

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

46-48 High Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire

ARS Report N°: 2022/93
OASIS ID: archaeol5-507786



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Archaeological Excavation at 46-48 High Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire

ARS LTD REPORT 2022/93



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Planning Reference: WNS/2021/0209/FUL
Local Authority: West Northamptonshire Council
Site central NGR: SP 69110 60685
OASIS ID: archaeol5-507786



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name: 46-48 High Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire
Site Code: ENN110636
Planning Authority: West Northamptonshire Council
Planning Reference: WNS/2021/0209/FUL
Location: 46-48 High Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire, NN7 4BS
Parish: Harpole
Hard Geology: Marlstone Rock Formation
Superficial Geology: None
Soil Type: Soilscape 8: Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
NGR: SP 69110 60685
Date of Fieldwork: 16.05.2022-23.05.2022
Date of Report: 29.06.2022

In February 2022, archaeological evaluation trenching conducted by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Browns Developments Ltd confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on the site. ARS Ltd was subsequently commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip, map, and sample excavation to determine the form, extent, and survival of the archaeological remains on site.

The work was required as a planning condition prior to conversion of the Bull Inn to housing and construction of two detached houses with associated garages, parking, and amenities space.

The excavation was undertaken in May 2022 in accordance with a written scheme of works agreed with the West Northamptonshire Council archaeological planning advisor.

The excavation was split between two areas, Area 1 (on the eastern part of the site) and Area 2 (on the western part of the site).

Archaeological remains were uncovered within Area 1 relating to a selection of ditches and pits in the eastern part of the area which produced Roman pottery, animal bone and a single glass bead. Several undated features occurred on the western part of the area including a ditch and several discrete features. Along the northern edge of Area 1 a further ditch was also noted possibly acting as terracing of the site down to the level of the High Street to the north. Recent 18th-19th century land drains were also noted on site, as well as the remains of a post-medieval extension to the pub-building and associated cellar.

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I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Scope of Work

1.1.1 A planning application WNS/2021/0209/FUL was submitted to West Northamptonshire Council for the conversion of The Bull Inn, demolition of a single storey side extension, and construction of two detached houses with associated garages, parking, and amenities space.

1.1.2 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process under paragraph 194 of *The National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; MHCLG 2022), “...where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”

1.1.3 In accordance with the NPPF, Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Browns Developments Ltd to undertake archaeological strip, map, and sample excavation at 46-48 High Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire (Figure 1, NGR SP 69110 60685).

1.1.4 The strip, map and sample excavation targeted two areas, Area 1 being an L-shaped excavation extending 13m northeast-southwest and 14m southeast-northwest, and Area 2 being a rectangular excavation 6m x 9m. The Area 1 was located over the eastern end of Trench 1 (Danter 2022), while Area 2 was located c.8m west of Area 1 and extended west from the western end of Trench 1 (see Figure 2).

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The proposed development area is indicated in red on Figure 1 and consists of the former Bull Inn, the grassed beer garden to its south and a rectangular car park to the west with a strip of vegetation along its northern side. The site is located within the village of Harpole, c.6km west of Northampton. The site is bounded to the north by High Street, to the west by Park Lane and to the south and east by neighbouring properties. The site is roughly centred at NGR SP 69110 60685 and encompassed a total area of 0.167ha.

1.2.2 The topographic survey shows the site to lie at 79.2–76.9m above Ordnance Datum (AAH Planning Consultants 2021). The site is on the lower slopes of the Upper Nene Valley at the southernmost edge of the historic core and is located with a south-facing aspect slightly above the flood plain, c.1km to the north-east of the River Nene. Within the bounds of the site the north-west end is higher than surrounding areas, sloping down gently to the south-east and more sharply onto the surrounding streets to the north and west.

1.3 Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology consists of Marlstone Rock Formation – limestone, ferruginous bedrock geology (British Geological Survey 2022). No superficial geology is noted for the site.

1.3.2 The soils are characterised by the Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute as Soilscape 8, which are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2022).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 The work conducted in producing the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Lavender 2022) and the evaluation trenching report for this site (Danter 2022) produced an archaeological and historical background for the site the key findings of which have been copied below for ease of reference.

1.4.2 Neolithic finds (HER1580/0/1) consist of an arrowhead and worked flint, which were recovered c.320m north of the site.

1.4.3 A Roman find spot (HER5410/0/0) appears to have been interpreted as settlement evidence (HER5410) and consisted of 2nd - 3rd century pottery, tiles and oyster shell and was recovered c.416m north-west of the site during works undertaken in 1971. A scheduled Roman villa is also located to the north of the parish at Glebe/Hill Farm.

1.4.4 A large-scale geophysical survey (ENN109198) covering c.110ha was undertaken by in 2015 and identified likely Iron Age and Roman field systems. Geophysical survey in 2013 (ENN106813) and trial trench evaluation in 2014 (ENN108082) were undertaken c.280m to the south of the site. These identified trace remnants of a prehistoric field system suspected to be Iron Age. The majority of archaeology was medieval ridge and furrow cultivation to the south of the village.

