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County Council**

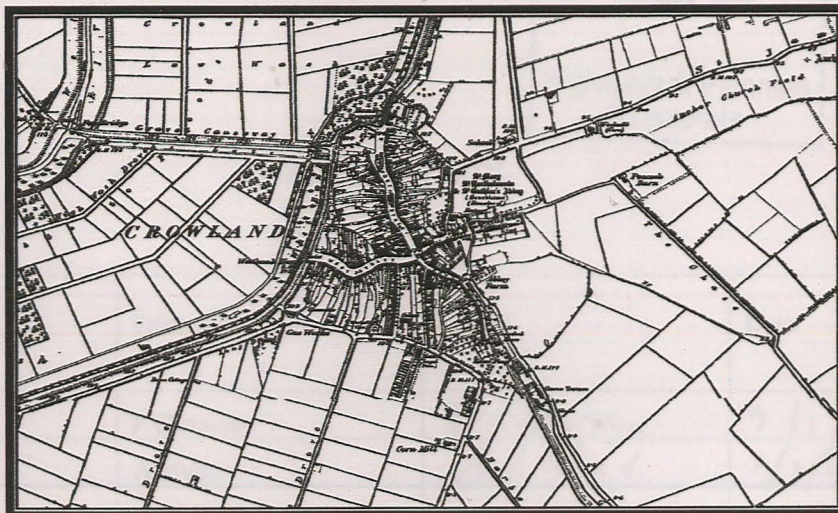
Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation

at

40 Broadway, Crowland

Lincolnshire



Anne Foard-Colby Cert Ed

December 2004

NGR TF 23950997

Planning application no: HO2/0967/04

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40 BROADWAY, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	40 Broadway, Crowland, Lincolnshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation, on land proposed for housing in Crowland, Lincolnshire. A single shallow gully contained three sherds of late medieval pottery, and a turned and polished bone parchment pricker or stylus, together with animal bone and marine shells. No other significant archaeological finds were recovered.	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation (Site Code: CRBW04)	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type And period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Bone parchment pricker or stylus, medieval	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address (including postcode)	40 Broadway, Crowland, Lincolnshire	
Easting (use numerical 100km grid square no.)	32395	
Northing	50997	
Height OD	3.1m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Barker Storey Matthews	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby	
Project Manager	Andy Mudd	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Kevan Robinson	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	November 2004	
End date	November 2004	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	2004.236	pottery, animal bone, shells, bone object
Paper	ditto	site records
Digital	ditto	report, illustrations
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
40 BROADWAY, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

NOVEMBER 2004

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on 600 sq m of land proposed for housing in Crowland, Lincolnshire. In one trench was found a gully containing three sherds of late medieval pottery, and a turned and polished bone stylus or parchment pricker, together with animal bone and marine shells. The other trench contained nothing of archaeological interest. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the upper levels of both trenches but there were no other archaeological finds. The lower deposits included peat overlying fluvio-glacial gravels. It is suggested that there was some late medieval/early post-medieval occupation in the vicinity of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation during November 2004 on a small plot of land proposed for housing (planning application: HO2/0967/04) at 40 Broadway, Crowland, NGR TF 2395 0997 (Fig 1).

The field evaluation, which comprised two trial trenches, was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2004) for Barker Storey Matthews acting on behalf of their client Mr Kevan Robinson.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site covers an area of approximately 600 sq m on the corner of Broadway and Reform Street. The topography of the site is flat, lying at an altitude of c 3 m OD. It is located just outside the Conservation Area, approximately 220 m south of the town centre.

The site lies on the southern margin of the island of Crowland which is formed of an outcrop of fluvio-glacial gravel. To the south of the site, the soils of the Downholland 1 association, developed on marine alluvium and consist of clayey, alluvial gley soils. To the north, the soils consist of the Ireton association, formed on glacio-fluvial deposits (SSEW 1984).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no known archaeological remains from within the application site itself. However, there are a number of known finds spots in the surrounding area (Fig 2; sites within a 400 m radius), which are listed in Appendix 2.

For the prehistoric period the Historic Environment Record (HER) records the possible existence of a former Bronze Age barrow cemetery running along the axis of the island to the north, 200 m or more from the site (HER Area 20265). It appears that barrows would have been largely destroyed by housing and there are no details of specific remains found. It is unclear whether the barrows would have been in a tightly linear arrangement or more sporadically sited, and whether the island would have been exclusively for burial at this time. Bronze Age burial sites, integrated with co-axial field systems and traces of settlement, have been found widely around the fen-edge, including the island of Thorney to the south, and it seems that the potential for such undiscovered remains exists in Crowland. Iron Age habitation sites are generally rarer on the fen edge, probably due to rising water levels. The bronze pin from Crowland Abbey (HER 22018) may well be a stray find of little wider significance.

