

PRE-DEVELOP ARCHAEOLOGY

**A Programme of Archaeological Strip,
Map and Sample Investigation and
Publication on Land at Blisworth Hill
Farm, Stoke Road, Blisworth,
Northamptonshire.**

(Phase 2)

(Planning Application S/2013/1273/FUL)

Site Code: BHF14

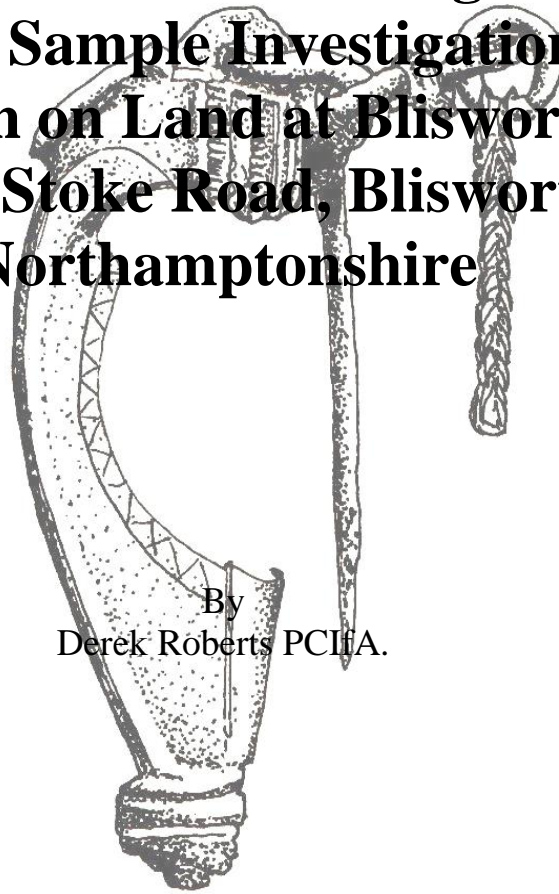
OASIS ID:predevel1-203952

**Pre-Develop Archaeology
25 Church Street
Warmington
Peterborough
PE8 6TE**

September 2014

Telephone:- 01832 280526
Email:- info@archaeological-consultants.co.uk

**A Programme of Archaeological Strip,
Map and Sample Investigation and
Publication on Land at Blisworth Hill
Farm, Stoke Road, Blisworth,
Northamptonshire**



By
Derek Roberts PCIfA.

**Pre-Develop Archaeology
September 2014**

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Abstract.

A second phase of programme of Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Investigation and Publication was carried out by Pre-Develop Archaeology between 19th and 28th March 2014 prior to construction of a silage clamp to the immediate south of the site of the proposed anaerobic digester at Blisworth Hill Farm, Blisworth, Northamptonshire. The works identified no archaeological finds or feature.

1. Introduction and Planning Background.

1.1 Pre-Develop Archaeology (hereafter PDA) were commissioned by Berry's of Kettering, on behalf of Mr Roy Taylor, Blisworth Hill Farm, Stoke Road, Blisworth, Northamptonshire to undertake a second phase of archaeological work comprising a programme of archaeological Strip Map and Sample Investigation and Publication prior to the construction of a silage clamp associated with the proposed construction of an anaerobic digester (Figure 1). The works were restricted to the footprint of the construction area within an arable field some 280m southeast of the extant Blisworth Hill Farm. The area in question has maximum dimensions of some 150m by 150m immediately south of the proposed anaerobic digester and adjacent the south-eastern access track off of Stoke Road.

1.2 A programme of archaeological Strip Map and Sample Investigation and Publication on land at Blisworth Hill Farm was required to supply enough information to the local planning authority, so that reliable decisions could be made regarding the impact of the proposed development upon archaeological remains. The potential for archaeological remains is indicated by its location immediately adjacent the Blisworth Canal Tunnel which forms part of the Grand Junction Canal which runs southeast-northwest through the farm.

1.3 This episode of archaeological observation took place between 19th and 28th March 2014 and entailed the reduction of ground within the footprint of the proposed silage clamp to ascertain the extent of possible archaeology within the area to be disturbed.

1.4 The Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (hereafter NCCAAA) was consulted and after assessing the potential of finds and features found during the evaluation excavation suggested no further action and conditionally released the site.

