



**FIELD REPORT No.1**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND  
EVALUATION OF A CABLE TRENCH  
ON THE B4036  
(DAVENTRY TO LONG BUCKBY ROAD)  
NEAR THRUPP GROUNDS FARM  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NGR SP 60256520

**STEPHEN YOUNG AND FRED KAY**



COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE & ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY PROJECT

September 2015

[Type text]



Photo Don Martin

The cable trench showing the eastern wall in the foreground.

<b>REPORT FORM</b>	
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>OASIS No: clasp1-224802</b>
Project name	Archaeological Excavation & Evaluation of A Cable Trench on the B4036 (Daventry to Long Buckby Road) near Thrupp Farm Northamptonshire
Short description (250 words maximum)	With the permission of Morgan Sindall and Western Power. the community based archaeological charity CLASP undertook a watching brief on the excavation of a power cable trench on the south side of the B4036, Daventry to Long Buckby road, near Thrupp Farm Northamptonshire. Several ditch profiles of unknown date and a probable midVictorian rubbish pit were observed along the general alignment of the cable trench. However archaeological fieldwork concentrated on an exploratory rescue excavation of a 35 m section of the cable trench adjacent to Thrupp Farm. The trench contained a series of features that included two associated substantial masonry walls (one of which was apsidal and would have formed part of a large building), a hearth from another structure and a further sizeable stone wall associated with the metalled floor foundation surface of a third building. The limited number of finds suggest the remains are late medieval and likely to be associated with the deserted medieval village of Thrupp. They should probably be interpreted as representing the potential remains of late 15 <sup>th</sup> century medieval tenements destroyed by enclosure in 1489 and an associated abandoned chapel.
Project type (e.g. DBA, evaluation etc.)	Rescue & Evaluation
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc.)	None
Previous work (SMR numbers etc.)	None
Current Land use	Roadside Verge
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown
Monument type/ period	Stone walls
Significant finds (artifact, type, period )	Medieval pottery
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address (including post code)	Southern roadside verge of the B4036, Daventry to Long Buckby Road, 1.3k north of the village of Norton, Northamptonshire NN11 2LY
Study area (sq.m or ha)	35 sq.m trench
OS Easting & Northing (use grid square letter code)	Centred on SP 6010065200
Height OD	Approx. 125m OD

<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Organisation	CLASP
Project brief originator	CLASP
Project Design originator	CLASP
Director/Supervisor	Stephen Young
Project Manager	Fred Kay
Sponsor or funding body	None
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>	
Start date/End date	04/12/2014 - 06/12/2014
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b> <b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	CLASP Archive: Pottery (3 sherds)
Paper	CLASP Archive: Site file
Digital	CLASP Archive: Mapinfo plans, Word report
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Unpublished CLASP report (for Morgan Sindall)
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## **ABSTRACT**

*With the permission of Morgan Sindall and Western Power, the community based archaeological charity CLASP undertook a watching brief on the excavation of a power cable trench on the south side of the B4036, Daventry to Long Buckby road, near Thrupp Farm, Northamptonshire. Several ditch profiles of unknown date and a probable mid-Victorian rubbish pit were observed along the general alignment of the 560m cable trench. However archaeological fieldwork concentrated on an exploratory rescue excavation of a 35 m section of the cable trench adjacent to Thrupp Farm. The trench contained a series of features that included two associated substantial masonry walls (one of which was apsidal) building, a hearth belonging to another structure and a further sizeable stone wall associated with a metalled floor foundation surface of a third building. The limited number of finds indicate the remains are late medieval and appear to be connected to the deserted medieval village of Thrupp and probably could be interpreted as representing the archaeological vestiges of some of the destroyed late 15<sup>th</sup> century medieval tenements and the abandoned chapel, the results of enclosure in 1489.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

In December 2014, CLASP conducted a watching brief and archaeological evaluation along the alignment of a cable trench with the permission of Morgan Sindall and Western Power. The site is on the southern roadside verge of the B4036, Daventry to Long Buckby Road, Norton, Northamptonshire (NGR sp 60256520) (Fig. 1). The watching brief observed a distance of 560m from Thrupp Ground to the entrance of Thrupp Lodge over a two-week period. A brief exploratory excavation was carried out over a 35 m length of the cable in the vicinity of the site of the deserted medieval village of Thrupp, opposite Big Spring Close. The objective was to ascertain the nature and extent of substantial *in situ* archaeological remains revealed during the digging of the cable trench, in an attempt to classify the nature and provide a chronology for the structural elements observed.<sup>1</sup>

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The evaluation of the cable trench was intended to provide information concerning the archaeological context of the remains and to elicit their significance in relation to the wider surrounding site and landscape. The fieldwork was undertaken to provide a basic record and interpretation of the archaeological remains in the hope, that these findings will inform future planning requirements and set the parameters for any further

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<sup>1</sup> The duration and extent of the excavation was subject to the work schedule associated with the laying of the cable; hence the relative brevity of the record.

archaeological fieldwork that would be needed for the Historic Environment Record (HER) in any subsequent development in the general area of the deserted medieval village of Thrupp.

The following information was required to enhance and inform the strategic approach for further investigation and recording of the site:

The location, extent, nature, and possible date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present and their integrity and state of preservation'

The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and its standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008), the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014) and the East Midlands regional framework (Knight *et al* 2012).

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Topography and geology**

The cable trench lies on the southern side of the B4036, Daventry to Long Buckby Road, 1.3k north of the village of Norton, Northamptonshire (NGR sp 60256520). The current land use is as a roadside verge and is bounded to the north by the B4036 carriageway and to the south by a field hedge boundary (Fig 2). The excavated trench is situated on ground at a height of 125 m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is glacial sands and gravels.



