



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation for Lagoon C, Rutland Water Habitat Creation Near Eggleton, Rutland January 2010



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Simon Carlyle

Report 10/41

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STAFF

Project manager: Simon Carlyle BSc MSc MIfA MEnvSc

Fieldwork: Chris Jones
Mark Patenall
Adrian Adams
Daniel Nagy

Text: Simon Carlyle

Pottery: Iain Soden BA MIfA

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Verified by	Anthony Maull		
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

Front cover: General view of Trench 5, facing east

OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Rutland Water Habitat Creation, Lagoon C	
Details	The remains of a medieval open-field system, surviving as a regular pattern of furrows beneath the subsoil, were identified across most of the site; the furrows shown by the geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the site had largely been ploughed away, leaving no discernible trace. No other archaeological features were encountered other than a small ditch in the north-east corner, the position of which corresponds with a field boundary shown on a late 19th-century Ordnance Survey map of the area, suggesting that it is an 18th- or 19th-century Enclosure ditch.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	-	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Butler <i>et al</i> 2008)	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	-	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Rutland	
Site address	Lagoon C, Rutland Water, near Egleton	
Evaluation area	33.41ha	
OS Easting & Northing	4881 3064	
Height aOD	87m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	-	
Project design originator	Simon Carlyle (NA)	
Director/supervisor	Chris Jones (NA)	
Project manager	Simon Carlyle (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Mott MacDonald	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	18th January 2010	
End date	29th January 2010	
ARCHIVES		
Physical	Rutland Museum, Acc no:	1 small box (3 sherds of pottery)
Paper	OAKFM:2009.14	1 small archive box
Digital	Site code: RWC 10	1 disc of photos and copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation for Lagoon C, Rutland Water Habitat Creation, near Egleton, Rutland	
Serial title & volume	10/41	
Author(s)	Simon Carlyle	
Page numbers	8 text, 6 figs	
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
3	BACKGROUND	2
	3.1 Topography and geology	2
	3.2 Historical and archaeological background	3
4	METHODOLOGY	4
5	THE EVALUATION RESULTS	5
	5.1 Summary	5
	5.2 General stratigraphy	5
	5.3 Trench 5, field boundary ditch (Area C4)	6
	5.4 Medieval open-field system (Areas C1, C2, C4 and C5)	6
6	DISCUSSION	6

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF FEATURES

Figures

- Fig 1 Site location and Historic Environment Record sites, 1:50,000
- Fig 2 Trench locations and geophysical survey results, 1:5,000
- Fig 3 Trench 5, plan and section of ditch 504
- Fig 4 Ditch 504, looking west
- Fig 5 Plan of ditch 504 and furrows, 1:5,000
- Fig 6 Trench 20, furrow 2005, looking north

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR
LAGOON C, RUTLAND WATER HABITAT CREATION
NEAR EGLETON, RUTLAND
JANUARY 2010**

Abstract

In January 2010, prior to the construction of a new lagoon (Lagoon C), an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on farmland to the west of Rutland Water, near Egleton, Rutland. The evaluation was commissioned by Mott MacDonald, acting on behalf of Anglian Water Services, and formed part of a programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation associated with the Rutland Water Habitat Creation Scheme. The remains of a medieval open-field system, surviving as a regular pattern of furrows beneath the subsoil, were identified across most of the site; the furrows shown by the geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the site had largely been ploughed away, leaving no discernible trace. No other archaeological features were encountered other than a small ditch in the north-east corner, the position of which corresponds with a field boundary shown on a late 19th-century Ordnance Survey map of the area, suggesting that it is an 18th- or 19th-century Enclosure ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

Anglian Water Services (AWS) are constructing a new lagoon (Lagoon C) on the western side of Rutland Water, near Egleton, Rutland (site centred on NGR: SK 881 064; Fig 1). The lagoon will form part of the Rutland Water Habitat Creation Scheme, the main purpose of which is to maintain the wetland environments created by the reservoir during periods of increased abstraction. This is being achieved through the construction of new lagoons that will hold back water when the levels in the main body of the reservoir drop, thereby protecting the valuable wetland habitat that supports a large number of water birds and other wildlife. Rutland Water, through its designation as a *Ramsar Site*, has been recognised as an internationally important nature conservation area and holds *Site of Special Scientific Interest* (SSSI) and *Special Protection Area* (SPA) status.

The Environmental Statement (Halcrow 2005) on the impacts of the scheme included a cultural heritage assessment, based on a desk-based assessment of the site and surrounding area prepared by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Tann 2004). This identified a number of areas of archaeological potential where construction would impact on buried remains. The area designated for the construction of Lagoon C was considered to have archaeological potential, so a programme of archaeological evaluation was implemented to provide further information.