The absence of Roman finds recorded in the HER is notable since Roman remains (pottery, brick, tile) tend to be conspicuous where they exist. This may suggest that Crowland was not a significant place in Roman times, perhaps not being settled until the Anglo-Saxon period, unless the evidence lies elsewhere on the island.

Crowland Abbey, established on the site of the 7th-century hermitage of St Guthlac by King Aethelbald in 716, formed the focus of the later village. The abbey was destroyed by the Vikings in 870 and re-founded by the Benedictine Order in the mid 10th century. Throughout the medieval period the abbey was a major landowner until Dissolution in the 16th century, when most of the monastic buildings were demolished. Notable surviving structures within the village include the 14th-century Trinity Bridge (HER 20552).

Medieval remains have been found towards the core of the town not far from the abbey (Fig 2; HERs 20268, 20543, 23705), and some later medieval fabric still survives in present buildings (HER 23767). Post-medieval finds are more widespread. The nearest site to the present application comprises debris from a windmill (HER 22001) lying 120 m to the west.

4 METHODOLOGY

Two trial trenches, approximately 10m and 8m in length were excavated using a mechanical digger fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

In both trenches mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the surface of a sterile orange-brown silt which the archaeological feature in Trench 2 cut. Sondages were later cut through this layer to examine the nature of the underlying deposits. Pleistocene gravels were reached at a depth of 1.08 m in Trench 1 and 1.30 m in Trench 2, with overlying layers of clay and peat.

All potential archaeological features were examined by hand excavation, by cutting a section through them. Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology single context recording procedures were employed.

All works were carried out according to the guidelines found in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (1998). All procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

5 RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

General

The following is a summary of the archaeological findings. An inventory of archaeological contexts is presented in Appendix 1. The full site archive is to be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum (Site Code CRBW04; Accession Code CCM 2004.236).

Trench 1

Measuring approximately 10m long by 1.6m wide, Trench 1 (Figs 3 & 4, Section 1) was aligned north-south. Natural orange sand and gravel was encountered at a depth of 1.08m. A layer of pale grey and orange mottled clay (109), which varied in thickness, lay in pockets over the undulating sand and gravel. Overlying this was a layer of dark brown peaty soil (104) approximately 0.16m thick, with occasional visible plant remains. A layer of mid orange brown clay with shelly inclusions (103), approximately 0.2m thick overlay the peat.

A pig burial [106], aligned east-west, was cut into the subsoil (102). The grave fill (105) contained a mix of dark blue/brown organic rich loam topsoil and rubble including bricks and stone, also fragments of asbestos roofing, which suggests it was modern. The burial was not recovered. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 2

Aligned east - west, Trench 2 (Figs 3 & 4, Plate 1) measured approximately 8m long and 1.6m wide. Natural sand and gravel was encountered at a depth of 1.3m. Overlying this was a layer, approximately 0.12m thick, of dark brown peaty soil (210) with occasional visible plant remains. It lay in pockets over the undulating gravel. A layer of pale grey and orange mottled sandy clay (209), approximately 0.2m thick overlay the peat. Layer (204), a mid orange brown mottled silty clay with occasional manganese flecks, but otherwise clean, overlay the sandy clay. It measured approximately 0.14m thick.

A possible linear gully [206], was aligned NW – SE (Fig 4, Section 3). Measuring approximately 0.7 – 0.9m wide and 0.08m deep, it was filled with a mid grey and orange brown mottled silty clay (205), it appeared to cut into layer (204), but the boundaries were not clear in section. A lathe-turned bone stylus/parchment pricker (Plate 2) was recovered from the fill, together with three sherds of Bourne 'D' ware, bone fragments, charcoal and marine shells consisting of oyster, cockle and mussel.

A possible well [208] was encountered towards the eastern end of the trench (Fig 4, Section 2). It was cut from the top of layer (202) and measured 2.25m wide at the top and 1m wide at the base of the trench, by at least 0.8m deep. It continued down below the base of the trench. The well construction used yellow/buff curved bricks. The cut for the well shaft had been filled with a mix of stone and brick rubble, and mid to dark brown loam, patches of grey brown clay and mortar lenses (207). The inside of the well lay outside the trench. A modern ceramic sewer pipe was observed at the east end of Trench 2, aligned north - south.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The Pottery by Anne Foard-Colby

Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill of the linear feature [206] in Trench 2. Two of the sherds are glazed, the other unglazed, and all three sherds have been identified as Bourne 'D' ware by Paul Blinkhorn. Bourne 'D' ranges in date from 1450 to 1637 (McCarthy & Brookes 1988, 409).

6.2 Other Finds by Tora Hylton and Ann Colby-Foard

A lathe-turned bone stylus/parchment pricker was recovered from fill (205) of feature [206]. This pin-like object had a spherical head surmounted on a collar and a short tapering shank, which measured 88mm in length and 4-6mm wide (Plate 2). A centrally placed indentation on the top of the head indicated the point at which the bone was attached to the lathe. The shank was ornamented with a crudely executed motif of double incised lines 17mm from end. The pointed terminal was recessed and would originally have been tipped with a copper alloy point (a vestige still survived), which appeared to have broken off in antiquity.

