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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**ELTON 2, WARMINGTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED  
ASSESSMENT

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED**  
**ASSESSMENT**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Authors: Lauren Wilson MA<br>Kath Henry (Graphics) |                       |
| NGR: TL 07096 91909                                | Report No: 4981       |
| Borough: East Warmington                           | Site Code: n/a        |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA                      | Project No: 6422      |
| Signed:  | Date: 3 November 2015 |

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**Silver**

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#### **SUMMARY**

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

| <b>Project details</b>  |   |                              |                   |
|---|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Project name  | <i>Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire</i>  |                              |                   |
| <p><i>In September 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment at Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 07096 91909). The assessment was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed reservoir extension on land at Elton.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located on the periphery of the historic Saxon villages of Warmington and Eaglethorpe within a landscape dominated by the River Nene. Bronze Age round barrows and ditches have been recorded in the field to the north-west of the site. Evidence for prehistoric activity including Bronze Age burials and Iron field systems and drove ways has been identified to the east, and may be part of a wider prehistoric landscape. The evidence for later periods is focused within the village to the south-east excepting a possible medieval trackway that may run along the route of the Nene Way from Fotheringhay to London.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed development comprises an extension to an existing quarry to the north-east and will have a high impact on archaeological remains, if present. Based on the known archaeology the site has a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.</i></p> |   |                              |                   |
| Project dates (fieldwork)   | n/a   |                              |                   |
| Previous work (Y/N/?)   | N   | Future work                  | n/a               |
| P. number   | 6422  | Site code                    | n/a               |
| Type of project   | <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Impact Assessment</i>                                    |                              |                   |
| Site status   | None  |                              |                   |
| Current land use  | <i>Pasture and woodland</i>   |                              |                   |
| Planned development   | <i>Extension to existing quarry/reservoir</i>   |                              |                   |
| Main features (+dates)  | n/a   |                              |                   |
| Significant finds (+dates)  | n/a   |                              |                   |
| <b>Project location</b>   |   |                              |                   |
| County/ District/ Parish  | <i>Northamptonshire</i>   | <i>East Northamptonshire</i> | <i>Warmington</i> |
| HER/ SMR for area   | <i>Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)</i>          |                              |                   |
| Post code (if known)  | -   |                              |                   |
| Area of site  | <i>c.18.9 hectares</i>  |                              |                   |
| NGR   | <i>TL 07096 91909</i>   |                              |                   |
| Height AOD (min/max)  | <i>15-20m AOD</i>   |                              |                   |
| <b>Project creators</b>   |   |                              |                   |
| Brief issued by   | -   |                              |                   |
| Project supervisor/s (PO)   | <i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>   |                              |                   |
| Funded by   | <i>Ingrebourne Valley Ltd</i>   |                              |                   |
| Full title  | <i>Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire; An archaeological desk-based assessment</i> |                              |                   |
| Authors   | <i>Lauren Wilson MA</i>   |                              |                   |
| Report no.  | 4981  |                              |                   |
| Date (of report)  | November 2015   |                              |                   |

## **ELTON 2, WARMINGTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In September 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment at Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 07096 91909). The assessment was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed reservoir extension on land at Elton.*

*The site is located on the periphery of the historic Saxon villages of Warmington and Eaglethorpe within a landscape dominated by the River Nene. Bronze Age round barrows and ditches have been recorded in the field to the north-west of the site. Evidence for prehistoric activity including Bronze Age burials and Iron field systems and drove ways has been identified to the east, and may be part of a wider prehistoric landscape. The evidence for later periods is focused within the village to the south-east excepting a possible medieval trackway that may run along the route of the Nene Way from Fotheringhay to London.*

*The proposed development comprises an extension to an existing quarry to the north-east and will have a high impact on archaeological remains, if present. Based on the known archaeology the site has a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment at Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 07096 91909; Figs.1 - 2). The assessment was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for proposed reservoir extension on land at Elton.

1.2 The assessment was carried out in accordance with a specification compiled by AS (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015). It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments* (2015).

