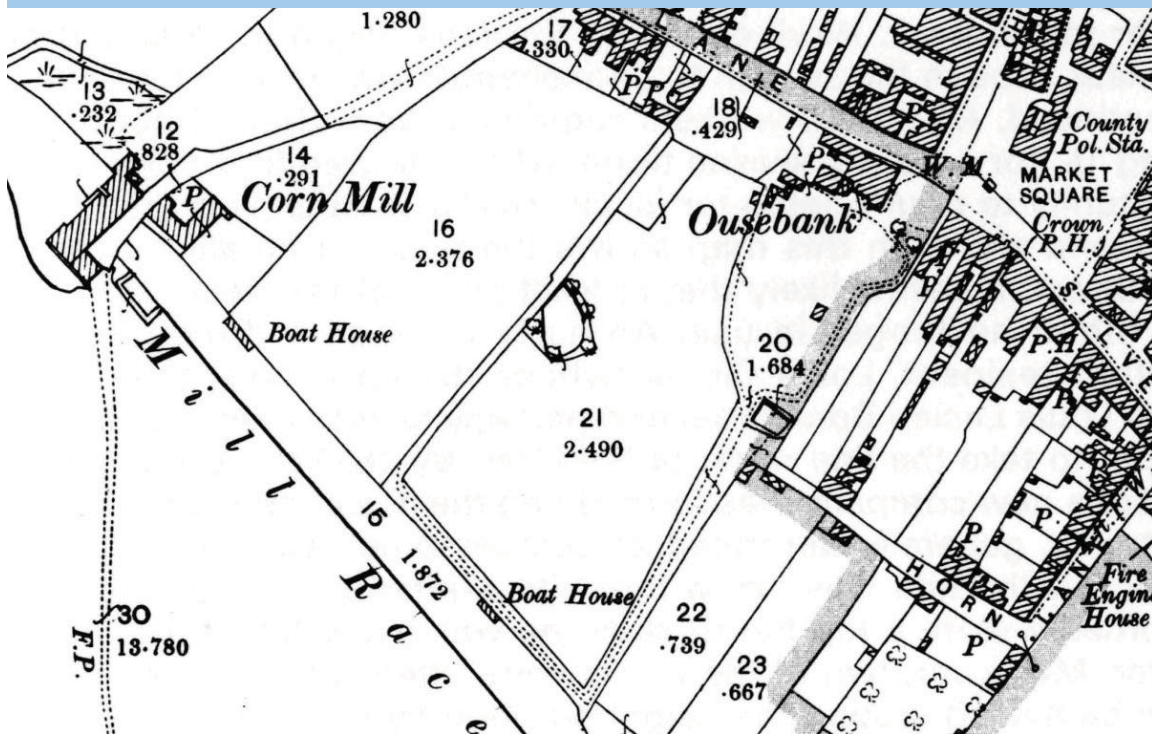




Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at
Stratford House and Ousebank Cottage
Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes
AYBCM2010.17
MK HER Event no. 1257



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**

Tim Upson-Smith
Report 10/62
April 2010



STAFF

Project Manager Antony Walsh BA
 Fieldwork Tim Upson-Smith BA, PG Dip,
 Robin Foard, Lazlo Lichtenstein
 MA, Heather Smith BSc, MA and
 Rob Smith
 Text Tim Upson-Smith
 Flint Yvonne Wolfram-Murray BSc, PHD
 Prehistoric Pottery Andy Chapman BSc, MIfA FSA
 Roman Pottery Tora Hylton
 Medieval and post-
 medieval Pottery Iain Soden BA MIfA
 Metalwork Andy Chapman BSc, MIfA FSA
 Other finds Tim Upson-Smith, Tora Hylton
 Building Materials Pat Chapman BA CMS AlfA
 Animal Bone Karen Deighton MSc
 Plant macrofossils and
 molluscs Simon Carlyle BSc MSc MIfA
 MIEEnvSc
 Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc

Town	Stony Stratford
Parish	Stony Stratford
Address	Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes
Milton Keynes HER Event No	1257
Accession No	AYBCM2010.17
Grid Reference	SP 7852 4030
Land size	1.75ha
Land use	Derelict garden
Planning Application number	(pre-planning)
Client	Clayson Country Homes Ltd
Date of Commencement	18th January 2010
Date of Completion	22nd January 2010

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Verified by	Antony Walsh		
Checked by	P Chapman		
Approved by	A Chapman		

Stratford House, Stony Stratford

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological evaluation at the rear of Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes January 2010	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation comprising six trial trenches on proposed development site of at the rear of Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford. The evaluation located a pit containing two small sherds of abraded Roman and Iron Age pottery and prehistoric flints and several features of late post-medieval date relating to the sites later use as a tannery and private garden.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Historic buildings assessment in progress	
Current Land use	Overgrown garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Prehistoric/ modern	
Significant finds	Pit, modern garden features	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire	
Site address	Stratford House, Mill Lane, stony Stratford, Milton Keynes	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1.75ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 7852 4030	
Height OD	60m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Milton Keynes Archaeology Officer	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	Clayson Country Homes Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	January 2010	
End date	January 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	AYBCM:2010.17	Pottery, flint, bone, glass, CBM, slag
Paper	AYBCM:2010.17	1A4 context, 5 plans/sections, 2 B & W negative films, 1 Colour slide film.
Digital	AYBCM:2010.17	1cd of Jpegs, word files and coreldraw files.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation at the rear of Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes January 2010	
Serial title & volume	10/62	
Author(s)	Tim Upson-Smith	
Page numbers	21 incl figures	
Date	April 2010	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	2
4	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	2
5	EVALUATION RESULTS	3
5.1	Trench 1	3
5.2	Trench 2	3
5.3	Trench 3	5
5.4	Trench 4	5
5.5	Trench 5	6
5.6	Trench 6	7
6	FINDS	8
6.1	Worked flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	8
6.2	Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman	8
6.3	Roman pottery by Tora Hylton	8
6.4	Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden	8
6.5	Metalworking debris by Andy Chapman	9
6.6	Wig curler by Tora Hylton	9
6.7	Clay pipe and bottle glass by Tim Upson Smith	10
6.8	Box Iron by Tim Upson Smith	10
6.9	Building materials by Pat Chapman	12
6.10	Animal bone by Karen Deighton	12
6.11	Plant macrofossils and molluscs by Simon Carlyle	13
7	CONCLUSION	14
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
8.1	Web Sites	16