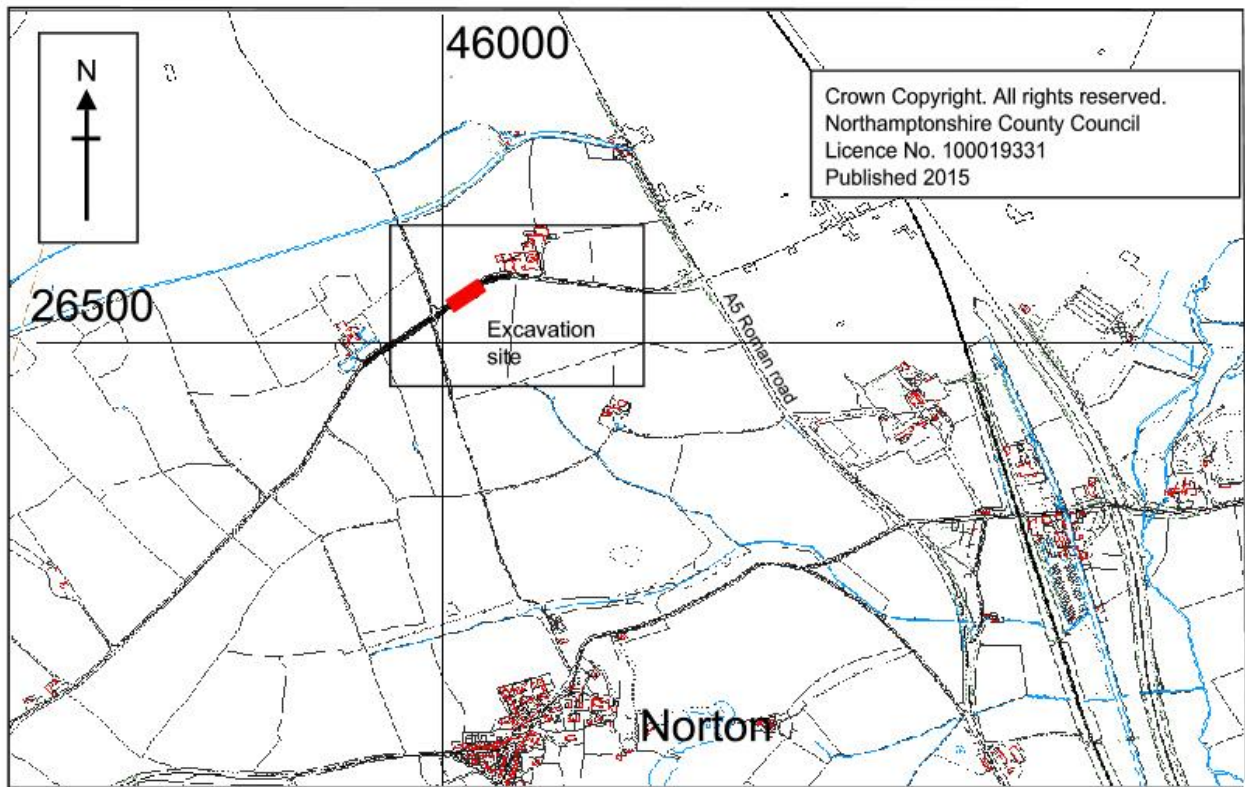
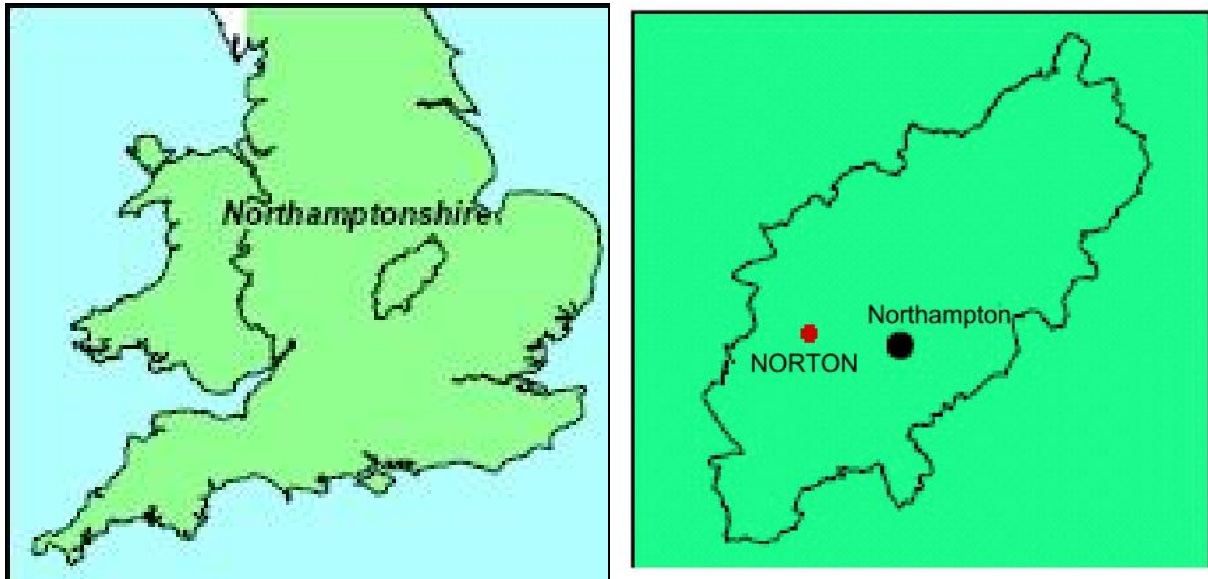


