

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:**

**GREATER PETERBOROUGH UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Planning Reference: 14/01151/FUL

NGR: TF 1987 0014

AAL Site Code: PUTC 14

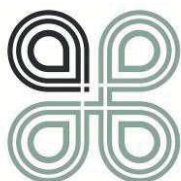
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Report prepared for Kier Construction Eastern

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number AAL 2015050

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Allenarchaeology



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## **Executive Summary**

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Keir Construction Eastern to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new educational building at Peterborough College, Park Crescent, Peterborough.
- The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits. The only layers recorded were a topsoil overlying a natural subsoil which corresponds to the depositional sequence revealed during previous archaeological trial trenching of the development area.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Keir Construction Eastern to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new educational building at Peterborough College, Park Crescent, Peterborough.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2014), and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers document, '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003).

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 Peterborough is situated approximately 47km northwest of Cambridge, within the county of Cambridgeshire, and is administered by Peterborough City Council. The development site is to the north of the historic core of the town, northeast of Park Crescent. The development area is to the southwest of the existing college buildings, centred on NGR TF 1987 0014.
- 2.2 The site lies on a mixed geology, with bedrock deposits of Kellaways Clay in the western half of the site and Kellaways Sand to the east. This is overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for a '*3 storey educational building, car-park and associated landscaping, fencing and paths*' (Planning Application Reference 14/01151/FUL). The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks by a suitably competent archaeologist, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

## **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 Information provided by the Peterborough City Archaeologist indicates a limited archaeological potential for the site. A recent geophysical survey of the development area suggested negligible archaeological potential, and this was confirmed by subsequent trial trenching (Ingham 2008). Nine trenches were investigated across the development area, revealing a sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. The only features encountered were a modern feature in Trench 2, close to the Park Crescent access, and a tree bole in the area of the car park.
- 4.2 Recent ground investigations across the site (GE 2014) indicated 0.4m to 0.88m of made ground, which directly overlay river terrace deposits, thus indicating some broad potential for archaeological features and deposits to be present below the made ground and cut into the river terrace layers.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 An experienced field archaeologist was present during all groundwork excavations that were likely to disturb/destroy archaeological remains. They acted strictly in accordance with and adhered to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects. The watching brief was undertaken on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- 5.2 The scheme of archaeological works involved monitoring of all ground disturbances, with all groundworks carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets.
- 5.4 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The earliest deposit record during the watching brief was a compact clayey silty sand with infrequent small sub-rounded pebbles 02. This has been interpreted as a natural geology and was recorded across the whole of the site (Plate 1). Overlying this deposit was a topsoil 01 comprising a compact silty sand with infrequent rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Brick flecks and charcoal were recorded within this deposit.



*Plate 1: General view of the site showing natural subsoil 002 after machine stripping of the topsoil 001, looking northwest*

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 7.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits. The only layers recorded were a topsoil overlying the natural geology, which corresponds to the depositional sequence revealed during previous archaeological trial trenching of the development area (Ingham 2008).

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the groundworks have had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Keir Construction Eastern for this commission and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