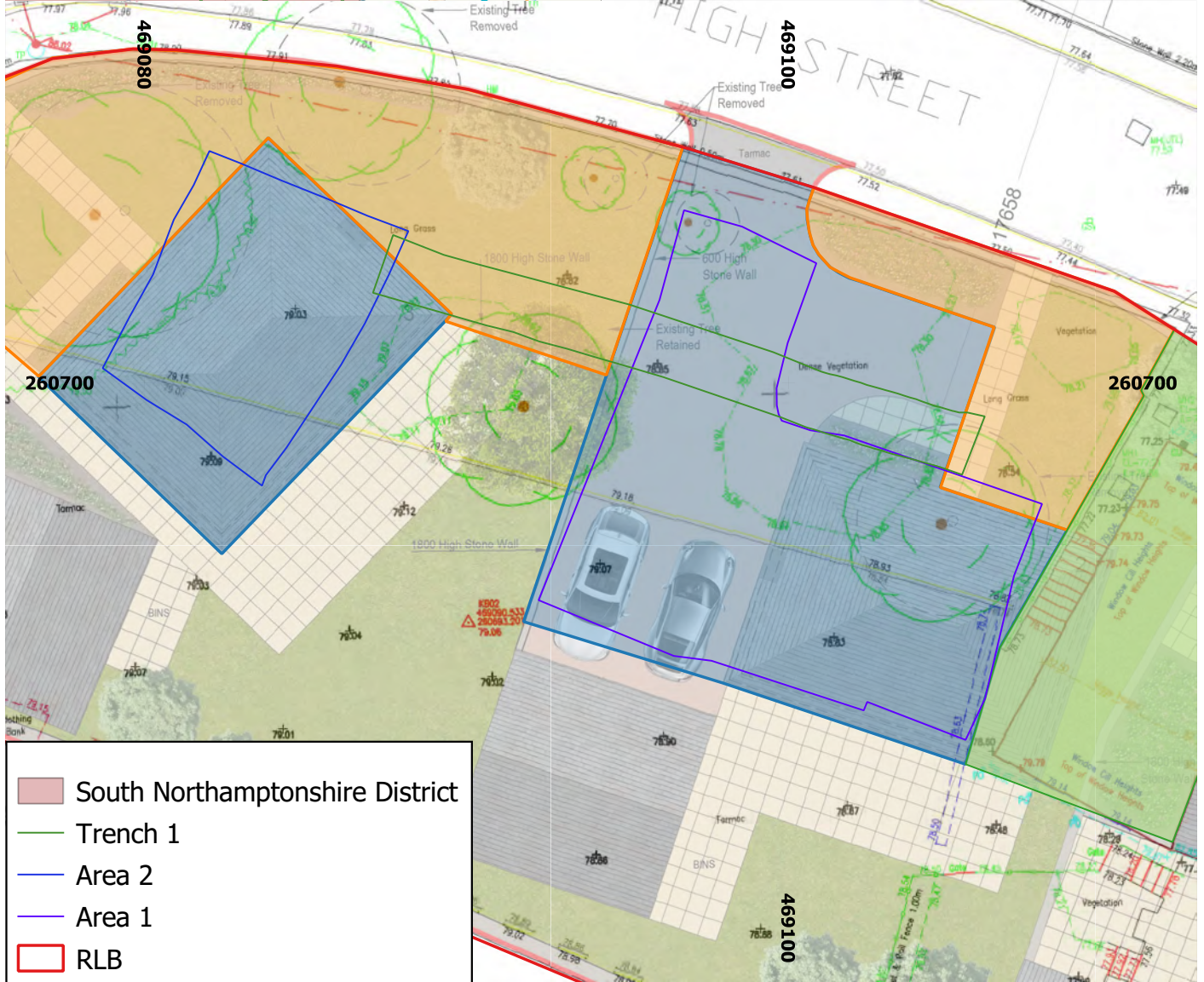
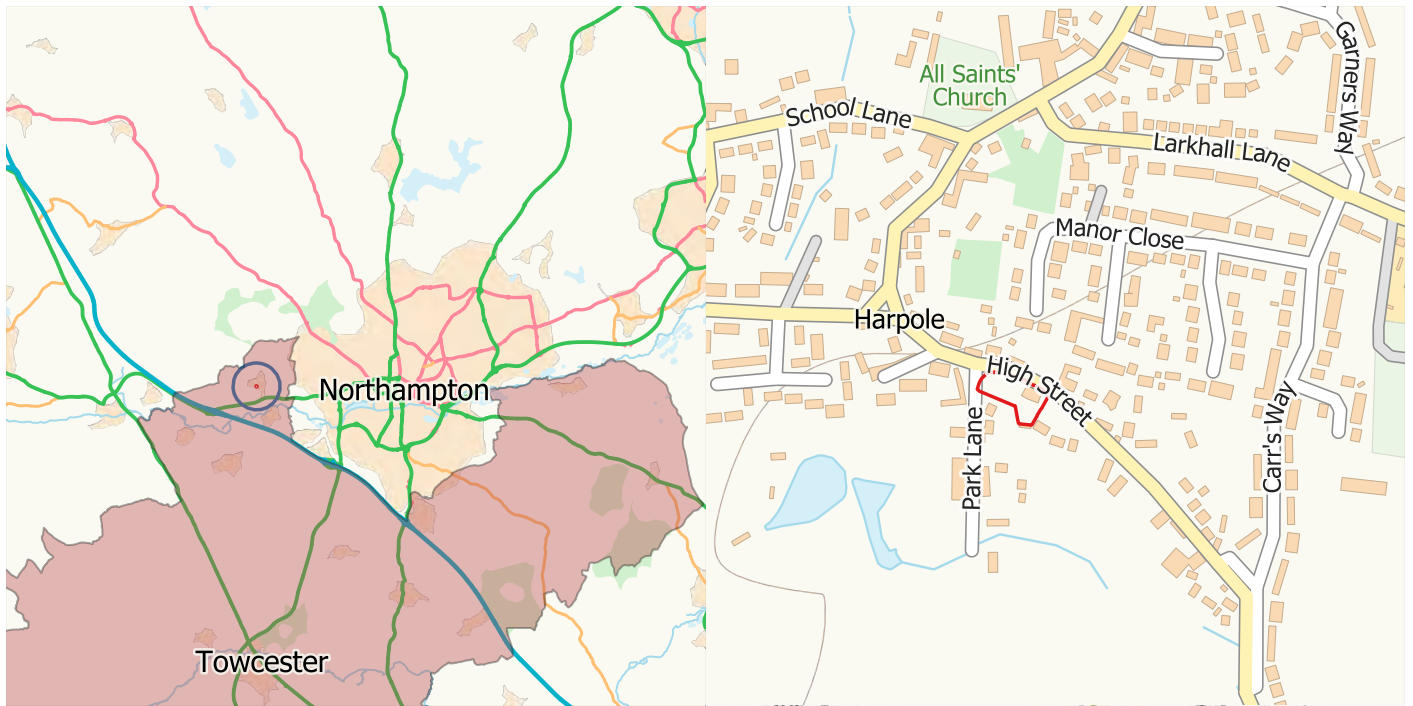
1.4.5 The Domesday Survey recorded Harpole as a manor established prior to the Norman Conquest, this, and the late Saxon font “in the parish church” points to a pre-Conquest origin (All Saints church, HER939/1/1; Field 2021).

1.4.6 The medieval settlement at Harpole developed between two manorial holdings, Tanfield Manor and the St Hillery Manor (later Vaux Manor), with the parish church located between the two, connected by the High Street (Field 2021). The location of Vaux Manor has been debated with locations suggested at the site of ‘The Motts’ (HER939/2/1) c.294m north-west of the site, or in the area neighboring the ‘Old Rectory’ (HER939/0/9) in ‘Knight’s Close’ (HER939/0/29). Excavation at Knight’s Close in 1996 (ENN14712), c.400m north-west of the site, was interpreted as the remains of an ornamental garden, possibly relating to the location of Vaux Manor.

1.4.7 The location of Tanfield Manor is suggested as “the current agricultural field south of Grange Farm” (South Northamptonshire Council 2012), which would place it c.650m away from the site to the north-east.

1.4.8 With both of these manors theorised to be located north of the site, it is less likely that the site would have sat within the historic medieval core of the settlement. This is primarily due to the site’s proximity to the High Street frontage and the finds of medieval material further along the road. One of these find spots relates to an Elizabethan groat (1560-1) and sherds of medieval pottery recovered in 1969 (HER939/0/2), c.200m east of the site. The other relates to unstratified Lyveden ware pottery recovered during excavation for foundations of the Baptist Church, c.162m south-east of the site.

1.4.9 Most monument records relate to post-medieval activity within the village, with 21 Listed buildings within a 500m radius relating to this period, as well as remains of an ornamental garden. An Ordnance Survey map from 1834 shows buildings ‘fronting onto both Park Lane and High Street’ (Field 2021). These buildings are absent on later maps and are likely to have been removed during the mid-19th century, when the western part of the plot is shown as open ground. It should be noted that the 1834 survey was a preliminary to the First Edition Ordnance Survey and is recorded at 6” scale, rather than the more accurate 25” scale.



- South Northamptonshire District
- Trench 1
- Area 2
- Area 1
- RLB

Site name: The Bull, 46-48 High St, Harpole
 Date: April 2022
 Drawn by: JL
 Scale: Varies