The initial stage of the evaluation was a geophysical survey, undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) between 2007 and 2009 (Butler *et al* 2008; Fisher 2009), which identified the remains of a medieval open-field system and a number of anomalies that may have related to prehistoric or Roman activity. Following discussions with Richard Clark, Senior Planning Archaeologist,

Leicestershire County Council (LCC), AWS proposed to undertake archaeological trial trenching as a second phase of evaluation. NA were commissioned by Mott MacDonald, acting as environmental consultants to AWS, to carry out the evaluation, which was undertaken in January 2010.

This report, which presents the results of the evaluation, has been prepared in accordance with Appendix 4 of the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991), relevant sections of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006), and appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to investigate the anomalies shown by geophysical survey and to target unsurveyed areas. The purpose of this was to develop a suitable mitigation strategy, should archaeological remains be encountered.

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains on site,
- Place the remains within their cultural, historical and environmental setting,
- Assess the environmental and economic potential of the site through an examination of suitable deposits and faunal remains.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The site of Lagoon C is located between the Oakham to Corby road (A6003) and the western shores of Rutland Water, to the south-east of the village of Egleton, Rutland (Fig 1). It covers an area of 33.41ha and comprises eight fields that were under pasture at the time of the evaluation. The ground is relatively flat, at c 87m aOD, with a slight rise along the eastern edge of the site towards Lax Hill, which forms a spur of high ground between the valley of the River Gwash and a small tributary valley to the north. The reservoir, which is filled with water pumped from the rivers Welland and Nene, now occupies this section of the valley to a height of c 84m aOD.

The underlying bedrock is of Jurassic age and comprises Upper Lias Clay (BGS 1978). The soils on the site belong to the Denchworth Soil Association (712b), comprising slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail in the desk-based assessment prepared by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Tann 2004), the results of which were incorporated into the Environmental Statement (Halcrow 2005). Although there were no recorded sites within the area of Lagoon C, a number of sites, dating to the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, were identified in the surrounding area. The locations of these sites, information on which was originally obtained from the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER), are shown in Figure 1 (in text, HER numbers in brackets).

The earliest remains consist of a small assemblage of Neolithic and early Bronze Age worked flint that was collected by a fieldwalking survey c 0.8km to the west of the site, adjacent to the A6003 (8507). Later prehistoric activity, dating to the end of the middle Iron Age (2nd and 1st centuries BC), has been identified c 1.3km to the north of the site, near Hambleton Road. This site (Site 1), which was excavated by NA in 2008 as part of the mitigation works associated with the construction of Lagoon B, comprised a large, sub-rectangular enclosure with a small ring ditch, probably the remains of a roundhouse, situated outside its entrance (Clarke forthcoming). Other remains in the area include the site of two mounds, which are undated but may be of prehistoric date, located to the south of the site, near Manton (5348).

Roman settlement and activity in the area has been investigated by excavation and identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. Approximately 1.2km to the north of the site, two square or rectangular enclosures, which date to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, were excavated by NA in 2008 (Site 2), following geophysical survey (Butler *et al* 2008). The southern enclosure contained a circular stone building, part of which is currently being reconstructed by AWS to display to visitors to Rutland Water. Excavation of this building led to the recovery of a large number of Roman coins and part of a bronze statue, probably of the goddess Minerva or the god Mars, suggesting that the building may have been a shrine. A crouched burial was recovered from the centre of the building; this is currently undated but is probably placed in the building after its period of use as a shrine, possibly in the 5th or 6th century AD. In a field to the south of Gunthorpe, cropmarks have shown the site of a small farmstead consisting of an enclosure and trackway; a fieldwalking survey collected c 40 sherds of Roman pottery from this location (8508). A scatter of Roman pottery was also recovered in the 1970s from a field that now lies under the waters of the reservoir (5353).

Although no Saxon settlement remains have been recorded in the study area, there is evidence for Saxon activity near to the site. This has been identified c 1.5km to the north-west, where a scatter of Saxon pottery was recovered by a fieldwalking survey (5155); slag and pottery recovered from the adjacent field suggests the presence of Saxon ironworking in this location (5156). Saxon pottery has also been recovered from a field near Gunthorpe (8510) and from near Nether Hambleton (5350); the latter is the site of a deserted medieval village (5351) that was investigated prior to the construction of the reservoir.

In addition to the deserted medieval village at Nether Hambleton (5350), earthworks and other features of medieval date relating to village settlement have been recorded at Eggleton (5150 and 5159) and Gunthorpe (5346). Other medieval sites include a house that was excavated near Nether Hambleton in the 1970s,

prior to the construction of the reservoir, and the site of a possible post-mill, to the east of Manton (5355).

