



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Observation & Recording Report

Land Adjacent to 31 Green Lane
Wootton
Northamptonshire
NN4 6LH



Quality Check

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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

Between April 2015 and May 2016 an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Observation and Recording project was carried out at the Land Adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton, Northamptonshire during the construction of a single dwelling, garage and associated services. The project uncovered a number of features; a ditch, gullies, a stone drain, a dumped concentration of limestone, possible ditch/pit, a single post-hole, a pit/ditch and a possible stone wall, signifying occupation activity dating to the early medieval and post-medieval periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation and Observation and Recording at Land Adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Richard Broomfield, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Bertrand 2016), and approved by Northamptonshire County Archaeology Team (NCAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Northampton Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is N/2015/0359.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The site is within the village and parish of Wootton, a suburb of Northampton District, located approximately 2.5 miles to the south-east of the town and centred on National Grid Reference SP 7609 5644 (Fig. 1). The site is within the south-western part of Wootton's recently expanded residential area, close to the eastern side of the A45 (formerly the A508), but within the original village core area.

Description

The main part of the site currently forms a 0.067ha area within the garden to the west side of the existing property at 31 Green Lane (Fig. 2). The site is landscaped garden including ponds, bounded by mature trees and shrubs. Access to the site and three other private dwellings is via a private gravel driveway to the north, extending eastwards off Green Lane. The access's northern boundaries are a chain-link fence, beyond which is a wall that forms the boundary to Rectory Cottage, a Listed Building. Part of the southern access is close-boarded. The site lies outside the Wootton Conservation Area, but both Rectory Cottage and Cherry Trees, to the north, and Green Lane including its recreation ground to the east, are within it.

Geology & Topography

The site is situated on a south facing slope between approximately 81.50 and 83.25mAOD. The solid geology underlying the site is mapped as Stamford member, Jurassic sandstone and siltstone, with no other surface deposits (BGS 2014).

Development

The development entails the construct a new, L-shaped bungalow in the northern part of the site. The footprint of the new building will require the removal of several mature trees, but



will otherwise retain its existing shrubs on the western boundary, and several of the mature trees at the southern end (Fig. 3). A new drive will be constructed within the existing access, to include visibility splays, a tarmac surface and removal of some of the existing chain-link fencing.



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

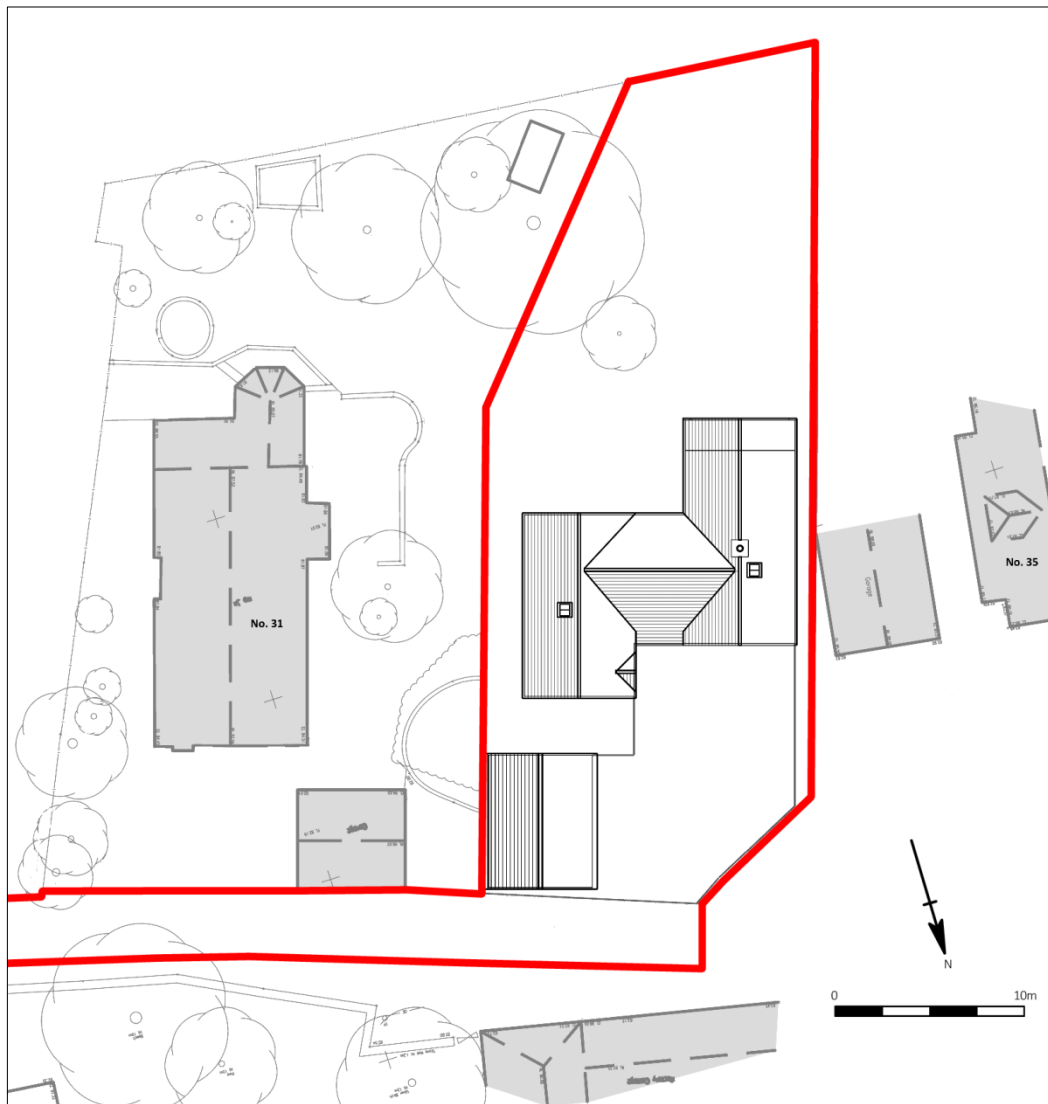


Figure 3: Proposed development plan (scale 1:400)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Bertrand 2016) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the WSI, the methods used were as follows:

- Any ground works or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision
- The ground works were reduced to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was reached sooner

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- Written Scheme of Investigation The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Although little is known about the earlier prehistoric background of the Wootton area, an extensive body of evidence for Iron Age and Roman-British occupation and associated use of the landscape has been emerging from the newest parts of the village, to the east of the historic core. Settlement activity continued into the Saxon period, during which time the present village was established.

This section has been compiled with information from the Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Record (NCC HER), KDK's own library, and reputable internet sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

The first evidence of human occupation of the area dates from the Neolithic era (c.4000BC - 2351BC). Find spots within 500m of the site include an unstratified stone axe (HER 4999/0/0) from Hardingstone to the north-east; together with four worked flints from at the Wootton Fields Centre for Learning towards the east side of Wootton (HER 9115/0/0).

