



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land at
Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton
Peterborough
December 2010



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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

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Report 11/2

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough
The evaluation revealed a 10th/11th-century pit or well, from which was recovered a small quantity of pottery, mostly Stamford Ware, animal bone, mollusc shell and charred plant remains. A posthole and two gullies, probably of a similar date, and an undated ditch were also encountered. The ground had been disturbed on the west side of the plot, possibly during the construction of a tennis court.	
Project type	Desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Farm yard
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/period	Late Saxon/early medieval settlement
Significant finds	10th to 11th-century pottery, animal bone and worked stone
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Peterborough
Site address	Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton
Study area	c 385 m ²
OS Easting & Northing	509356 305966
Height OD	c 17m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service
Project Design originator	NA
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby
Project Manager	Mark Holmes
Sponsor or funding body	Ross Thain and Co Ltd
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	20/12/2010
End date	21/12/2010
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	Accession no:
Archive contents	Pottery, animal bone, worked stone, environmental flots (2 boxes), site records (1 small archive box), 1 CD of digital images, client report and mapping files
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND

AT BROOKFIELD, BARNACK ROAD

BAINTON, PETERBOROUGH

DECEMBER 2010

Abstract

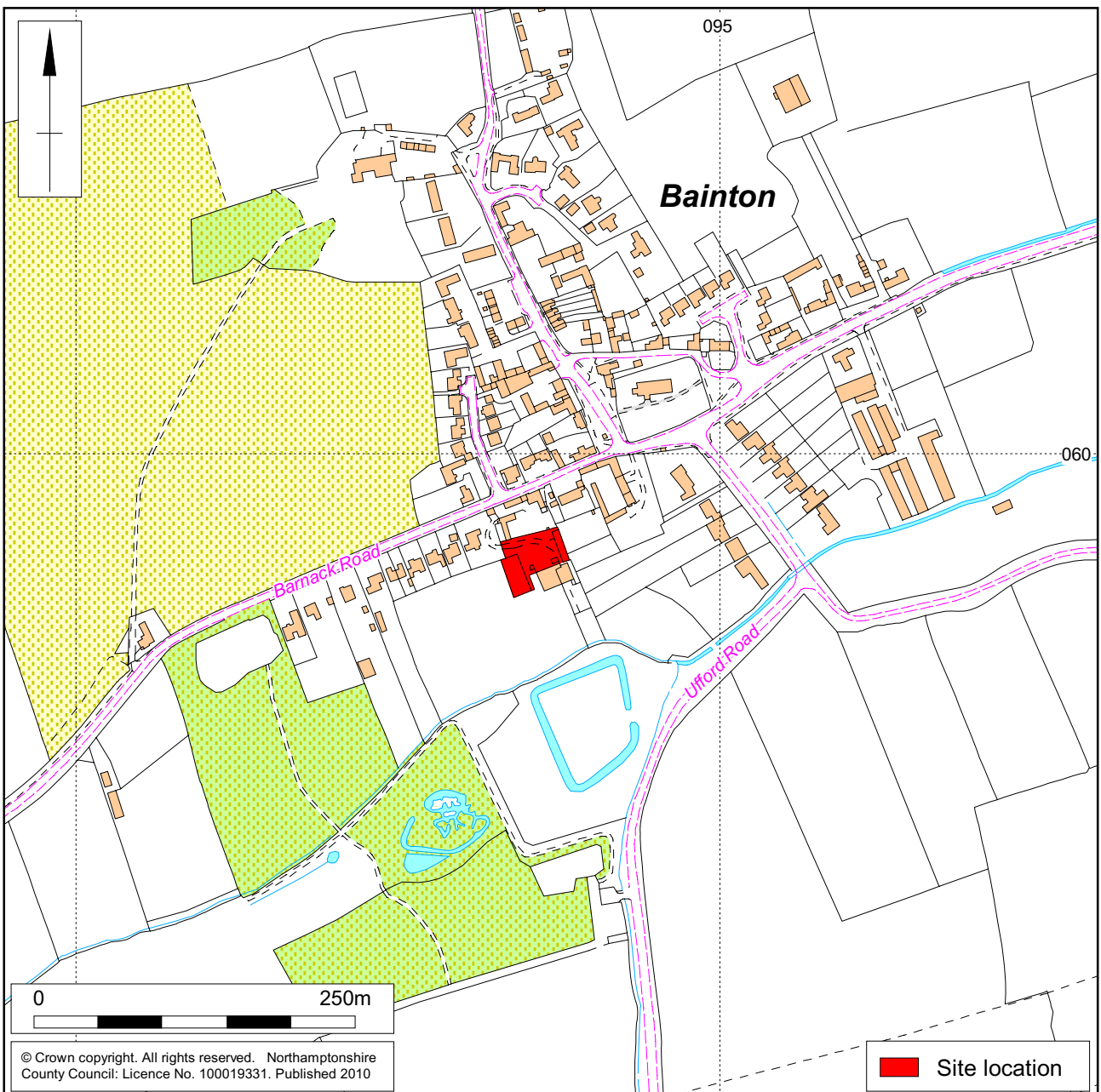
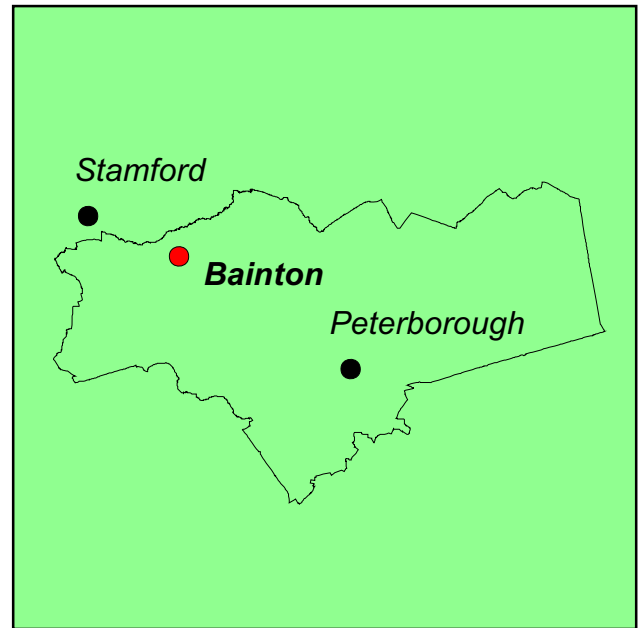
In December 2010, a desk-based assessment and archaeological trial trench evaluation were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough. The evaluation was carried out to fulfil the requirements of planning consent for the construction of a new dwelling. The evaluation revealed a Saxon to early medieval pit or well and a posthole. Pottery recovered from these features dates to the 10th/11th centuries. An undated ditch and two gullies, which may be of a similar date, were also encountered. The ground had been disturbed on the west side of the plot, possibly during the construction of a tennis court.

