



Archaeological Excavation at Kingfisher Way Burton Latimer Northamptonshire

Planning reference KET/2012/0732

Report No. 14/162

Authors: Adam Yates, Mo Muldowney and Ed Taylor

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	20/08/14	Pat Chapman	Adam Yates	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: molanort1-187749	
Project title	Archaeological Excavation on land at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire May to June 2014		
Short description	In May and June 2014, an archaeological excavation was carried out by MOLA, on land at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire. The excavation recorded features previously identified from evaluation comprising an Iron Age pit and undated ditch. In addition four further undated features were present. No further artefacts were recovered during the works.		
Project type	Excavation		
Previous work	Trial trench evaluation		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	Watching brief		
Monument type and period			
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire		
Easting Northing	SP 8904 7456		
Area (sq m/ha)	2.3ha		
Height aOD	65m – 55mAOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	NCC		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Adam Yates (MOLA), Naomi Field (Prospect Archaeology)		
Sponsor or funding body	Prospect Archaeology for Linden Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	01/06/14		
End date	13/06/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical			
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological Excavation at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 14/162		
Author(s)	Yates, A, Muldowney, M and Taylor, E		
Page numbers	15		
Date	18/08/14		

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Archaeological Excavation at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire

Abstract

In May and June 2014, an archaeological excavation was carried out by MOLA, on land at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire. The excavation recorded features previously identified from evaluation comprising an Iron Age pit and undated ditch. In addition four further undated features were present. No further artefacts were recovered during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

During May and June 2014, an archaeological excavation was carried out by MOLA Northampton, on land at Kingfisher Way, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 8904 7456 Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Linden Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the proposed residential development of the land (Planning application: KET/2012/0732). It follows an evaluation carried out by ULAS in October 2012 (Speed 2012). Archaeological works were under the oversight of Prospect Archaeology Ltd.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The site is located on the west side of Burton Latimer, bounded to the north by residential development and elsewhere by pasture/scrub land. The west boundary of the site is the River Ise. The site slopes from 65m above Ordnance Datum at the east down to 55m above Ordnance Datum at the west. The excavation area is sited on Northampton Sand Formation – Ooidal Ironstone, to the west the geology changes to Whitby Mudstone Formation – Mudstone, no superficial geology has been recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 23/04/14).