The first documented references to the village of Egleton date to 1209 and 1218, where it is called *Egiltun* and *Egolvestun* respectively. The name probably derives from the Old English for 'Ecgwulf's estate'. In the 11th century the village formed part of the royal manor of Oakham, but by the 14th century the village is referred to as a hamlet and was assessed independently. The parish church of St Edmund's dates from the 11th century and has a fine Norman tympanum (5151). The remains of medieval ridge and furrow are visible as earthworks in several fields around Egleton, and ridge and furrow has been identified in the area of Lagoon C by geophysical survey (Butler *et al* 2008; Fisher 2009).

4 METHODOLOGY

Twenty-three trial trenches were excavated in the area designated for Lagoon C; the majority were 50m long by 2.0m wide, the exceptions being Trenches 5, 20, 21 and 22, which were 60m, 30m, 70m and 6m long respectively (a total of 1,116 linear metres; 2,232m²; Fig 2). The trenches were marked out using Leica System 1200 GPS and were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by Richard Clark, LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist. The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits, to the limits of safe working practice or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in the NA *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2003). Trenches containing archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (e.g. 1402, Trench 14, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20). Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using both 35mm colour transparency and black and white negative films, supplemented by digital images.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998). The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. There were no archaeologically significant deposits with the potential for environmental analysis. The guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) will be followed in the preparation of the archive.

All works were carried out accordance with the method statement approved by Richard Clark, LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist (NA 2009), and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2008) and *Standard and*

Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines. The project was monitored by Richard Clark, LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist, and Andrew Kirby and Paul Guttridge for Mott MacDonald.

5 TRIAL TRENCH RESULTS

5.1 Summary

The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twenty-three trial trenches in the pasture fields that will be taken up by the construction of Lagoon C (a total of 1,116 linear metres; 2,232m²; Fig 2). Construction drawings show the proposed site of the lagoon divided into five areas, designated Areas C1 to C5; as these areas were used to calculate the sample size for the geophysical survey and trial trenching, they have been used in this report so that the results can be related to earlier reports and working documents.

Vestiges of a medieval open-field system, surviving as a regular pattern of furrows beneath the subsoil, were identified across much of the site, in Trenches 8-12, 14, 16, 20, 21 and 23 (Areas C1, C2 and C3). The geophysical survey results also shows faint traces of furrows in the north-east corner of the site (Areas C4 and C5), although no evidence for furrows was encountered in the trenches in this area, probably because they had been largely ploughed out.

A small ditch was encountered in the north-east corner, in Trench 5 (Area C4); its position corresponds with a field boundary shown on an 1889 Ordnance Survey map of the area. There were no archaeological features in Trenches 1-4, 6-7, 13, 15, 17-19 and 22. A summary of the contexts and features identified in each trench is presented in the Appendix.

5.2 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate was Upper Lias Clay, which occurred as light to mid yellowish- or orangey-brown clay with occasional ironstone pebbles. The sinuous geophysical anomaly that was investigated in Trench 20 was shown to be geological in origin, comprising a broad band of angular ironstone pebbles and cobbles in a mid orangey-brown silty clay matrix.

The subsoil was mid brown silty clay with occasional ironstone pebbles, and in some areas it was gleyed, due to waterlogging; it was typically 0.15m thick, but in the area of Trench 23 it was up to 0.40m thick. The topsoil was dark brown clayey silt with occasional ironstone pebbles and it was up to 0.3m thick. An abraded sherd of medieval coarseware pottery was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 10.

No explanation can be given for the geophysical anomaly, one of five similar anomalies that bordered the edge of the field, investigated by Trench 22; excavation encountered no features, artefacts or deposits that could account for it. Modern ceramic field drains crossed a number of the trenches.

5.3 Trench 5, field boundary ditch (Area C4)

Trench 5, which was located in the north-east corner of the site, was arranged in a V-shaped pattern with a northern and a southern arm, converging to the west. At the east end of the southern arm there was a small linear ditch, 504 (Figs 3, 4 and 5), which was aligned east to west, measured approximately 0.5m wide by 0.2m deep and was filled with light brownish-grey silty clay with orangey-brown mottles (505). Its northern edge was truncated by a recut, 506, which measured 0.68m wide by 0.25m deep and was filled with mid grey silty clay with orangey-brown mottles (507). The ditch contained no artefactual dating evidence, but map evidence (see Section 6) suggests that it is an 18th- or 19th-century Enclosure ditch.

5.4 Medieval open-field system (Areas C1 to C5)

The geophysical survey carried out by NA (Butler *et al* 2008; Fisher 2009) identified the extensive remains of a medieval open-field system in the three fields to the west of the cycle track (Areas C1 and C2) and in the fields in the north-east corner of the site (Areas C4 and C5); due to poor ground conditions at the time, only a small part of Area C3 was surveyed. In the central field (the northern half of C2) the ridges still survived as very slight earthworks. The arrangement of the ridge and furrow can clearly be seen in the geophysical survey plot (Fig 5).

