LAND OFF MILL LANE GREENS NORTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





LAND OF MILL LANE GREENS NORTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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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.

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The project was commissioned by Davidsons Developments Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

The trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Benjamin Carroll (Archaeological Supervisor) along with Alan King and Gary Manning (Assistant Supervisors). The fieldwork was managed by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager.

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

| CAA | Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor |
|------|--|
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| HER | Historic Environment Record |
| NCC | Northamptonshire County Council |
| PDA | Proposed development area |
| WSI | Written Scheme of Investigation |
| | |



On behalf of Davidson Developments Ltd Bidwells is preparing a planning application for the residential development of land off Mill Lane in Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. A desk-based heritage statement and geophysical survey have already been carried out, but the County Archaeological Advisor advised that archaeological trial trenching would also be required to provide sufficient information to assess the potential impact of the development. This advice is in line with the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Davidson Developments Ltd to carry out the trial trenching. The geophysical survey had identified the presence of probable archaeological features across the survey area. The subsequent trial trenching confirmed the presence of a number of archaeological features with good levels of subsurface preservation.

The majority of the archaeological features identified during trenching could be correlated with anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey. In addition, a number of other features were revealed within the trenches that were not detected by the geophysical survey.

The layout and form of these features, together with recovered artefacts, suggest that the site contains remains of peripheral settlement activity, comprising: enclosure, field system and trackway ditches; bedding trenches; storage pits; and at least one posthole. A moderate quantity of artefacts was recovered from these features, including pottery and animal bone. The pottery dates to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Two areas of activity were identified: one to the north-east and one to the south-west end of the proposed development area. The remains are likely to represent low-status peripheral settlement activity associated with a settlement core lying to the north-east (as indicated by the geophysical survey). These remains are probably of local and regional significance. The north-western part of the site was devoid of significant archaeological remains, other than features associated with post-medieval quarrying and modern agriculture. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow were only identified across the eastern part of site.

The impact of the proposed development on any surviving heritage assets would in most cases be moderate to high as earthmoving and the construction of building foundations would lead to the destruction of the majority of the below-ground remains present on the site. The <u>significance</u> of this impact (before mitigation) would, therefore, be moderate / large for the prehistoric and Roman periods and no more than slight for all subsequent periods.

The potential for and significance of heritage assets and the magnitude of developmental impact and its significance are summarised below.

| Period | Potential of finding asset | Significance of asset | Magnitude of impact | Significance of impact (before mitigation) |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Early Prehistoric (pre-Iron Age) | Moderate | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | <i>Moderate / large</i> |
| Iron Age (before 43BC) | High | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | <i>Moderate / large</i> |
| Roman (43BC– AD450) | High | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | <i>Moderate / large</i> |
| Anglo-Saxon to medieval (450– 1550) | Low | Negligible to local | Moderate to high | Slight |
| Post-medieval to modern (1550– present) | Negligible | Negligible | Moderate to high | Neutral / slight |

The evaluation has largely confirmed the assessment contained within the heritage statement. However, the identification of Iron Age deposits raises the potential of finding later prehistoric heritage assets from moderate to high. Other than this the heritage statement's assessment of impacts on archaeological assets remains the same.

If required by the LPA, any direct impact of the new development on potential buried archaeological and historical remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the potential assets. This could be achieved by a programme of archaeological works secured by condition.



1.1 Project Background

On behalf of Davidson Developments Ltd, Bidwells are preparing an outline planning application for the residential development of land off Mill Lane in Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. As part of this work, a desk-based heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2015) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) were carried out.

The County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised that archaeological trial trenching would also be required to provide sufficient information to assess the potential impact of the development. This advice is in line with the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Davidson Developments Ltd to carry out the trial trenching.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Greens Norton is a village in South Northamptonshire; it lies c. 1.4km to the west of the A5 trunk road and c. 1.5km to the north-west of the town of Towcester. The village lies on a south-facing slope with the land falling gently towards the River Tove to the south (Figure 1).

The proposed development area (PDA) lies to the south-east of the village (Figure 1) and consists of arable land. The PDA is bounded to the west by Mill Lane, to the north and north-west by modern residential housing and to the east and south by further arable fields. A hedged and fenced field boundary and a public footpath run along its eastern side.

Soils surrounding the village consist of alluvium and Upper Lias Clays in the river valleys and outcrops of Northampton Sand and Oolitic limestones on higher ground (RCHME 1982). On the PDA the underlying sedimentary bedrock is Northampton Sand Formation sandstone, limestone and ironstone with no superficial deposits recorded.

The PDA lies on a gentle south-facing slope at an average height of c. 120m OD. It is centred on grid reference SP 672 496.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background to the site is detailed in the heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2015) and is only summarised here:

Possible Neolithic features of an uncertain nature were recorded during investigations at 37 High Street in 1958 (ENN5287, MNN853). A polished Neolithic flint axe (MNN19376) was found in the same location. A possible prehistoric and Romano-British settlement was identified from aerial photographs to the south-east of Greens Norton (MNN3662). The settlement extends into the site and has been confirmed through geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015). The survey has revealed a number of linear and curvilinear ditches, rectangular and circular enclosures and a fairly large number of possible pits. The morphology of the site looks characteristic of late prehistoric/Romano-British settlements. There are also records of an extensive scatter of Roman pottery discovered on the site (RCHME 1982b).

It is likely that the cropmarks represents a farmstead or small settlement which was part of the Roman hinterland of the nearby town of *Lactodurum*.

[Greens] Norton has an entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is listed as a medium-sized manor. No Anglo-Saxon heritage assets have yet been found within the area.

The main part of the medieval village of Greens Norton was centred along the present-day High Street. The land around the village consisted of agricultural fields which were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1799. Close to the site remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are visible on Google maps in the small area of pasture immediately to the north-west. The below-ground remains of the negative furrows are visible on the geophysical survey in the western field of the site. The remainder of the ridge and furrow earthworks were most likely destroyed by modern ploughing.

Post-medieval maps suggest that in the 18th century the village of Greens Norton was made up of two parts: the main village along the present-day High Street and a separate, smaller arrangement of lanes to the south of the village. The two were linked by a narrow road. The majority of post-medieval heritage assets take the form of listed buildings. These mainly lie along the High Street in the historic core of Greens Norton, and along Bengal Lane, the road leading to the former southern, separate part of the village.