1.3 Documents such as the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2015) and *Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice*, Historic England 2006, were also used to guide the project, when considering any buildings currently present within/adjacent to the site, though no detailed historic building appraisal was undertaken.

1.4 The principal objectives of the assessment were:

- To determine the location, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of the site's historic environment from documentary sources;
- To include an appraisal of the context of the archaeological evidence and to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site;
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains present and likely to be present on the site, and to include an appraisal of their significance;
- To assess any previous impacts on the site and the impact on any potential archaeological remains by any proposed development; and
- To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable management/investigation strategy for the site's historic environment in the light of any proposals.

#### *Planning Policy Context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The village of Warmington lies c.8km south-west of Peterborough in the county of Northamptonshire. The hamlet of Eaglethorpe is located to the north-west truncated by the A605. The site lies in agricultural land to the north-west of Eaglethorpe comprising mostly pasture but also some woodland.

2.2 The site is an irregular shape lying within the floodplain of the River Nene. Channels of the latter surround the site on all sides and have likely been diverted in the past. A public footpath runs from south to north across the site giving access to nearby Fotheringhay.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within Warmington is from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER). Significant entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted (Fig. 3). Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

### **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

The principal sources for this type of evidence were Northamptonshire Record Office in Northampton. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4 - 7.

### **3.3 Secondary sources**

The principal sources of secondary material were the Northampton Record Office and AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

### **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

### **3.5 Site Inspection**

3.5.1 In the course of the desk-based assessment, a physical walkover of the site was undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The inspection had the following purposes:

- to examine the areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment; in particular, with a view to gauging the likely survival and condition of archaeological remains; and
- to consider the significance of any above ground structures, historic buildings, and historic landscape features, and their potential impact on the proposed development.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

4.1.1 The surrounding landscape is dominated by the presence of the River Nene. Channels of the river run to the north and south of the site. The Willow Brook also runs further to the north towards its confluence with the River Nene c.2.1km to the north-east. The site lies on lower ground within the river valley at c.10-20m AOD, with the land sloping gently upwards towards the east reaching a height of c.50m AOD c.2.4km from the site to form a plateau running north to south.

4.1.2 The underlying geology of the area is complex; the site lies on three separate bedrock formations. Most of the southern portion of the site is underlain by Whitby Mudstone Formation, the northern portion mostly by the Grantham formation, with a segment of Rutland formation on its northern boundary. The overlying soil is loamy and clayey with naturally high groundwater.

### **4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

#### *Neolithic*

4.2.1 The location of the site, within close proximity to a river, is conducive to the presence of prehistoric archaeology. Possible Neolithic activity has been identified c.270m to the south of the site's boundary, towards Warmington (NHER 1071) along with a find spot of a pebble mace head (NHER 22108). About 540m to the east cremations and a grave are known and likely form a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age cemetery (NHER 141156). The grave contained a crouched juvenile inhumation accompanied by late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery (NHER 141153). Another area of Neolithic settlement and a burial cairn containing remains of five individuals has been excavated south of Elton Hall approximately 1.4 km north-east of the site (NHER 7229/0/1-4).

#### *Bronze Age*

4.2.2 A cropmark in the area of the possible Neolithic cemetery may indicate its continued use into the Bronze Age period (NHER 128551). A crouched inhumation buried with a Beaker urn, flint knife, flakes and arrowhead, and jet buttons was excavated c.250m to the south of the site along the A605 (NHER 142611). An additional area of round barrows and ring ditches c.600m to the south likely represents another Bronze Age burial site (NHER 1070). Round barrows and pit alignments are recorded in a field commencing c.100m to the north of the site (NHER 128556; 128557; 128558 and NHER 6750). An area of 3ha was archaeologically investigated on the Elton Estate in 2007, to the east and north-east of the assessment site, commencing approximately 450m to the east. Here, a Beaker burial was excavated and a possible second burial was identified, along with a ploughed out round barrow (Barlow 2008, Stone 2008).

