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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological  
Evaluation at Holm  
Close, Upper Weedon,  
Weedon Bec,  
Northamptonshire  
NGR: SP 6204 5903**

Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No.  
2011-014  
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Holm Close, Upper Weedon, Weedon Bec  
Northamptonshire  
NGR: SP 6204 5903**

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**ULAS Report Number 2011-014**  
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## **An Archaeological Evaluation at land off Holm Close, Upper Weedon, Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire NGR SP 6204 5903**

**Tim Higgins**

### ***Summary***

*An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at Holm Close, Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 20th-24th January. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by information held in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record indicating that the area was close to know medieval remains. This highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the proposed area for a new residential development. A total of six trenches were to evaluate apparently ‘archaeologically blank’ areas of the site.*

*To the south and east four of the excavated trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits. Dating to the 12th century these may be evidence of the former medieval core of Upper Weedon. To the north-west colluvial deposits were identified with some modern rubble relating to more recent use of the farm.*

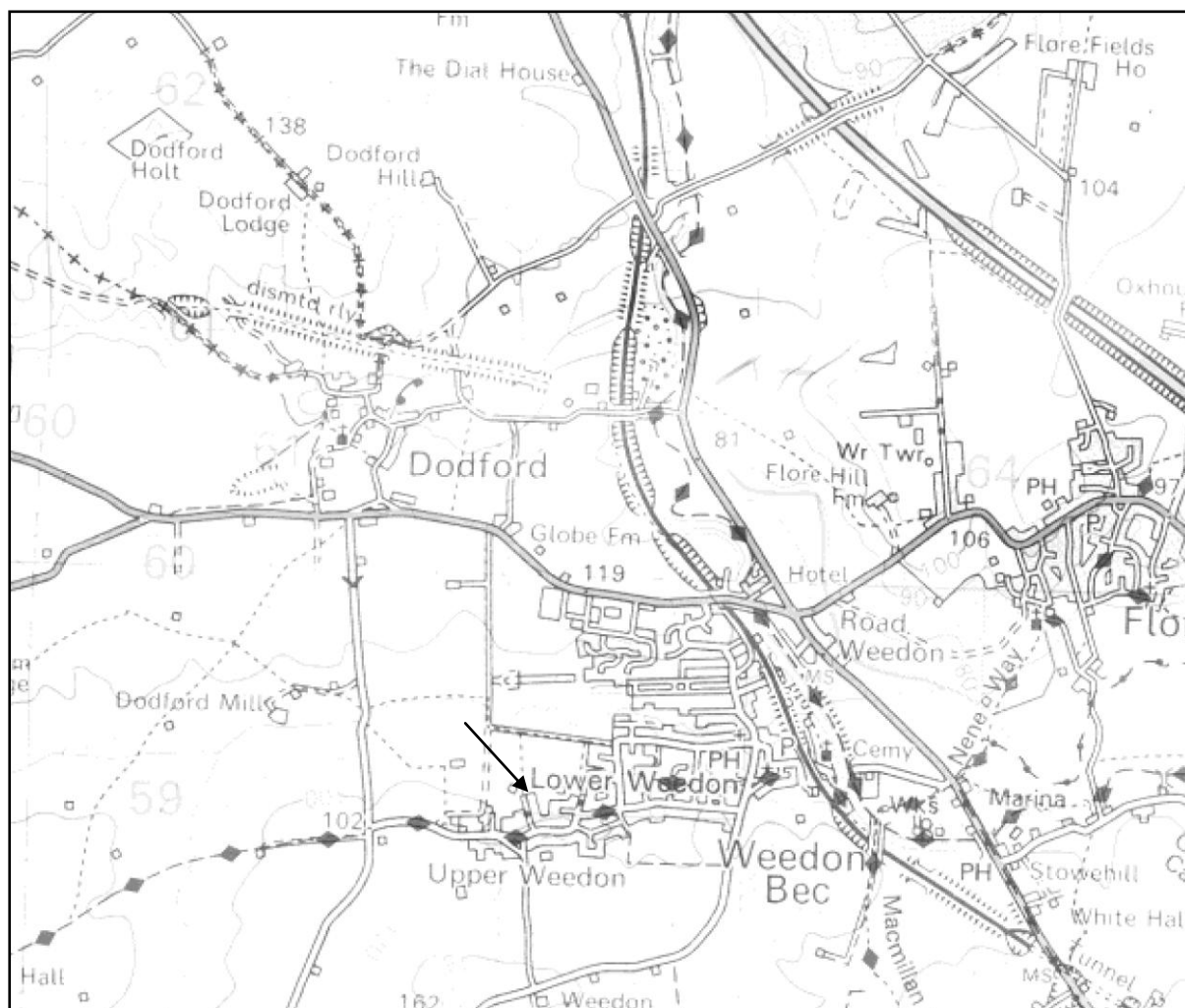
*The site archive will be held by ULAS under the temporary accession number NHWD 2011 until a suitable storage space is allocated for its deposition in Northamptonshire.*

### **1. Introduction**

Planning permission is being sought for a residential development on land at Holm Close, Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire (P/A (DA/2010/0425; NGR SP 6204 5903, Fig.1).

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken between 20th and 24th January 2011. It addresses the requirements of the *Brief For a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at Holm Close, Weedon Northamptonshire* and the *Brief For The Archaeological Field Evaluation Of Land At Holm Close, Weedon, Northamptonshire* (NCC 30.06.2010 – hereinafter ‘Brief’). A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Clay 2010, hereinafter ‘WSI’; Appendix 4). The trial trenching was undertaken to target potential features identified within the geophysical survey as well as evaluate the ‘archaeologically blank’ areas within the previously undeveloped area of the site. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5).

The development area lies to the north of Queen Street, Upper Weedon, south-west of the main settlement of Weedon, and is located at the north end of Holm Close. It is bounded to the north by arable land and on the other three sides by residential development. It is centred on SP 6204 5903 and is irregular with an area of approx 0.75 hectares.



