rchaeological **Evaluation Repor**

Land to the East of Nursery Lane, South Wootton Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



June 2016

Client: CgMs Consulting Ltd

OA East Report No: 1945 OASIS No: oxfordar3-251496

NGR: TF 6410 2361



Land to the East of Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

By Ashley Pooley

With contributions by Rachel Fosberry ACIfA

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Report Date: June 2016

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Report Number: 1945

Site Name: Land to the East of Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk

HER Event No: ENF140720

Date of Works: June 2016

Client Name: CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Hopkins & Moore Development Ltd

Client Ref: 19292

Planning Ref: pre-application

Grid Ref: TF 6410 2361

Site Code: XNFNUL16

Finance Code: XNFNUL16

Receiving Body: Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service

OASIS No: oxfordar3-251496

Prepared by: Ashley Pooley
Position: Acting Supervisor

Date: June 2016

Checked by: Matt Brudenell

Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: June 2016

Signed:

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Summary

Between the 6th and the 9th of June 2016, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk (TF 6410 2361). Eight 30m long evaluation trenches were excavated. The only archaeological features recorded were six shallow, undated linear gullies in Trench 4. No artefacts were recovered from the gullies, nor from any soil horizons across the site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land to the east of Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk County Council (NCC, Albone 2016), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Wiseman & Brudenell 2016).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The side is bordered by Nursey Lane to the west, residential development to the south, trees to the north, and a playing field to the east.
- 1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is sand of the Roxham Member and Runcton Member, which extends to the east. To the west, where the land slopes into the saltmarshes, the geology is mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation. Overlying this are areas of gravel from the Raise Beach Deposits, as well as patches of glacial diamicton (www.bgs.ac.uk, accessed 11 May 2016).
- 1.2.3 The site is broadly flat at 9m OD, though the land slopes down imperceptibly to the west. There is a small drain on the north side of the site which empties to the west.
- 1.2.4 The site is currently open grassland and there is a public pathway along the southern boundary

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 An extensive archaeological and historical background for the area was produced for the WSI (Wiseman & Brudenell 2016) and is reproduced below:
- 1.3.2 Metal detecting and fieldwalking at the proposed development site has previously yielded Roman, Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery, with wasters and quantities of iron slag hinting at the potential presence of kilns and smelting furnaces. The finds are form part of a Roman and Late Anglo-Saxon to medieval presence in the vicinity. In particular, excavations ahead of the housing development to the south of the site identified Roman roof tiles, flue tiles and imported pottery, along with 'extensive' Late Saxon structures. It is possible that these structures and associated activity extend northwards into the current development site.
- 1.3.3 The following sections summarise the findings from these investigations and list other recorded archaeological finds and features from the area.

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Prehistoric

- 1.3.4 Two palaeolithic hand axes have been found at separate locations within a kilometre of the site (NHER 13881, NHER 14428). The first site also produced flint flakes, scrappers and an arrowhead (presumably Neolithic).
- 1.3.5 Neolithic worked flints have been found at a few undocumented sites in the parish (NHER 3281, 3282, 3283), and include scrapers, arrowheads and flint flakes. A Neolithic axe was found 100m west of the site (NHER 3280).
- 1.3.6 Two potential bronze age barrows are recorded 300m east (NHER 13900) and 400m northeast (NHER 13899) of the site, on the higher ground.

Roman

- 1.3.7 Roman tegulae, flue tile and pottery sherds (including Gaulish Samian and Spanish amphora), were recovered from excavations 100m south of the development site (NHER 19715).
- 1.3.8 A Roman iron-working site (NHER 22120) and possible spoil mound (NHER 24260) are located 800m to the north of the site, near the historic core of North Wootton. There are also undated scatters of slag around the area nearby (NHER 24262, 13351) as well as two sites immediately south of the development site (NHER 24117, 19715).
- 1.3.9 Approximately 400m south east of the development site (NHER 27923), a possible rectangular building, composed of four or five square cells, is recorded as a cropmark. It is associated with a number of ditches. A rectangular form suggests either a Roman or medieval structure.