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the trial trenching was to obtain further information on any archaeological remains that might be present within the PDA.

Information on the following was required:

- The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.

The results of the trial trenching were to be considered in relation to their local, regional and national context, which is principally provided by the regional research framework (Knight et al. 2012). It was envisaged that the main focus of the project would probably be Romano-British rural settlement (research objective 5.4) and the rural economy in the Romano-British period (research objective 5.5).



2.1 Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

| • | Albion Archaeology | <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001). |
|---|--------------------|---|
| | | 2001). |
| • | Archaeological | Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice |
| | Archives Forum | in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2nd |
| | | ed. 2011) |
| • | CIfA | Charter and By-law; Code of conduct (2014) |
| | - | Standard and guidance for archaeological field |
| | | evaluation (2014) |
| | | Standard and guidance for the collection, |
| | | documentation, conservation and research of |
| | | archaeological materials (2014) |
| • | Historic England | Management of Research Projects in the Historic |
| | - | Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation |
| | | (2015) |
| | | Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory |
| | | and practice of methods, from sampling and |
| | | recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011) |
| • | NARC | Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives |
| | | Standard (June 2014) |
| | | × |

2.2 Archaeological Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place from the 16th–19th November 2015. It comprised the excavation of seven trenches, each 1.8m wide and 30m long. The trenches were positioned to investigate areas and features of archaeological potential identified by the geophysical survey and also to test areas of the site that appeared to be "blank".

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff with external specialists consulted as necessary. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-228236). There is currently no archaeological depository able to accept the physical archive and finds from this part of the county, although the issue is being actively addressed and it is hoped that suitable facilities will be available within 3–5 years.



3.1 Introduction

Following a description of the overburden and underlying geological deposits, the archaeological deposits and features found within the trial trenches are described by period and by trench. The trench locations are shown on Figure 1, with more detailed plans in Figures 2-4 and selected photographs in Figures 5–7. Further detailed information on all deposits and features revealed can be found in Appendix 1; information on finds and environmental samples is contained in Appendix 2.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The topsoil was uniform across the site, comprising 0.25-0.33m of friable dark brown-black clay-silt. Subsoil was not present in Trench 3. In all other trenches it was consistently mid orange-brown clay-silt and was 0.1-0.28m thick. Generally, the overburden was thicker towards the south of the PDA, near the bottom of the natural slope of the land.

Alluvial deposits were a component of the overburden in the centre of Trench 3. They were up to 0.08m thick and comprised mid brown-grey clay-silt with moderate amounts of stone inclusions. Where present, the alluvial deposits sealed the Roman archaeological remains.

The undisturbed geological deposits varied across the PDA, ranging from silty clays to pure clay, with outcrops of sandy silts and large patches of iron panning. The deposits varied in colour from mid brown-orange through to orange-yellow, mid red-brown and light grey-brown.

3.3 Distribution of Archaeological Remains

Archaeological features or deposits were identified in all of the seven trenches. In five of the trenches datable artefacts were recovered from the features (see Appendix 2). The archaeological features comprised numerous ditches/gullies, with occasional quarry pits, pits, alluvium, a possible posthole, a few NW-SE aligned furrows and three recent wheel ruts. One modern land drain was identified; it was planned and left *in situ*.

3.4 Iron Age Features

The main focus of Iron Age features was located in the south to south-west corner of the site, adjacent to Mill Lane. It comprised two segments of probable roundhouse or enclosure ditch, two ditch/gully alignments and a single storage pit. The remains are likely to represent peripheral activity, related to the settlement core identified to the north-east by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015, fig. 5).

3.4.1 Trench 4 (Figures 3 and 5)

A curved, roughly E-W aligned ditch [403]/[405] and corresponding NW-SE aligned ditch [407]/[409] are interpreted as a possible roundhouse or enclosure ditch. It extends beyond the limits of Trench 4 and matches the data from the

geophysical survey (Figure 2). The recut [405] was 1.2m wide and had a very steep-sided profile measuring up to 0.78m deep. An abraded fragment of Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill. The earlier ditch [403] terminated to the east; in its surviving form it was 0.75m and more than 0.4m deep. To the southwest the recut [409] was 1.1m wide and 0.74m deep with a similar steep-sided profile. The earlier ditch [407] survived to a breadth of 0.9m and a depth of 0.5m.

3.4.2 Trench 5 (Figures 4 and 5)

A sub-rectangular pit [503] was identified towards the middle of Trench 5. It had near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained several fragments of Iron Age pottery. It is interpreted as a probable storage pit on account of its form. However, the soil sample taken from its fill produced only very sparse amounts of charred seeds.

3.4.3 Trench 6 (Figure 4 and 5)

An E-W aligned ditch [603] was identified at the south-west end of Trench 6. It was 1.4m wide and 0.37m deep, with a steep-sided profile and a flat base. One fragment of Iron Age pottery was recovered. The feature is interpreted as either a boundary ditch or possibly a cultivation trench. It matches data from the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

3.5 Roman Features

The main focus of Roman activity was located in the north to north-west corner of the PDA. It comprised two segments of probable trackway ditches or bedding trenches, numerous ditch/gully alignments, a spread and a single pit. These remains are likely to represent peripheral activity, probably field systems, related to the settlement to the east identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015, fig. 5).

3.5.1 Trench 2 (Figures 3 and 6)

A NW-SE aligned linear [205] in Trench 2, roughly parallel to linear [207], is interpreted as either the northernmost ditch of a trackway or a bedding trench. It was 0.7m wide and 0.43m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. A small sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill. The southernmost ditch [207] was similar in size and form. No dating evidence was recovered but its similar profile and alignment to [203] suggests that it is also Roman in date.

3.5.2 Trench 3 (Figures 3 and 6)

Five straight ditches and one circular pit were recorded within Trench 3. Ditches [305], [307], [311] in the north of the trench were all broadly parallel and aligned NW-SE. They are interpreted as field system / drainage ditches. Ditches [305] and [307] were both 0.55–0.75m wide 0.09m deep, with U-shaped profiles and narrow concave bases. Roman pottery was recovered from ditch [307]. Ditch [311] was 1.25m wide 0.31m deep, with a steep-sided profile and concave base; it too produced Roman pottery.

