

**DODFORD MANOR
DODFORD
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



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INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
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Project: DM 1782

Document: 2011/150
Version 1.0

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11th January 2012

Produced for:
ctd architects
Clerk Bank
Leek
Staffordshire



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by ctd architects and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) on behalf of Daventry District Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared this report with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance and co-operation of the property owner, Simon Steel, throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

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Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>11/01/12</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

AAA	Assistant Archaeological Advisor
DA	Development Area
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent (DA/2010/0997) was granted for the conversion of outbuildings and the creation of a new car park at Dodford Manor, Dodford, Northamptonshire. The Development Area (DA) lies within a former medieval deer park and contains buildings of archaeological interest.

A condition requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was placed on the planning consent by the Local Planning Authority, Daventry District Council, following advice received from Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by ctd architects to carry out the archaeological work in accordance with a brief prepared by the AAA (NCC 2011) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Albion Archaeology (2011a).

The groundworks revealed a pit of possible late Saxon/Saxo-Norman date, indicating the potential for the survival of further features of the period in the vicinity. Further evidence of activity of this period could be of interest in light of regional research themes regarding the development of the medieval manor and evolution of medieval settlements (Cooper, ed. 2006). Later features comprised: two brick foundation pads and a clay-lined pit, possibly associated with an 18th-century farm building; and a large quarry pit and nearby linear feature of modern (post-1750) date.

This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-101931).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning consent (DA/2010/0997) was granted for the conversion of outbuildings at Dodford Manor, Dodford, Northamptonshire. The works involved the demolition of existing 20th-century outbuildings and the conversion of other buildings bordering the inner courtyard from farm to domestic use. A new car park with an associated road diversion was created to the south of the southern courtyard.

The Development Area (DA) lies within a former medieval deer park and contains buildings of archaeological interest. A condition was placed on the planning consent by the Local Planning Authority, Daventry District Council, following advice received from the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA).

The condition required a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, reporting, analysis and publication to be carried out on groundworks associated with the development. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by ctd architects to carry out the works in accordance with a brief prepared by the AAA (NCC 2011) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Albion Archaeology (2011a). A requirement for building recording was subject to a separate brief and WSI, the results of which are presented in Albion Archaeology (2011b). This document describes the results of the archaeological observation and investigation.

1.2 *Site Location*

Dodford Manor is located to the south-west of the village centre, south of the church (Figure 1). The DA slopes slightly to the north and south from a high point of c. 120m OD and is centred on grid reference SP 61185 604070.

Dodford village lies over middle lias limestone of the Jurassic period.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A search of the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) around the DA has revealed a number of find spots and areas of archaeological interest. These are discussed in detail in the Archaeological Assessment produced by ctd architects (2010).

Specifically the DA lies within a medieval deer park (SMR 884) (documented in 1366) and close to a number of medieval earthworks including the remains of ridge and furrow (SMR 7857), banks, boundary ditches (SMR 884) and hollow ways (SMR 883, 884). A possible motte and bailey castle is recorded to the north-east and the remains of a shrunken village to the east (SMR 883). The SMR also records a number of ponds associated with the deer park and medieval village of Dodford (884). The 12th-century St Mary's Church (SMR 883) lies immediately to the north of Dodford manor.



The DA includes a range of farm buildings associated with Dodford Manor. These are unlisted and include a 16th- or 17th-century threshing barn. Other buildings date from the 19th and 20th centuries.

A number of artefact scatters dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British period have been recorded to the north-west of the manor (e.g. SMR 6060 and 7240) and a field survey to the west of the village (SMR 833) in 1991 recovered Saxon pottery identified as Ipswich ware. A charter of AD944 recorded a Saxon estate at Dodford (SMR 8075).

More recently, gravel working has taken place within the fields surrounding Dodford Manor. One of the gravel pits shown on the 1885 OS map appears to lie in the area of the planned car park.