### *Iron Age*

4.2.3 Cropmarks and possible ring ditches c.600m to the south, towards Warmington may represent Iron Age occupation (NHER 128510). Finds are scarce but include a pit containing Iron Age pottery and flint, c.610m to the south-east and a pottery scatter further to the south (NHER 115200; 137995). The excavations on the Elton Estate (4.2.2) identified an Iron driveway and ditches, running on an approximately east-west alignment, as well as evidence of possible industrial activity (Stone 2008). It was thought that these features might prove to be part of a significant prehistoric landscape (Barlow 2008).

### *Prehistoric*

4.2.4 The NHER database includes references with a general 'prehistoric' date. Those in the vicinity of the site include ring ditches and probable pit alignments in the field to the north of the site, in a similar location to the Bronze Age cemetery (NHER 128559; 128560) and a possible 'prehistoric' burial site in a similar location to the Beaker burial to the south along the A605 (NHER 6828).

### *Romano-British*

4.2.5 Warmington is located 6km south west of the Roman town of *Durobrivae*, and evidence for a Roman presence in the village is moderately high. The Nene valley was of considerable archaeological importance for the Romano-British period, with the construction of roads, forts, towns, villas, kilns/industrial sites and rural farmsteads known from the immediate area of the Nene and Welland to the north. The town of *Durobrivae* was established at an important point in the nodal network (where King Street diverged from Ermine Street), guarding the crossing point of the Nene. Mass production of pottery within a 5km radius of the town was being undertaken from soon after the conquest, with major forms such as colour-coated vessels and mortaria. Potters fields, evidenced by the discovery of abundant kiln sites, were established at Sibson and Stibbington by the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and Roman iron working is also well known from the wooded areas above the valley.

4.2.6 Finds of Roman date indicate more intensive activity in this part of the Nene valley suggestive of occupation sites to the west of the village and at Little

Green. The HER records that a possible major Roman Road runs through Warmington Parish connecting Water Newton and Titchmarsh (Newton 2006, 7)). This is referred to as 'Harrow Way' within Titchmarsh Parish, suggesting a possible temple site. However, no indication of this road was recorded during excavations at Peterborough Road in Warmington in 1998 in an area through which it was presumed to have run (Meadows 2002, 1). The closest known Roman archaeology to the site is located approximately 500m to the south where a possible small rural settlement is indicated by a pottery scatter, which had possible origins in the Iron Age. Early to Middle Saxon pottery is also present suggesting some continuity (NHER 4837). Ditched enclosures, pits and small finds including coins, roof tiles and oyster shells are recorded (NHER 138019 & 28696). Another area of Roman finds lies further to the south (NHER 4839), identified by two Portable Antiquities Scheme (NHER 151439, 151440 & 32430).

### Saxon

4.2.7 Following the end of Roman government in Britain occupation continued in the Nene Valley. The rivers which find a common estuary at the Wash offered easy access from the sea to the heart of the midlands, and there is varied evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the hinterlands of the Nene, as well as the Welland, Ouse and Cam (Stenton 2001, 26). Evidence of Early and early Middle Saxon settlement has been found throughout the parish, seemingly supporting general patterns of occupation that may have remained unbroken until the post-medieval period. They may have expanded and declined like the hamlet and shrunken village of Eaglethorpe (NHER 2600), but Warmington itself grew larger into the medieval period. The shrunken village of Eaglethorpe has produced sherds of early Middle Saxon pottery along with a greater volume of Late Saxon/early medieval pottery.

4.2.8 The name Warmington is thought to derive from '*tun of Wyrma's people*'; presumably named after the leader of the settlement ([www.warmington.org](http://www.warmington.org)). A Saxon spearhead and bones were found in the village prior to 1960, possibly indicative of a burial dated 410 - 649 AD (NHER 22101 and 1069). The first recorded reference to the settlement of Warmington relates to *Medehamstede* (Peterborough) Abbey, founded in 655, when lands were granted to the abbey from the King of Mercia. The core of the Saxon village was likely centred on the church which is located c.890m to the south-east of the site (NHER 4831).