1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2010, a desk-based assessment and archaeological trial trench evaluation were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough (NGR: TF 09356 05966; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Ross Thain and Co Ltd and was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a planning consent for the construction of a new two-storey dwelling with associated outbuildings.

The village of Bainton lies c 6.4km to the east of Stamford and the site lies within the historic core of the village, to the south of Barnack Road. The site was, until recently, occupied by farm buildings surrounding a farm yard and a tennis court, but these have since been demolished prior to redevelopment. The site lies on fairly flat ground, at c 17m aOD, and the underlying geology comprises Kellaways Clay, with Oxford Clay immediately to the south (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

The scope of works was outlined in the brief issued by Peterborough City Council's Archaeological Service (PCCAS 2010), dated 2 December 2010, and detailed in the written scheme of investigation prepared by NA (2010). This report, which presents the results of the investigation, has been prepared to meet the requirements of 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).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Historical background

Badington is mentioned in a Saxon document of about 980 but the village was not mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. Furthermore, although Peterborough Abbey held land in the parish this was not mentioned in descriptions of the possessions of the abbey sent to the king in the 1120s. However, by 1148 two parts of the tithes of Richard Salide de Badington were confirmed to the abbey by Pope Eugenius.

Bainton does not appear to have ever been a separate manor but held as part of Torpel manor, which also extended into Maxey, Barnack and Helpston and most of Ufford and Ashton parishes. Torpel manor was also not mentioned in the Domesday Book and it seems likely that the name originated with the first holders (VCH 1906). The manor was first mentioned in 1198, when Roger de Torpel created a park of about 60 acres, enclosing woods of Torpel, La Hage, Ravenesland and Cnihtecroft. It was disparked by 1554.

The site of the manor has been identified at the end of West Road, Helpston (but actually lying within Bainton parish). The remains comprise a motte and bailey and a series of adjoining enclosures, possibly the remains of the hamlet noted in 1276. A further stone building to the east may have been a later manor house replacing the earlier motte and bailey. The manorial seat may have moved here in the 14th century when the last mention of the village occurs (National Monument Record (NMR) 350171). Lolham Mill, which lies just within the parish of Bainton was also part of the Torpel manor.

2.2 Previous archaeological work

The Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted for documented sites and monuments within the proposed development area and a nominal 1km radius surrounding it (Fig 2). A search was also undertaken of the National Monument Record (NMR) held by English Heritage. No additional records were noted. There are no nationally designated sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Conservation Areas) within the development area.