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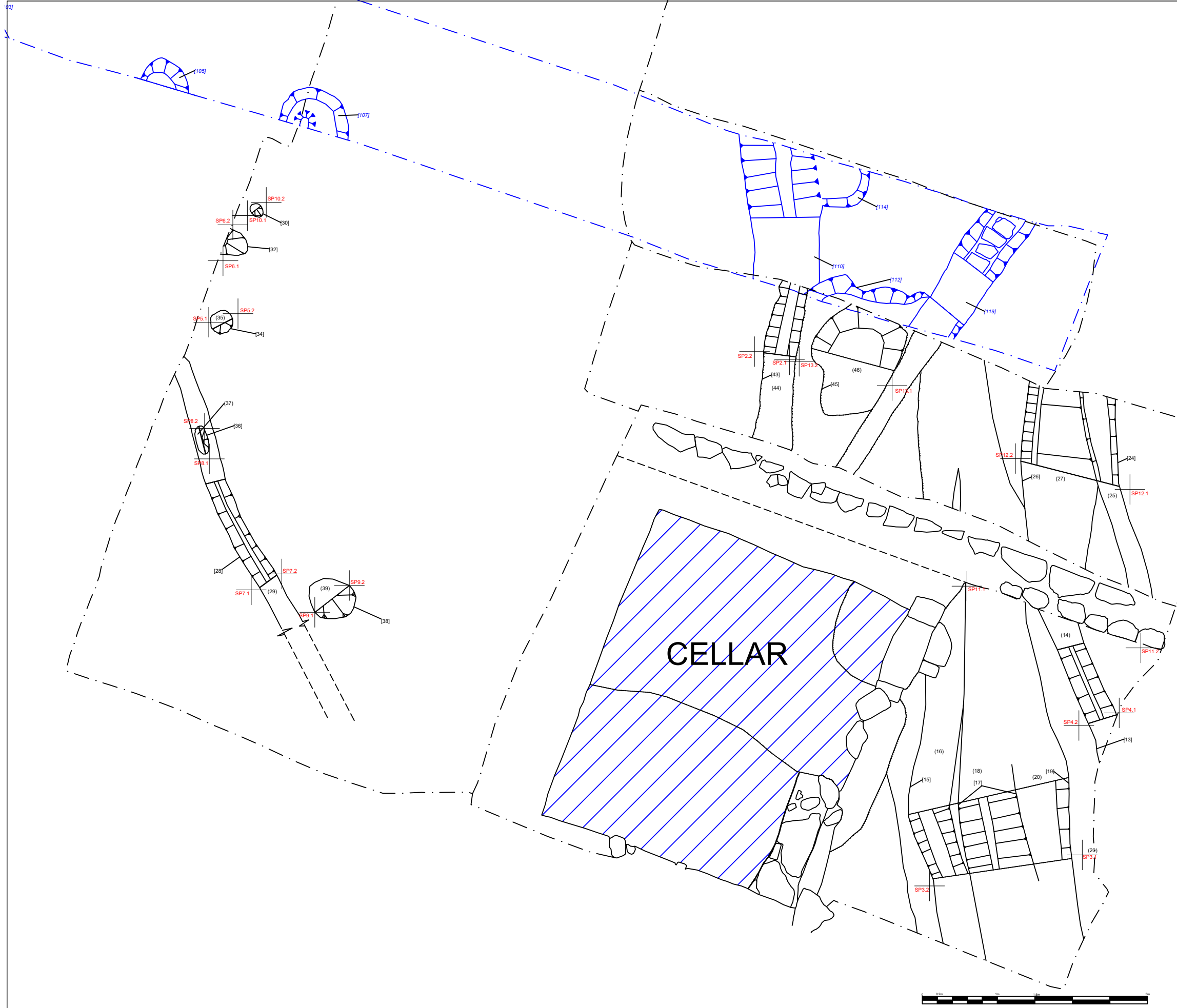


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Figure 1:
Site location

Figure 2: Plan of Area 1

Limit of Excavation
Trench



Site name: 46-48 High Street, Harpole
Date: 01.07.22
Drawn by: TP

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2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Excavation Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the fieldwork is to *'to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportional to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.'* (MHCLG 2021, para 205).

2.2 Project Objectives

- 2.2.1 The objectives of excavation are to investigate all archaeological remains within the extent of excavation in order to:
- ◆ excavate, sample, record and interpret all archaeological features and deposits found;
 - ◆ recover artefacts and ecofacts to evidence the character, nature and function of the remains and provide datable materials to aid in establishing their chronological sequence and the processes of archaeological deposition;
 - ◆ establish the significance of the archaeological remains;
 - ◆ interpret and understand the evidence in relation to the surrounding landscape and within a wider regional and national context.

2.3 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.3.1 Research topics identified in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012; 2022) with relevance to the site include:

High Medieval (1066–1485) – Rural Settlement

- ◆ How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?
- ◆ How can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution, and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics?

Post-Medieval (1485–1750) – Rural settlement patterns and building traditions

- ◆ Can we develop as an aid to academic study and conservation management a regional typology of farmhouses, barns, and other rural vernacular buildings?
- ◆ What was the impact of industrialization upon established settlement patterns and the rural landscape, and how did this vary regionally?

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The methodology for the excavation is set out in detail in the WSI (Lavender 2022). It details the excavation of two principal areas, each relating to the footprint of proposed development within the site. Area 1 on the east part of the site relates to the footprint of a detached house and driveway, while Area 2 on the west part of the site relates to the footprint of another detached house.

3.1.2 A site monitoring visit was held with Liz Mordue, Archaeological Planning Advisor for West Northamptonshire Council on the 20th May 2022, prior to backfilling.

3.2 Coverage

3.2.1 The location of the two excavation areas is depicted in Figures 1 and 2.

- ◆ Area 1 – is an L-shaped strip running northeast-southwest, then returning to the southeast. It covers an area of c.130m² and extends from the western side of the former Bull Inn, and north to the High Street.
- ◆ Area 2 – is a rectangular strip oriented northeast-southwest. It covers an area of 54m² and is located in the western part of the site.

3.3 Professional Standards

3.3.1 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2021) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2020a).

3.4 Health and Safety

3.4.1 All works were undertaken in full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and with the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

3.4.2 A risk assessment was produced before commencement of the work and was adhered to throughout the course of the fieldwork.

3.5 Fieldwork

3.5.1 The excavation areas had been laid out on site by the client (Browns Development Ltd) in accordance with their build plan.

3.5.2 Site recording for the excavation area was conducted using a Leica Smartrover GPS working to a tolerance of +/-0.05m and was used to record known points on drawn plans and sections and to take spot heights within the trench. All features were tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid and all spot heights expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3.5.3 Overburden was removed in level spits down to the first archaeological horizon using a tracked excavator equipped with a 1.8m and 0.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological direction. In places the depth of excavation ran deeper to show underlying archaeological layers beneath post-medieval horizons.

3.5.4 The overburden across the area was machine excavated down to the top of the archaeological horizon under archaeological direction (Figure 3). The depth of the trenches did not exceed the maximum safe working depth of 1.2m below ground level (BGL) or an appropriate lesser depth where substrate was identified as unstable.



Figure 3: Excavation of Area 1 in progress, looking northeast

3.5.5 Excavation areas were cleaned by hand in order to expose and define any features in the area.

3.5.6 All archaeological features were drawn and recorded at an appropriate scale and were sample excavated in accordance with the WSI (Lavender 2022). All trenches and features were accurately recorded in accordance with the company *Field Recording Manual* (ARS Ltd 2020). Written records were kept on *pro forma* recording sheets and a stratigraphic matrix was compiled for each trench where multiphase deposits were present.

3.5.7 All features were digitally photographed using a Fuji FinePix XP140 with 16-megapixel resolution and a full register of photographs was kept.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Archaeological features are depicted in Figure 2. Photographs of individual archaeological features examined as part of the excavation are included as subsequent figures.

4.1.2 The context records are summarised in Appendix I. The table is supplemental to the figures, photographs, and description of the archaeology.

4.2 Site Taphonomy and Condition of Preservation

4.2.1 The areas of investigation comprised an L-shaped area, Area 1, and a rectangular area, Area 2 (Figure 2) both covering the plots of buildings and driveways requiring ground reduction for development. The area of excavation comprised an asphalt car park, an area of former garden and an area formerly developed as an extension of the pub, now demolished.

4.2.2 The recently infilled Trench 1 was still visible at the time of this excavation having been left partially open following evaluation in February 2022. The features uncovered in this trench formed the immediate focus of this excavation and their full dimensions and survival beyond this trench was an important target for the excavation.

4.2.3 In both excavation areas machining was undertaken down to the upper horizon of the underlying superficial geology in the form of a light yellow-brown clay deposit. Surviving at this level were the truncated remains of five ditches suspected to date to the Roman period, one undated ditch, two undated discrete features, a probable post-medieval ditch and a selection of discrete features relating to post-medieval or industrial period gardens on site. In places these features were overlain by post-medieval land drainage and remnants of a cellar and structural features relating to the former pub extension.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Two strip areas were excavated as detailed in earlier sections, covering a combined area of c.184m². The placement of these excavation areas has been explained in section 3.2 of this report.

4.3.2 The excavation areas were placed in order to enhance our understanding, and provide a full record of, all archaeological remains which are likely to be affected by the development of this site.

4.3.3 Area 1 showed continuation of all features encountered in Trench 1 as well as previously unseen discrete features to the south of the trench, a boundary ditch along the northern edge of the site, and remains relating to the post-medieval pub extension and garden planting.

