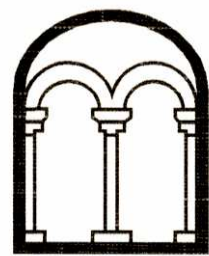


**SOUTHVIEW, GLEBE LANE
LOWER HARLESTONE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING**

Albion
archaeology



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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Marcin Koziminski	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

11th March 2011

Prepared for

Charles Britton Equestrian Construction

on behalf of

Mr. J. Clare
Southview
Glebe Lane
Lower Harlestone
Northamptonshire
NN7 4ET



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.

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Fieldwork was carried out by Iain Leslie (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor) and Benjamin Carroll (Archaeological Technician). Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor) prepared this report with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 0300 300 8141
Fax: 0300 300 8209
E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>11/03/2011</i>	<i>n/a</i>



Introduction

Planning consent (DA/2010/0871) was granted for the construction of a riding arena at Southview, Glebe Lane, Lower Harlestone, Northamptonshire. The groundworks associated with the development comprised the levelling of ground within the arena site.

As the site lies within an area of archaeological interest, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (AA) recommended to the Local Planning Authority that a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and reporting be carried out on ground-works associated with the development, as a condition of planning consent.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the programme of archaeological works in accordance with the methodologies described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2010), produced in response to the brief prepared by the AA (NCC 2010).

Site Location and Description

Southview is a private dwelling with adjoining land that lies on the north side of Glebe Lane, Lower Harlestone; it is centred on grid reference SP 70595/65250. It is bounded to the east and west by other residential properties and to the north are small plots of pasture bordering onto arable fields. Open fields also lie to the east and south-east of Glebe Lane.

The riding arena lies in the garden to the west of the dwelling, and is set back slightly from the road (Figure 2).

The geology of the area comprises Northampton Sand and Ironstone. The land in the vicinity of the arena slopes slightly down towards the north and east with the ground lying at a height of *c.*103m OD.

Archaeological Background

A search of the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within a radius of 300m around the development site revealed a high density of possible prehistoric and Roman settlement activity to the south-west of the site in the form of crop/soil marks (Figure 1).

Several aerial photographic surveys, undertaken in 1963, 1978 and 1981, identified a large number of probable archaeological settlement features in the fields to the east and south-east of the development site. In the SMR these consist of up to 70 catalogue entries with the prefixes 4478.

The features lie to the north and south of a possible prehistoric trackway (SMR 4478/0/37) and consist of conjoined rectangular enclosures, ring ditches, hut circles, possible Bronze Age barrows and smaller unenclosed circular and sub-rectangular features and portions of two pit-alignments. The settlement features extend to the south of Glebe Lane in the west and up to the railway line and small mill stream in the south and east.

A pair of large rectilinear enclosures of Iron Age or early Roman date, located to the south of Church Lane, were designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1986 (NN175). Both enclosures contain further, smaller, sub-rectangular and circular features and internal subdivisions. Another, similar, rectangular enclosure is visible to the north-east.



The settlement features lie within a possible prehistoric field system, defined by several linear features. These are catalogued in the SMR with the prefix 4479. A further possible prehistoric trackway (SMR 4505) leads up from Church Lane in the south to Glebe Lane in the north.

No below ground archaeological investigations have yet been undertaken in the area and no artefacts have yet been retrieved to confirm the proposed dating of the crop/soil marks.

Project Methodology

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2010). Methods employed during the project complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2009), English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009), and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001).

Works Description and Results

Archaeological monitoring of the levelling works took place between 18th and 22nd February 2011. The works comprised the removal of the topsoil for the arena which measured approximately 20m x 40m in area, and the excavation of subsoil and natural sand deposits from the south end of the site for reinstatement at the north end. This work was carried out using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged bucket working under archaeological supervision.

The topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.26m across the whole of the site. This revealed a small, straight gully feature 5m in length aligned NE-SW in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 3). The feature was cut into the subsoil and contained a fill of mid grey silty sand. The excavated segment produced no finds and revealed the feature to be very shallow. Also uncovered during the topsoil strip was a large sub-circular pit, c.6-7m in diameter, containing modern brick rubble, glass and plastic artefacts. This feature was not investigated further.