Fig 1 Site location

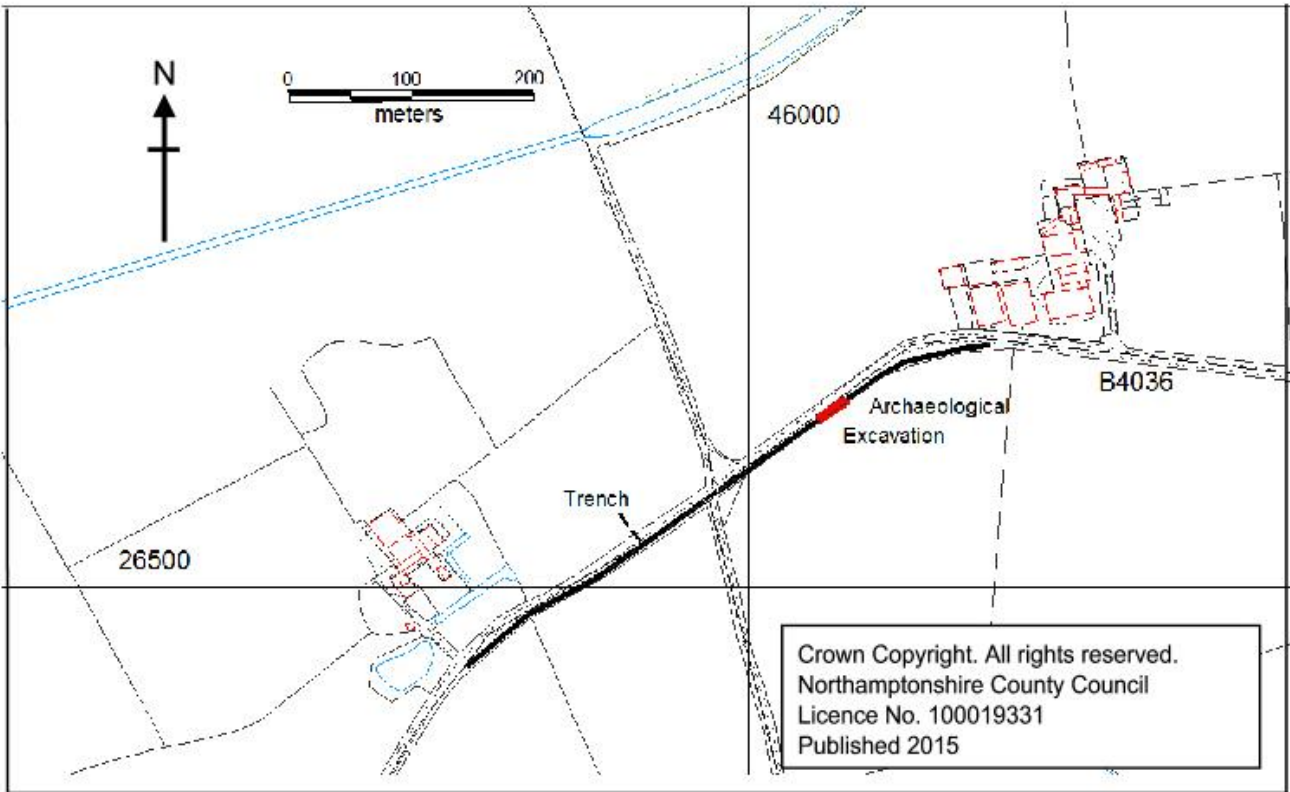


Fig. 2 Cable Trench\_Location

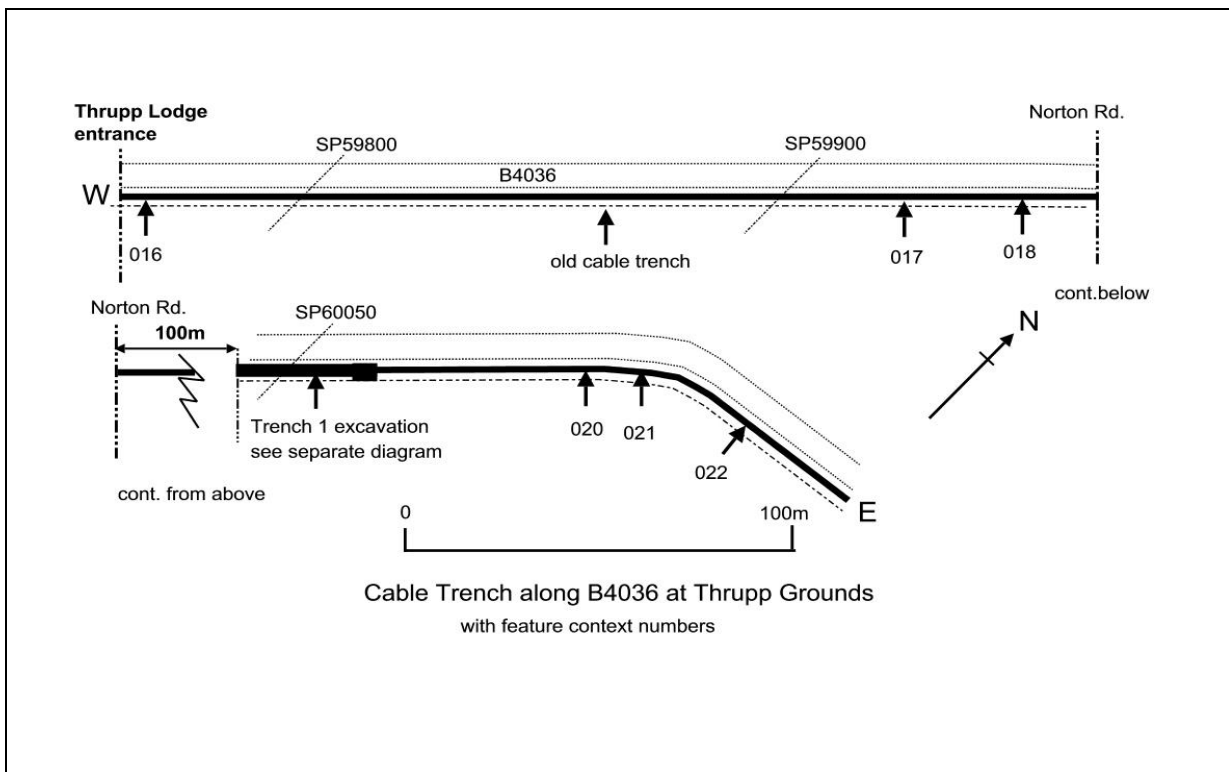


Fig. 3 Cable Trench Schematic with feature/context numbers

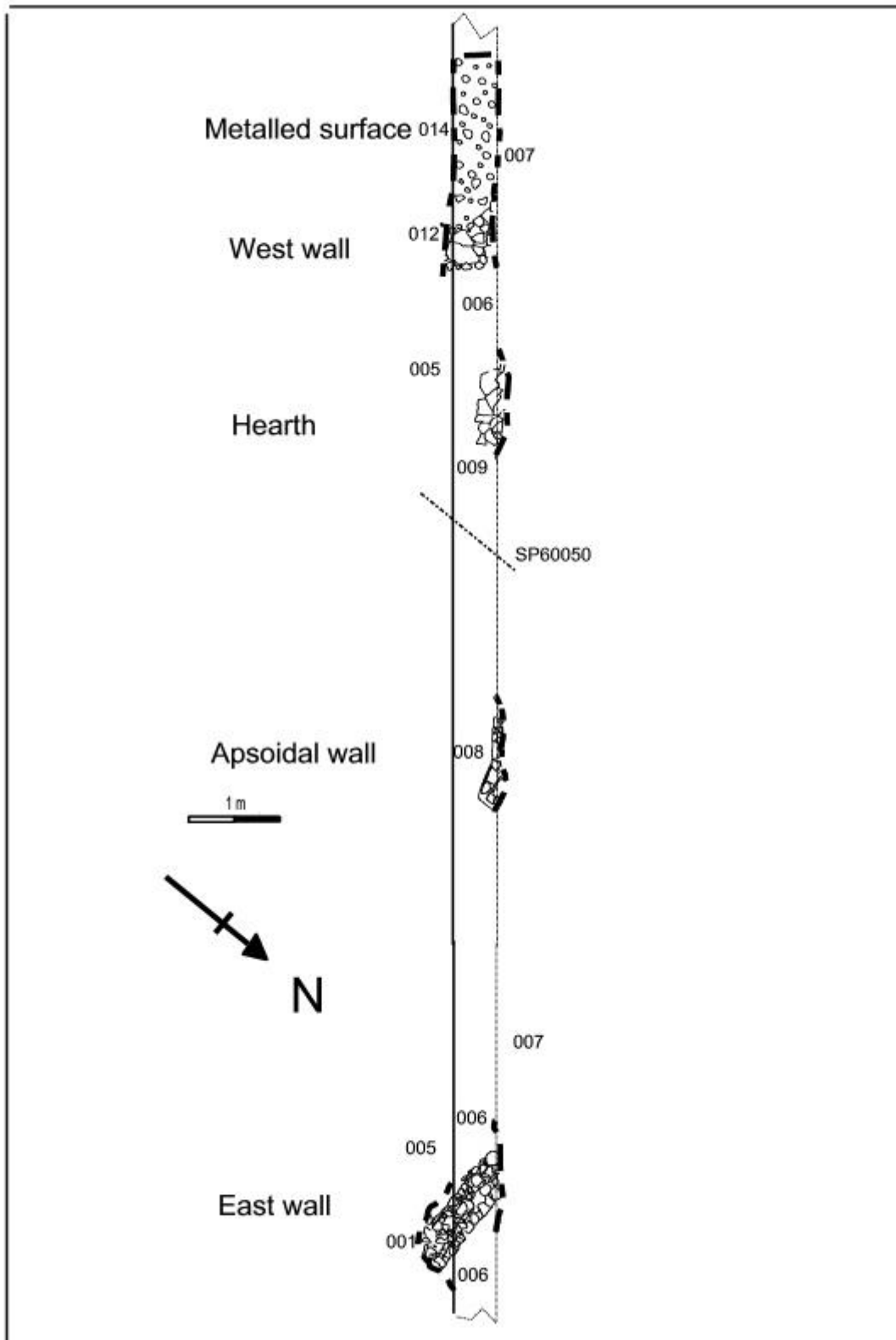


Fig 4 Excavated Trench Schematic with feature/context numbers

### **3.2 Historical and archaeological background**

The site lies within an area of varied historic landscape. In the immediate vicinity of the cable trench is the site of the deserted medieval village of Thrupp which is bisected by the B4036. To the south lies the scheduled site of the Roman Posting Station of Bannaventa and its hinterland features. The HER has been consulted to assess the archaeological potential of the surrounding area (Appendix 1) and to provide an archaeological context for the features excavated in the cable trench.