1.4 Project Objectives

As the site was located within an area of archaeological interest, it was possible that groundworks associated with development might impact upon archaeological remains. In particular, the site had the potential to contain features and/or artefacts relating to medieval settlement activity and use of the area as a deer park.

The principal objective of the archaeological fieldwork was therefore to monitor and supervise all groundworks associated with the conversion of the outbuildings that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks took place between 17th May and 15th August 2011. These works comprised:

- excavation of trenches measuring 16.25m long, 0.6m wide and 0.15–0.65m deep for the under-pinning of the north side of the threshing barn.
- ground reduction of 0.5m at the east end of the threshing barn.
- ground reduction to a depth of 0.15–0.7m for the car park and access road diversion to the south of the southern courtyard.

All machine excavation was carried out by the building contractor under archaeological supervision. Exposed features and deposits of archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated where necessary by the supervising archaeologist. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for archaeological artefacts recovery.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• IfA	By-Laws and Code of Conduct
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Excavation (updated 2008)</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (updated 2008)</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (updated 2008)</i>
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (2009)</i>
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2002/01)</i>
• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001).</i>

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011a).



3. RESULTS

All significant deposits and features revealed during the groundworks are described below. The numbers in brackets within the text below refer to features or deposits detailed in the figures or recorded in the project archive.

3.1 **Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata**

The overburden comprised a 0.25m thick topsoil (300/400) of dark brown grey sandy silt, overlying a 0.25m thick light grey brown sandy silt subsoil (301/401). Both deposits contained occasional modern (post-1750) brick, roof tile and bottle glass fragments.

The underlying geology (103/402) was light orange sandy clay with occasional patches of light grey clay and occasional patches of gravel.

3.2 **Archaeological Features and Deposits**

Two pits, two small brick surfaces, a quarry pit and possible track-side ditch were observed during the groundworks (Figures 2-4) and are discussed chronologically below.

3.2.1 **Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pit identified on the north side of the threshing barn**

Pit [104], 3m across and 0.46m deep, was partially revealed in the threshing barn underpinning trench (Trench 1, Figure 3). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base with a fill of mid orange brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of charcoal flecks. The only artefact within the fill was a small shell-tempered rim sherd (2g) of St Neots-type ware (Northants CTS code 100), datable to *c.* AD850–1150, suggesting the pit dates to the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period. The rim is too small to determine vessel form.

3.2.2 **Post-medieval/modern brick foundation pads and clay-lined pit to the east of the threshing barn**

The surfaces of two small, roughly square brick features [303] and [305], comprising un-mortared red bricks, were revealed 5.5m east of the threshing barn in Ground Reduction Area 3 (Figures 2 and 3). They were located 2.65m apart and each measured between 0.60m and 0.75m across. The bricks are likely to be of post-medieval or later date, being un-frogged and measuring 230mm x 100mm x 70mm.

The bricks probably acted as foundation pads for the posts of a roofed structure that possibly utilised the two existing courtyard walls to the north and east adjacent to the cow-house and pigsty. These walls, largely constructed of ironstone, possibly date to the 18th century (Albion Archaeology 2011b).

A 2.7m long and 1.1m wide rectangular pit [307] was also observed in this area, located alongside the wall to the east (Figures 2 and 3). The pit was not fully excavated but it appeared to be lined with a 0.10m thick deposit of mid blue grey clay. The pit was backfilled with mid brown grey sandy silt that contained a sherd of 17th–18th-century black-glazed earthenware (Northants



CTS code 426) weighing 3g, a post-medieval sand-tempered brick fragment (41g) and two 13th–14th-century Potterspury type roof tiles (162g) comparable to pottery fabric code 329. The latter are approximately 10mm thick and both have a speckled glaze.

The artefacts suggest the pit is post-medieval or later in date and possibly associated with the structure related to the foundation pads mentioned above. The purpose of the pit is not known. However the clay lining suggests it may have been designed to be watertight, perhaps acting as a tank or bath for an agricultural or industrial process.

