Phase 3, Land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

May 2014

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

R11722

PHASE 3, LAND AT WHITE LODGE FARM, HIGHAM ROAD, BURTON LATIMER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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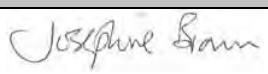
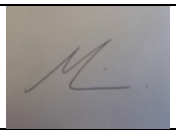
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		May 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		May 2014

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Phase 3, Land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**Borough of Kettering**
Planning Reference:	**Pre-Planning**
Central National Grid Reference:	**SP 90630 74225**
Site Code:	**WLFT14**
Report No.	**R11722**
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May 2014

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a thirteen trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, NN15 5PU (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 90630 74225) between the 28th April and the 1st of May 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Grace Homes prior to the submission of planning permission to re-develop the land as part of an ongoing programme of construction of new dwellings on the land at White Lodge Farm.

The evaluation comprised twelve c.50m long trenches and one 35m long trench between 1.8 m and 2.1m wide. The evaluation identified no evidence for significant archaeological activity and revealed that the northern part of the site has been significantly disturbed and truncated by open cast quarrying.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

1.1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, NN15 5PU (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 90630 74225 between the 28th April and the 1st of May 2014 (Figure 1; Plate 1).

1.1.2 The proposed development area is located to the south-east of Burton Latimer within an open field to the east of housing development already under construction at White Lodge Farm.

1.1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Grace Homes prior to the submission of planning permission to re-develop the land as part of an ongoing construction programme of new dwellings on the land at White Lodge Farm.

1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kathryn Brook of PCA (Brook 2014). The required scope of trenching was 3% of the proposed development area which was achieved through twelve 50m long trenches and one 35m long trench ranging between 1.8m and 2.1m wide. The evaluation was monitored by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

1.1.5 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Northamptonshire Museums Service.

1.2 Project Aims

1.2.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology. Further aims were to

recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region and assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

1.3 The more specific aims of the evaluation were:

1.3.1 To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape

1.3.2 To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon remains that may be associated with earlier settlement in the area.

1.3.3 To confirm the presence or absence of any Roman remains that may be associated with recently discovered settlement to the west of the site.

1.3.4 To confirm the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Burton Latimer.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 The solid geology of the site is characterised by the bedrock of Blisworth Limestone Formation and its interface in the northwest of the site with the Rutland Formation - Mudstone Formation. Both were formed in the Jurassic period (BGS 2014).

2.3 The natural geological horizon of the proposed development area was variable (Figure 2). The northern part comprised a chalk limestone deposit (102) while a clay deposit (104) was exposed in the central and southern parts of the proposed development areas.

2.4 Topography

2.5 The proposed development lies within an open field (Figure 2, Plate 1) centred on NGR SP 90630 74225. The north and east boundaries of the site are flanked by open cropped fields. To the west is the ongoing Grace Homes construction site and to the south is Higham Road.

2.6 A level was taken towards the centre of the site at the southern end of Trench 4 and recorded as c.77m Ordnance Datum (OD).

2.7 The high point of the site was around Trench 7 (Figure 2) at which point the ground sloped both southwards towards Higham Road (Plate 1) as well as sloping down slightly northwards.

2.8 The evaluated area was undulated significantly and appears to have been used as open pasture in recent years.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) indicates that the application site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential.

3.2 A 2nd – 4th Century Roman settlement, including several inhumation burials, has recently been excavated to the immediate west of the site in advance of a new housing development.

3.3 Within 500m of the site Mesolithic flints have been recorded (Monument record (MR) 347428). Early Bronze Age Collard Urns (MR 347428) have also been found in the wider area, as has a hoard of Iron Age currency bars (MR 347428).

3.4 The Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) records indicate that the west and central portion of the site may have been used for opencast extraction during the 19th and 20th centuries however it is not known precisely when this took place, its full extent or the impact of this activity on any archaeological remains.