Tables

- Table 1: Summary of worked flint
Table 2: Pottery sherd count/weight (n/g) by fabric and context
Table 3: Quantification of ecofacts from deposits in pit [118]

Figures

- Fig 1: Site location
Fig 2: Trench location plan
Fig 3: Plan of trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Fig 4: Trench 1, Section 1, pit [109] facing north
Fig 5: Trench 1, Section 2 and Trench 2, Section 5
Fig 6: Gullies [208] and [205], facing north
Fig 7: Trench 5, clay-lined pit [508] facing north-west
Fig 8: Trench 5, stone sets (511) and kerb with iron hoop
Fig 9: Box iron from pit [508]
Fig 10: Box iron and 'slug'

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT THE REAR OF STRATFORD HOUSE,
MILL LANE, STONY STRATFORD, MILTON KEYNES
JANUARY 2010

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation comprising six trial trenches on proposed development site of at the rear of Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford. The evaluation located a pit containing two sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery and some struck flint and several features of late post-medieval date relating to the sites later use as a tannery and private garden.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Clayson Country Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of a planning application for the construction of houses on part of the garden of Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 7852 4030, Fig 1).

The methodology for the fieldwork was defined in the specification (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009) which had been prepared in response to the brief from Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer (Crank 2009) and was approved by the Archaeological Officer.

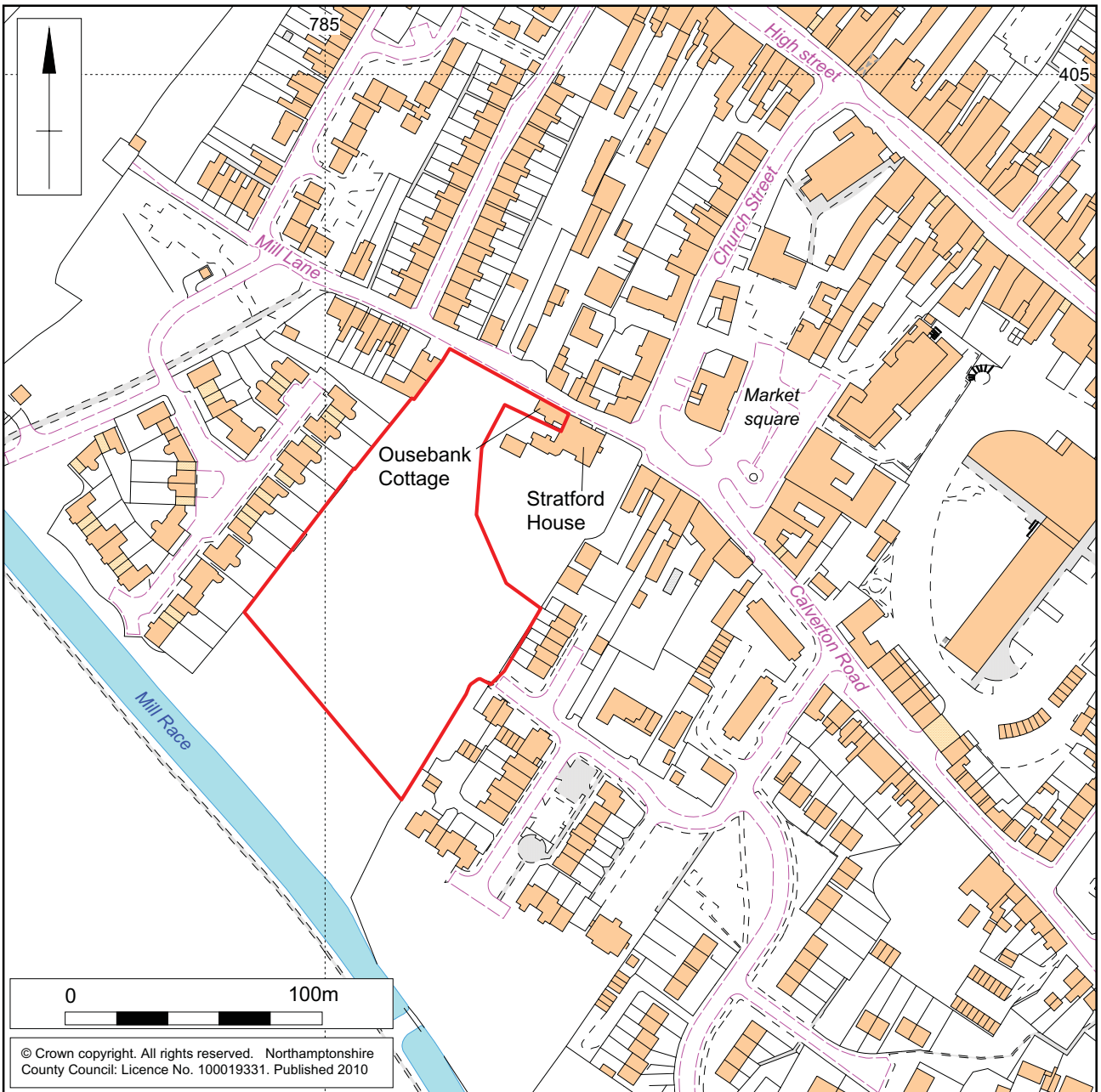
The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with current guidelines and best practice. These include the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised October 2008), and Northamptonshire Archaeology, *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* 2006.

Northamptonshire Archaeology is a Registered Organisation (No 48) under the Institute for Archaeologists.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development lies beyond the medieval core of Stony Stratford, south-west from the corner of the probable 16th/17th-century market place.

The site frontage is occupied by two grade II listed buildings. The largest of these is Stratford House, which was constructed in the 18th century and much enlarged in the 19th century. Adjacent is Ousebank Cottage which also has its origins in the 18th century (the buildings were subject to a separate buildings assessment (Soden 2010). Historically the site is understood to have belonged to the Penn family who are credited with creating the mill race in the 17th century as well as operating a tannery or tan-yard within the present site. It is said that the name of the adjoining Horn Lane derives from the boundary wall of the site being built out of waste cattle horns. The area of the site closest to the mill race is referred to on a 'reconstructed



Scale 1:2500

Site Location Fig 1

map' of 1680 as 'Tenter-Leys' and may have been used for the drying of woven woollen cloth after fulling.

