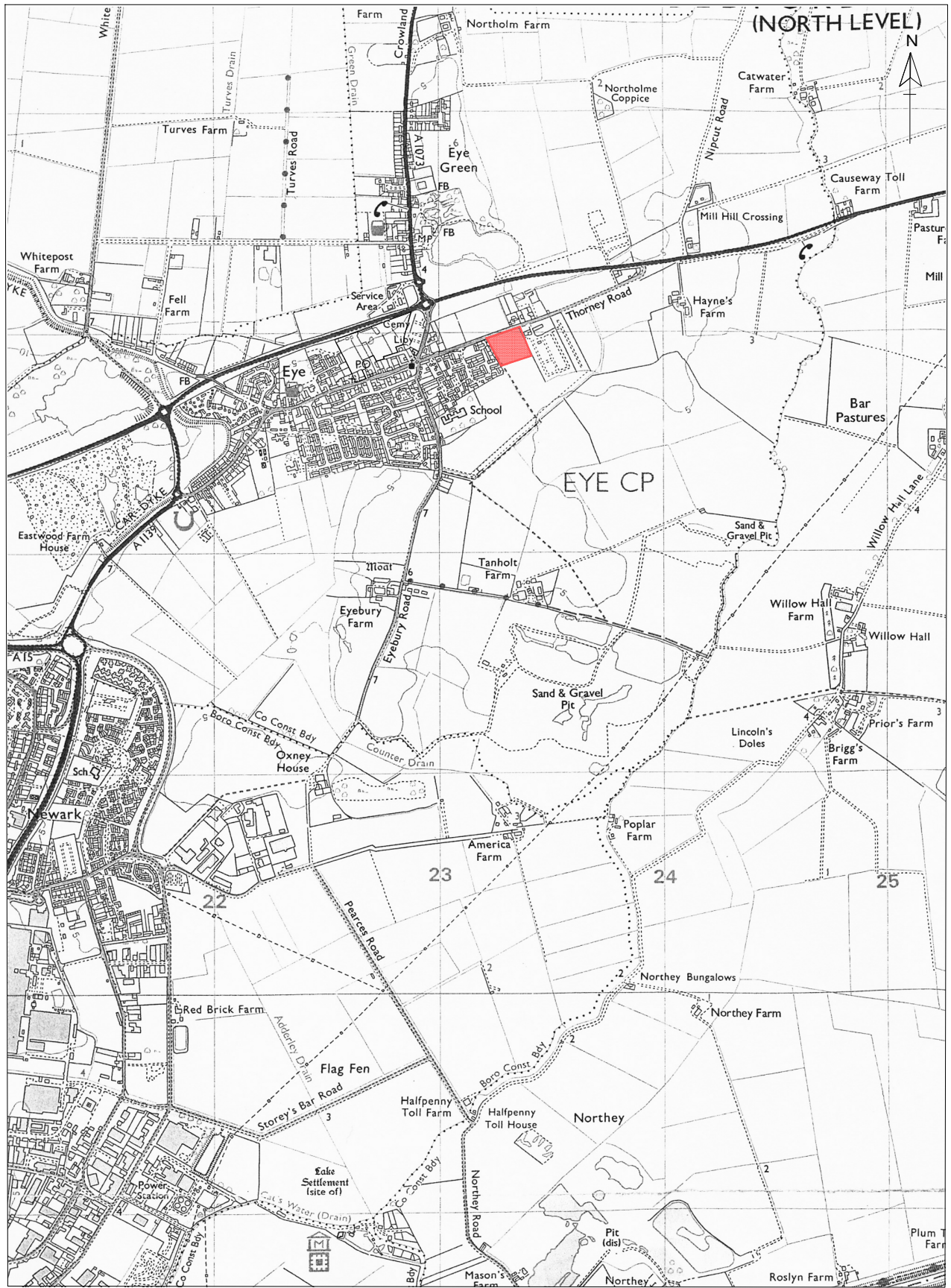


Figure 1 General Location Plan



 Site Location



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Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Eye, Thorney Road EYTR14		
Scale 1:25000	Drawn by: NMJ	Report No: 25/15