There are extensive prehistoric and Roman remains recorded in the vicinity. Scheduled Monument (PE253) is a large multi-period settlement site to the north of the village and encompasses an area of 172ha. The cropmarks include enclosures, ring ditches and linear features. In particular, aerial photography has identified an interrupted ring ditch, a possible henge and cursus, and a timber building with ten parallel foundation trenches. Small scale excavations revealed a large basilican building of two phases of the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Further enclosures, ring ditches and pit alignments have been identified from aerial photographs to the north and east of the village.

A medieval moated site lies directly to the south of the site. Nothing is known of the history of the site, but moated sites were commonly constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries and usually contained a range of buildings. Often manorial in origin, they may also have been constructed by wealthier peasants. The HER records that a farmer recalled removing a considerable quantity of rough stonework in about 1955; it may be that the stonework was the remains of buildings. The entire moat circuit appears to have been re-excavated in about 1988. Further medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow are present to the west of the village (HER 9860).

Scale 1:7,500

Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 2

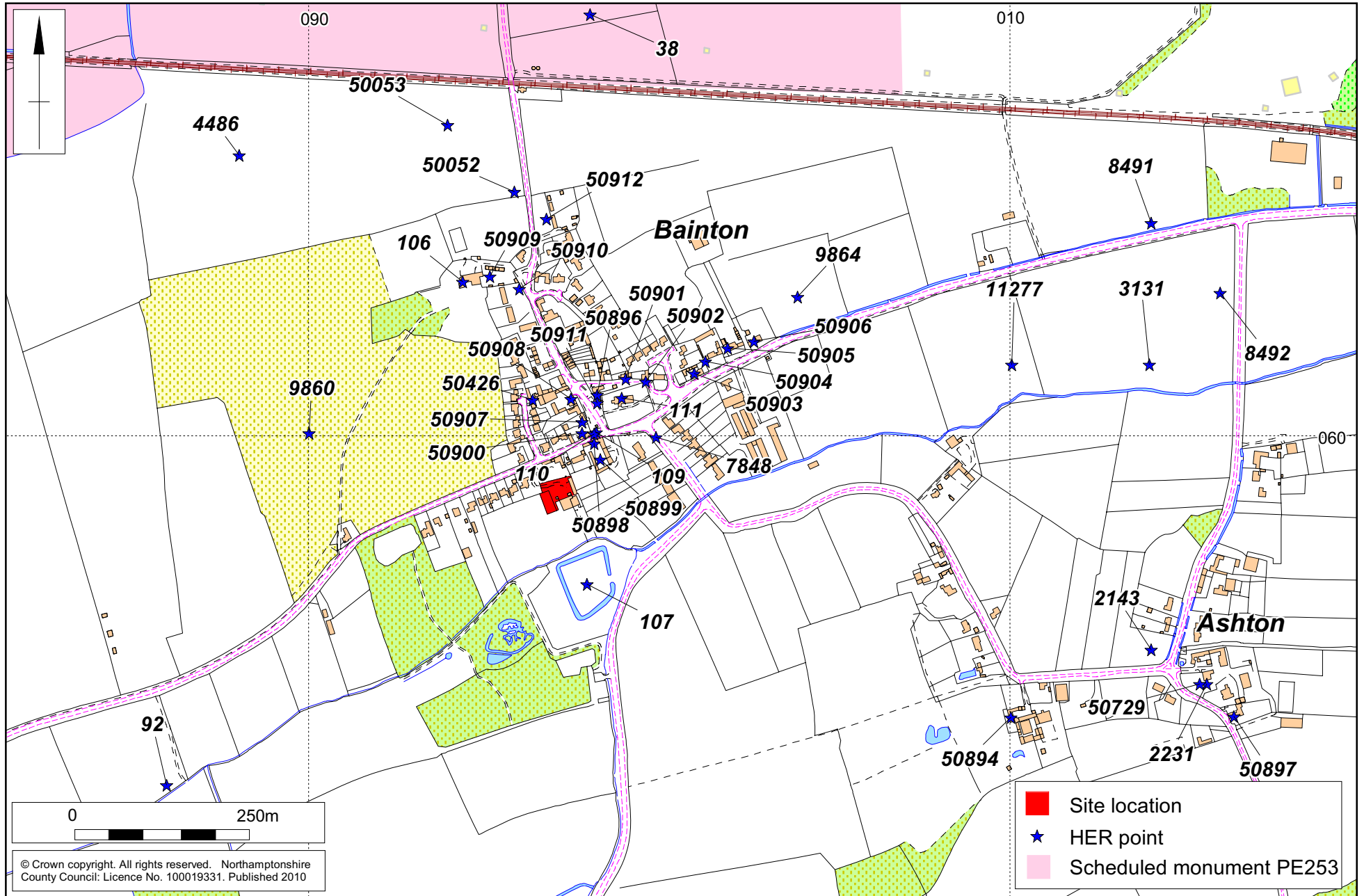


Table 1: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

HER No	NGR: TF	Details of results
38	0940 0660	Settlement site east of Uffington and Barnack Station. Scheduled Monument PE253.
92	0880 0550	Bronze Age chisel
106	0922 0622	Bainton House, 16th/17th century, listed building
107	0940 0579	Moated manor house
109	0941 0601	Medieval village cross, listed building
110	0941 0600	Medieval/post-medieval stocks
111	0945 0605	St Mary the Virgin's Church, listed building
2143	1020 0570	Slag heap, iron slag found at Ashton
2231	1028 0565	Barn north-east of Ashton manor house, probably 16th/17th century, listed building
3131	1020 0610	Early middle Bronze Age palstave
4486	0890 0640	Linear features and enclosures observed on aerial photographs
7848	0950 0600	Three flint scrapers
8491	1020 0630	Enclosures observed on aerial photographs
8492	1030 0620	Enclosures and pit alignments observed on aerial photographs
9860	0900 0600	Earthwork ridge and furrow plus headlands and ditched enclosures. Ridge and furrow extends south of Barnack Road, 100m north of moat
9864	0970 0620	Enclosure and linear ditches observed on aerial photographs
11277	1000 0610	Three circular enclosures, possibly ring ditches
50052	0929 0635	Circular feature, possible ring ditch or barrow, 25m in diameter
50053	0920 0644	Possible ring ditch, 25m in diameter
50426	0932 0605	A previously unknown dovecote, possibly built during the Civil War period, was discovered while a watching brief was being carried out on a housing estate under construction to the west