Such objects are not uncommon and similar examples have been recovered from London (Egan 1998, fig 210), Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 38, 436-39) and Winchester (Biddle and Brown 1990, fig 211, 2287); in general they are recovered from 13th-14th century deposits. There is some dispute as to their use; Brown identifies them as parchment prickers (ibid 1990, 733), used for laying out the page on parchment; or if found in a domestic context, they may have been used for transferring a pattern for embroidery by the 'prick and pounce' method. Recent research has indicated that they are probably styli and used for writing on waxed tablets. This is supported by the presence of similar implements found in late medieval writing sets in Germany, and this would explain their occurrence in scholastic and ecclesiastical establishments (Riddler 1998, 172).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND FAUNAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Environmental Evidence by Karen Deighton

Method

Two samples were hand collected from the excavation. Assessment was undertaken to establish the nature, preservation and presence of ecofacts and their potential contribution to the understanding of the function and economy of the site.

A bulk sample of 20 litres was processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and flot sieve. A 2-litre sample was floated manually and the residue washed through a series of sieves to maximize collection of molluscan data. The resulting floats were dried and analysed using a microscope (10 x magnifications). The retained material was scanned. Animal bone and marine shell are discussed elsewhere in this report.

Results

Preservation was poor. Charred grains were abraded. Mollusc shells were largely fragmentary. The data are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Environmental finds by sample and context

Sample	Context	Feature	Vol	Charcoal	Cereal	Wild/weed	Molluscs
1	102		2	Occasional	Occasional		Occasional
2	205		20	Frequent	Occasional	+	Occasional

Key +=present, occasional=less than 10, frequent=more than 50

Table 2: The molluscs present by context

Taxa	102	205
<i>Ceciliodes ascicula</i>	1	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>		1
Zontid sp	1	
Planorbis sp	2	
Valvata sp	1	
Bithnia sp		4

Discussion

Identification of plant taxa was rendered difficult by poor preservation. However, two wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum*) grains and a possible rye (*Secale cereale*) grain were noted. Dock (*Rumex* sp) was the only weed taxa present.

The snails present represent a number of habitats. *C. ascicula* is a burrowing species and can be considered intrusive in this instance. *P. muscorum* is an open country species. Members of the Planorbis, Bithnia and Valvata families prefer fresh water. This is a somewhat eclectic mix from both contexts, and it is unclear how these deposits were formed. It seems likely that there is some re-deposited freshwater material in these sediments. Although it is also possible that the ground was susceptible to flooding in the past, it would be unwise to attempt environmental reconstruction based on such small numbers.

7.2 Animal bones and marine shells

Method

An assemblage of 175 grams of animal bone was hand-recovered from context (205) the fill of feature [206]. This material was scanned to establish the species present and state of preservation, and to assess the potential for future work. Identifiable and recordable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows, bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion

could be determined and neonatal bones.

A total of 39 grams of marine shell was also recovered from two contexts – (205) and (202) (Table 4). Material from wet sieving (3.4mm and 1mm residues) was also included. Hand collected finds had previously been washed.

Results

Fragmentation was low and surface condition was good. Bones were a mid-brown colour. No evidence of butchery was observed. Six small burned indeterminate bone fragments were recovered from sieving. A single instance of canid gnawing was noted.

Species present

Table 3: Identifiable bones by phase

Context	Ovicaprid	Sus	Small ungulate	Small mammal	Piscis	Total
205	3	1	1	4	50	59

Table 4: The marine shell (quantification by number of valves)

Context	Oyster	Mussel	Cockle
202	2		
205	3	3	2

In addition to the valves recorded in Table 4, 400 g of fragmentary marine shell (cockle, mussel and oyster) were also recovered from Sample 2 (context 205). This was quantified by weight only.

Ageing and metrical data

Due to the good preservation of the animal bone some ageing and metrical data could be recovered, and is retained in archive.

Discussion

The assemblage suggests nearby domestic occupation with the utilization of both domestic and wild animal resources. The presence of marine shell suggests trade with coastal areas. The small size of the assemblages precludes analysis of animal economy and husbandry of the site.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The only feature of archaeological interest discovered was a linear gully-like feature ([206] in Trench 2) containing three sherds of late medieval pottery and a turned bone stylus/parchment pricker, together with bone fragments, charcoal and marine shells.

The nature and interpretation of this feature is not clear, but as far as can be judged from the limited area exposed, it was not a structural feature and was probably not associated with a building. It had the appearance of an irregular hollow, and need not have been man-made. The recovery from the feature of 15th-17th-century pottery, the parchment pricker or stylus and the food remains (animal bones, charred seeds and marine shells) indicate late medieval/early post-medieval occupation nearby. Whether this was in the present plot of land, or nearby, cannot be determined.