#### **3.2.1 Prehistoric**

The evidence demonstrates that the locality was occupied throughout the prehistoric period and broadly reflects the wider archaeological experience for the occupation and settlement of Northamptonshire.<sup>2</sup> The large hill fort at Borough Hill (about 1.5 kms to the west of the excavation site) dominated the local landscape during the Iron Age and would have most certainly influenced the development and character of the wider area at that time. However most of the possible prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the excavated trench are largely known from unverified crop marks that have been identified from air photographs. These sites include a possible Bronze Age round barrow, with three ring ditches and three rectangular enclosures, as well as other enclosures and ditches observed in the surrounding area (SMR 966 & 1448/0/1). A possible prehistoric boundary is also indicated from air photographs near Thrupp Lodge (SMR 629/0/1) and to the south of the B4036 are some possible Bronze Age ditches (SMR951).

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<sup>2</sup> Reference Cooper

### 3.2.2 Roman

The most significant Roman remains within the area are represented by the Roman Posting Station of Bannaventa (Sites and the Monuments Records (SMR) 895 et seq, Figure 2, Appendix D). The settlement lies astride the parish boundaries of Norton and Whilton, straddling the line of Watling Street, lying approximately 200m from the B4036 and its junction with the A5. The Itinerary of Antoninus notes that Bannaventa was situated twelve Roman miles north of Lactodorum (Towcester) and a similar distance to the south of Tripontium, the neighbouring Posting Stations on Watling Street.

Substantial Roman remains at Bannaventa (Whilton Lodge) have been noted from the early eighteenth century with further remains including a burial ground and large quantities of pottery and coins discovered in the area during the nineteenth century (RCHME, 1981, 150). More archaeological discoveries were made during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and in 1970, air photographs revealed the outline, of the part of the Posting Station to the west of the modern A5. These photographs allied to small scale excavations, show that at the centre of the site was a roadside station of irregular quadrilateral shape with rounded corners, bounded by ditches, with gates in the north and south of the defences to allow the passage of Watling Street through the site (RCHME, 1981, 151-2). It is likely that the Posting Station acted as a local market and administrative centre, owing its prosperity to its location on Watling Street, one of the region's arterial roads, and its access to the relative wealth of the local agricultural hinterland. Recent fieldwork has demonstrated that the site's origins lie in the pre-conquest period with major development commencing in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century and occupation continuing into the early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>3</sup>

Excavation has demonstrated that buildings were constructed during the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, the majority being timber of rectangular sill beam construction, although the remains of stone buildings are also recorded. A defensive ditch and rampart circuit enclosed about 5 ha of the site core during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. This was replaced by a double ditch and wall in the later 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The coin and pottery assemblage from the site indicates occupation until at least the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century AD but the settlement is not known to have survived in any recognisable form into the later Saxon period (SMR 895).<sup>4</sup>

A number of other Roman sites/features exist outside the scheduled area, which are likely to have been related to Bannaventa and are of interest in the context of the B4036 cable trench watching brief and excavation. Of particular interest is the evidence of Roman settlement observed in the area between Thrupp Lodge and Thrupp Grounds (SMR 630 et seq). Coins, pottery and foundations were recorded during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and fieldwork in 1960 recovered coins, pottery and tile. Since

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<sup>3</sup> Young & Kay forthcoming

<sup>4</sup> Reference Jeremy Taylor

then large quantities of pottery have been noted over a wide area, mainly from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, as well as pits and enclosures noted from air photographs and geophysical survey in the fields to the north-east of Thrupp Lodge. However the nature and features of the site are difficult to distinguish from the deserted medieval village of Thrupp, which partially overlies it (RCHME, 1981, 152).<sup>5</sup>

Extensive Roman settlement is indicated by air photographs and a large scale geophysical survey between Lodge Farm to the south and the site of the cable trench near Thrupp Grounds, with the features continuing eastward to the A5 (SMR 894/1/0-6) to the north-west of Bannaventa (RCHME, 1981, 153). Metal detecting has recovered over one hundred coins, a lead weight, a lead die and four brooches, dating mainly from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD (SMR 6491) to the south of the B4036, and two late-Roman coins from the same general area to the north of the road (SMR 9049). Further to the north-west, in 6 acre field, a quantity of Roman coins has been recorded.

The wealth of archaeological evidence suggests that the cable trench lies in the vicinity of a Roman settlement whose character, extent and relationship to Bannaventa itself is still to be determined.

### 3.2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

The existence of Saxon burials at Borough Hill (SMR 631/0/3, 631/0/9-10), and early Saxon weights and a netting needle are recorded from metal detecting south-east of Norton Lodge Farm (SMR 895/0/0). There are otherwise no records of early Saxon activity in the area, although the fact that Daventry, Norton and Thrupp are recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 implies established settlement, agriculture and systems of land ownership by the late Saxon period. It is interesting to note that Thrupp DMV is recorded in Domesday Book to have a population of 5 villagers and 3 small-holders.<sup>6</sup>

For most of the late medieval period Thrupp belonged to Daventry Priory. The priory maintained a chapel there and the village is recorded by name in the *Nomina Villarum* 1316, although thereafter its taxation records were included with those of Norton. In 1489 the priory enclosed all the land of the village, abandoning the chapel, destroying eighteen houses and expelling one hundred people. By 1518 the chapel was described as fallen '*in desolacionem*', and in a survey of about 1530 relating to the former possessions of Daventry Priory Thrupp is described as being 'formerly a town but converted into pasture, with a ruined chapel'. By 1564 only one farm existed and this remained so until the early eighteenth century the single farm probably being the site of Thrupp Lodge (RCHME, 1981, 153).

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<sup>5</sup> Young & Kay

<sup>6</sup> Domesday book

The surface remains of the village have been eroded and destroyed by more recent cultivation, but large quantities of pottery, mainly dating from the twelfth to fourteenth century, are recorded from fields to the east and north-east of Thrupp Lodge, and there are fragmentary remains of a moated site immediately to the east of Thrupp Lodge, which itself may be situated in a medieval enclosure (RCHME, 1981, 154; SMR 626). Thrupp is recorded as having had two fields, known as East and West, in early fourteenth century *terriers* of Daventry Priory, and these fields still existed in 1450. They are said to have been enclosed in 1489, and there are records from the sixteenth century of sheep being kept on the pasture and meadows of Thrupp. (Hall, 1995, 323).

### **3.2.4 Post Medieval and Industrial**

By the early eighteenth century, according to Bridges, Thrupp '*hath only one house upon it*' (ibid, 80) and the 1847 Tithe Map suggests that a substantial area of 'old enclosure', presumably made soon after 1583 (Waterfield, 1999, 5), refers to land along the B4036 as being part of the open fields system at that time. Jeffery and Eyre's map indicates that buildings existed at Thrupp Lodge, Thrupp Grounds and Lower Thrupp Grounds in 1779, and the line of the Daventry to Long Buckby road appears to have lain somewhat north of the modern line of the B4036 at Thrupp Grounds. Its earlier alignment was identified during geophysical survey in 2014/15.<sup>7</sup> Apart from the building at Lower Thrupp Grounds, the site appears to have been entirely in agricultural use, and the field name 'grounds', suggesting outlying grazing, attests to its medieval depopulation and reuse as sheep pasture (Steane, 1974, 175).