50729	1027 0565	Ashton Manor farmhouse, early 19th-century house, listed building
50894	1000 0560	Grossmith Farm and stables, early 19th-century house, listed building
50896	0941 0606	Old School Room, listed building
50897	1032 0560	Keeper's Cottage, early 19th-century cottage, listed building
50898	0941 0599	Vine Farmhouse, 18th-century farmhouse at right angles to the road, listed building

HER No	NGR: TF	Details of results
50899	0942 0597	18th-century barn adjoining Vine Farmhouse, listed building
50900	0939 0600	The Bakehouse of the Old Bakery, early 18th-century cottage range with back to road, listed building
50901	0945 0608	Holly Cottage, early 18th-century stone cottage, listed building
50902	0948 0608	22 Church Lane, early 18th-century cottage, listed building
50903	0955 0609	Blue Boar House, dated 1803 but appears to be 18th century, listed building
50904	0957 0611	Cobley's Farmhouse, early 18th-century range of cottages, listed building
50905	0960 0612	Willow Gate and Byre, early 18th-century cottage, listed building
50906	0963 0613	23 Helpston Road, 18th-century cottage, listed building
50907	0939 0602	8 Tallington Road, early 19th-century range of cottages, listed building
50908	0937 0605	Manor Farmhouse, early 19th-century house, listed building
50909	0926 0623	Stables north-east of Bainton House, listed building
50910	0930 0621	Garden boundary wall to Bainton House, probably early 19th-century, listed building
50911	0941 0605	School House, 18th-century range of cottages, listed building
50912	0934 0631	Thatch Cottage, 18th-century cottage, listed building

2.3 Historic maps

Inclosure map of Bainton, 1799 (Fig 3; Courtesy of Northamptonshire Record Office; Map 331p)

The fields of Bainton, Ashton and Ufford were enclosed in 1799. The map indicates that the field in which the site lies was part of old enclosure surrounding the village. The field was known as *Home Close* and was held by the Earl of Exeter. To the north of the site is a range of cottages also owned by the Earl of Exeter. The entire circuit of the moat is shown at this date. Two field boundaries, aligned north to south, follow the same alignment as the east and west of the moat and may have originally formed croft boundaries for properties fronting onto Barnack Road.

First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1886, 1:2,500 (Fig 4)

By the late 19th century the field has been sub-divided and the area of the site appears to be in use as an orchard. Only the northern arm and part of the eastern arm of the moat are visible by this date. The western of the two former croft boundaries is shown only as a tree-line.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1901, 1:2,500 (Fig 5)

There is little change from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, apart from the moat, which appears to have shrunk even more.

