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Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Interim Report for 2009 excavations at Baston Manor Pit, Baston, Lincolnshire

In May and June of 2009 Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological mitigation works on land at Baston Pit, Baston, Lincolnshire (OS grid TQ 12801400). The work was carried out for the Gullery Farm site on behalf of Cemex UK Materials Ltd.

Works required were the excavation of features and deposits ahead of the (sample excavation) of features and deposits ahead of the process of the permission together with the central sector of a north-south extension within phase 5 to enable a conveyor line. In the north-western sector, lying behind the buildings of Baston Outgang rd.

The remains uncovered across the site could be put into Roman period categories and a summary for each is detailed below.



Leon Field

18/08/09

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# INTERIM REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT BASTON MANOR PIT, BASTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

In May and June of 2009 Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological mitigation works on land at Manor Pit, Baston, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 12801490). The work was carried out for the Guildhouse Consultancy acting on behalf of Cemex UK Materials Ltd.

Works required were the monitoring and clearance (by sample excavation) of features and deposits ahead of the extraction of the fourth phase of the permission together with the central sector of phase 6 and a north-eastwards extension within phase 6 to enable a conveyor line. In the event the north-eastern sector, lying behind the buildings of Baston Outgang rd, of phase 4 was not stripped.

The remains uncovered across the site could be put into four main period categories and a summary for each is detailed below.

## ***Phase 1: Late Neolithic to Early Bronze age***

A single pit dating to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age was uncovered to the north-east of the stripped area for the conveyor corridor. The pit measured 0.80m wide by 0.17m deep and was filled by a mid brown silt which contained sherds of late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery. No other features in the area were able to be dated to a similar period but it is possible further evidence could lie to the south (Phase 5).

## ***Phase 2: Roman***

A sinuous trackway which had been previously discovered during trial trench evaluations (NA 2004) was uncovered on a curving roughly E-W alignment. The trackway was defined by two parallel ditches which measured on average 1m wide by 0.35m deep on the northern arm and 1.50m wide by 0.50m deep on the southern arm with possible evidence for a re-cut or re-establishment in the southern arm. The trackway ditches were spaced 6m apart and had no obvious internal features or evidence for a surface. Roman pottery including the base to a Samian bowl was recovered from the fill of the trackway ditches further supporting the dating obtained during the trial trench evaluation.

The only other Roman remains uncovered on the site was the presence of a north-west to south-east ditch seen to the north of the trackway. No relationship could be drawn between the two features as the excavated area did not extend far enough to the east, however any relationship should be seen during Phase 5.

The ditch was on average 1.40m wide by 0.50m deep and was filled by a grey silt overlain by a darker brown silty clay. Roman Greyware was recovered from the upper fill of the feature

### ***Phase 3: Medieval ridge and furrow remains***

The remains of an extensive north-east to south-west medieval ridge and furrow system were uncovered across the site. Eleven distinct parallel linear features interpreted as the remains of furrows were seen across site spaced at uneven intervals and measuring between 1m to 1.50m in width. Medieval pottery was recovered from two of the furrows in the southern part of the site.

### ***Phase 4: Post-medieval Field system***

A continuation of the Post-medieval field system seen by NA in Phase 3 excavations during 2008 was in the western part of the area stripped.

A SW-NE aligned gully with re-cut seen previously in 2008 continued across into the Phase 4 excavations.

Both gullies and re-cut were of a similar size, being 0.30-0.40m wide and 0.30m deep, with a single fill of brown silty clay. No dating evidence was recovered but some animal bone was seen in sections placed along the length of the two features.

Both of the gullies terminate at a larger north-west to south-east aligned ditch; this acts as a continuation of the field system, and stretched both to the north and south across the area stripped. Evidence suggests that the boundary was re-established at least twice with some areas showing a third re-cut- possibly due to heavy silting.

Finds recovered from the feature date it to the Post-medieval period (a 17th century coin, a cow bell and a button).

Two other features to the west of the boundary also date to the Post-medieval period and are likely the remains of cattle watering pits.

Pit [3165] was found to the west of the boundary ditch and to the north of the gully divisions. The lower fill of the pit is a dark silty layer possibly indicating the presence of standing water over time. This was overlain by a mid brown silty clay likely acting as a backfill layer, which contained a fragment of Post-medieval pottery.

To the south of pit [3165] was a second pit [3149]. This pit showed a similar sequence to pit [3165] and again the upper fill produced a single sherd of Post-medieval pottery.