Published map sources from the 19th century onwards show the present site as being largely undeveloped save for the Mill Lane frontage. The Ordnance Survey surveyor's 6" map of c1815 shows Horn Lane and a boundary or path running north-west from its end across the site to Mill Lane, anecdotally known as 'Harlots Path'.

The Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1880 (Front cover) shows a large pond in the north-west of the site and the brick-lined pool on the south-east boundary which may be ornamental and related to Stratford House. The eastern part of the site is clearly laid out as gardens for Stratford House; while the remainder is shown as open, with a few trees away from the boundaries.

On the early 20th-century editions of the Ordnance Survey map the site is much the same, although trees are no longer shown and a small boathouse has appeared on the boundary with the mill race.

With the exception of the two listed buildings the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record (MK HER) does not record any archaeological sites or findspots in the area of the proposed development, a reflection of the lack of archaeological investigation/survey carried out rather than a reliable indicator of the sites potential (Crank 2009).

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is located to the south of Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, centred on NGR SP 7852 4030. The site is generally flat at c64.5m aOD and covers an area of c1.75ha. It is bounded on the south-east and north-west by modern housing. The mill race forms the south-western boundary. The north-eastern boundary comprises two grade II listed buildings, Stratford House and Ousebank Cottage, and an area of derelict garden which front Mill Lane.

The underlying geology comprises first terraces gravels of the River Great Ouse (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeolIndex/index.htm>). The River Great Ouse lies 190m to the south-west of the southern boundary of the site.

4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to obtain sufficient information to establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the area affected by the proposed development.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief issued by the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer (Crank 2009) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010).

Trial trenching comprised the excavation of six trenches with a total length of c250m

and 1.8m wide within the area of development (Fig 2). The brief (Crank 2009) and the WSI (NA 2010) proposed that 300m be excavated, however, due to the number of trees on the site the trenches had to be repositioned and the linear length shortened from 300m to 250m; this was done in consultation with and agreement from the Milton Keynes Planning Archaeologist.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

Out of the six trenches opened five contained archaeology, with only Trench 6 being blank (Fig 3). In Trench 1 there was a pit which contained two sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery and some struck flint; Trenches 2-5 contained features of late post-medieval date.

Context numbers include the trench number as a prefix throughout.

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was located in the northern part of the site to investigate the Mill Lane frontage, was aligned north west-south east, and was 15m in length. Natural gravel (103) was exposed at a depth of c0.7m. A single large pit cut the undisturbed natural [109/118] (Fig 3; Fig 4 Section 1 and Fig 5 Section 2). The pit was 2.0m wide by 1.2m deep, with an asymmetrical profile; the north-western side of the pit had a sloping profile, the south-eastern edge of the pit was near vertical with a slight undercut. The pit had distinct fills alternating between dark brown silty clays and orange gravels. The flints recovered from this feature were only in the dark brown silty clay layers. The lowest of these was a dark brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions (108/116) a secondary flake was recovered from this fill. This was overlain by a yellow-brown gravel layer (107/115). In the southern part of the pit this was overlain by a lens of brownish-grey silty gravel (114) which contained a small abraded sherd of possible Iron Age pottery. This deposit was in turn overlain by a brown grey silty clay fill (106/113). Overlying brown-grey silty clay (106/113) was yellow-brown gravel (105/111), which contained a single sherd of Roman greyware. The upper fill of the pit was a firm dark brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions (104/110). Three flints were recovered from this layer, a blade and two flakes.

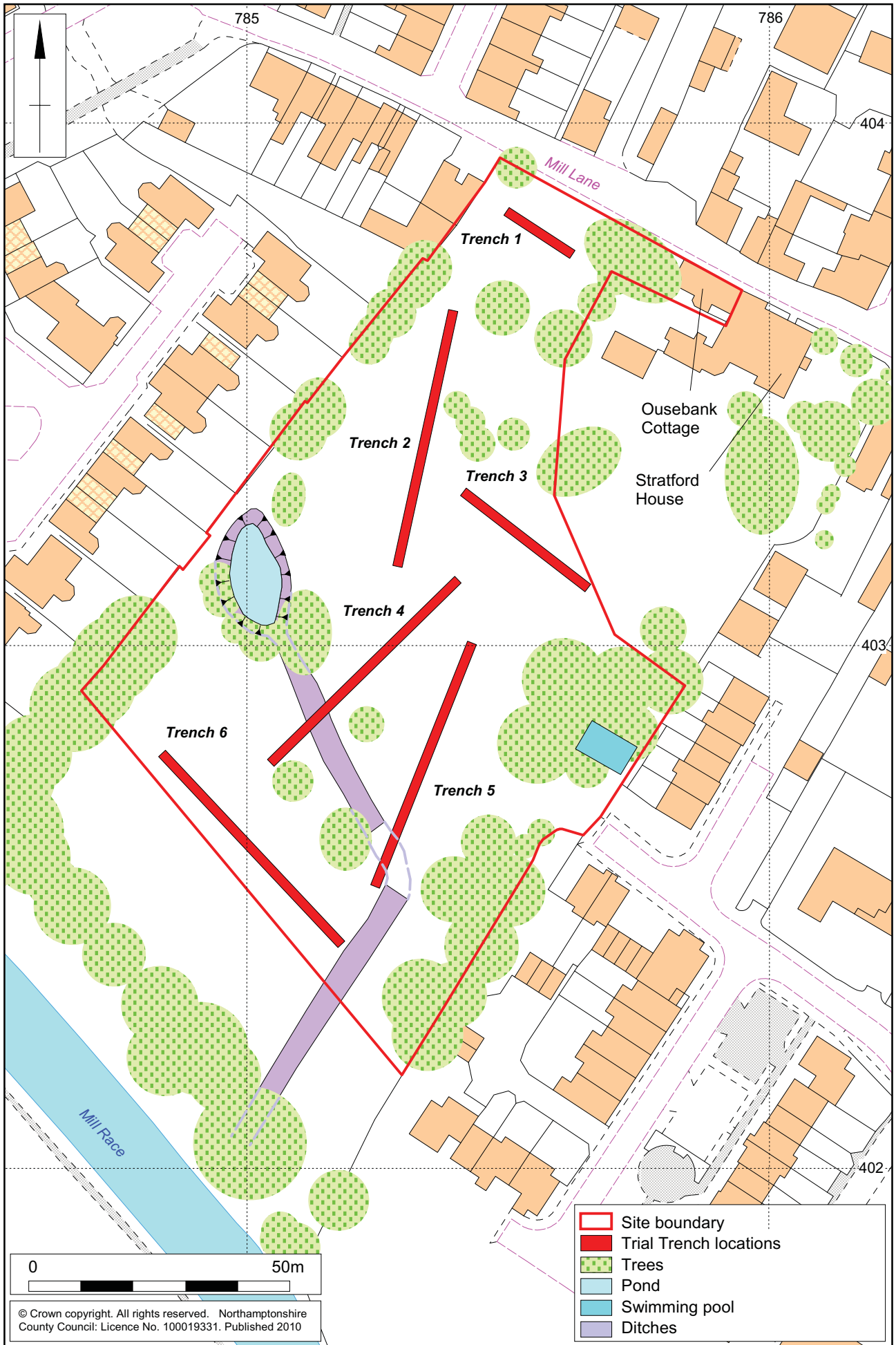
The archaeology was overlain by a layer of mid brown sandy loam subsoil (102) 0.3m thick, which was below a dark brown sandy loam topsoil (101) 0.2m thick.