Patchy indicators of Bronze Age (c.2350BC - 701BC) use of the landscape are present in the form of cropmarks from two possible round barrows and their associated burial features (HER 4972) on the eastern fringes of Wootton.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC - AD43)

A possible later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age pit alignment (HER 7150/0/6) was located through geophysical survey in an area of earlier, middle and later Iron Age settlement. This included at least one roundhouse, pits and other features in close proximity to the Wootton Roman villa (HER 7150/1/6), discussed further in Section 3.4. A series of later probable Iron Age to Romano-British settlement features (HER 4067) is known from associated finds excavated in the centre of Wootton in 1966. These indicated similar settlement and industrial activity in the form of pottery manufacturing to the north of the village (HER 4974), and at the former Wootton Fields area (HER 5687, 7150/0 & /2), which date from c.AD800 and from c.400BC. Finds of a possible later Bronze Age to Iron Age saddle quern have also been made (HER 9115/0/0).

The lack of Iron Age and earlier Roman settlement at the Wootton Fields Centre for Learning has suggested that "while the western valley slopes had been a focus for early settlement, the eastern slopes were devoid of activity until the ... third century" (Upson-Smith & Chapman 2004: 15). Iron Age finds have also come from land to the west of Wootton (e.g. HER 9535) showing a widespread area of activity within the local landscape before the Roman era.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43 - c.450)

Many of the Iron Age sites continued in use into or indeed right through the Roman period (HER 4067, 4067/0/3, 4974, 7150, & 7150/0/ sites) in the form of ditches, enclosures, and buildings, a villa (HER 7150/1 & 7150/1/2) within an enclosure, and a probable farm (NCC HER 9115 - 9115/2) with associated finds including coin hoards. A possible inhumation was derived from the villa (HER 7150/0/1) and the farmstead (HER MNN150994). Several other Roman burials are known from the vicinity of Wootton Villa (HER 7150/1/6) as well as to the south of Berry Lane, where an entirely separate cemetery site with coin hoards was discovered (HER 4069). Industrial activity in the form of a pottery kiln and iron working is known to have taken place after the villa went out of use (HER7150/2/1 - 3). A number of stray finds are also recorded (HER 8130, 4078, & 6031, MNN155720 - 1). Taken as a whole, this evidence paints a



picture of an agricultural and industrial landscape in the vicinity of Wootton during the Roman period.

3.5 **Saxon** (c.450 - 1066)

The name Wootton is thought to mean “homesteads near the woods”, and is thought to be of Saxon origin (NBC 2010: 3). An early Saxon burial found in the abandoned Roman villa (HER 9567/0/1) may be associated with the post-villa industrial phase and the deposition of early to middle Saxon pottery on the site. There is a funerary and industrial site to the west of the A45 in Blacky More (HER 5581). A stray find of a probable iron spearhead has also been made (NCC 0/0/321). The London to Derby Road which follows the A45 west of Wootton may have been established in the early Saxon period (HER 6745). The combination of toponymic and archaeological evidence suggest that although the level of human activity in the vicinity of the development site may have waned during the Saxon period, there is still a continuity of occupation following the collapse of the Roman Empire in the early 5th century.

3.6 **Medieval** (1066 - 1500)

Wootton, which lay in the Hundred of Wymersley, had two estates recorded in Domesday Survey of 1086. The 2½ hide estate held by Winemar of Walter the Fleming had land for 7 ploughs and was worth 4s. He also held a small 1 hide estate of the Countess Judith (Williams & Martin 2002: 613 & 622).

Wootton has grown from a linear village along the road from Quinton to Salcey Forest (NCC 1977). The medieval village core (HER 4072), comprises amorphous development centred on Quinton Road and High Street, Berry Lane to the west, and Curtlee Hill to the east. The Church of St. George and its churchyard (HER 4072/1 & 1/2) is located just off High Street. Documentary evidence suggests that there may have been a church in Wootton prior to its construction in the 13th century, with possible evidence for this structure having been recorded at the base of the tower. (NBC 2010: 3). Medieval pottery has been found within the south-western part of the village (HER 4072/0/0).

Earthworks of possible medieval or post-medieval tofts are known from aerial photographs south of Berry Lane and Quinton Road (HER 4072/0/1). Medieval open fields, evidenced by remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are known from several locations in and around the village (e.g. respecting the Wootton Villa HER 9068/0/4, south of Berry Lane 4081/1/1) and around an enclosure, south of Wootton (HER 9068 & 9068/0/5). Several later medieval finds such as a bell, a purse and a seal (HER MNN150990 - 2) have been recovered by metal detecting in recent years. It has been suggested that archaeological evidence recovered from Quinton Road shows that during the 14th century Wootton, like many other villages in England, underwent a certain amount of shrinkage as a result of the Black Death and its impact on the population (NBC 2010: 3). Once again, the documentary and archaeological evidence combine to portray a continuity of occupation and development during this period, expanding the settlement established in the area during the previous periods.

3.7 **Post-medieval** (1500 - 1900)

Prior to being Enclosed in the 18th century, arable farming in Wootton is likely to have followed the open field system, following the Midland custom of operating a three-field rotation system whereby one field in every three is left fallow every year (NBC 2010: 3). The farmsteads that would have operated this system were located within the village, and several of the associated farmhouses survive today, such as Numbers 3 and 20 High Street (*ibid.*). Following the Enclosure in 1778, the open fields were divided between individual landowners,



who subsequently would have built their farmsteads outside of the village, closer to their newly allocated parcels of land. Several other post-medieval houses from as early as 1600 survive. The nearest to the development site are at Numbers 18 and 19 Green Lane (HER 4072/0/10 & 4072/0/11) from 1707 and 1695, respectively; Number 3 Resthaven Road (HER 407/0/2), dating from the 18th century; and The Rectory (HER 4072/0/24) from the 17th century. Wootton was skirted by the Northampton to Stoke Goldington Turnpike, dating from 1709 to 1899 (HER 9300/1).

During the 19th century, Wootton continued to expand. The population almost doubled during this century and a school was established on High Street in 1838 (NBC 2010: 3). By the turn of the century, public houses, bakers, butchers and a post office had all been established within the settlement (*ibid.*).

Concerning the site itself the 1885 OS map of Wootton depicts it has an enclosed rectangular field. This continued to be the case up until the late 20th century when the surrounding area became developed with residential properties.

3.8 **Modern** (1900 - present)

While it has always been a relatively small, but separate, settlement on the route between Northampton and London, the 20th century has seen Wootton become subsumed within Northampton itself as both settlements have continued to grow as the population of the area has demanded. Expansion of the village started after World War II, with large developments to the north and west, and the majority of the south-eastern side of the village was built in the post-2000 period, linking in the residential areas south of the B526.



4 Stratigraphic Report

4.1 *Investigation Trenches*

An initial site visit was made in April 2015 to monitor the excavation of a series of test pits within the development area. Here the general stratigraphy was exposed (see below) and no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

4.2 *Site Stripping* (Figure 4; Plates 1-6)

The project entailed the mechanical stripping of topsoil/subsoil under close archaeological supervision of an area of 158.44 sq m for the new house (including the removal of an existing pond), 38.5 sq m for the new garage, along with trenching for services (soakaway & drainage) (Figure 4). The general site stratigraphy comprised:

- Topsoil/Subsoil (100), 0.5m deep of dark brown, firm, sandy clay with rooting (difficult to fully distinguish but a subsoil was thought to have been present also as the site was not thought to have been truncated).
- Natural strata (101), a variation across the site of light orange yellow, loose, sandy matrix and a mid-coppery orange, soft, clay with ironstone.