1958 Ordnance Survey map, 1:2,500 (Fig 6)

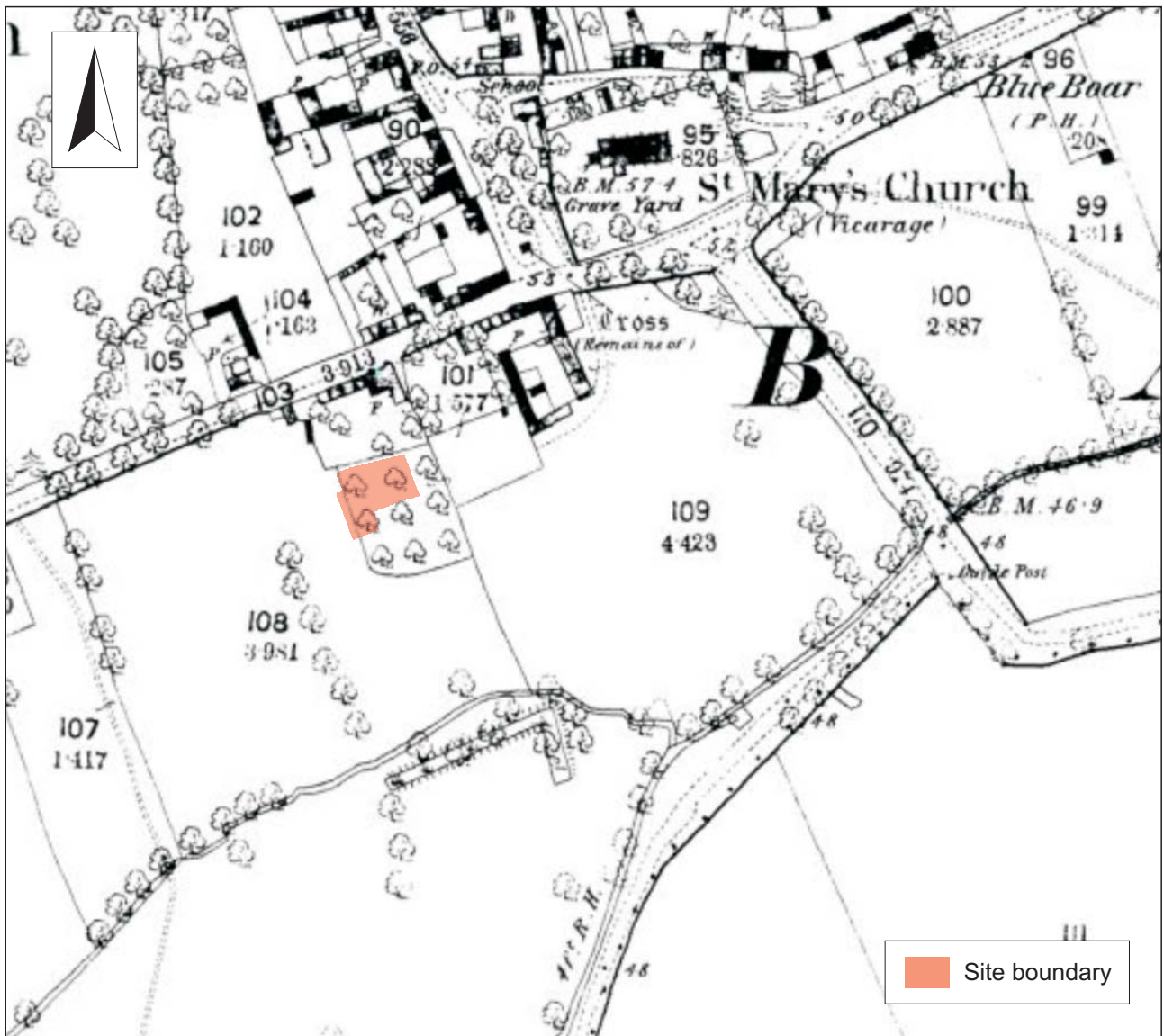
There appears to have been very little change from the Second Edition OS map, with little expansion.

1967-78 Ordnance Survey map, 1:2,500 (Fig 7)