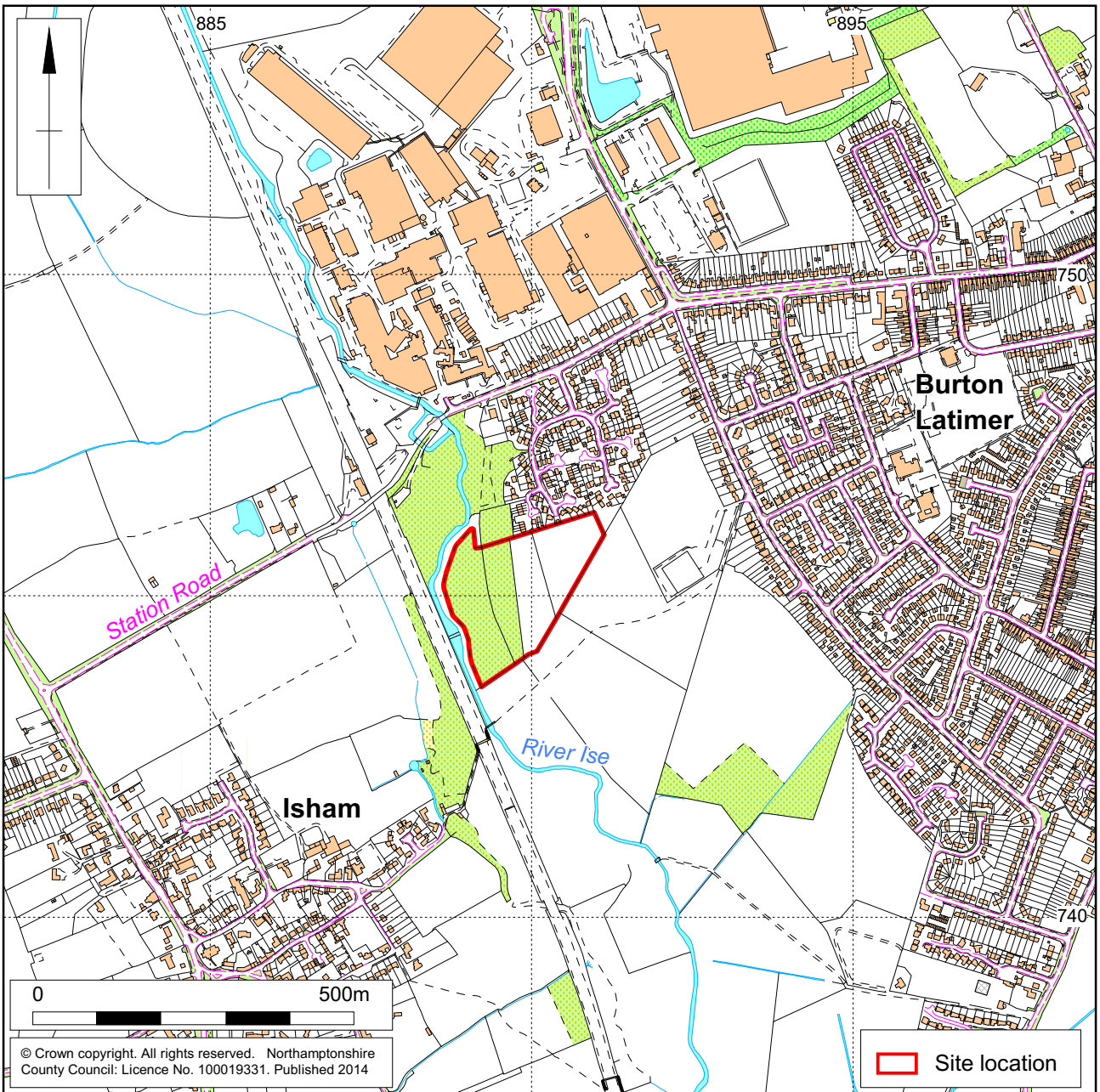
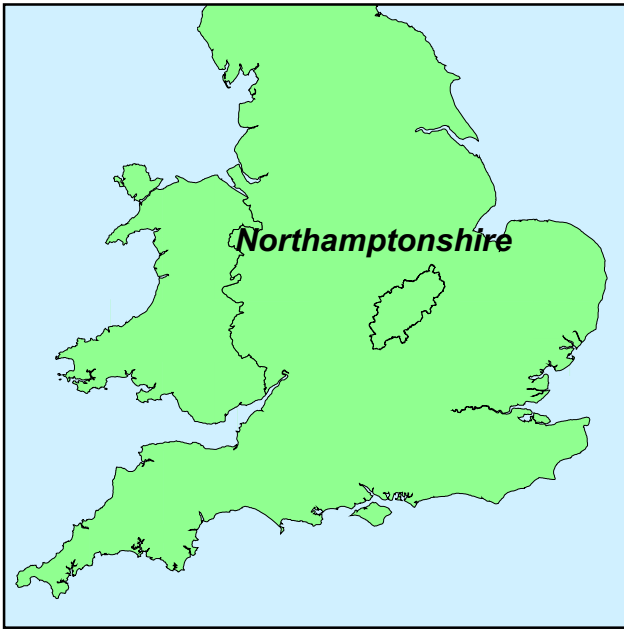
2.2 Historical and archaeological background

An assessment of the known archaeological resource of the development area and its environs has been presented in a Desk-based Assessment by ULAS (Clarke 2012) and is summarised here. There are no heritage assets in the development area and only a few within a 1km radius.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

An archaeological trial trench evaluation along the route of the Kettering East Trunk sewer pipeline to the south of the development area identified undated pits of possible prehistoric origin (MNN 156656, 156659).

There are a small number of undated cropmarks close to the junction of Kettering Road and Station Road to the west of the development area. They appear to comprise ring ditches, enclosures and roundhouse indicative of Bronze Age to Iron Age/Romano-British settlement (MNN 2171, 118987, 118899, 25843, 140967).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Known Roman remains comprise the line of a road (MNN1250) leading from *Durobrivae* to Dungee Corner, 400m to the east, a small group of Roman coins (MNN146706, 147103), a spindle whorl, *tesserae* (MNN152638) and a single Roman coin (MNN23366) all from various locations in Isham to the west. Other finds from Isham include Roman pottery found during fieldwalking and an occupation site identified during an excavation (MNN23364).

Saxon and medieval

Scatters of both Saxon and medieval pottery have been recovered during fieldwalking north of Station Road (MNN140975/6, 140978), whilst two medieval buildings and associated earthworks have been identified and partially excavated south of Isham (MNN23361, 143412).