The type of occupation represented is likewise not certain. While the bone object – whether parchment pricker or stylus – would not be out of place in a monastic context, the site is several hundred metres from the site of the Benedictine Abbey, and in any case potentially post-dates its dissolution, so a connection is perhaps unlikely. At face value the remains appear similar to a number of groups of finds recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (Fig 2 and Appendix 2), which appear to show quite a wide spread of later medieval and post-medieval activity, which is focused on the historic core of the town, but also occurs a little away from it.

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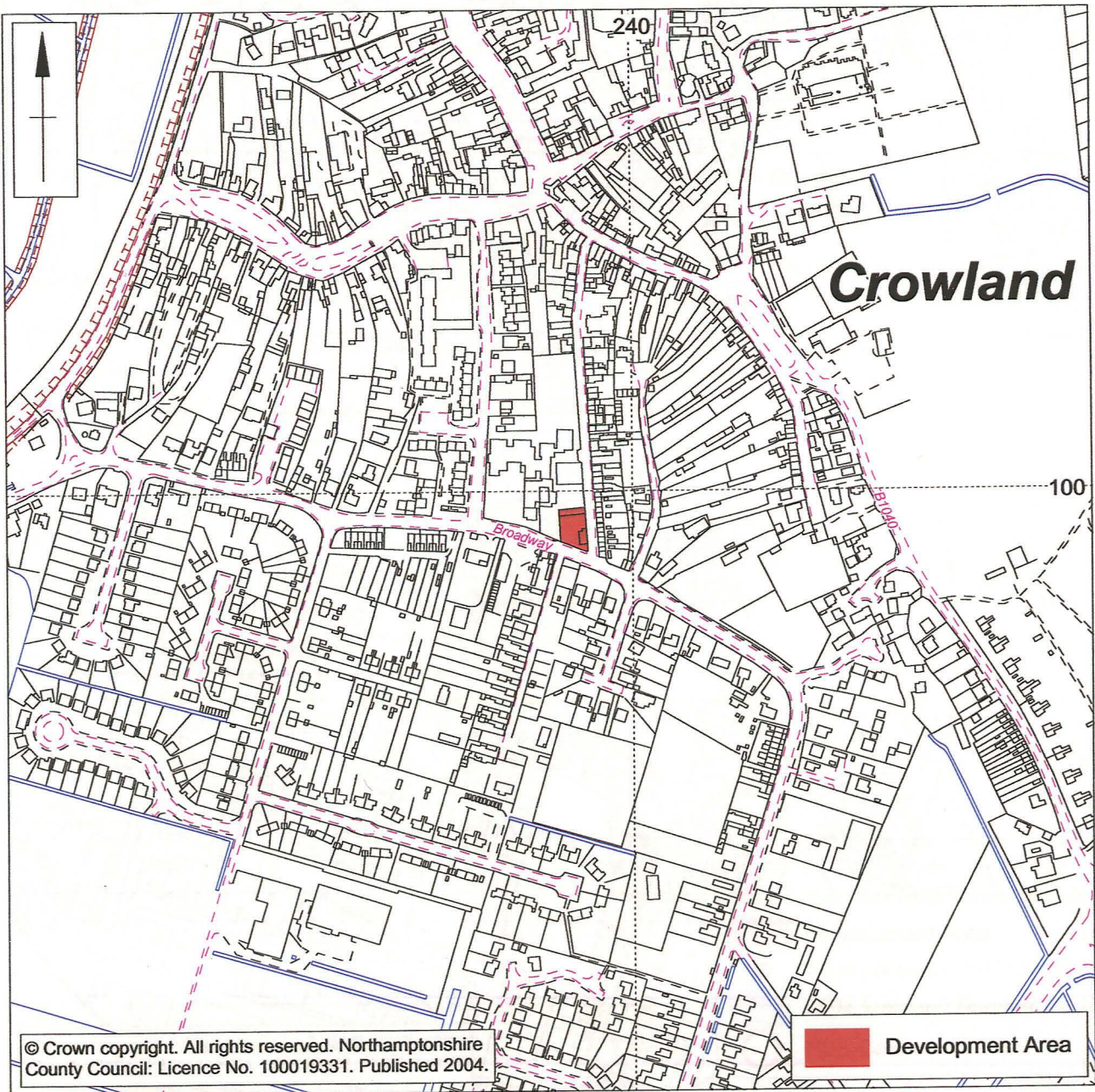
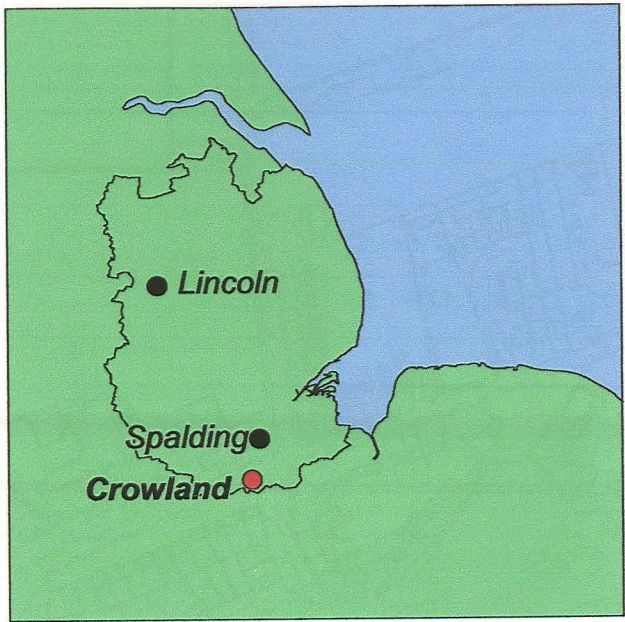
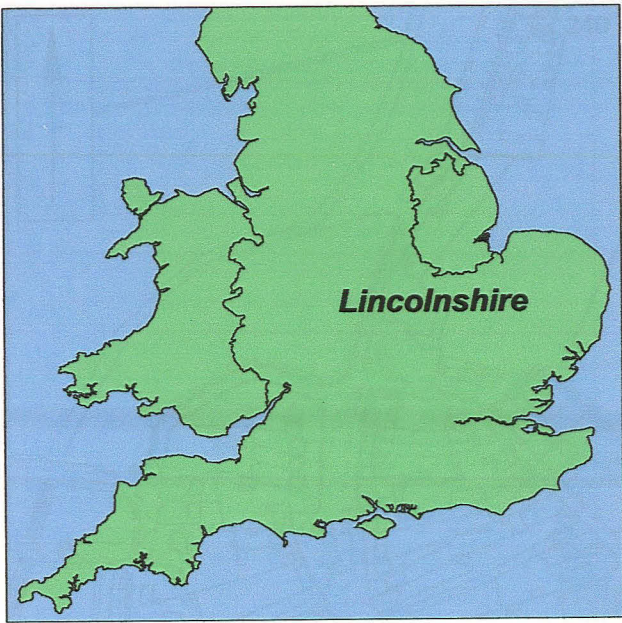
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NA, 2004 *Project Design for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of Land at 40 Broadway, Crowland, Lincolnshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology, 1st November 2004