4.2.8 Three concentrations of Early to Middle Saxon pottery have been identified within proximity to the site; one on the outskirts of Eaglethorpe c.300m to the south (NHER 2240), another is further south near Springfield Farm (NHER 8059), and a third c.550m to the south-west towards Warmington Grange (NHER 137999). The first pottery scatter c.300m to the south, may relate to a former manor house where stone walls indicate an occupation site (NHER 32783, 138004, 138007). A manorial building is known to have existed in the same area which was established in the 9<sup>th</sup> century for Peterborough Abbey (NHER 138005, 9548).

## Medieval

4.2.9 The village of Warmington is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, with a significant increase in value following the Conquest suggesting increased growth and wealth. At this time land in Warmington was the property of the Abbey of Peterborough which held 1.5 hides, but the abbot appears also to have had land in the area of his own as the Domesday Book records that, “2 knights hold of the abbot 1 hide”. The Abbey of Ramsey also held half a hide at Warmington (Williams & Martin 2003, 596-597, 599). The village originally appears to have comprised two elements; Abbotsthorpe and Southorpe which later merged and were centred on a series of greens (NHER 4831). Building platforms and hollow ways are visible on the outskirts of the village to the east (NHER 128526). The course of a medieval road may lie to the north of site, once connecting Fotheringhay to London and crossing the Nene at Warmington (NHER 102778). There is more reliable evidence for the manor in the medieval period with accounts dating to 1300-1310 listing a hall, chamber, barn, malt house, kiln, stables and ox-house. As mentioned (4.2.8), the Saxon manor is believed to equate to modern day Eaglethorpe (NHER 9548). Postholes, beam slots and pottery scatters have been recorded in the vicinity of Eaglethorpe c.250m to the south of the site (NHER 138010, 138009 and 138012).

4.2.10 Activity in Warmington during the medieval period is well-attested; a grange and chapel were built (NHER 2600/6/0) and pottery appears across the village and old settlement in abundance (e.g. NHER 2600). The Church of St Mary the Virgin (NHER 2600/1/1), which was built in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, is a Grade 1 listed building. Medieval archaeological features, including the remains of a building, pits and pottery sherds, are known from close to the Manor House at Warmington (NHER 2600/0/9, 2600/0/12 & 2600/0/15). Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century date has been recovered from pits recorded by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the western frontage of Chapel Street (NHER 2600/0/9) and a recording action carried out here in 1998 revealed slots of a medieval structure (Prentice 1998). A medieval boundary has been identified at Chapel Street (NHER 2600/0/14) and several areas of ridge and furrow field systems are recorded (NHER 2586/0/7, 2586/0/8 and 2586/0/9), with the closest recorded in the field to the north of the site (NHER 2640/0).

4.11 A small rectangular moat and earthworks are all that remains of what is considered to be the site of an early 16<sup>th</sup> century house built by Sir Robert Kirkham (NHER 2600/0/1) at Little Green. As noted above, earthworks and a hollow way (NHER 2600/0/5) run north-west / south-east very near to the south side of the assessment site. This could prove to be a part of the boundary of the field that separated the ‘Inn Meadow’ from the field to the south, adjacent to the watermill. A road boundary of this kind might indicate that habitation did not occur to the north, which may have been left for agricultural purposes.

4.12 Significant medieval activity is also known from Fotheringhay, which lies to the north west of the site. The first documentary evidence for Fotheringhay comes from a charter dated to between 1055 and 1066 in which a Leofrid of Fotheringhay is mentioned as a witness in a land grant to Ramsey Abbey. The Scheduled Monument site of the large motte and bailey castle of Fotheringhay is

located 1km from the site. It is considered to have been built by Simon de St Liz, Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, who married Judith, a niece of William the Conqueror. From the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the castle took on the dual role of royal palace and state prison. The castle was enlarged and rebuilt partly in stone in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century by Edmund Langley, son of Edward III. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in the castle in 1586, and executed there in 1587. The castle was abandoned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century was demolished ([www.gatehouse-gazetteer](http://www.gatehouse-gazetteer)).