Post-medieval

Map regression has shown that the development area has been agricultural land for at least the past 130 years. Prior to Enclosure in 1803 it was part of the three-field agricultural system.

2.3 Previous archaeological work

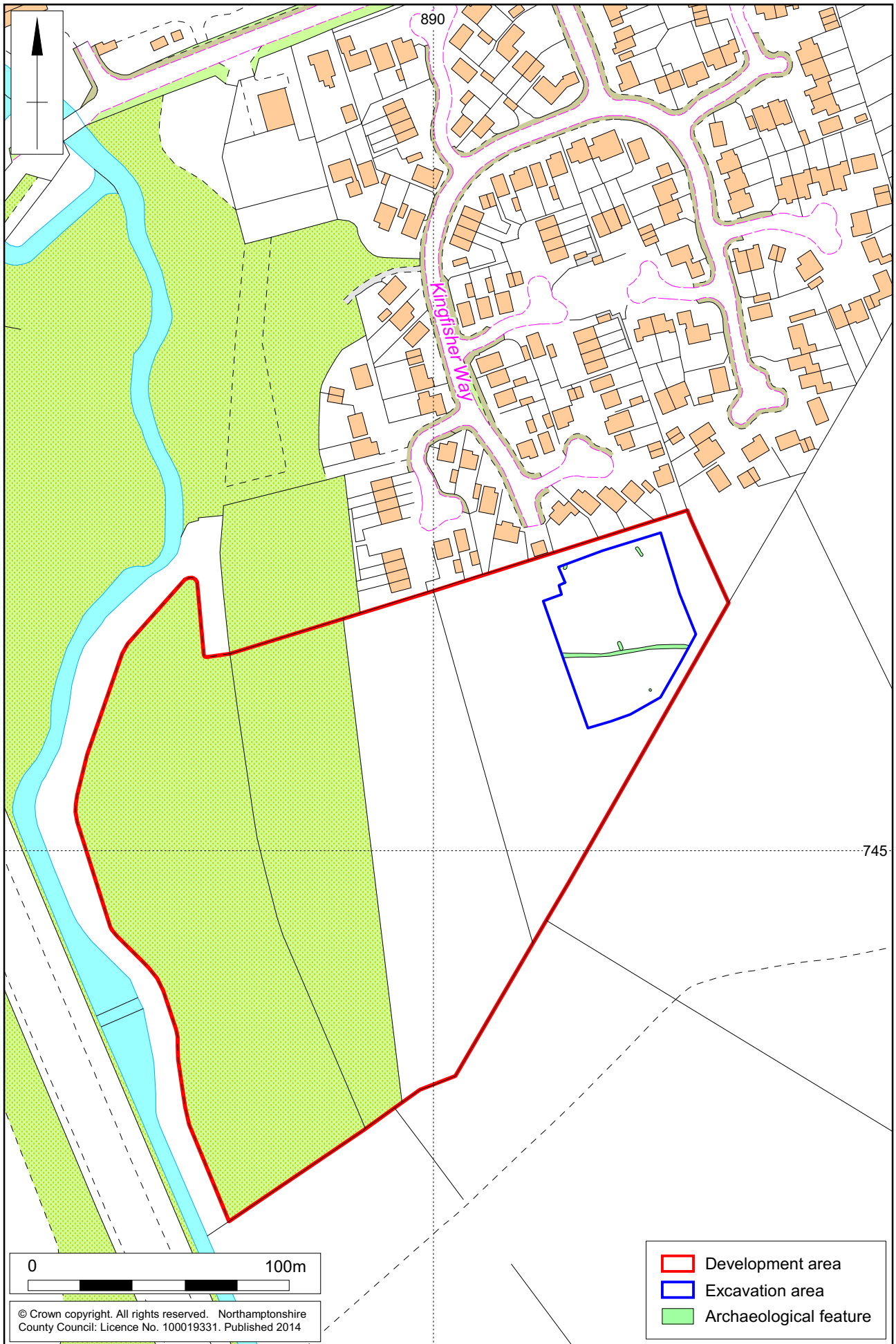
An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out on the site by ULAS (Speed 2012). Nine trenches were excavated across three areas. Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1 and 2 – 4 only in the north-west corner of the development area. They comprised ditch aligned east to west, identified in both Trench 2 and 4, a north to south aligned ditch in Trench 1 and a pit and a spread in Trench 5. All the recovered finds (pottery and flint) indicated a later prehistoric date for the activity, although not all features contained dateable material. The spread in Trench 5 contained a sherd of post-medieval Mocha ware.