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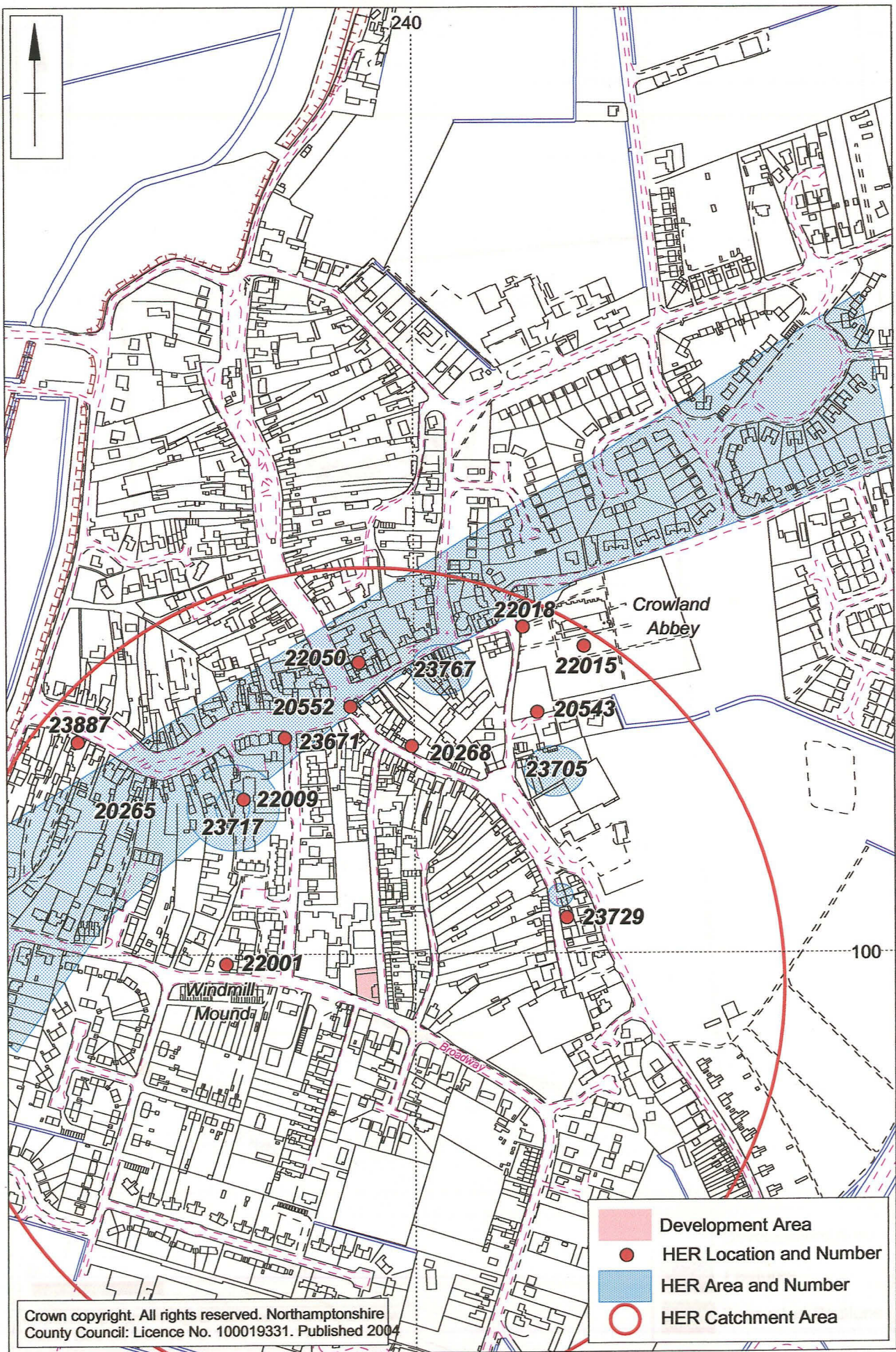
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