Linear ditches [313] and [316] were broadly parallel to one another and aligned E-W. They are interpreted as field system ditches, sealed by an apparently

alluvial layer (315)/(318) that may represent a localised flooding event or accumulation of slope-wash. Both ditches were up to 0.61m wide and 0.18m deep, with U-shaped profiles. Roman pottery was recovered from ditch [316].

Circular pit [309] in the north of Trench 3 is interpreted as a probable storage pit. It was 0.75m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with a U-shaped profile and a flat base. It cut one of the linear ditches.

3.6 Medieval Furrows

The land around the village consisted of agricultural fields which were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1799. Close to the site remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are visible on Google Earth (aerial imagery dated 24/05/2009) in the small area of pasture immediately to the north-west. The below-ground remains of the furrows are visible on the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

Furrows were only identified within Trench 7 (Figure 4). They were aligned NW-SE and at c. 8m intervals. They were up to 2.2m wide and 0.18m deep, with shallow U-shaped profiles.

3.7 Post-medieval and Modern Features

3.7.1 Quarry pitting (Figures 3, 4 and 7)

Trenches 4 and 5 each contained possible quarry pits [411] and [505]. They are interpreted as either post-medieval or modern in date, as pit [505] survived directly below the topsoil and pit [411] produced small amounts of modern ceramic building material. Pit [411] was hand-excavated. It was at least 6.1m wide and 1m deep with very steep slightly convex sides. Pit [505] was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.3m without the base being revealed; it was at least 5.8m wide.

3.7.2 Wheel ruts (Figure 3)

Three NW-SE aligned linear features [103], [105], [107] at the western end of Trench 1 are interpreted as probable modern wheel ruts due to their alignment with existing tramlines visible on the surface of the field. They were up to 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep, with shallow U-shaped profiles.

3.7.3 Field boundary (Figure 3)

Linear ditch [303] in the north of Trench 3 was aligned NE-SW, roughly parallel to the modern field boundaries. The dating evidence from it suggests that it is a post-medieval field boundary.

3.8 Undated Features

3.8.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

A small elongated oval feature [203] at the northern end of Trench 2 is interpreted as a possible posthole or root hole. It contained moderate charcoal flecks. It was 0.32m wide and 0.19m deep, with steep to near-vertical sides and an undulating base.

A straight E-W aligned gully [209] in the south of Trench 2 was 0.54m wide and up to 0.2m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the gully is probably associated with the Roman features to the north.

An oval pit [211] at the southern end of Trench 2 was 0.5m wide, 0.7m long and up to 0.1m deep. It had shallow concave sides and a flat base. Roughly in the centre of the feature was a large stone.

3.8.2 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

A straight gully [319] in Trench 3 was broadly parallel to ditches [313] and [316] to the north. It was 0.75m wide and 0.13m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Although no dating was recovered, the gully may be associated with the Roman features to the north, due to their similar alignment and relative proximity.

3.8.3 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

A NW-SE aligned gully [509] was located in Trench 5. It was 0.77m wide and up to 0.31m deep, with a steep concave profile. This feature did not produce dating evidence but given its light, leached fill, which differs from all other features on site, is likely to predate the medieval ridge and furrow.

3.8.4 Trench 7 (Figure 4)

Parallel E-W aligned ditches [704] and [710] were 12m apart. They were up to 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep, with similar steep concave sides. No dating evidence was recovered but the ditches are probably associated with nearby Roman features.

Parallel N-S aligned ditches [706] and [708] were 1.3m apart. They are interpreted as probable field system ditches. Ditch [706] was 1.38m wide and 0.31m deep, with shallow sides and a concave base. Ditch [708] was narrower and shallower, although similar in form. No dating evidence was recovered from these features but they are perpendicular to other ditches within the trench and are likely to be Roman in date.



4.1 Summary of Results

The majority of the trenches (with the exception of Trench 1) contained a variety of well-preserved archaeological features. The features included both linear boundaries and structural gullies, some identified by the geophysical survey, and less substantial features, such as pits and postholes, which were not.

The concentration of curving geophysical anomalies in the area of Trench 4 is interpreted as a possible focus of peripheral prehistoric settlement activity. Together with a pit and ditch in Trenches 5 and 6 they indicate a probable Iron Age date for activity in this part of the PDA.

An area of potentially later activity was identified towards the north-eastern extent of the PDA by both geophysical survey and trial trenching. Trench 3 contained several field ditches [305], [307], [311], [313], [316] and a pit [309], dated by the recovery of Roman pottery. The parallel linear anomalies targeted by Trench 2 can be correlated to ditches [205] and [207]. They also date to the Roman period and may be trackside ditches or bedding trenches associated with the settlement to the east. It may also be assumed that at least some of the linear ditches in Trench 7 are Roman in date, due to their alignment with other more securely dated features.

Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow was recorded in the geophysical survey across the west of the PDA. Surface undulations in pasture to the north-west of the PDA are still clearly visible. However, sub-surface remains of furrows were only identified in Trench 7. The absence of contemporary artefacts from any of the excavated furrows suggests that the PDA was not close to any areas of occupation during the medieval period.

The quarry pitting in Trenches 4 and 5 corresponds with geophysical anomalies in the south-western corner of the PDA. Excavation of the substantial features [411] and [505] indicates an area of potential post-medieval or modern quarrying.

On the basis of evidence from the trial trenching it can be suggested with a high degree of confidence that the roughly circular, curvilinear and linear anomalies on the geophysical survey are the remains of Iron Age and Roman settlement and farming activity, linked to the possible settlement focus to the north-east of the PDA. The identification of a number of small pits and shallower gullies, many of which were not visible in the geophysical survey, attests to a reasonable degree of archaeological survival with the PDA, notwithstanding the effects of modern ploughing.

4.2 Assessment of Archaeological Significance

The archaeological remains within the PDA have the potential to address a number of research topics in the regional research framework (Knight et al. 2012) relating to Iron Age settlements (research objective 4.4), Romano-British rural settlement (research objective 5.4) and the rural economy in the Romano-

British period (research objective 5.5). By contrast, the medieval and later remains are of no more than local significance.