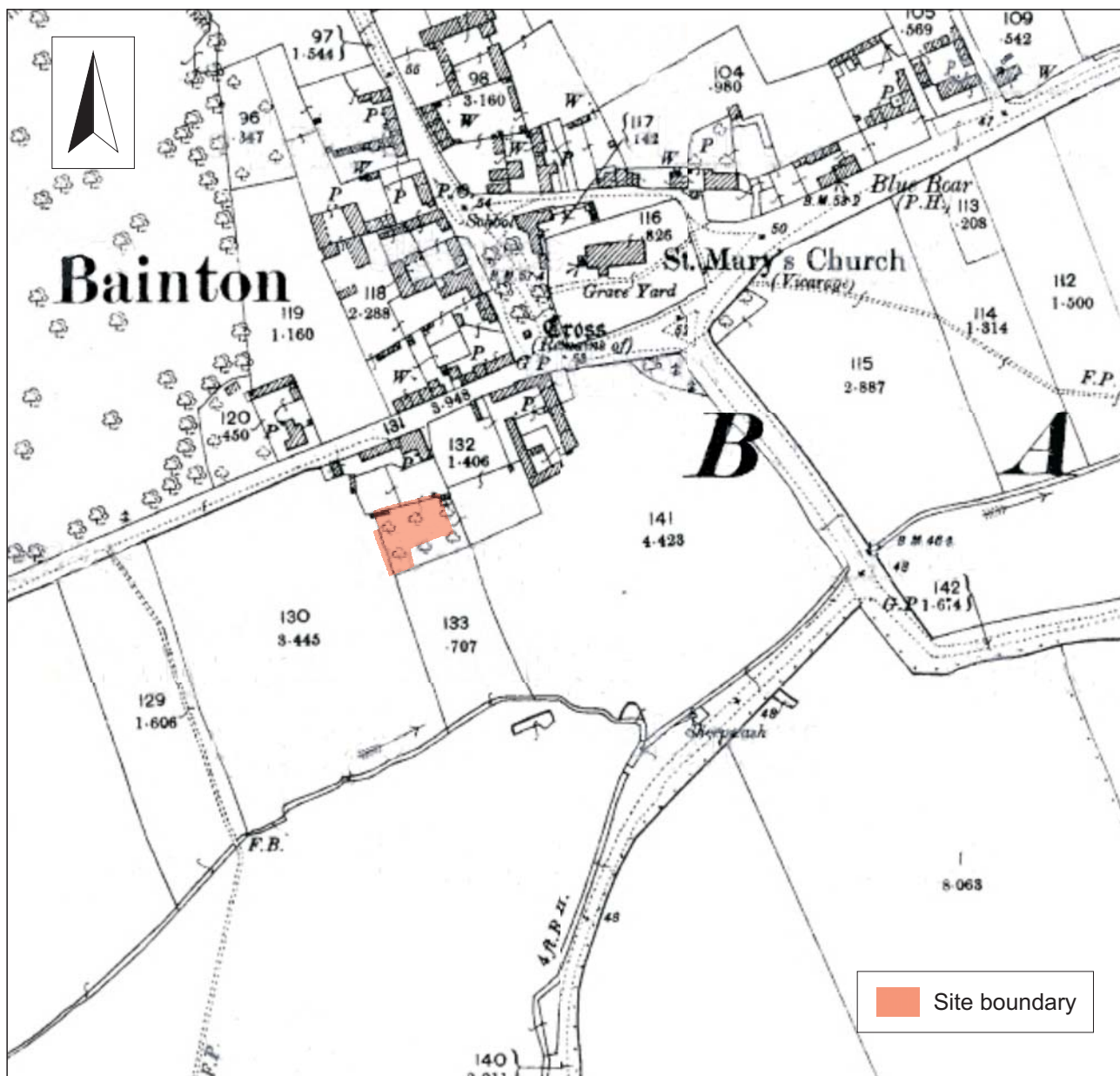
By this period there had been considerable development within the village, including within the site where a number of buildings had been constructed. The moat is not shown at all by this date.



Detail from the 1799 Enclosure map Fig 3



Detail from the First Edition Ordnance Surveymap 1886 Fig 4



Detail from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1901 Fig 5



Detail from the 1958 Ordnance Survey map Fig 6



Detail from the 1967-78 Ordnance Survey map Fig 7

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the project were to:

- Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all uncovered archaeological remains, and define the sequence and character of activities at the site;
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national archaeological context.

Specific aims were to:

- Characterise the site in the broader landscape;
- Characterise the activities identified on the site, with particular reference to potential evidence for medieval and post-medieval remains.