3 METHODOLOGY

The mitigation area was established around Trenches 1 to 5 and was excavated in accordance with a specification for a programme of archaeological excavation works prepared by MOLA, and approved by Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (Fig 2).

A 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to the archaeological horizon. The excavation area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:100 and was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014b). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photographs were taken with 35mm cameras using black and white film and with digital cameras. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008).



Scale 1: 2000

Excavation area Fig 2

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the works was set out in the WSI (MOLA 2014a). This was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The general aims of the investigation were to:

- Mitigate the potential impacts from the proposed development of the site through archaeological recording, analysis and dissemination.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1997 and Knight *et al* 2012). These included

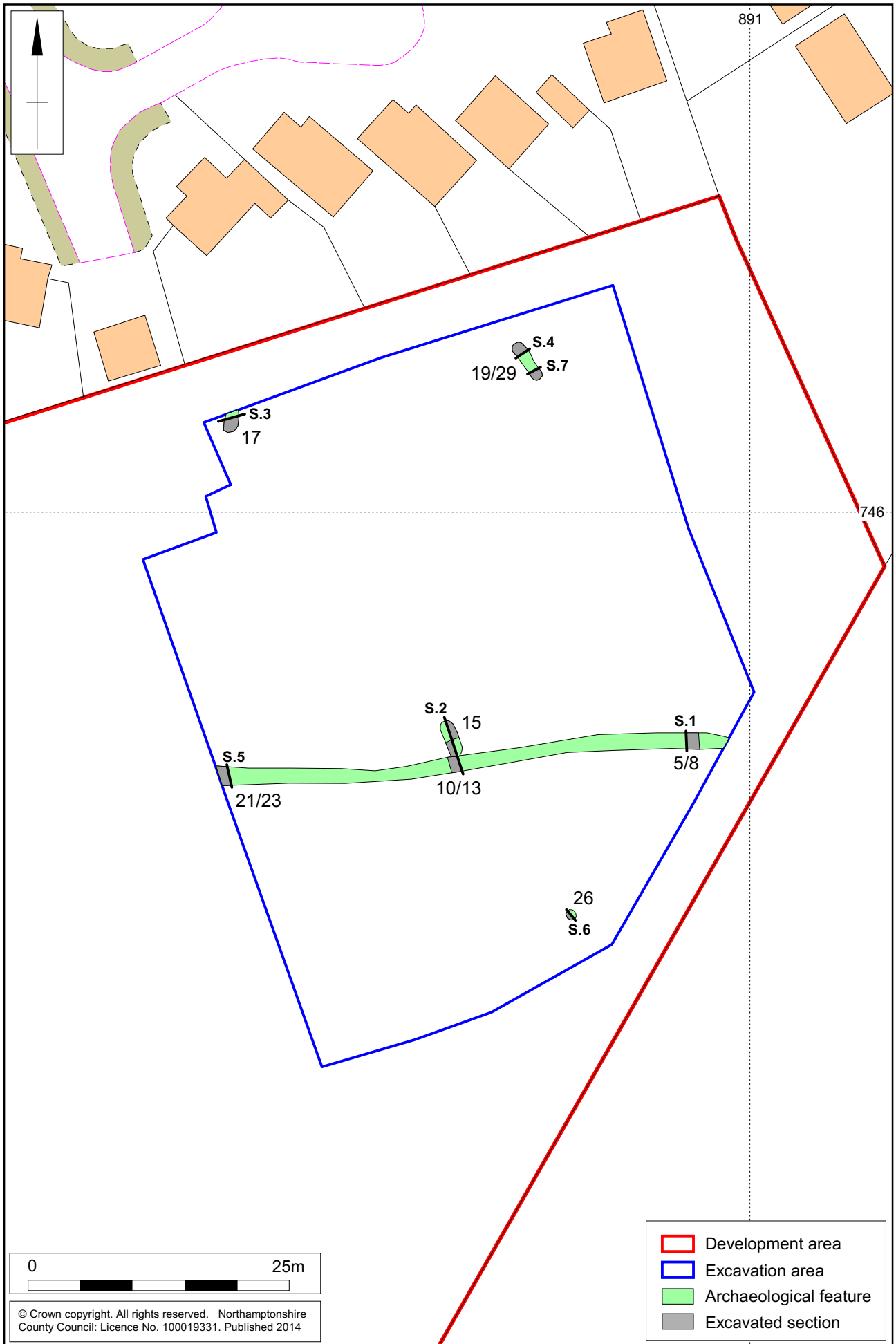
- Refining the date, nature, character and extent of the activity on the development site;
- Examining the evidence for Iron Age culture at the site and its impact on the landscape;
- Recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions;
- Understanding analysis, interpretation and reporting of the findings from the fieldwork;
- Contribute to the understanding of later Iron Age settlements;
- Contribute to the understanding of later Iron Age field systems and boundaries
- Contributing to the understanding of later iron Age agricultural economy and landscape.