4.3.4 No archaeological remains were found within Area 2 on the site, and it is suggested that this area may have been truncated by ironstone quarrying within the village during the post-medieval period.

4.3.5 The following text describes the archaeological remains in chronological order. This section should be read in conjunction with the accompanying figures and captions and Context Summary Table (see Appendix I).

4.3.6 The deposit sequence for Area 1 comprised primarily removal of topsoil to an average depth of c.0.1m. At this depth, the remnants of the post-medieval – industrial period pub extension were exposed along with the external cobbled pavement (4) for this building range. Outside of these features, and below pavement (4) there lay medium yellow-orange sandy clay subsoil (2) down to an average depth of c.0.4m BGL, which was encountered above the archaeological features. In Area 2, this subsoil was instead redeposited natural material consisting of large fragments of broken ironstone and sandy clay (102/103).

Undated features

4.3.7 A northwest-southeast oriented ditch [28] was uncovered, the continuation of ditch [103] from Trench 1 (Figure 2; Danter 2022). The ditch was relatively consistent with the evaluation, exhibiting a rounded V-shaped profile and even sloping sides. The ditch contained fill (29), which appeared to have silted up during a lengthy period of disuse and produced no datable material. The ditch predated planting pit [36], which cut its fill.

Figure 4: Sections from excavation area 1

Locations for Section points are shown in **red** on Figure 2.

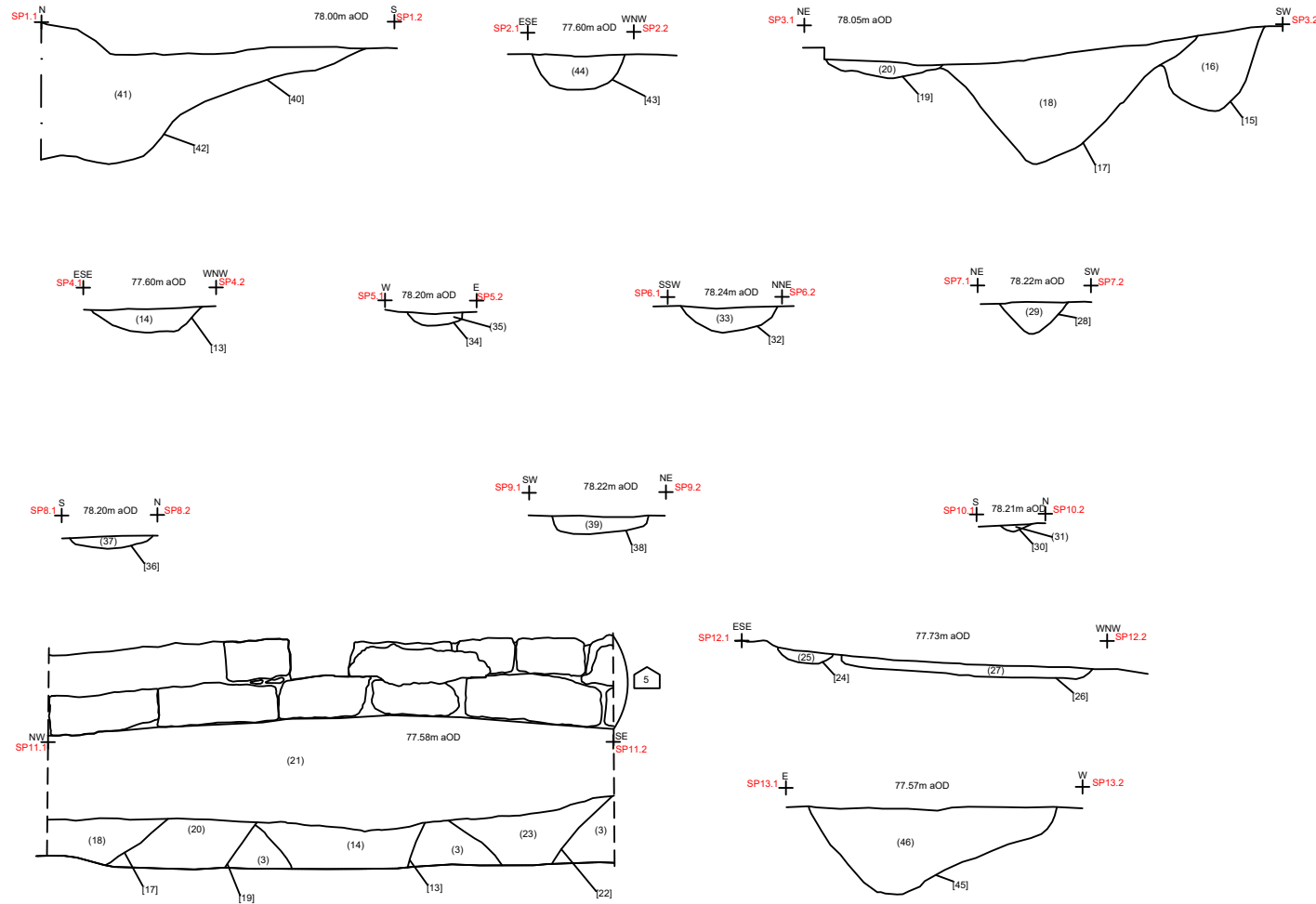




Figure 5: Undated ditch [28] and other features, looking northwest, scale 2m

4.3.8 A selection of five discrete features were found in the western part of Area 1. Of these, three were thought to represent planting pits [32, 36, 38] relating to the post-medieval garden on this plot, while two postholes [30, 34] remained undated. The two postholes were both filled by light red-brown silty clay.

Roman features

4.3.9 Features previously identified in Trench 1 as Roman were ditch [110], which produced pottery of the 1st-2nd centuries (Danter 2022). The continuation of this ditch in this excavation was ditch [43] and its fill (44) also produced numerous further sherds of late 1st-century pottery.

4.3.10 A further five northwest-southeast aligned ditches were identified to the southeast of Trench 1. Within these ditches a clear sequence was identified, with two earlier ditches [13] and [22], succeeded by ditches [15] and [19], and ditch [17] the latest recut of this boundary. These ditches all shared a common alignment and suggested maintenance and reuse over an extended period in close proximity to activities that encouraged rapid in-wash. Fill (18) of ditch [17] contained late Iron Age pottery and ditch [15] produced a single glass microbead of uncertain date.

4.3.11 In all cases the ditches continued below the walls of the post-medieval pub extension, however, its cellar had truncated all of the features within its footprint.



Figure 6: Ditches [19, 17, 15], looking southeast, scale 1m

Late medieval/early post-medieval features

4.3.12 A fill deposit was found next to the road along the north boundary of the site although only its southern edge lay within the excavation area. It is possible that this was either a boundary ditch along the north side of the plot or possibly infill at the northern edge of the former terraced garden, behind a retaining wall where the level drops down to that of the High Street. The fill contained a single fragment of brick, dated to roughly to the 15th–17th centuries.

Late post-medieval features

4.3.13 The edge of a pit, [112], identified in Trench 1 as medieval or later, was further exposed. Pit [45] produced no further dating beyond the post-medieval pottery found during evaluation.

4.3.14 Three discrete features, a ditch, a land drain, and the structural remains relating to a cellar below the former pub extension were found relating to the post-medieval and modern periods.

4.3.15 The three discrete features [32, 36, 38] uncovered in the western part of Area 1 were all filled with redeposited topsoil and considered to be planting pits relating to the post-medieval and modern gardens. Further planting pits were also encountered in Trench 1 [105; 107; 114; 121] and together indicated a fairly extensive reworking of the plot.

4.3.16 The construction of the cellar and pub extension would appear to have been contemporaneous although the cellar may have been refloored or patched at a later point with a mixed brick and stone floor (9). The cellar was accessed by steps on its east side from within the building as demonstrated by the stone threshold and doorway at its northeast corner, the associated stairway was removed during the demolition of the extension.