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was located on the north-western side of the site aligned north-south and was 50m in length (Fig 3). Natural gravel (203) was exposed at a depth of between 0.53m and 0.74m below ground level.

Cut into the natural were two undated gullies, a pit, a 19th-century gully, two late 19th-century rubbish pits and a modern pit.

The undated gullies [208] and [205] were aligned roughly north-east to south-west Fig 6. Gully [208] was c1m wide by 0.5m deep; the primary fill consisted of a mid orange-brown silty sand (207), this layer merged with the layer above also a mid orange-brown silty sand but with more pea grit (206). Gully [205] cut the upper fill (206) of gully [208] and was 1.3m wide by 0.28m deep; the fill consisted of a firm mid brown sandy loam (204) (Fig 6). No finds were recovered from either gully.

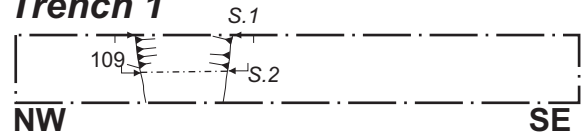


Scale 1:1000

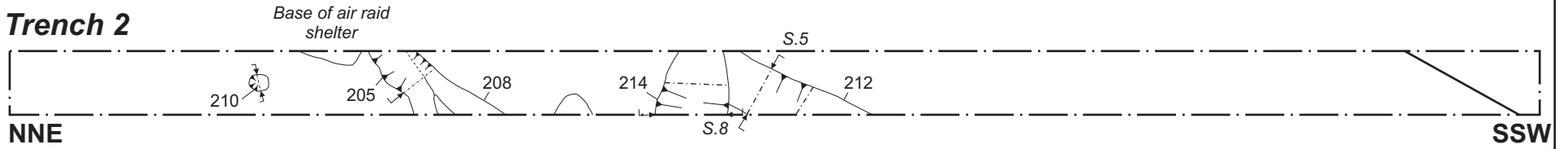
Trench location plan Fig 2

Scale 1:200

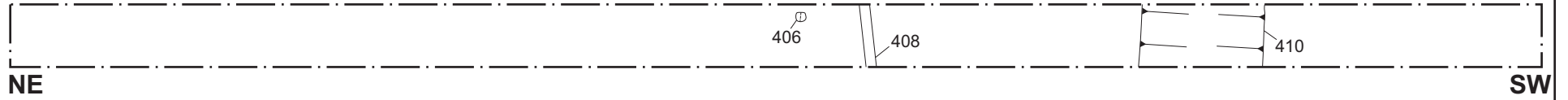
Trench 1



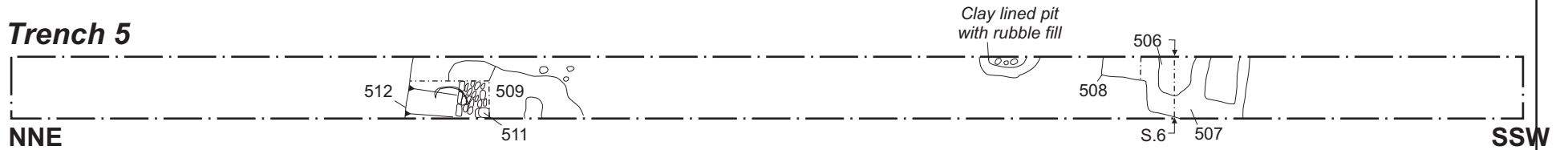
Trench 2



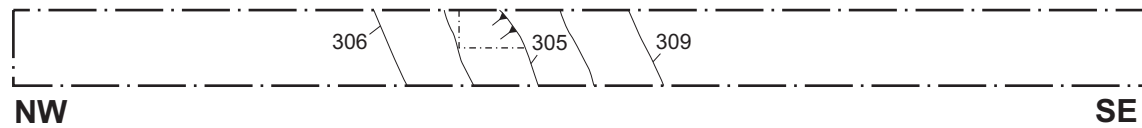
Trench 4



Trench 5

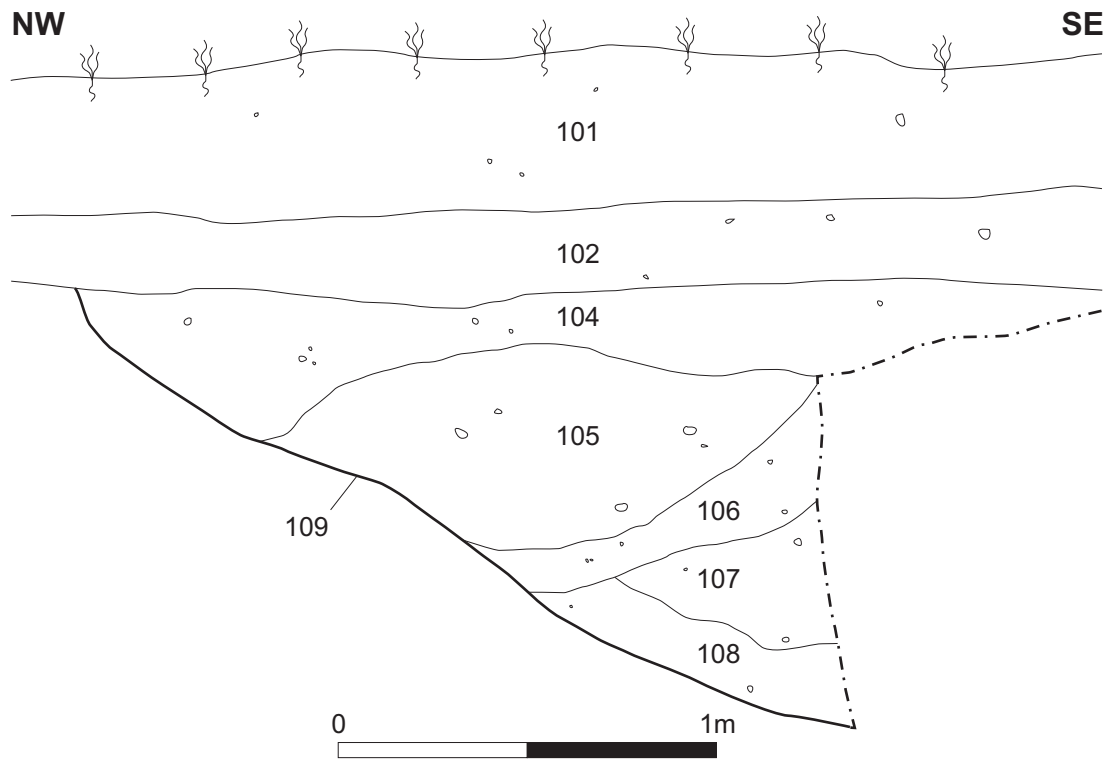


Trench 3



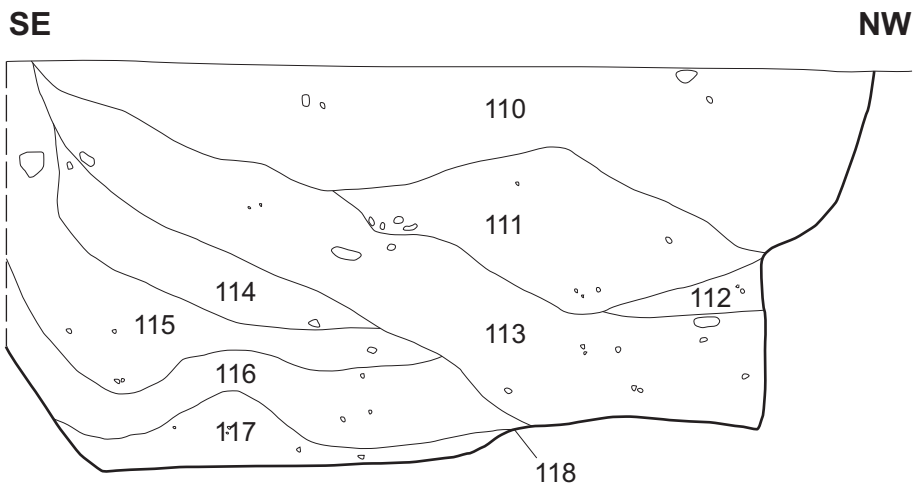
Plan of trenches 1,2,3,4 and 5 Fig 3

Trench 1, Section 1

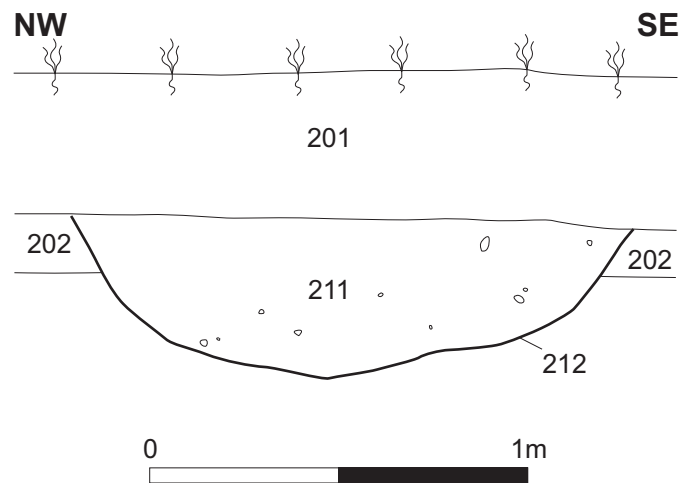


Trench 1, Sections 1; pit [109] facing north Fig 4

Trench 1, Section 2



Trench 2, Section 5



Trench 1, Section 2 and Trench 2, Section 5 Fig 5



Gullies [208] and [205], facing north

Fig 6

The alignment of the gullies may suggest that they may be earlier plot boundaries, with the shallow gully [205] possibly representing a hedge planting trench.

Located 4m to the north of the gullies was a shallow pit/posthole [210]. The pit was 0.6m in diameter by 0.2m deep; it was filled with firm mid grey-brown silty loam (209). These features were overlain by a mid brown sandy loam subsoil (202) c0.25m thick which in turn was overlain by a dark brown sandy loam topsoil (201) c0.35m thick.