No additional research objectives were identified during fieldwork.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology of Ironstone (03) was encountered at a depth of 0.3-0.4m. The upper surface of this was somewhat 'brashy' in character and incorporated pockets of sandier material. Cut into the upper surface of this were a number of sinuous linear features deriving from animal burrows as well irregular discrete features resulting from vegetation disturbance. The subsoil of mid grey-brown sandy clay was up to 0.2m deep, overlain by up to 0.2m of dark grey-brown sandy clay. All features were cut into the natural geology.



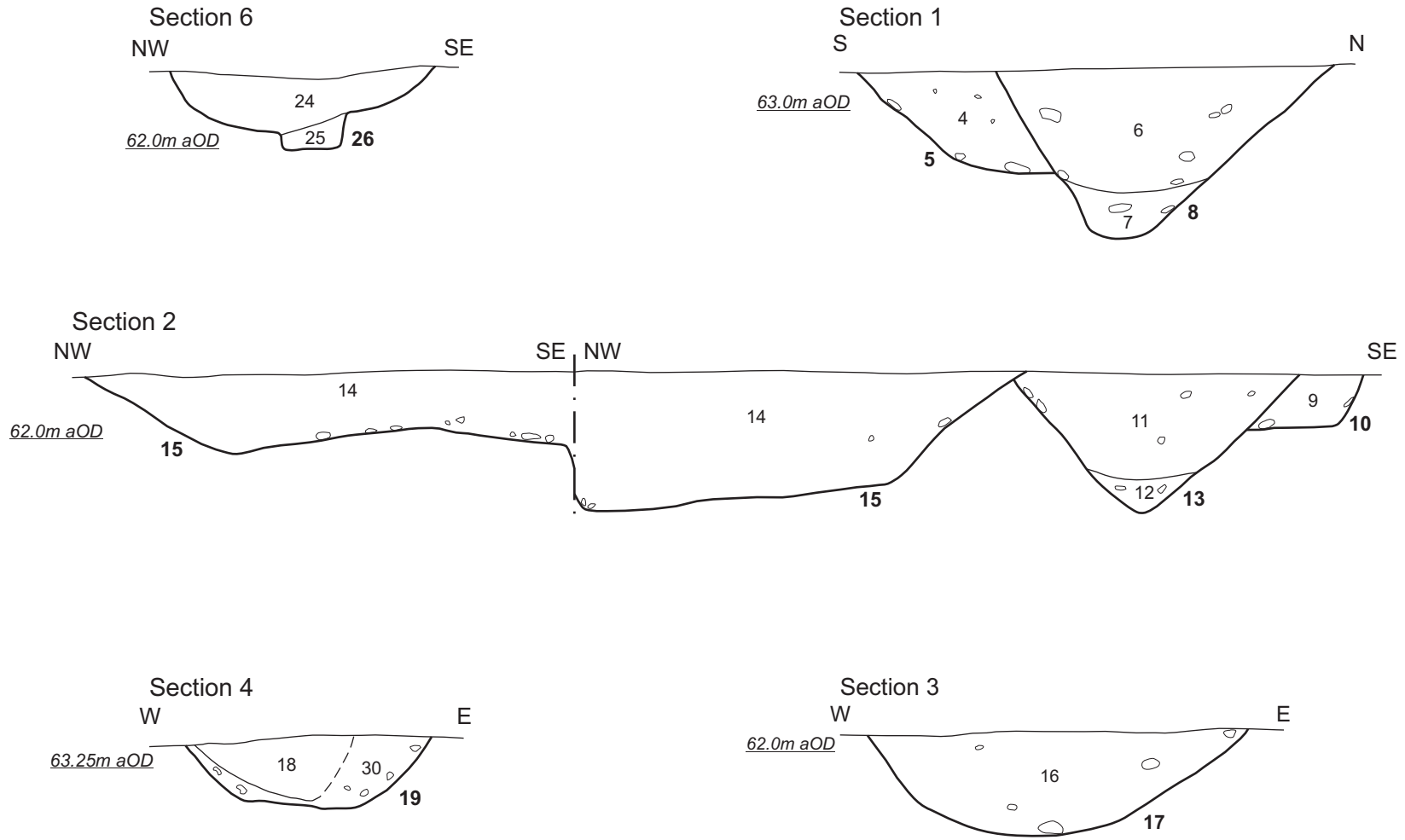
Scale 1: 500

General site plan Fig 3

0 25m
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- ▭ Development area
- ▭ Excavation area
- ▭ Archaeological feature
- ▭ Excavated section

Scale 1:25



Sections of ditch and pits Fig 4

5.2 Archaeological features (Figs 3 and 4)

Pit [26] in the southern part of the site was an Iron Age pit excavated during the evaluation (Fig 5). The remaining unexcavated part was removed but no further artefacts were recovered. The pit was oval measuring 0.92m x 0.88m, and 0.32m deep, steep-sided in profile with a depression in the base (Fig 4, Section 6). The basal depression was filled with