1.5 The documentary archive has been issued with the PDA site prefix: BHF14.

1.6 The archive will be stored at the PDA main office until such a time as one is available at Northamptonshire.

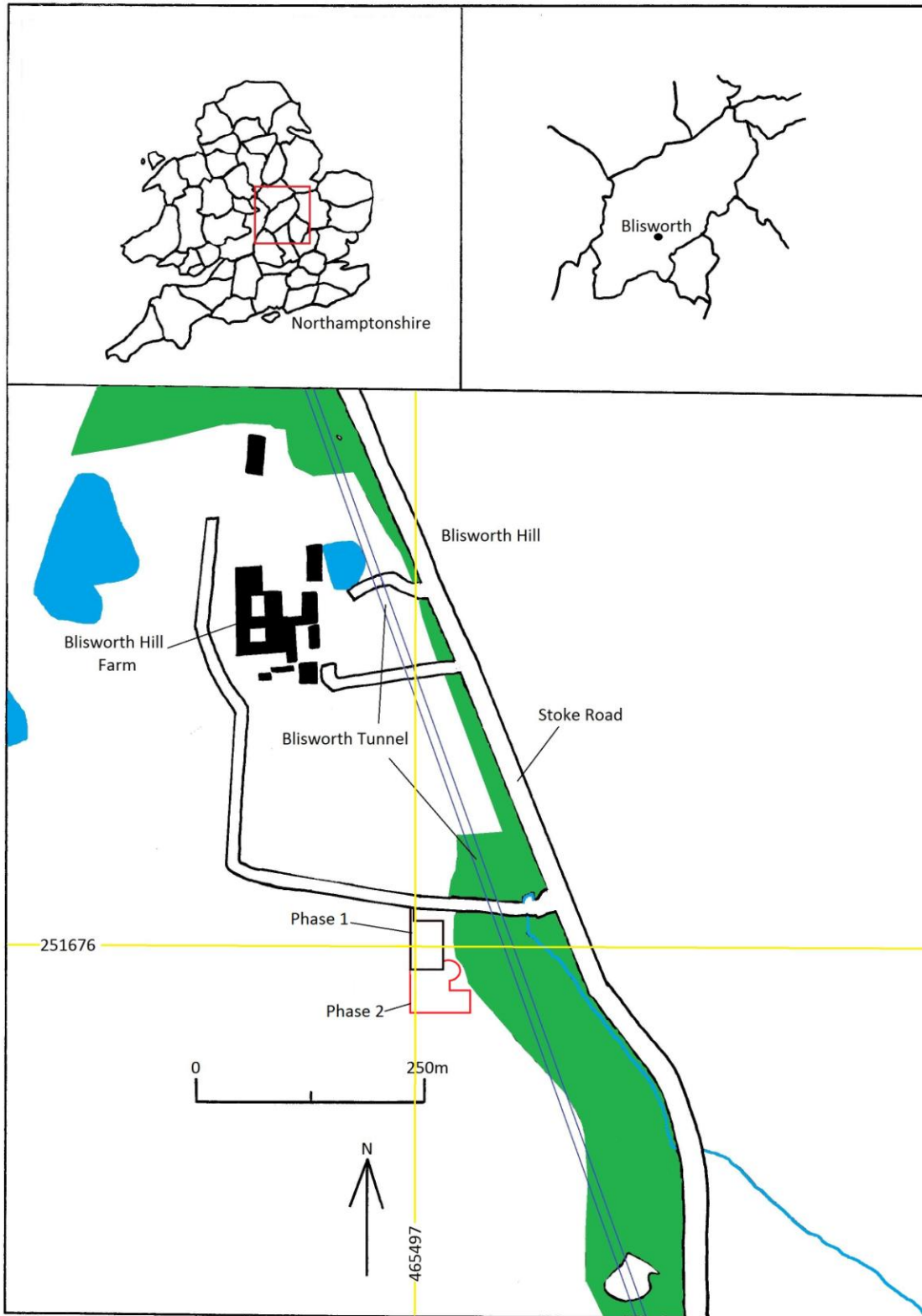


Figure 1: Northamptonshire county, Blisworth Hill Farm and site location (Author 2014)

2. Topography and Geology

2.1 The site is located at co-ordinates:- SP 473219 251876 (approximate centre).

2.2 Figure 1 shows the site located some 276m to the southeast of Blisworth Hill Farm and immediately west of Stoke Road. The development area comprises agricultural land associated with the farm.

2.3 The site lies at around 152m AOD on geology consisting of Jurassic Northampton Sand formation Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone and Whitby Mudstone formations. The site lies at around 129m aOD on geology comprising Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey of Britain).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Cartographic

The Enclosure map of 1885 shows the site positioned in the extreme north-eastern corner of field number 169. The present field consists of fields 169, 170, 171, 174, 176, 177 and 178.

3.2 HER Data

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Aerial surveys in the 1970's interpreted mounded features to the immediate east and southeast of the site as a possible prehistoric and/or medieval/post medieval activity (Monument 4660); possible prehistoric burial site and/or medieval/post medieval windmill (Monument 4660/1) and possible prehistoric round barrow and/or medieval/post medieval windmill mound (Monument 4660/1/1).

Roman

3.2.2 A single unstratified Roman coin (House of Constantine minim, 350AD - 378AD) was discovered during metal detecting in 1995 and identified through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS Findspot 0/0/150).

