

Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation & Recording at  
The Bungalow, Stoke Park,  
Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire  
(NGR 474126 248863)

(Planning Application Ref. S/2011/0368/FUL)



Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

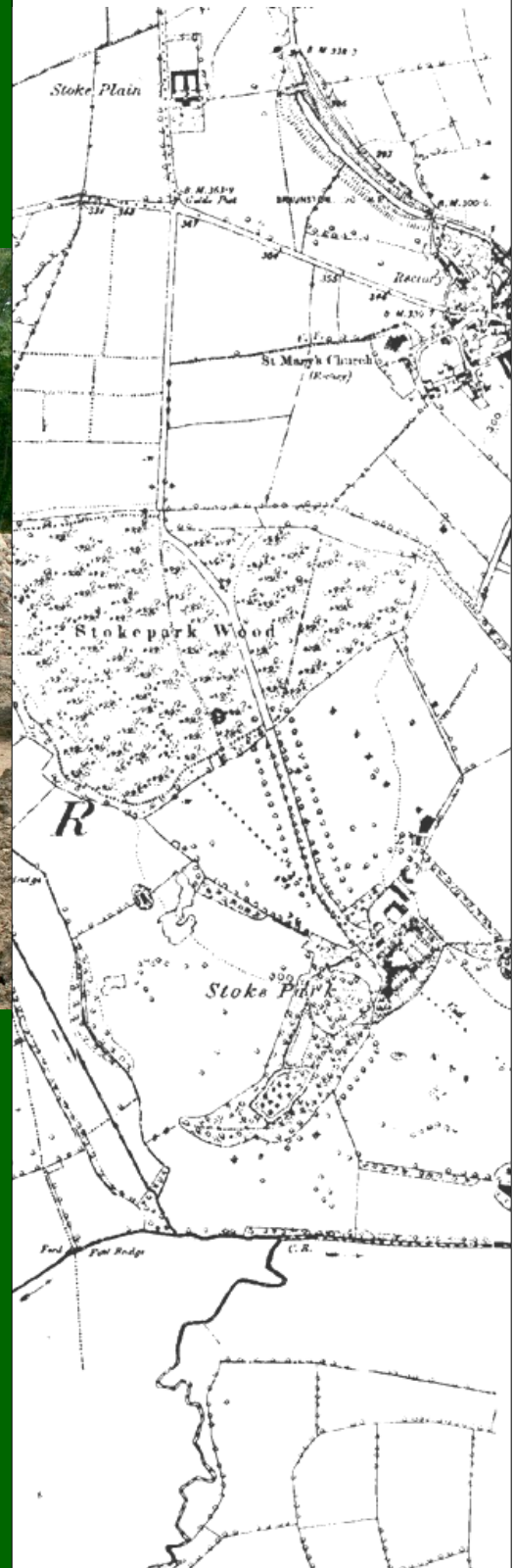
for

Mrs Sarah Wheatley &  
Mr Scott Wheatley

November 2012

# Souterrain

**Archaeological Services Ltd**



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Souterrain Project: SOU11-231

Produced for:

**Mrs Sarah Wheatley and Mr Scott Wheatley**

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## **Preface**

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Martin Wilson BA Hons, MIfA, MEnvSc, MEAGE, FSASc and Matthew Edgeworth BA, PhD, MIfA, FSA. The report was prepared by Martin Wilson with medieval pottery identification and dating by Jackie Wells MA. The charred plant remains were analyzed by Hayley McParland BA MSc PifA.

## **SUMMARY**

*Archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new house at Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne.*

*As the new structure was to be built in an area of potential archaeological sensitivity, the purpose of the exercise was to ensure that the archaeological interest of the site was safeguarded.*

*The investigation revealed evidence for land-use and occupation at, or in proximity to the site during the 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century, providing corroborative evidence for the suspected deserted medieval village site of Shaw.*

## **1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and recording during ground preparation for a new house within Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire (NGR 474126 248863<sup>1</sup>) (Fig.1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent. It was carried out by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) on behalf of Mrs Sarah Wheatley and Mr Scott Wheatley (the Developers) between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
- 1.3 The report provides an appraisal of the fieldwork results in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>2</sup> (WSI) approved by Northamptonshire County Council.

## **2. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning permission (Application Ref. S/2011/0368/FUL) was granted subject to conditions on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, to Mr A Chancellor for residential development at The Bungalow, Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, consent has been granted with a Condition (No.7) attached for the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, approved by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Planning, Northamptonshire County Council (hereafter 'NCCAAA'). The purpose of the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest encountered during groundwork are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An archaeological project Brief<sup>3</sup> was issued to the planning applicant by the NCCAAA outlining expected parameters of the investigation, subsequent to which the archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a WSI.

## **3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT**

- 3.1 The application site is located within Stoke Park, to the south of the village of Stoke Bruerne. It is situated within a Registered Park and Garden<sup>4</sup>. The topography of the site is fairly level at a height of approximately 90m OD. The underlying geology consists of Upper Lias Clays. Two geotechnical bore holes were executed by the Developer in February 2012<sup>5</sup>, one (Borehole 1) to the immediate north-east of the former building footprint, the other (Borehole 2) to the immediate south. These suggested that geological clay would be reached at a depth of c.600mm to c.800mm below existing ground level.
- 3.2 The development entails the demolition of a 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow existing dwelling (demolished prior to archaeological investigation) and erection of a replacement dwelling, with basement, on a different footprint.

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<sup>1</sup> The grid reference denotes centre point of the actual area of disturbance/investigation.