3.2.3 Modern quarry pit and linear feature

A large sub-oval feature [405] was observed in Ground Reduction Area 4 (Figure 4). It was at least 32m long and 25m wide and contained mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of modern (post-1750) brick, roof tile and bottle glass fragments. The feature is likely to be a back-filled gravel pit, probably corresponding with a large oval feature illustrated on the 1885 OS map.

A linear feature [407] was also identified in this area alongside and parallel to the east side of the current access track. The feature was at least 30m long and 3m wide and contained modern (post-1750) brick, roof tile and bottle glass fragments. Its location suggests it may be a silted trackside drainage ditch or possibly the edge of another back-filled quarry pit which extends under the access track.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The groundworks revealed one pit possibly dating to the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period and later features associated with the post-medieval/modern use of the farm and gravel quarrying.

A small sherd of pottery within the fill of pit [104] suggests it may date to the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period. Its presence indicates the potential for the survival of further features of the period in the vicinity. Further evidence of activity of this period could be of interest in light of regional research themes regarding the development of the medieval manor and evolution of medieval settlements (Cooper, ed. 2006).

Brick foundation pads [304] and [306] and a clay-lined pit [307] revealed to the east of the threshing barn are likely to have been related to a farm building associated with existing courtyard walls possibly dating to the 18th century (Albion Archaeology 2011b).

A large quarry pit [405] identified to the south of the above features probably corresponds to a circular feature illustrated on the 1885 OS map. It is testimony to the extensive quarrying recorded by the Archaeological Assessment (ctd architects 2010) in the area. A nearby linear feature [407] may also be the result of quarrying or is possibly a silted drainage ditch associated with the adjacent trackway.

This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-101931).



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cooper, N J (ed), 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda* (University of Leicester/English Heritage)

NCC 2011. *Brief for Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at Dodford Manor, Dodford, Northamptonshire*. V1 24th February 2011.