3.5 An archaeological evaluation carried out by PCA (2013) at White Lodge Farm in the field immediately west of the present development area, identified intensive quarry activity. In spite of this activity, a single pit of probable Roman date was exposed, indicating the potential for archaeological remains within pockets of undisturbed ground.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried between the 28th April and 1st May 2014 and comprised c.635m of linear trenching. Twelve c.50m long trenches and one 35m long trench were excavated. Trench 8 was adjusted to 35m due to the construction compound encroaching on the proposed development area, a fact unknown at the creation of the trench plan. Trenches 1-8 were 2.1m wide while Trenches 9-13 were 1.8m wide (Figure 2).

4.2 Machining and Site Planning

4.2.1 The thirteen evaluation trenches were machine excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The upper deposits of each trench were removed (topsoil (100), backfilled quarry material (102) or subsoil (103)), using a 22 tonne mechanical exactor equipped with a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket for Trenches 1-6 and a 14 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket (Plates 2 & 3). The trenches were excavated to the archaeological or geological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

4.2.2 Metal-detecting of stripped deposits was carried out throughout the excavation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.3 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.3 Recording and Sampling

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 Drawn records were in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50), while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records

on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.

4.3.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. A digital photographic record of all archaeological features and deposits was maintained

4.3.4 A metal detector was used during excavation in order to enhance finds recovery.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 One 35m long trench and twelve c.50m long trenches were machine excavated in order to fully characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

5.1.2 The below descriptions in sections 5.2 and, 5.3 and 5.4 describe each trench individually detailing the form and depths of deposits identified within each trench. Further context and trench information can be found in Appendix 2.

5.2 Trenches 1-5

5.2.1 Trenches 1-5 were machined to a natural geological horizon (102) of chalk limestone (Figure 2). Overlying this horizon in all five trenches was what appeared to be the backfilling left behind by the known modern quarrying. This quarrying was also exposed in the PCA evaluation carried out the north-west during Phase 2 of the White Lodge Farm development (Brook & Jones 2013).

5.2.2 No evidence for archaeological activity earlier than the quarrying was identified and there were no finds present in the overlying deposits.

5.2.3 Trench 1 was aligned east to west, was 2.1m wide and 49.7m long (Figure 2 & Plate 4). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.48m below ground level at its western end and 1.02m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 1 was machined through the quarrying backfill deposit (101) which measured 0.17m thick at the western end and 0.78m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (101) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.24m and 0.3m deep.

5.2.4 Trench 2 was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, was 2.1m wide and 50.25m long (Figure 2 & Plate 5). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.68m below ground level at its northern end and 0.44m below ground level at its southern end. Trench 2 was machined through the quarrying backfill deposit

(101) which measured 0.4m thick at the northern end and 0.44m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (101) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.26m and 0.28m deep.

5.2.5 Trench 3 was aligned east to west, was 2.1m wide and 48.9m long (Figure 2 & Plate 6). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.68m below ground level at its western end and 0.46m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 3 was machined through the quarrying backfill deposit (101) which measured 0.38m thick at the western end and 0.46m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (101) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.2m and 0.3m deep.

5.2.6 Trench 4 was aligned north to south, was 2.1m wide and 49.1m long (Figure 2 & Plate 7). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.77m below ground level at its northern end and 0.8m below ground level at its southern end. Trench 4 was machined through the quarrying backfill deposit (101) which measured 0.47m thick at the northern end and 0.57m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (101) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.23m and 0.3m deep.

5.2.7 Trench 5 was aligned east to west, was 2.1m wide and 49.2m long (Figure 2 & Plates 8 & 9). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.79m below ground level at its western end while at the eastern end the trench was machined to an arbitrary depth of 1.3m. Machining stopped with (102) not reached due to instability of the limits of excavation (Plate 9). Trench 3 was machined through the quarrying backfill deposit (101) which measured 0.44m thick at the western end and over 1.1m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (101) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.2m and 0.25m deep.