Medieval

3.2.3 Aerial surveys in the 1970's interpreted mounded features to the immediate east and southeast of the site as a possible prehistoric and/or medieval/post medieval activity (Monument 4660); possible prehistoric burial site and/or medieval/post medieval windmill (Monument 4660/1) and possible prehistoric round barrow and/or medieval/post medieval windmill mound (Monument 4660/1/1).

3.2.4 Some 400m to the north-west of the site ridge and furrow was encountered during the Midland Open Fields Project in 1995-99 (Monument 8864/0/2).

Post Medieval

3.2.5 Aerial photographic interpretation has placed a possible charcoal burning platform some 450m to the east of the site (Monument 5782/1/1).

3.2.6 The site is bounded on its north, east and south-east by remnants of the Grand Junction Canal (Monuments 442/0, 442/1 and 442/2). These comprise the Blisworth Hill Tramway, Blisworth Hill Canal Tunnel and air shafts associated with the tunnel.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Fieldwork

4.1 Aims:- To date, record and interpret any archaeological features exposed and observed during the programme of archaeological works so that reliable decisions can be made with regards to the archaeological impacts of the proposed development.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 To determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered and record their spatial arrangement and the nature, function and character of any archaeological features in their cultural and environmental setting. Such an approach is to be within the national research context provided by English Heritage (English Heritage 1991 and 1997) and regionally by Gurney (2003), Cooper (2006), and Knight, Vyner and Allen (2012).

4.2.2 To recover any dating evidence from any archaeological features and to establish any sequence of archaeological remains present on the site.

4.2.3 To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.

4.2.4 To recover artefacts which may assist in the development of type series within the local / regional area.

4.2.5 To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

5 Site Operations

5.1 General Considerations

5.1.1 All work was carried out following statutory Health and Safety requirements and the guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (hereafter IFA) in 'Policy Statements' (2006).

5.1.2 All work was carried out according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the IFA, under the management of a Member of the Institute; Dr Stephen Upex MCIFA. FSA.