The First Edition 1" Ordnance Survey map of 1834 shows that by this date, the Daventry to Long Buckby road had been realigned onto its modern course at Thrupp Grounds. Thrupp Covert is shown, and buildings are evident at the junction of the B4036 and Norton Way, and north of the present Jubilee Farm, where small *closes* had been formed at the time of Enclosure.

The First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1887-91 shows that new agricultural buildings had been constructed; and small woodlands planted to the north of Thrupp Grounds Farm, Thrupp Covert had been extended, and woodlands or orchards existed in conjunction with Thrupp Grounds, Thrupp Lodge and Thrupp Grounds Farm.

## **4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 WATCHING BRIEF**

The cable trench was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket and was not undertaken initially under archaeological direction as no archaeological requirements had been placed on the schedule of work. The cable trench was 90 cm wide and topsoil was

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<sup>7</sup> Young & Kay forthcoming

removed to a unified depth of 1.2m and stacked separately on the south side of the excavated area. It was agreed with the contractor that CLASP would keep a watching brief whilst work continued across Thrupp Grounds because of the archae-ological potential indicated by the geophysical fieldwork carried out in the vicinity by the community-based charity. Progress was reviewed daily in case archaeological features and artifacts were revealed. Due to the contractors' time constraints, recording was limited to notes and photographs.

## **4.2 EXCAVATION**

Once the existence of archaeological remains had been observed in the cable trench, more detailed excavation and widening of the trench at its eastern end was conducted over a three day period under archaeological direction with the agreement of the contractor. As it became apparent that *in situ* archaeological features had survived, the area was cleaned sufficiently to define and reveal the extent of the features and the depth of the natural substrate. During the excavation both the cable trench and spoil heaps were monitored and scanned with a metal detector (Robin Noades from NNPast) to maximize the opportunity for finds retrieval. The excavated archaeological features were located in a 35m length of the cable trench. Cleaning of the sections and the bottom of the trench revealed the archaeological remains of three major structural elements.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

The location of the trench was surveyed and measured in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, 1:2500 scale map centre on the Norton Road at the crossroads (SP 599765085). A record of digital images of the site was maintained throughout the field work. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the IfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator after the laying of the cable. All procedures complied with Health and Safety provisions and the Health and Safety at Work Guidelines of Morgan Sindall.

## **5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 General stratigraphy**

The natural substrate was consistent along the length of the excavated area of the cable trench. In the cable trench the natural substrate comprised firm, mid brown-orange, sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones throughout. It occurred at least 1.2m below the present



ground surface. Above the natural substrate there was evidence of considerable disturbance and general back fill.

Unfortunately two relatively modern developments have affected the survival and overall integrity of the archaeological deposits. Firstly, the construction and re-alignment of the B4036 carriageway at some time between the years 1779 and 1834 has destroyed the upper levels of stratigraphy. Presumably the upper layers were removed to provide a firm foundation for the road surface.<sup>8</sup> Secondly, the cut of another cable trench (not previously observed or recorded) has disturbed the uppermost levels of archaeological stratigraphy in the immediate area lying to the south of the excavated cable trench down to a depth of 1m. The earlier levelling and clearing of the road alignment resulted in the recovery of very few diagnostically-dateable finds from the cable trench.

## 5.2 The Archaeologically Excavated Features

The cable trench excavation area revealed five structural features, three walls [TH14-001 TH14-008 and TH14-012], a metalled surface [TH14-014] abutting the west side of the wall [TH14-012] and a hearth [TH14-009]. An important observation was that two walls [TH14-001] and [TH14-012] had the same general alignment. Although spatially the individual walls are too distant from each other to be part of the same building, the shared alignment might suggest an overall symmetry in the orientation of the long axis of the buildings erected on the site. The main alignment of the structural complex located here was approximately E. to W. which potentially faced onto a unknown frontage possibly located under the present carriage way. One might also consider it as probable, based on the overall layout and general alignments of all the features, that they relate to each other and therefore belonged to the same phase of occupation. However this could not be conclusively proved as only one archaeological feature, interpreted as a hearth, yielded any diagnostically datable evidence.

**The East Wall** [TH14-001], the most easterly structural feature in the cable trench is a substantial stone wall aligned on a W to E axis. The cut for the wall could not be determined with any certainty. The exposed section of the wall is 3 m in length and 0.8 m wide and survived to a height of five courses (1m) at the East end. Interestingly, part of the wall on the northern face appears to have been systematically robbed during or after the levelling and demolition of the building. The lack of dating evidence or the remains of any material assemblages imply that the site was systematically cleared after demolition or even sometime prior to construction of the B4036.

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<sup>8</sup> The change in alignment is apparent from Jeffery and Eyre's map (1779) & The First Edition 1" Ordnance Survey map (1834).