<sup>2</sup> Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. 2012. *Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at The Bungalow, Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire (NGR 474121 248862) (Application Reference S/2011/0368/FUL)*

<sup>3</sup> *Brief For A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication Of Works at The Bungalow, Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire*. Planning, Northamptonshire County Council, V1 11th Oct 2011

<sup>4</sup> Registered Park or Garden (II) - GD2041, Stoke Park

<sup>5</sup> Geotechnical report unavailable at the time of document preparation

#### **4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The demesne of Stoke is first mentioned in 1086. There is however, no evidence for a resident lord at Stoke Bruerne, either in the medieval period or later, and no evidence for an associated manor house<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.2 In 1270 a licence to enclose a wood to create a deer park<sup>7</sup> was obtained by Pagan de Chaworth. Today, Stoke Park Wood is believed to occupy a large part of the former deer park. It comprises about 24.1 ha (59.55 acres). The wood is about 420m to the north west of the Application Site.
- 4.3 Stoke Park was created in 1529-30 with more land being added after the manor was acquired by Henry VIII in 1541 and annexed to the honour of Grafton in 1542<sup>8</sup>. The park incorporated the woodland. Charles I granted the property to Sir Francis Crane in 1627, who built a house, purportedly on the site of a keeper's lodge in the medieval deer park. The new house was the focus of the park, built in the Palladian Style with terraced gardens overlooking a formal designed landscape to the south. In 1786 Levison Vernon inherited the house, subsequently remodelled it and enhanced the grounds. There were two avenues, one which ran from the house towards the Tove, near Twyford bridge, the other which ran north-west from the house to the woodland in the north part of the park, linked by a drive to the Stoke-Shutlanger road. Most of the house burnt down in 1886. It was replaced by a mansion in the Neo-Jacobean style in 1891. The landscape was again extensively re-modelled, with gardens<sup>9</sup> and formal grounds on all sides of the building and a small ornamental wood to the southwest<sup>10</sup>. The wooded parkland was requisitioned by the War Department in WWII, whereupon it suffered extensive clearance and ploughing. The house was derelict by the mid 1950s, when it was demolished, leaving only the northern service range of the 1891<sup>11</sup>. The pavilions<sup>12</sup> and colonnades (located c.100 of the Application Site) were restored as a private house in the 1950s-1970s, to become known as Stoke Pavilions, while other estate service buildings were later converted to private residences. The park now contains a number of properties, including farmland, estate accommodation, and private properties (one of which is the present Application Site).
- 4.4 To the south of Stoke Park Wood are a series of earthworks. These are understood to be the remains of a former medieval settlement. The documentary record indicates that a hamlet by the name of Shaw prevailed somewhere in this area until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The earthworks are located between 100m and c.400m to the north and northwest of the Application Site. Largely interpreted from aerial photographs, the earthworks include a hollow way<sup>13</sup>, a field boundary<sup>14</sup>, closes<sup>15</sup>, a possible windmill mound<sup>16</sup> and a possible enclosure<sup>17</sup>. The site of a possible medieval watermill<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See: 'Stoke Bruerne', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 5: The Hundred of Cleley* (2002), pp. 374-413. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22791> Date accessed: 15 March 2012. Stoke Bruerne.

<sup>7</sup> SMR No.4743

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> SMR No.8054/1/12, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century walled kitchen garden lay beyond the orchard and the east end of the lower terrace.

<sup>10</sup> See SMR No. 8054/1/11. It is now designated Grade II Parkland, formal gardens and wooded pleasure grounds of 3.6ha. The garden was based on a 17th century layout with 19th century additions; and SMR No. 8054/1/13 SP 741 488, a wilderness possible of this date.

<sup>11</sup> See SMR No.8054/1/1

<sup>12</sup> SMR No. 8054/1/2, East Pavilion and attached quadrant colonnade (SP 74085 48771), Listed Building (II\*) - 7/176; SMR No. 8054/1/3, West Pavilion and attached quadrant colonnade (SP 7406 4874) Listed Building (II\*) - 7/148; SMR No. 8054/1/4, Terrace wall between east and west pavilions (SP 7408 4874), Listed Building (II) - 7/178; SMR No.8054/1/5 Wall Between Colonnades of East and West Pavilions (SP 7406 4874), Listed Building (II) - 7/177; SMR No..8054/1/6 Wall, terminating east end of lower garden terrace SP 74163 48805 Listed Building (II) - 7/180

<sup>13</sup> SMR No.5460/0/1

<sup>14</sup> SMR No.5460/0/3 SP 7380 4901

<sup>15</sup> SMR No. 5460/0/5; SP 7389 4886

<sup>16</sup> SMR No. 5460/0/7; SP 7381 4896

<sup>17</sup> SMR No.5460/0/8; SP 7373 4901



was identified during field-walking in c.1980 and another possible building was discovered during the construction of a track in 1991<sup>19</sup> where a single piece of medieval pottery was found in the topsoil. Medieval cultivation strips have been identified at three locations<sup>20</sup> although it is uncertain whether any of these pertain to the deserted medieval settlement of Shaw, and indeed may be demesne attributes.

- 4.5 The site of the earthworks is likely to have been encompassed by the park in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, since the park was undoubtedly extended southwards from the wood and it is recorded in 1594 that the park comprised 108 acres (43.7ha) of statute land and 53 acres (21.45ha) of coppice. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the park was integrated with Stoke Bruerne Park<sup>21</sup> (i.e. the landscape park of Stoke House).
- 4.6 Archaeological investigation within the Study Area has been largely restricted to non-invasive study in the form of earthwork survey, field walkover, and aerial photographic analysis, with the exception of a watching brief during the aforementioned track construction. There have been few artefact finds reported.