The trial trenches excavated in Areas C1 and C2 encountered furrows in Trenches 14, 16, 20, 21 and 23; in Area C3 they were identified in Trenches 8-12. No furrows were encountered in the trenches in Areas C4 and C5, probably because they had largely been ploughed out; they are barely visible on the geophysical survey plot.

To the west of the cycle track the furrows were generally aligned east to west, although in the south-east corner of Area C2 they were aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. They were spaced c 8m apart and survived to a depth of c 0.25m beneath the base of the subsoil (Fig 6). Two abraded sherds of medieval coarseware pottery were recovered from one of the furrows in Trench 20 (Ian Soden, pers comm). The furrows in Areas C3-C5 had a similar spacing (see Fig 5) but were aligned either east to west, north to south or north-north-west to south-south-east.

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation broadly confirmed the results of the geophysical survey (Butler *et al* 2008; Fisher 2009), although several geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as possible archaeological features, mainly in Areas C2 and C4, were shown by excavation to be of geological origin.

The remains of a medieval open-field system were identified across much of the site, with furrows occurring in the majority of the trenches. The remains were best-preserved in the fields to the west of the cycle track, in Areas C1 and C2, and in the south-east corner below Lax Hill (Area C3); elsewhere they had largely been ploughed away. The furrows appear to be relatively straight, suggesting that they were created by horse-drawn ploughs as opposed to oxen; they were therefore

probably first laid out in the later medieval period, from the mid 13th century onwards. The open-field system of ridge and furrow, prevalent in much of the Midland region, could have been maintained into the post-medieval period, until the land was enclosed in the 18th or 19th century (Rackham 1986, 167-180).

The only other archaeological feature was a small, linear ditch in the north-east corner of the site, in Trench 5. It was aligned east to west, cut across the furrows and appeared to be directed towards a sharp bend in the cycle track. The position of this ditch corresponds with a field boundary shown on an 1889 Ordnance Survey map of the area (Tann 2004, fig 5), suggesting that it probably dates to the 18th or 19th century, when large areas of open-fields were enclosed following Acts of Enclosure.

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SSEW 1983 Soils of Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 4, 1:250,000

APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF FEATURES

Summary of features and finds

Key: P pottery; r recut

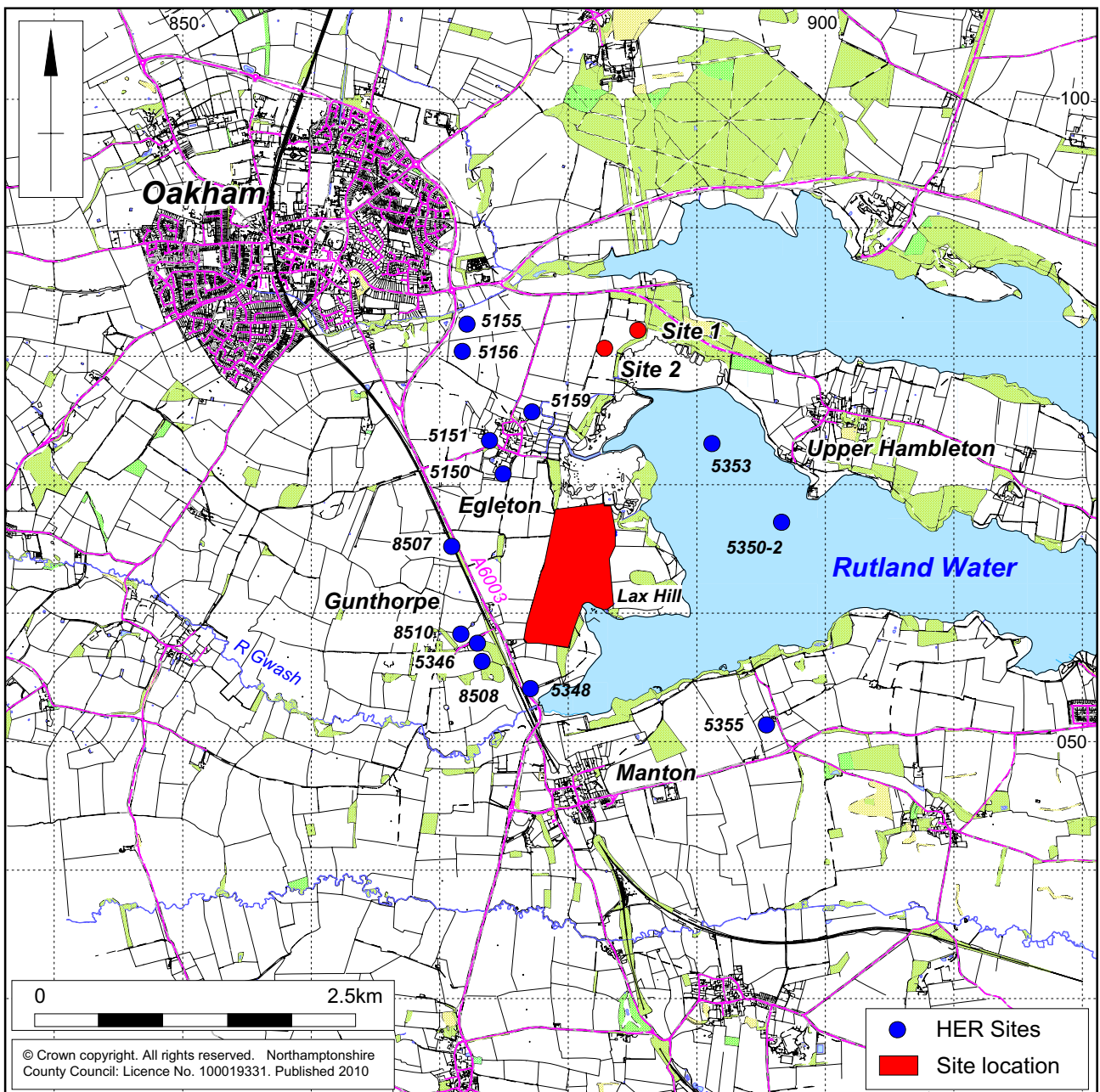
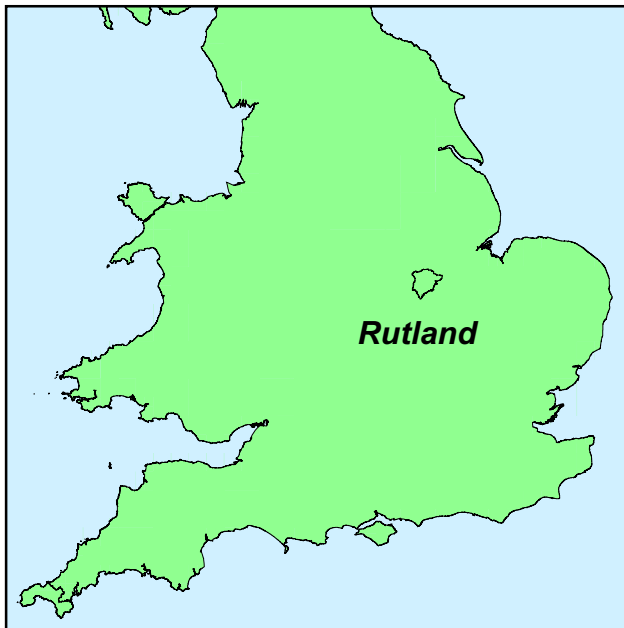
Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Date of feature	Finds
1	101	Topsoil	-	-
	102	Subsoil	-	-
	103	Natural	-	-
2	201	Topsoil	-	-
	202	Subsoil	-	-
	203	Natural	-	-
3	301	Topsoil	-	-
	302	Subsoil	-	-
	303	Natural	-	-
4	401	Topsoil	-	-
	402	Subsoil	-	-
	403	Natural	-	-
5	501	Topsoil	-	-
	502	Subsoil	-	-
	503	Natural	-	-
	[504] 505 [506]r 507	Ditch	18th/19th century	-
6	601	Topsoil	-	-
	602	Subsoil	-	-
	603	Natural	-	-
7	701	Topsoil	-	-
	702	Subsoil	-	-
	703	Natural	-	-
8	801	Topsoil	-	-
	802	Subsoil	-	-
	803	Natural	-	-
	804 [805]	Furrow	Medieval	
9	901	Topsoil	-	-
	902	Subsoil	-	-
	903	Natural	-	-
	904 [905]	Furrow	Medieval	-
	906 [907]	Furrow	Medieval	-
	908 [909]	Furrow	Medieval	-
	910 [911]	Furrow	Medieval	-
	912 [913]	Furrow	Medieval	-
10	1001	Topsoil	-	P
	1002	Subsoil	-	-
	1003	Natural	-	-
	1004	Furrow	Medieval	-