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

## **2. Archaeological and Historical background**

The Historic Environment Record shows that there are no archaeological sites recorded on the development site itself, but does record the medieval village of Upper Weedon, Fernhollow Farm, a 19th century farmhouse with medieval and 17th century origins, and the possible site of a medieval chapel, within 100m of the site. There are also numerous records of earthworks and cropmarks thought to indicate prehistoric, medieval and post- medieval activity in the vicinity. Remnants of the medieval open field system and ridge and furrow cultivation are also preserved.

Weedon Bec is the name of the whole parish, within which there are two ancient settlements, Upper Weedon and Lower Weedon. In the Domesday Book there are two Manors located at Weedon. It is not certain that these represent the same settlements; however, Overseers for the Upper Town and Lower Town undertook the organisation of the Open Fields until about

1625, when reorganisation into one unit seems to have taken place. Until after the Second World War the two settlements were separated by up to half a mile of open agricultural land. The part of the village lying along the main roads, A5 and A45 is known as Road Weedon and developed later. This was probably in response to traffic along the Old Stratford to Dunchurch Turnpike, created by an Act of Parliament in 1706; the first such road in Northamptonshire.

The name Weedon comes from two Anglo-Saxon words: *Weoh*, meaning a Shrine or Holy Place and *Dun*, meaning Hill. The earliest known written occurrence of the name is found in an Anglo-Saxon Charter dated 944 A.D.

The second part of the name, *Bec*, is the name of a village in Normandy, where there was an important Abbey. Some years after the Norman Conquest the Manor of Weedon was given to the Abbey of Bec and the Abbey became Lord of the Manor. Thus the village became known as Weedon Bec. There were a number of Abbeys and Priors in France drawing rents from English Manors. In 1414 King Henry V ordered these 'Alien Priors' to be taken over and the income transferred to the Crown. In about 1472 the Manor was granted by Henry VI to the newly formed Eton College, who remained Lords of the Manor until changes in the law relating to leasehold property in the 1920s (<http://www.weedonbec-pc.gov.uk/index.asp?page=9>).

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. In particular these would target the anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed development
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

### **4. Methodology**

The Brief requested a 2.5% sample with a 0.5% contingency. The WSI stated that a *c.* 2.5% sample is the equivalent of *c.* six 20m x 1.6m trenches totaling *c.* 192 sq m. (WSI Fig 2). A seventh 20m by 1.6 m trench would provide the 0.5% contingency. The exact location of the trenches was modified in view of the on-site constraints including avoiding an access trackway (Figure. 2).

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions. Weather conditions were difficult during the

evaluation and the work had to be interrupted due to snow and deeply frozen ground. However this did not have an impact on the identification and interpretation of the deposits.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. Bulk soil samples were taken as appropriate in order to evaluate the environmental potential of the site. Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g [09], those that are fills are indicated by round brackets e.g (07).

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct (2010)* *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)*.

## **5. Results**

### **Trench 1**

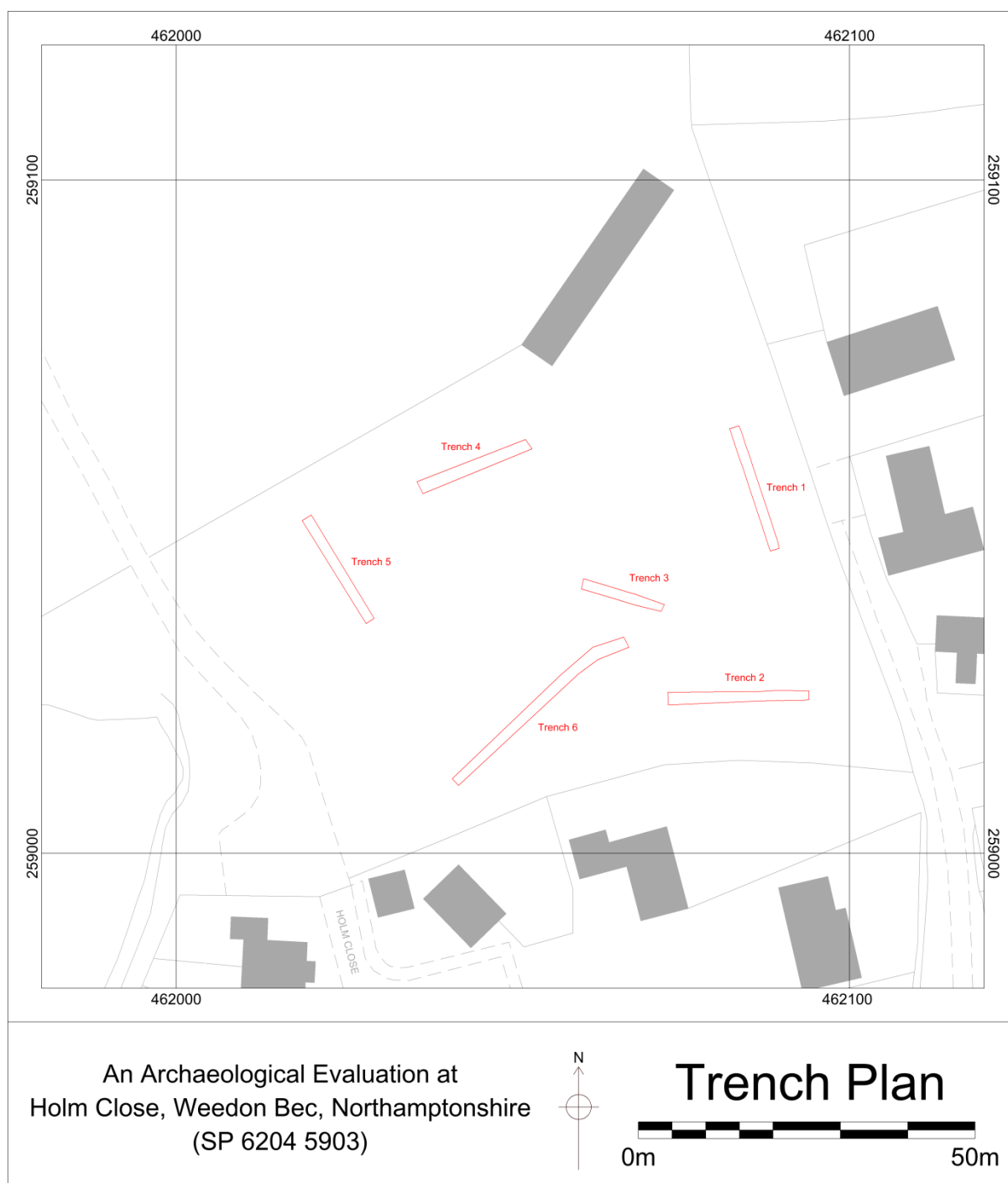
Trench 1 targeted the eastern side of the proposed development and was orientated north to south (Figure 2). A total of five features were present within this trench of which four were linear feature or ditches, [04], [09], [11], and [15], all aligned west to east (Figure 3). A small semi-circular pit feature [13] was located at the south end of the trench running under the west baulk (Figure 3).