## **5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 In view of the deemed archaeological potential of the site, the Written Scheme of Investigation advocated a series of research objectives with particular emphasis on regionally and nationally significant research themes and priorities<sup>22</sup>. In brief, the key objectives and questions of the investigation were as follows:

### **Medieval settlement and economy**

- i. Since most deer parks in the region were established in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is there evidence of earlier medieval remains, particularly with regard to the study of medieval rural settlement, landscape and economy?
- ii. With regard to the origin of the Midland open field system<sup>23</sup>, does the site contain environmental data that may contribute towards the effect that open field farming had on the environment, changes in land-use and the introduction of new crop species<sup>24</sup>?
- iii. Does the site contain evidence that might pertain to medieval settlement, the agrarian economy, or a woodland economy? The original extent of the group of earthworks to the north and north-west of the Application Site (*ante*.4.4-4.5) is not known. Knowledge of medieval rural settlements in the region derives predominantly from superficial analysis (e.g. earthwork survey, aerial photographic study)<sup>25</sup> and few nucleated settlements (the most common type of settlement recorded) have been dated by excavation<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> SMR No. 4744/1 SP 7405 4835

<sup>19</sup> SMR No. 5460/0/12; SP 7404 4900

<sup>20</sup> By the Midland Open Fields Project, 1995-99; surveyed by RCHME. Respectively, SMR Nos. 9085/0/3, 9085/0/6 & 9085/0/7.

<sup>21</sup> SMR No.8047

<sup>22</sup> c.f: Cooper, N (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 191 and Knight, D, Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. *Research Agenda And Strategy For The Historic Environment Of The East Midlands*, East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Nottingham/York).

<sup>23</sup> Lewis, C, in Cooper, N (ed), 2006. 'The Medieval Period', in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13 2006, 215

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, 215

<sup>25</sup> Lewis, C, in Cooper, N (ed), 2006, 190-191

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, 191

- iv. In the event that the application site proves to be a further extent of the medieval settlement, does it preserve environmental data that may contribute to research themes such as changes in animal husbandry, diet and living conditions and land-use<sup>27</sup>?
- v. On the matter of medieval woodland economy, is it possible to identify and the physical remains associated with the practical systems of woodland management<sup>28</sup>?
- vi. To what extent can the ceramics recovered from the development area contribute to understanding of interaction between towns/market areas and countryside<sup>29</sup>.

#### **Deer parks**

- vii. Are there any structures associated with the pre-mid-16<sup>th</sup> century hunting park<sup>30</sup>? Although it is presumed that Crane built his house on the site of the medieval lodge, it is not conclusive, and does not preclude the existence of another lodge and/or associated features.

#### **Archaeology of other periods**

- viii. In addition to the key periods of interest, does the site contain evidence for pre-medieval or prehistoric activity, or evidence for historic garden and/or formal landscape features?

## **6. INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

- 6.1 In the descriptions which follow, context numbers in square brackets denote 'cuts' (i.e. dug features) whilst those in round brackets denote layers, deposits, fills or structures.
- 6.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation. It was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2001). Ground reduction and trenching was monitored by an archaeologist throughout with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate. A photographic, drawn and descriptive record was made and the site was surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum.
- 6.3 Prior to the archaeological investigation a 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow had been demolished to level of c. 88.40m AOD, leaving footings (015) still in place. The ground level beyond the footprint of the 20<sup>th</sup> century building was gradually inclined from around 89.45m AOD on the south side of the development area to 89.02m AOD in the north side.
- 6.4 The total area of ground reduction was c.179 sq.m (Fig.2). Topsoil was present on the north, west and east sides of the foundations of the old building. It was stripped from the area of the proposed building footprint by a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, revealing deposits of made-up ground ((002), (003)) comprised of 're-deposited' clay, at c.88.45m AOD in the east and c.88.55m in the west. It is presumed that these deposits represented ground-preparation for the former bungalow.
- 6.5 A 2m-wide exploratory trench was then dug, at the request of the archaeologist, through the made-up ground (002/003) (Fig. 3, Section 1; Fig. 4) in order to determine its depth. To facilitate

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<sup>27</sup> Monckton, A. in Cooper, N (ed), 2006, 283

<sup>28</sup> Lewis, C, in Cooper, N (ed), 2006, 190, 215

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, 189

<sup>30</sup> For this aspect the manorial economy Ibid, 216

soil handling and storage logistics, the trench was located at the east end of the new building footprint. Section 1 (Fig.3) shows the east side of the trench. Removal of made-up ground layers revealed a buried soil layer (005) at 88.32m to 88.06m AOD, southwest to northeast. Beneath the buried soil layer, towards the north end of the trench, was a ditch [007]. This was aligned northwest/southeast, cut into the undisturbed geology (004) at around 88.06 to 88.10m AOD. The geology comprised light yellowish grey clay with orange brown mottling and occasional medium sized stones. Towards the southeast end of the trench was a large area of modern disturbance [010] within the geology which had been encountered at a higher level after the topsoil strip; it was most probably associated with the ground preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow.