### *Post-medieval*

4.2.13 The 1621 “survey of the Mannor of Warmington in the county of Northampton - being parcel of the possessions of the right worshipfull Mr Thomas Elmes Esquire” provides detailed evidence of various features mentioned in the HER. This includes the watermill located 180m south of the site (NHER 62341/1), described as a ‘*stone building with slate roof which may have originally had two wheels; buildings adjacent to south side used as barns*’ (Starmer 1965). An eighteenth century large granite millstone was recorded in the south of Warmington village (NHER 7370), indicative of the rural lifestyle and the importance of the watermill, which was still working in the twentieth century.

4.2.14 The post-medieval period in the area surrounding the site is mainly evidenced by extant Grade 2 and 2\* listed buildings in Warmington and Eaglethorpe. The manor house moved from Eaglethorpe, a small hamlet by then, to the centre of Warmington in the mid 1670s. A few buildings in the hamlet date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A farmhouse c.280m to the south of the site dates to 1646 with late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations and a barn is of a similar date (NHER 107975 & 107907). The existing watermill dates from the early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (NHER 138016), however cartographic and documentary sources record an earlier mill (see 4.2.13 and below)

4.2.15 The manor house had moved to Warmington by at least 1677 and the buildings were subsequently altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (NHER 107895). Two houses in the village date from this period; one is mid/late 17<sup>th</sup> century and fronts Chapel Street c.200m north of the parish church (NHER 107986). The other was extended in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and lies along Hautboy Lane to the south (NHER 107970). Various farm buildings in the village core have a similar date reflecting the village’s agricultural industry (NHER 107894, 107908 & 107892).

4.2.16 Elton House whose grounds reach to within 700m north-east of the site is a Grade I listed building largely dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, although 15<sup>th</sup> century parts survive including the chapel. The associated park was enlarged in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, declined in the 18<sup>th</sup> and then expanded again in the 19<sup>th</sup> and includes a kitchen garden and pleasure garden and is on the national Park and Garden Register. In 2009, a desk-based assessment for a proposed lake and borrow pit located 1km north-east of the site on the Elton Estate, was carried out by Archaeological Solutions.

### 4.3 Cartographic Evidence (Figs. 4-7)

*Survey of the Manor of Warmington by Richard Norwood, 1621*

4.3.1 The recognisable shape of the site is evident on this early map of 1621 (Fig.4). The shallow channel observed during the site visit in the north-west corner of the site may be a remnant of this course.

*Plan of the parish of Warmington, 1775*

4.3.2 The site appears to be divided and there is a footpath across the field labelled 'Foot Road to Fotheringhay' (Fig.5). A structure labelled the water mill straddles the river and may be a predecessor of the current building dates to the early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885*

4.3.3 The landscape is similar to previous maps with just minor differences to the northern river channel (Fig. 6). A tow path now operates along this stretch and two locks are present indicating this was part of a canal boat route. The water mill is now labelled corn mill.

*Ordnance survey map, 1902*

4.3.4 This map is comparable to the previous Ordnance Survey map (Fig.6).

### 4.4 Constraints

**Listed Buildings** – The Mill is a Grade II listed building, located c.150m to the south of the site (1067785).

**Registered Park and Gardens** – Elton Hall is a registered garden belonging to the Elton estate, part of which lies c.300m to the east of the site (1000346).

**Area of Archaeological Importance** – The site does not lie within an area of archaeological importance.

**Scheduled Ancient Monuments** – There are no scheduled ancient monuments on or adjacent to the assessment area.

**Conservation Areas** – The site does not lie within a conservation area.

## 5 SITE VISIT (DP 1-29)

5.1 The site is currently only accessible by foot from the south over a bridge from an adjacent field (DP 01-04), or from the north over a weir (DP 05). The irregular shaped field is surrounded by the River Nene on all sides (DP 06-13) and comprises mostly pasture with some woodland to the east (DP 14). The site

is divided by a barbed-wire fence in the eastern sector which divides the open pasture from the woodland (DP 15). Currently there is a single opening in this fence which provides access to the woodland (DP 16) much of which is overgrown (DP 17-18). Through this woodland area the proposed works would see a bridge over the river to provide further access to an existing plant site (DP 19). Further works would divert the footpath, currently running from the bridge on the south edge to the weir at the north edge of the site, to an angle to coincide with the line of an existing ditch (DP 20).

