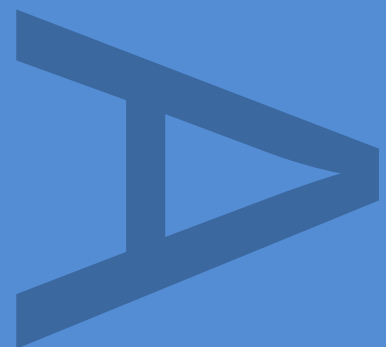


**HERNE LODGE,
ASHTON ROAD,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
PE8 4HR**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

HLON14

August 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HERNE LODGE, ASHTON ROAD,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, PE8 4HR

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**HERNE LODGE, ASHTON ROAD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PE8 4HR:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHES 4 AND 5**

Local Planning Authority: East Northamptonshire District Council

Planning Reference: EN/12/01614/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 04505 87963

Site Code: HLON14

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a two-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Herne Lodge, Ashton Road, Northamptonshire on 5th August 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Grace Homes in response to a planning condition attached to residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

The evaluation trenches detailed within this report forms a continuation of an evaluation previously conducted on the site by Northamptonshire Archaeology (see Flavell 2010). The previous evaluation was unable to complete three of the intended trenches (1, 4, and 5). This evaluation was carried out to complete Trenches 4, and 5. It was agreed with Liz Mordue that Trench 1 no longer need to be evaluated due to its location within the site access road.

The only archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation were the remains of the truncated basal limits of furrows in Trench 4 that was associated with the adjacent Ridge and Furrow located within the field to the south-east.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Herne Lodge, Ashton Road, Northamptonshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 04505 87963) on 5th August 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located to the east of Oundle, approximately 400m from Oundle village centre.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Grace Homes in response to an archaeological planning condition reference EN/12/01614/FUL. The evaluation trenches detailed within this report forms a continuation of an evaluation previously conducted on the site (Flavell 2010). The previous evaluation was unable to complete intended trenches. This evaluation was carried out to complete Trenches 4, and 5. This report should be considered in conjunction with the previous evaluation report: *Archaeological field evaluation at Herne, Road Oundle, Northamptonshire, October-November 2010* (Flavell 2010).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Kathryn Brook of PCA (Brook 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation from Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.
- 1.5 The 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.
- 1.6 Two trial trenches were excavated and recorded on 5th August 2014, totalling 50m.
- 1.7 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 County Council Archaeology Store when provision is made available.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The solid geology of the site is characterised by the bedrock of Blisworth Limestone Formation and its interface in the north of the site with the Rutland Formation – Argillaceous Rocks with Subordinate Sandstone and Limestone. Both formed in the Jurassic periods. The superficial deposits are characterised by River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel. (British Geological Survey Viewer)
- 2.2 The trenches were excavated from an elevation of between 28.75m and 30.68m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The trenches were located within a grassy paddocks, located to the west of Herne Hall. The course of the River Nene runs c.500m to the south of the site. The site and Oundle itself, is located on a small rise within the greater river valley, with the ground level slightly falling around Oundle and the site location.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) show that the application site lies within an area of archaeological potential.
- 3.2 A comprehensive historic background to the site is presented in the desk-based assessment carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Prentice 2008) and will only be summarised here.
- 3.3 Oundle is recoded in the Domesday Book suggesting the settlement was established in the period Saxon. Only a small scattering of Roman artefacts have been found in Oundle suggesting the area was not densely settled during this period.
- 3.4 A geophysical survey of the site carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Fisher 2008) identified several ditch features, medieval ridge and furrow and modern pipes. A subsequent evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Flavell 2010) identified two paleo-channels and a Roman gully within the south-eastern portion of the site. A further boundary ditch aligned east-west was also identified within the central portion of the site. It is thought the ditch went out of use during the 19th Century.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised two trial trenches totally 50m in length and 1.8m in width (Figure 3).
- 4.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.5 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Two trial trenches (4 and 5) were excavated totally 50m in length and 1.8m in width (Figure 3). The trenches are described below in numeric order.