Figure 2 Site Location Map

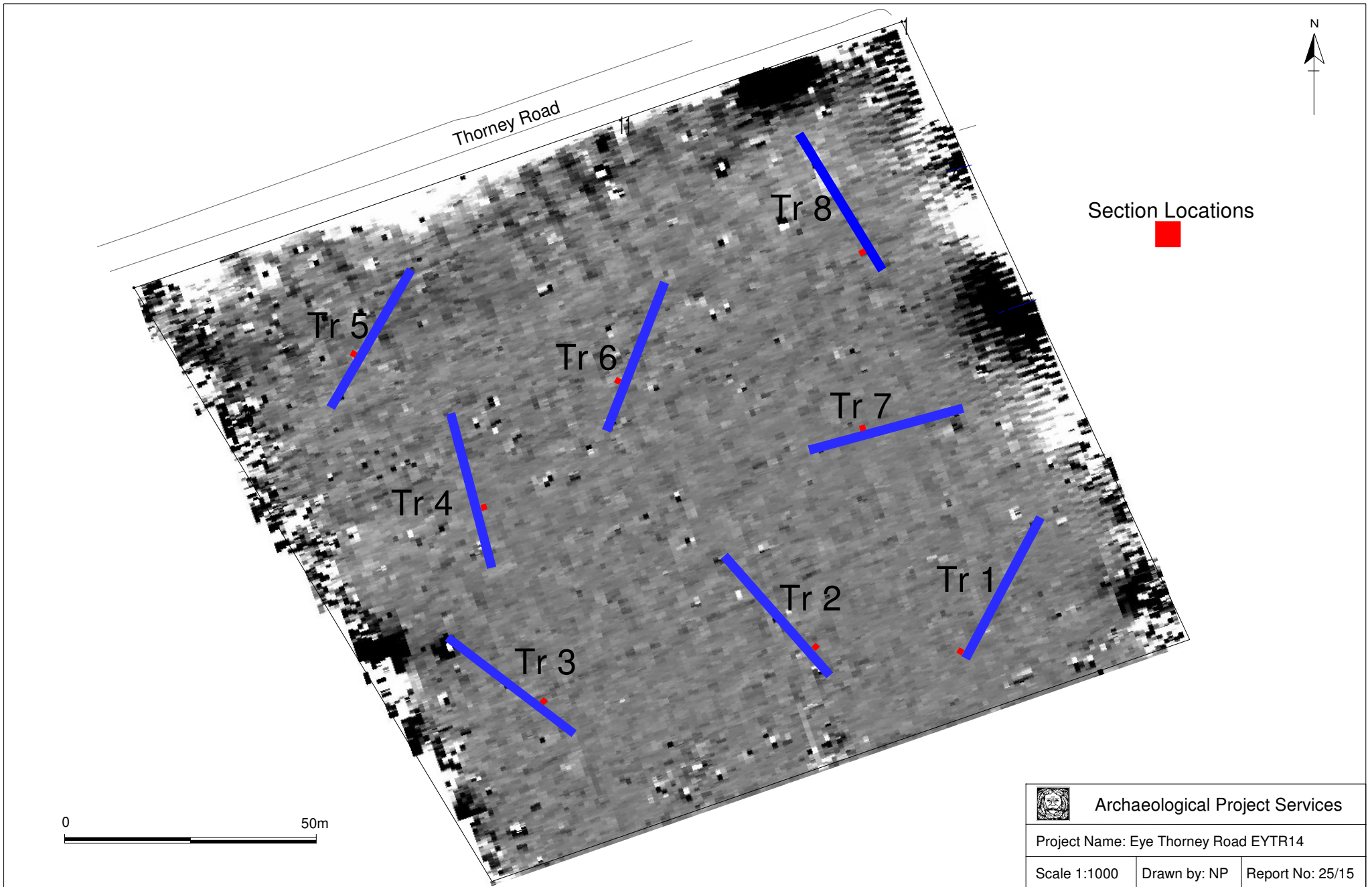

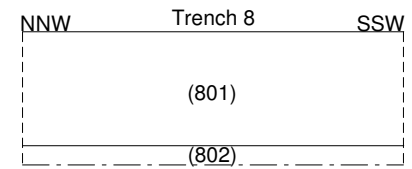
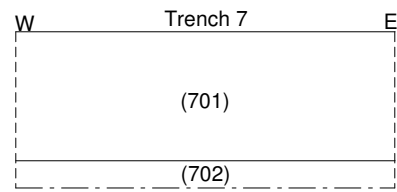
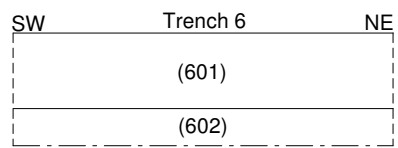
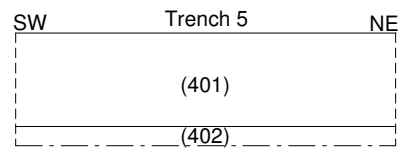
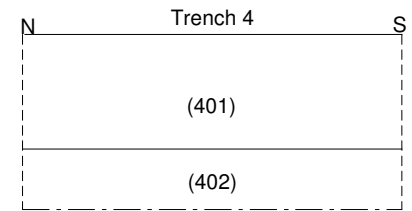
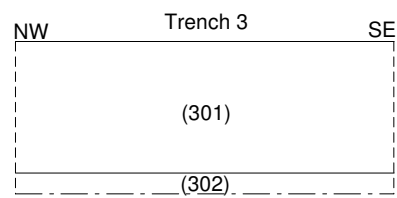
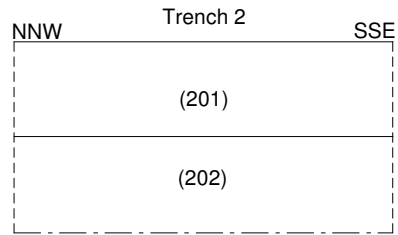
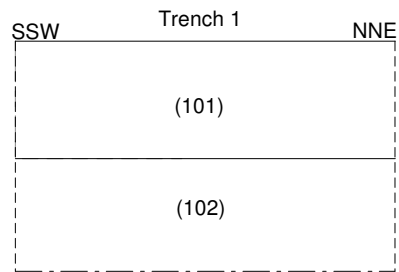


Figure 3 Trench location plan over geophysical plot

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Eye Thorney Road EYTR14		
Scale 1:1000	Drawn by: NP	Report No: 25/15




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Eye Thorney Road EYTR14		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: NP	Report No: 25/15

Figure 4 Representative sections

The Plates



Plate 1. General view of the Site prior to excavation. The Site was dry apart from the northwest corner by the entrance at the front of the picture. Looking east



Plate 2. Trench 6, showing the general conditions of the natural, present in all the trenches. Looking north



Plate 3. Representative section of Trench 2 showing the general depth of the topsoil over the natural. Looking northeast

Appendix 1
Context Descriptions

Context No	Description	Interpretation
101	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
102	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
201	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
202	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
301	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
302	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
401	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
402	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
501	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
502	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
601	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
602	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
701	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
702	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural
801	Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, rounded and angular stones. 0.2m – 03m thick	Topsoil
802	Variable mid brownish yellow silty sand and gravel	Natural

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Trench sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The project archive will be deposited at;

Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery
Priestgate
Peterborough
PE1 1LF

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum & Galleries Commission 1992).

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:
OASIS Record No:

EYTR14
archaeo11-205547

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-205547

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Thorney Road, Eye, Peterborough
Short description of the project	Eight trial trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies on the south side of Thorney Road. The evaluation only revealed natural deposits of sand and gravel directly underneath topsoil. The geophysical anomalies were not present as archaeological features but were probably due to localised variations in the natural.
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2015 End: 03-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EYTR14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH EYE Thorney Road, Eye
Postcode	PE6 7UE
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 23310 02932 52.6097828386 -0.17869815684 52 36 35 N 000 10 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services

Project brief originator Archaeological Project Services

Project design originator Gary Taylor

Project director/manager Gary Taylor

Project supervisor Neil Parker

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Parker, N.

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