



Archaeological evaluation at Northampton Road Wellingborough, Northamptonshire September 2014

Report No. 14/180

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Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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Site Code: ENN107678
NGR: SP 8764 6679

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort1-190765	
Project title	Archaeological evaluation at Northampton Road, Wellingborough, September 2014		
Short description	Five trenches were excavated to investigate the nature of any archaeological features within the proposed development area. Three of the five trenches contained medieval ridge and furrow, identified by the geophysical survey.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site Status	N/A		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Smith 2010) Desk- based assessment (Walker 2009)		
Current land use	pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation		
Significant finds	Clay tobacco pipe and glass		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Northampton Road, Wellingborough		
Post code	N/A		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 8764 6679		
Area (sq m/ha)	1.9ha		
Height aOD	c55 to 70m above ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council Planning		
Project Design originator	Iain Soden, IS Heritage Services		
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolframmm-Murray (MOLA)		
Project Managers	Jim Brown (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Hampton Brook Ltd, Northampton		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	8 September 2014		
End date	23 September 2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	Northamptonshire store ENN107678	Clay tobacco-pipe , glass	
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Survey data, report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on the land at Northampton Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire September 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/180		
Author(s)	Gemma Hewitt		
Page numbers	10		
Date	September 2014		

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**Archaeological evaluation on the land at
Northampton Road, Wellingborough
Northamptonshire
September 2014**

Abstract

Five trenches were excavated to investigate the nature of any archaeological features within the proposed development area. Three of the five trenches contained medieval ridge and furrow, identified by the geophysical survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Hampton Brook Ltd Northampton and Planning to carry out archaeological trial trenching at Northampton Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 875 667; Fig 1). The work is intended to inform, in advance of determination, a planning application for development of the land. The works were carried out accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