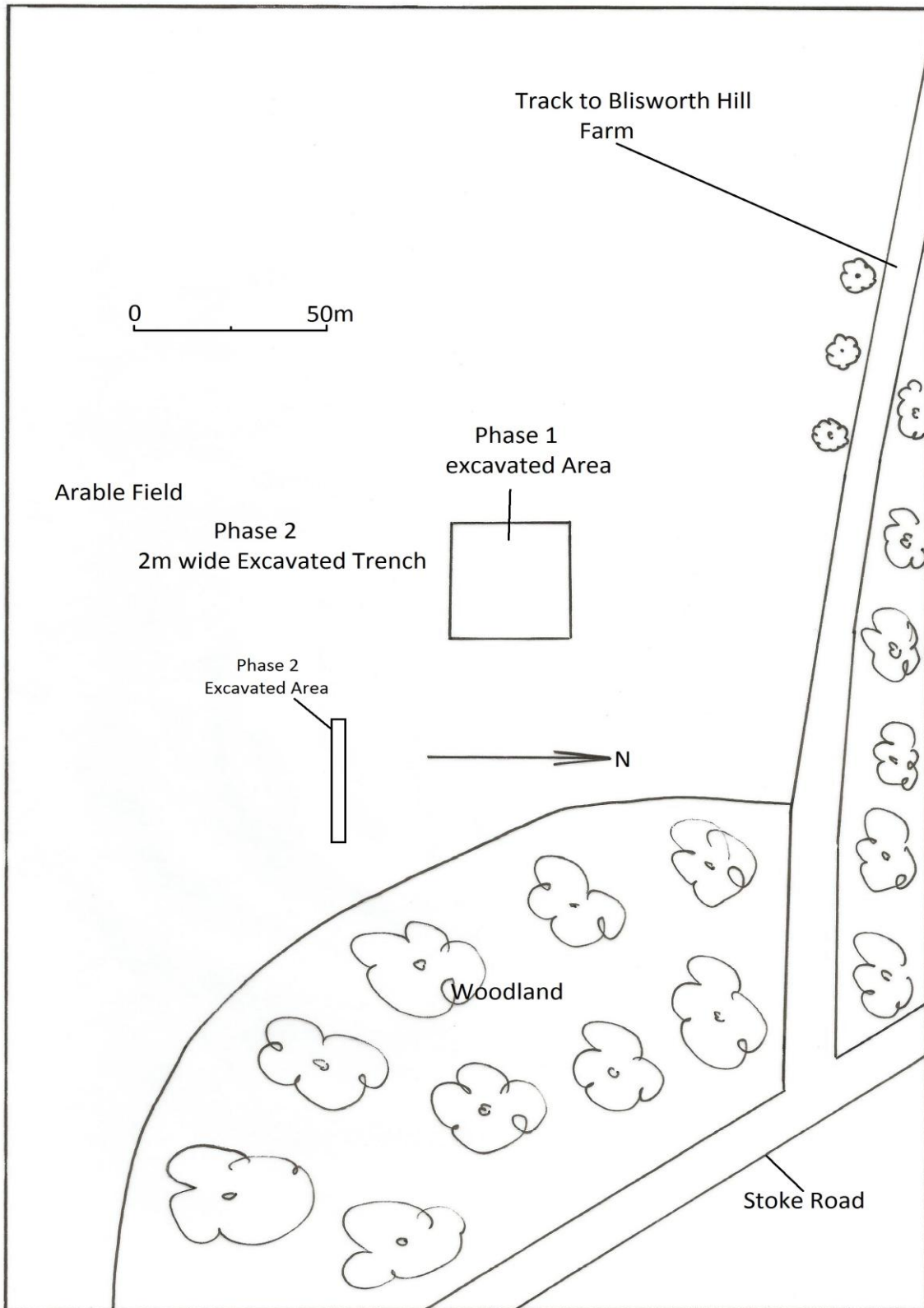


Figure 2: Excavated area location plan

(Author 2014)

6. Methodology

6.1 The work was carried out following statutory Health and Safety requirements and the guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 'Policy Statements' (2006). All work was carried out according to the relevant codes of practice set out by English Heritage's 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (2009) ; Archaeological Archives (APP 2007) and the standards set out in:- Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance documents and under the management of Members of the Institute (Dr Stephen Upex MCIFA, Derek Roberts PCIFA). The methodology is set out in detail within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

6.2 Metal Detector sweeps were carried out as part of all hand excavation during this programme of archaeological works including all spoil heaps.

6.3 Using architectural plans , supplied by Berry's, a single trench 2m by 40m (totalling 80m²) was located and reduced by a 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator down to archaeological deposits and features or the natural geology. This area was within the footprint of the proposed silage clamp (Figure. 2). All archaeological features or deposits encountered were then excavated by hand.

6.4 At the time of the excavation the field had low crop growth.

6.5 All man-made pre-modern features were hand excavated and sampled sufficiently to enable their date and character to be established and allow appropriate levels of recording. all deposits and layers were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationship to other features. This consisted of sampling at no less than 50% for all exposed discrete features and no less than 15% of all linear features or very large and deep features.

6.6 All finds and features were recorded using a single context numbering system and given the PDA site prefix: BHF14.

6.4 After due consideration of all the data obtained during the programme of archaeological evaluation the was invited for a site visit. This visit was declined after due consideration of all available data and the NCCAAA decided to take no further action and released the site, conditionally, from any further archaeological field work.

7. Results

Reduced Area Within Silage Clamp Footprint

Overburden

7.1 The overburden consisted of a mid-brown clay/sand/silt and was seen in all section of the area reduced and had an average thickness of 350mm. . No finds of any archaeological significance were encountered within this layer.

Natural Geology

7.4 The natural geology was seen throughout the area reduced and consisted of Chalky boulder clay ranging from green to blue in colour. No archaeological features were encountered within the natural geology (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Reduced area looking east.

(Author 2014)

8. Conclusion

8.1 This archaeological programme of works produced no archaeologically significant finds or features and resulted in the stripping of overlying topsoil down to natural clays.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 Pre-Develop Archaeology is grateful to James Fulton at Berry's for supplying information; Mr Roy Taylor for funding this project and allowing us to conduct this scheme of archaeological works on his land and Liz Mordue and the Northamptonshire HER for their help and advice during this project.

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Appendix 1

OASIS ID and Cover sheet

OASIS ID: predevel1-203952

Project details

Project name	A Programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Publication on Land at Blisworth Hill Farm, Stoke
Short description of the project	A second phase of programme of Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Investigation and Publication was carried out by Pre-Develop Archaeology between 19th and 28th March 2014 prior to construction of a silage clamp to the immediate south of the site of the proposed anaerobic digester at Blisworth Hill Farm, Blisworth, Northamptonshire. The works identified no archaeological finds or features what-so-ever.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2014 End: 28-03-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	S/2013/1273/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BHF14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Metal Detectors", "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
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A Programme of Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Investigation and Publication on Land at Blisworth Hill Farm,
Blisworth, Northamptonshire. (Phase 2)

Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BLISWORTH Blisworth Hill Farm
Postcode	NN7 3DB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 473320 251647 51.9225547322 -1.31165413631 51 55 21 N 001 18 41 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 128.75m Max: 129.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Develop Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Derek Roberts
Project director/manager	Dr Stephen Upex
Project supervisor	Derek Roberts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Roy Taylor

Entered by	Derek Roberts (derekroberts@archaeological-consultants.co.uk)
Entered on	16 February 2015

OASIS:

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