

PRE-DEVELOP ARCHAEOLOGY

**A Programme of Archaeological Observation,
Investigation, Recording, Analysis and
Publication of Works at Holloway Farm,
Chelveston Road, Stanwick,
Northamptonshire**

(Planning Application:- 14/01406/FUL)

Site Code: HFS14

HER Event Number: ENN108007

OASIS ID:predevel1-211254

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

May 2015

Telephone:- 01832 280526

Email:- info@archaeological-consultants.co.uk

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Chelveston Road, Stanwick,
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By
Derek Roberts PCIfA.

**Pre-Develop Archaeology
May 2015**

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Abstract.

A programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works was carried out by Pre-Develop Archaeology between 8th and 9th of December prior to the placement of a solar photovoltaic array on land at Holloway Farm, Chelveston Road, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. The works were contained within a field under pasture and identified residual traces of regular furrows which may have been part of the ridge and furrow open field system levelled by modern plough and now under grass. No other archaeological finds or features were encountered.

1. Introduction and Planning Background.

1.1 Pre-Develop Archaeology (hereafter PDA) were commissioned by Berry's of Kettering, on behalf of Mr James Holloway, Holloway Farms Limited, Holloway Farm, Chelveston Road, Stanwick, Northamptonshire to undertake an programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works prior to the placement of a solar photovoltaic array. The works were restricted to the footprint of the array within a grassed field some 370m NW of Holloway Farm; around 1.5km SE of Stanwick Lakes and some 700m SSE of Stanwick Church. The area in question has maximum dimensions of circa 40m x 104m (i.e 4160m²) which will be accessed from Chelveston Road around 595m to the NE (Figure 1).

1.2 A programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works on land at Holloway Farm, Chelveston Road, Stanwick 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 close to the known Saxon settlement of Stanwick and its proximity to the intensely studied Stanwick Lakes which revealed among other things Bronze Age burial mounds; an opulent Roman Villa and the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton.

1.3 This episode of archaeological observation took place between 8th and 9th December 2014 and entailed the reduction of ground within the footprint of the proposed array 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 released the site

1.5 The documentary archive has been issued with the PDA site prefix: HFS14 and Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) Event Number ENN108007.