Pit [13] was part of sub-circular feature running under the baulk and had shallow steep sloping sides and sloping flat base (Figure 5 section 1.04). It measured 1.60m wide and 0.10m deep. The feature contained mid-light yellow brown clay fill (12) and contained 12th century pottery (Appendix 1).

Feature [04] located towards the north end of the trench was a medium sized feature aligned east to west and was believed to be a perhaps a gulley with a 'V' shaped profile, steep sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 5 section 1.01). The feature spanned the width of the trench and measured 0.50m in width, and 0.15m in depth. The gulley contained a single fill (03) which consisted of mid-grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone (Appendix 2) and 12th century pottery.

A second medium size ditch or gulley [11] was found towards the northern end of the trench and spanned the width of the trench and measured 0.80m wide and a depth of 0.12m. A section excavated across the feature revealed fairly steep sides and flat base (Figure 5 section 1.02). The feature contained a single fill (10), which consisted of mid-grey brown silty-clay mixed with small rounded pebbles.





**Figure 2: Trench location plan**

Towards the centre of the trench a possible ditch [09] was located and comprised an irregular linear feature spanning the trench with gradually sloping sides breaking into a rounded base (Figure 5 section 1.03). The feature measured 0.80m wide and 0.2m deep, with a fill (08) comprising a mid-yellow brown silty-clay. The ditch appeared to be cut by a possible pit or post-hole feature at the eastern end. The full extent of the feature could not be determined as the feature ran under the trench baulk. What was revealed appeared to be sub-circular with steep sides tapering towards a rounded base and measured 0.60m wide and 0.50m deep. The feature contained two fills; a lower fill (06) of mid-grey brown silty-clay, which was sealed

by an upper fill (05) consisting of mid-dark brown grey silty-clay mixed with medium size stones and containing 12th century pottery sherds. A single Roman pottery sherd and daub were also found within this fill (Appendix 1).

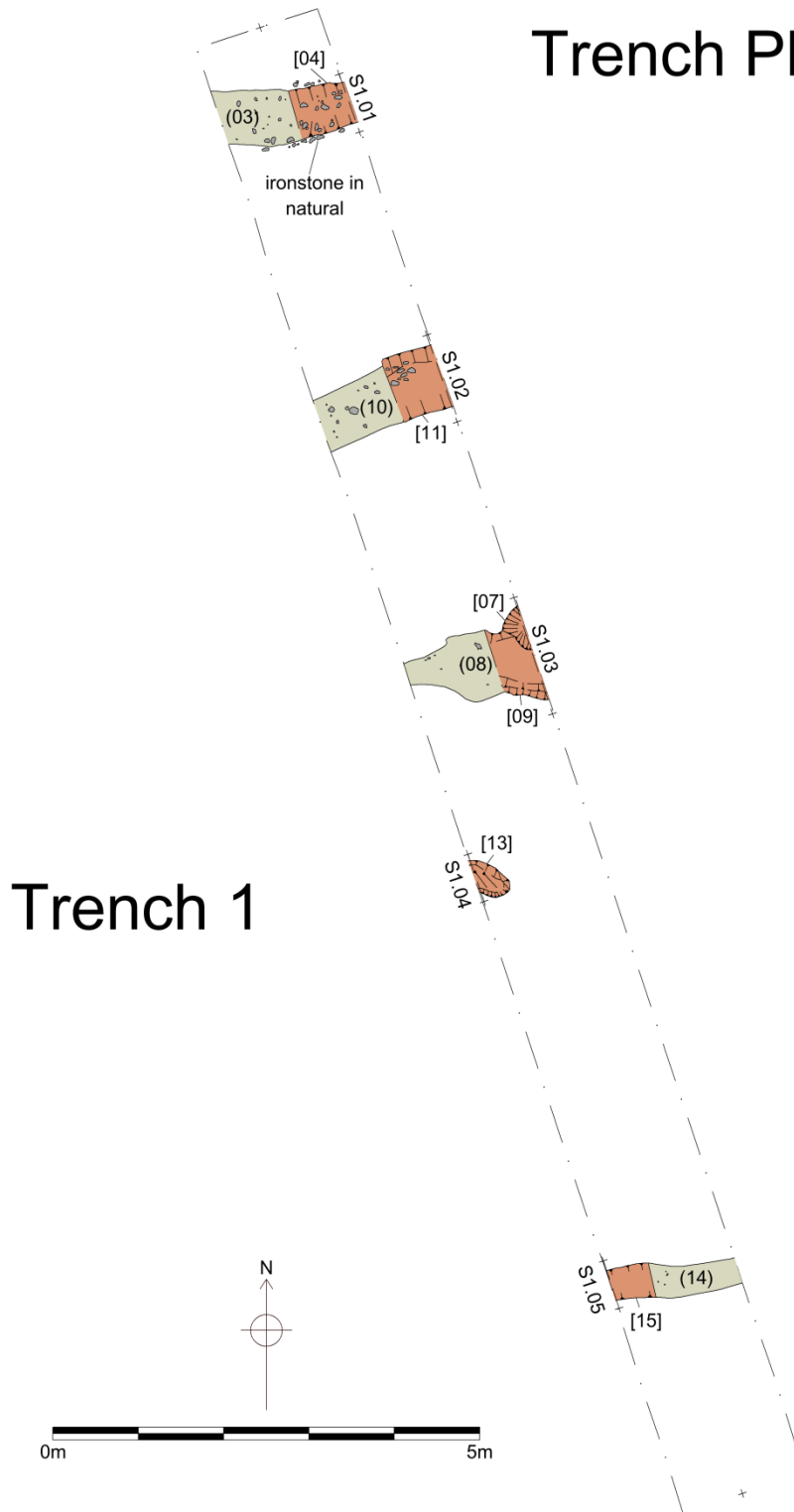
At the southern end of trench the fourth gully feature [15] was located and comprised a truncated narrow linear feature, measuring 0.36m wide and 0.05m deep. A section across the feature revealed shallow gradually sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 5 section 1.05). The fill (14) comprised a mid-dark brown grey clay-silt mixed containing animal bone and a 12th century pottery sherd.