The following table gives an indication of the relative significance of archaeological heritage assets and the likely development impact on them.

| Period | Potential of finding asset | Significance of asset | Magnitude of impact | Significance of impact (before mitigation) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Early Prehistoric (pre-Iron Age) | Moderate | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | Moderate / large |
| Iron Age (before 43BC) | High | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | Moderate / large |
| Roman (43BC– AD450) | High | Moderate local to regional | Moderate to high | Moderate / large |
| Anglo-Saxon to medieval (450– 1550) | Low | Negligible to local | Moderate to high | Slight |
| Post-medieval to modern (1550– present) | Negligible | Negligible | Moderate to high | Neutral / slight |

Table 1: Heritage assets and significance

The results of the archaeological field evaluation have largely confirmed the assessment contained within the heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2015) and the combined results should give sufficient information to allow the planning application to be determined. However, the identification of Iron Age features in Trenches 4–6 raises the potential of finding later prehistoric heritage assets from moderate to high. Other than this, the heritage statement's assessment of the significance of developmental impacts on archaeological assets remains the same.

If required by the LPA, any direct impact of the new development on potential buried archaeological and historical remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the potential assets. This could be achieved by a programme of archaeological works secured by condition, focusing initially on the core areas with contingency perhaps to extend the area of investigation subject to the initial results.

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6 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67197/49532

OS Grid Ref.: SP67167/49532

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential and investigate geophysical anomalies.

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: Finds | s Present: |
|----------|------------|--|------------------|------------|
| 100 | Topsoil | Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones . Up to 0.25m thick. | ✓ | |
| 101 | Subsoil | Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.2m thick with moderate inclusions of iron stone. | \checkmark | |
| 102 | Natural | Compact mid brown orange clay silt frequent small-large stones . Containe frequent iron stone and areas of iron panning. | d 🗌 | |
| 103 | Wheel ruts | Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.06m, min length 2.m . Modern wheel ruts, below the subsoil but match modern tramlines. | | |
| 104 | Fill | Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional small stones | ✓ | |
| 105 | Wheel ruts | Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.36m, max depth 0.06m, min length 2.m . Modern wheel ruts, below the subsoil but match modern tramlines. | ✓ | |
| 106 | Fill | Friable mid yellow brown clay silt occasional small stones | ✓ | |
| 107 | Wheel ruts | Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m max depth 0.08m, min length 2.m . Modern wheel ruts, below the subsoil bu match modern tramlines. | / | |
| 108 | Fill | Friable mid yellow brown clay silt occasional small stones | ✓ | |

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.61 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67234/49566

OS Grid Ref.: SP67225/49523

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: Finds F | resent: |
|----------|----------|---|--------------------|---------|
| 200 | Topsoil | Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones . Up to 0.33m thick. | ✓ | |
| 201 | Subsoil | Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.28m thick with moderate inclusions of iron stone. | ✓ | |
| 202 | Natural | Compact mid brown orange clay silt frequent small-large stones . Contained frequent iron stone and areas of iron panning. | I 🗌 | |
| 203 | Posthole | Oval sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.19m, min length 0.9m . Undulating base suggesting more then one post or possible root disturbance. | | |
| 204 | Fill | Friable mid grey white clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small stones | ✓ | |
| 205 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m max depth 0.43m, min length 2.m . Possible Roman trackway ditch or bedding trench lining up with geophysicial data. | , ✓ | |
| 206 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Sample ${<}2{>}$ taken for ecofact evidence. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 207 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m max depth 0.39m, min length 2.m . Possible Roman trackway ditch or bedding trench lining up with geophysicial data. | , ✓ | |
| 208 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 209 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.54m, max depth 0.2m, min length 1.8m . Probable field system ditch. | ✓ | |
| 210 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | \checkmark | |
| 211 | Pit | Oval sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.7m | ✓ | |
| 212 | Fill | Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones | ✓ | |



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67258/49592

OS Grid Ref.: SP67256/49562

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|----------|---|------------|----------------|
| 300 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.3m thick. | ✓ | |
| 301 | Subsoil | Friable light orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 302 | Natural | Compact mid brown orange clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Contained frequent iron stone and areas of iron panning. | ✓ | |
| 303 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.24m, min length 2.05m . Post-med ditch likley to be a old field boundary. Cuts ditch [305] to the SW. | ✓ | |
| 304 | Fill | Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small stones | ✓ | ✓ |
| 305 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.08m, min length 2.75m . Probable filed system ditch cut by post-med ditch [303] to the NW. | ✓ | |
| 306 | Fill | Friable light grey clay silt occasional small stones | ✓ | |
| 307 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.09m, min length 2.5m . Probable field system ditch, cut by pit [309] to the west. | ✓ | |
| 308 | Fill | . Sample <4> taken for ecofact evidence. | ✓ | \checkmark |
| 309 | Pit | Circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 0.75m . Pit cuts ditch [307] to the north. | ✓ | |
| 310 | Fill | Friable dark grey sandy silt moderate small stones | ✓ | |
| 311 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.31m, min length 2.5m . Probable Roman system ditch, overlain by layer (315). | ✓ | |
| 312 | Fill | Friable mid yellow grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | \checkmark |
| 313 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.18m, min length 2.m . Probable Roman system ditch, overlain by layer (315). | ✓ | |
| 314 | Fill | Friable mid grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 315 | Alluvium | Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small stones . Up to 0.18m thick, probably derived from past flooding events and similar to layer (318). | ✓ | |
| 316 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.18m, min length 1.9m . Probable Roman field system ditch, overlain by layer (318). | ✓ | |
| 317 | Fill | Friable mid grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | \checkmark |
| 318 | Alluvium | Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.08m thick, probably derived from past flooding events and similar to layer (315). | ✓ | |
| 319 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.13m, min length 1.9m . Probable field system ditch. | ✓ | |
| 320 | Fill | Friable mid grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones | ✓ | |



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m. Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67225/49523