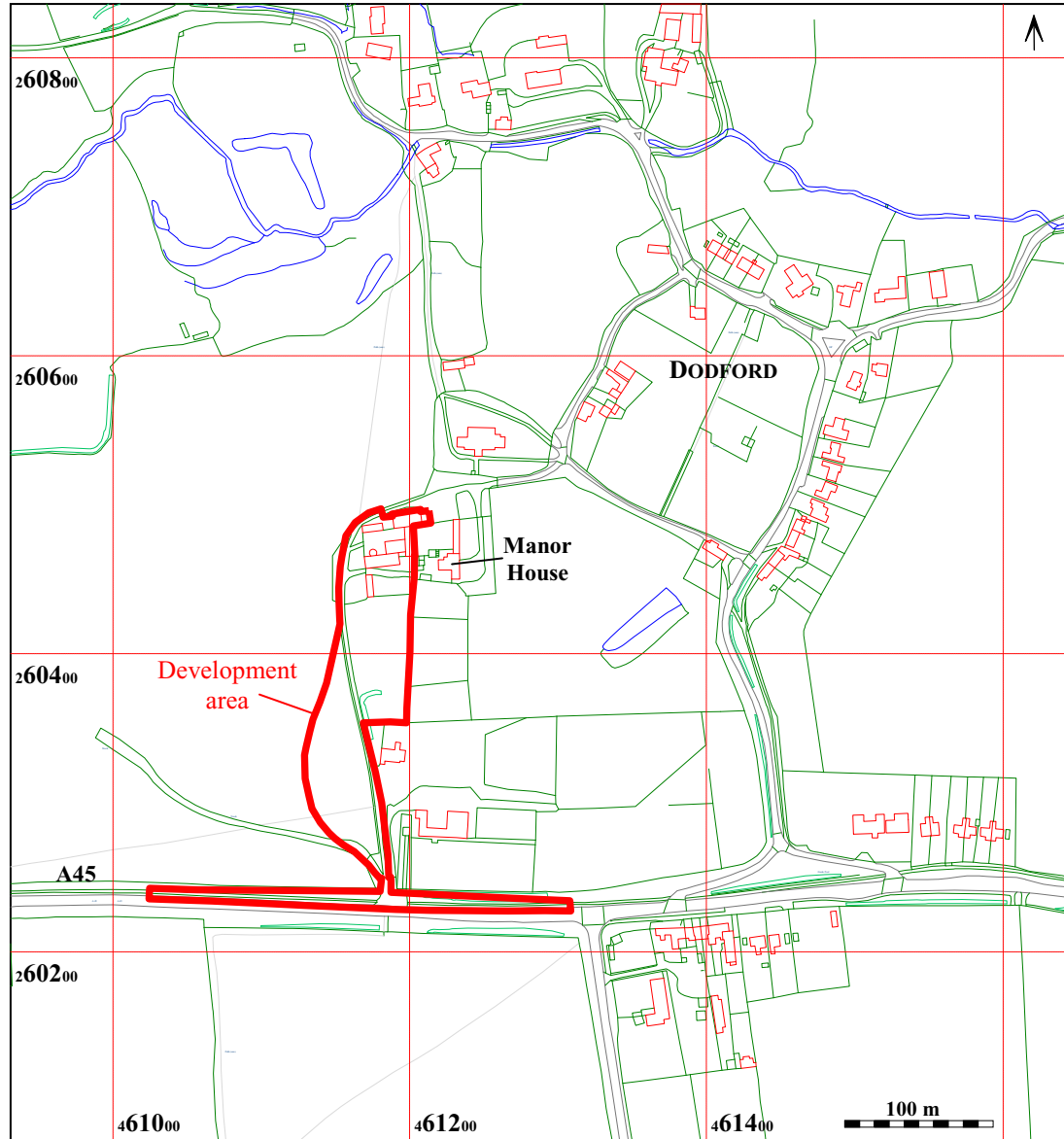
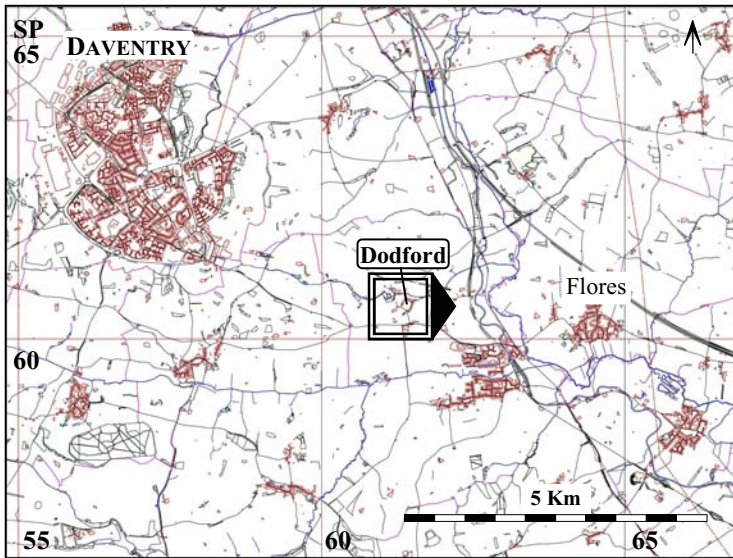
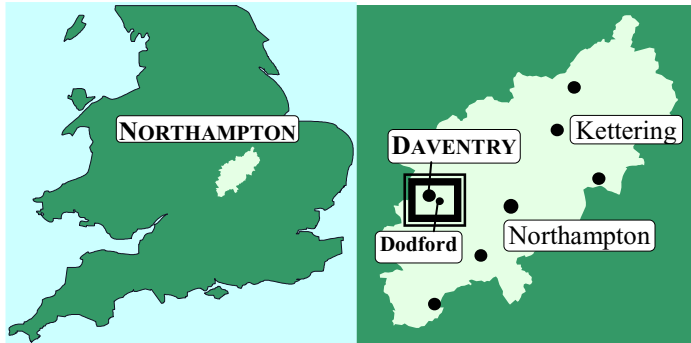