Plate 1 Pit/post-hole cut [07] and ditch cut [09] Trench 1 looking east

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(SP 6204 5903)

# Trench Plans



**Figure 3: Trench 1**

## Trench 2

Trench 2 was located towards the south-east corner of the field and was orientated east to west (Figure 2). At the eastern end of the trench a large linear feature or ditch [32] was observed on a south-east to north-west alignment (Figure 4).

The large ditch [32] feature was found running diagonally across the eastern end of the trench and a section excavated across the feature revealed it had a broad rounded base with gradually sloping sides and measured 1.45m wide and 0.28m deep (Figure 5 section 1.06). The eastern end of the feature was round and appeared to suggest a possible butt end of the ditch. The feature contained a single fill (31) and consisted of mid-brown grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and 12th century pottery sherds. A possible worked stone was also found associated with this fill (Appendix 1).



Plate 2 Ditch cut [32] Trench 2 looking west

## Trench 3

Trench 3 was located towards central area of development area and orientated north-west to south-east (Figure 2). At the centre of the trench a large linear feature or ditch cut [17] was observed with a north to south alignment (Figure 4).

The large ditch [17] measuring 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep, was an irregular linear feature found running diagonally across the centre of the trench and a section excavated across the feature revealed it to have steep sloping sides, and a broad irregular base with steep sloping sides (Figure 5 section 1.08). The feature contained a single fill (16) and consisted of mid-grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and 12th century pottery sherds.

#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was located towards the northern boundary of the development site orientated east to west (Figure 2). Within trench 4 only two modern ceramic pipe field drains were observed orientated north to south and north-west to south-east. The natural substratum was reached after around 0.35m - 0.45m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

#### **Trench 5**

This trench was located towards the north-west corner of the development area and was orientated north to south (Figure 2). This trench suggests that this corner of the development has been disturbed by modern stripping as it contained little or no subsoil. The natural substratum was not reached at a depth of up to 0.80m below the surface but a possible colluvial deposit was seen at the base. The colluvial deposit was sealed by a modern rubble layer of made-up ground between 0.40m and 0.50m deep.

#### **Trench 6**

This trench was located towards the south-west corner of the development area and was orientated south-west to north-east (Figure 2). Feature [20] was located towards west end of the trench and was believed to be a post-hole that was sub-rectangular with gradually sloping sides and an undulating base (Figure 3 and 5 section 4.01). The feature measured 1.00m long and 0.80m in width, and 0.15m deep. The post-hole contained a single fill (19), which consisted of pale grey brown clay mixed with small sub-angular stones, which may have been the remnants of post packing.

A possible sub-rectangular post-hole pit was observed 3.00m further east cut [22] and was running under the south baulk of the trench with a minimum measured length of 1m, a width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.15m. A section excavated across the feature revealed steep sloping sides and flat base (Figure 5 section 4.03). The feature contained a single fill (21), which consisted of mid-grey yellow brown clay mixed with small rounded stones.

Towards the centre of the trench a large pit [24] was located and comprised an irregular linear feature running under the north baulk the trench (Figure 4). A section excavated across the feature revealed a very steep nearly vertical sides but the base was not reached (Figure 5 section 4.02). The potential large pit feature measured 2.75m long with minimum depth of 0.45m. The fill (23) comprised dark grey brown silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, lumps of yellow clay and 12th century pottery sherds.

Further towards the east a possible pit [26] was located but the full extent of the feature could not be determined as it ran under the trench baulk (Figure 4). This feature was cleaned but not excavated, but what was revealed appeared to be sub-rectangular in shape and measured 1.00m long 0.75m wide. The feature contained a fill (25), of brown grey clay mixed with abundant small angular stones and occasional 12th century pottery sherds.

Adjacent to this feature another possible pit [28] was found running under the trench baulk section (Figure 4). This irregular sub-square feature was excavated and revealed a steep

sided shallow feature with a rounded base (Figure 5 section 4.04). The possible pit had a minimum length of 1.50m, 0.65m wide and 0.15m depth. The fill (27) comprised brown-grey clay mixed with large angular stones, lumps of yellow clay, occasional charcoal flecks and a single 12th century pottery sherd.