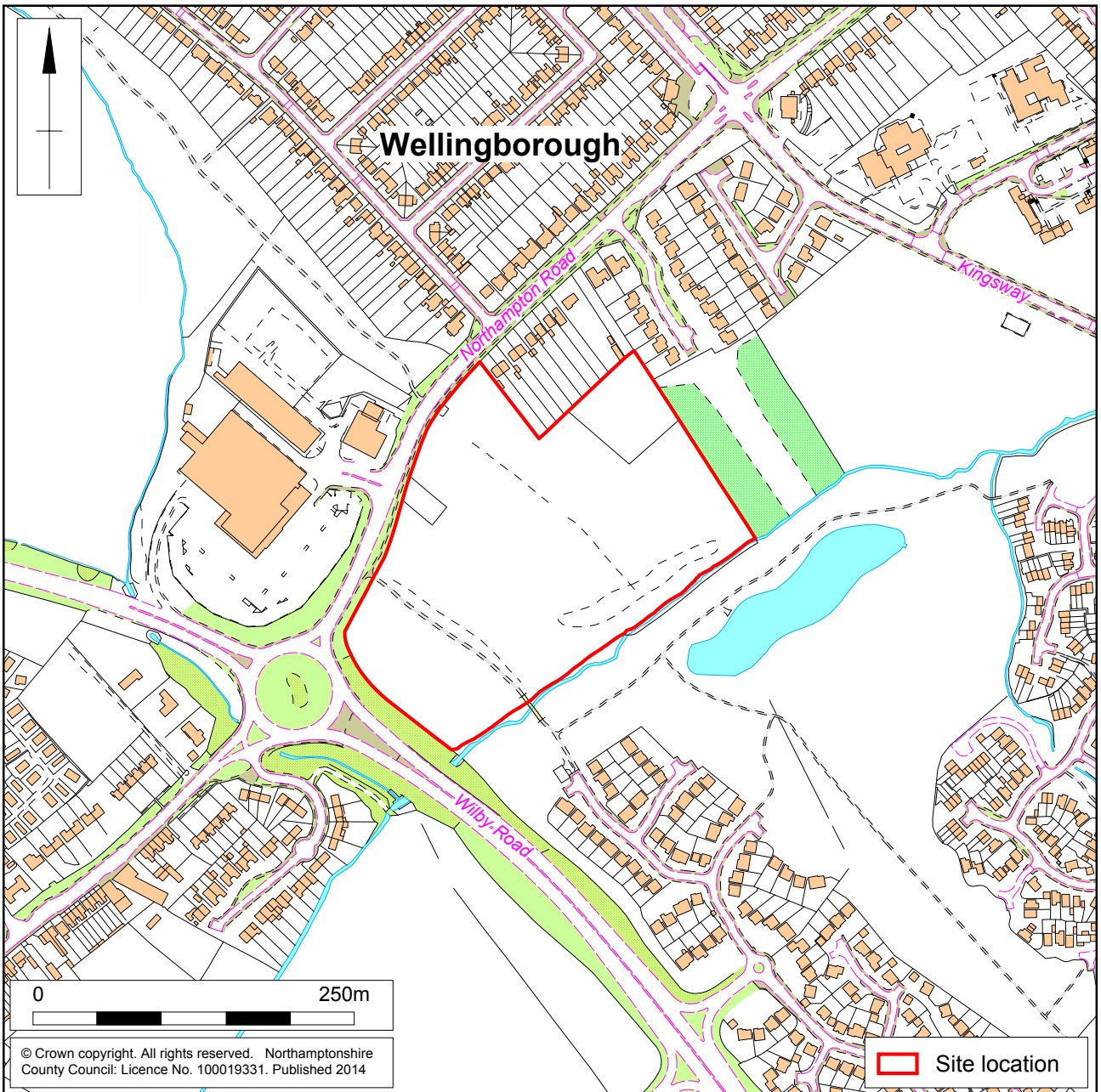
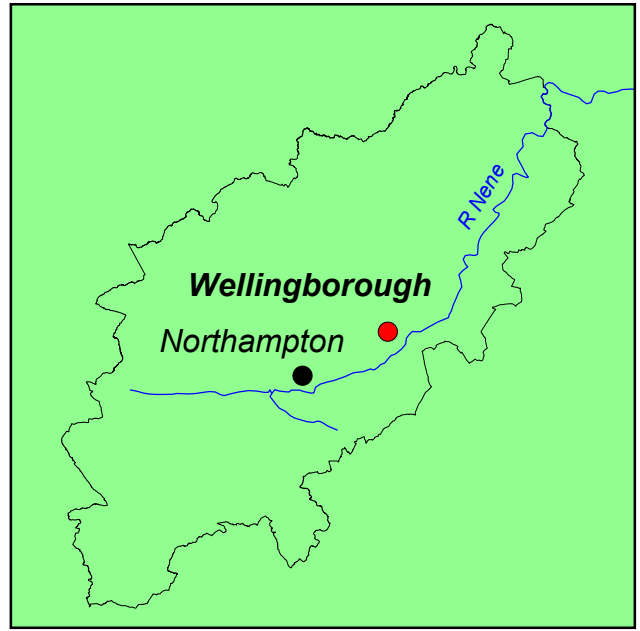
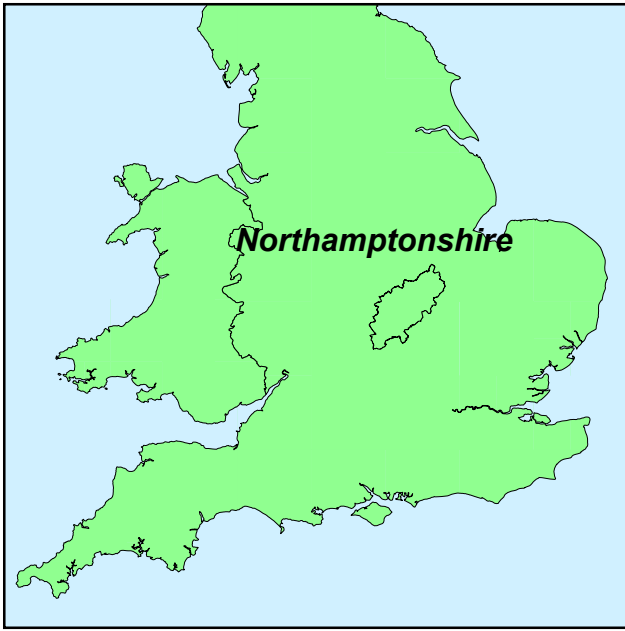
All works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Hewitt 2014), to follow a design format determined by IS Heritage Services (Soden 2014).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area comprises 1.9ha of pasture. The area is bounded on the north-west by Northampton Road with residential properties in the northern corner, by a strip of woodland on the east side, to the south are pasture fields and Swanspool Brook runs along the southern edge of the site.