## **10.0 References**

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

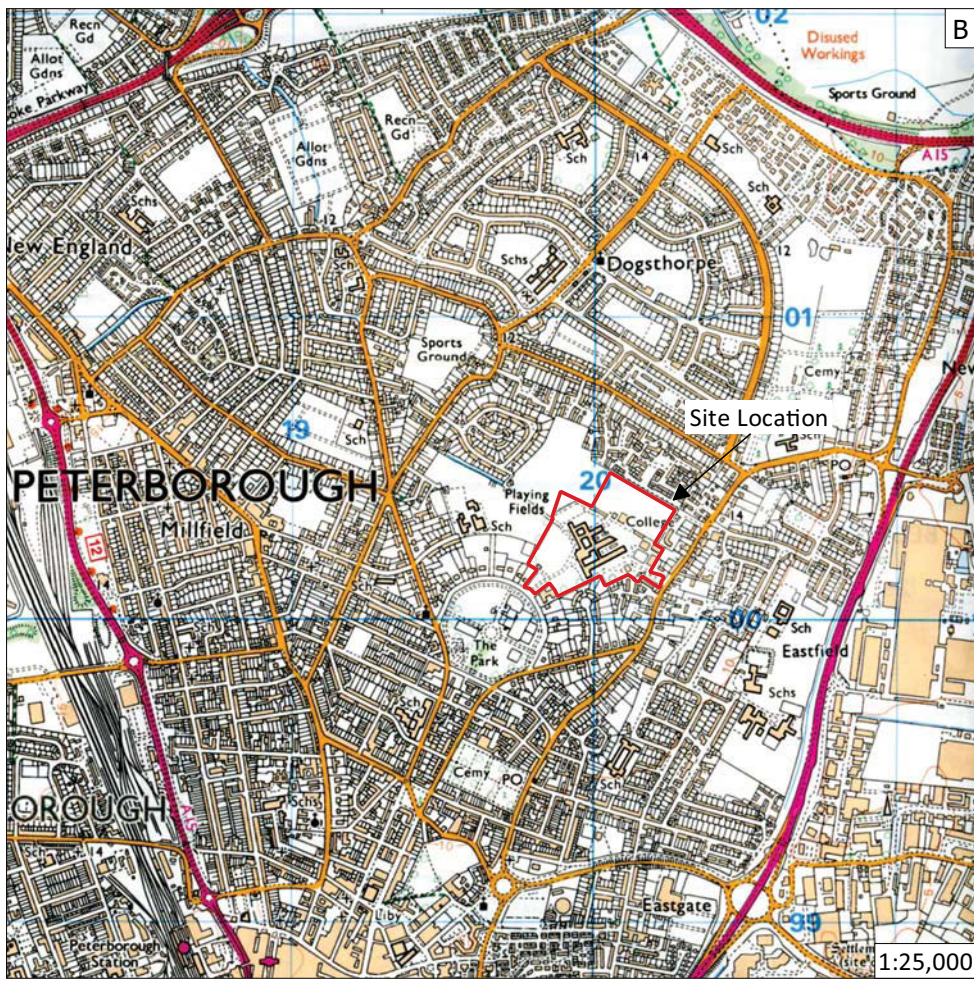
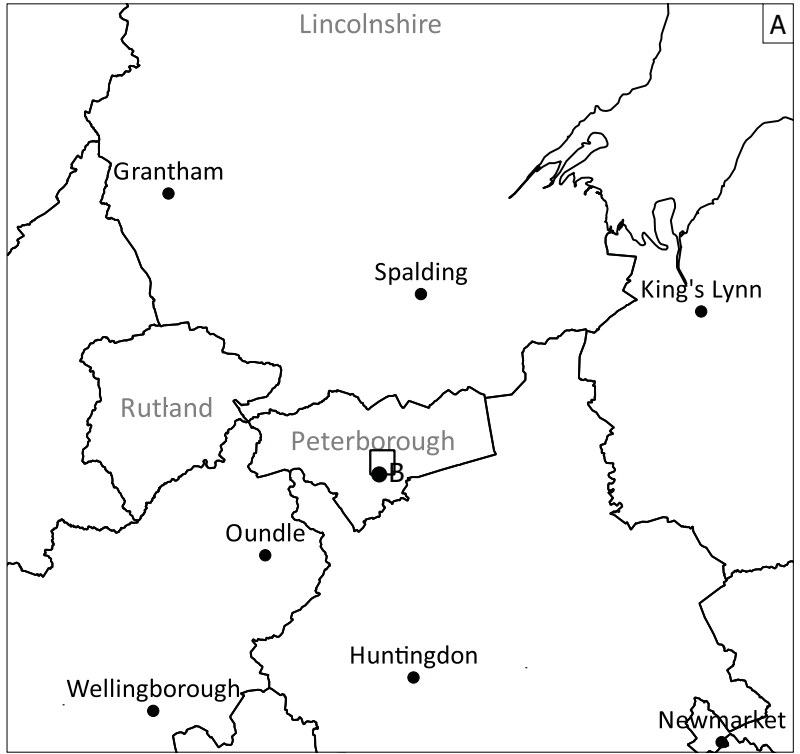
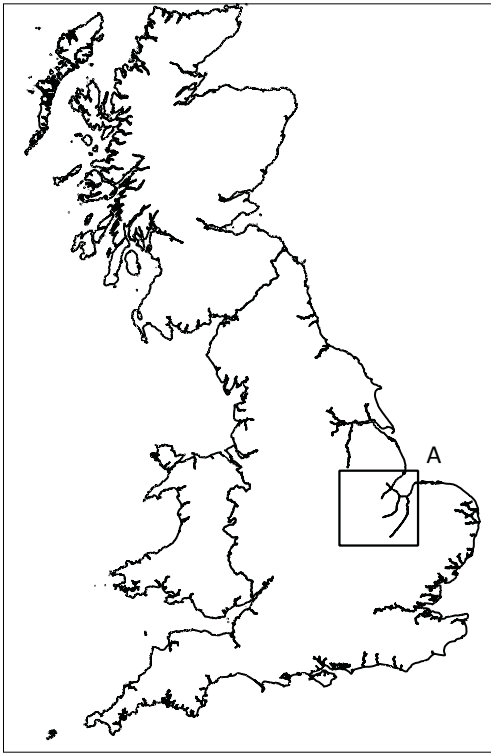
GE, 2014, *Site Investigation Report: Peterborough UTC off Park Crescent, Peterborough*, Ground Engineering Limited Report Reference C13275