- 6.6 The surface and sections of the exploratory trench were cleaned using hand tools, subsequent to which a 1m-wide segment was hand-dug across the ditch [007]. It measured c. 1.1m in width, with sides sloping 45° to a flattish base at a depth of up to 0.33m. A single fill (006) was discernible. This consisted of stiff mid greyish-brown and mottled orange silty clay with occasional small stones. It was likely to be the result of natural silting. Two sherds of Potterspury ware recovered from the fill providing a broad date of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century for the usage of the ditch (*post.* 7.2, Table 1). A soil sample of 20 litres was taken for the paleo-environmental analysis (*post.* 8). Section 1 (Fig.3) was recorded at this point showing the stratigraphy above both the archaeological and geological horizons.
- 6.7 The remainder of the made-up ground was then stripped from the new building footprint. The buried soil layer (005) was carefully peeled back by machine leaving a residue of c.0.02m to be hand-cleaned. Occasional medieval pottery sherds were present at the interface of the buried soil layer and the ditch fill (006), possibly indicating the vestiges of an old ground surface. The buried soil layer (005) proved to be a localized deposit, thinning out and finally disappearing about 4m west of the exploratory trench (i.e. Section 1) at c. 88.27m AOD. It had presumably been removed from thereon to the west and northwest during ground preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow.
- 6.8 The medieval ditch [007] was exposed for an overall distance of 13.5m (Fig.2; Fig.5). It ran on a more or less straight alignment and continued beyond the baulks to the northwest and the east. A second 1-m wide section [011] was hand-dug through the feature (Fig.3). The stiff silty clay fill (012) of the ditch was the same colour and composition as that recorded at Section 1. The profile of the ditch at this point proved to be inconsistent (Fig.6), the east end having sides sloping c. 45° to a flattish base, while the west end, V-shaped with sides inclined at c. 45°. The overall depth of the ditch was c.0.25m. There were no artefacts from the fill itself, although sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were impressed into the top of the fill, indicative of an old ground surface. The pottery included a piece of Brill ware (Bucks) and four pieces from Potterspury (Northants) (*post.* 7.2, Table 1). Given the ditch's cross-slope alignment it probably represents a property (i.e. tenement or close) boundary.
- 6.9 A post-medieval stone-filled field drain (Fig.2) entered the ditch from the southwest, turned sharply to the southeast and ran along the course of the medieval ditch for about 8m. This indicated that the ditch was still visible as a hollow when the field drain was dug.
- 6.10 Towards the west side of the stripped area, beneath the 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow foundation, was a narrow and shallow (c.0.5m wide x c.0.1m deep) gully or drainage channel [016]. This was aligned northeast/southwest and was visible for a distance of c.5.1m (Fig.2; Fig.7). The channel entered the south side of the medieval ditch, at which point it terminated, again indicating that the medieval ditch had been visible as a hollow (and drain) when the channel was dug. Pottery recovered from the fill of the channel dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which may also be the approximate date of the cutting of the feature.

- 6.11 A second exploratory trench was dug in the south part of the site (Fig. 2; Fig.8) in order to confirm that the clay deposit encountered below the foundations of the old building was not 're-deposited geology'. It proved to be *in situ* geology. The trench encountered a natural feature [013] which was interpreted as either an animal burrow or the site of a tree root.

## 7. THE FINDS

### The Medieval Pottery by Jackie Wells and Martin Wilson

- 7.1 The medieval pottery identification and dating was done by Jackie Wells MA. The sherds in the catalogue (Table 1) are arranged by Context Number. Nine medieval pottery sherds (Table 1) were recovered from stratified contexts during the investigations with a minimum vessel count (MNV) of eight vessels. The pottery is dated broadly to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century and represents glazed cooking pots or jugs or from Potterspury (Northants) and a jug or baluster from Brill in Buckinghamshire. The vessels reflect domestic consumption, though the low density of pottery may suggest that the area of deposition was not adjacent to areas of habitation.

#### 7.2 Table 1. Pottery: Types and chronology

(Note: Fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series).

Context No.	Description	Date
006	1 base, 1 body sherd, 1 body sherd green lead glaze Potterspury ware (differential vessels), Fabric 329	C13/14
012/Old Ground Surface	4 body sherds (2 joining) Potterspury ware. Fabric 329	C13/14
	1 body sherds Brill ware. Green lead glaze. Fabric 324	C13/14
	1 body sherd coarse sandy ware, non-specific	c.C13

#### 7.3 Table 2. Medieval Pottery Quantification (MNV= minimum number of vessels)

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
006	3	65	3
012/OGS	6	60	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>8</b>

#### 7.4 Table 2. Other finds

Context	Type	Suggested date
016	1 body sherd, plate; underglaze painted patterned white ware in chrome colours, floral.	c.1830s to 1870s
	2 sherds white granite/white ironstone ware, tea service.	Late 19th century
	1 sherd earthenware jar rim	Late 19th century

## **8. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS**

*by Hayley McParland*

- 8.1 A single bulk sample of 20 litres was taken from the fill (006) of ditch [007]. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.
- 8.2 The sample was processed by Gavin Davis MA (JMHS) using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank with meshes of 0.5mm aperture for the retention of the flot and the residue. Following air drying the residue was sorted and discarded. The flot was fractionated to 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm, then sorted and assessed using a stereo zoom microscope. Identifications were made using a reference collection and nomenclature follows Stace, 2010<sup>31</sup>. The flot, measuring approximately 45ml, contained a large quantity of modern intrusive root material, including some larger root fragments and occasional intrusive modern beetle casing fragments, making up approximately 70% of the flot volume. Four microscopic fragments of possible coal are noted. A very small number of fragments of charcoal were also present, though these are not identifiable or diagnostic.
- 8.3 Three cultivated grains were identified within the sample, all of which are likely *Triticum* sp. (wheat), two of which were very poorly preserved and unidentifiable to species level. No evidence of chaff or of charred weed seeds, which may be suggestive of crop processing, was present in the sample.
- 8.4 The presence of charred cultivated grain is suggestive of domestic occupation on or near the site. However, it is worth noting that the presence of large quantities of intrusive modern material is suggestive of extensive bioturbation. With this in mind, given the small size of the assemblage, no further analysis is recommended.