Saxon and Early Medieval

- 1.3.10 The development site lies 800m south of the medieval core of North Wootton and 1km north of medieval South Wootton. These appear to have been the initial foci of Saxon activity, from which settlement spread out over the Middle Ages.
- 1.3.11 There are no Early Saxon remains reported around the development site, but excavations immediately to the south (NHER 19715) produced 'unusual' Middle Saxon pottery sherds, as well as Thetford Wares. Thetford Wares were also found 300m south of the site (NHER 13831). The excavations south of the site produced 'extensive' Late Saxon structures. Late Saxon pottery was also found 300m to the south (NHER 3288).

Later medieval

- 1.3.12 Medieval rooftile, brick and pottery was recovered from excavations immediately south of the site (NHER 19715). Medieval pottery was found in fieldwalking 100-300m east and southeast of the development area (NHER 3288, 16829, 24117). In the woods immediately north of the site a possible medieval retting or tanning pit measuring 12' x 25'-30' x 2'-3' (3.66m x 7.62m-9.14m x 0.61m-0.91m) has been recorded (NHER 19758). It was rectangular, brick paved, and constructed of carstone.
- 1.3.13 There are extensive medieval salterns and mounds on the salt marshes over 500m to the west of the site (NHER 27091-095, 27100, 27109, 27117, 27119-122, 27127).

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.14 There is little evidence for post-medieval activity in the area. A watching brief at 80 Nursery Lane (NHER 45433), 300m south of the site, produced only two sherds of post-



medieval pottery and no features. Possible water channels and water meadows (probably 19th century in date) are located 400m south of the site.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting Ltd who commissioned the work on behalf of Hopkins & Moore Development Ltd. The project was managed by Matthew Brudenell and monitored by James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service Archaeology and Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting Ltd. The fieldwork was carried out on site by the author and David Browne. Site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees. Machine excavation was undertaken by Anthill Plant Hire.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Methodology

- 2.1.2 The Brief required that eight trenches, 30m in length, were excavated by machine. A contingency to excavate an additional 60m of trenching (in consultation with James Albone of NCC) was not exercised.
- 2.1.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked excavator using a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.1.4 The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown of Oxford Archaeology East.
- 2.1.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.1.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.1.7 One environmental sample was taken from a probable natural feature (**08**) located at the southern end of Trench 3.
- 2.1.8 The fieldwork was carried out in good dry weather conditions, with all but one trench being left to "weather" due to the possibility that archaeological features became appearent in changing soil conditions. The exception to this was Trench 8 which was backfilled on the same day as its excavation due to its proximity to a public right of way.

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3 Results

Introduction

- 3.1.1 Limited archaeology was revealed during the works. Due to the limited type of features revealed, the trenches will be discussed numerically (Figs 2 & 3).
- 3.1.2 A natural geology of dark brown red sand with gravel inclusions was overlain by a mid grey brown silty sand subsoil (02) measuring between 0.1m and 0.4m in thickness. This was followed by a 0.2m to 0.45m thick dark brown grey silty sand topsoil (01).
- 3.1.3 Full details of context and trench descriptions can be found in Appendix A. Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from feature fills.

Trench 1

3.1.4 Trench 1 was located at the north of the site, and was aligned east-west. The trench was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 2

3.1.5 Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1, and was aligned east-west. The trench was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 3

- 3.1.6 Trench 3 was aligned north-south, parallel to Nursery Lane (Plate 1) along the western edge of the site. No archaeological remains were recorded, but two irregular periglacial features were examined (**08** and **22**) at the southern end of the trench.
- 3.1.7 Periglacial feature **08** measured 3.5m north-south, and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m (Fig. 4, S.8). The edges of this feature were steep but irregular. The fill (07) comprised a dark grey silty sand with moderate inclusions of compact and indurated iron-pan, along with occasional flint pebbles.
- 3.1.8 Periglacial feature **22** (Fig. 4, S.3) lay immediately north of feature **08**. It measured 0.7m in width with a depth of 0.3m (Plate 2). The sides of the feature were steep and irregular. It was filled with a naturally forming dark brown grey silt (21).