Figure 1: Site location plan

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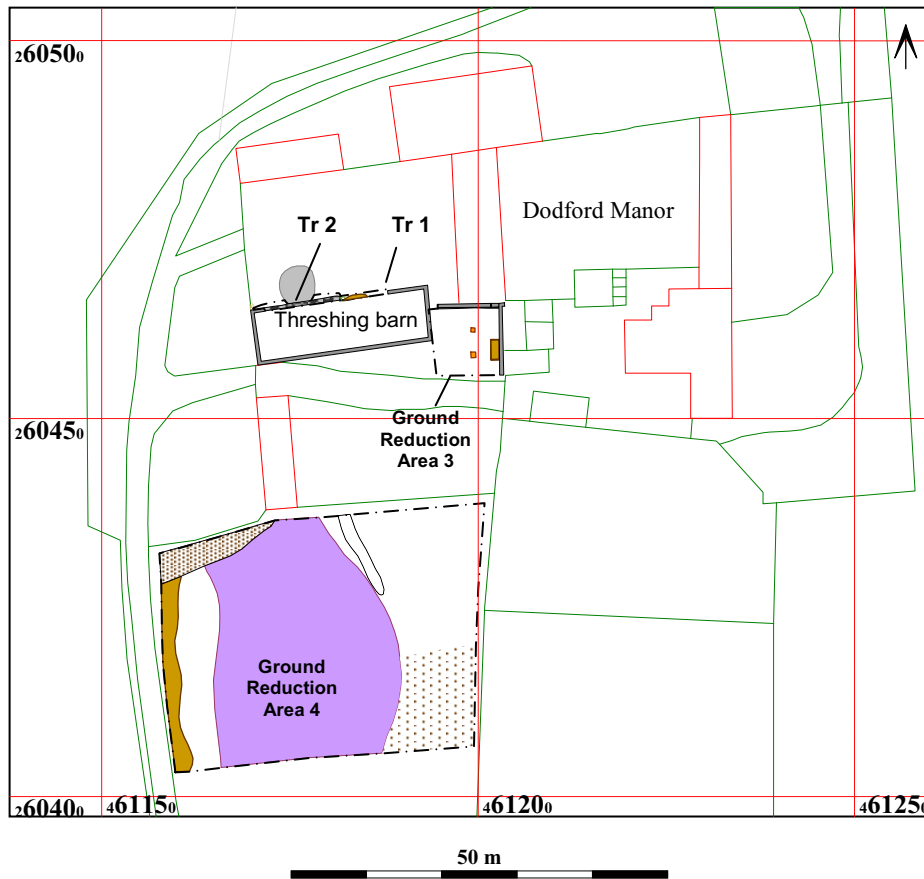
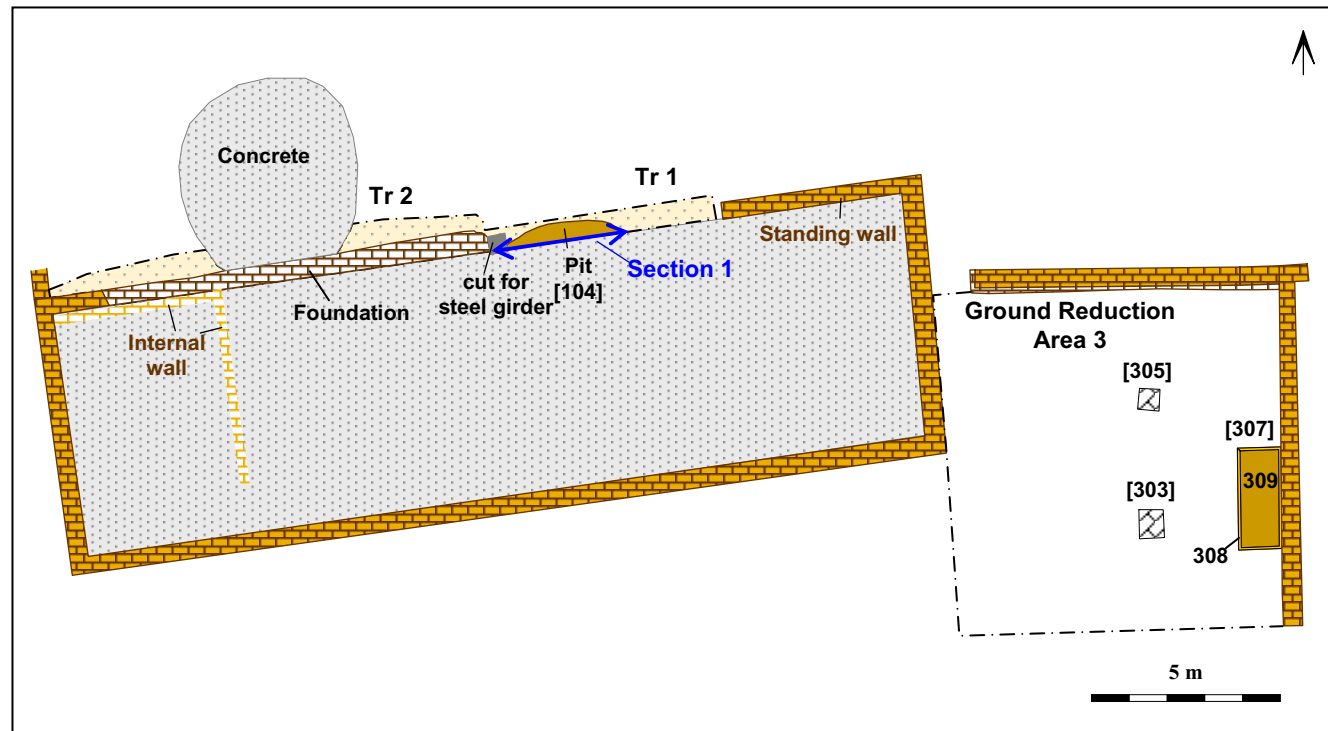