## **9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 9.1 The Application Site proved to contain archaeological deposits that are broadly dated by pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries, even though partly disturbed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century dwelling. The investigation showed that archaeological deposits continue beyond the present the limit of excavation (Figs.2 and 3) to the northwest and northeast. These areas however, lie outside the limit of ground reduction for the present development (pers. comm. Scott Wheatley).
- 9.2 Most importantly, the evidence signifies occupation at or in close proximity to the area of investigation in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century (c.f. 5.1.iii). It may further be inferred from the angle at which the medieval ditch [007] is offset from the lane (Figs. 1 and 2), together with its cross-slope alignment, that it represents a tenement boundary.
- 9.3 It is the first datable below-ground archaeological evidence of medieval occupation in this area, which is corroborative with documentary evidence for the existence of the village or hamlet of Shaw<sup>32</sup>. The village is known to have prevailed between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and is likely to have been contemporary with the deer park, the latter which, until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, appears to have been limited to the wood to the north, now largely occupied by Stoke Park Wood. With this in mind, it is doubtful whether the medieval ditch [007] was associated with woodland management (c.f. 5.1.iii). The quality of environmental data recovered from the area of investigation was poor (c.f. 5.1.v), largely due to the intensity of modern ash woodland across the entire Application Area.

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<sup>31</sup> Stace, C. 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

<sup>32</sup> c.f. Riden, P & Insley C (eds.). 2002. *Victoria History of the Counties, 'A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 5: The Hundred of Cleley*, pp. 374-413.

Nevertheless, the presence of three cultivated cereal grains (probably *Triticum* sp.) is suggestive of domestic occupation on or near the site. The ceramics evidence, albeit little in quantity, illustrates that there was intercommunication at Shaw, between the pottery manufacturies at Pottersbury, Northants (c. 7 miles) and Brill, Buckinghamshire (c.30 miles) during the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries (c.f. 5.1.vi). This was probably through the intermediary of a nearby market (e.g. Towcester, c.5 miles) and / or peddlers.

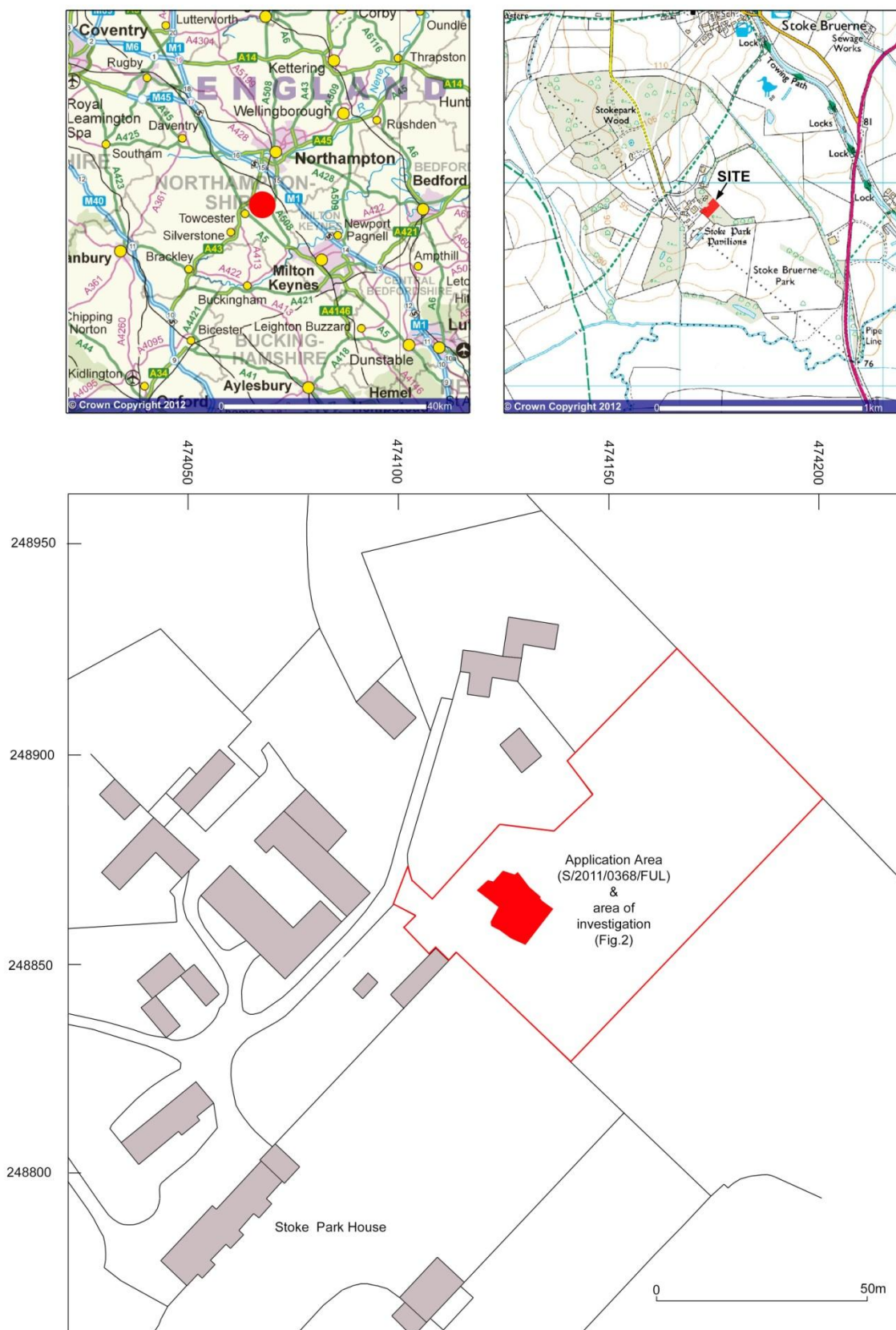
- 9.4 There was no evidence for archaeological remains which pre-dated the deer park (c.f. 5.1.i; 5.1.vi). Neither was there evidence for features associated with the pre-mid-16<sup>th</sup> century hunting park (c.f. 5.1.vi) or the historic landscaped garden (c.f. 5.1.vii).