4.3.17 It is not known if the stone-lined drain [119] that was investigated during evaluation continued to the south of the cellar. Either the cellar post-dated the drain and its construction removed the drain within its footprint, or it may indicate that the drain was contemporary with the cellar and was intended to draw water away from the cellar walls to prevent ingress of water.

Summary

4.3.18 The excavation of Area 1 highlighted the differential survival of features across this part of the site, with the preserved Roman and undated ditches as the earliest surviving features. In places these had been truncated by late post-medieval structural features relating to the construction of a former pub cellar and the insertion of a stone-lined drain or garden features, such as planting pits.

4.3.19 Area 2 showed evidence of widespread truncation and levelling. The build up of shattered and pulverized ironstone is a common feature in Northamptonshire towns and villages, where the waste material from nearby medieval and/or post-medieval ironstone quarrying (used in construction of adjacent houses) is often deposited as made ground.

4.3.20 Overall the features uncovered during this excavation correlate closely with expectations for the site with continuations of the ditches found during the trenching and structural features matching closely with the historic mapping of the site.



Figure 7: Planting pit [36], cut into the top of ditch [28], scale 200mm



Figure 8: Post-medieval cellar, looking west, with brick and stone floor (9), scale 2m

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Pottery

By Jeremy Evans

5.1.1 There are 35 pottery sherds (717g) from three vessels, all from fill (44) of ditch [43], except one from fill (18) of ditch [17]. The latter sherd is a storage jar bodysherd (61g) with an internal white deposit of limescale or urea. The sherd is in fabric C10: reduced handmade fabric with abundant fine shell temper, c.0.1-0.5mm, and is probably late Iron Age or mid 1st century in date.

5.1.2 Ditch [43] produced 34 sherds. One is from a Class E storage jar (28g) made in fabric E01: oxidised handmade fabric with common grey grog, c.0.5-1mm, some fine sand and very occasional white calcareous inclusions, c.1mm. The remainder are sherds from about half of a single vessel in fabric C01: coil-built, handmade, reduced fabric with common shell-temper, c.1-4mm in length. This vessel is lightly rilled on the shoulder and is a variant of a channel-rimmed jar: weight 628g, diameter 14cms, and Rim Equivalent (RE) 50% (Fig 001). The assemblages dates to c.AD1-70.

5.1.3 Amongst this material there is nothing which need be Flavian or later. All would seem to fall into the range of c.AD1-70 and a pre-conquest date is certainly possible, but not necessary. The material may overlap with some of that previously excavated (Evans 2022) but does not appear to run as late.

5.1.4 Ditch [43] produced approximately half of a single vessel. This is not typical rubbish material, near complete vessels tend to be largely confined to burials and wells; either it was primary waste (Schiffer 1976) or part of a structured deposit with deliberate placement.

5.2 Handmade brick

By Phil Mills

5.2.1 There was one fragment of brick (92g) from fill (41) of possible ditch [40], along the north boundary of the site.



Figure 9: Fabric TZ71 6mm wide cross-section of fresh break.

5.2.2 The fragment is in a hard pale yellow-red fabric with a soapy feel. It has inclusions of common coarse organic voids, common fine gold mica, common coarse grog inclusions and common black iron stone inclusions (Figure 9).

5.2.3 The fragment is derived from a very worn handmade brick with irregular rounded arises, c.55mm thick, which suggests a date of perhaps the 15th–17th centuries.

5.3 Clay Pipe

By Elizabeth Foulds

5.3.1 A single fragment of clay tobacco-pipe was recovered from tree planting pit [36] that is from near the front of a pipe bowl decorated with prominent fluting, which ends about a quarter of the way from the rim. The majority of the rim and bowl base are missing.

5.3.2 The fragment is small, but the fluted decoration suggests a general date from the 18th century onwards. Other post-medieval activity at the site included a stone-lined drain dating probably to the late 18th – early 19th centuries. The location of the clay pipe fragment within the backfill of a planting pit suggests it may have been disturbed by gardening activity or tree removal.

5.4 Glass Bead

Elizabeth Foulds

5.4.1 There is a single glass bead, complete, and made from translucent cobalt blue glass. The bead is annular, c.2.5mm in diameter and 1.4mm in height. The perforation diameter is c.1mm wide. The surface exhibits no weathering but there is a possible crack. There is no evidence for its manufacture method. The bead comes from the fill of ditch [15], which was a recut of an earlier boundary ditch, both aligned parallel to a separate a Roman boundary.

Discussion

5.4.2 Many beads from Iron Age Britain are around 10mm in diameter, while Roman period beads tend to be smaller at around 5mm in diameter. The glass bead from the site is extremely small at only 2.5mm in diameter. Examples of prehistoric 'miniscule' beads are known from the 2001 Iron

Age chariot burial at Wetwang Slack, East Yorkshire, where 120 tiny beads were discovered (Foulds 2017, 264–265, fig. 189c). These examples were also made from translucent blue glass, varied in shape from annular, globular, or slightly cylindrical and ranged in diameter from 1.3mm to 3.4mm. Other examples come from Roman burial contexts, such as in North Yorkshire (Foulds 2018, Grave 103), where the beads ranged in size from 2.9–3.8mm and were produced in a variety of colours. Further examples are known from London (Barber and Bowsher 2000, Burials B197 and B652). However, miniscule beads were also used in the post-medieval period and continue to be used today. Their small size means they can easily move in the soil through natural bioturbation activity, as has been suggested for other examples that were subjected to chemical analysis (*e.g.* Duncan 2005). Therefore, a single glass bead with limited diagnostic features from an archaeological context with no other datable material is difficult to date from visual examination alone and could date anywhere from the Iron Age to the modern period.

5.4.3 Evidence for use of most beads from the Iron Age and Roman periods supports their use as necklaces in many instances. There is also evidence that they were used on bracelets and in the Roman period some beads were used to decorate earrings. Use of miniscule beads remains unclear. It was suggested that the 120 examples from Wetwang Slack mentioned above were used to decorate a tassel or tie used on a fur bag that contained an Iron Age mirror (Giles 2012, 156), although other uses for beads of this size are possible, such as decorative bead embroidery.

5.4.4 The bead from Harpole exhibits limited diagnostic features to permit dating, but similarly sized and shaped beads are known from Iron Age and Roman contexts at the earliest. However, the bead could also be of much more recent date but given the lack of bioturbation in the ditch fill, and the depth of its burial, this is thought unlikely.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

6.1 Animal Bone

By Milena Grzybowska

6.1.1 The assemblage comprised hand-collected animal bone fragments from four ditch fills and one pit. The analysis follows *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for best practice* (Baker and Worley 2019).

6.1.2 Where possible, bone fragments were identified to species otherwise they were attributed to a broader taxonomic group. Ribs, vertebrae (excluding the axis and atlas) and unidentifiable specimens were assigned to a size-class: 'large mammal' (cattle-size), 'medium mammal' (sheep-size), 'small mammal' (cat-size) and micromammal (rat-size). All specimens were recorded, and each element was given an identification number. Surface preservation of bone was scored using a five-stage system (extremely poor, poor, moderate, good, and excellent). The presence of root etching, gnawing and burning was noted. The preservation of bone and the location of any butchery marks were recorded using a zoning system devised by Dobney and Rielly (1988). Tooth eruption and wear for cattle were recorded using Grant's (1982) system. Fusion stages of bone were recorded.

Results

6.1.3 The assemblage comprised eleven refitted disarticulated refitted animal bones (Table 1) formed from 76 fragments. Disarticulated animal bone was well preserved, suggesting that fragments were not left exposed for an extended period to allow weathering prior to their final deposition. This suggests the practice of routine clearing and disposal practices presumably associated with sanitary concerns.

6.1.4 The species noted included major domesticated animals; cattle and sheep/goat and pig. Mandibular tooth wear confirmed the presence of subadult and adult cattle. High prevalence of skeletal elements representing low utility body parts indicated the assemblage comprised mostly processing waste.