RUTLAND WATER HABITAT CREATION SCHEME: LAGOON C

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Date of feature	Finds
	[1005]			
11	1101	Topsoil	-	-
	1102	Subsoil	-	-
	1103	Natural	-	-
	1104	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1105]			
	1106	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1107]			
	1108	Furrow	Medieval	-
12	[1109]			
	1110	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1111]			
	1201	Topsoil	-	-
	1202	Subsoil	-	-
13	1203	Natural	-	-
	1204	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1205]			
	1301	Topsoil	-	-
14	1302	Subsoil	-	-
	1303	Natural	-	-
	1401	Topsoil	-	-
15	1402	Subsoil	-	-
	1403	Natural	-	-
	1404	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1405]			
	1406	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1407]			
	1408	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1409]			
	1410	Furrow	Medieval	-
16	[1411]			
	1412	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1413]			
	1414	Furrow	Medieval	-
17	[1415]			
	1501	Topsoil	-	-
	1502	Subsoil	-	-
18	1503	Natural	-	-
	1601	Topsoil	-	-
	1602	Subsoil	-	-
	1603	Natural	-	-
19	1604	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[1605]			
	1701	Topsoil	-	-
	1702	Subsoil	-	-
20	1703	Natural	-	-
	1801	Topsoil	-	-
	1802	Subsoil	-	-
21	1803	Natural	-	-
	1901	Topsoil	-	-
	1902	Subsoil	-	-
22	1903	Natural	-	-
	2001	Topsoil	-	-
	2002	Subsoil	-	-
23	2003	Natural	-	-