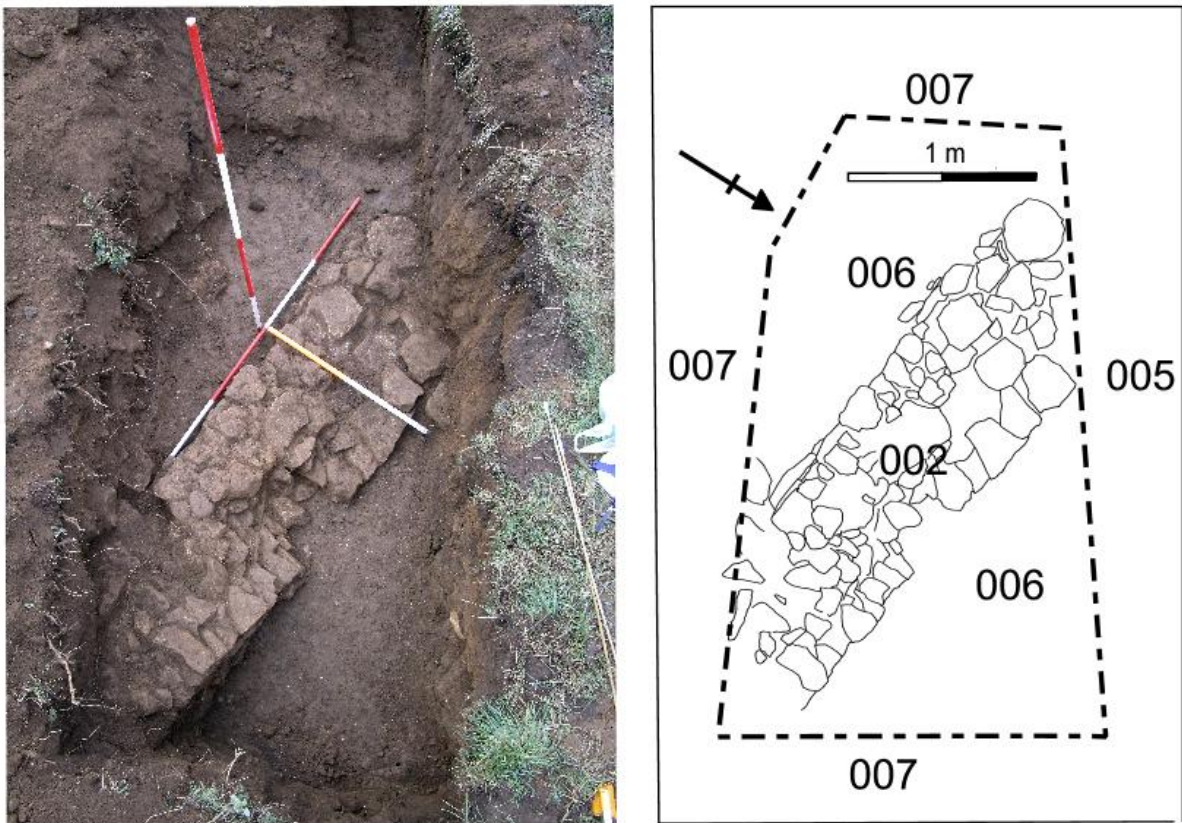


Fig. 5 East Wall (TH14-001) General view & plan



Fig. 6 East Wall (TH14-001) N. elevation & section drawing



Fig. 7 East Wall (TH14-001) General view facing S.E.

The wall is constructed of three specific structural elements. These comprise a stone foundation layer, [TH14-004] constructed of irregular stone packing, overlain on the same alignment by courses of roughly-

faced but regularly laid blocks [TH14-003] of sandstone, which in turn support elements of sandstone dry stone walling [TH14-002] on a slightly different alignment. An axial discrepancy between the foundation footing layer, the lower courses and the dry stone-wall element is indicative of a rebuilding of the wall. The different technique employed on wall construction suggests a second phase of development, possibly reflecting rebuilding due to a level of subsidence across the site or refurbishment of the structural fabric consistent with long term occupation of the site. Against the wall foundations the fill deposit appears to consist of re-deposited natural substrate [TH14-006].

**The Apsidal Wall** [TH14-008]. The next feature to the west of TH14-001 is another substantial sandstone wall [TH14-008], which is aligned on a SW to NE axis. Constructed of large *ashlar*-like stone blocks the wall features a shallow, hexagonal, central, apsidal alcove which has two stone courses surviving at the NE end. The exposed section of the wall is 2.5m in length and 0.85m wide and of quality construction. At the N.E. end of the apsidal alcove, the wall makes a distinct right angle turn. The alignment, returning and continuing towards TH14-001 with which it appears to be associated, forms the north wall of a large rectangular building. However, at the western end of the apsidal wall the stone has been extensively robbed out and the alignment can only be followed by the outline of the robber trench itself. Like TH14-001 the wall foundations appear to consist of re-deposited natural substrate and there was no evidence of any surviving internal flooring levels, which confirms the interpretation previously given. The cut for the wall could not be determined due to the adjacent road

In terms of interpretation, both the quality of construction and size of the wall blocks suggest a building more suited to a wider communal and community use, than a building with a purely domestic function. This assertion is supported by both the construction method employed and the quality of the stonework involved as well as the existence of the apsidal architectural feature and the close proximity of the two major walls [TH14-001]. The archaeology points to these walls as being significant external elements of a larger building, [TH14-001] and [TH14-008] constituting the main load bearing exterior walls of a fairly substantial rectangular building of some architectural pretention. The majority of the structure probably lies in the field further to the south and future investigation should be able to determine the size and character of the building.

In the area between the apsidal and eastern wall no archaeological evidence for the survival of any floor surfaces was recorded

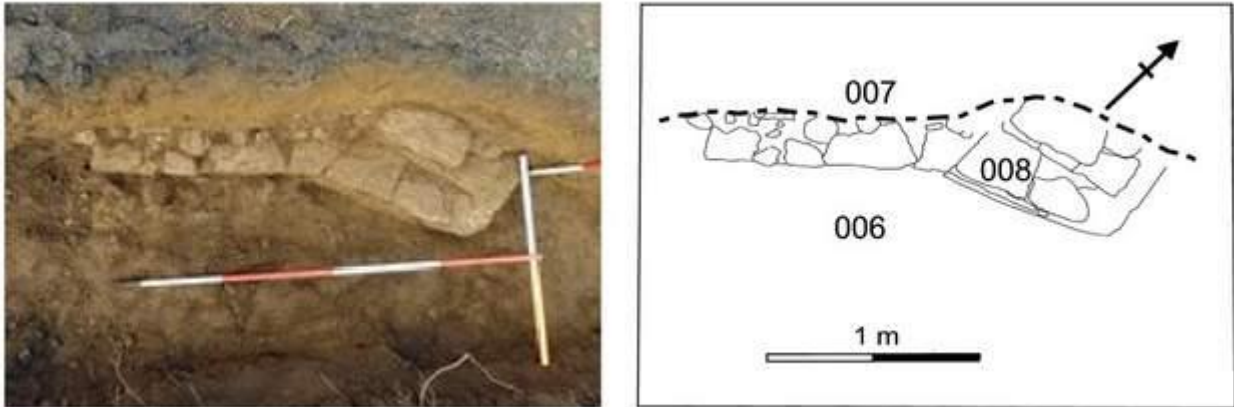


Fig. 8 Apsidal Wall [TH14-008] General view & plan

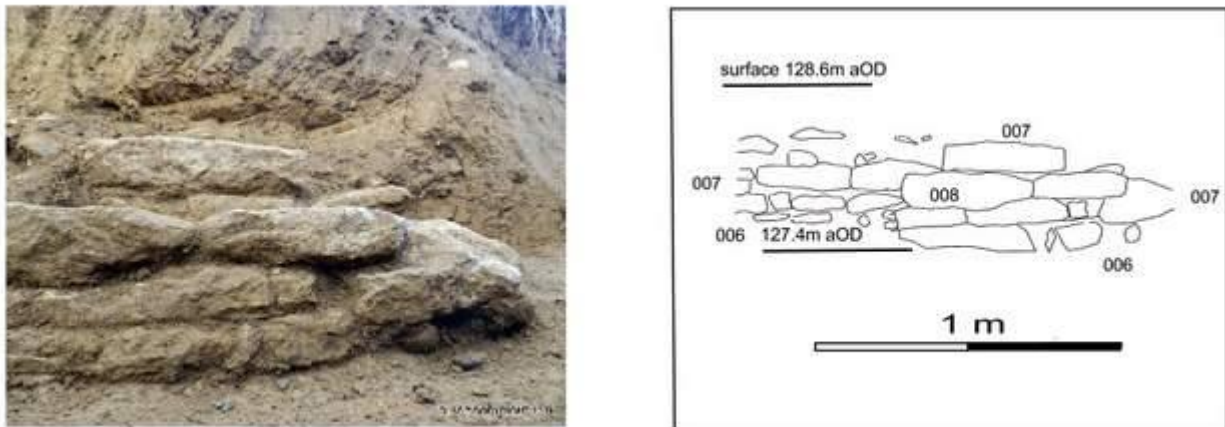


Fig. 9 Apsidal Wall [TH14-008] South elevation & section drawing



Fig. 10 Apsidal Wall [TH14-008] General view looking N.