Trench 4

- 3.1.9 Trench 4 was aligned north-south and situated towards the eastern boundary of the area investigated (Plate 3). It contained six linear features: **10**, **12**, **14**, **16**, **18** and **20**.
- 3.1.10 Gullies **10** and **12** (Fig. 4, S.7 & Plate 4) were aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and located immediately adjacent to each other with **12**, the more southerly of the two, appearing to be later. Gully **10** was 0.65m wide, 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (09) which comprised a mid to dark grey silty sand, this having been deposited through natural silting.
- 3.1.11 This feature was cut to the north by gully **12**, a slightly larger feature which was 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep. This also contained a single naturally deposited fill (11), a mid grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of concreted iron-pan and flint pebbles.
- 3.1.12 A short distance to the north of these lay a further linear feature (14), which comprised a very shallow gully just 0.1m deep (Fig. 4, S.6). It was aligned east to west and was 0.70m wide. Its fill (13) was a mid grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of chalk and flint.



- 3.1.13 A further linear feature, **16** (Fig. 4, S.5), was situated a short distance to the north. This was a broad shallow feature which measured 1.55m wide and 0.2m deep. It was aligned north-east to south-west and contained a single dark brownish grey sand (15). The feature had slightly indefinite edges, suggesting that it was natural in origin.
- 3.1.14 Two further gullies were exposed at the far northern end of Trench 4. Both gullies 18 and 20 (Fig. 4, S.4) were aligned north-west to south-east and located immediately adjacent to one another. The gully to the west, 20, was fully exposed in terms of width and measured 0.75m wide and was just 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (19) which consisted of a dark grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of chalk and moderate inclusions of flint.
- 3.1.15 The more easterly gully (18), was only partially exposed in plan and consequently its full width and depth were not established, however it was at least 0.4m wide and at least 0.2m deep. This also had a single fill (17) of dark brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

Trench 5

3.1.16 Trench 5 was located towards the centre of the site, south of Trench 4. The trench was aligned east-west and was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 6

3.1.17 Trench 6 was located toward the south-west corner of the site and was aligned north to south. No archaeological remains were recorded, but a single tree throw (**04**) was investigated. The tree-throw was measured 1.1m north to south and was exposed for 0.8m east to west before extending into the eastern section. It was 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (03) of mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles and occasional charcoal (Fig. 4, S.1).

Trench 7

3.1.18 Trench 7 was located to the south of Trench 5 and was aligned north to south. No archaeological remains were recorded, but a single tree throw (**06**) was investigated. This measured 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 4, S.2). Its fill (05), which contained very frequent charcoal inclusions, comprised a dark brownish grey sand with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in the south of the site south. The trench was aligned east-west and was devoid of archaeological remains.

Finds and environmental summary

- 3.1.19 No finds were recovered from any deposits across the site.
- 3.1.20 A single environmental sample was taken from the fill of the periglacial feature **08** in Trench 3. However, no environmental remains were recovered (see Appendix B).



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 Of the eight trenches excavated, only Trench 4 contained archaeological features. These compromised a series of six shallow undated linear gullies, all filled with homogeneous deposits of grey silty sand. The features were devoid of finds
- 4.1.2 The other features examined at the site proved to be of natural and geological origin, comprising two three-throws in Trenches 6 and 7, and two periglacial features in Trench 3

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APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1								
General de	scription		Orientation	E-W				
			Avg. depth	0.30				
Trench devo			Width (m)	2.10				
a natural sa	inas ana g	ilaveis.		Length (m)	30.00			
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date		
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-		
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-		-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-	
Trench 2								
General de	scription				Orientation	1	E-W	
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.35	
Trench deve			Consists o	f soil and subsoil overlying	Width (m)	2.10		
natural san	us and gre	14013.			Length (m)		30.00	
Contexts								
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	inds date		
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-		
2	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-		-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-	
Trench 3								
General de	scription				Orientation	Orientation		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.60	
Trench conf	tained two	probably	natural fe	atures, 8 and 22.	Width (m)		2.10	
					Length (m)		30.00	
Contexts					1		1	
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	inds date		
1	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-		
2	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-		
7	Fill	3.50	0.50+	Fill of 8	-	-		
8	Cut	3.50	0.50+	Natural periglacial feature	-	-		
21	Fill	0.70	0.30	Fill of 22	-		-	
22	Cut	0.70	0.30	Periglacial linear feature	-		-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-	