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

Ingham, D, 2008, *Peterborough Regional College, Park Crescent, Peterborough. Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Albion Archaeology Document 2008/75

### Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Firmly compacted, mid/dark brown silty sand with infrequent rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, brick flecks and charcoal, 0.25m thick. Seals 02	Topsoil
02	Layer	Firmly compacted light yellow/orange brown slightly clayey silty sand with infrequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Sealed by 01	Natural



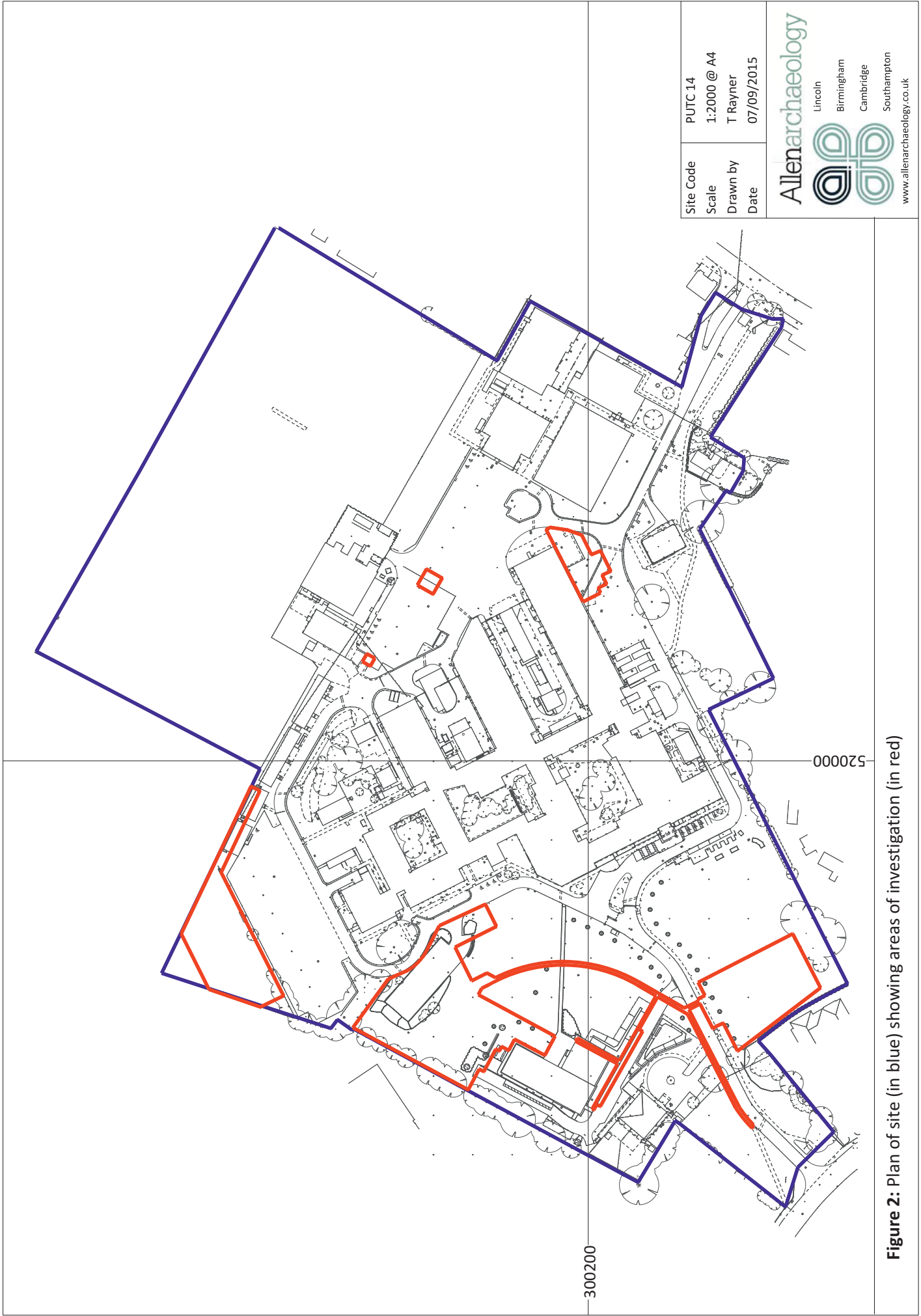
**Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	PUTC 14
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	16/03/15

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Site Code	PUTC 14
Scale	1:2000 @ A4
Drawn by	T Rayner
Date	07/09/2015

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**Figure 2:** Plan of site (in blue) showing areas of investigation (in red)



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