5.2 Trench Descriptions

TRENCH 4	Figure 3		Plates 1	
Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20.25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 30.22-30.31m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		S End	N End	
Topsoil	100	0.35m	0.27m	
Subsoil	101	0.11m	0.12m	
Natural (Limestone brash)	102	0.03m+	0.04m+	
		Description		
Fill of Plough Furrow [104]	103	A mid orange brown friable sandy clay with rare limestone brash inclusions. Only base on furrow remaining.		
Cut of Furrow	104	Linear aligned northeast southwest c.0.3m wide. Shallow concave base.		
Fill of Plough Furrow [106]	105	A mid orange brown friable sandy clay with rare limestone brash inclusions. Only very base on furrow remaining.		
Cut of Furrow	106	Linear aligned northeast southwest c.0.3m wide. Shallow concave base.		
Summary				
Trench 4 was located centrally within the development area on the western side				
The only archaeologically significant features or deposits present within the trench were the remains of two plough furrows within the northwestern portion of the trench [104] and [106]. (Figure 3)				

5.3 Trench 4 contained the basal remains of two plough furrows aligned northeast southwest that were heavy truncated by the subsoil 101. Upstanding Ridge and Furrow can be seen in the fields to the south-east of the trench, it is likely the area around Trench 4 was also under arable cultivation during the medieval period. No other archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered in this trench.

TRENCH 5	Figure 3	Plates 2	
Alignment: N-S	Length: 28.7m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.23-28.46m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		S End	N End
Topsoil	100	0.3m	0.23m
Subsoil	101	0.21m	0.06m
Natural (Limestone brash)	102	0.03m+	0.05m+
Summary <i>(Trench Location)</i> Trench 5 was located centrally within the development area. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench. The only feature recoded was the remains of a modern brick drain (Figure 3)			

- 5.4 Trench 5 only contained the partial remains of a relatively modern brick drain located within the southern portion of the trench. The rest of the trench was typical of garden archaeology with extensive rooting from plants in both the top and subsoil layers. A large garden wall ran beside the trench aligned north-south, is likely to be associated with next door property Herne Lodge, once forming its garden boundary. It is likely the trench would have fallen within the form garden of Herne Lodge. The trench machining was partly broken up due to restriction on the ground, changes were made to the trench to retain the sample size

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Trenchers 4 and 5 were placed to investigate areas where no geophysical survey had been undertaken (trench 5) or where a modern metal post had caused interference with geophysical results and could there for have mask any potential archaeological features (trench 4)

6.2 The natural limestone brash (102) was encountered in both trenched between a depth of 0.29m -0.51m below the current ground surface. The natural was overlaid by a subsoil (101) which was in turn sealed by topsoil (100). The only archaeological activity identified was the shallow remains of ridge and furrow [104] & [106] in Trench 4 and the partial remains for a modern brick drain in Trench 5.

6.3 It evident from the remains of Ridge and Furrow within trench 4 that this area was used for arable farming during the medieval period. Any evidence for such farming within the area of Trench 5 is likely to have been have been destroyed during the construction of Herne lodge in the early c.1850 and the subsequent landscaping of its formal grounds.

6.4 Research Objectives

- *To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.*

The only archaeological remains encountered were the shallow truncated bases of furrows associated with ridge and furrow within Trench 4

- *To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric to Saxon remains that may be associated with earlier settlement of Oundle;*

No evidence for any prehistoric – Saxon activity was encountered during in this investigation.

- *To confirm the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Oundle.*

The evaluation confirmed the ridge and furrow visible to the south of trenches 4 and 5 continue into the area of trench 4, suggesting the area was under cultivation during the Medieval period.

The area in the immediate vicinity of Trench 5 was clearly part of the garden area for Herne Lodge, however any evidence for medieval cultivation of this area is likely to have been destroyed during construction of the lodge.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Steve Batmen of Grace Homes for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department. The project was managed for PCA by Kevin Trott.