dark grey-brown friable sandy silt (25) which contained a number of stones, possible the remnants of packing for a post. This was overlain by friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (24).



Pit [26] fully excavated looking south-south-east

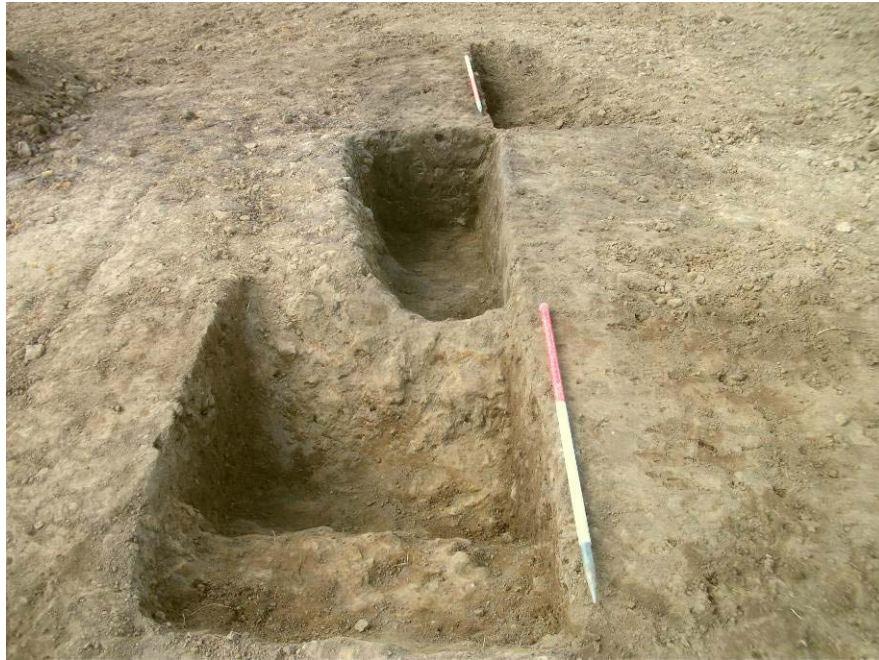
Fig 5

A linear ditch, with a recut, aligned east to west was identified during the evaluation (Fig 6). The earlier cut on the south side [5/10/21] was up to 0.54m wide and 0.38m deep with a sloping side and concave base (Fig 4, sections 1 and 2). The fill (4/9/20) comprised firm mid brown sandy silt. The recut [8/13/23] was V-shaped in profile, up to 1.56m wide and 0.76m deep. The basal fill (07/12) was only present in the central and western sections and comprised brown-grey sandy silt. This was overlain by friable mid brown sandy silt (6/11/22). Both fills appear to derive from natural silting.



Ditches [5/10/21] and [8/13/23] looking east

Fig 6



Ditches [10] and [13] and pit [15] looking north

Fig 7

The ditch was cut on its northern edge by a large tree throw or quarry pit [15] (Fig 4, sections 2 and 4, Fig 7). This was oval in plan; 3.6m long by up to 1.4m wide, and varied between 0.24-0.54m deep. The sides sloped to a flattish, stepped base. The fill comprised dark brown sandy clay.