4.3 *Sampling Strategy*

On completion of the site strip and services, archaeological features comprising a ditch, gullies, stone drain, limestone deposit, possible ditch/pit, post-hole, pit/ditch, and a possible stone wall were revealed in the area for the new house and the service trenching. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed within the new garage trench. Following consultation with the AA, it was agreed that subsequent excavation would follow the sampling strategy outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation

4.4 *Archaeology*

4.4.1 *New House Area:* (Figures 4-7; Plates 7-10)

Stone Drain Structure [102] was observed in the SW corner and SE corner of the area, it was orientated SE-NW with a slight curve towards the NW end. It was constructed primarily of medium-large sub-angular ironstone with interspersed limestone pieces, all of which were un-bonded. The central channel for the drain was naturally silted by (106) and contained no finds, a construction cut [119] for the drain was also observed in section. The drain cut through limestone deposit (105), (Figures 4 & 6; Plates 7-8).

Limestone Deposit (105) was found in the SW corner of the area, consisting of a concentration of un-bonded, small-large sub-angular limestones and occasional ironstone. It contained finds of Shelly Coarseware pottery and Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware pottery dating to the 13th century, medieval roof tile and iron nails. The rough, uneven and dispersed appearance of the stones suggests that it may have been a dumping of material or a foundation. The deposit overlay pit/ditch [113], possible ditch/pit [121] and was cut by stone drain S[102] and ditch [103]. A continuation of the deposit was thought to have been found in the service trench immediately to the SW of the area (115), (section 4.4.3; Figures 4 & 6-7; Plates 7-8).

Ditch [103] was found along the width of the area orientated SE-NW. It contained redeposited natural slumping (117) and a naturally silted fill (104) containing finds of Shelly Coarseware



and Potterspurty Ware dating to the mid-13th century. The ditch appeared to cut limestone deposit (105) to the SSW (Figures 4, 6&7; Plates 7-8).

Possible Ditch/Pit [121] was found in the SW corner of the area, extending beyond the limit of excavation and overlaid by deposit (105), therefore the shape in plan and section was not fully observed. It contained a single naturally silted fill (122) containing no finds, and cut post-hole [111], (Figures 4 & 6; Plates 7-8).

Post-Hole [111] was also found in the SW corner of the area, circular in plan with a U-shaped profile, containing a single naturally silted fill (112) with a single small sherd of Potterspurty Ware dating to the mid-13th century. Found towards the base of the post-hole were a number of medium sub-angular limestones possibly used for packing material. The post-hole was cut by possible ditch/pit [121], (Figures 4 & 6-7; Plates 7-8).

Pit/Ditch [113] was found underlying limestone deposit (105), and extended beyond the limit of excavation; as such the shape in plan and section was not fully visible. The pit/ditch was filled with a single naturally silted fill (114), containing flecks of charcoal, a residual sherd of Romano-British pottery, T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware and Shelly Coarseware pottery dating to the 12th century, medieval roof tile and a piece of slag (Figures 4 & 6-7; Plates 7-8).

Gully [107] was found along the western side of the area, linear in plan and orientated N-S, with a terminus at the southern end. The gully contained a single naturally silted fill (108) containing Shelly Coarseware pottery dating to the 12th century, and was cut by gully [109], (Figures 4 & 5; Plate 9).

Gully [109] was found cutting gully [107]. It was linear in plan, orientated E-W, with a terminus at the eastern end. The gully contained a single naturally silted fill (110) with no finds (Figures 4 & 5; Plate 10).

4.4.2 **Soakaway & Drainage Trench:** (Figures 4 & 7; Plates 11-12)

Possible Stone Wall Structure [120] was visible, in section only, in the soakaway. It consisted of three large, un-bonded, sub-angular limestones orientated NNE-SSW. One of the stones was placed at a vertical angle and the other two stones horizontal (Figure 4; Plate 11).

Deposit (115) was observed in the stratigraphy of the soakaway and drainage trench. It contained dispersed concentrations of small-medium sub-angular limestones towards the base of the deposit and may possibly be a continuation of limestone deposit (105) observed in the SW corner of the new house area (see above). Deposit (115) overlies deposit (116), (Figure 4 & 7; Plate 12).

Deposit (116) was a 0.3m thick, silty layer found underlying deposit (115) in the drainage trench. In this part of the site it appeared that the natural geology was found at a deeper level. There seemed to be no associated cut but rather it may have been a natural slope to the land which had silted up. Deposit (116) contained a single sherd of Shelly Coarseware dating to the 12th century (Figure 4 & 7; Plate 12).



4.5 *Phasing*

Three broad phases have been established for the archaeology on the site by combining dating and stratigraphic evidence which are presented in Figure 4.

4.5.1 *Phase 1*

Phase 1 consists of the earliest features found on the site, all of which date to the 12th century. This consists of pit/ditch [113], gully [107] and deposit (116).

4.5.2 *Phase 2*

Phase 2 consists of a number of features dating to the 13th century, in stratigraphic order: post-hole [111], possible ditch/pit [121], limestone deposit (105), ditch [103] and deposit (115) which was thought to have been the same as limestone deposit (105).

4.5.3 *Phase 3*

Phase 3 consists of three features containing no dating evidence but stratigraphically are later in date, which are stone drain S[102] and gully [109]. Possible stone wall S[120] has also been included within this phase as the stone was comparable to that in drain S[102].