OS Grid Ref.: SP67196/49516

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|---------|--|------------|----------------|
| 400 | Topsoil | Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones . Up to 0.3m thick. | ✓ | |
| 401 | Subsoil | Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.2m thick. | ✓ | |
| 402 | Natural | Compact mid brown orange clay silt frequent small-large stones . Contained frequent iron stone and areas of iron panning. | | |
| 403 | Ditch | Curving linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.75m, min depth 0.4m, min length 0.8m . Possible terminus, may be linked to ditch [407] to the SW. Cut by paralell ditch [405] to the NE. | ✓ | |
| 404 | Fill | Friable mid orange brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 405 | Ditch | Curving linear E-W sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.78m, min length 1.9m . Probable early-middle Iron Age ditch, cuts paralell terminus [403] to the SW and similar to ditch [409] also to the SW. | ✓ | |
| 406 | Fill | Friable dark orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Sample ${<}3{>}$ taken for ecofact evidence. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 407 | Ditch | Curving linear N-S sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.5m, min length 1.9m . Cut by paralell ditch [409] to the NE and similar to terminus [403] also to the NE. | ✓ | |
| 408 | Fill | Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 409 | Ditch | Curving linear N-S sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.74m, min length 1.9m . Cuts paralell ditch [407] to the SW and similar to ditch [405] to the NE. | ✓ | |
| 410 | Fill | Friable dark orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | ✓ | |
| 411 | Quarry | Linear NW-SE sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.8m, min depth 1.m, min length 6.1m . Possible quarrying, may be post-med and similar to [505] to the south. The base was not revealed due to the depth of the feature. | ✓ | |
| 412 | Fill | Friable mid brown orange clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Contained frequent small-medium iron stone inclusions. | ✓ | ✓ |



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.61 m. Max: 0.74 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67204/49490

OS Grid Ref.: SP67234/49490

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential and investigate geophysical anomalies.

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------|--|------------|----------------|
| 500 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . Up to 0.31m thick | ✓ | |
| 501 | Subsoil | Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-large stones . Up to 0.24n thick with stone inclusions increasing in frequency towards the east end of the trench. | n 🗸 | |
| 502 | Natural | Firm light brown grey clay . Mixed with compact mid grey brown silty gravel and friable light yellow brown, mid orange brown and light grey brown clayey silt. | | |
| 503 | Pit | Sub-rectangular sides: vertical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.35m, min depth 0.74m, min length 1.92m . Early-middle Iron age storage pit. | ✓ | |
| 504 | Fill | Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-large stones $% 1^{1}$. Sample $^{1>}$ take for ecofact evidence. | n 🗸 | ✓ |
| 505 | Quarry | Irregular dimensions: min breadth 1.8m, min depth 1.06m, min length 5.8n . Machine excavated. The base was not revealed. | n 🗸 | |
| 506 | Lower fill | Loose light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small-large stones . Up to $1.02m$ thick, mixed with friable mid grey brown clayey silt. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 507 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-large stones . Up to 0.9m thick, mixed with patches of mid yellow brown clayey silt. | ✓ | |
| 508 | Upper fill | Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to $0.3\mathrm{lm}$ thick. | ✓ | |
| 509 | Ditch | Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.77m, max depth 0.31m, min length 3.2m | ✓ | |
| 510 | Fill | Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-large stones Stone inclusions decrease in frequency towards the base. | ✓ | |

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions:Length: 30.00 m.Width: 1.80 m.Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.Max: 0.55 m.Co-ordinates:OS Grid Ref.: SP67259/49527OS Grid Ref.: SP67248/49499

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: Finds Pr | resent: |
|----------|---------|---|---------------------|---------|
| 600 | Topsoil | Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones . Up to 0.3m thic | k. 🗸 | |
| 601 | Subsoil | Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones . Up to 0.25m thick with moderate iron stone inclusions. | | |
| 602 | Natural | Compact mid brown orange clay silt frequent small-large stones | | |
| 603 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.37m, min length 2.m . Possible early-middle Iron Age boundary ditch or cultivation trench. | | |
| 604 | Fill | Friable dark brown grey clay silt frequent small stones | ✓ | ✓ |



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP67294/49548

OS Grid Ref.: SP67282/49521

| Context: | Туре: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|---------|--|------------|----------------|
| 700 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . Up to 0.32m thick. | ✓ | |
| 701 | Natural | Firm mid orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Mixed with firm light yellow grey and light brown grey clay and containing areas of iron panning. | | |
| 702 | Furrow | Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max depth 0.18m, min length 2.m | ✓ | |
| 703 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones | ✓ | \checkmark |
| 704 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, ma depth 0.25m, min length 3.1m Similar shape, size, alignment and fill to ditch [710] to the NE. | | |
| 705 | Fill | Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium ston | es 🗸 | |
| 706 | Ditch | Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.38m, max depth 0.33m, min length 2.m | ✓ | |
| 707 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium-large stones | ~ | |
| 708 | Ditch | Linear N-S sides: assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.16m, min length 2.1m | ✓ | |
| 709 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones . Also contained occasional patches of redeposited natural. | ✓ | |
| 710 | Ditch | Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.69m, ma depth 0.23m, min length 2.3m Similar shape, size, alignment and fill to ditch [704] to the SW. | | |
| 711 | Fill | Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium ston | es 🗸 | |

7 APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

An assemblage comprising pottery, animal bone, single pieces of vessel glass and ceramic roof tile was collected from eleven deposits within six trenches (Table 2). No finds were recovered from Trench 1.

| Tr. | Feature | Description | Fill | Date | Finds Summary |
|-----|---------|-------------|------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | 205 | Ditch | 206 | Early Roman | Pottery (11g) |
| 3 | 303 | Ditch | 304 | Modern | Pottery (7g); vessel glass (12g) |
| | 307 | Ditch | 308 | Early Roman | Pottery (233g) |
| | 311 | Ditch | 312 | Early Roman | Pottery (98g) |
| | 316 | Ditch | 317 | Iron Age | Pottery (5g) |
| 4 | 405 | Ditch | 406 | Iron Age | Pottery (6g) |
| | 411 | Quarry pit | 412 | Post-medieval+ | Ceramic roof tile (19g) |
| 5 | 503 | Pit | 504 | Iron Age | Pottery (74g); animal bone (51g) |
| | 505 | Quarry pit | 506 | Undated | Animal bone (4g) |
| 6 | 603 | Ditch | 604 | Iron Age | Pottery (14g) |
| 7 | 702 | Furrow | 703 | Post-medieval | Pottery (29g) |

Table 2: Finds Summary by trench and feature

7.1 Ceramics

Thirty-six abraded pottery sherds (477g) were collected, the majority from Roman features in Trench 3. Fabrics are listed in Table 3.