5.3 Trench 6

5.3.1 Trench 6 demonstrated the interface between the natural chalk limestone

(102) in the northern end of the trench and clay (104) at the southern end. Trench 6 was also the first trench where convincing subsoil was identified in the form of a silt-clay (103). Trench 6 did not show any evidence for quarrying as seen in the Trenches 1-5 to the north.

5.3.2 Trench 6 was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, was 2.1m wide and 49.7m long (Figure 2 & Plate 10). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (102) of chalk and limestone to a depth of 0.7m below ground level at its northern end. The southern end of the trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay measuring 0.74m below ground level (Plate 10). Trench 6 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.4m thick at the northern end and 0.48m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.26m and 0.3m deep.

5.4 Trenches 7-13

5.4.1 Trenches 7-13 were located in the south-western half of the proposed development area and were all machined down to the clay natural geological horizon (104). None of these trenches identified any evidence for quarrying but did have a silty clay subsoil (103) underlying the topsoil (100).

5.4.2 No evidence for any significant archaeological activity was identified. This included a complete lack of finds in any of the overlying deposits.

5.4.3 Several field drains were identified in Trenches 7-13 formed of either limestone blocks or ceramic pipe. These drains were on a broadly northeast to southwest alignment and were located in the top of the subsoil.

5.4.4 Trench 7 was aligned east to west, was 2.1m wide and 49.6m long (Figure 2 & Plate 11). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 0.77m below ground level at its western end and 0.75m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 7 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.4m thick at the western end and 0.39m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.36m and 0.38m deep. Towards the eastern end of Trench 7 was a 1.8m deep (below ground level) depression

(Plate 11) filled with subsoil (103) that appeared to be a geological hollow of no archaeological significance.

5.4.5 Trench 8 was aligned east to west, was 2.1m wide and 35m long (Figure 2 & Plat 12). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 0.68m below ground level at its western end and 1.29m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 8 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.6m thick at the western end and 1.02m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.23m and 0.27m deep.

5.4.6 Trench 9 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, was 1.8m wide and 49.8m long (Figure 2 & Plate 13). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 0.87m below ground level at its northern end and 0.82m below ground level at its southern end. Trench 9 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.47m thick at the northern end and 0.45m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.3m and 0.37m deep.

5.4.7 Trench 10 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, was 1.8m wide and 49.8m long (Figure 2 & Plate 14). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 1.2m below ground level at its northern end and 1.12m below ground level at its southern end. Trench 10 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.92m thick at the northern end and 0.82m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.24m and 0.3m deep.

5.4.8 Trench 11 was aligned east to west, was 1.8m wide and 50.2m long (Figure 2 & Plate 15). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 1.06m below ground level at its western end and 0.9m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 11 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.72m thick at the western end and 0.64m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (103)

was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.26m and 0.34m deep.

5.4.9 Trench 12 was aligned north to south, was 1.8m wide and 51m long (Figure 2 & Plate 16). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 0.8m below ground level at its western end and 0.9m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 12 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 0.5m thick at the northern end and 0.7m thick at the southern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.2m and 0.4m deep.

5.4.10 Trench 13 was aligned east to west, was 1.8m wide and 49m long (Figure 2 & Plate 17). The trench was machined to the natural geological horizon (104) of clay to a depth of 1.4m below ground level at its western end and 1m below ground level at its eastern end. Trench 13 was machined through the subsoil deposit (103) which measured 1.12m thick at the western end and 0.7m thick at the eastern end of the trench. Deposit (103) was overlain by topsoil (100) measuring between 0.28m and 0.3m deep.

5.5 Topsoil

5.5.1 The proposed development area evaluated was overlain by a topsoil deposit (100). This deposit was present in all of the trenches and measured between 0.2m and 0.4m deep. The soil comprised a mid-greyish silt that contained occasional natural flints and gravel inclusions.

6 DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RESEARCH AIMS

6.1 Discussion

6.1.1 The evaluation identified evidence for the 19th-20th century quarrying in the northern part of the site, identified in Trenches 1-5. This quarry activity appears to have been limited to the areas where the natural geological horizon of chalk limestone (102) was prevalent. The quarrying was clearly targeted on the limestone natural suggesting this was the primary deposit for extraction. It is likely the limestone has been sourced as a construction material.