Figure 2: Locations of observations

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Photograph of two brick pads and Ground Reduction Area 3. Looking north. Scale 2m



Photograph of clay lined pit [307]. Looking east. Scale 2m



Brick pad [303]. Looking north. Scale 40cm

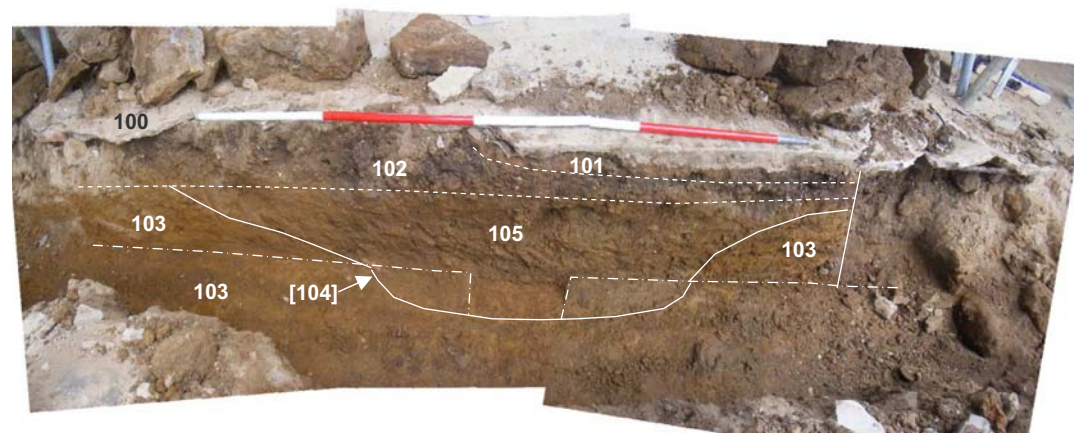
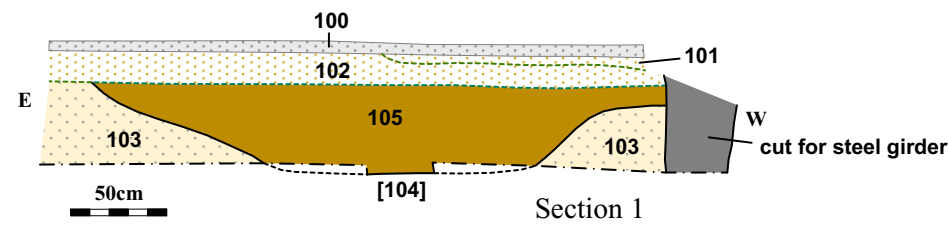