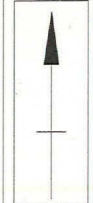
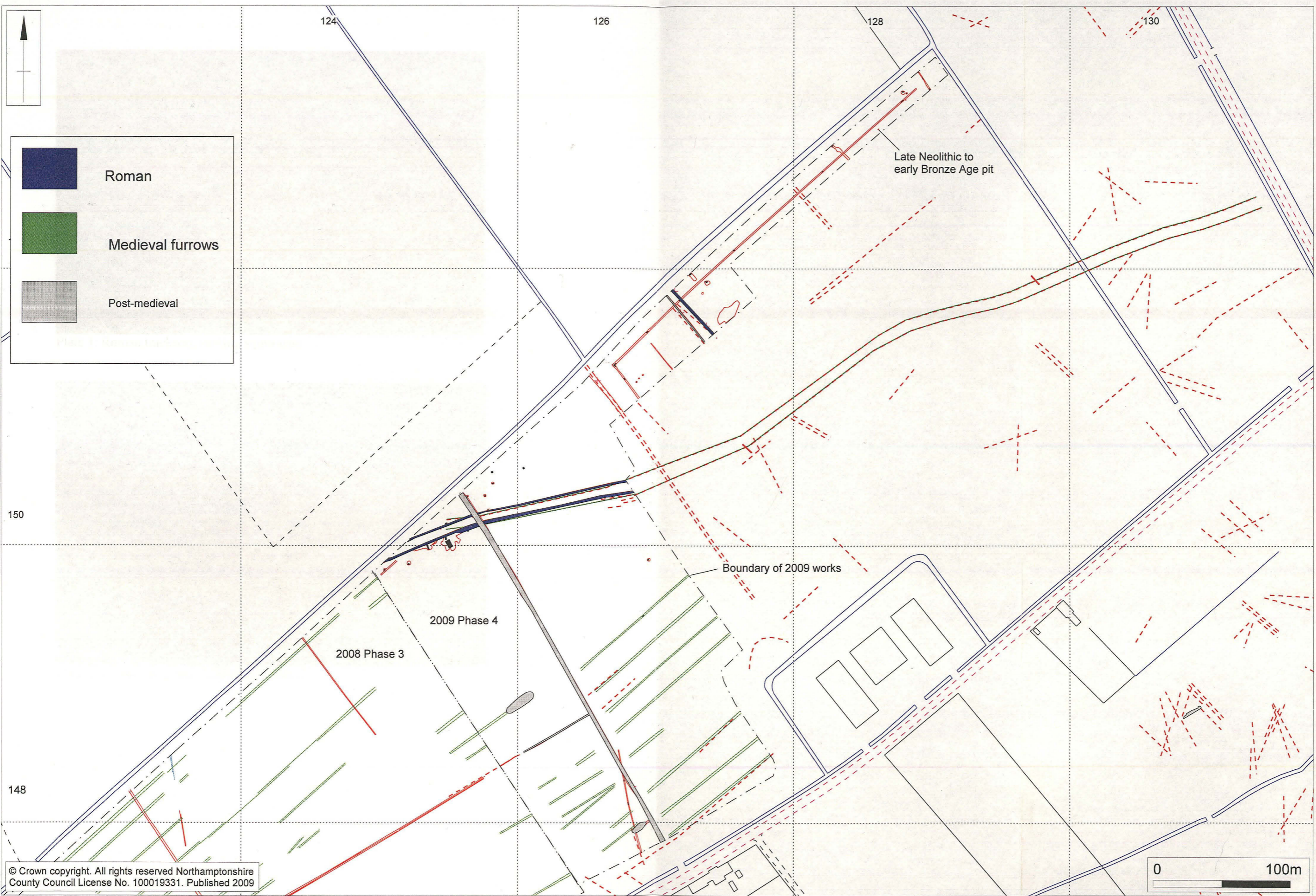
### ***Undated features***




A large enclosure or field division was seen in the north-east of the site in the area of the conveyor corridor. This feature stretched across 300m from south-west to north-east with a clear corner on its western side. No dating was recovered from any of the sections placed along its length however the alignment of the feature is similar to that of the Post-medieval field system.

In the south of the area stripped a small gully was seen aligned north to south. No dating was recovered for the feature- however it was cut by the boundary ditch of the Post-medieval field system.

Four other pits were excavated across the site however none produced any dating evidence or other finds to suggest a date or usage for them.

Various other burnt features were seen across site and a sample of them were excavated. Upon investigation it became clear that these features were the remains of tree bowls that had been burnt away for land clearance similar to that seen in Phase 3, 2008.



	Roman
	Medieval furrows
	Post-medieval

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Baston 2009 (Phase 4-part of)



Plate 1: Roman trackway looking south-east



Plate 2: Roman trackway looking north-west