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Trench 4									
General de	escription				Orientation	1	N-S		
	(m)	0.55							
Trench con undated.	tained six	linear fea	Width (m)	2.10					
unualeu.			Length (m)	30.00					
Contexts							1		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	ate			
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-			
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-		-		
9	Fill	0.65	0.20	Fill of 10	-		-		
10	Cut	0.65	0.20	E-W gully	-		-		
11	Fill	0.75	0.30	Fill of 12	-		-		
12	Cut	0.75	0.30	E-W gully	-		-		
13	Fill	0.70							
14	Cut	0.70	0.10	E-W gully	-		-		
15	Fill	1.65	0.20	Fill of 16	-		-		
16	Cut	1.65	0.20	Natural feature	-	-			
17	Fill	0.40+	0.20+	Fill of 18	-	-			
18	Cut	0.40+	0.20+	NE-SW gully	-	-			
19	Fill	0.75	0.12	Fill of 20	-	-			
20	Cut	0.75	0.12	NE-SW gully	-	-			
23	Layer	-	_	Natural	-		-		
Trench 5									
General de	escription				Orientation		E-W		
-			0		Avg. depth (m)		0.60		
natural san			Consists of	of soil and subsoil overlying	Width (m)		2.10		
	J				Length (m)		30.00		
Contexts		_							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds date		ate		
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-			
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-			
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-		
Trench 6									
General de	escription				Orientation	1	N-S		
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.65		
Trench con	tained und	dated burr	Width (m)	2.10					
		Length (m)	ength (m)						

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Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-	
5	Fill	1.20	0.20	Fill of 6	-	-	
6	Cut	1.20	0.20	Burnt tree throw	-	-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench 7							
General d	escription				Orientation	N-S	
					Avg. depth (m) 0.65	
Trench co	ntained a p	ossible u	ndated pit	4	Width (m)	2.10	
					Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-	
3	Fill	0.80	0.25	Fill of 4	-	-	
4	Cut	0.80	0.25	Possible pit	-	-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench 8							
General d	escription	l			Orientation	E-W	
					Avg. depth (m) 0.75	
				of topsoil and subsoil	Width (m)	2.10	
overlying .	overlying natural sands and gravels Length (m)					30.00	
Contexts						,	
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-	
23	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

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APPENDIX B. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

B.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from fill 07 of periglacial feature (**08**) within the evaluated areas at Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

B.1.2 The total volume (16 litres) of the sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. The dried flot was subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

B.1.3 The sample was devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets. No finds were recovered from the sample residue.

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Brudenell, M.

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Archaeology East report.

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APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project De	etails										
OASIS Number oxford			fordar3-251496								
Project Nam	ne	Land to	o the East of Nursery Lane, South Wootton, Norfolk								
Project Date	es (field	lwork)	Start	06-06-2016	06-06-2016 Finish			07-06	07-06-2016		
Previous W	ork (by	OA Ea	ast)	No			Future	Work	No		
Project Refe	erence	Code	S								
Site Code			Planning App. No.			р	pre-application				
HER No.	ENF14	0720			Relate	d HER/	OASIS N	lo			
Type of Pro	ject/Te	chniqu	ies Use	d	•						
Prompt		_		ocal Planning A	uthority -	PPG16					
Developmen	nt Type	Rural F	Residential	 							
Please sel	ect all	techi	niques	used:							
Aerial Photo	ography ·	- interpre	etation	☐ Grab-Sa	mpling			F	Remot	e Operated Vel	nicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photo	ography -	- new		Gravity-0	Gravity-Core			× S	Sample	le Trenches	
Annotated S	Sketch			☐ Laser Sc	anning				Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure		
Augering				☐ Measure	☐ Measured Survey			□ 1	☐ Targeted Trenches		
☐ Dendrochro	onologica	l Survey	,	☐ Metal De	Metal Detectors			□ 1	Test Pits		
☐ Documenta	ry Searc	h		☐ Phospha	Phosphate Survey				☐ Topographic Survey		
Environmer	-			_	☐ Photogrammetric Survey			\Box	☐ Vibro-core		
 ☐ Fieldwalking		J			☐ Photographic Survey			\Box	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)		
☐ Geophysica	•			Rectified Photography					.,	,	
List feature typ	es using	the NN	IR Mon	nds & Their ument Type ve periods. If n	e Thesa	aurus an	_		ate "n		oject type
Gully			Uncerta	certain		None			Select period.		
Tree throw			Uncerta	ain					Select period.		
Select pe				period	eriod					Select period.	
Project Lo	ocatio	on									
County Norfolk					Site Address (including postcode if pos			ssible)			
District Kings Lynn & West N			West Norfo	est Norfolk		Land east of Nursary Lane					
Parish South Wootton					South Wootton Norfolk						
HER	Norfoll	k Museu	m & Archa	eology Servic							
Study Area	1.1 he	ctares				National Grid Reference TF 6410 2361					