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

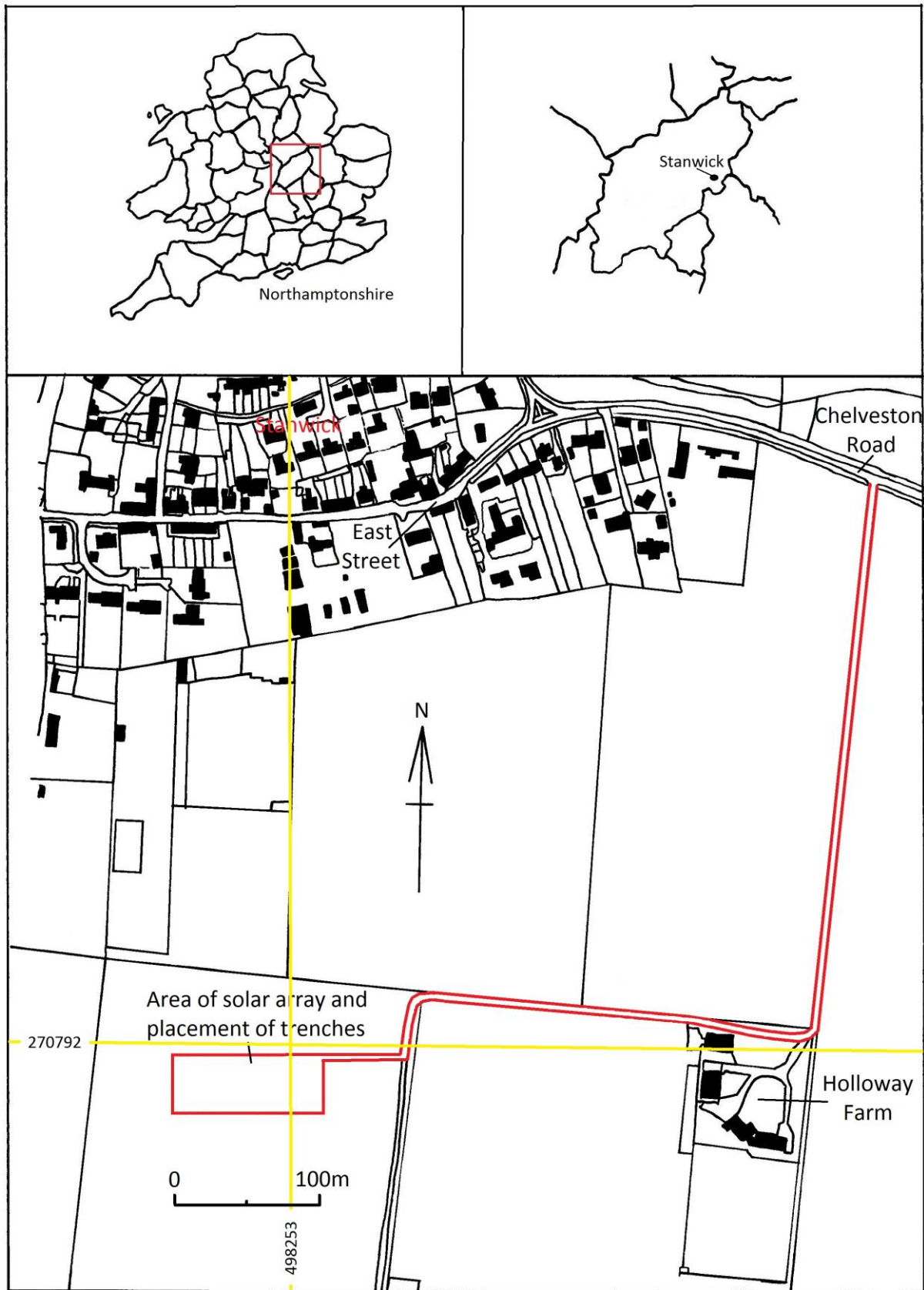


Figure 1: County, Town and site location.

(Author 2015)

2. Topography and Geology

2.1 The site is located at co-ordinates:- SP 985708 (approximate centre).

2.2 Figure 1 shows the site located on agricultural land associated with the extant Holloway farm.

2.3 The site is at approximately 70m AOD on Limestone Cornbrash Formation. (British Geological Survey of Britain).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The former parish of Stanwick is now incorporated into the parish of Raunds and both form a single large parish of 2580 hectares, rising from the river Nene in the west up to 70m AOD to the east of the parish. The parish has a considerable number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites within its area which are given a preliminary review within the Royal Commission's volume on North-East Northamptonshire (RCHM 1975, 78-83).

3.1.2 Early prehistoric occupation within the area is shown by various features in causewayed ring ditch some 22m in diameter (Parry 2006, 44) while later Iron Age occupation has been mapped by intensive field walking and survey work (Parry, 2006 Figs 4.7 and 4.8 & table 4.19).

3.1.3 Two major excavations have taken place within the area of the parish, namely the work on Stanwick Roman villa between 1984-88 (Neal 1989) and the work at Redlands Farm villa (Keevill 1991; Parry 2006, 152-3). The Redlands Farm villa site was excavated by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1990. Evidence was found of prehistoric occupation, beginning in the Bronze Age (2100 BC - 750 BC) and developing throughout the Iron Age (751 BC – AD 42). During the Roman period (2nd, 3rd and 4th century), a simple 2-roomed building was constructed, originally as a watermill. This became the core of a winged corridor villa, with a hypocaust and mosaic pavements. The Stanwick Roman villa was excavated by English Heritage between 1985 and 1991. During the Late Bronze Age (c 1000 BC) until the Late Iron Age (c AD 42) long fences were built to separate large fields, and the site was then occupied by Belgic tribesmen, with evidence of circular wattle and daub huts, and small oval defended enclosures. During the Roman period (2nd, 3rd and 4th century) the earlier houses were demolished and new huts built into 6 enclosures separated by track ways. A row of 3 stone houses were then built, and a building flanked by turret-like rooms was erected. There were many other changes on the site before the Roman Villa was furnished with 3 mosaic pavements circa 350 AD.