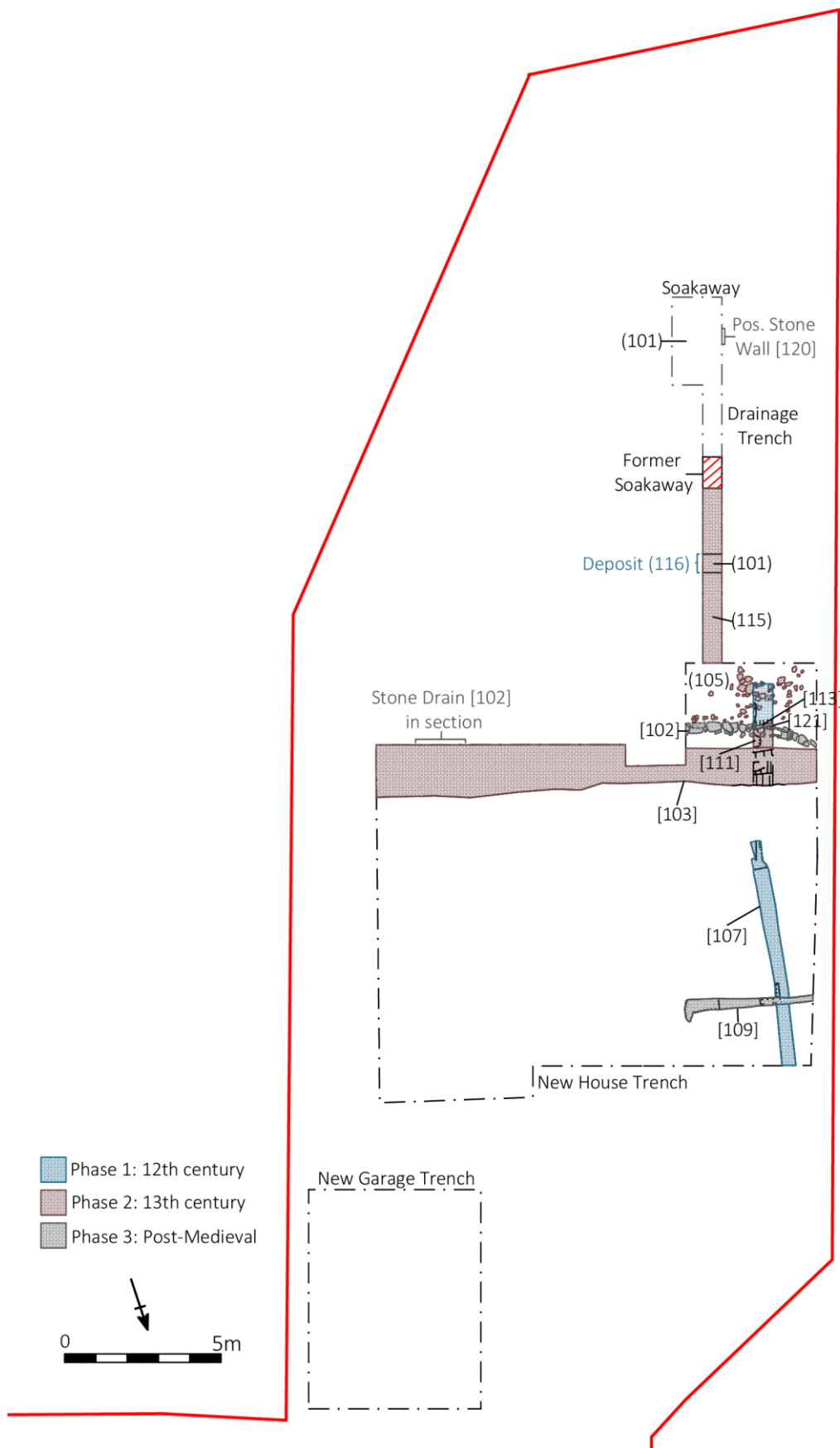


Figure 4: Archaeology plan (scale 1:200)