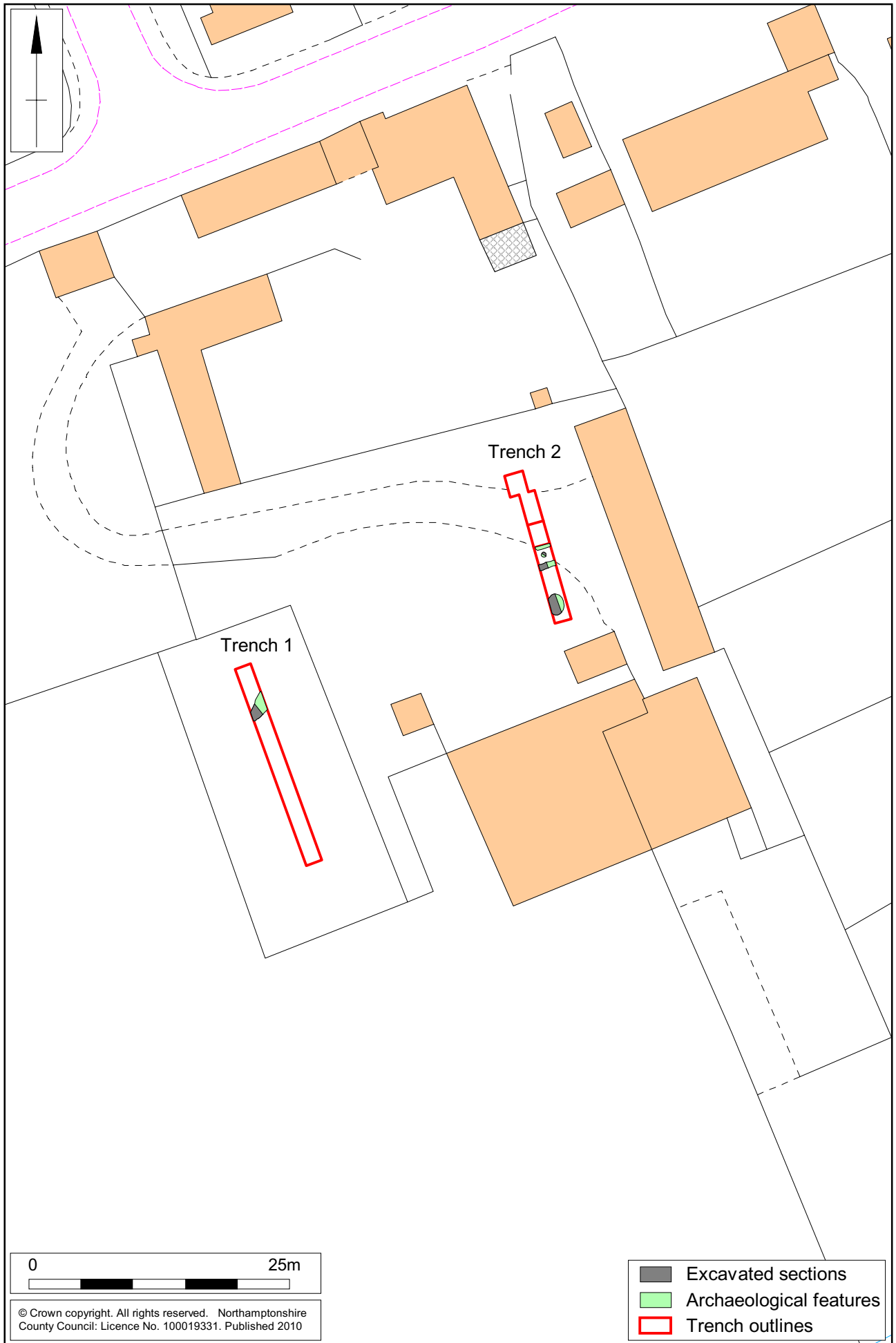
4 METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated, in accordance with the trench plan approved by PCAAS (Fig 8). Trench 1 was 20m long by 1.8m wide and Trench 2 was 15m long by 1.8m wide; Trench 2 was moved 0.8m to the east to avoid a foul water pipe.

The trenches were positioned using a Leica 1200 GPS surveying system. A JCB 3CX mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket, was used to excavate the trenches.

Overburden was removed to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Hand-drawn plans of archaeological features were made at a scale of 1:50 and medieval furrows at 1:100; these were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate, and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

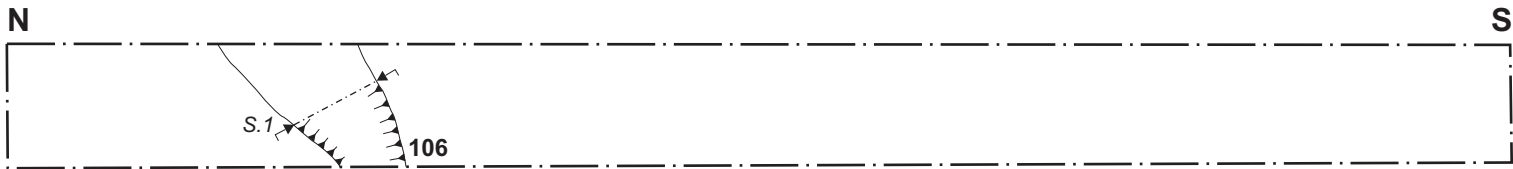
All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).