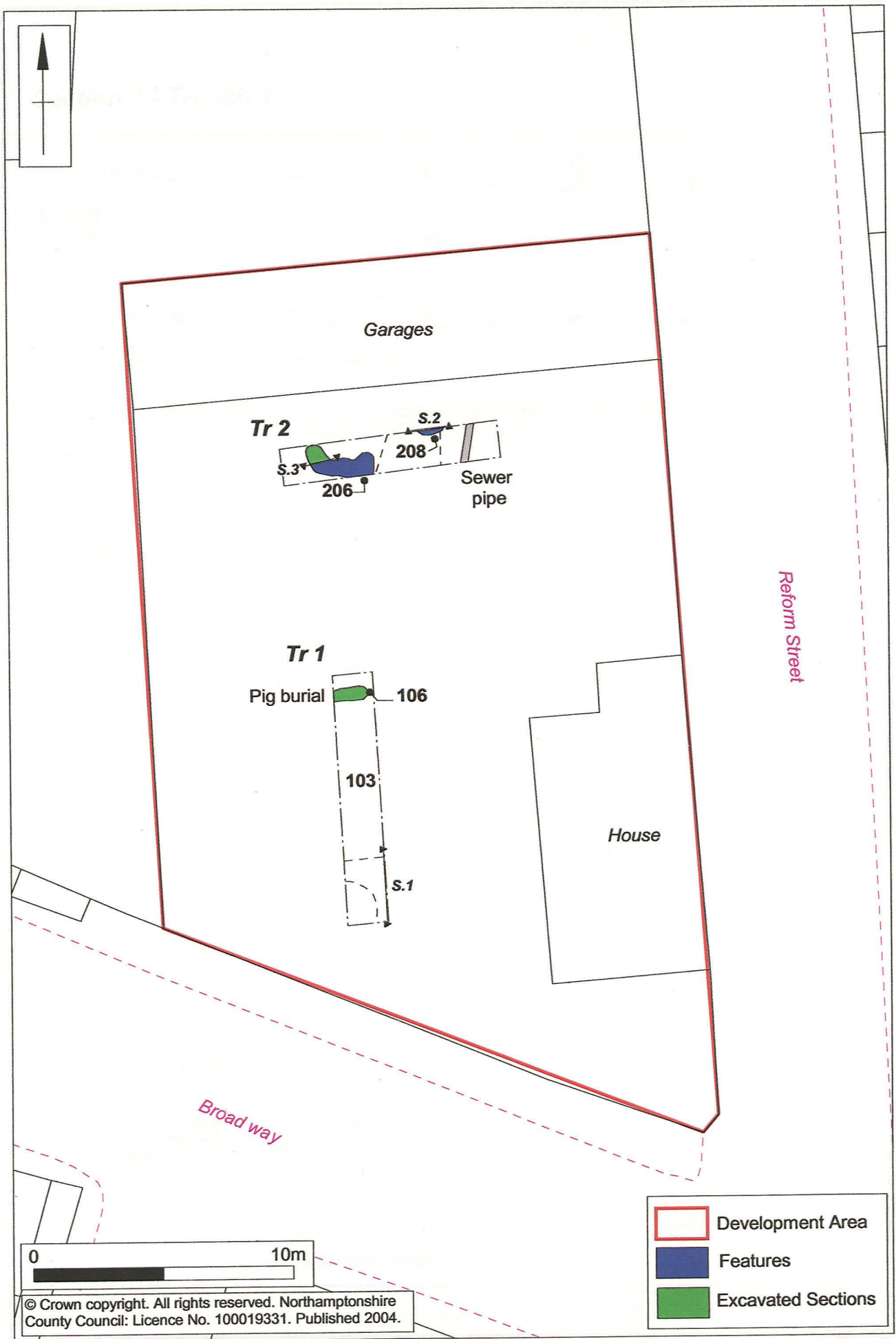
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Fig.1