The survey area has a south-easterly aspect, sloping gently from Northampton Road at c70m above Ordnance Datum to the brook at c55m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology consists of Upper Lias Clays over the majority of the area, and Northampton Sand with Ironstone at the top of the slope near the road and alluvium at the brook (BGS 1989).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

The project addressed the research aims and made reference to the following documents as appropriate:

- *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al 2012)

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The survey area has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Walker 2009). This did not identify any nationally designated monuments within the site. Two Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record entries are noted:

- The three fields were known as Wedgebury Brook Close, which were pasture in 1838 (HER 720/406).
- The survival of ridge and furrow from the medieval or post-medieval open field systems of Wellingborough and can be seen as positive linear anomalies in the geophysical survey (HER 7206/0/2; Smith 2010).

No further background research has been required prior to evaluation.

5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA in response to a request by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Planning Advisor (Hewitt 2014). The work required the excavation of five trial trenches, to investigate the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains within the development area. The trenches, each 50m long by 1.8m wide, were positioned to target potential geophysical anomalies (Fig 2). The trenches represent a 2% sample of the development by area.

All five trenches were set out using differential GPS (Leica Viva) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m.

All trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator, fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant archaeological supervision.

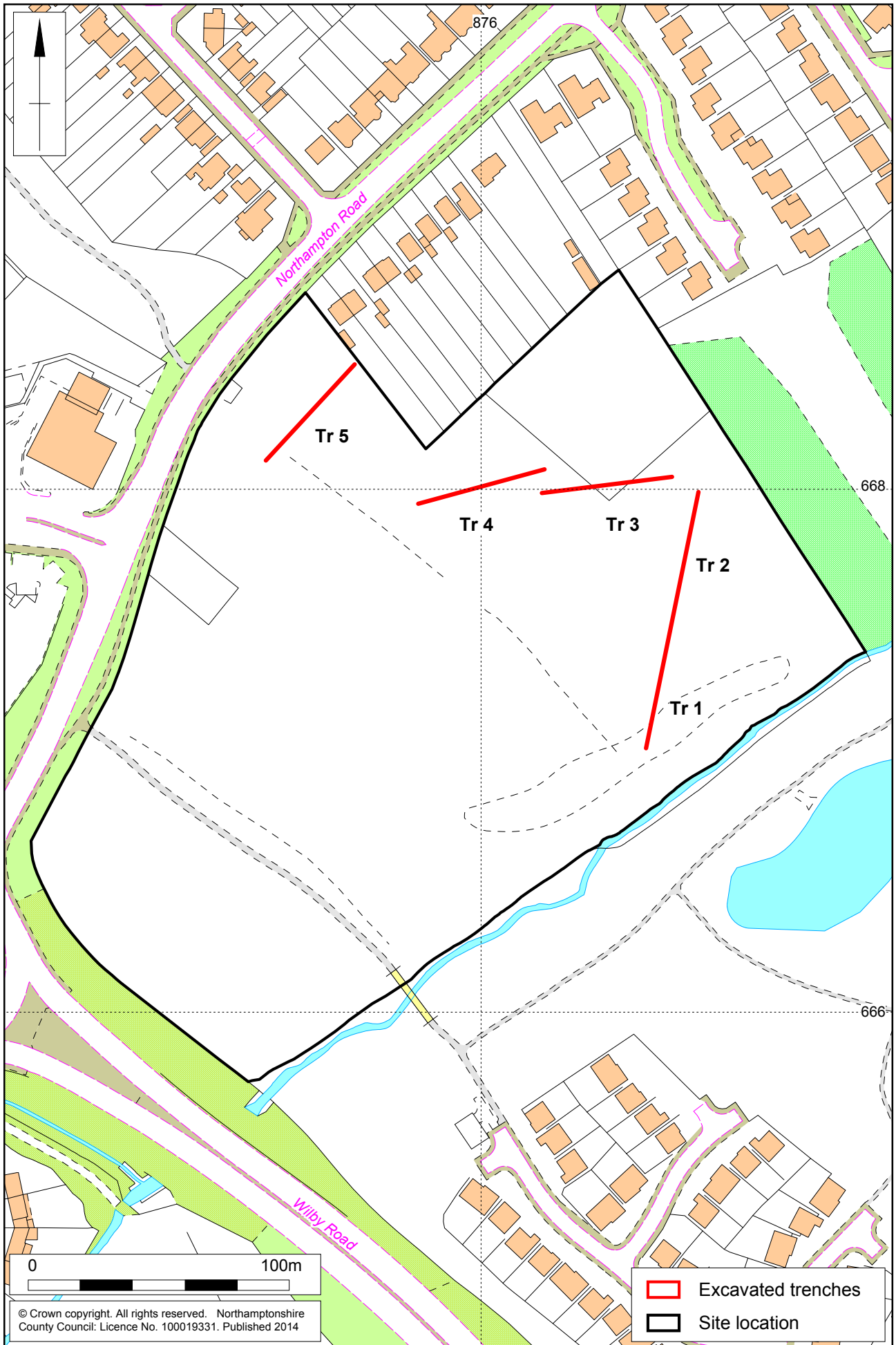
The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines and all records were created using MOLA pro-forma (MOLA 2014). Photographs were taken of all trenches and all relevant deposits on 35mm monochrome print film and high resolution digital images. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geological horizon or the upper archaeological levels, whichever was the highest.

Levels in metres above Ordnance Datum were established for all trenches and excavated features using a dumpy level from temporary bench marks (TBMs), established using GPS.

Artefacts were recovered from individual contexts and stored and packed according to type.

All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991).



Scale 1:2000

The excavated trenches Fig 2

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

No archaeological features were present in any of the five trenches, however, trenches 3, 4 and 5 all showed evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, which was indicated by the geophysical survey and was also mentioned in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER 7206/0/2; Smith 2010).

All recorded features cut the natural horizon and were sealed by subsoil. This soil horizon varied in hue and comprised friable silty clay, 40-190mm thick. The subsoil was sealed by friable mid-greyish-brown silty clay topsoil that was 150-260mm thick in trenches 1 and 2.

Topsoil in trenches 3-5 comprised friable, mid-orangey-brown silty loam ranging in depth from 140-250mm. Full context information is included in Appendix 1.



Trench 2, representative section Fig 3

6.1 Trenches 1-2

Trenches 1-2 were joined together. The trenches did not show any evidence of the ridge and furrow cultivation, which indicates that the eastern side of the area, was probably not in use for arable farming during the medieval periods, and could be due to the sloping of the field towards Swanspool Brook (Fig 4).