## **10. ARCHIVE**

- 10.1 Artefacts will remain the property of the landowner although he/she will be invited to transfer finds ownership to the county museum facility when this becomes available. Provision is to be made by the Developer for retaining the project archive until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive, including financial provision to cover one-off long-term museum storage charges.
- 10.2 The English Heritage OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations [www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) for this project is **souterra1-138620**.

## **11. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

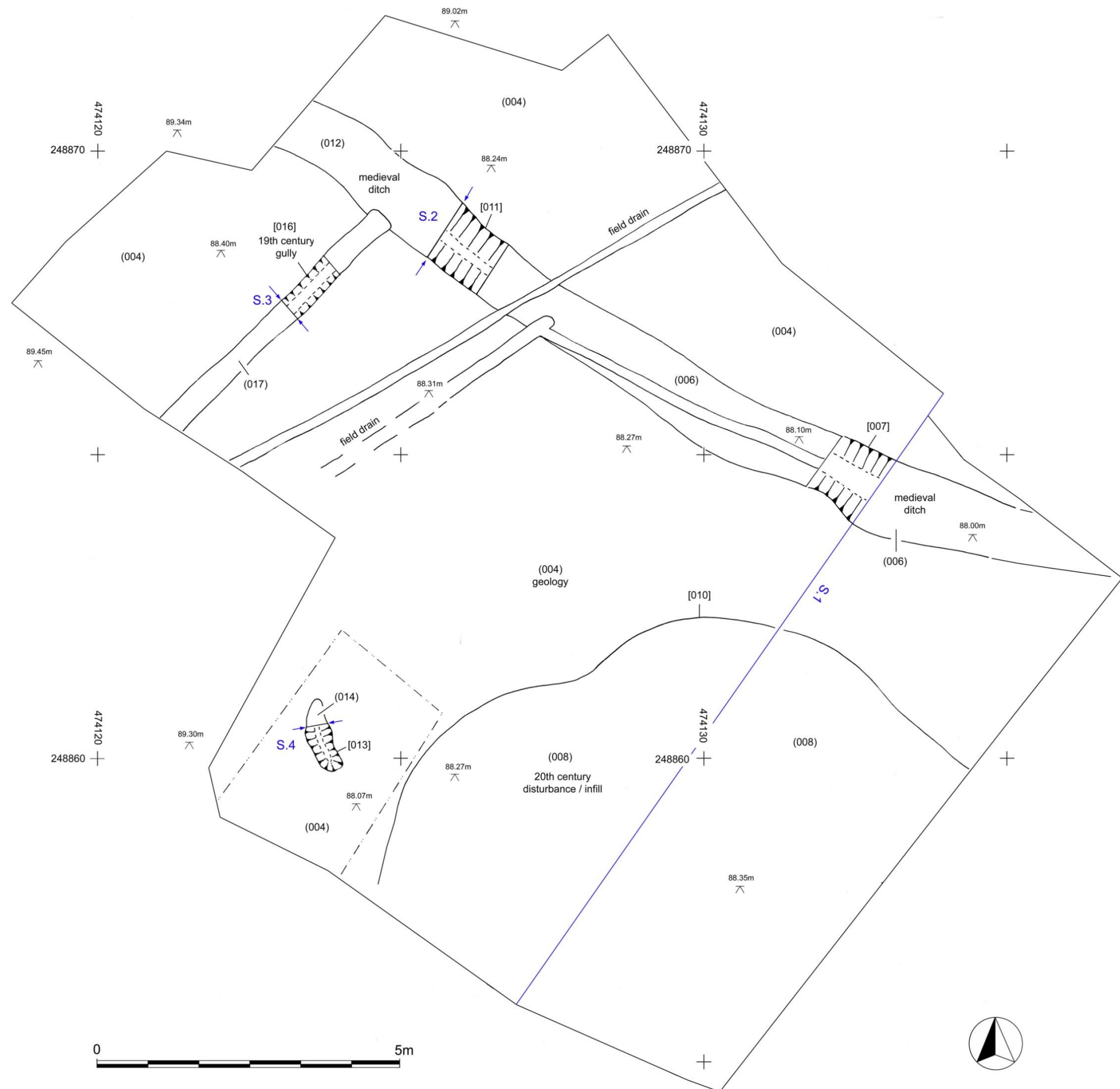
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**Figure 1. Location of site and area of investigation**

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Figure 2. Area of investigation and plan of features