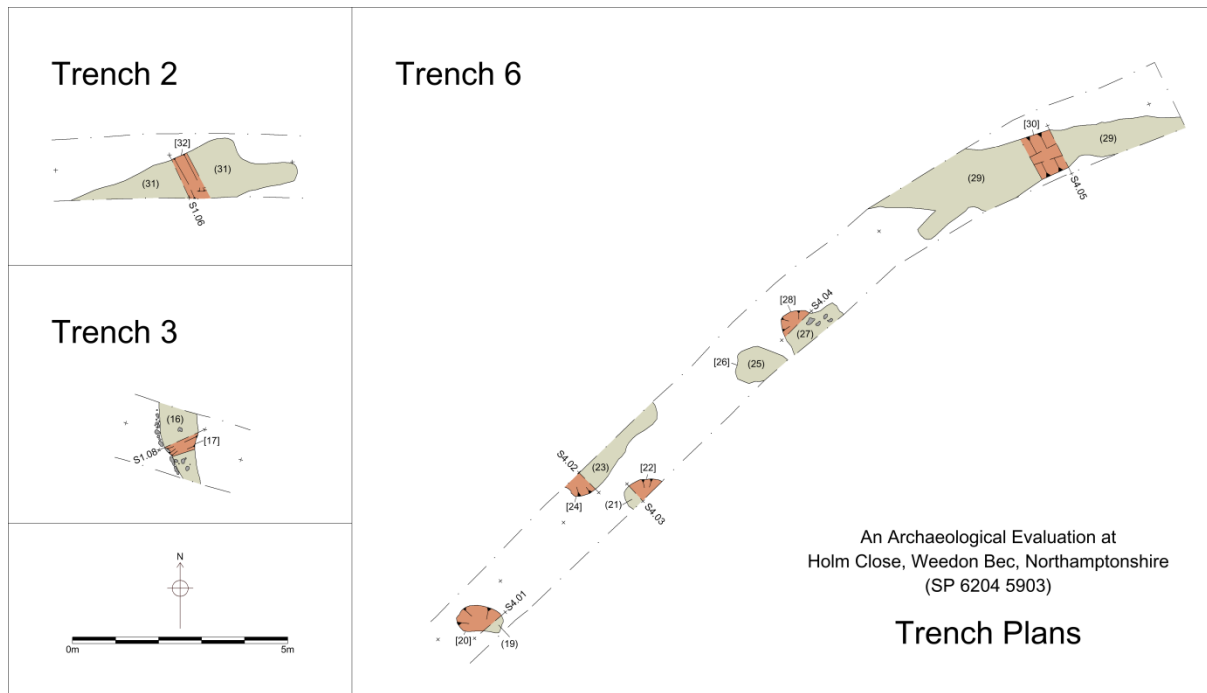
Ditch [30] was a large slightly curvilinear feature aligned north-west to south-east and was located towards the west end of the trench (Figure 4). The ditch was 1.20m in width and 0.20m deep. A section across the ditch revealed a cut with gradually sloping sides at the top breaking into a wide sloping base (Figure 5 section 4.05). The ditch contained a fill (29) comprising a pale grey-brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and 12th century pottery sherds.