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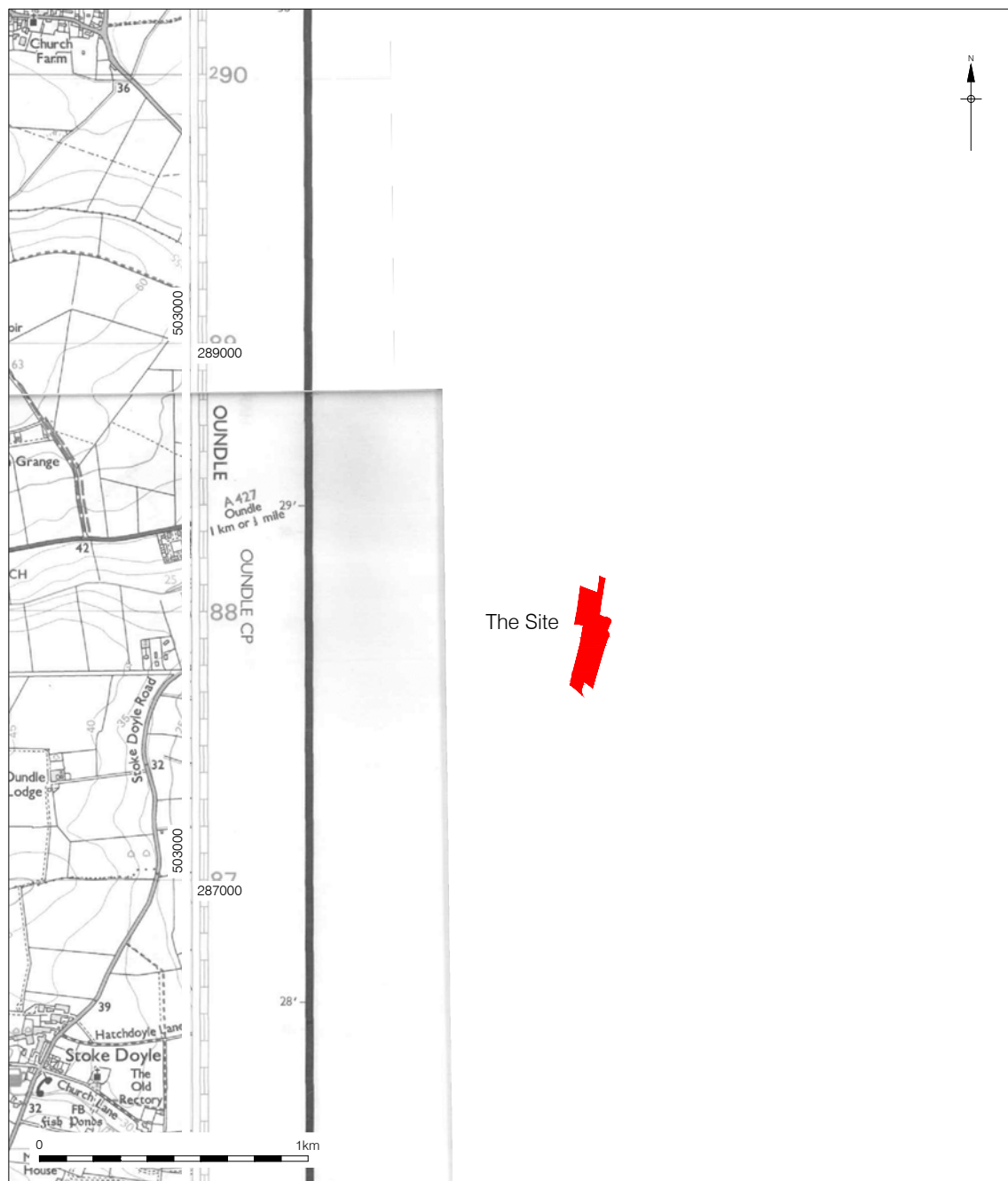
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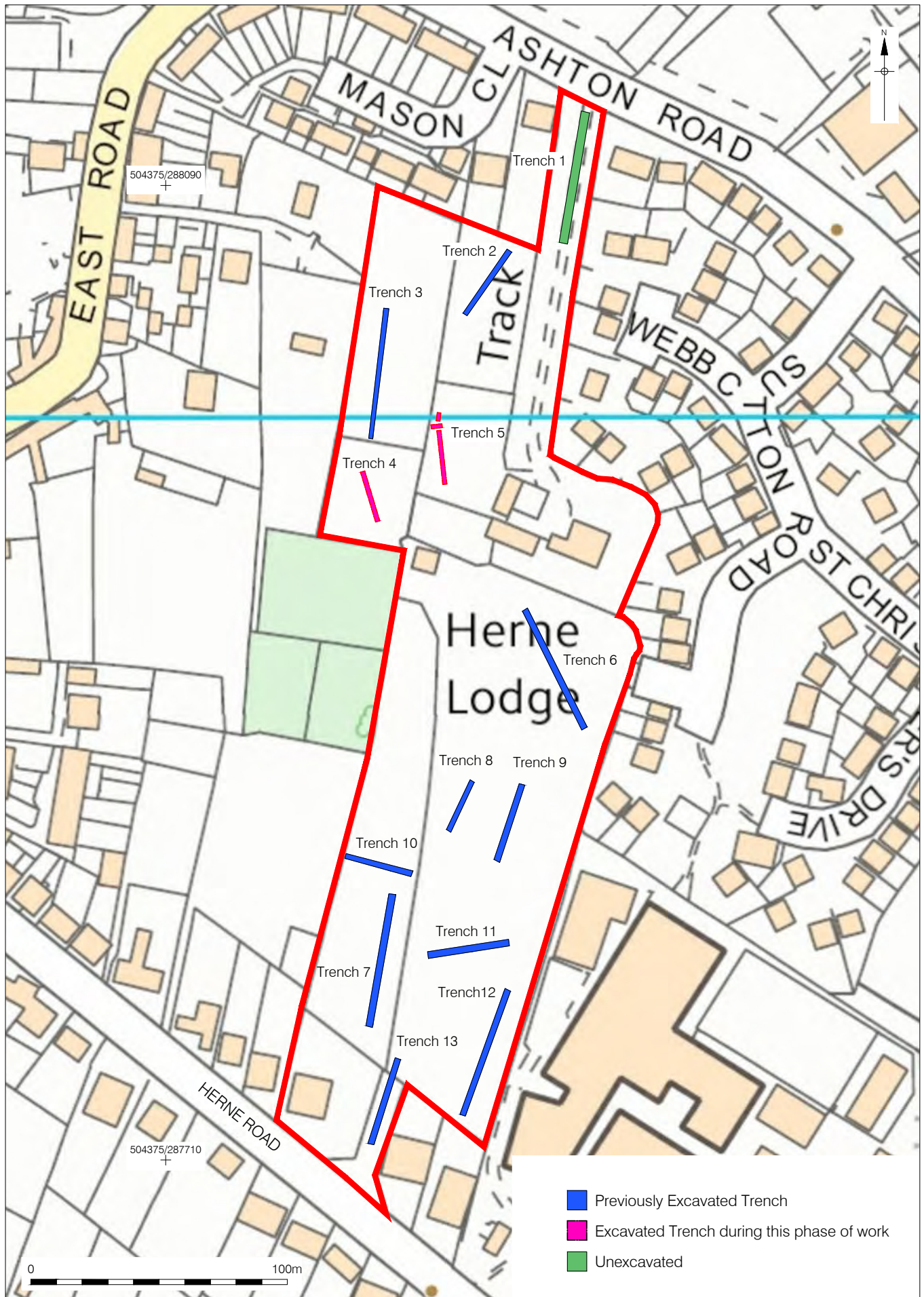
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Figure 1
 Trench Location
 1:2,000,000 & 20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,000 at A4