5.2 Part of the southern portion of the site is used by Elton Boat Club as moorings (DP 21) and it is along this stretch that two weirs feed the tributary river that flows along the southern edge of the site (DP 22). The main canal along this stretch may have been deliberately diverted in order to serve the mill to the south (DP 23). Further along this southern stretch are two ponds (DP 24-26), currently dry which fill when the river floods; and a circular earthwork which may represent relatively recent soil movement or archaeological remains (DP 27). In the north-west corner of the site, where the two rivers initially divide, a shallow ditch curves through the field (DP 28). This may be the route of an old channel or a drainage ditch. Another pond in this corner of the site is currently dry but acts as an overflow during wet conditions (DP 29).

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 The Impact of the Proposed Development

6.1.1 The proposed development (Fig. 8) comprises an extension to an existing quarry site to the east. A temporary bridge is to be built to connect the two sites and an internal road will be constructed for vehicle access. These works are proposed to take place over four stages to reduce the intrusion on the landscape and allow the function of the footpath to continue during the works. The latter will encompass much of the footprint of the existing field and will eventually be developed into a reservoir with a causeway for footpath access.

6.1.2 The development of the site will truncate any archaeological remains, if present and therefore the impact of the proposed works is assessed as high.

### 6.2 Previous Ground Disturbance

6.2.1 Cartographic sources indicate the site has remained pasture since at least the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### 6.3 Archaeological Potential

6.3.1 Based on the known archaeology the potential of the site may be judged as follows:

**Neolithic – Low to Moderate.** Evidence for Neolithic activity has been identified c.270m to the south (NHER 1071, 22108), Neolithic flint scatters were found

during field walking 500m to the east, and evidence for settlement and burials is known further to the north-east.

**Bronze Age – Moderate.** A group of possible round barrows and pit alignments are recorded commencing 100m to the north of the site (NHER 128559, 128560, 128556-8). A beaker burial was found c.270m to the south (NHER 142611), and another Beaker burial, a cremation and a ploughed out round barrow were excavated approximately 460m to the east (Barlow 2008).

**Iron Age – Moderate.** The excavations on the Elston Estate, approximately 550m to the north-east identified *a series of ditches which formed a field system of Iron Age date*, a series of parallel Iron Age to early Roman ditches possibly forming one or more droveways, a boundary ditch and three pits, one of which showed evidence of industrial activity (Barlow 2008). These were thought to be part of a significant prehistoric landscape.

**Roman – Moderate.** There are no finds known within the immediate vicinity of the site but the general area had quite significant occupation in the Roman period. Evidence for Roman occupation is recorded c.500m to the south, and the Iron Age field systems to the north-east may have continued in the early Roman period.

**Saxon – Low to Moderate.** Warmington has Saxon origins and the manor was originally located in the hamlet of Eaglethorpe approximately 300m south-east of the site where pottery and wall foundations have been recorded (NHER 2240).

**Medieval – Low to Moderate.** The site lay outside the historic core of the village. postholes, beam slots and pottery scatters have been recorded in the vicinity of Eaglethorpe c.250m to the south-east of the site (NHER 138010, 138009 and 138012), and a medieval road lies to the north that might have run through the site in the direction of Fotheringhay.

**Post-Medieval – Low.** The site was within open fields from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A cornmill was situated 180m to the south (NHER 62341/1).

## 7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The proposed site is an extension to an existing quarry on the Elton Estate to the east, which when excavated proved to contain multi-period archaeological remains. These were mainly prehistoric, including a Beaker burial, ploughed out round barrows and an Iron Age field system and droveways. The remains were thought to form part of a significant, wider prehistoric landscape, which is supported to a degree by the presence of further Early Bronze Age burials within 100-300m of the site.

7.2 The village of Warmington was founded in the Saxon period, during the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It may have been during the later Saxon period or early medieval period that Warmington became an established series of hamlets. Following the Norman Conquest the village grew in importance and was larger than its modern extent.

7.3. The development will have a high impact on archaeological remains, if present. Cartographic evidence suggests the site has remained largely unchanged since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Web resources**

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