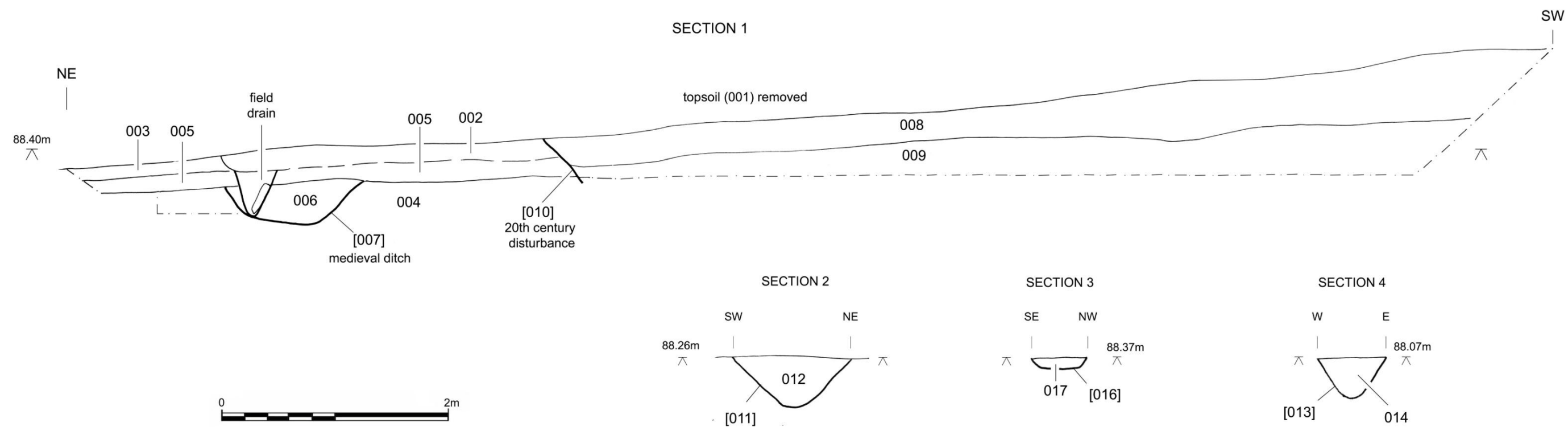


Figure 3. Sections



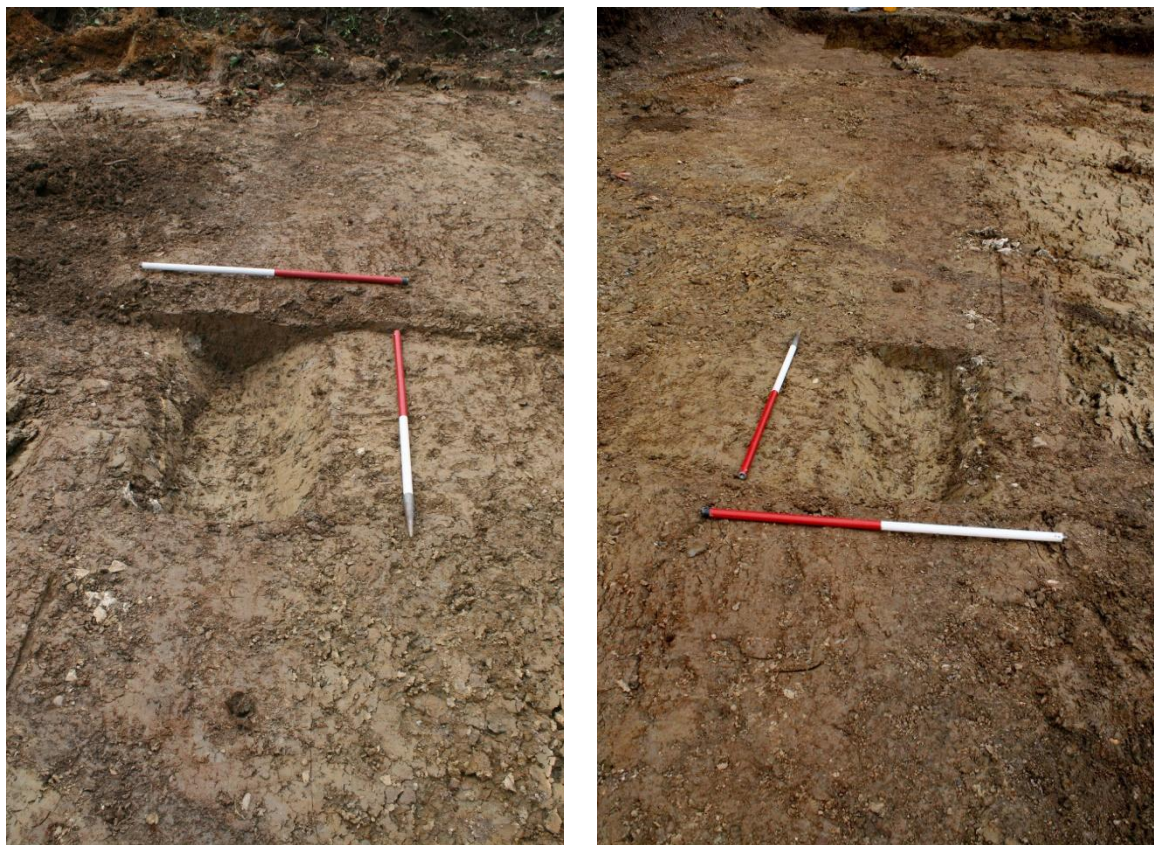


**Figure 4. Initial exploratory trench after topsoil strip, showing Section 1**



**Figure 5. Overview of medieval ditch [011] / [007], facing east**





**Figure 6. Section through medieval ditch [011] / [007]**



**Figure 7. Post-medieval drainage channel [016]**



**Figure 8.**  
**Investigation of**  
**feature [013]**



## APPENDIX 1 List of Contexts

**KEY:** Relationships: **A.** above; **Abt.** abuts; **B.** below; **C.** cuts; **Cub.** cut by; **Co.** contains; **Wi** within  
 Dimensions: **Le.** length; **Wid.** width; **De.** depth; **Th.** thickness; **Sa.** same as; **Dia.** diameter