3.1.4 The village name is recorded as *Stan wigga* in the 10th century, which may be from the Old English *stan* and *wic*, literally meaning 'stone farm of village' (Glover *et al.* 1933, 196) By 1086 and the time of the Domesday the land was part of the Peterborough Abbey estate page (Morris, 1979, 221c). The settlements of Raunds and Stanwick also contained several medieval sites of importance including Mallows Cotton and Mill Cotton (Chapman 2006, 172-194; Windell *et al.* 1990).

3.1.5 The open fields of Stanwick had a 2 field system of rotation in c. 1280 (Brooke and Postan 1946 no 559) but by the mid-17th century this appears to have been expanded to a three field system when the ‘upper field’ was enclosed to form pasture land still called *Stanwick Pastures*’ (NRO. Glebe Terriers 1684). The remaining land was then divided into 3 parts: ‘Field next to Raunds’, Field next to Chelveston’ and ‘Field next to Higham’ (NRO Fitzwilliam Misc Vol 437; Hall 1995. 348). The extent and development of the open field arrangements and the surviving ridge and furrow within Stanwick parish has been published by Hall (Hall 2006. 116-126) who shows a part reconstructed furlong and selion layout and a list of furlong names (Hall 2006. 116-126. Fig 5.1 & Table 5.20). The surviving cultivation remains were also surveyed by the Royal Commission and show headland boundaries and a plot of ridge and furrow (RCHM 1975, Fig 91).

3.1.6 The land was enclosed in 1834 (NRO Enclosure map 1838) when three Commissioners and two Surveyors were appointed to oversee the enclosures (NRO Enclosure Award 1835; Salzman 1937. 51-54).

3.2 Archaeological features and sites close to the evaluation site.

3.2.1 A search through the NHER recorded ten data sets within a 400m. radius of the evaluation site. These data sets are shown in Figure 2 below.

No.	HER/Event No	Grid Ref	Period	Description	Refs
1	1347/00	SP987712	Late Sax/Late med	Pot scatters	Parry 2006 . 163
2	1347/0/20	SP982711	Late Sax	Ditch and pit	Parry 2006.63-5 Sharman 1992
3	1347/0/31	SP982711	Med.	Boundary ditch/gully	Saunders 1997 Saunders 1998-0
4	1347/0/34	SP984712	Post Med.	Hollow/feature?	Parry & Webster 1998
5	1347/0/35	SP984712	undated	ditch	Parry & Webster 1998
6	1347/0/36	SP984712	Modern?	Post holes	Parry & Webster 1998
7	1347/0/37	SP985712	?	hollow	Parry & Webster 1998
8	1347/0/42	SP982711	Early Med.	ditch	Sharman 1992 Parry 2006 63-5
9	1347/0/47	SP981711	?	Post holes and gullies	Saunders 1998-9
10	1347/0/48	SP984711	?	Boundary ditch ? and field drain	Wilson 2013

Figure 2. Details from the Northamptonshire HER of features within a 400m radius of the site.

3.2.2 In addition the HER recorded ten further data sets related to features shown on air photographs, these data sets are shown in Figure 3 below. These crop marked features are also shown in Parry 2006, Figure 'B'.