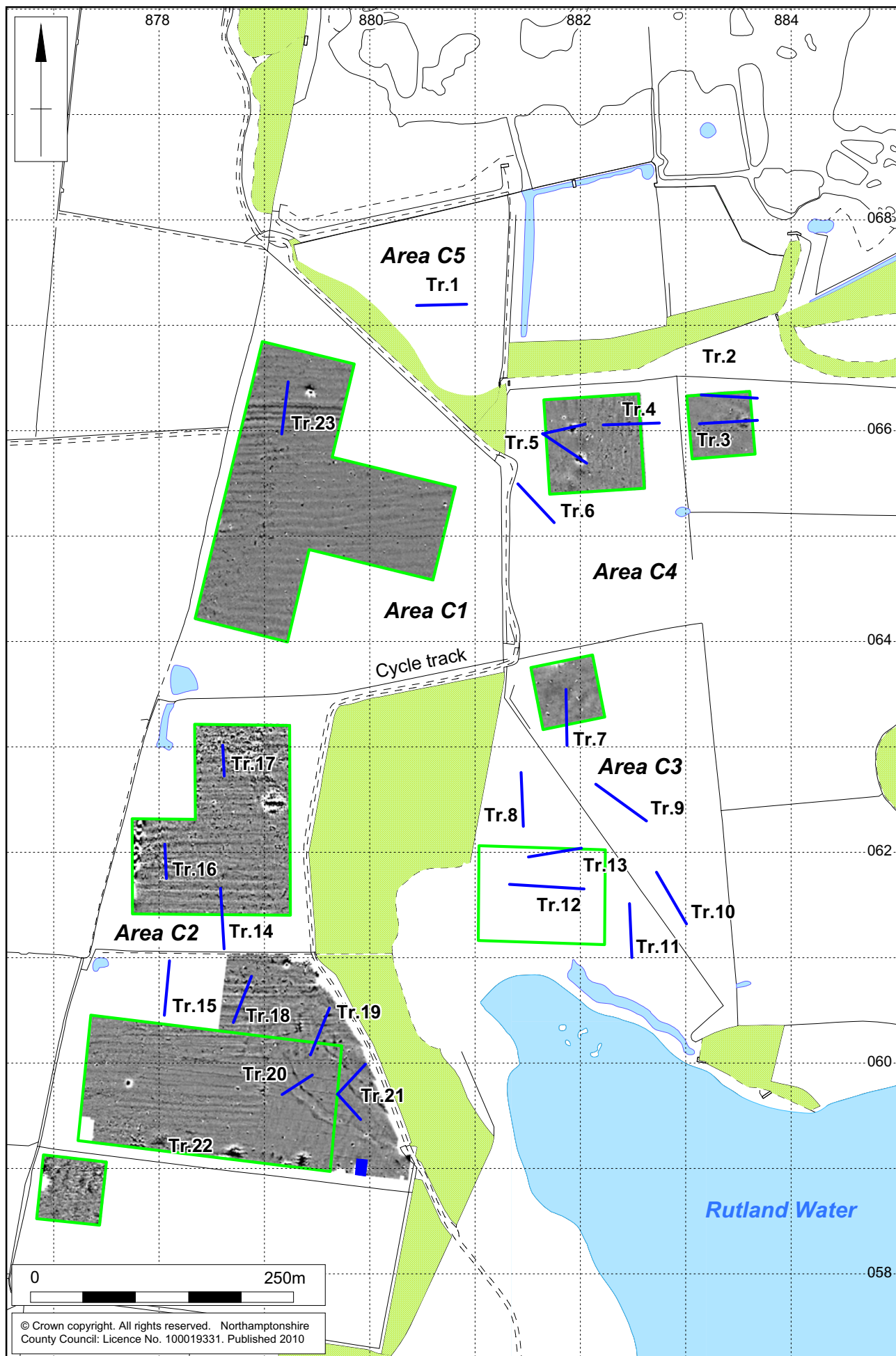
RUTLAND WATER HABITAT CREATION SCHEME: LAGOON C

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Date of feature	Finds
	[2004] 2005	Furrow	Medieval	P
21	2101	Topsoil	-	-
	2102	Subsoil	-	-
	2103	Natural		-
	[2104] 2105	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[2106] 2107	Furrow	Medieval	-
22	2201	Topsoil	-	-
	2202	Subsoil	-	-
	2203	Natural	-	-
23	2301	Topsoil	-	-
	2302	Subsoil	-	-
	2303	Natural	-	-
	2304	Furrow	Medieval	-
	[2305]			
	2306 [2307]	Furrow	Medieval	-
	2308 [2309]	Furrow	Medieval	-



Scale 1:50,000

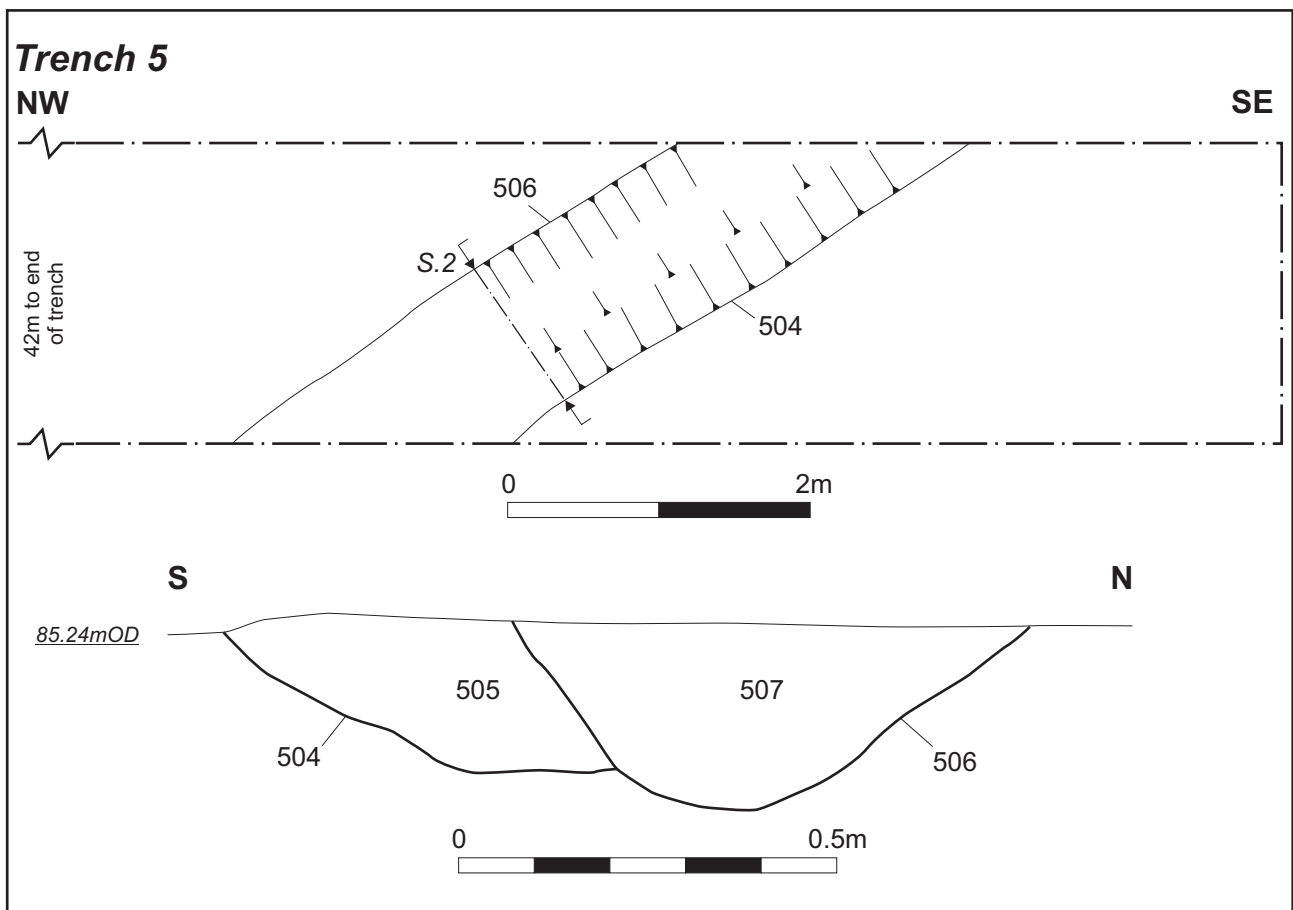
Site location and Historic Environment Record sites Fig 1