Following removal of the topsoil, an area of subsoil measuring c.20m x 24m, was removed to a depth of 0.24m at the south end of the site. This operation revealed a small, irregular ditch, measuring c.0.9m wide, which entered the site from its western boundary (Figure 3). It was aligned NW-SE for 8m of its length before turning to the north-east and running a further 4.5m. The feature was cut into natural geology and was filled with mid orange brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from the excavated segment of the ditch which revealed the feature to be c.0.23m deep.

Conclusion

One feature of archaeological interest was revealed during the groundworks associated with the construction of the riding arena. This comprised a small ditch which possibly formed the corner of an enclosure. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, its stratigraphic location beneath the subsoil and cutting into natural geology, and the nature of its fill, suggest it is of some antiquity, and possibly associated with the nearby prehistoric and Roman crop-marks.

Two other features were also uncovered. These comprised a large pit and a small gully. Both are interpreted as modern features, the former as a result of finds and the latter due



to its stratigraphic location just beneath the topsoil. Both features are probably associated with recent gardening and building activities.

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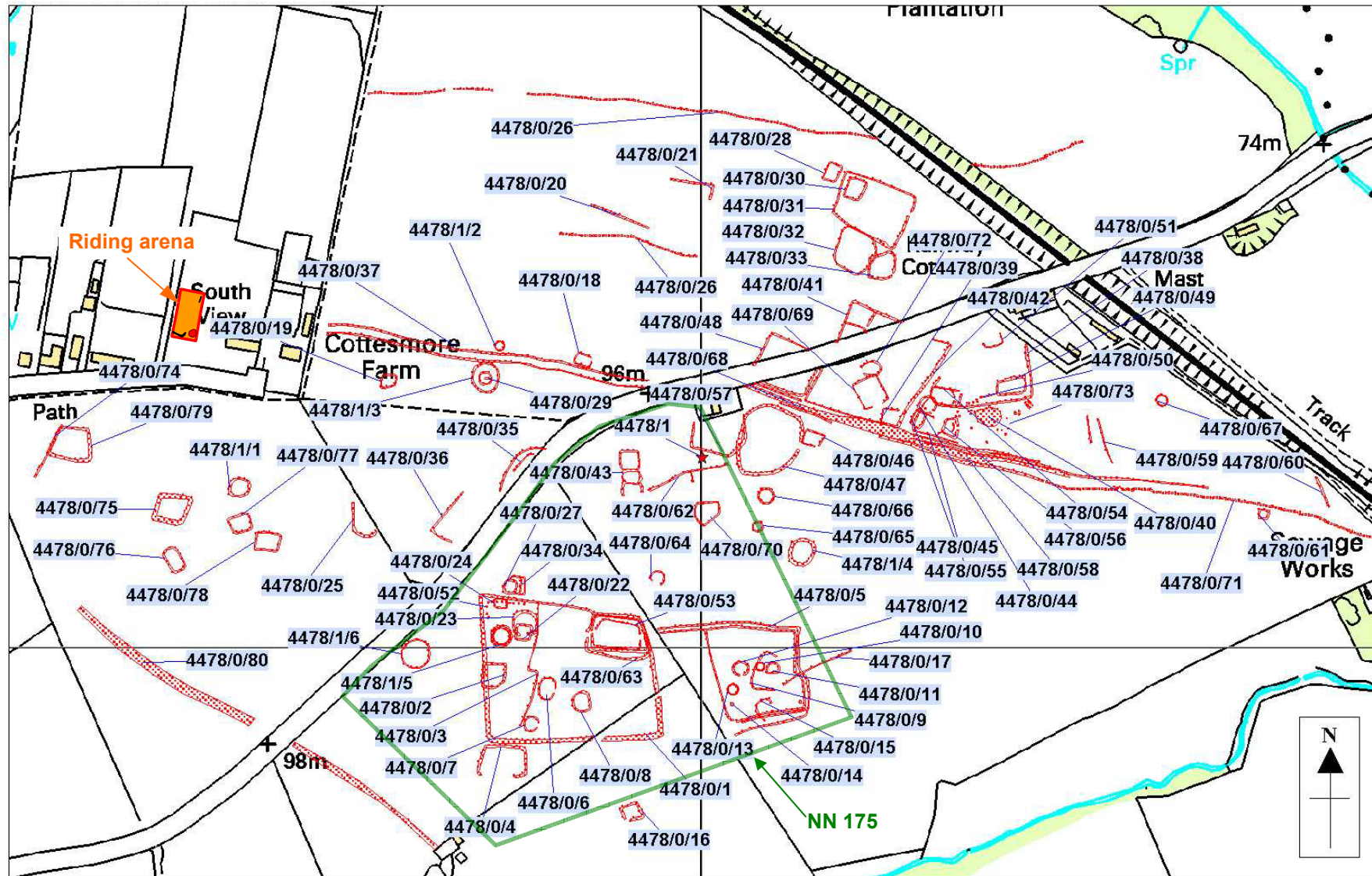