Project Originators

Organisation		OA EAS	OA EAST							
Project Brief Orig	James Albone									
Project Design C	Rob Wiseman & Matt Brudenell									
Project Manager		Matt Bru	Matt Brudenell							
Supervisor		Ashley P	Ashley Pooley							
Project Archi	ves									
Physical Archive			Digital A	Archive		Paper Archi	ve			
Norfolk Museum			OA East			Norfolk Muse	um			
ENF140720			XNFNUL	_16		ENF140720				
Archive Conten	ts/Media									
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents		Digital Me	dia	Paper Media			
Animal Bones Ceramics Environmental Glass Human Bones Industrial Leather Metal Stratigraphic Survey Textiles Wood Worked Bone Worked Stone/Lithic None Other					□ GIS □ Geophysics □ Images □ Moving Image □ Spreadsheets □ Survey □ Text □ Virtual Reality		☐ Aerial Photos ☐ Context Sheet ☐ Correspondence ☐ Diary ☐ Drawing ☐ Manuscript ☐ Map ☐ Matrices ☐ Microfilm ☐ Misc. ☐ Research/Notes ☐ Photos ☒ Plans ☒ Report ☒ Sections ☐ Survey			

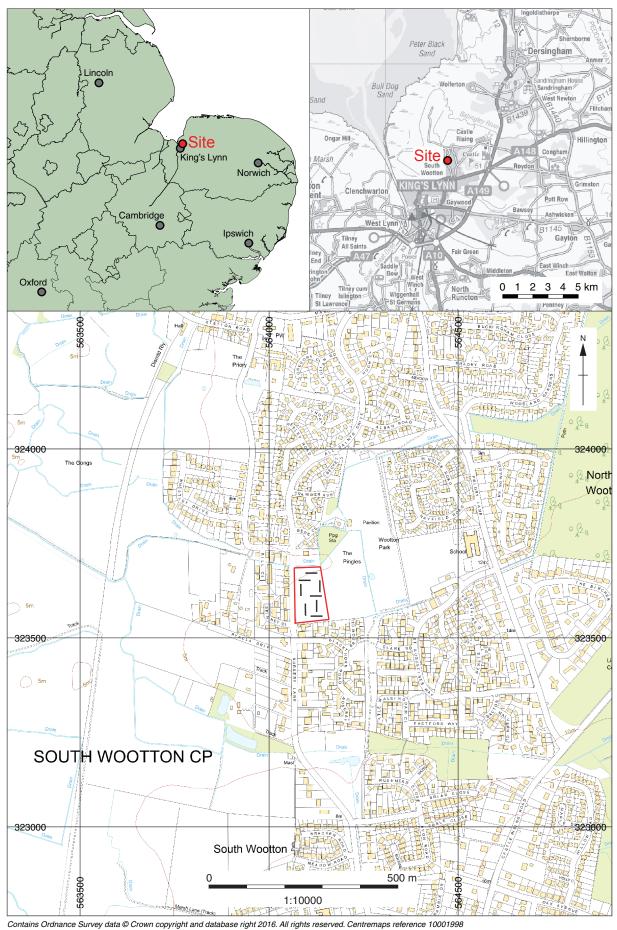


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)