In the middle of the trench there was a linear feature which may have been a planting trench [212]. The feature was 1.5m wide by up to 0.42m deep with a shallow rounded base (Fig 5, Section 5). Recovered from the mid brown sandy loam fill of this feature (211) were a late 18th-century wig curler and a complete but broken late 19th-century wine bottle. Cutting the feature on its north-eastern side was a late 19th/early 20th-century rubbish pit [214]. The pit was 1.85m wide by up to 0.7m deep. Immediately to the north of pit [214] lay another pit (which was unexcavated) but had 19th and 20th-century china on its surface. These features were overlain by topsoil only and cut through the subsoil as well as the natural.

On the north-eastern side of the trench, immediately to the north of the undated gullies [208] and [205], was the corner of a sub-rectangular pit which was cut from the

topsoil. This feature was physically associated with sections of corrugated iron on the surface and may represent the hole dug for an Anderson shelter in the grounds of Stratford House during the Second World War.

5.3 Trench 3

This trench was located in the north-eastern part of the proposed development area aligned north west-south east and was 30m long. Natural gravel (303) was exposed at a depth of between 0.7m and 0.95m. At the south-eastern end of the trench the ground had been made up with a mixed demolition layer, containing broken brick and tile (310). This would appear to have taken place as part of the landscaping of the garden in the 19th century.

Towards the north-western end of the trench the natural was cut by a large rubbish pit [306], with two fills consisting of a grey-brown loam and a near black loam with a high ash and charcoal content, (304) and (305), both fills contained pottery and china of late 19th-century date. The nature of the fills would suggest that the ash from the fireplaces in Stratford House was being deposited.