Context	Element	Taxa	Fusion of bone*	Side	Surface preservation	Element compl.	NISP	NF	Tooth Wear Stage (TWS) Taphonomy Measurements (mm)	Bone ID
(016)	molar	cattle		U	good	25%	1	1	half a crown	3
(025)	mandible	cattle		R	good	25%	1	13	M1:k, M2:k; dental calculus	9
(041)	rib	large mammal		U	good	5%	1	41		10
(044)	metacarpal	cattle	Fp	L	good	25%	1	1	1, 5	4
(044)	upper M1/M2	sheep/goat		R	good	75%	1	1	crown and half of root	5
(044)	skull	medium mammal		U	good	5%	1	1		6
(044)	P2	pig	Fp	U	excellent	100%	1	1	1,2,3	7
(044)	indeterminate	mammal		U	good	5%	1	1		8
(044)	mandible	cattle		R	excellent	75%	1	14	M1:g, M2:b, M3:a, dP4:k; subadult, calculus,	11
(046)	radius	sheep/goat	Fp	L	excellent	25%	1	1	2, 5, 6, 7; 1 x cut, carnivore gnawing	1
(046)	tibia	sheep/goat	Fd	L	moderate	25%	1	1	5, 6, 10	2

Fp – fusion proximal, Fd – fusion distal, Udd – unfused diaphysis distal; NF – number of fragments prior to refit.

Table 1: Quantification of disarticulated animal bone

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

By Maryne Baylet

6.2.1 Palaeoenvironmental analysis involved the study of six archaeological features and the processing of 175 litres of bulk soil samples. These archaeological contexts were primarily sedimentary fills (14, 18, 20) of linear ditches [13], [17] and [19], fill (29) of a circular ditch [28] and fills (41 and 44) of ditches [40] and [43]. The study identified the presence of cereal grains alongside moderate quantities of weed seeds (Table 2).

6.2.2 All bulk samples were processed by water flotation using graduated sieves ranging from 500µm. Flots were weighed, air dried, and scanned using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). The entirety of the flots were dry-sieved through 5mm, 1mm and 500µm sieves in order to separate into three size fractions which were then scanned and separated out into charcoal and plant macrofossils.

6.2.3 Plant macrofossil identification was undertaken using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). Plant macrofossil identification utilised plates and guides from Martin and Barkley (2000) and Cappiers *et al.* (2006). Plant macrofossil nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Cereal identification utilised the guide by Jacomet (2006). Non-charred macrofossils were discounted as being modern

contamination and were excluded from this analysis. Uncharred modern roots occurred in all of the samples studied, which is not surprising for a former garden plot.

Results

6.2.4 The main assemblage is from fill (44) of ditch [43], primarily dominated by 33 possible barley and 31 wheat grains with a smaller quantity of oats. Legumes such as 15 common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and four possible peas (*Pisum sativum*) were also identified. Weed seeds included four cleavers (*Galium* sp.), one chess grass (*Bromus* sp), one cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), one forget-me-not (*Myosotis* sp.) and one spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.) were also recovered.

6.2.5 However, a number of cereal grains were also recovered (Table 2). Ditch [13] produced one wheat (cf. *Triticum dicoccum*) grain, one oat (cf. *Avena* sp.) grain, one chess (*Bromus* sp) and one possible pea (*Pisum sativum*). Another wheat grain was recovered from ditch [17], and three possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains and one wheat grain from ditch [19]. Another small assemblage from ditch [28] comprised one wheat grain, one oat grain, and one possible barley grain. Two wheat grains and one oat grain were found in ditch [40].

Discussion

6.2.6 Glume fragments of wheat were recovered during the evaluation trenching, which were identified as emmer wheat. No fragments of glume were found in these samples, although the previously found emmer could suggest a similar identification for the indeterminate grain. Both phases of analysis have noted that wheat (possible emmer) is associated with barley, which is very commonly recovered on pre-Saxon sites throughout Britain (Cunliffe 2009; Brindle *et al.* 2018).

6.2.7 Along with the presence of cereals, legumes were also identified, which may suggest the use and the growth of horticultural or crop rotation. The seasonality of sowing for chess grass (autumn) and oats (spring), could suggest a multiple-season cereal-sowing regime (Lodwick 2018). In addition, chess grass is more commonly seen from the Roman period onwards.

Context No.	14	18	20	28	41	44
Context Description	Fill of linear ditch	Fill of linear ditch	Fill of linear ditch	fill of ditch	Fill of ditch	Fill of ditch
Flot Composition	2% small (<2mm) charcoal; 97% roots	One cereal grain	4 cereal grains; 100% roots	2% small (<2mm) charcoal; 98% uncharred roots.	2% small (<2mm) charcoal; 98% uncharred rootlets; 1 terrestrial molluscs;	1% small (<2mm) charcoal; 99% uncharred rootlets; 2 terrestrial molluscs
Sample Volume	20	15	20	40	-	25
Flot Weight	2	1	2	4	-	11
Cereals						
Naked wheat grain (<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>)	1	1	1	1	2	31
Oat (cf. <i>Avena sp.</i>) grain	1	-	-	1	1	5
cf. Barley (<i>Hordeum sp.</i>) grain	-	-	3	1		33
Indet. Cereal grain	-	-	-	-	1	9
Non-Cereals						
Chess (<i>Bromus sp.</i>)	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cleavers (<i>Galium sp.</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	4
Common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	15
Cornflower (<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis sp.</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	1
cf Pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i>)	cf.1	-	-	-	-	4
Spurge (<i>Euphorbia sp.</i>)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Indeterminate charred weed seed	3	-	1	7	-	4

Table 2: Quantification of plant macrofossils

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Site context

7.1.1 The excavation was conducted on the southeast side of Harpole on a plot belonging to the former Bull Inn to the south of medieval core of the village in an area of post-medieval expansion. The excavation was conducted to enhance our understanding of archaeology under threat by the development and in order to create a record of archaeology within the new building plots.

7.2 Roman boundary ditches

7.2.1 The principal finds from the site came from ditch [110]/[43], which produced pottery of the 1st-2nd centuries and a good selection of animal bone from a variety of domesticated species. This would appear to indicate a deliberate deposition of waste material during the disuse of the ditch, probably from nearby settlement in the immediate vicinity, during the 2nd century AD. The density of finds and near complete pot indicate a deliberate single-event, and subsequently undisturbed, episode of deposition.

7.2.2 Other Roman ditches illustrate a sequence of re-established boundaries along the same northwest–southeast alignment that were in use over an extended period of a century or more. The continued maintenance of the boundary indicated continuity within the landscape and association with activities that resulted in rapid in-wash of the ditch throughout the period, potentially high frequency cultivation. Several of the ditch fills (16/18/25) also produced pottery and animal bone that was consistent with Late pre-Roman Iron Age manufacture in the 1st centuries BC–AD. These ditches are likely to relate to field systems noted on geophysical surveys in 2013 (ENN106813) and 2015 (ENN109198) to the south of the village.

7.2.3 Undated ditch [103]/[28] lay closest in alignment to the probable Roman ditches uncovered further east in Area 1 and may possibly be of similar date, although it was notably different in both its fill and the definition of its cut. Other undated features; possible postholes, [30] and [34], which lay in close proximity to this ditch had no physical relationships with which to discern relative dates.

7.3 Late medieval/early post-medieval street boundary

7.3.1 Handmade brick, dated to roughly to the 15th–17th centuries, came from a fill deposit was found next to the road the road, along the north boundary of the site. It was unclear if this was either a ditch or possibly infill behind a retaining wall fronting the High Street.

7.4 Post-medieval activity associated with the Bull Inn

7.4.1 Wall footing (5), cellar walls (6/7/8), brick and stone floor (9) and cobbled pavement (4) all represent remnants of the post-medieval extension to the former Bull Inn. The cellar floor was a later addition, while the walls are likely contemporary with the extension of the pub building noted on the 1885–6 Ordnance Survey map. The cellar was initially interpreted as a coal cellar due to dark staining on the upper surface of the floor (9), although no clear coal shaft was noted, and the dark material may be residue from the rubble used to in-fill the cellar following demolition of the extension between 1885 and 1968 discerned from map regression.