6.1.2 No other archaeological activity was identified except for post-medieval to modern land drains associated with the agricultural land use of the fields.

6.1.3 The lack of finds in any of the overlying deposits and in the quarry backfill suggests that there may have been little or no archaeological remains in the area prior to the modern ground disturbance.

6.2 General Conclusions

6.3 The trial trenches yielded no evidence for archaeological activity except for modern quarrying in the northern part of the site and evidence for post medieval land drainage.

6.4 The evaluation has provided limited information regarding the modern quarry activity on site and serves to suggest that there may have been little or no archaeological remains in the area predating this activity.

6.5 Based on the results of the evaluation, the potential of the site to contain further archaeological remains, significant or otherwise, is considered to be very low.

6.6 Research Aims

6.6.1 The Phase 3 evaluation at White Lodge Farm answered the four research questions (Section 1.3). While proving the absence of any evidence for prehistoric to medieval activity the evaluation did confirm the existence of 19th- 20th century quarrying. The evaluation demonstrated that this area was

marginal in terms of settlement but used for the specific function of quarrying in that period.

6.7 Confidence

6.7.1 The archaeological trial trench evaluation was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents, and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

6.7.2 The results detailed in this report are considered reliable, allowed good identification of the archaeological and natural deposits contained within the excavated trenches, and are considered to be representative of the depositional sequence within the bounds of the site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Grace Homes for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council for her advice and monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Kevin Trott for managing the project, Steve Jones for his hard work during the project and PCA's CAD Department for preparing the figures.

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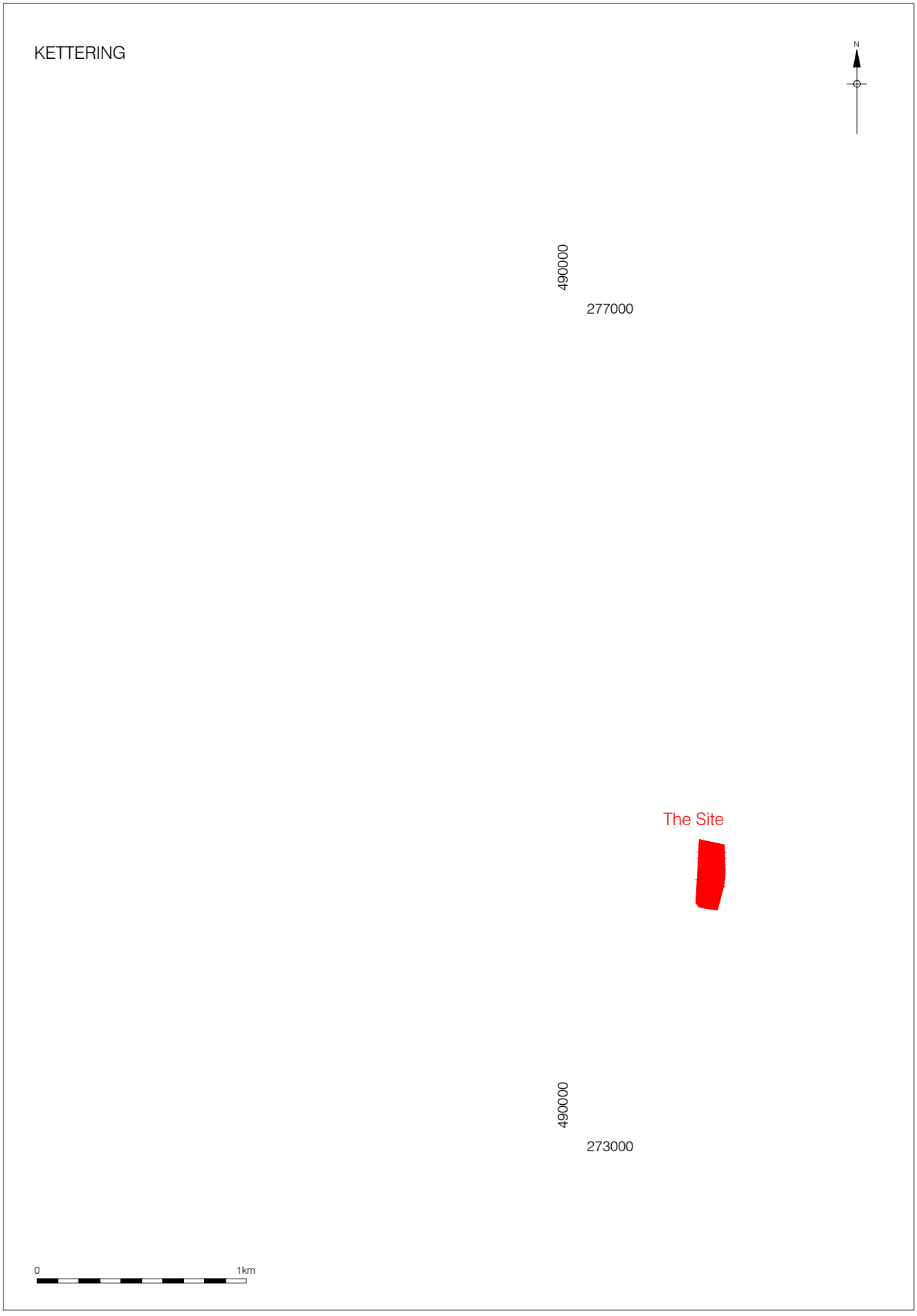