Photo-mosaic of pit [104]. Looking south. Scale 2m

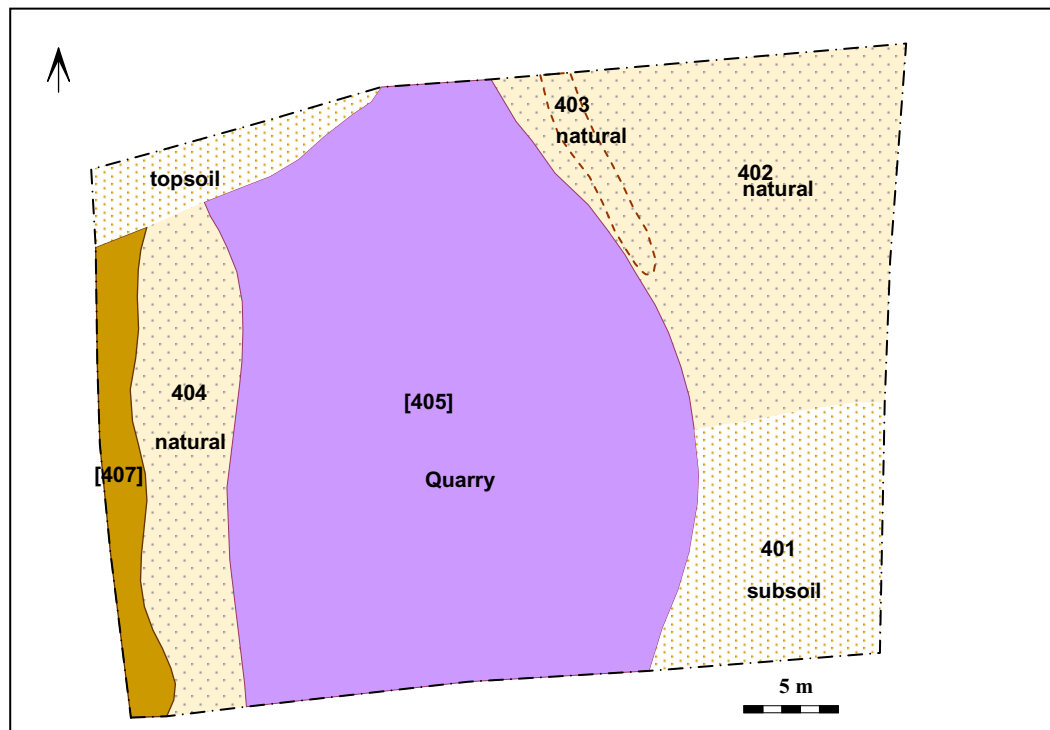


Photograph of the threshing barn trenches. Looking south-west.



Photograph of the threshing barn trenches. Looking east.

Figure 3: Threshing barn and Ground Reduction Area 3



Photomosaic of Ground Reduction Area 4

Figure 4: Ground Reduction Area 4



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