Figure 1: Archaeological features recorded in the SMR to the south-east of the riding arena
(Figure provided by Northamptonshire SMR, edited by Albion Archaeology. Not to scale.)

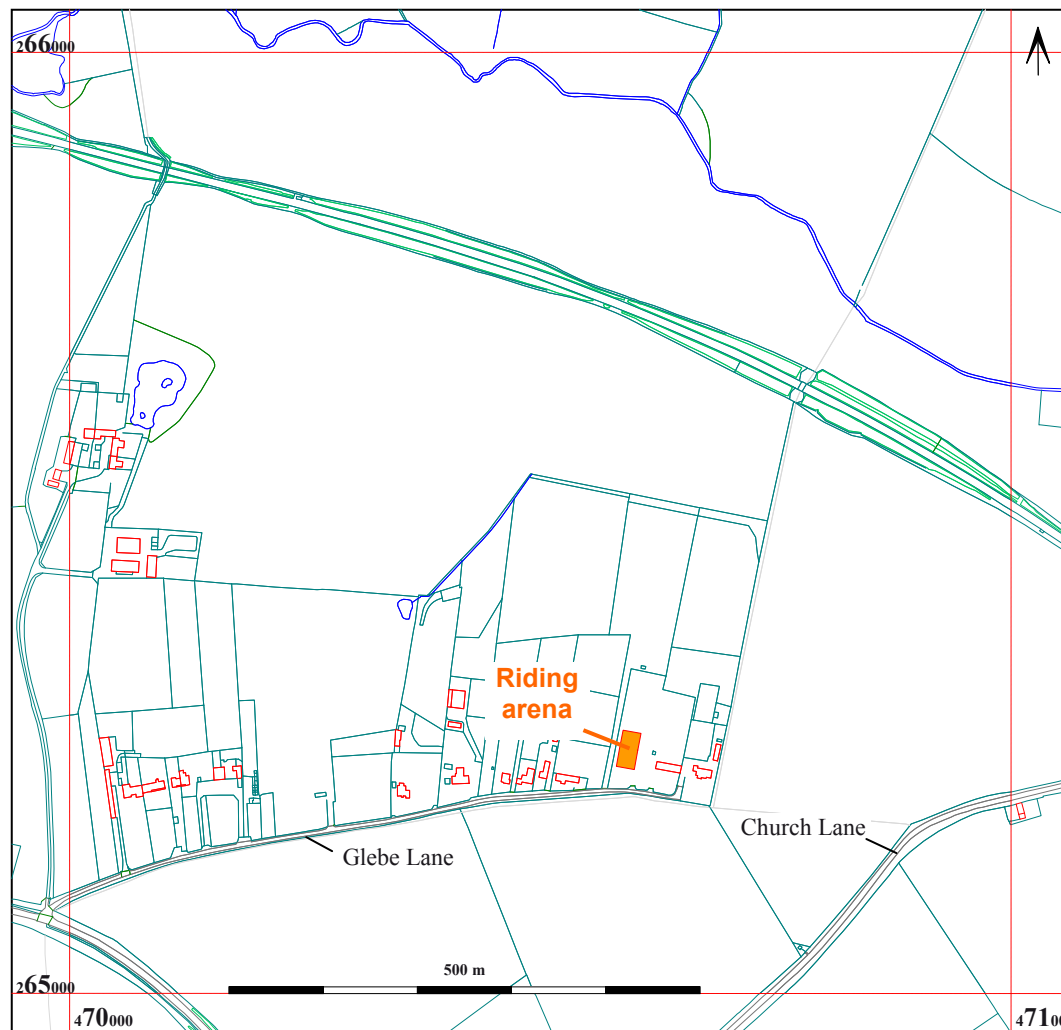
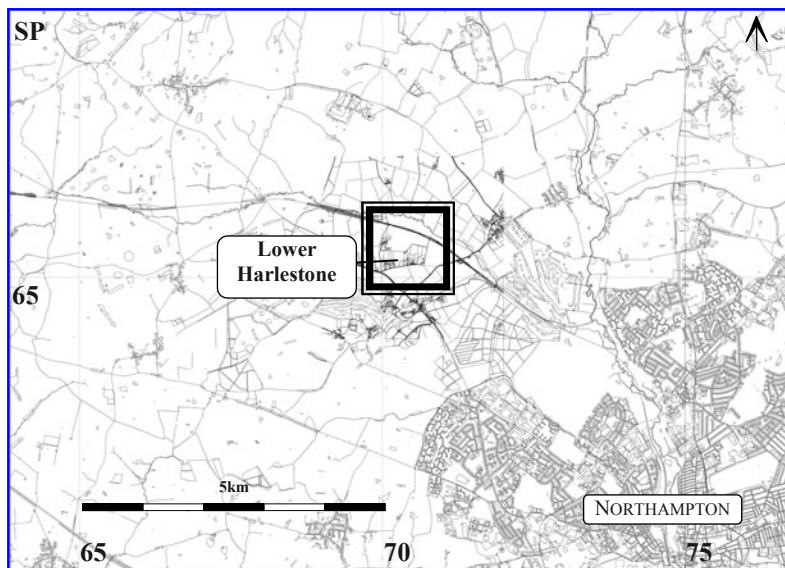
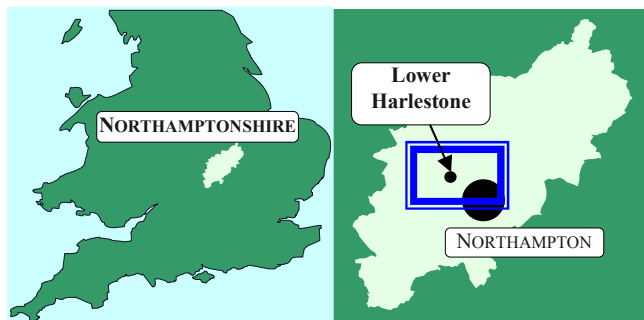