Fig. 11 Apsidal Wall [TH14-008] Wall Return of S. corner

**The West Wall** [TH14-012] The W to E axis of the west wall has the same general alignment as the east wall [TH14-001] observed at the eastern end of the cable trench. The exposed section of the wall is 0.95 m in length and 0.65 m wide and is constructed of regularly-laid and roughly-squared lime-stone blocks on either face with a rubble infill. It abuts and is associated with a metallised surface [TH14-014] along the southern elevation which is most likely the foundation of an interior floor surface of a building located in this area.

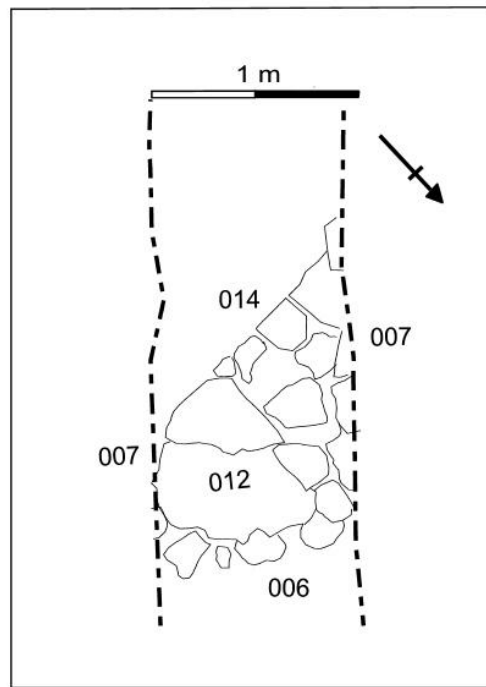


Fig. 12 West Wall [TH14-009] General view & plan facing SW



Fig. 13 West Wall [TH14-009] Detailed general view of wall with abutting metalled surface (TH14-014)





Fig. 14 West Wall [TH14-009] & metalled surface [TH14-014] facing SW.

**The Metalled Surface** [TH14-014] The most westerly feature observed in the excavated area of the cable trench appears to be an interior flooring surface because of the way it abuts against the west wall [TH14-012]. Constructed of a mixture of broken stone and estuarine pebbles, the

feature was uncovered for a distance of 5m before disappearing under the excavation baulk.

**The Hearth** [TH14-009] is of special interest because this archaeological feature supplied the only datable material from the entire cable trench. Although the hearth cannot be tied directly into any one specific structure or be fixed within the ground plan of the buildings, the pottery sherds recovered from this sealed context are indicative of a medieval chronology. The late medieval date is very important, certainly in relation to the utilisation of the hearth, but most likely it might also have implications for the entire wider excavated area which could be of similar date.

The three sherds, which all formed part of a large vessel, were deposited on the hearth surface and imply the destruction of the feature at a date in line with the documentary evidence of Thrupp being enclosed, and the village removed, in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Constructed of at least three layers of thin fractured burnt sandstone [TH14-010] the rectangular hearth is 0.9m in length. Unfortunately the breadth of the hearth surface cannot be determined because it lies underneath the road. However, the hearth survives to a height of 0.30m and the alignment of the exposed edge is SW to NE. The hearth is covered by approximately 0.30m of stone rubble [TH14-011] some of which shows signs of burning. Above the debris is 0.60m of sandy loam, [TH14-007] which underlies the modern road foundations.

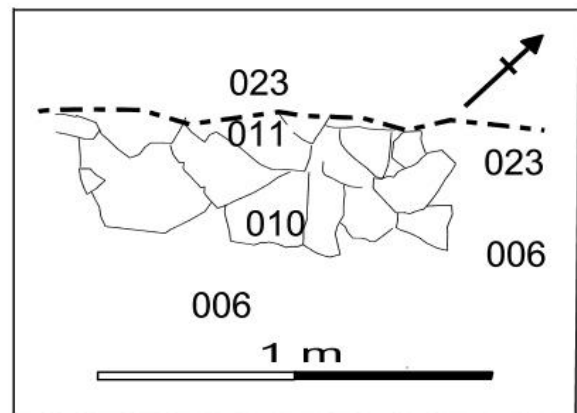


Fig. 15 Hearth [TH14-009] General view & plan



Fig. 16 Hearth [TH14-009] General view looking SW.

### 5.3 Watching Brief Features

(a) Ditch [016] 1 m wide, 0.5 m deep, 0.5 m below surface. Filled rubble and earth including Victorian brick. Possible land drain. Continuing to N. below road, alignment not known.



Fig. 17 Ditch [TH14-016] facing N.

(b) Ditches? [017], [018] Fill sandstone fragments up to fist size in clay. Continuing to N. below road, alignment not known. (This could be just road foundation.)



Fig. 18 Ditch [TH14-017] facing N.

(c) Thin layer of very yellow ironstone gravel [019] at 1m depth. approx. 1 m wide, 10 cm thick. Possible track surface continuing to N. below road, alignment not known,



Fig. 19 Possible track way [TH14-019] facing N

(d) V-section ditch [020] approx. 1.5m wide, 0.5m deep. Fill of black gravel material cut into sand/clay continuing to N. below road, alignment not known



- Fig. 20 Ditch [TH14-020] facing N.  
(e) Ditch or back-fill [021]. Quantity of rectangular cut blocks of sandstone small cobble-stone sized. At approx. 0.5 m depth continuing to N. below road, alignment not known



Fig. 21 Ditch [TH14-021] facing N.

- (f) Pit, [022] Approx., 0.2 m deep, 0.4 m below surface. Filled with broken Victorian kitchen pottery



Fig. 22 Pit [TH14-022] facing S.

## 6 THE FINDS

The pottery assemblage comprised 3 sherds with an incised rouletted pattern from the same vessel with a total weight of 98.2g. Medieval in date, the pottery indicates that there was activity at the site during the 12th to 14th centuries. An attempt to identify the fabric using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type Series (CTS) unfortunately proved inconclusive but the fabric, which is a calcite shelly coarse-ware, is probably not of local manufacture.<sup>9</sup>



Fig. 23 Medieval Sherds from [TH14-023]

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<sup>9</sup> Per. com. Andy Chapman, MOLA





Fig. 24 Victorian Sherds from [TH14-022]

## 7 DISCUSSION

The cable trench excavation on the southern verge of the B4036 on the Daventry to Long Buckby Road, near Thrupp Farm, Northamptonshire, has demonstrated that significant archaeological remains have survived although the exact extent, nature and status of the site could not be fully ascertained. Amongst the features observed on site are a series of substantial stone walls, two probably from the same building with the third one associated with an interior metalled surface of another structure. The existence of an unrelated hearth feature indicates the survival of even more archaeological evidence for occupation at the site. These features probably represent the remains of at least three separate structures aligned along a possible street frontage. Two of the buildings probably had a domestic function whilst the third, based on its size and construction methodology, was more likely related to community activity consistent with a chapel.

The three potsherds recovered through excavation of the hearth feature supported by non-systematic collected material retrieved from the plough soil in the field immediately to the south of the B4036 cable trench verge suggests the remains are of late medieval date and they appear to be associated with the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Thrupp. Therefore it is probably reasonable to conclude that these features could be interpreted as representing the archaeological remains of some of the destroyed late 15<sup>th</sup> century medieval tenements and the abandoned

chapel of the DMV as a result of the enclosure in 1489 by Daventry Priory. The excavation has highlighted the level of archaeological survival here and the surrounding area; as well as providing helpful evidence for future understanding and interpretation of the village layout.