No.	HER/Event No/SMN	Grid Ref	Period	Description	Refs
1	1729	SP986709	BA?	Barrow	Northants HER
2	1729/0/1	SP985709	BA?	Enclosure and barrow?	RCHM 1982, 191
3	1729/0/2	SP986709	BA?	Pit alignment	Foard and Richardson
4	1730	SP980709	Prehistoric	Settlement/funerary site?	O.S. index cards
5	1730/0/1	SP980709	Prehistoric	Encl/barrow/house	RCHM 1982, 191 Northants Arch. 1981.
6	1730/0/2	SP980709	BA?	Pits	Northants HER
7	1730/0/3	SP980709	Prehistoric	Encl/ring ditch/round house	Northants HER
8	1730/0/4	SP980709	Prehistoric	Encl/field system	Northants HER
9	1730/0/5	SP980709	Undated	Linear ditch	Northants HER
10	9671/0/1	SP988710	Undated	Quarry pits	Northants SMR air photos

Figure 3. Details of sites shown on air photographs within the Northamptonshire HER

3.3. Additional archaeological data

3.3.1 Additional archaeological material related to the area around the evaluation site was also available through the detailed plots provided through the Raunds Area Survey project which ran from 1985-1994 (Parry 2006). The appended Figures A-L, in the form of large scale plots of both the parish of Raunds and Stanwick show the results of intensive field walking. Unfortunately the field where this present archaeological evaluation is being taken was not field walked due to it being laid down to pasture. However, all of the adjoining and surrounding fields were included within this programme of field walking and these results have been summarised within Figure 4.

3.3.2 Two scatters of flint were recorded within a 400m radius of the evaluation site at fields known as 'Nether Field North' and 'Nether Field South'. The North Field produced 41 flints (95% debitage of the total) including a fragment of flint axe. Eighteen flint fragments were recovered from the South Field. Both flint scatters were consistent with a Neolithic Date.

3.4 Cartographic material

3.4.1 Stanwick does have an open field map of 1822 (NRO map 4314) which shows the positions of the furlongs. There is no surviving field book to go with this map but there are several terriers which date from the 17th century which re-iterate the furlong names shown on the map. Hall shows some of these names for the three common, open fields of the parish (Hall, 2006 Fig 5.26). The traces of ridge and furrow found during the archaeological evaluation relate to these fields and furlongs. The parish was enclosed in 1834 but the enclosure map is dated 1838 (NRO map 3020) and shows the parish divided into large blocks of land prior to further subdivisions which appear to have occurred in the immediate period after enclosure. The position of the archaeological evaluation related to this report is shown plotted onto the 1838 enclosure map (Figure 5).

Figure	Period	Detail of finds	Comment
L	Modern pottery scatter	general	manuring?
K	Post Med. pottery	general	manuring?
J	Late Med. pottery	general	manuring?
I	Med. pottery	general	manuring?
H	Late Saxon pottery	2 sherds within 400m See Parry 2006 Fig 4.14 for local habitation sites and manuring extents.	manuring?
G	Early Saxon pottery	1 sherd within 400m	manuring?
F	Roman pottery	General distribution although slight concentration immediately south of the evaluation field -see Parry 2006 Fig 4.13 for addition detail	manuring from local habitation site to the south of the evaluation field?
E	Iron Age pottery	None	
D	Flint distributions	General low scatter 400. to west. See below for details of these two sites recorded as 7a Nether Field North and 7b Nether Field South	See below

Figure 4. A summary of the Figures D-L from the Raunds Area Survey (Parry 2006)



Figure 5. Excerpt from the Enclosure map for stanwick dated 1838 (NRO map 3020).

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.

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.



Figure 6. 360° excavator cutting trench 2. Looking northeast.

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, an area some 40m by 104m (totalling 4160m²) was located as the position of the proposed five linear arrays. Each of the five linear arrays was given a prefix of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from north to south; 1 being the northerly most array.

6.3.1 Architectural plans show each array as 2.99m wide spaced at 6m intervals. It was decided to excavate trenches full length, some 104m, by no less than 1.8m for each linear array.