| Fabric description | Sherd no. | Wt (g) | Fill/sherd no. |
|--|-----------|--------|------------------|
| Iron Age (mean sherd weight 10g) | | | |
| Shell | 1 | 1 | (406):1 |
| Shell and sand | 3 | 9 | (317):1, (504):2 |
| Sand | 3 | 70 | (504):3 |
| Sand and grog | 2 | 14 | (604):2 |
| Roman (mean sherd weight 16g) | | | |
| Samian | 1 | 9 | (312):1 |
| Buff sandy ware | 1 | 5 | (206):1 |
| Oxidised sandy ware | 6 | 89 | (312):6 |
| Oxidised sandy ware with grog | 13 | 233 | (308):13 |
| Post-medieval & modern | | | |
| Iron-glazed earthenware F426 ¹ | 1 | 29 | (703):1 |
| Miscellaneous 19th -20th-century wares F1000 | 2 | 7 | (304):2 |
| | | | |
| UNID | 3 | 11 | (206):1, (406):2 |

 Table 3: Pottery type series

7.1.1 Iron Age

Nine abraded sherds (94g), representing seven handmade vessels, were collected from ditches [316], [405], [603] and pit [503], the latter containing the largest deposit (74g). Fabrics principally contain shell, sand and grog, and are likely to be of local origin and manufacture. No vessel forms occur, and all pottery is highly abraded. Feature sherds are three lightly brushed body sherds, and a flat base. The poor condition of the material coupled with a lack of diagnostic elements render precise dating problematic.

¹ Fabric codes defined in accordance with the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type Series

7.1.2 Roman

Twenty early Roman sherds (331g), representing five vessels, were recovered from the fills of ditches [307] and [311], and a single sherd (5g) from ditch [205]. Most derive from an abraded 1st- to 2nd-century lid-seated jar (rim diameter 190mm) with a finely rilled exterior surface, in locally manufactured oxidised sand and sparse grog tempered ware. Oxidised coarse sandy wares (seven sherds) and a single imported samian sherd (9g) complete the assemblage. The latter survives in very poor condition, with no slip remaining.

7.1.3 Post-medieval and modern

A 17th-century iron-glazed earthenware body sherd (29g) derived from furrow [702]. The fill of modern ditch [303] contained two sherds (7g) of 19th- to 20th-century crockery. An abraded piece of sand tempered flat roof tile (19g) derived from post-medieval quarry pit [411].

7.2 Vessel Glass

Linear ditch [303] contained a translucent spring green glass body sherd from a modern cylindrical bottle.

7.3 Animal Bone

Seventeen animal bone fragments (55g) were collected from Iron Age pit [503] and undated quarry pit [505]. Individual pieces are small, with a mean weight of 3g, and are generally abraded. They comprise a small piece of rib, two cattle molars, and miscellaneous, undiagnostic tooth fragments.

7.4 Environmental Samples

Four bulk soil samples were taken from selected contexts to test the potential of the deposits for environmental analysis; these included the possible storage pit [503] in Trench 5. Whilst charred plant remains were relatively abundant in two samples, the quantities of identifiable seeds etc. were very low (see Table 1).

| Feature | Context | Sample | Vol. (L) | Feature interpretation | Qty charred plant remains | Qty charred seeds |
|---------|---------|--------|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 205 | 206 | 2 | 10 | Roman ditch | sparse | very sparse |
| 307 | 308 | 4 | 8 | Roman ditch | abundant | none |
| 405 | 406 | 3 | 10 | Iron Age ditch | moderate | sparse |
| 503 | 504 | 1 | 10 | Iron Age pit | sparse | very sparse |

Table 4: Results of processing of soil samples

8 APPENDIX 3: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: albionar1-228236

Project details

Project name Land off Mill Lane, Greens Norton

Short description of On behalf of Davidson Developments Ltd Bidwells are preparing a planning application for the residential development of land off Mill the project Lane in Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. A desk-based heritage statement and geophysical survey have already been carried out, but the County Archaeological Advisor advised that archaeological trial trenching would also be required. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the trial trenching. The geophysical survey had identified the presence of probable archaeological features across the survey area. The subsequent trial trenching confirmed the presence of a number of archaeological features. The layout and form of these features, together with recovered artefacts, suggest that the site contains remains of peripheral settlement activity, comprising: enclosure, field system and trackway ditches; bedding trenches; storage pits; and at least one posthole. A moderate quantity of artefacts was recovered from these features, including pottery and animal bone. The pottery dates to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Two areas of activity were identified: one to the north-east and one to the south-west end of the proposed development area. The remains are likely to represent low-status peripheral settlement activity associated with a settlement core lying to the north-east (as indicated by the geophysical survey). These remains are probably of local and regional significance. The northwestern part of the site was devoid of significant archaeological remains, other than features associated with post-medieval quarrying and modern agriculture. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow were only identified across the eastern part of site. Project dates Start: 16-11-2015 End: 19-11-2015 Previous/future work Yes / Not known GN2577 - Contracting Unit No. Any associated ENN108179 - HER event no. project reference codes Field evaluation Type of project **DITCHES** Iron Age Monument type **PIT Iron Age** DITCHES Roman **PIT Roman** FURROWS Post Medieval **QUARRY PITS Post Medieval DITCHES Uncertain** Significant Finds POTTERY Iron Age **POTTERY Roman** ANIMAL BONE Iron Age Methods & "Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches" techniques Development type Rural residential Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the Pre-application



planning process

| Project location | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Project location | England |
| Country Site location | England NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAVENTRY NORTON Land off Mill Lane, |
| | Greens Norton |
| Site coordinates | SP 672 496 52. Point |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Albion Archaeology |
| Project design originator | Albion Archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Jeremy Oetgen |
| Project supervisor | Ben Carroll |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive recipient | Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones" ,"Ceramics" ,"Environmental", "Glass" |
| Physical Archive notes | To be deposited when store opens in the future |
| Digital Archive recipient | ADS |
| Digital Media available | "Database" ,"GIS" ,"Images raster / digital photography" ,"Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre |
| Paper Contents | "Animal Bones" ,"Ceramics" ,"Environmental" ,"Glass", "other" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet" ,"Correspondence", "Drawing" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section" |
| Paper Archive notes | To be deposited when store opens in the future |
| Project bibliography 1 | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Land off Mill Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | 'Carroll, B' 'Oetgen, J' |
| Other bibliographic details | 2015/205 |
| Date | 2015 |
| Issuer or publisher | Albion Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Bedford |