Plate 3 Ditch cut [30] Trench 6 looking east



Plate 4 Large pit cut [24] Trench 6 looking east

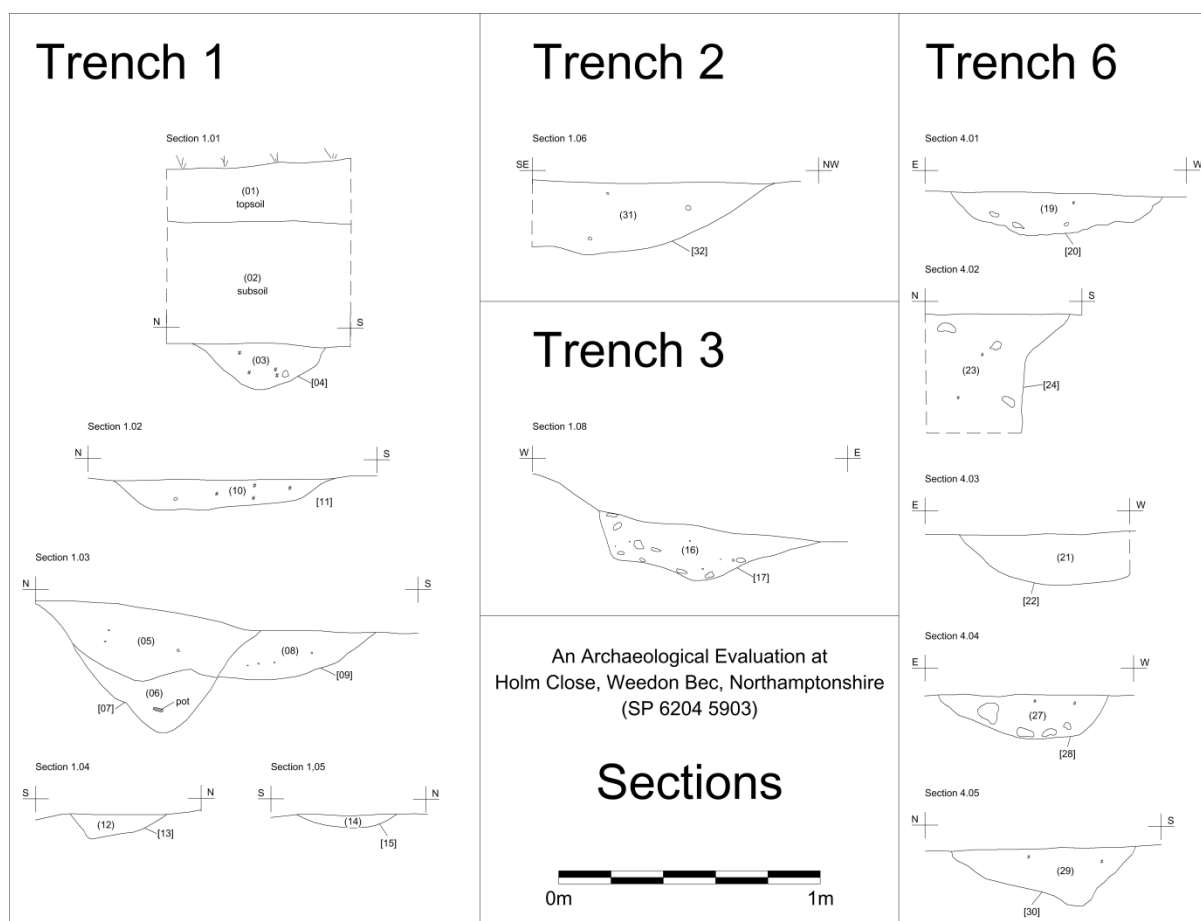


**Figure 4: Trenches 2, 3, and 6**

**Trench Descriptions**

Trench	Orientation	Length(m)	Average depth (m)	Notes description	Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum
1	North to South	20.00m	0.65m	Five linear features [04], [07], [09], [11], [15] and one possible post-hole [13]	0.50m natural
2	West to East	20.00m	0.60m	One linear feature [32]	0.45m natural
3	North-West to South-East	15.00m	0.50m	One linear feature ditch	0.45m natural
4	West to East	20.00m	0.55mm	Two ceramic field drains	0.50m natural
5	North to South	20.00m	0.75m	Negative modern disturbance	0.36m Colluvial deposit
6	North East South West	30.00m	0.50m	Five possible pits or post holes [20], [22], [24], [26], [28]and ditch [30]	1.00m natural





**Figure 5: Sections**

## 6. Discussion

Four out of the six evaluation trenches (trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6; Figure 6) contained sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest the spread of activity was confined to the eastern half of the development area. The bulk of the archaeological evidence recorded from the evaluation reflects early medieval activity in the form of pits and ditches, however a single residual sherd of Roman pottery was found in a post-hole suggesting possible activity from that period within the vicinity. Four relatively large ditches were found within the trenches [09] (Trench 1), [32] (Trench 2), [17] (Trench 3) and [30] (Trench 6). Presumably the ditches may relate to some form of boundary activity for fields or plots owing to their projected layout suggesting a possible 'grid' system (Figure 6). A scatter of pits and smaller gully features located between these potential plots, and some pottery and animal bone (Appendix 2) were found associated within their fills. There is also the potential for the survival of charred plant remains (below Appendix 3). The bulk of the pottery was dated to the 12th century (Appendix 1) suggesting perhaps domestic occupation from this period nearby. Such activity may relate to structures facing onto Queen Street located 100m to the south of the development

The western half of the development area appears to be on a natural incline down towards the north-west and two trenches (trenches 4 and 5) located within this area contained no archaeological features apart from the modern field drains in trench 4. Trench 5 appeared to be in an area that may have been previously stripped and contained colluvial deposits rather

than the natural substratum. Layers of modern rubble had been deposited to reduce the natural incline. Directly to the west of trench 5 modern services were observed suggesting probably further modern disturbance within this area of the development.

## **7. Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation has revealed extensive, fairly well preserved archaeological remains in the eastern half of the development area. There is likely to be extensive modern disturbance in areas in the western half of the development.

The remains of medieval plot systems and associated features, formed the bulk of the remains, which yielded a small assemblage of 12th century pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains, indicating perhaps domestic activity nearby.

The archaeological remains on the site if fully investigated could help provide answers to some key questions regarding the early development of Weedon Bec and Upper Weedon. Further investigation of the medieval activity would give valuable information concerning the date, nature and development of the historic core of Weedon Bec and Upper Weedon and may reveal associated structural activity.

## **8. Archive and Publication**

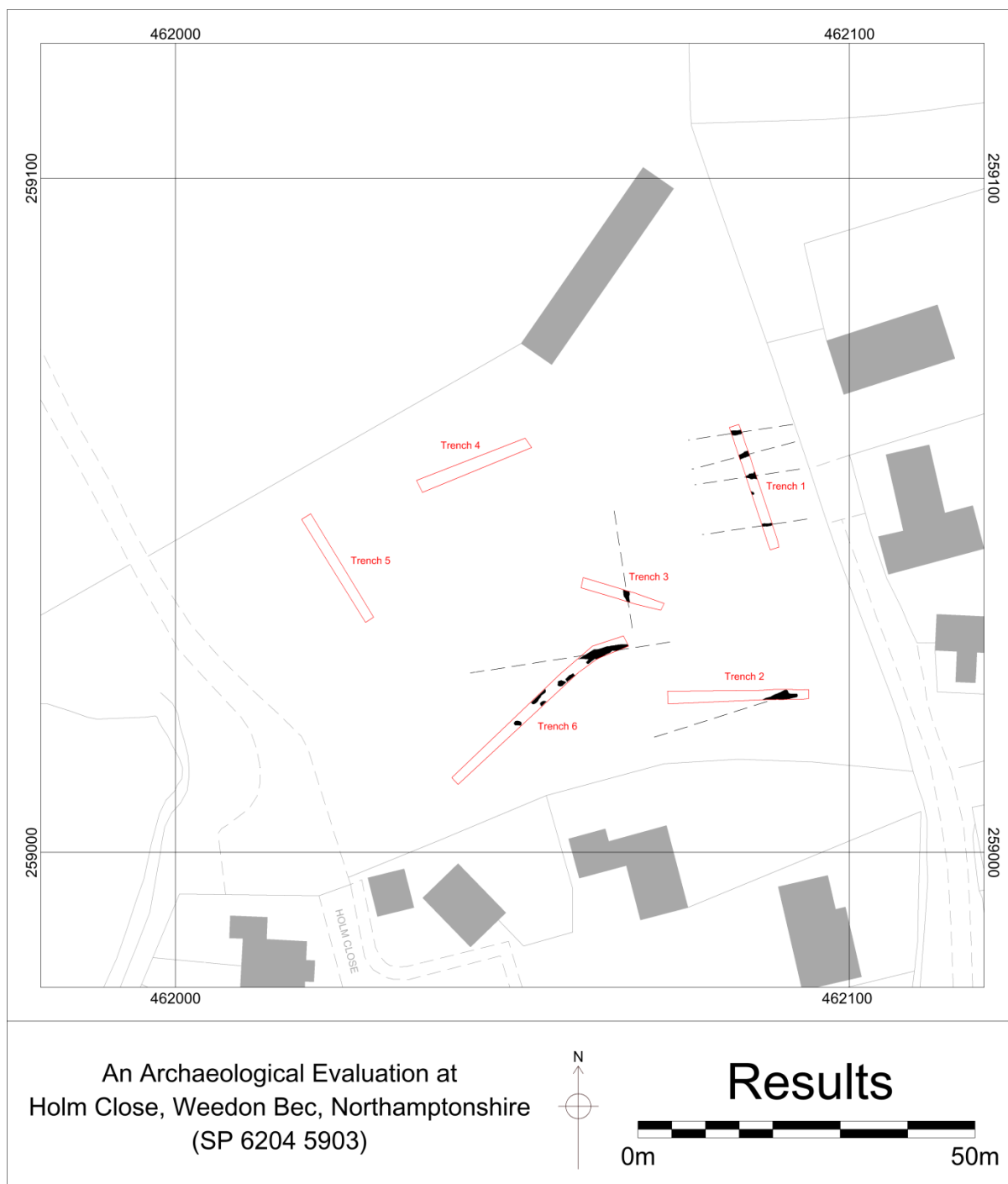
The site archive will be held by ULAS under the temporary accession number NHWD 2011 until a suitable storage space is allocated for its deposition in Northamptonshire.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 6 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Context summary sheet
- 32 A5 Context Sheets
- 2 A4 Photo record sheets
- 1 A4 Drawing Record
- 1 A4 Sample Index
- 4 A2 Plan and section drawing sheets
- Black and white contact print & 51 Black and white picture negatives
- A4 Colour digital contact print & 1 CD of 51 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universi1-91275. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in *Northamptonshire Archaeology* in due course.