Scale 1: 5000

Fig. 2

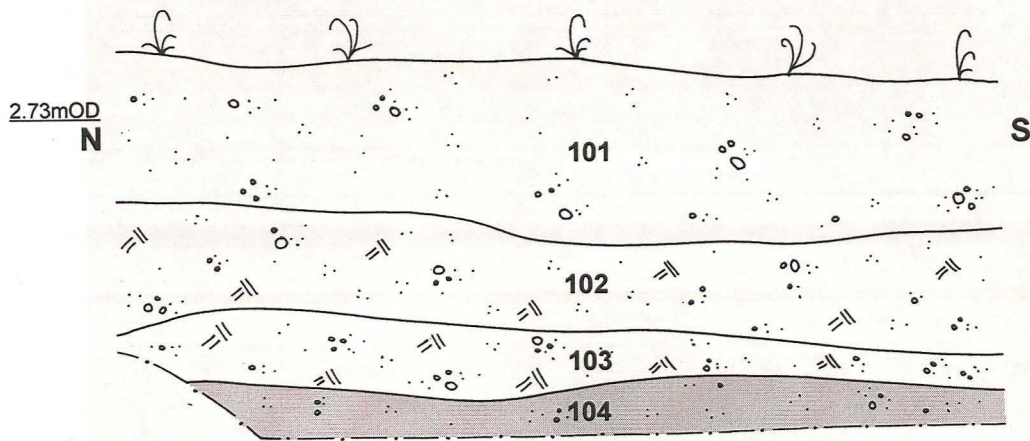


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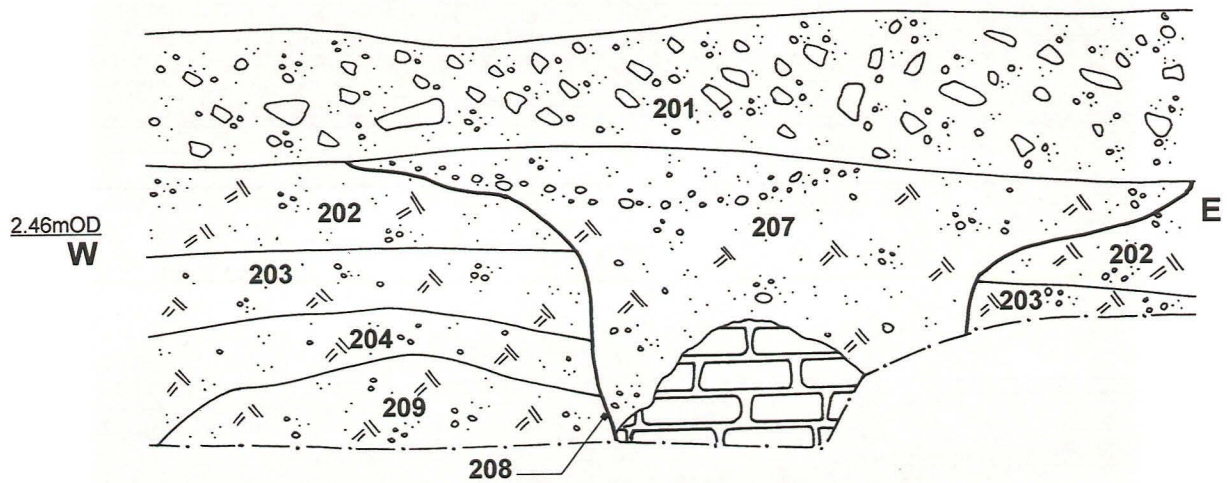
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Fig. 3

Section 1 - Trench 1



Section 2 - Trench 2



Section 3 - Trench 2

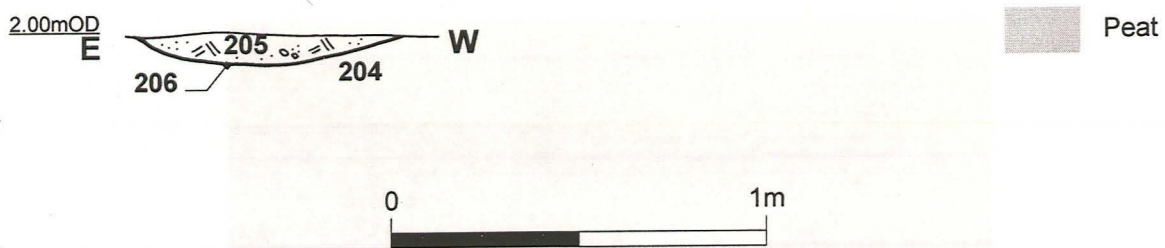


Fig. 4



Plate 1: Trench 2, Feature 206.