Scale 1:5000

Trench locations and geophysical survey results

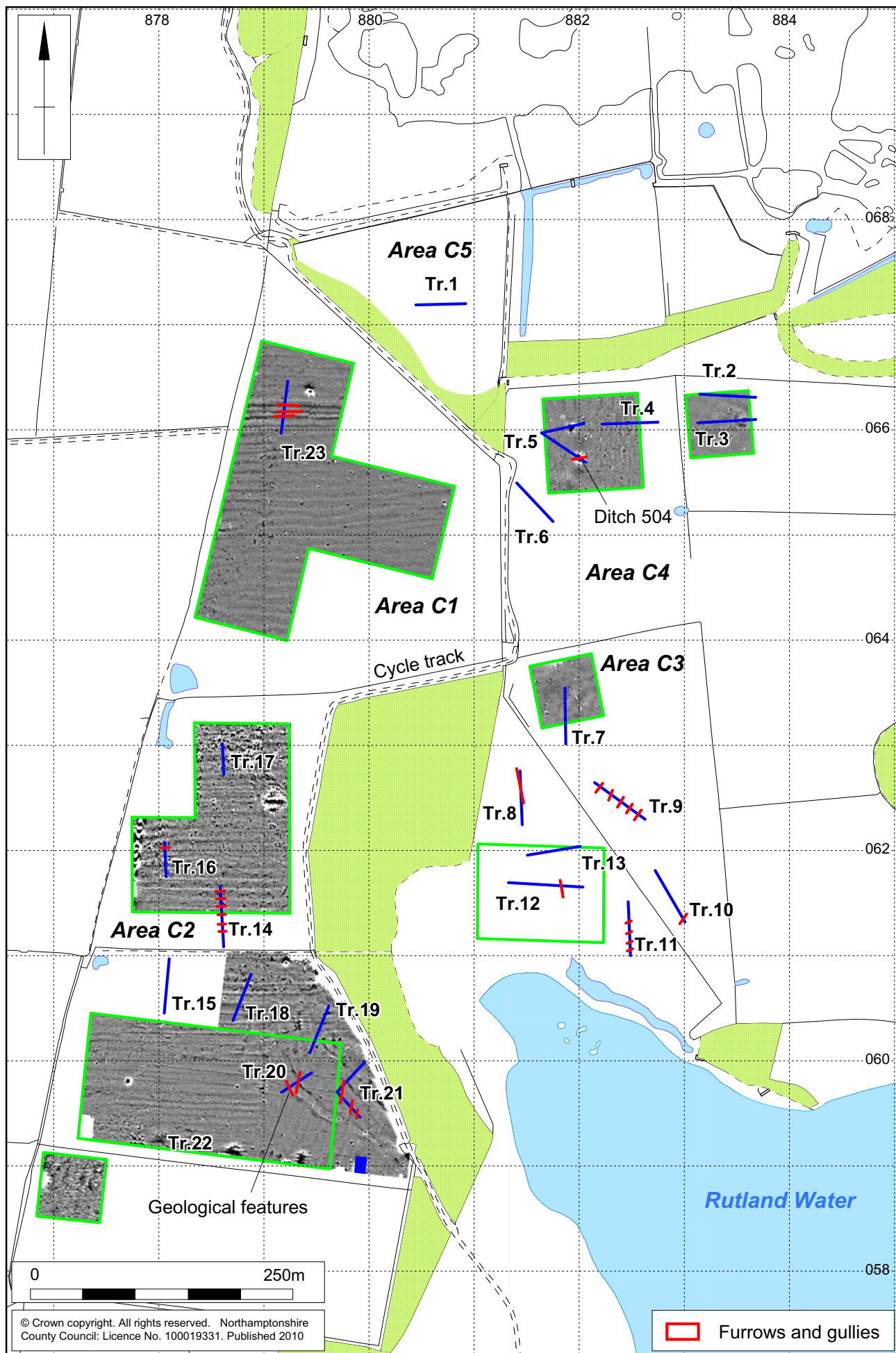
Fig 2



Trench 5, plan and section of ditch 504 Fig 3



Ditch 504, looking west Fig 4



Scale 1:5000

Plan of gullies [504], [506] and furrows Fig 5



Trench 20, furrow 2005, looking north Fig 6



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council