**Figure 6: Trenches with projected ditch alignments**

## 9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Steve Baker. Mathew morris prepared the plans and Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. The pottery and miscellaneous finds were identified by Deborah Sawday, Jennifer Browning identified the animal bone and

Anita Radini analysed the environmental material, all of ULAS. The client kindly provided the Plant.

## 10. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2010, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: Holm Close, Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 6204 5903) ULAS Specification 11-535 (Appendix 4 of this report).*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

[www.weedonbec-pc.gov.uk](http://www.weedonbec-pc.gov.uk) Weedon Bec Parish Council *History of Weedon Bec.* Reproduced with permission from Mike Rumbold of the Weedon Bec History Society from a document of April 2003. Accessed 25.01.2011.

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31.01.2011

## **Appendix 1 The Post-Roman Pottery**

*Deborah Sawday*

### **The Finds**

#### **Pottery**

Twenty-eight sherds of pottery weighing 369.5 grams were recovered and catalogued by context with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999) and the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 1). The fabric identifications, which may need some revision, were undertaken to facilitate the possible dating of the backfill of the contexts listed below. However, in view of the small size of the pottery assemblage, the dating evidence must also be treated with some caution

One sherd, weighing 11g, of Roman Oxidised ware was residual in the post-hole or pit [7] in Trench 1. Single fragments of Saxo Norman St Neots ware/type ware, were recovered from the trench or post-hole [13] and the gully [15] in trench 1, and the post-hole or pit [28] in trench 6. The post-hole or pit [7] in trench 1 produced Sandy Coarse ware and a ‘top hat’ jar rim (Blinkhorn 2009, fig.6.13) in St Neots or Shelly Coarseware, possibly dating from the 12th century. Pottery dating from the 12th century, including Shelly Coarsewares and Oolitic wares, was also recovered from the in the gully [4] in trench I and the pits [24] and [26] in Trench 6., and the ditch [32] in trench 2. The boundary ditches [17] in trench 3 and [30] in trench 6 both contained Lyveden Stanion ‘A’ ware, dating from *c.*1150.

The pottery was fragmentary; the St Neots water/type ware had an average sherd weight of only 4 grams, whilst the average sherd weight for the whole assemblage was only approximately 13 grams. Much of the material has a degree of abrasion and was clearly not primary refuse, but it does suggest that there may have been occupation in the vicinity.

#### **Miscellaneous Finds**

A fragment of burnt earthenware or daub and what may be part of a worked stone were recovered in contexts [7] in trench 1 and [32] in trench 2 respectively.

#### **Bibliography**

Blinkhorn, P., 2009 ‘The pottery from Langham Road and Burystead’ in M. Audouy and A. Chapman (eds) *Raunds: the origins and growth of a midland village, AD450-1500. Excavations in north Raunds, Northamptonshire 1977-87: Raunds Area Project.* Oxbow, Exeter, 173-193.

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Northamptonshire CTS - Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type-Series