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Field Drawing	Height (AOD)	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown clay loam topsoil, with occasional small to medium stones. Many tree roots Surrounds old bungalow footprint	A.(002), (003), (008)	Th. between 0.2m and 4m	-		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
002	Layer	Re-deposited geology, light yellow-brown clay, dug from elsewhere on site to be re-used as a capping /levelling layer, probably during the construction of the bungalow. The original ground level slopes down towards the north and north-east. This material was used to bring up the level of the ground.	A.(004), (005). B.(001)	Th.0.2m	Section 1		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
003	Layer	Modern layer contiguous with clay capping layer (002). Composed of mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized stones and some modern ceramic sherds. Contains some re-deposited clay within its matrix. Probably relates to the same ground levelling event as (002).	A.(005)	Th. 0.1m -0.15m	Section 1		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
004	Layer	Geological clay. Light yellowish grey, mottled with orange brown. Contains occasional medium sized stones.	B. (005), (007)	-	Section 1		-	11/12:07:2012
005	Layer	Buried soil / old ground layer. This overlies medieval ditch [007]/(006). Consists of mid orange greyish brown silty clay with occasional stones. Sherds of medieval pottery found at the interface of this layer and both (006) and (004). Cut by areas of modern disturbance [010] – ground preparation for the former bungalow. Continues beyond the north baulk.	A. (004), (006). B. (002), (003). Cub. [010].	De.0.1m-0.15m Thins out c.4m west of exploratory trench (Section 1) at c. 88.27m AOD.	Section 1		Medieval-post-medieval	11/12:07:2012
006	Fill	Fill of medieval ditch. Composed of mid greyish brown, mottled orange silty clay with occasional small stones. Sealed by an old soil layer. Soil sample taken.	A. (007) B.(005) Cub. Post-medieval field drain	Th. up to 0.33m	Section 1		Medieval	11/12:07:2012
007	Cut	Cut of linear feature running NW-SE. Shape: parallel sides, near-straight. Sides sloping 45° to flattish base	Cu.( 004); B. (006)	De. up to 0.33m Wid. c..1.1m	Section 1		Medieval	11/12:07:2012

*Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording: The Bungalow, Stoke Park, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire*

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Field Drawing	Height (AOD)	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
		at Section 1. Probably a drainage ditch. Later features – field drains and (0XX) run into the feature indicating that that there was a linear surface depression for many years.	C.(004); Co.(006)	Segment 1m length				
008	Fill	Upper layer of made-up ground within the fill of [010], a large modern feature. Composed of dark brown clay and silt with occasional small to medium stones and fragments of charcoal.	A.(009) B.(001) Wi.(010)	Th.c.0.3m-0.5m	Section 1		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
009	Fill	Modern layer. Fill of a large modern feature. composed of mid grayish brown clay with occasional small and medium sized stones, flecks of charcoal and frequent small pieces of mortar.	B.(008) Wi.[010]	Th. Up to 0.4m	Section 1		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
010	Cut	Very large modern pit-like feature. Not fully excavated. Size indeterminate. Orientation indeterminate. Probably a ground preparation event prior to the construction of the former bungalow.	C.(002), (005) Co.(008), (009)	De.indeterminate	Section 1		20 <sup>th</sup> century	11/12:07:2012
011	Cut	Ditch or gully. A continuation of [007]. A post-medieval field drain enters the ditch from the southwest, turns sharply to the southeast and runs along the course of the medieval ditch for about 8m Orientated northwest/southeast. At its west side where sectioned, it was V-shaped profile with sides sloping c. 45°. Its east side revealed a more flattish base, again with sides sloping c. 45°. No finds from the ditch although a single pottery sherd was present on the upper surface of the ditch fill.	Cu.(004) B.(012) Co.(012)	Wid.c.0.55m-0.6m De.0.25m Excavated Segment 1m length	Section 2		medieval	12:07:2012
012	Fill	Fill of ditch [011] or gully. Composed of mid greyish brown, mottled orange silty clay with occasional small stones. Sealed by an old soil layer.	Wi.(011)	Wid.0.5m-0.6m De.0.25m	Section 2		medieval	12:07:2012
013	Cut	Beneath bungalow foundation.. A peanut-shaped feature within geology. Tree-root hole. Natural feature	C.(004); Co.(014)	Le.c.1.5m; wid.c.0.5m De.c.0.35	Section 3		Prob. Post-medieval	12:07:2012
014	Fill	Dark brown to black silty clay with occasional small stones	Wi.(013); B.(015)	Th.c.0.35	Section 3		Prob. Post-medieval	12:07:2012
015	Structure	Foundations of modern bungalow, removed by machine. Includes walls and associated layers and c.0.35m depth of made ground beneath.	A.(004)	c. 12m x 10m	-		20 <sup>th</sup> century	12:07:2012
016	Cut	Gully. Probably a drainage channel which ran into	B.(015)	Wid. c.0.5m	Section 4		19 <sup>th</sup> century	12:07:2012

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Field Drawing	Height (AOD)	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
		linear hollow of ditch [011]/[007]	Co.(017) Cu. (004)	De.c.0.1m				
017	Fill	Fill of gully. Dark-brown to black clay silt with occasional stones. Contains late 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery.	Wi.(016). B.(0150	Th.c.0.1m	Section 4		19 <sup>th</sup> century	12:07:2012