6.3.2 Trench 1 was started at the extreme northern edge of the total area and reduced by a 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator down to archaeological deposits and features or natural geology. Trench 2 was then started 7m to south (Figure 6).



Figure 7. General view of trenches looking southeast from trench 1.

6.3.3 Trench 5 was excavated at the extreme southern edge of the total area and reduced by a 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator down to archaeological deposits and features or natural geology. Trench 4 was then started 7m to north.

6.3.4 After due consideration of all the data from trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 it was not felt necessary to excavate trench 3.

6.3.5 All archaeological features or deposits encountered were then excavated by hand.

6.4 At the time of the excavation the field was down to pasture (Figure 7).

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: HFS14.

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

7. Results

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Layer context [+1] was seen in all sections and had an average depth of circa 300mm (Figure 8). This consisted of a dark brown clay/sand/silt containing occasional natural Cornbrash limestone fragments, rare charcoal fragments and rare modern objects pertaining to agricultural machinery and construction materials.

7.1.2 Fill context [2] was seen within a residual furrow context [3] which ran northeast to southwest across trench 1 (Figure 9). This context was not excavated and showed a maximum seen width of 6m. Context [2] consisted of a mid-brown clay/sand/silt. No finds were seen in association with this context.

7.1.3 Feature context [3] was seen to run from the northeast to southwest and was one of seven other furrows seen along the length of trench ; a possible eighth furrow could be seen partly obscured by the west section of the trenches (Figures 9). These furrows were seen to project through trenches 2, 4 and 5 (figure 10).

7.1.4 Natural limestone Cornbrash was seen throughout trench 1 and sloped gently to the east. It was cut by context [3] and all other furrows from all trenches. This consisted of a yellowish brown regolith of fragmented limestone and clays consistent with the natural Cornbrash geology.

7.2 Trenches 2, 4 and 5

7.2.1 All trenches revealed the same stratigraphy and features as trench 1. The natural geology was consistent throughout.