Immediately to the south-east of the rubbish pit [305] was the base of a path [309]. The path was aligned north-south and is likely to have been part of a network of paths in the more formal part of the garden located nearer to the house. The path was bounded by a derelict stone wall shown on the historic mapping.

The archaeology was overlain by a mid brown sandy loam subsoil (302) between 0.4m and 0.1m thick, which in turn was overlain by a dark brown sandy loam topsoil (301) c0.3m thick.

5.4 Trench 4

This trench, 50m long, was located in the south-western part of the proposed development area and was aligned north-east to south-west. Natural gravels (403) were exposed at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.7m. At the south-western end of the trench the natural consisted of buff alluvial clay (404). A rubble filled soak-away, a brick drain and a small planting feature cut the natural (Fig 3).

The soak-away ditch [410], aligned north-west to south-east, was c4.0m wide by 1.2m deep, with 45° sides and concave base. The fill (409) consisted of a loose demolition rubble, bricks, tile, limestone and mortar. The ditch could be traced on the surface, as a shallow earthwork, to a pond feature on the north-eastern side of the garden, and is likely to have acted as flood alleviation and soak-away for the pond and garden.

Located 8.5m north of the soak-away ditch was a brick drain [408] which was 0.7m wide and c0.4m deep with two courses of brick at the base. It was made of broken bricks of probable 19th-century date.

One other feature cut the natural, a probable planting pit of late 19th-century/early 20th-century date [406]. The pit was sub-circular with a diameter of 0.35m and 0.25m deep. The fill consisted of a loose mid grey-brown sandy loam with frequent gravel inclusions (405).

The archaeology cut the mid brown sandy loam subsoil (402) and was overlain by a dark brown sandy loam topsoil (401) c0.3m thick.

5.5 Trench 5

This trench was located in the south-eastern part of the proposed development area and was 50m long and aligned north-east to south-west. Natural gravels (503) were exposed at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m. Two clay-lined pits cut the natural at the southern end of the trench. Towards the northern end of the trench there was an irregular shallow pit. The full extent of all the features in this trench lay outside the limits of excavation (Fig 3).

Two clay-lined pits were exposed 2.0m apart, only one was excavated, pit [508]. The pit, as visible in the trench, was L-shaped and measured 4.8m north-east to-south west by up to 1.0m deep. It was clay lined and divided into three parts by the clay lining. The firm grey clay lining (507), measured up to 0.55m thick on the sides of the pit and 0.1m deep at the base of the pit. The pit was filled in two main episodes and was topped with a clay final fill (Fig 7).



Trench 5, clay-lined pit [508], facing northwest

Fig 7

The primary fill, orange-grey sandy clay (506), contained frequent broken brick and tile fragments and a Victorian box iron (See Fig 9, below), it gave the impression of being rapidly backfilled with general rubbish. The upper fills (505) and (504), consisted of orange-grey clays with no inclusions. The purpose of the pits was not clear although it is likely that they relate to the tannery, although no animal bone was recovered from them.

In the northern end of the trench there was an irregularly-shaped shallow pit [512]. The full extent of the pit lay outside the trench, but it was at least 8m across by 0.6m deep. On the north-east side the pit had a very gently sloping base laid with stone sets and what appeared to be a stone kerb (511) (Fig 8). Laying directly on the stone sets was part of an iron hoop, possibly from a barrel. The primary fill of the pit consisted of dark grey-brown silty clay with a lens of mortar and charcoal (510) 0.4m thick, this in turn was overlain by an orange sandy gravel (509) 0.2m thick. The archaeology was sealed by a layer of topsoil (501) 0.2m deep.



Trench 5 stone sets and kerb with iron hoop

Fig 8

5.6 Trench 6

This trench was located in the southern part of the development area and was aligned north-west to south-east. Natural alluvial clay (602) was exposed at a depth of 0.25m. A sondage c1.2m deep was excavated at the south-eastern end of the trench to confirm the natural. No archaeology was observed in this trench. No subsoil was present in the trench and the natural was overlain by a dark brown clay loam topsoil (601).

6 FINDS

6.1 Worked flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Four pieces of worked flint were found in a pit in Trench 1. The artefacts comprised three flakes and one blade, three were recovered from context (110) and one from context (116), summarised in Table 1. The raw material was a vitreous flint ranging from mid to dark grayish-brown. The cortex present on the dorsal surfaces of three flakes was a mid to dark brown. Post-depositional edge damage was present on all artefacts, consisting of occasional to frequent nicks. Patination was present on one of the flints, which was a slight cloudy white discolouration of the surface..

The worked flint is not directly datable, but the technological characteristics suggest a Neolithic date. No further work is recommended.

Table 1 Summary of worked flint

Trench	Context	SF	Blade/flake	Portion	Material	Cortex	Patination	Comments
1	110	1	Flake	Whole	vitreous dark greyish brown	No	slight	elongated flake, post-depositional edge damage
1	110	2	Flake	Whole	vitreous mid greyish brown	mid brown	No	overshot termination, post-depositional edge damage
1	116	6	Flake	Whole	vitreous mid greyish brown	dark brown	No	cortex on distal end, post-depositional edge damage
1	110	10	Blade	Whole	vitreous dark greyish brown	dark brown	No	overshot termination, post-depositional edge damage

6.2 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

There is a single small and abraded sherd, 16mm long by 12mm wide and weighing 1g, from a secondary fill (114) of pit [118]. The fabric is grey-black throughout and some voids may derive from leached shell inclusions. This sherd may be of Iron Age date but even so, its abraded state might suggest that it was residual within the context in which it was found.

6.3 Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

A single undiagnostic bodysherd in a Roman Greyware fabric was recovered from fill (111) of pit [118]. Although small, abraded and weighing just 1.3g, this sherd may date from the late 1st to 3rd century.

6.4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 73 sherds were recovered from five contexts in eleven fabrics or types which mostly date to a period of manufacture on a modern industrial scale. Altogether they weigh 2.39kg.

The types present are as follows:

None of the above types are unusual or specialist in their origin. They comprise a mix of tablewares, kitchen wares and horticultural wares. Since they were found in a garden of a relatively high status residence, they probably derive from a mix of horticulture, casual loss during fresh-air tea-parties and the common 19th to 20th-century practice of 'crocking', the use of broken crockery to put in the base of flower pots to aid drainage.