A feature [17] in the north-west corner of the site may be an elongated pit or a ditch terminal that extends beyond the northern limit of the site. It was 1.55m wide and 0.42m deep, with gently sloping sides and a broad concave base (Fig 4, section 3). The fill (16) comprised dark brown sandy silt.

An elongated pit [19/29] in the north-east corner of the site was 4.0m long and 1.9m wide with rounded ends (Fig 4, section 4). It had a shallow U-shaped profile 0.3m deep filled with mid grey-brown sandy silt (30/28).

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Soil sample 1 was taken from ditch [23], fill 22. This comprised 40litres of material and was processed using standard methodology. Only two small pieces of charcoal were recovered and no further analysis was undertaken.

7 DISCUSSION

The results of the excavation broadly correspond with the results from the evaluation. In addition to the ditch and small pit/posthole previously identified there was a short gully or elongated pit and a ditch terminal or elongated pit. In the absence of further artefactual material the only dating evidence for the activity on site is the mid/late Iron Age pottery recovered from the evaluation, and in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the remaining features are provisionally assigned to this period.

The excavation succeeded in the principal aim of mitigating the impact of development through preservation by record. The potential for the remains to address the remaining research objectives is extremely limited, beyond adding to the broad corpus of data and indicating the extent of activity in the mid-late Iron Age.

The remains appear to represent a low level of activity, based upon the scarcity of the remains and the absence of artefactual or other anthropogenic material in the fills. It is likely that the ditch(es) represent part of a field system within which agricultural activity was taking place, although the results from the evaluation can shed no light on the nature of this. The recutting of the east-west ditch indicates that this system was maintained over a period of time, and would have represented a well-established part of the agricultural landscape.

Settlements of this period are well attested in the area, such as the recently excavated example at Polwell Lane Barton Seagrave to the north (Simmonds 2014). It is likely that the remains at Kingfisher Way form part of the agricultural hinterland of this or a similar site nearby.

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MOLA
19 August 2014

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length & width	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Height of natural (aOD)
	60m x 50m	489070 274585	62.30m	61.98m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Samples</i>
01	Layer	Topsoil	<0.2m deep	
02	Layer	Subsoil	<0.2m deep	
03	Layer	Natural Ironstone		
04	Layer	Fill of 05, Mid brown sandy silt	<0.38m deep	
05	Ditch	East to west	50m+ long <0.54m wide, <0.38m deep	
06	Layer	Fill of 08	<0.47m deep	
07	Layer	Fill of 08	<0.2m deep	
08	Ditch	Recut, U-shaped profile, as above	50m+ long, <1.32m wide, <0.64m deep	
09	Layer	Fill of 10, same as 04	<0.2m deep	
10	Ditch	Same as 05	50m+ long <0.26m wide, <0.2m deep	
11	Layer	Fill of 13, same as 06	<0.42m deep	
12	Layer	Fill of 13, same as 07	<0.12m deep	
13	Ditch	Same as 08, recut	50m+ long <1.1m wide <0.52m deep	
14	Layer	Fill of 15	<0.54m deep	
15	Pit	Quarry or tree throw	<1.4m wide <0.54m deep	
16	Layer	Fill of 17	<0.42m deep	
17	Pit/ditch terminal	Wide, shallow U-shaped	1.5m+ long <1.55m wide <0.42m deep	
18	Layer	Fill of 19	<0.25m deep	
19	Pit	Elongated	<4m long <0.95m wide <0.28m deep	
20	Layer	Fill of 21	<0.34m deep	
21	Ditch	Same as 05	50m+ long <0.3m wide <0.34m deep	
22	Layer	Fill of 23	<0.76m deep	Sample 1
23	Ditch	Same as 08	50m+ long <1.56m wide <0.76m deep	
24	Layer	Fill of 26	<0.2m deep	
25	Layer	Fill of 26	<0.12m deep	
26	Pit	Shallow, oval. Seen in evaluation	<0.92m wide <0.32m deep	
27	Layer	Fill of 29 same as 18	<0.15m deep	
28	Layer	Fill of 29 same as 30	<0.15m deep	
29	Pit	Same as 19	4.0m long <0.95m wide <0.28m deep	
30	Layer	Fill of 19	<0.2m deep	



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