In relation to the wider watching brief the ditches and features identified outside the excavation are archaeological in nature. However, the lack of datable material makes it impossible to determine the *terminus post quem* for the fill of these features [TH14-016, TH14-017, TH14-018, TH14-020, TH14-021]. The general matrix removed from the cable trench over its 560m length varied considerably. West of the cross roads it is mostly clay with fist-sized stone inclusions, whereas to the East of the cross-roads, the depositional matrix is much looser and mostly consists of a sandy loam. These deposits overlie the natural clay which occurs at a depth of approx. 1.2m along the entire length of the cable trench. All the ditches extend North below the road but as they are only visible in section on the North side of the trench no overall alignment can be assumed or determined. The absence of ditch profiles in the southern excavation baulk is due to disturbance by an early cable trench.

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Photographs figs 5-16 copyright Don Martin

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Plans & Schematics drawn by Fred Kay

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## APPENDIX

### Historic Environment Record data for archaeological sites within the vicinity of the cable trench

H E R	Description
894	Roman Settlement.
951	Possible prehistoric BA ring ditches identified from aerial photograph.
966	Possible prehistoric BA round barrow identified from aerial photograph.
1618	Roman metal detected finds.
7447	Location of WW2 searchlight.
1448/0/1	Possible prehistoric enclosure identified from aerial photograph.
447/1/8	Roman skeleton, amphora and pottery identified on line of Watling Street.
5744/0/1	Prehistoric ditch of enclosure identified from aerial photograph.
626/0/0	Medieval spread of unstratified finds including coins.
626/0/1	Possible medieval moated enclosure.
626/0/3	Trial excavation.
625/0/5	Medieval potsherds and metalwork indicative of a building.
627/1/1	Possible medieval fish ponds indicated by aerial photograph.
628/0/2	Probable Medieval earthwork indicated by aerial photograph.
628/0/3	Probable Medieval earthwork indicated by aerial photograph.
629/0/1	Possible prehistoric boundary indicated by aerial photograph.
630/0/0	Roman settlement with large quantities of mainly C2-3 <sup>rd</sup> pottery recovered over a wide area. Fieldwork in 1960 revealed coins, pottery including samian, & tile.
630/0/1	Possible Roman enclosure identified from aerial photograph.
630/0/2	Possible Roman features identified from aerial photograph.
630/0/3	Roman Cinerary urn recorded in C 19 <sup>TH</sup> .
630/0/4	Roman foundations, pavements, pottery & coins recorded in C 19 <sup>TH</sup> over 10ha area.
630/0/	Possible Roman enclosure identified from aerial photograph.
630/0/6	Probable Roman pits identified from aerial photograph.
630/0/7	Roman Enclosures identified from aerial photograph.
6491/0/2	Roman finds including 110 coins, a lead weight, a lead die & four Brooches.
7347/0/1	Roman 'villa' re-excavated in 1852, revealing other parts of building.
7601/0/0	Unstratified Post-medieval metal finds.
894/0/0	Roman coins & furniture fitting.
894/1	Roman building.
894/1/0	Roman coins, tiles & potsherds.

- 894/1/1 Possible two roomed Roman building & rectangular feature linked by length of walling, noted from parch marks.
- 894/1/2 Possible building & linear system from 'crop marks' identified from aerial photographs.
- 894/1/3 Possible building & linear system from 'crop marks' identified from aerial photographs.
- 894/1/4 Possible building & linear system from 'crop marks' identified from aerial photographs.
- 894/1/5 Possible building & linear system from 'crop marks' identified from aerial photograph.
- 894/1/6 Possible building & linear system from 'crop marks' identified from aerial photographs.
- 895/0/0 Roman/Saxon find spots of numerous late Roman/early Saxon weights & a knitting needle (Metal detected).
- 895/3/1 Excavation of Roman burial.
- 9057/0/0 Medieval Weights & spindle whorl Post Medieval buckle.
- 9087/0/0 Roman coins found by metal detecting.
- 963/0/0 Roman coins.
- 964/0/0 Medieval 'building'.
- 966/0/4 Prehistoric Ditch & linear feature identified from aerial photograph.
- 966/0/6 Prehistoric ring ditches & enclosures identified from aerial photograph.

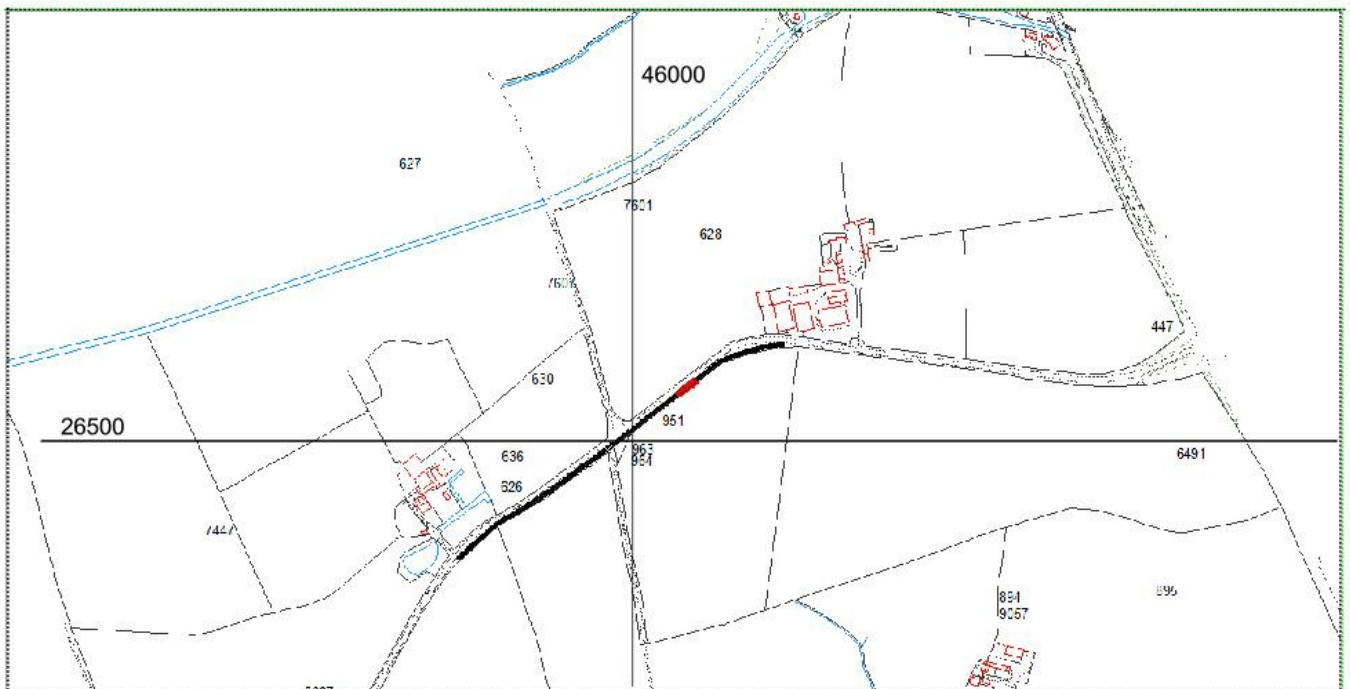


Fig. 25 Associated HER archaeological locations

[www.claspweb.gov.uk](http://www.claspweb.gov.uk)