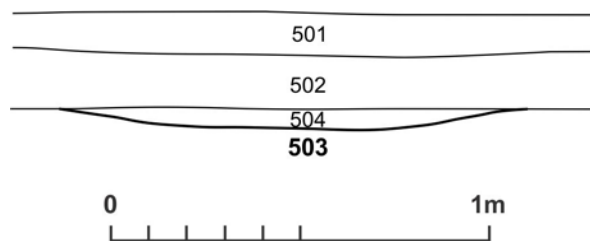
Trenches 1 and 2, looking north-west Fig 4

6.2 Trenches 3-5

All three of these trenches were at the north end of the evaluation area. The trenches all targeted the ridge and furrow cultivation, identified by the earlier geophysical survey. Trenches 3 and 4 were aligned west to east and trench 5 lay south-west to north-east; all of these confirmed that the ridge and furrow earthworks lay north-west to south-east through the north area of the site. The furrows were c4.0m apart and were 1.5m wide by 0.06m deep. The spacing of the furrows suggests a medieval date is likely.



Trench 5, representative section Fig 5



Trench 5, furrow 503 Fig 6

7 THE FINDS by Tora Hylton

Three clay tobacco-pipe stems and a shard of bottle glass dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries were recovered from furrow 503, in trench 5. The pipe stem fragments measure up to 48mm in length, they display signs of abrasion and wear, each one is furnished with a small bore, measuring just 3/64th of an inch, which is indicative of a late post-medieval date.

The glass is a base shard from an amber glass codd bottle. The fragment is clearly marked with the bottle manufacturers name "W.BROOKE" with "MAKER LEEDS" below. It is highly likely that this bottle was issued by William Dulley & Sons, a brewery from Wellingborough who also manufactured mineral water from 1910-1920.

A similar example is recorded in Cox 1977 (fig 14). William Dulley traded from 1840-1920 at Sheep Street behind the "Golden Lion" (*ibid* 1977, 78).

8 CONCLUSION

The evaluation established that medieval ridge and furrow cultivation had occupied the site. Furrows were clearly seen within the trenches, confirming the results of the earlier geophysical survey.

There were no significant features of archaeological interest exposed within the trial trenches.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50mx1.8m NE-SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	topsoil	Friable, mid grey- brown, sandy loam, 10-15% sub angular stones	D:0.26m	-
102	subsoil	Friable, mid orange- brown, silty clay.2-3% ironstone fragments	D:0.09m	-
103	Natural	Firm, mid-orange brown, silty clay, 5-10% ironstone	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50mx1.8m NE-SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Friable, mid grey brown, sandy loam, 10-15% sub angular stones	D:0.15m	-
202	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange brown, silty clay.2-3% ironstone fragments	D:0.19m	-
203	Natural	Firm, mid-orange brown, silty clay, 5-10% ironstones	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50mx1.8m W-E			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Friable-firm, light orange- brown, silty clay with freq patches of blue- grey clay	D:0.15m	-
302	subsoil	Friable, mid orange- brown, sitly clay.2-3% ironstone fragments	D:0.09m	-
303	Natural	Firm, light orange sandy clay with grey- blue patches of clay. 10%ironstone fragments	-	-

NORTHAMPTON ROAD, WELLINGBOUORGH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50mx1.8m W-E			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Friable, light orange- brown, sandy clay,2% ironstone fragments	D:0.25m	-
402	subsoil	Friable, mid orange- brown, silty clay.2-3% ironstone fragments	D:0.06m	-
402	Natural	Firm, light orange with greyish brown mottling , clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	24mx1.8m NE-SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Friable, mid grey-brown, sandy loam .30% root and stones inclusions	D:0.14m	-
502	Natural	Firm, mid orange-brown, sandy clay.	-	-
503	Fill of [504]	Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy clay. 20% ironstone. 5% charcoal	L:1.00m W:1.22m D:0.05	Glass Clay pipe
504	of furrow	Linear, shallow with concave base, aligned NW-SE	L:1.00m W:1.22m D:0.05m	-
505	subsoil	Friable, mid orange -brown, silty clay.2-3% ironstone fragments	D:0.04m	-



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