7.4.2 A stone-lined drain [119], formerly noted in Trench 1, flowed away from the north wall of the cellar, although as the northern half of the cellar remained un-excavated it is unclear whether

the two elements articulated or whether the construction of the cellar cut across earlier land drainage. Although well-preserved the cellar and drain had little archaeological significance within the site, and it is clear that where they were built, they had fully truncated any underlying earlier features. Similarly some of the deeper disturbances within the former garden, like pit [45]/[112], had an impact on earlier remains.

7.4.3 Layer (103) recorded in Area 2 may give some indication of the period at which Harpole extended south of the former medieval manor, perhaps in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. A substantial layer of redeposited ironstone is likely to represent waste from quarrying for the local Northampton Sand with Ironstone, seen in the construction of the buildings surrounding the site. Quarrying for stone within the immediate vicinity in order to attain stone would have been a far easier and cheaper exercise than carting it in from further up the valley.

7.5 Significance

7.5.1 The excavation undertaken has established a full record of the form, nature, and extent of archaeological features within the footprint of two houses and a lowered driveway likely to impact the remains.

7.5.2 In Area 1, evidence for a long-lived Roman boundary was found, which probably relates to a wider network of field systems extending south of the village. . They may relate to wider Roman field systems noted on geophysical survey of the area (2015 – ENN109198). These have been recorded and have allowed an understanding of the levels of preservation within this part of the village and highlighted the potential for further Roman remains to survive in the surrounding gardens. Roman domestic occupation was located in close proximity to the site, and it is likely that neighbouring plots may contain the remains of domestic buildings.

7.5.3 In Area 2, there was no evidence for *in-situ* features, although the evidence for nearby ironstone quarrying adds to our understanding of the development of the village beyond its original core.

7.5.4 The roadside ditch or embankment of the northern edge of the site may also be of significance in highlighting the initial development of this plot, likely during the late medieval or early post-medieval period: although the full form of this feature could not be seen due to proximity to the site's retaining wall.

7.5.5 Remains of the pub extension and cellar hold little potential for further interest outside of this development and primarily show the changing morphology of the building in the 19th century.

8 PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

8.1.1 Any publicity will be managed by the client.

8.1.2 ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary, photographic and video material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

9 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

9.1.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from

decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1.1 The archaeological archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire Archaeological Research Centre (Donnelly-Symes 2020).

10.1.2 High resolution digital photographs will typically be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) digital archive repository with the associated photographic registers and metadata. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).

10.1.3 The archive will be deposited in line with industry standards and best practice guidelines (SMA 1993; Brown 2011; ClfA 2020b). In addition, the recommendations of the receiving repository will be adhered to. The archive will be deposited at the next available opportunity agreed with the museum after completion of the report.

10.1.4 All projects have an Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) registration form within the report. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Historic Environment Record (HER). This will include an uploaded PDF/A version of the entire report. Upon final completion of the project, a final copy of the report will be deposited with the county HER in an agreed format.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank Browns Developments Ltd for commissioning the work, and Liz Mordue from North Northamptonshire Council for advising on the site and monitoring the works on behalf of the planning authority at West Northamptonshire Council.

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APPENDIX I CONTEXT DESCRIPTION TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
1	Deposit	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Medium textured dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional ironstone inclusions. <i>Topsoil.</i>
2	Deposit	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Medium textured yellow-orange sandy clay with occasional ironstone inclusions. <i>Subsoil</i>
3	Deposit	Geological Natural Substrate	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fine textured light green-yellow clay deposit. <i>Geological natural substrate.</i>
4	Deposit	Surface	Pavement	Imported material	Construction	Stone surface composed of rounded and sub-rectangular pebbles and cobbles. <i>Possible pavement or yard surface relating to 19th-20th century pub layout.</i>
5	Structure	Wall	Extension wall	N/A	Construction	Wall constructed of Jurassic ironstone likely of local origin, unfinished stones varying in size between 0.3-0.7m x 0.17-0.2m x 0.17-0.2m. Bonded by cement/mortar. Abutted by surface (4) to the north. <i>North wall of 19th-20th century pub extension, plaster on inner (south-west) face indicates level of floor.</i>
6	Structure	Wall	Cellar wall	N/A	Construction	Wall constructed of Jurassic ironstone likely of local origin, unfinished stones varying in size between 0.2-0.3m x 40mm-0.12m x 0.15-0.3m. Bonded by cement/mortar. <i>South wall of 19th-20th century pub cellar, plaster on inner face indicates level of floors within the structure.</i>
7	Structure	Wall	Cellar wall	N/A	Construction	Wall constructed of Jurassic ironstone likely of local origin, unfinished stones. Bonded by cement/mortar. An entrance [12] is visible at the northern end of the wall. <i>East wall of 19th-20th century pub cellar.</i>

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
8	Structure	Wall	Cellar wall	N/A	Construction	Wall constructed of Jurassic ironstone likely of local origin, unfinished stones varying in size. Bonded by cement/mortar. <i>West wall of 19th-20th century pub cellar.</i>
9	Deposit	Surface	Floor	N/A	Construction	Brick and stone floor within cellar. Bricks measure c.225mm x 105mm x 60, 70 and 80 mm (different thicknesses observed). No bonding material was observed. Towards the east wall of the cellar the floor was composed of large stone slabs with gaps filled by trimmed brick fragments. <i>Floor of 19th-20th century pub cellar, coal dust observed on floor may indicate this functioned as a coal cellar.</i>
10	Deposit	Backfill	Rubble	Demolition	Disuse	Mixed fill of large finished ironstone blocks, light grey sandy clay, slate tiles, plaster and mortar fragments and brick. <i>Backfill of cellar following demolition of extension (1930-50?).</i>
11	Group	Cellar	N/A	N/A	Construction	Rectangular cellar formed of walls [5;6;7;8] constructed of rough hewn unfinished ironstone blocks with no clear bonding pattern. The cellar measured c. 5.1m x 3.6m x 0.9m in size, with the walls surviving to an average height of 9 courses. The floor (9) was formed of a mixture of brick and stone. <i>Cellar forming part of 19th-20th century extension.</i>
12	Structure	Doorway	N/A	N/A	Construction	Cellar entrance, 0.9m wide, surviving to a height of 5 courses with surviving door jambs. Blocks forming the doorway were faced and shaped. <i>Access to cellar from south-east via staircase, now removed.</i>
13	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	Shallow, truncated ditch/gulley running north-south with even sloping sides and moderate

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
						breaks of slope. Filled by deposit (14). <i>Possible Roman ditch.</i>
14	Deposit	Fill	N/A	Collapse	Disuse	Firm mottled orange brown sandy clay deposit with occasional ironstone pebbles/gravel. Fill of ditch [13]. <i>Disuse of ditch characterised by silting and possible slippage from sides or bank.</i>
15	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	North-south oriented ditch with steep sloping sides and an uneven base. Filled by deposit (16). <i>Possible Roman ditch.</i>
16	Deposit	Fill	N/A	Collapse	Disuse	Light-mid orange-brown hard sandy clay with moderate ironstone gravel inclusions and infrequent blue clay smears. <i>Possible collapsed bank filling ditch following disuse.</i>
17	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	North-south oriented linear ditch recut, latest of 5 visible (including smaller parallel cuts). 1.1m wide x 0.43m deep. Has steep even sloping sides and a narrow, flat uneven base inconstant along its length. <i>Roman ditch recut along base of possible bank.</i>
18	Deposit	Fill	N/A	Collapse	Disuse	Deposit within cut [17] consisting of two fill episodes (18a) and (18b). (18a) is a firm, mid orange-grey silty clay with infrequent ironstone gravel and light blue clay smears. (18b) is a tip line from the west side consisting of light orange sandy clay with moderate ironstone pebble and gravel inclusions. <i>Collapsed bank material from the west side of the ditch covered by gradual silting in disuse.</i>
19	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	Shallow truncated ditch oriented north-south with moderate break of slope at top, steep even sloping sides and gradual break of slope at