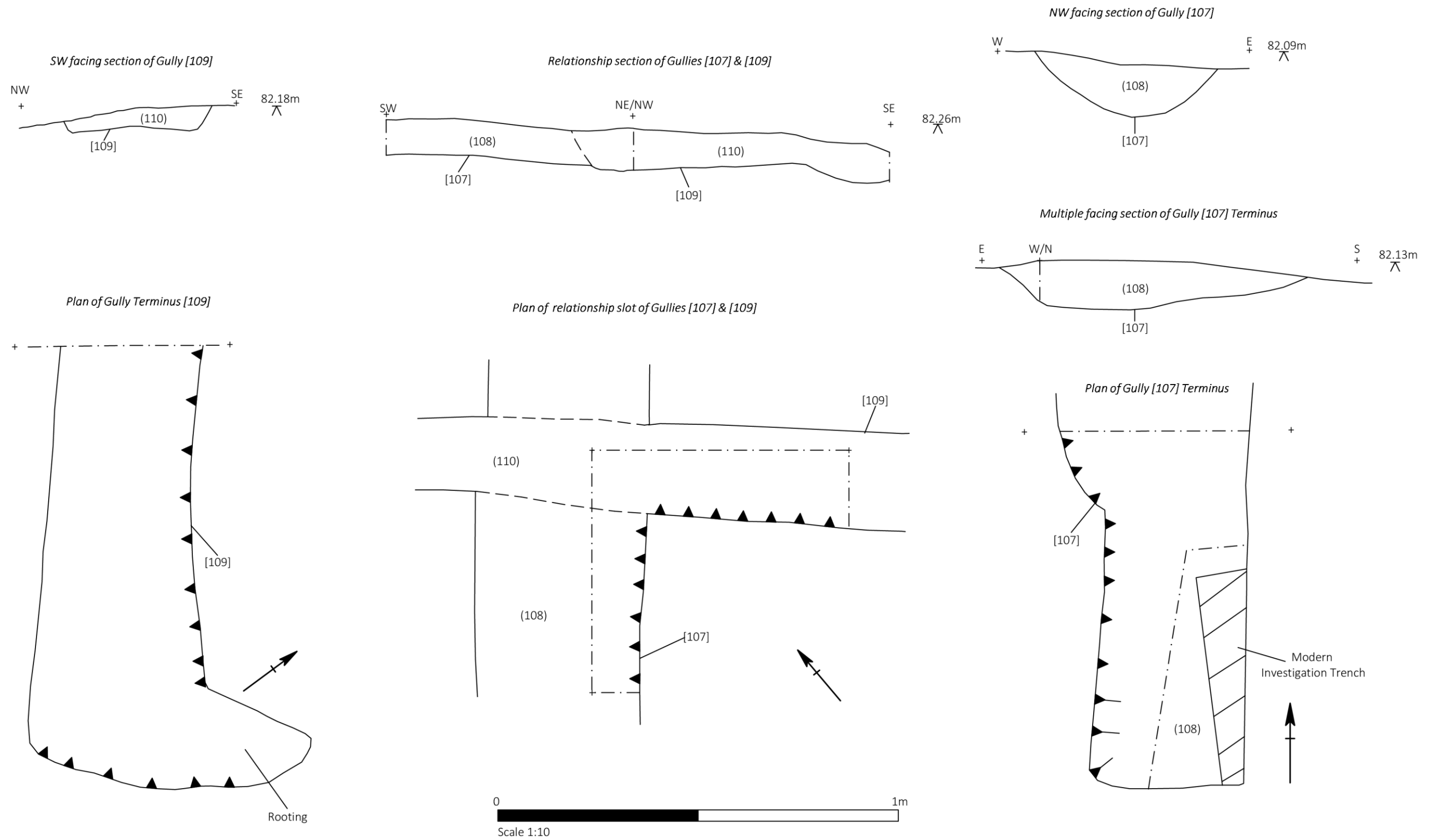


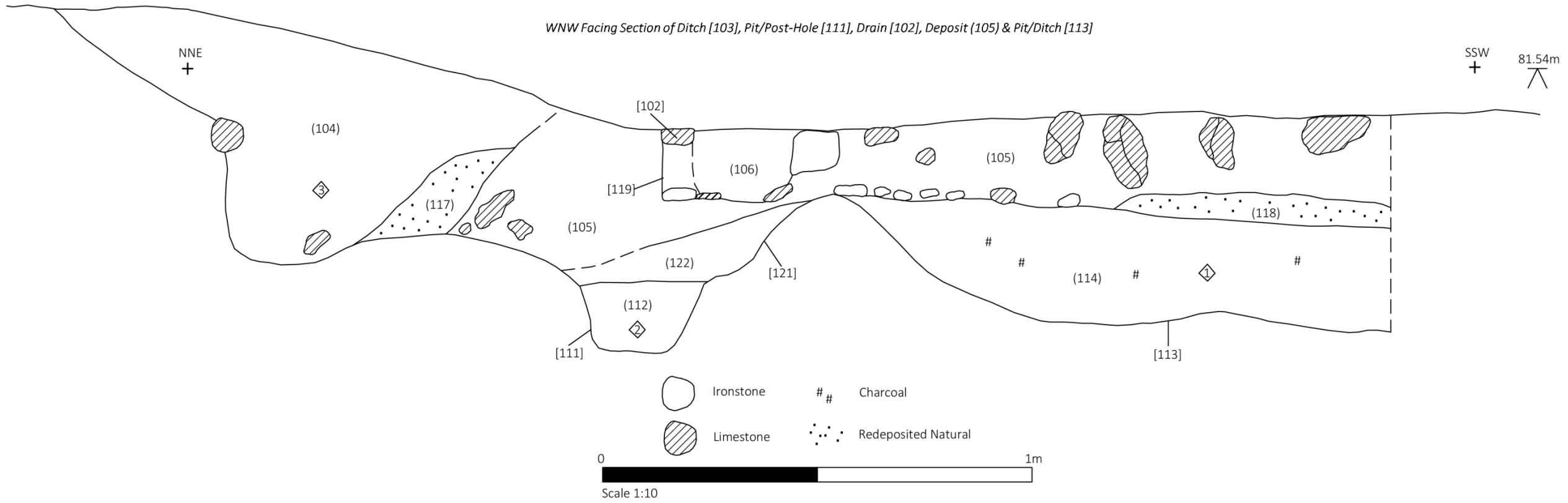
Figure 5: Plans and sections (scale 1:10)



Figure 6: Plans (scale 1:20)



WNW Facing Section of Ditch [103], Pit/Post-Hole [111], Drain [102], Deposit (105) & Pit/Ditch [113]



SE facing section of soakaway and drainage trench with Deposits (115) and (116)

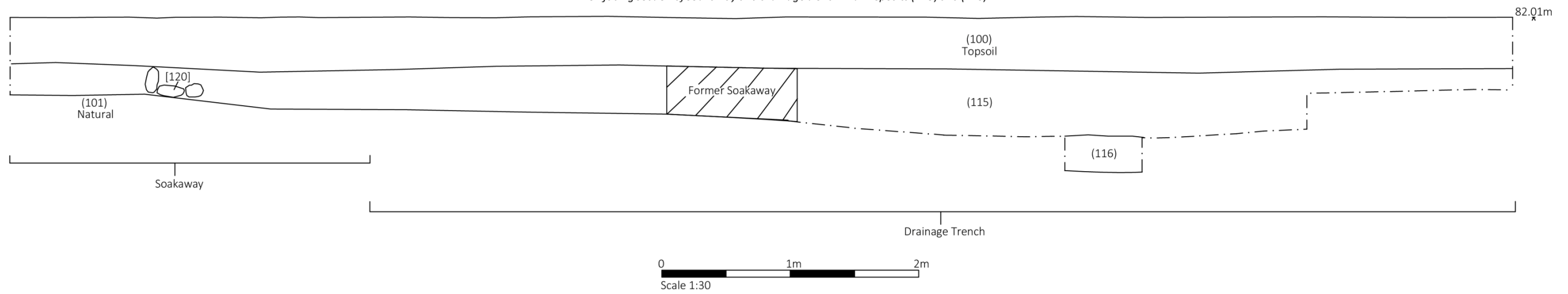


Figure 7: Sections (scale as shown)



Plate 1: New house area, looking N (2x1m scale)



Plate 2: General stratigraphy of new house area, looking N (1m scale)



Plate 3: New garage area, looking SW (2x1m scale)



Plate 4: General stratigraphy of new garage area, looking SSW (2x1m scale)



Plate 5: Soakaway and drainage trench, looking NNE (2x1m scale)



Plate 6: Stratigraphy of soakaway, looking WNW (2x1m scale)



Plate 7: Pre-ex of ditch [103], limestone deposit (105) & stone drain S[102], looking N (2x1m scale)



Plate 8: Excavated section through ditch [103], post-hole [111], ditch/pit [121], limestone deposit (105), stone drain S[102] & pit/ditch [113], looking E (2x1m scale)



Plate 9: Post-ex of gully [107], looking NE (2m scale)



Plate 10: Post-ex of gully [109], looking NW (2m scale)



Plate 11: Possible stone wall S[120] in soakaway section, looking NW (2x1m scale)



Plate 12: Deposits (115) & (116) in drainage trench, looking ESE (2x1m scale)



5 Artefactual Report

Pottery from 31 Green Lane, Wooton, Northants (Site 099/WGL)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 23 sherds with a total weight of 137g. It was all earlier medieval, other than a single residual Romano-British sherd. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 4 sherds, 14g.

F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, AD1225-1400. 1 sherd, 11g.

F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600. 3 sherds, 17g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 14 sherds, 95g.

In addition, a single sherd of residual Romano-British shelly ware weighing 13g was also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010) and suggests that medieval activity at the site was limited to the 11th – 14th centuries. Common pottery types of the late medieval period are entirely absent.

The assemblage is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified. It comprises mostly unglazed bodysherds from jars along with a few fragments of bowls and a single sherd from a glazed jug, a typical Lyveden 'B' product decorated with thick applied strips and stamped pads in a white slip.

Fragments of medieval roof tile in a shelly fabric occurred in contexts (105) and (114). They both appear to be pieces of curved ridge-tile. The former weighs 55g, and is 12mm thick, while the latter weighs 56g, and is 14mm thick.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	RB		F200		F330		F320		F329		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
104					1	24			2	16	M13thC
105					3	12	1	11			13thC
108					5	36					12thC
112									1	1	M13thC
114	1	13	4	14	4	18					12thC
116					1	6					12thC
Total	1	13	4	14	14	96	1	11	3	17	



6 Environmental Report

The charred plant remains from land adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton (099/WGL)

Rachel Small

Introduction

This report presents the study of the charred plant remains recovered from environmental samples taken during an excavation at land adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton. Three samples were taken from a pit/ditch, ditch and post-hole fill dating from the medieval to post-medieval period. Plant remains, which may include cereal grains, chaff, and weed seeds, provide evidence for past food preparation, consumption, agricultural practice and environment.

Method

One part of each sample (eight to ten litres in volume) was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry; the flot was sorted for plant remains and other finds using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted in their entirety. The fractions under 4mm were re-floated and sorted under the microscope to ensure all plant remains were recovered.

Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991). Plant remains were counted: each whole grain, and grain fragments which included the embryo, were counted as one; for chaff, each rachis internode was counted as one; and for seeds and nut shells each fragment was counted as one. Van der Veen's (2007) ratios, which compare the proportions of the remains, were calculated when over 25 items were present.