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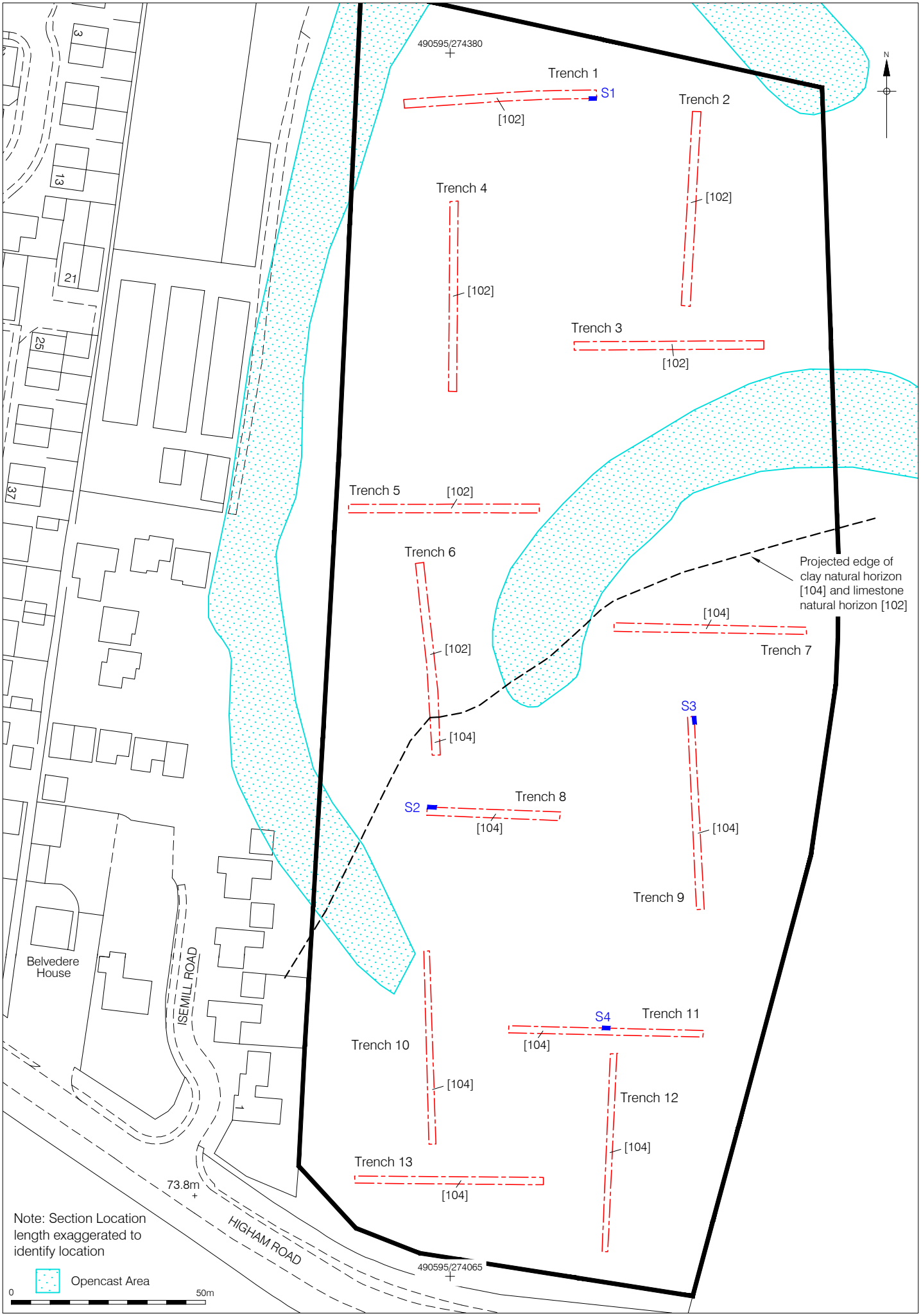
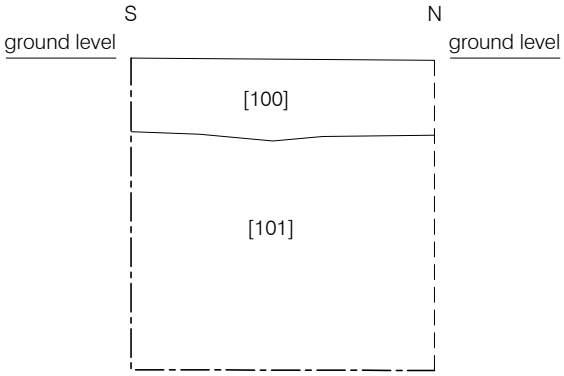
Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4