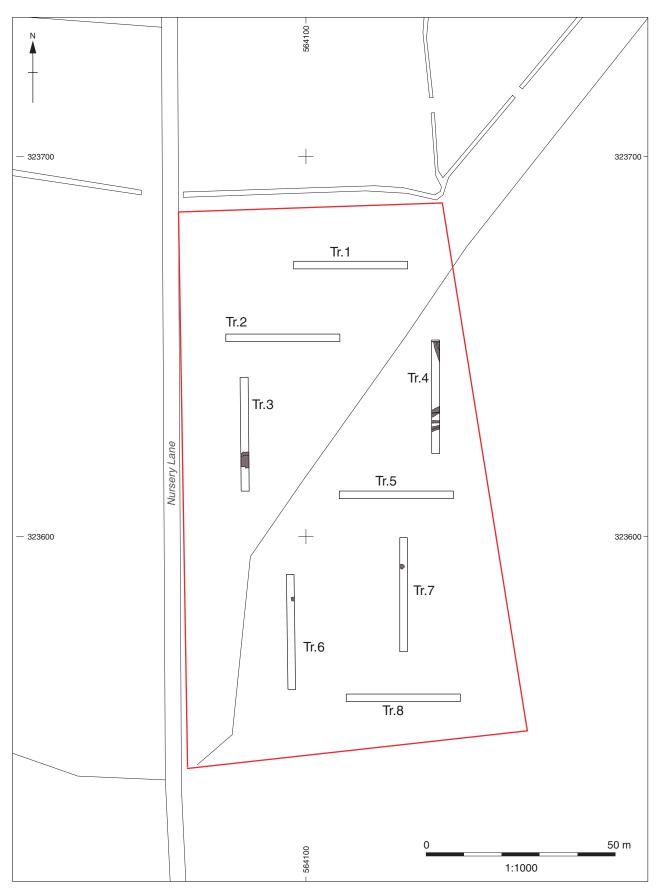


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Figure 3: Plan of trenches 3,4,6 and 7

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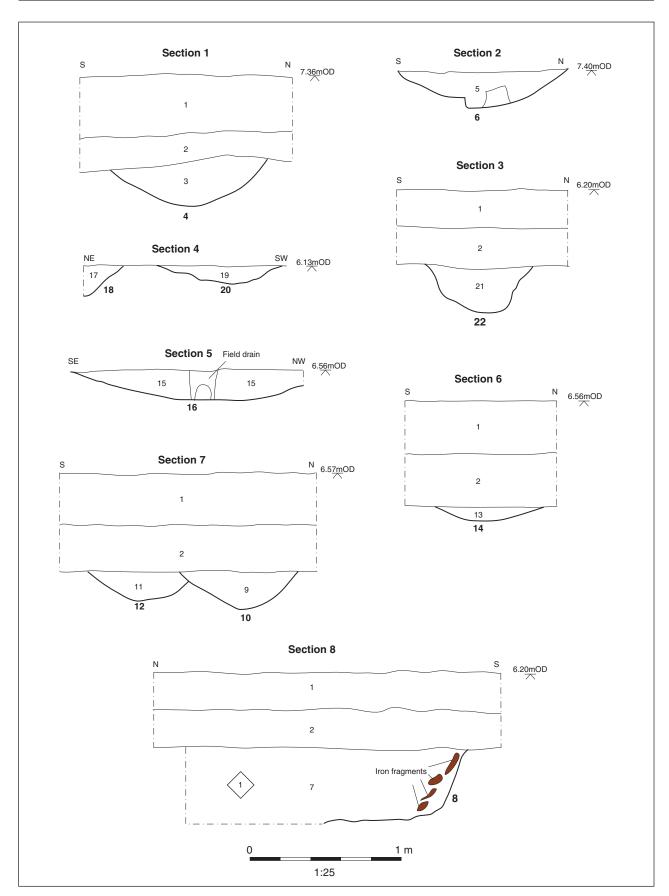


Figure 4: Sections





Plate 1: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 2: Feature 22, looking west





Plate 3: Trench 4, looking north



Plate 4: Gullies 10 and 12, looking west



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