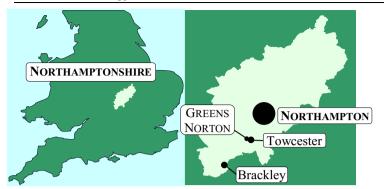


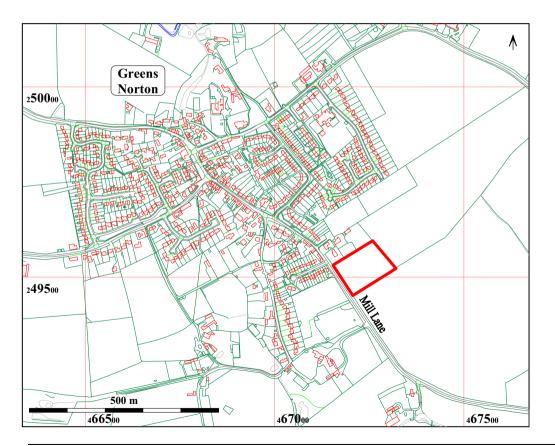
Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com) Entered on 3 December 2015



Albion Archaeology







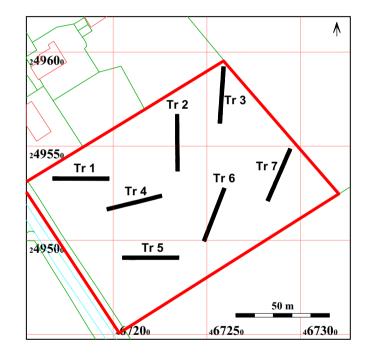


Figure 1: Site location and trench location plan This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

Land off Mill Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation

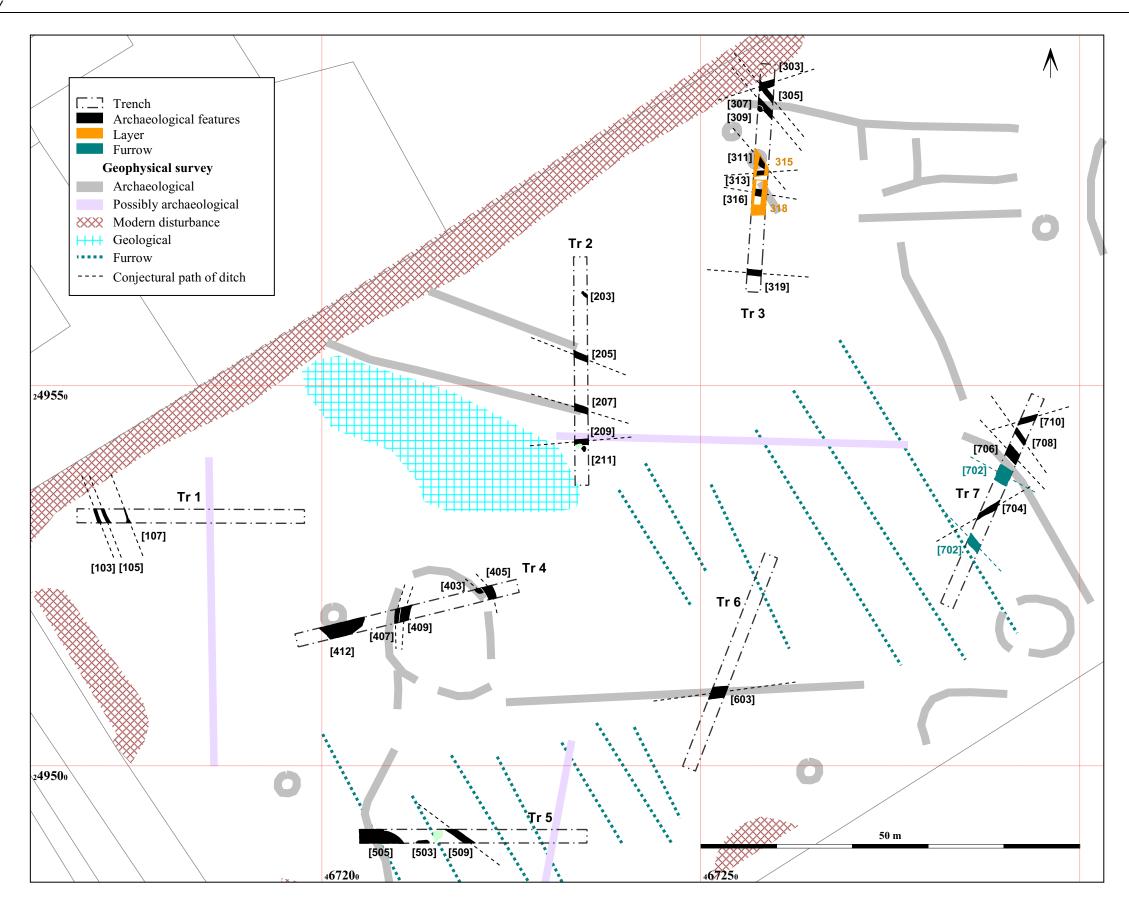
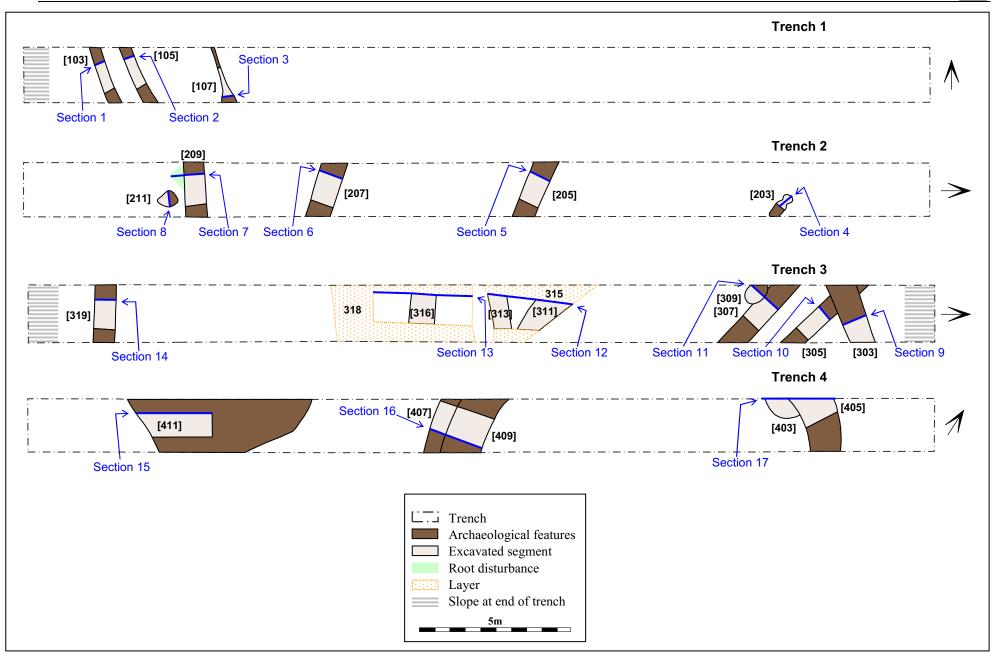
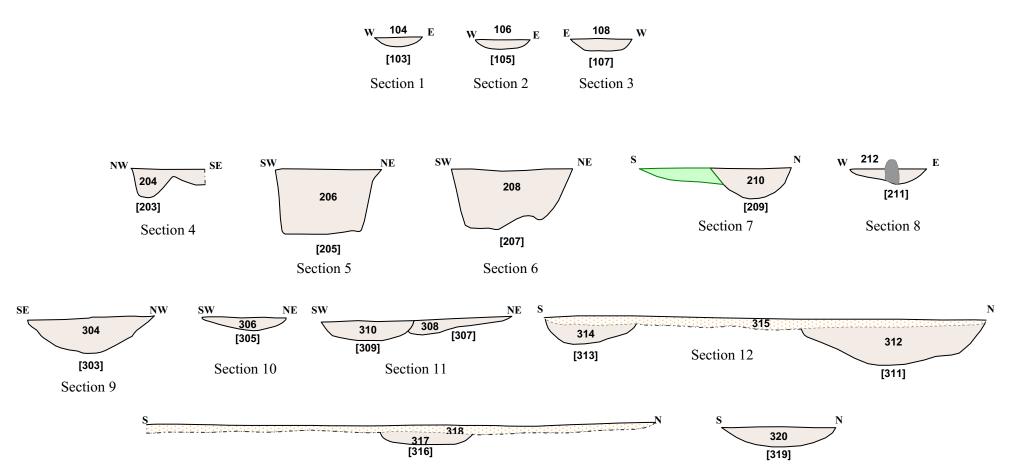