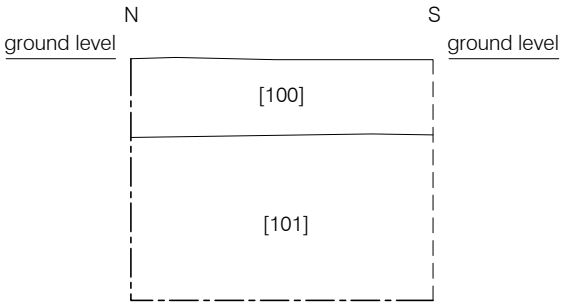


19/05/14 JS

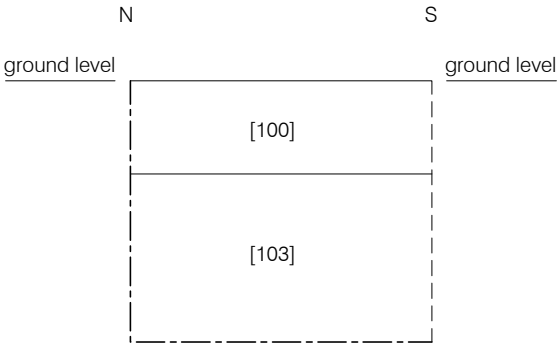
Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,250 at A4