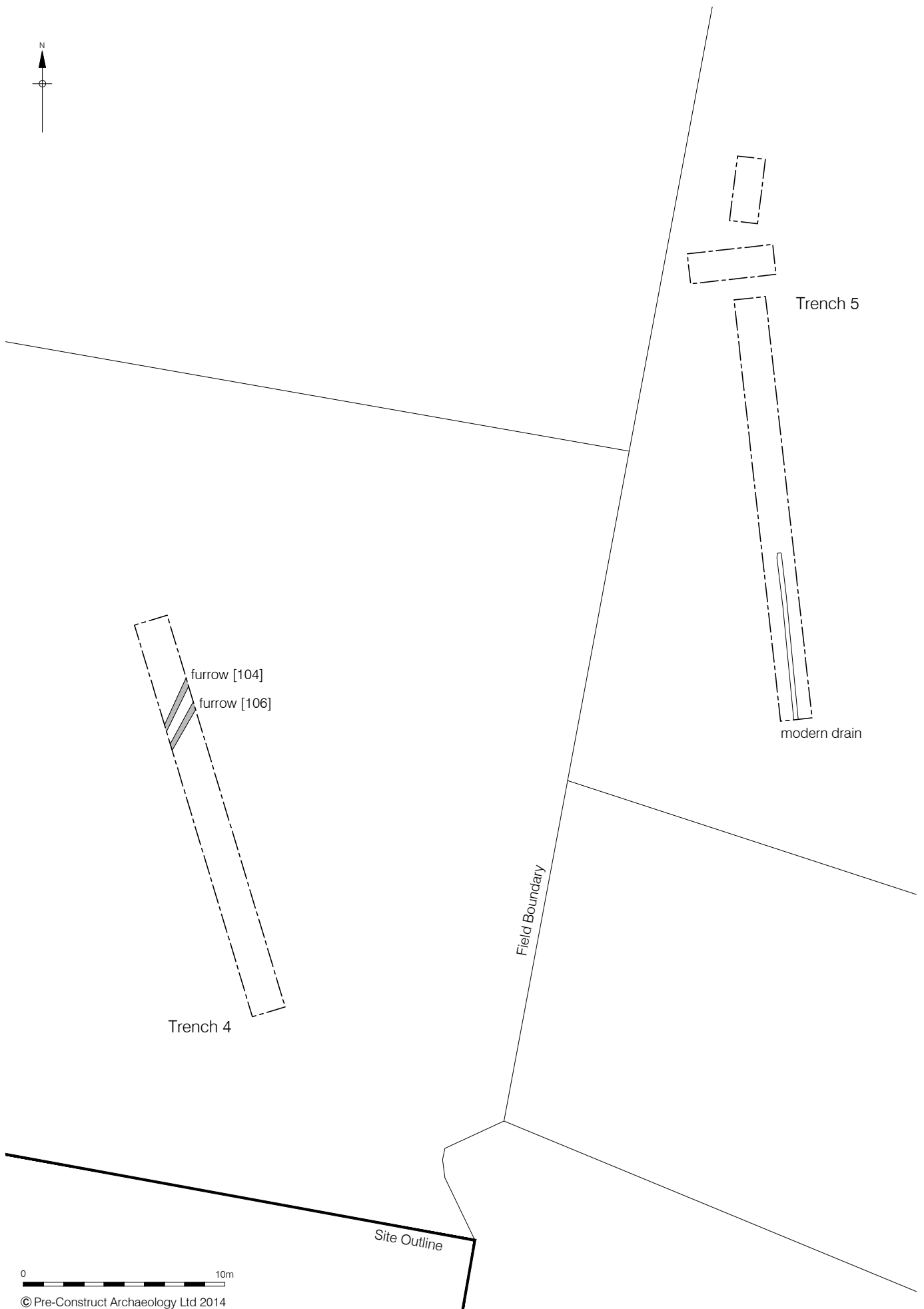


Figure 3
Trenches 4 & 5 Plans
1:250 at A4

0 10m

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27/08/14 Revision 1_JS

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 4, view northwest



Plate 2: Trench 5, view north

10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-188387

Project details

Project name	HERNE LODGE, ASHTON ROAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	The evaluation trenches detailed within this report forms a continuation of an evaluation previously conducted on the site by Northamptonshire Archaeology (see Flavell 2010). The previous evaluation was unable to complete three of the intended trenches (1, 4, and 5). This evaluation was carried out to complete Trenches 4, and 5. It was agreed with Liz Mordue that trench 1 no longer need to be evaluated due to its location within the site access road. The only archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation were the remains of furrows associated with Ridge and Furrow found within the north-western portion of Trenches 4.
Project dates	Start: 05-08-2014 End: 27-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	HLON14 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NARROW RIDGE AND FURROW None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE OUNDLE HERNE LODGE, ASHTON ROAD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE :
Postcode	PE8 4HR
Site coordinates	TL 04505 87963 52.4791974418 -0.461044518333 52 28 45 N 000 27 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.29m Max: 0.51m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project design originator	Kathryn Brook
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Jonathan House

Project archives

Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography" 'Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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