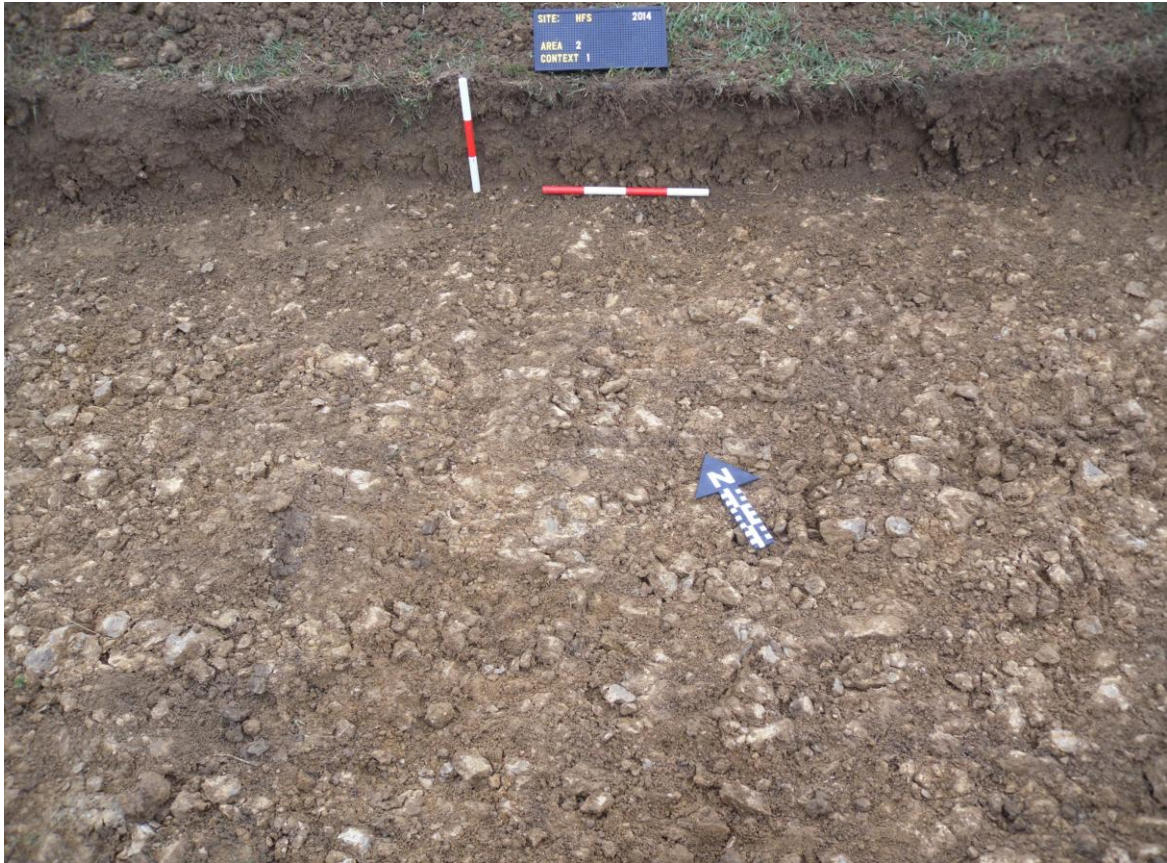


Figure 8. Looking northeast; topsoil in section.



Figure 9. Looking northwest at context [+1], [2] and [3].



Figure 10. Looking east at residual furrows in trench 2.

8. Discussion

8.1 During this episode of archaeological investigation not one sherd of pottery of any period was found. The only finds recorded were those revealed while metal detecting prior to