Section 1
Trench 1
North Facing



Section 2
Trench 5
South Facing



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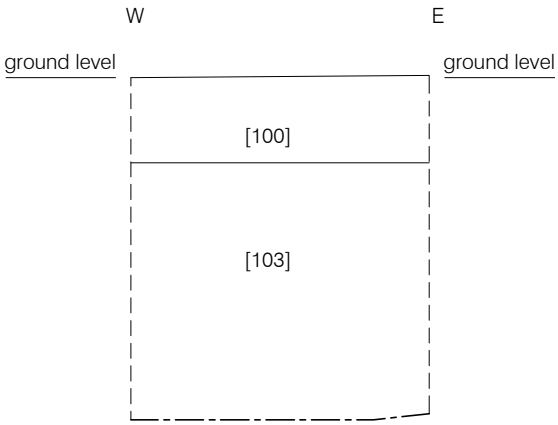
Trench 9
West Facing



Section 4
Trench 11
South Facing

19/05/14 JS

Figure 3
Sections
1:25 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: The site, view south towards Higham Road

Plate 2: Machine excavation, 22 tonne excavator

Plate 3: Machine Excavation, 14 tonne excavator

Plate 4: West facing view of Trench 1

Plate 5: North facing view of Trench 2

Plate 6: East facing view of Trench 3

Plate 7: North facing view of Trench 4

Plate 8: West facing view of Trench 5

Plate 9: East facing view of Interface between (102) and (101) in Trench 5

Plate 10: North facing view of Trench 6 with (104) in foreground

Plate 11: West facing view of Trench 7 with geological depression in foreground

Plate 12: West facing view of Trench 8

Plate 13: North facing view of Trench 9

Plate 14: North facing view of trench 10

Plate 15: West facing view of Trench 11

Plate 16: South facing view of Trench 12

Plate 17: West facing view of Trench 13

Plate 18: Backfilling Trench 4

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT AND TRENCH INDEX

Context	Trench	Type	Category	Description
(100)	1-13	Layer	Topsoil	Soft mid-greyish brown silt with occasional flint and gravel inclusions
(101)	1-6	Layer	Quarry Backfill	Mixed deposit of loose light yellowish brown clayey chalk and light grey silty clay
(102)	1-6	Layer	Natural Geological Horizon	Light yellowish brown chalk limestone
(103)	6-13	Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid-brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint and gravel inclusions
(104)	6-13	Layer	Natural Geological Horizon	Mixed deposit: Trenches 6-7 were a mid-yellowish orange clay with orange sand inclusions. Trenches 8-13 were a mid-greyish or brownish blue silty clay with occasional flint inclusions

Trench	Length	Alignment	Width	Natural Geological Horizon
1	c.50m	E-W	2.1m	(102)
2	c.50m	NNE-SSW	2.1m	(102)
3	c.50m	E-W	2.1m	(102)
4	c.50m	N-S	2.1m	(102)
5	c.50m	E-W	2.1m	(102)
6	c.50m	NNW-SSE	2.1m	(102)/(104)
7	c.50m	E-W	2.1m	(104)
8	35m	E-W	2.1m	(104)
9	c.50m	NNW-SSE	1.8m	(104)
10	c.50m	NNW-SSE	1.8m	(104)
11	c.50m	E-W	1.8m	(104)
12	c.50m	N-S	1.8m	(104)
13	c.50m	E-W	1.8m	(104)

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

Project details	
Project name	Phase 3, Land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evalua
Short description of the project	13x50m Trench Trial trench evaluation on land at White Lodge Farm, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire.
Project dates	Start: 28-04-2014 End: 01-05-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WLFO13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	QUARRY Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE KETTERING BURTON LATIMER White Lodge Farm
Postcode	NN15 5PU
Study area	42310.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 90630 74225 52.3581952007 -0.669029132405 52 21 29 N 000 40 08 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 76.00m Max: 78.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Matthew Lees
Type of sponsor/funding body	Grace Homes

Name of sponsor/funding body	Grace Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	WLFT14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	WLFT14
Paper Contents	"none","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Phase 3, Land at White Lodge Farm, Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Matthew Lees
Other bibliographic details	R11722
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	PCA Midlands
Description	PCA Grey Literature Evaluation Report

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Entered on	15 May 2014

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