None of the types present are closely datable, being relatively long-lived production types. They are almost all, however, of the 19th or early 20th-century date. The two sherds of medieval coarseware and Potterspury ware are residual and date from the periods 1100-1500 and 1250-1500, respectively.

Table 2: Pottery sherd count/weight (no/g) by fabric and context

Context/Type	211	213	305	405	510	Total
Medieval coarseware	1/14g					1/14g
Potterspury ware			1/3g			1/3g
Blue shell-edged pearlware					1/3g	1/3g
Porcelain					2/4g	2/4g
Bone china					1/3g	1/3g
Lustreware			1/72g		1/6g	2/78g
Pancheon		2/231g			2/16	4/247g
Unglazed earthenware flower pot		3/56g	3/37g	1/8g	6/968g	13/1069g
White glazed earthenware		7/121g	14/296g		2/54	23/471g
English stonewares		2/136g	1/48g	1/1g	1/17g	5/202g
Underglaze transfer printed earthenware	1/7g	5/38g	11/245g		3/5g	20/295g
Total	2/21g	19/582g	31/701g	2/9g	19/1076g	73/2389g

6.5 Metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

There is a single piece, weighing 30g, of dark-grey vesicular ferrous slag from fill (213) of rubbish pit [214]. It is lacking in diagnostic features, but has probably come from a post-medieval smithing hearth rather than a charcoal-fuelled hearth of medieval or earlier date.

6.6 Wig curler by Tora Hylton

Part of a pipe clay wig curler was recovered from the gully/planting trench fill (211). Although incomplete and measuring just 36mm in length, it would originally have comprised an elongated rod with a circular cross-section, (11-15mm in diameter) and expanded 'baluster' shaped terminals. The extreme end of the curler is flat, the presence of transverse striations in the clay suggest that it had been trimmed with a knife. Curler making is thought to have been a sideline of clay tobacco-pipe manufacturers (Hume 1991, 321), for this reason they often preserve maker's marks, although this example does not. While excavated examples are usually white in colour; this particular example is buff brown. Wig Curlers were used by both men and women from the 16th to 19th centuries (Crummy 1988, 26, fig 28)

6.7 Clay pipe and bottle glass by Tim Upson Smith

Clay pipe

Four short lengths of clay pipe stem were recovered from three different contexts. The stem fragment from the planting feature (405) was early 18th century in date, the other lengths from pit (213) (two pieces) and from the topsoil of Trench 3 were late 19th century in date. The stems were dated using the width of the bore as outlined in Oswald 1975, 92-5. The small amount of clay pipe recovered would suggest that the house was not occupied by a regular smoker.

Bottle glass

Recovered from the fill of the gully or possible planting trench (211) was a broken but almost complete wine bottle. The bottle is in light green glass, has a pronounced punt, is straight sided and has a high shoulder, which would suggest it was a Bordeaux bottle, for a dry white wine. It is blown rather than molded, suggesting it dates to the 19th century.

A further incomplete bottle was recovered from the fill of the rubbish pit (305). The bottle is in dark green glass, although the neck is missing it has a deep punt, straight sides and a high shoulder, which would suggest that it also is a Bordeaux wine bottle for a red wine (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wine_bottle#Shapes). Like the bottle from (211) it is blown rather than molded suggesting a 19th-century date.

The rest of the bottle glass consists of un-diagnostic body sherds, apart from part of a base of a bottle and part of a neck from fill (213) of rubbish pit [214]. The glass is pale green with a slightly indented base, a neck was also recovered from this context in brown glass and is likely to be late 19th century in date.

6.8 Box Iron by Tim Upson Smith

Recovered from the fill (506) of the clay lined pit [508] was a heavily corroded 19th-century box iron. Although it is heavily corroded and in three pieces it is complete with its wooden handle. The iron is c160mm long by c65mm deep and weighs c2.5kg.

The iron would have been hollow with a lifting door on the back into which a heated iron 'slug' would be placed. It was a development of the charcoal iron where hot coals would be placed inside the hollow iron, with this type though they needed to be ventilated and often would leave smudges on the clean laundry. Whereas with the thinner flat iron type two were needed, one in use and one heating up, with the box iron you had two 'slugs', one heating and one in use.



Box iron from pit [508]

Fig 9



Box iron and 'slug'

<http://www.objectlessons.org>

Fig 10

6.9 Building materials by Pat Chapman

Ceramic tile

There are seven roof tile sherds and one floor tile sherd, together weighing 1429g. Six sherds come from context (510) pit [512], one large roof tile sherd from primary fill (506) of pit [508] and a tiny fragment from the fill of pit [406].

An almost complete roof tile from context (510) is 145mm wide and 9mm thick (5¾ x ⅜ inches) and in excess of 210mm (8¼ inches) long, slightly narrower than usual. It had a central pulled-up nib that has been knocked-off. The fabric is fine hard clay, mid to pale orange with a bright orange surface. There is white lime mortar still adhering to the back of the tile. The sherd from (506) is the same width and thickness, though smaller. The other small roof tile sherds comprise one which is 11mm thick and made from a rough orange fabric, and three sherds 15mm thick in a darker sandy reddish-orange clay.

The floor tile is 22mm (⅞ inch) thick, hard fine light brown to grey clay with a thick black metallic surface finish. A tiny iron nail or tack was either in the clay or has stuck to the tile since it broke.

Brick

There is a complete, though damaged, brick with no frog from context (506), 280 x 110 x 60mm (8¼ x 4 x 2⅜ inches) in size, made from sandy red clay with frequent gravel and flint up to 13mm. It has one smooth surface and at one time it appeared to have had both mortar and clear glaze covering at least parts of all the surfaces.

A broken brick from pit fill (510), 115mm wide x 62mm thick (4⅛ x 2½ inches), is made from a sandy cindery orange clay and includes one quartz pebble c35mm diameter. Even layers of white lime mortar, c11mm thick, cover the top and bottom. Six small fragments in both sandy red and sandy orange clay come from contexts (213), (405) and (506). One fragment from (405) is the corner of a highly fired grey ventilation brick.

Slate

There is one small thin fragment of Welsh slate from context (510)

Conclusion

The ventilation brick and floor tile are machine-made and with the fragment of Welsh slate are clearly of 19th-century date. The rest of the brick and tile are probably of similar date and handmade, although they could be earlier.

6.10 Animal bone by Karen Deighton

A total of 220g of animal bone and 30g of shell were collected by hand from two contexts during the course of excavation.