Figure 2: All features overlaid onto geophysical survey interpretation plot This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)





Section 14



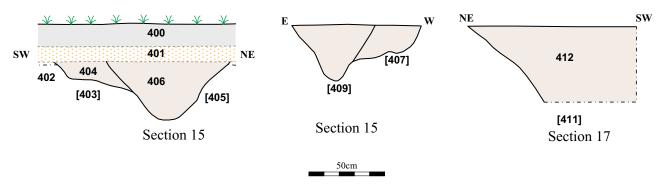
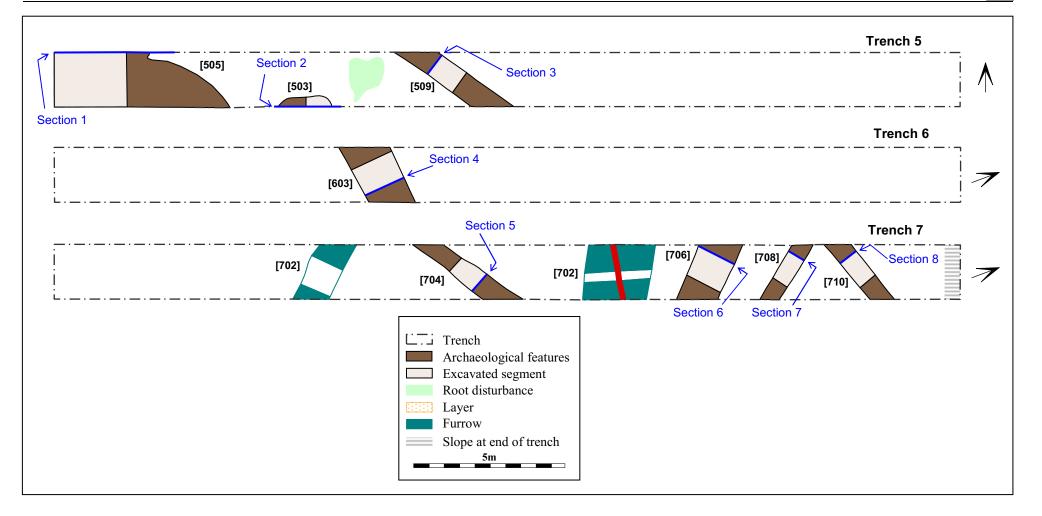


Figure 3: Trenches 1–4

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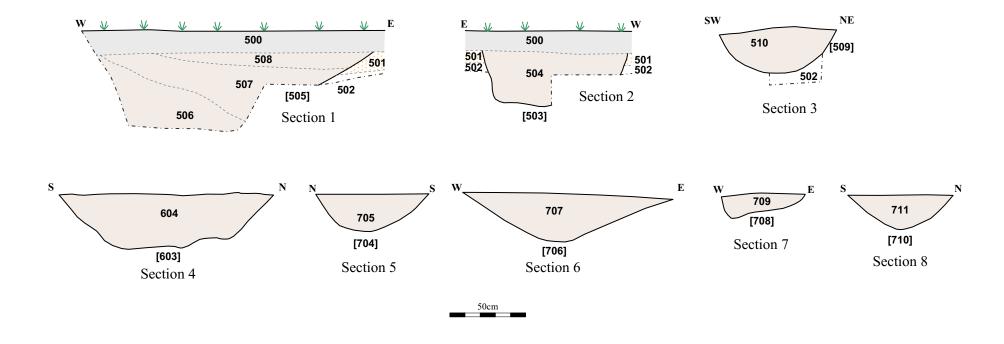


Figure 4: Trenches 5–7

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Trench 6: Early-middle Iron Age ditch [603]



Trench 5: Early-middle Iron Age pit [503]



Trench 4: Early-middle Iron Age enclosure ditches [407]/[408] (left) and [405] (right)



Trench 4: Looking SW early-middle Iron Age curvilinear ditches

| Figure 5: Trenches 4, 5 and 6 early-middle |
|--|
| Iron Age ditches and pits |





Trench 2: Ditches [205] and [207]



Trench 2: Ditch [205]



Trench 3: Looking south



Trench 3: Ditches [313] and [311]

Figure 6: Roman bedding trenches and field system ditches



Trench 5: Quarry [505]



Trench 4: Quarry [411]

Figure 7: Post-medieval or modern quarry pits





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