Table 1: The medieval pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

Context	Fabric/Ware	N os	Grams	Comments
3 [4] T1 gully	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	0.5	Body sherd
3 [4]	CTS 330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	24	Jar rim – upright, externally thickened
5 [7] T1 ?post hole/pit	CTS 100/330 - St Neots ware/type/Shelly Coarseware	1	23	Jar rim – top hat form associated with ceramic phase LS3 and LS4 at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2009, fig.6.13)
5 [7]	Oxidised Sandy ware	1	11	Roman
5 [7]	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	5	body
5 [7]	?CTS 303 – Sandy Coarse ware	2	42	Handmade/wheel finished jug, collared rim, with rectangular rouletting on the neck
12 [13] T1 ?trench /post hole	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	4	Body
14 [15] T1 gully	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	5	
16 [17] T3 boundary ditch	CTS 319 – Lyveden/ Stanion ‘A’ ware	1	68	Jug rim and handle –
16 [17]	CTS 319 – Lyveden/ Stanion ‘A’ ware	1	21	Pos LY?
23 [24] T6 pit	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	5	Convex basal angle, small vessel, reduced black throughout –
23 [24]	CTS 207, 208,209 - Oolitic ware	1	7	Hard fired + rounded grey ?grog inclusions
23 [24]	CTS 330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	2	body
23 [24]	?CTS 301– Calcareous Sandy Coarseware	1	30	Jar rim
25 [26] T6 unex. pit	CTS 330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	4	
27 [28] T6 pit/p.hole	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	6	Base frag
29 [30] T6 boundary ditch	CTS 100 - St Neots ware/type	1	3	Everted and externally thickened jar rim fragment
29 [30]	CTS – 208/209 – Cotswolds/South Lincs. Oolitic ware 11	1	23	Basal angle, flat – harsh surfaces ?12C+
29 [30]	CTS 330 – Shelly Coarse ware	3	39	Convex base, hand made
29 [30]	CTS 319 – Lyveden/ Stanion ‘A’ ware	1	15	Handmade body
31 [32] T2 boundary ditch	?CTS 301 – Calcareous Sandy Coarseware	1	17	Abraded, wheel thrown, body sherd, sooted ext
31 [32]	CTS 330 – Shelly Coarse ware	4	15	Abraded/leached, 2 burnt ext surfaces
MISC.				
5 [7] T1	Earthenware	1		Fired clay/daub
31 [32] T2	Stone	1		?worked

Site/ Parish: Holm Close, Weedon Beck, Northants. Accession No.: NHWD 2011 Document Ref: weedon1.docx Material: pottery Site Type: village core, smv	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 26.01.11 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 10-452
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## Appendix 2 Animal Bones

Jennifer Browning

The animal bone recovered by hand during the evaluation was rapidly scanned, primarily to assess preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential should the site progress to excavation.

All the features have been dated to the medieval period (D. Sawday pers. comm). Animal bones were recovered from the fills of two ditches [32] (31); [29] (30) and two gulleys [15], (14); [4] (3). The remains of cattle, sheep/goat and dog were identified in the assemblage and ditch [32] produced the largest number of bones and greatest species variety. Although the material was fragmented, the surface condition was generally well-preserved enough to retain details and both gnawing and cut marks were identified. The evidence therefore suggests that bone survival is fairly good on the site and that a larger sample would have the potential to provide useful insights into species present, butchery, pathologies and the age profiles of the animals. Material from any future work could be compared with that from other rural settlements excavated in the area, such as West Cotton (Albarella and Davis 2010) and Burystead and Langham Road (Davis 2009).

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature	No.	Description
1	3	4	East-west gully	1	Large mammal shaft fragment
1	14	15	gully	7	Fragmented cattle femur (distal shaft), gnawed
6	29	30	ditch	1	cattle metatarsal, (proximal, heavily gnawed)
2	31	32	ditch	20	Cattle: pelvis (4 fragments), metatarsal (2 fragments, rodent gnawing); sheep/goat astragalus (cut marks on distal end), dog skull fragments, including occipital condyle (x7); large mammal fragments (x4); medium mammal fragments (x2);

Table 1: Summary of faunal remains from the evaluation

## References

Albarella, U. and Davis, S. J.M. 2010 'The Animal bone' in A. Chapman *West Cotton, Raunds: A study of medieval settlement dynamics AD 450–1450* Oxford: Oxbow Books, 516-537

Davis, S. J. M., 2009 'Animal Bones from Langham Road and Burystead' in M. Audouy and A. Chapman *Raunds: the origin and growth of a midland village AD450-1500: Excavations in north Raunds, Northamptonshire 1977-1987* Oxford: Oxbow Books, 214-221

### Appendix 3 Potential for environmental analysis

Anita Radini

#### Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation, eleven samples were taken from ditches, gullies, pits and linear features. In order to assess the potential for environmental analysis a sub-sample of 500ml of each sample was examined. The results of the preliminary screening are shown in Table 1, where visible presence of charcoal/charcoal flecks, bones, charred seeds/fruits, modern root fragments were noted down, together with an evaluation of potential for environmental analysis.

#### Discussion

All samples consisted mainly of greenish brown silty-clay soils. All samples had some small modern root fragments, suggesting a degree of bio-disturbance.

Sample 3 (08), from a gully, samples 5 (31) and 6 (16), from ditches, and sample 8 (29), from a linear feature, have similar characteristics containing visible fragments of charcoal and possibly charred seeds. Moreover, visible fragments of bones were observed in samples 5, 6 and 8. Samples 10 (23) from a pit has the highest potential for environmental analysis among the eleven samples screened with fragments of charcoal, possibly charred seeds and bones seemed in higher quantity than in the other samples.

The remaining samples (see Table 1) consisted of brown clay and they appeared sterile to a preliminary analysis. No charcoal flakes or any other charred remains were visible. These samples have low potential for plant remains.

**Table 1:** NHWD2011, potential for environmental analysis

Sample No.	Context	Cut	Feature type	Charcoal	Charred seeds	Bone fragments	Modern Root	Potential for plant remains
1	3	4	gully				x	possibly sterile
2	10	11	gully				x	possibly sterile
3	8	9	gully	x	possibly		x	good
4	14	15	gully				x	low
5	31	32	ditch	x	possibly	x	x	high
6	16	17	ditch	x	possibly	x	x	high
7	27	28	post-hole				x	low
8	29	30	linear feature	x		x	x	good
9	19	20	post-hole				x	low
10	23	24	pit	x	possibly	x	x	high
11	21	22	pit				x	low

x=present, clearly visible; possibly=need further processing to be certain



## **Conclusions**

Five of the eleven samples examined from the site indicate good potential for environmental analysis. It is therefore very important that appropriate environmental samples will be taken in any future excavation in the area, which might provide evidence of food production and consumption taking place nearby the site.

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