Figure 2: Site location

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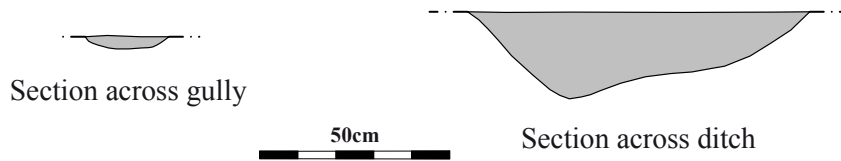
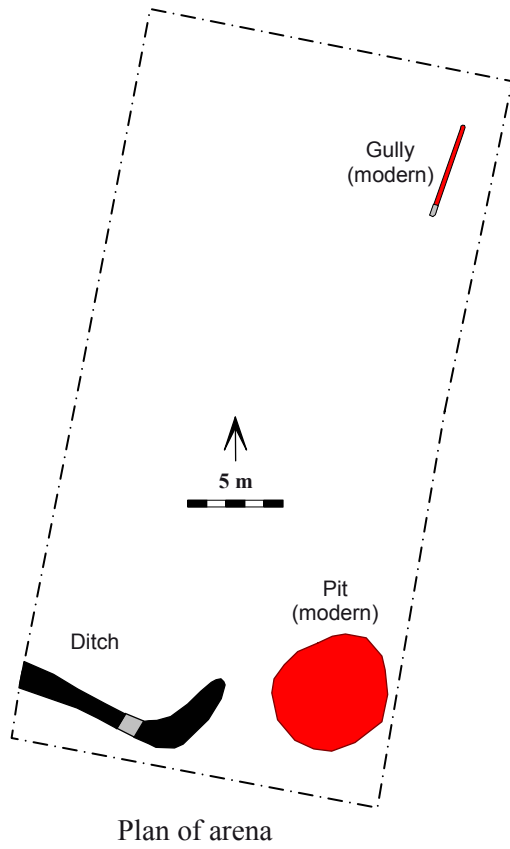


Figure 3: Results



Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