Results

Charred plant remains were numerous in sample 1 (114) which was taken from a pit/ditch fill (17.9 items per litre). A smaller number of remains were found in sample 3 (104) which was also from a ditch fill (0.7 items per litre). No charred plant remains were recovered from sample 2 (112), a posthole fill (8 litres in volume), but small charcoal fragments were present. Samples 1 and 3 will now be discussed in more detail.

Sample 1 (114)

Cereal grains were most abundant (table 1) and this is proved in the ratio calculated below. The dominant crop was free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.). Smaller amounts of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), rye (*Secale cereale* L.) and possibly oat (*Avena* spp.) grains were also recovered. It is not possible to tell whether the oat grains were of wild or cultivated type.



Table 1: charred plant remains present in samples 1 and 3 (results from the flots and residues combined).

Sample	1	3	
Context	114	104	
Cut	113	103	
Grain			
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	63		Free-threshing wheat
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	13		Barley
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	1		Rye
cf <i>Avena</i> sp.	10		cf Oat
Cereal indet.	20	4	Cereal (indeterminate)
Chaff			
<i>Triticum</i> sp. rachis	13		Free-threshing wheat rachis
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. rachis	3		Barley rachis
Collected			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	1		Hazelnut shell
Weed			
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	15		Vetch
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	8		Stinking mayweed
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	2		Dock
cf <i>Silene</i> sp.	1		cf Campion
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	4		Goosefoot
Poaceae (large)	11	3	Large grass
Poaceae (small)	3		Small grass
Indet.	11		Indeterminate
TOTAL	179	7	
Flot volume (ml)	35	15	
Sample volume (l)	10	10	
Items per litre	17.9	0.7	

A small amount of chaff was recovered: thirteen free-threshing wheat rachis internodes and these were most likely bread-wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). A smaller number of barley rachis internodes (three) were also present.

A fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) was recovered. The nuts would have been collected as a food. Hazelnut trees may have been cultivated or may have naturally grown in a surrounding woodland or hedgerow environment.

Common weeds of agricultural and disturbed lands were identified and included stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.) and dock (*Rumex* spp.). Stinking mayweed is commonly associated with the cultivation of heavy clay soils and goosefoots with spring sown crops (Monckton 2004, 164).

The ratio of free-threshing wheat rachis internodes to grains was calculated (table 2). A ratio higher than 0.3 indicates a preponderance of rachis internodes and a ratio lower than 0.3 a



preponderance of grain. The value was 0.17 which indicates the sample primarily represents a 'grain product' (Van der Veen 2007).

Table 2: calculations for the ratio of *Triticum* spp. free-threshing rachis internodes to grains following Van der Veen (2007). Indeterminate grains were split according to the proportion of identified grains in the sample and included in the ratio.

Sample	1
Context	114
Cut	113
Proportion of cereal indet. grains	14
Total grains (<i>Triticum</i> sp. and cereal indet.)	77
<i>Triticum</i> sp. rachis internodes	13
Rachis internodes/grains	0.17

Sample 3 (104)

Only a small number of remains were recovered from this sample: four indeterminate cereal grains and three large grass seeds. A ferrous nail and fragment of pottery were recovered from the residue.

Discussion

Free-threshing wheat, most likely bread-wheat, was the dominant cereal crop at the site. There was also evidence for the consumption of barley, rye, oats and hazelnuts. Wheat and rye may have been grown together in the autumn, whilst barley and oats may have been grown together as 'dredge' in the spring (Monckton 2004, 164). The presence of stinking mayweed suggests the soil in which some of the crops grew was heavy clay. Hazelnuts may have been cultivated or collected from the site's surrounding environment.

Cereal grains were dominant in sample 1, with smaller amounts of weed seeds and cereal chaff present. This suggests the assemblage primarily represents cleaned cereal grain for consumption. It is likely that the grains burnt on a hearth during cooking as spillage and were then disposed of along with the hearth cleanings in nearby pits and ditches. Ash from the fire would also have formed a general scatter across the site accumulating on surfaces and in open features; this perhaps accounts for the smaller quantity of charred plant remains in sample 3 and the lack of remains in sample 2.

The cereal grains could have been used for whole grain foods such as pottage (a soup or stew) or for small scale grinding for meal or flour. Bread wheat was favoured by the wealthy for bread making (Monckton 2013, 3). The weed seeds and chaff present, which are likely to be residues from cleaning the grain, may have been used as tinder for the fire. The results presented are similar to other medieval/post-medieval sites such as Dunchurch Vicarage Gardens, Warwickshire (Monckton 2013).



7 Conclusions

- 7.1 Occupation on the site is clearly evident, with the earliest phase dating to the 12th century. Gully [107], from this phase, was likely used for drainage, and despite not being able to see the full shape in plan and section of pit/ditch [113] contained T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware and Shelly Coarseware pottery, medieval roof tile and a piece of slag. Such finds point to domestic occupation and the roof tile suggests activity was within the vicinity of buildings whilst the presence of slag suggests metal working may have been taking place within the area. The environmental analysis also identified numerous charred plant remains, with cereal grains being most abundant, the dominant of which was free-threshing wheat, and small amounts of weed seeds and cereal chaff. This suggests that the assemblage primarily represents cleaned cereal grain for consumption. This feature also contained a residual sherd of Romano-British pottery, as both agricultural and industrial evidence from this period have been found within the vicinity of Wootton the presence of residual pottery is not wholly unexpected.

Deposit (116) was also included in this earlier phase containing 12th century Shelly Coarseware pottery. The full extent of this deposit was not observed, but it appeared to have been the natural silting of a natural slope to the land beyond the footprint of the new development, as no actual cut was observed.

- 7.2 The second broad phase of activity dates to the 13th century and points to a continued occupation of the site. Here a post-hole was found [111] likely indicating the presence of a structure or fence line, unfortunately it is not possible to fully conclude from a single post-hole.

Little can be said regarding the possible ditch/pit [121] as its fully shape in plan was not visible and it contained no finds, but stratigraphically it cut post-hole [111] and underlay deposit (105) and represents an ongoing use of the area.

Limestone deposit (105) was a concentration of limestone and occasional ironstone containing 13th century Shelly Coarseware pottery and Lyveden/Stanion 'B' W pottery, along with a medieval roof tile again suggesting building(s) in the area, and iron nails. Deposit (115) also contained concentrations of limestone, although more dispersed compared to deposit (105) but was thought to have been either the same or associated with the deposit. In both of these deposits the material is rough, uneven and too dispersed to have been a surface but rather may represent a dumping of material possibly demolition material from a structure or wall or, particularly the area of deposit (105) being more concentrated, may have been a building foundation.

Ditch [103] was found spanning the width of the excavation area containing 13th century Shelly Coarseware and Potterspury Ware pottery. The environmental analysis identified four indeterminate cereal grains and three large grass seeds. It is thought that the ditch represents a land boundary.

- 7.3 The later features thought to have been post-medieval are stone drain S[102]. Referring to Ordnance survey mapping for the site the 1885 map shows it as an enclosed rectangular field with no structures present. It is thought that the stone drain was used for land drainage. A continuation of land drainage was also found with gully [109], and finally also believed to have been a post-medieval feature was possible Stone Wall [120]. As this feature was only seen in section it was difficult to fully determine its true form and whether it continued, but given the



fact the site had been used for agricultural purposes until more recent times, if it is indeed a wall, it is likely of agricultural or animal use.