Plate 2: Medieval bone parchment pricker or stylus.

A2: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

HER NO.	GRID REF.	DESCRIPTION
20265	TF246106	Possible ^{Caps} Bronze Age barrow cemetery, situated along the axis of the island, finds recorded during their destruction in the 19 th century
20268	TF240102	Medieval settlement remains of Crowland, ditch containing 12 th – 14 th century pottery
20543	TF24121023	Medieval pottery found during building works
20552	TF2393910237	Trinity bridge, Crowland. Built 1360-90 by the Benedictine brethren over tributaries of the rivers Nene and Welland
22001	TF23820999	Mill mound, stones from mill building found in garden, also millstone still on site. Identified from 25" OS map, 1904
22009	TF23851015	Pottery found during construction work including late medieval and post-medieval pottery
22015	TF24161031	Hoard of tradesmen's tokens dating to 1660s
22018	TF 24101030	Iron Age bronze ring-head pin found at abbey
22050	TF23951028	Post-medieval mounting block
23671	TF23881021	A late medieval/early post-medieval spoon found during a watching brief
23705	TF24131017	Boundary/drainage ditch contained 11 th – 15 th century pottery and roof tile, possible related to Crowland abbey buildings
23717	TF23811013	Post-medieval drainage ditch, contained a leather sole and leather insole of 17 th century shoes ^{copy of JCRIP}
23729	TF24141003	Two dump deposits containing 15 th – 17 th century Toynton-Bolingbroke pottery and 19 th – 20 th century pottery, tile and clay pipe
23767	TF24021025	Late medieval building behind a Georgian facade
23887	TF236102	Late medieval/post-medieval potsherd found during watching brief.

A1: SITE DATA

Trench No	Deposit Type	Context	Description	Artefact types
1	Layer	101	Topsoil 0.4m deep	Post-medieval pottery, bone, clay pipe, glass bottle
	Layer	102	Subsoil pale orange brown and grey mottled clay, with shell inclusions 0 - 0.3m deep	
	Layer	103	Natural mid orange brown clay with shell inclusions 0.2m deep	
	Layer	104	Natural dark grey brown peat with occasional plant remains 0.16m deep	
	Fill	105	Fill of [106] pig burial, with dark brown topsoil and pale orange subsoil mix and small rubble including asbestos	Pig bones, not retained
	Cut	106	Cut for pig burial, vertical sided, 1.3 long (not whole length and 0.6m wide) not excavated	
	Layer	107	Pale yellow brown rubble layer including mortar and bricks 0.1m thick	Post-medieval pottery
	Layer	108	Dark brown silty clay 0.1m thick	
	Layer	109	Natural clean pale grey and orange mottled clay laying in pockets over (110)	
	Layer	110	Natural mid orange sand and gravel, not bottomed	
2	Layer	201	Surface layers of gravel, rubble & laid bricks, 0.29m deep	
	Layer	202	Dark grey silty clay with small pieces of rubble, 0.24m deep	Post-medieval pottery, clay pipe, shell
	Layer	203	Mid grey brown silty clay, 0.2m deep	
	Layer	204	Mid orange brown mottled silty clay with tiny fragments of ?Manganese & possible plant remains, otherwise no other inclusions, 0.14m deep	
	Fill	205	Mid grey and orange brown mottled silty clay, with inclusions of oyster, cockle & muscle shells, bone and small find, possible plant remains	15 th - 17 th century pottery, bone, shells, small find - polished bone styli/parchment pricker
	Cut	206	Shallow scoop filled with (205), possible base of a linear, approximately 0.7 - 0.9m wide and 0.08m deep, aligned NW - SE	

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	Fill	207	Yellow/buff, curved bricks, circular construction, wall of possible well or cistern and back filled behind bricks (centre of well not seen) with stone and brick rubble and mid to dark brown loam, patches of grey brown clay and mortar lenses. Tip line shows in top of fill	Post-medieval pottery
	Cut	208	Cut from top of (202), sides wider at top then vertical to base of trench, depth uncertain as limit of trench depth reached. 0.8m not bottomed	
	Layer	209	Similar to (109) Natural clean pale grey and orange mottled and patchy sandy clay. 0.2m deep	
	Layer	210	Dark brown peat with some small patches of vegetation 0.12m deep	
	Layer	211	Natural gravel mid orange sand and gravel	

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23717	TF23811013	Post-medieval drainage ditch, contained a leather sole and leather insole of 17 th century shoes
23729	TF24141003	Two dump deposits containing 15 th – 17 th century Toynton-Bolingbroke pottery and 19 th – 20 th century pottery, tile and clay pipe
23767	TF24021025	Late medieval building behind a Georgian facade
23887	TF236102	Late medieval/post-medieval potsherd found during watching brief.