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
						bottom onto a flat base. Measures 0.7m wide x 0.11m deep. Filled by deposit (20). <i>Stratigraphically early Roman ditch.</i>
20	Deposit	Fill	N/A	Collapse	Disuse	Fill of cut [19], a firm mid orange-brown sandy clay deposit with occasional ironstone gravel inclusions. <i>Collapsed bank material/redeposited natural.</i>
21	Deposit	Layer	Levelling	Redeposition	Use/Disuse	Deposit formed of two layers of material (21a) and (21b). (21a) is characterised as a hard grey-brown clay with occasional ironstone. (21b) is a mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate-frequent ironstone inclusions. <i>Levelling layers of redeposited material from probably local quarry workings, mixed with soils and spread across the site.</i>
22	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	Heavily truncated ditch c.0.52m wide x 0.27m deep, with even sloping sides and narrow flat base. Filled by deposit (23). <i>Possible Roman ditch, heavily truncated.</i>
23	Deposit	Fill	N/A	Collapse	Disuse	Firm bright orange-brown silty clay with occasional ironstone gravel and patches of blue clay. <i>Collapsed bank material.</i>
24	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	N/A	Construction	Linear ditch with abrupt break of slope at top, even sloping sides, gradual break of slope at bottom and concave base. Filled by deposit (25). Ditch is aligned NE-SW. <i>Possible boundary ditch, likely Roman in origin.</i>
25	Deposit	Fill	Accumulation	Silting	Disuse	Fill of ditch [24], a fine, well sorted mid red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. <i>Silting up of ditch during disuse.</i>

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
26	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	Linear ditch with abrupt break of slope at top and bottom, near vertical, slightly convex sides, and a flat base. Oriented NE-SW. Filled by deposit (27). <i>Possible Roman ditch, purpose unclear.</i>
27	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	N/A	Disuse	Fine red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of ditch [27]. Contained animal bone. <i>Backfill of ditch during disuse with waste material, possibly secondary to midden activity.</i>
28	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	Curvilinear ditch with moderate breaks of slope top and bottom, steep, uneven sides, and a concave base oriented NNW-SSE. The ditch was filled by deposit (029). <i>Undated curvilinear gully.</i>
29	Deposit	Fill	Accumulation	Silting	Disuse	Medium textured mid red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of ditch [28]. <i>Disuse of ditch – silting up.</i>
30	Cut	Pit/Posthole	N/A	N/A	Construction	Sub-oval discrete feature with gradual breaks of slope top and bottom, gentle sloping sides and concave base. Filled by deposit (31). <i>Possible truncated posthole.</i>
31	Deposit	Fill	Accumulation	Silting	Disuse	Medium textured light red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of posthole [30]. <i>Disuse of posthole – silting up.</i>
32	Cut	Pit	Planting pit	N/A	Construction	Sub-circular pit with moderate break of slope at top, gentle even sloping sides and gradual break of slope at bottom onto a flat base. Filled by deposit (33). <i>Possible post-medieval or modern tree planting pit.</i>
33	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	Redeposition	Disuse	Fine mid grey-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of pit [32]. <i>Backfilled topsoil in</i>

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
						<i>tree-planting pit, placed as part of initial planting activity or following tree removal.</i>
34	Cut	Pit/Posthole	N/A	N/A	Construction	Sub-rectangular discrete feature with moderate break of slope at top and bottom, steep even sides and a flat base. Filled by deposit (35). <i>Possible posthole.</i>
35	Deposit	Fill	Accumulation	Silting	Disuse	Medium textured light red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of poss. Posthole [34]. <i>Disuse – silting up of possible posthole.</i>
36	Cut	Pit	Planting pit	N/A	Construction	Oval shaped pit with gradual break of slope at top and bottom, gentle, even sides and imperceptible base. Filled by deposit (37). <i>Possible post-medieval or modern tree planting pit.</i>
37	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	Redeposition	Disuse	Fine dark grey-brown silty clay. Fill of pit [36]. <i>Backfilled topsoil in tree-planting pit, placed as part of initial planting activity or following tree removal.</i>
38	Cut	Pit	Planting pit	N/A	Construction	Sub-oval pit with moderate breaks of slope top and bottom, uneven sides, and uneven base. Filled by deposit (39). <i>Possible post-medieval or modern tree planting pit.</i>
39	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	Redeposition	Disuse	Fine dark grey-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Fill of pit [38]. <i>Backfilled topsoil in tree-planting pit, placed as part of initial planting activity or following tree removal.</i>
40	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	N/A	Construction	Linear ditch oriented E-W along the north side of the site. Intercutting with [42] both filled by deposit (41). <i>Boundary ditch/possible hedgerow.</i>

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
41	Deposit	Fill	Accumulation	Silting/Slumping	Disuse	Fine, firm dark brown clay with occasional ironstone pebbles. Fill of ditch [40] and recut [42]. <i>Gradual slumping and siltation within the ditch later mixed up by roots.</i>
42	Cut	Ditch	Recut	N/A	Construction/Use	Linear ditch oriented E-W along the north side of the site. Intercutting with/recutting [40], filled by deposit (41). <i>Possible recut of ditch [40]. Order of cuts is impossible to determine owing to single fill episode.</i>
43	Cut	Ditch	N/A	N/A	Construction	North-south oriented ditch with sharp break of slope at top, gentle irregular sides, and gradual break of slope at bottom onto an irregular base. Filled by deposit (44). <i>Possible Roman ditch.</i>
44	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	N/A	Disuse	Medium textured dark brown-grey silty clay with no notable inclusions. Produced a single piece of animal bone. <i>Backfill of ditch during disuse with waste material, possibly secondary to midden activity</i>
45	Cut	Pit	N/A	N/A	Construction	Oval pit with abrupt break of slope at top, gentle concave sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by deposit (46). <i>Possible pit relating to Roman ditches.</i>
46	Deposit	Fill	Backfill	N/A	Disuse	Fill of pit [45]. Fine mid red-brown silty clay with no notable inclusions. Contained a small amount of animal bone. <i>Backfill of pit during disuse with waste material, possibly secondary to midden activity</i>
101	Deposit	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Friable light-mid orange-grey silty clay with frequent rooting and moderate mixed ironstone gravel/pebbles. <i>Garden topsoil.</i>

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation. I (Tier I - Type)	Interpretation. II (Tier II. Type)	Interpretation. III (formation)	Interpretation. IV (processual)	Context Description. (Long text)
102	Deposit	Layer	Levelling	Redeposition	Use/Disuse	A mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate-frequent ironstone inclusions. <i>Levelling layer of redeposited material from probable local quarry workings, mixed with soils and spread across the site.</i>
103	Deposit	Layer	Levelling	Redeposition	Use/Disuse	A mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate-frequent ironstone inclusions. <i>Levelling layer of redeposited material from probable local quarry workings, mixed with soils and spread across the site.</i>
104	Deposit	Geological natural substrate	N/A	N/A	Natural	Blue-orange upper lias clay with brash limestone. <i>Geological natural substrate.</i>

Summary for archaeol5-507786

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol5-507786
Project Name	Excavation at 46-48 High Street, Harpole, South Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire, England
Sitename	High Street, Harpole, South Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire, England
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	WNS/2021/0209/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project Dates	16-May-2022 - 23-May-2022
Location	High Street, Harpole, South Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire, England NGR : SP 69116 60690 LL : 52.240072, -0.989229 12 Fig : 469116,260690
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Northamptonshire District : South Northamptonshire Parish : Harpole
Project Methodology	Excavation of two small strip, map and sample excavation areas targeting the plots of buildings on site.
Project Results	Evidence of several phases of Roman period ditches were found on site as well as a possible medieval or later boundary along the northern side of the site, and post-medieval and later structural and cut features relating to the extension and garden of The Bull Inn.
Keywords	Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Northamptonshire SMR - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	