- 7.4 Regarding the overall pottery assemblage, aside from the single sherd of residual Romano-British pottery, all the sherds were early medieval in date with an overall range between the 11th-14th centuries. The assemblage mostly comprised unglazed body sherds deriving from jars with a few fragments of bowls, and a single sherd from a glazed jug.
- 7.5 The environmental analysis indicated that the dominant cereal crop on the site was free-threshing wheat, most likely bread-wheat, along with evidence for barley, rye, oats and hazelnuts. Stinking mayweed was also identified suggesting that some of the crops grew in heavy clay. The analysis seems to point to grains being burnt on a hearth during cooking as spillage were then disposed of along with hearth cleanings in nearby pits and ditches. Ash from the fire would have also formed a general scatter across the site accumulating on surfaces and in open features. The cereals found could have been used for whole grain foods such as for soups or stews or for small scale grinding for meal or flour. The presence of weed seeds and chaff were thought to have been residues from cleaning the grain and may have been used as tinder for the fire.
- 7.6 Looking at the surrounding contemporary landscape, the medieval village core of Wootton was centred on Quinton Road and High Street to the east, Berry Lane to the south, and Curtlee Hill to the east. The site is also some 100m southwest of the Church of St George. Therefore the early medieval occupation evidence found at the site helps to further define the limits of the medieval village, and the shift in the post-medieval period to the site being of a more agriculture use.



8 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Richard Broomfield for commissioning this report, and for his full co-operation on site. Thanks are also due to the Northamptonshire Historical Environmental Record Office for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; and to Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Archaeology Team (NCAT) monitoring the project.

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The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA & Eva Estella BA. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



9 Archive

9.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. Specialist reports
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

9.2 The archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC). Note: currently NARC is not accepting archaeological material, until the facility becomes available KDK will provide temporary storage of archive material, which will be archived in accordance with the guidelines set out by NARC (2014).



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Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (Max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	D: 0.5m	Topsoil: dark brown, firm, sandy clay with rooting.
101	Layer	-	Natural strata: variation of light orange yellow, loose, sandy matrix and mid-coppery orange, soft, clay with ironstone.
102	Structural	L: >14m W: 0.41m D: 0.17m	Stone Drain: constructed of medium-large primarily ironstone with some limestone pieces with no bonding material. Stone laid either side of a central channel and ironstone pieces were laid over the top. Drain associated with construction cut [119] and natural silting of drain (106), and cuts through limestone deposit (105).
103	Cut	L: >14m W: 1.18m D: 0.55m	Ditch: linear in plan with moderate-steep irregular sides and a concave base. Filled by redeposited natural (117) and natural silting (104). Ditch cuts limestone deposit (105).
104	Fill	L: - W: 1.18m D: 0.55m	Fill of Ditch [103]: naturally silted fill consisting of mid brown, friable, silty clay with rare medium limestone and occasional small sub-angular stones, containing finds of Shelly Coarseware and Potterspurgy Ware pottery dating to the mid-13 th century.
105	Deposit	L: >4m W: >1.9m D: 0.38m	Limestone deposit: concentration of un-bonded small-large sub-angular limestones and occasional ironstone within a matrix of mid beige brown, friable, silty clay containing finds of Shelly Coarseware and Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware pottery dating to the 13 th century, medieval roof tile and iron nails. The deposit was not thought to have been a surface as it is rough, uneven and dispersed in places, therefore possible a dumping of material or a foundation. Deposit cuts Pit/Ditch [113], possible Ditch/Pit [121] and was cut by Stone Drain structure 102 and Ditch [103].
106	Fill	L: - W: 0.23m D: 0.17m	Fill of Stone Drain S102: natural silting of drain consisting of mid beige brown, loose, clayey silt with no finds.
107	Cut	L: >7.25m W: 0.45m D: 0.13m	Gully: linear in plan and concave in section with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, orientated N-S, filled by naturally silted fill (108). Gully was cut by gully [109].
108	Fill	L: - W: 0.45m D: 0.13m	Fill of Gully [107]: natural silting of Gully consisting of mid brown, soft, sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and rooting, containing finds of Shelly Coarseware pottery dating to the 12 th century.
109	Cut	L: >4m W: 0.37m D: 0.06m	Gully: linear in plan and shallow in section with shallow steep-moderately sloping sides and a flattish uneven base, fill by naturally silted fill (110). Gully cuts Gully [107].
110	Fill	L: - W: 0.37m D: 0.06m	Fill of Gully [109]: naturally silted fill of Gully consisting of mid brown, soft, sandy clay with rooting, containing no finds.
111	Cut	L: >0.24m W: 0.37m D: 0.16m	Post-Hole: circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base, contains a single naturally silted fill (112). Post-Hole cut by Ditch/Pit [121].
112	Fill	L: >0.24m W: 0.37m D: 0.16m	Fill of Post-Hole [111]: naturally silted fill consisting of mid brown, friable, silty clay with a number of medium sub-angular limestones found at the base of the feature possibly packing stones, and a small fragment of Potterspurgy Ware pottery dating to the mid-13 th century.
113	Cut	L: - W: 1.3m D: 0.27m	Pit/Ditch: feature extends beyond the lime of excavation and was also covered by limestone deposit (105), therefore the full shape in plan and section was not observed. The north side of the feature was moderately sloping with a flattish/undulating base, containing a single naturally silted fill (114).
114	Fill	L: - W: 1.3m D: 0.27m	Fill of Pit/Ditch [113]: naturally silted fill consisting of dark black/brown, friable, silty clay with moderate flecks of charcoal and rare small sub-angular stones containing finds of residual Romano-British pottery, T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware and Shelly Coarseware pottery dating to the 12 th century, medieval roof tile and a piece of slag.



115	Deposit	L: - W: >12m D: 0.5m	Deposit containing concentrations of small-medium sub-angular limestone in a mid-brown, friable, clayey silt matrix with no finds, possibly a continuation of limestone deposit (105).
116	Deposit	L: - W: - D: 0.3m	Natural silting Deposit found underlying (115) consisting of mid greyish brown, soft, silty clay with occasional medium limestones, containing a single sherd of Shelly Coarseware pottery dating to the 12 th century.
117	Fill	L: - W: 0.22m D: 0.22m	Fill of Ditch [103]: slumping episode of redeposited natural consisting of light mottled orangey yellow, loose, sandy silt with no finds.
118	Deposit	L: - W: >0.65m D: 0.07m	Redeposited natural found within limestone deposit (105) consisting of mottled light orangey yellow, loose, sandy silt with no finds.
119	Cut	L: >14m W: 0.41m D: 0.17m	Construction cut for Stone Drain S102: linear in plan with a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a flat base.
120	Structural	L: >0.5m W: - D: 0.22m	Possible rough Stone Wall or dump consisting of three large sub-angular limestones one placed vertical and the other two horizontally placed with no bonding material, only visible in trench section and thought to continue beyond the limit of excavation.
121	Cut	L: - W: 0.57m D: 0.2m	Possible Ditch/Pit: extends beyond the limit of excavation and overlaid by deposit (105) therefore shape in plan and profile not fully observed. SSW side consists of a moderately, undulating side down to a flattish base, filled by naturally silted fill (122). Possible Ditch/Pit cuts Post-Hole [111].
122	Fill	L: - W: 0.57m D: 0.2m	Fill of possible Ditch/Pit [121]: naturally silted fill consisting of mottled light yellowy brown and mid brown, friable, silty clay with rooting and no finds.

Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:50	Plan of New House Area
2	2	1:20	Plan of Stone Drain S102, Limestone Deposit (105) & Ditch [103]
1	4	1:20	Plan of slot through Stone Drain S102, Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105) & Pit/Ditch [113]
2	6	1:10	Plan of Gully [109]
2	8	1:20	Plan of relationship slot of Gullies [107] & [109]
2	11	1:10	Plan of Gully terminus [107]

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
2	3	1:10	NNW facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], Stone Drain S102, Limestone Deposit (105), Ditch/Pit [121] & Pit/Ditch [113]
2	5	1:10	NE facing section of Gully [109]
2	7	1:10	Multiple facing section of Gullies [109] & [107]
2	9	1:10	NW facing section of Gully [107]
2	10	1:10	Multiple facing section of Gully terminus [107]
3	12		SW facing section of Soakway and Drainage trench



Sample Register

Sample No	Context No	Sample Type	Quantity
1	(114)	Bulk	40 Litres
2	(112)	Bulk	5 Litres
3	(104)	Bulk	30 Litres



Appendix 2: Finds Concordances

Context	Pottery		Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	Type	(g)
104	3	40	1 x Fe Nail	7
105	5	78	1 x Fe Nail	5
108	5	37		
112	1	<1		
114	10	101	1 x slag	11
116	1	7		



Appendix 3: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 099/WGL			Site Name: Land Adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton, Northamptonshire
Digital Shot	B&W Shot	View	Subject
1			Initial visit: investigation trench
2			Initial visit: investigation trench
3			Initial visit: investigation trench
4	1	NW	New house area: Ditch [103]
5		NW	New house area: Ditch [103]
6	2	SW	New house area: Stone Drain [102] visible in section at SE corner of area (2x1m scale)
7		SW	New house area: Stone Drain [102] visible in section at SE corner of area (2x1m scale)
8	3	N	New house area (2x1m scale)
9		N	New house area (2x1m scale)
10	4	W	New house area (2x1m scale)
11		W	New house area (2x1m scale)
12	5	E	New garage area (2x1m scale)
13		E	New garage area (2x1m scale)
14	6	SW	New garage area: stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
15		SW	New garage area: stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
16	7	SE	New house area: pre-ex of Gullies [107] & [109] (2x1m scale)
17		SE	New house area: pre-ex of Gullies [107] & [109] (2x1m scale)
18	8	NNE	New house area: pre-ex of Ditch [103], Stone Drain [102] & Limestone Deposit (105) (2x1m scale)
19		NNE	New house area: pre-ex of Ditch [103], Stone Drain [102] & Limestone Deposit (105) (2x1m scale)
20	9	W	New house area: pre-ex of Stone Drain S102 (2x1m scale)
21		W	New house area: pre-ex of Stone Drain S102 (2x1m scale)
22	10	W	New house area: pre-ex of Limestone Deposit (105) (2x1m scale)
23		W	New house area: pre-ex of Limestone Deposit (105) (2x1m scale)
24		W	New house area: pre-ex of Limestone Deposit (105) (2x1m scale)
25		NE	New house area: post-ex of Gullies [107] & [109] (2m scale)
26		NE	New house area: post-ex of Gullies [107] & [109] (2m scale)
27		SW	New house area: post-ex of Gullies [107] & [109] (2m scale)
28	11	NW	New house area: post- ex of Gully [109] (2m scale)
29		NW	New house area: post-ex of Gully [109] (2m scale)
30	12	NW	New house area: SE facing section of Gully terminus [109] (1m scale)
31		NW	New house area: SE facing section of Gully terminus [109] (1m scale)
32	13	SW	New house area: Relationship slot of Gullies [107] & [109] (2m scale)
33		SW	New house area: Relationship slot of Gullies [107] & [109] (2m scale)
34	14	NW	New house area: SE facing section of relationship slot of Gullies [107] & [109] (1m scale)
35	15	W	New house area: E facing section of relationship slot of Gullies [107] & [109] (1m scale)
36	16	N	New house area: S facing section of Gully terminus [107] (2m scale)
37		N	New house area: S facing section of Gully terminus [107] (500mm scale)
38	17	E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
39		E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
40		E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
41		E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)



Digital Shot	B&W Shot	View	Subject
42		NE	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
43		E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
44		E	New house area: W facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
45		S	New house area: excavated slot through Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
46	18	W	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
47		W	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
48		W	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
49		SW	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
50		SW	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
51		W	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain [102] & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
52		W	New house area: E facing section of Ditch [103], Post-Hole [111], pos. Ditch/Pit [121], Limestone Deposit (105), Stone Drain S102 & Pit/Ditch [113] (2x1m scale)
53		N	New house area: stratigraphy (1m scale)
54		N	New house area: stratigraphy (1m scale)
55	19	NNE	Soakaway (2x1m scale)
56		NNE	Soakaway (2x1m scale)
57		ESE	Soakaway: stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
58		ESE	Soakaway: stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
59	20	NW	Soakaway: pos. Stone Wall [120] (2x1m scale)
60		NW	Soakaway: pos. Stone Wall [120] (2x1m scale)
61		SE	Drainage Trench: stratigraphy including deposits (115) & (116) (2x1m scale)
62		S	Drainage Trench
63		S	Drainage Trench
64		SE	Drainage Trench: stratigraphy including deposits (115) & (116) (2x1m scale)



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land Adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton, Northamptonshire	Project Site Code	099/WGL
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-196822	HER Event UID No.	ENN108379
OS reference	SP 7609 5644	Study area size	227.21 sq m
Project Type	Strip, Map & Sample and Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	Between 81.50 and 83.25mAOD
Short Description	Between April 2015 and May 2016 an archaeological strip, map and sample and observation and recording project was carried out at the land adjacent to 31 Green Lane, Wootton, Northamptonshire during the construction of a single dwelling, garage and associated services. The project uncovered a number of features; ditch, gullies, a stone drain, a dumped concentration of limestone, possible ditch/pit, a single post-hole, a pit/ditch and a possible stone wall, signifying occupation activity dating to the early medieval and post-medieval periods.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Single house and garage	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Northampton Borough Council	Planning application ref.	N/2015/0359
Monument type	Ditches, Gullies, Post-Hole, Ditch/Pit, Stone Drain, Deposits, Pit/Ditch	Monument period	Medieval-Post-medieval
Significant finds	Pottery, Slag, roof tile	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Liz Mordue (Northants CC)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Landowner/developer		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	27.04.15	End date	26.05.16
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre	Pottery, Slag, Fe nails	
Paper		Brief, WSI, Site records & drawings, report, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		CD containing all digital data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample and Observation and Recording Report		
Serial title & volume	099/WGL 2.0		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
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