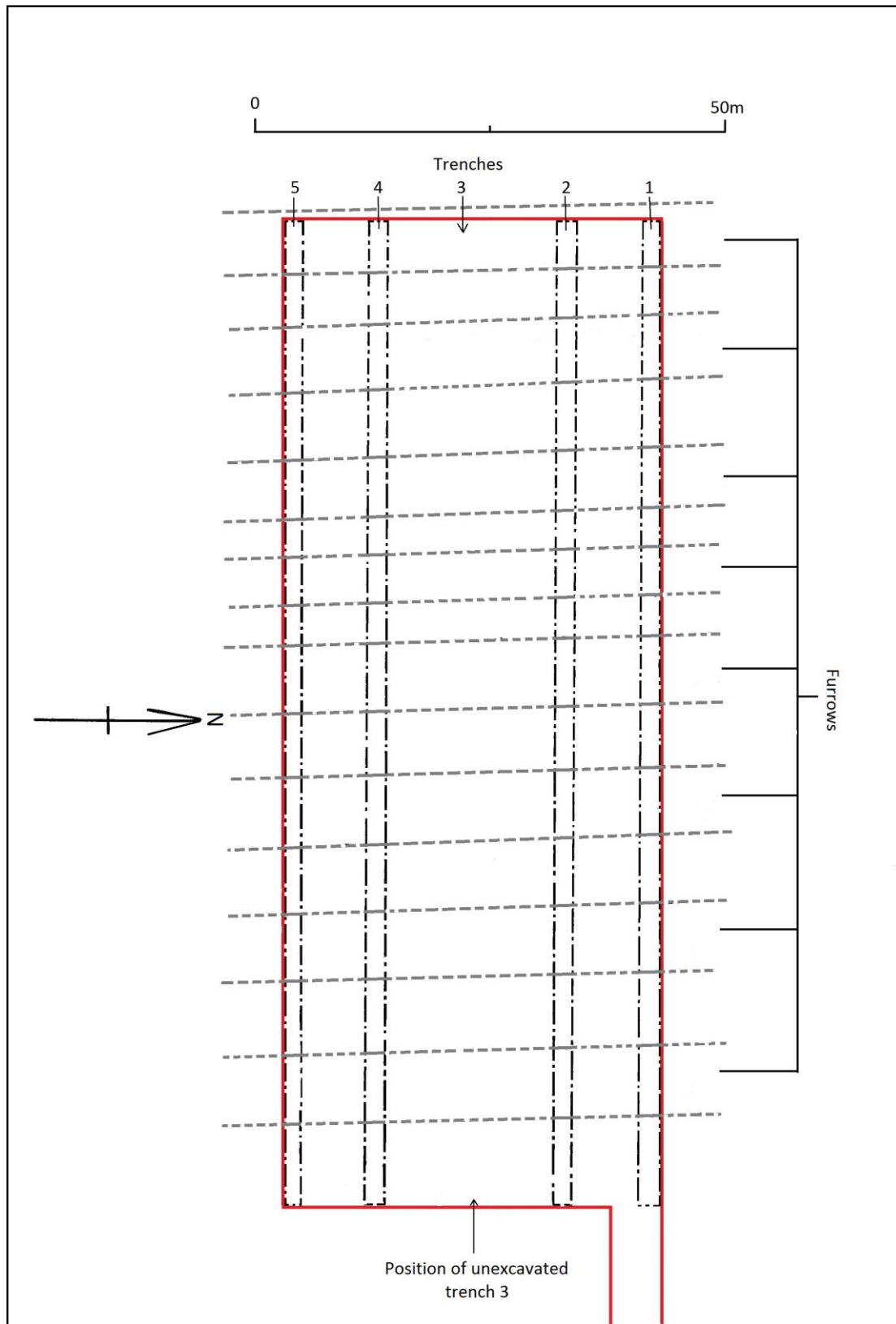


Figure 11: Trench location showing furrow features.

(Author 2015)

machining. These were few objects all modern and seemingly associated with agricultural machinery and practices.

8.2 The only features encountered were possible residual furrow features which would presumably have been associated with the open field system. No ridge could be seen in association with these features.

8.3 The lack of evidence for ridge and general modern agricultural few finds would seem to indicate the pasture field as a modern use and indicate at least a few years of modern cultivation. The evidence suggests a general ploughing out of any associated ridge features leaving a residual sequence of furrows running northwest to southeast. The slight difference in orientation of extant boundaries and furrow features could suggest a pre-enclosure date (Figure 11).

8.4 It is not clear why this site should be barren of material as it is seemingly surrounded by sites of all periods and very close to the extant Stanwick village. One would have expected at least a residual assemblage of pottery from manuring.

8.5 Then evidence, or lack of it, would seem to suggest an area which has constantly been on the limits of agricultural land far enough away from settlement to avoid build-up of cultural material.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 Pre-Develop Archaeology is grateful to James Fulton at Berry's for supplying information; Mr James Holloway, Holloway Farms Limited for funding this project and allowing us to conduct this scheme of archaeological works on his land, All personnel at the Northamptonshire HER and Liz Mordue for her advice during this project.

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11. Appendix

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OASIS ID: predevel1-211254

Project details

Project name	Archaeological investigation at Holloway Farm, Stanwick
Short description of the project	A programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works was carried out by Pre-Develop Archaeology between 8th and 9th of December prior to the placement of a solar photovoltaic array on land at Holloway Farm, Chelveston Road, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. The works were contained within a field under pasture and identified residual traces of regular furrows which may have been part of the ridge and furrow open field system levelled by modern plough and now under grass. No other archaeological finds or features were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 08-12-2014 End: 09-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HFS14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/01406/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	FURROWS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None

Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","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
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHELVESTON CUM CALDECOTT Holloway Farm
Postcode	NN9 6UB
Study area	4160.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 498070 270947 51.9396915825 -1.27538396884 51 56 22 N 001 16 31 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 68.70m Max: 69.00m

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	Holloway Estates LTD

Entered by	Derek Roberts (derekroberts@archaeological-consultants.co.uk)
Entered on	14 May 2015

OASIS:

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