The bone from fill (213) ditch [214] consisted of a pig second metacarpal, a sheep/goat pelvis, a cattle astragalus, a small ungulate vertebra and a large ungulate vertebra. The illium of the pelvis exhibited evidence of chopping.

The only other bone came from pit [406], the glenoid region of a sheep/goat scapula. The neck appeared to have been chopped though to separate the articulation and the blade of the scapula.

In conclusion, little can be said of the economy or the function of the site due to the small amount of faunal material available. However it can be stated that the major

domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) along with oyster were utilised at or near the site.

6.11 Plant macrofossils and molluscs by Simon Carlyle

Introduction

Eight soil samples were taken from a sequence of deposits filling a large pit, 118, that was encountered in Trench 1 of the evaluation. Two abraded pottery sherds from the upper fills suggest that the pit dates to the Roman period.

The samples ranged in volume from 10 litres to 40 litres, depending on the available size of the deposit. They were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications of up to x 10 and the plant macrofossils and other remains were quantified. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for the plant remains and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells.

Results

The state of preservation of the ecofacts was generally good, although the charcoal was heavily comminuted, suggesting that a proportion of this material is wind-blown. All the plant remains were preserved by charring. Modern contaminants, including woody and fibrous roots, soil fauna, seeds and grass, were present throughout.

Charcoal and small mollusc shells were present at low to moderate densities throughout the sequence of deposits, with the exception of the basal deposit (117), where they were absent. Four possible cereal grains were noted but it was not possible to identify them to species as they were fragmentary and distorted due to having been burnt at high temperatures. In addition there were at least six common weed seeds. The results are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Quantification of ecofacts from deposits in pit [118]

Sample no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Context no.	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117
Volume (l)	40	40	20	40	20	10	20	10
Charcoal	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	-
Cereal grains	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Weed seeds	1	-	2	1	1?	-	-	2
Molluscs	xx	xx	x	xx	x	x	x	-

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens

There was a subtle differentiation in the distribution and size of the charcoal throughout the sequence, with the material from the lower deposits, (115) to (117), generally being small and infrequent and that from the upper deposits, notably from (110) and (111), being more frequent and including lumps of charcoal as well as smaller flecks. This would suggest that the charcoal near the base of the pit was wind-blown and the material from the upper fills was probably deposited as domestic refuse.

The mollusc shells were fragmented and slightly abraded and the contemporaneity of

the material with the contexts from which the samples were taken was uncertain. However, all four of Evans (1972) ecological groups of terrestrial molluscs were represented, with open country/grassland species occurring most frequently.

Conclusions

Although the assemblage of ecofacts from the pit is small and some of the material must be considered as intrusive or wind-blown, the presence of several cereal grains and larger pieces of charcoal suggests that grain was being processed, possibly in a domestic environment, nearby. The cereal grains had been burnt at high temperatures and it is likely that they were inadvertently burnt in an oven or hearth, perhaps whilst other foodstuffs were being prepared, and then discarded with the ashes of the fire.

Given the small size of the mollusc shells, with the majority measuring less than 4mm, and the presence of modern soil fauna in the flots suggesting a certain degree of intrusiveness, it is not possible to make a statement on the surrounding environment at the time the pit was in use.

7 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has demonstrated archaeological features survive within the proposed development area.

The earliest feature found was probably the large pit in Trench 1. The function of the pit was not clear. It may have been dug for quarrying of the natural gravel. It did not contain any concentrations of material to indicate it was used for disposal of domestic refuse, although the varied fills of alternating silts and gravels may suggest it was in filled gradually. The secondary fills of the pit contained one small sherd of possible Iron Age pottery, and one sherd of Roman greyware, which suggests the pit is of at least Roman date or later. The worked flints which were found in two secondary fills, suggests the possibility of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, but were clearly residual within the context in which they were found.

The two undated gullies in Trench 2 may relate to plot boundaries fronting Mill Lane, which predate the current property or the small rectangular enclosure shown on the Ordnance Survey map.

The majority of the features revealed in the evaluation relate to the post-medieval period, in particular the industrial use of the plot and its latter use as a garden during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The features in Trench 5 relate to an industrial process of some description, whether this was fulling or tanning was not clear as no artifacts were recovered which would suggest the process. Clearly though, the clay lined pits were for a purpose which would suggest that they had to be water tight for the process which took place.

The Garden features found were largely paths which corresponded well with those shown on the historic maps and a large ditch which fed into the pond in the western part of the garden. The ditch had been deliberately backfilled with brick rubble and latterly by domestic rubbish.

The area of garden nearest the house was bounded by a curving path and by a ruined but partially surviving low stone wall. In that area the ground had clearly been made up and leveled. In an historic photograph (Soden 2010 fig 5, dated 1950) this was shown to contain lawn with a circular flower bed and graveled surround and possibly a small water fountain.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Amorosi, T, 1989 *A Postcranial Guide to Domestic Neo-natal and Juvenile Mammals*, British Archaeological Reports, International Series, **533**, Oxford
- Brothwell, D, and Higgs, E, (eds) 1969 *Science in Archaeology*, Thames and Hudson, London
- Crank, N A, 2009 *Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*
- Crummy, N, 1988 *Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Trust Limited
- English Heritage, 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
- Evans, J, 1972 *Land Snails in Archaeology*, London
- Hume, I N, 1969 (1991 reprint) *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*, Vintage Books, New York
- Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Jones, G, Halstead, P, and Morse, V, 1982 The carbonised seeds, in I Hodder 1982
- Kerney, M P, and Cameron, R A D, 1979 *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe*, Collins
- Kerney, M P, and Cameron, R A D, 1994 *Land Snails*, Harper Collins, London
- Macan, T T, 1977 *British fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods*, Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication No 13
- Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2006 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*
- Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Stratford House, Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes*
- Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Report **14**
- Schoch, W H, Pawlik, B, and Schweingruber, F H, 1988 *Botanical macro-remains* Paul Haupt, Berne
- Silver, I, 1969 The ageing of domestic mammals, in D Brothwell and E Higgs (eds) 1969, 283-302
- Soden, I, 2010 *Archaeological Buildings Assessment at Stratford House and Ousebank Cottage Mill Lane, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes* Northamptonshire Archaeology, **10/24**
- Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*, (2nd edition), Cambridge University Press
- Von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bone from Archaeological sites*, Harvard: Harvard University press

8.1 Web Sites

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/index.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wine_bottle#Shapes

<http://www.objectlessons.org>