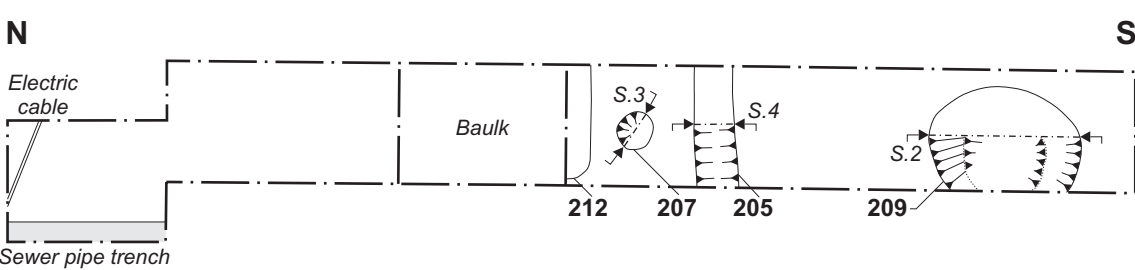
Scale 1:500

Trench locations Fig 8

Trench 1



Trench 2



5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The natural silty clay substrate was encountered between 0.6m-0.7m below the modern ground surface in both trenches. At the west side of the site the silty clay was a light yellow-brown, with patches of limestone pebbles and gravel. A wider band of gravel was present at the north end of Trench 1. To the east, in Trench 2, the natural silty clay tended to be light yellow-brown with patches of light grey clay and gravel.

The mid to dark grey-brown silty clay-loam subsoil was between 0.25m-0.40m thick. It appeared slightly mixed in Trench 1, but overlay the natural in Trench 2. The topsoil was dark brown-grey clayey loam, patchy and about 0.12m thick in Trench 1 and 0.25m thick in Trench 2. Both topsoil and subsoil contained gravel and sandstone pebbles. Mixed soils in Trench 1 are probably the result of the construction of the tennis court at the west side of the site. The remains of a crushed limestone foundation layer for the tennis court, which overlay the subsoil, remained on the west side, the tarmac layer already having been removed from the clearance of the site for development.

5.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig 8) was orientated north to south and was located on the west side of the site. At the north end of the trench there was a small ditch [106], aligned north-east to south-west, with a V-shaped profile and measuring 1.20m wide by 0.46m deep (Figs 9, 10 and 15, Section 1). The uneven sides suggest that the ditch may have been open for periods of time, possibly as a boundary ditch, though it did not correspond to the alignment of the existing boundaries, or the medieval ridge and furrow earthworks at the south of the site. Its fill (105) was mid to dark brown-grey silty clay with gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Almost a sterile fill, the absence of animal bone or artefacts suggests that the ditch lay some distance from an area of occupation.



Trench 1, ditch [106], looking north-west

Fig 10

5.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig 8) was located on the east side of the site and oriented north to south. It contained a pit, two gullies and a posthole. At the south end of the trench, and lying partially beyond the limit of the trench, was a circular pit [209]. It was 2m in diameter and 0.65m deep, however it was not fully excavated due to water ingress (Figs 9, 11 and 15, Section 2). It had a stepped profile, which was more prominent at the south side. It is possible, given the stepped profile and the apparent depth of the feature, that it may be a well. The lower fill (210) was very dark homogeneous grey silty clay, at least 0.20m thick (not bottomed). It contained some gravel and limestone pebbles, charcoal lumps, and sherds of mostly Stamford Ware pottery, together with a small amount of animal bone and mollusc shell. The upper fill (208) was dark grey-brown silty clay, up to 0.45m thick.



Trench 2, pit or well [209], looking east

Fig 11

A cluster of eleven limestone cobbles were present within the fill at the north and east sides of the pit, suggesting a deliberate dumping of material. One of the stones is a carved, decorated stone (see 6.2 below). Others showed clear evidence of a straight face and some appeared burnt. They measured approximately 200mm by 150mm.

Lying 2.5m to the north of the pit was a gully [205] with a U-shaped profile, measuring 0.48m wide by 0.16m deep (Figs 9, 12 and 15, Section 4). The fill (204) was mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of gravel, charcoal pieces and small fragments of animal bone. Approximately 1.4m further to the north was a parallel gully [212], possibly a terminal, which lay partly under a baulk covering an electric cable (Figs 9 and 13). It was not excavated due to the ground being completely frozen and the proximity of the cable. The fill (211) was a similar mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone fragments, redeposited natural clay lumps and charcoal pieces.



Trench 2, gully [205] and posthole [207], looking east

Fig 12



Trench 2, gully [212], looking west

Fig 13

At the centre of the trench, between the gullies, was a steep-sided posthole [207], with a diameter of 0.47m by 0.21m deep (Figs 9, 12, 14 and 15, Section 3). Its fill (206) was dark grey-brown silty clay and it contained cobbles that may have been

used as post-packing, limestone pebbles and charcoal lumps. A sherd of Stamford Ware pottery and a fragment of animal bone were also recovered from the fill.



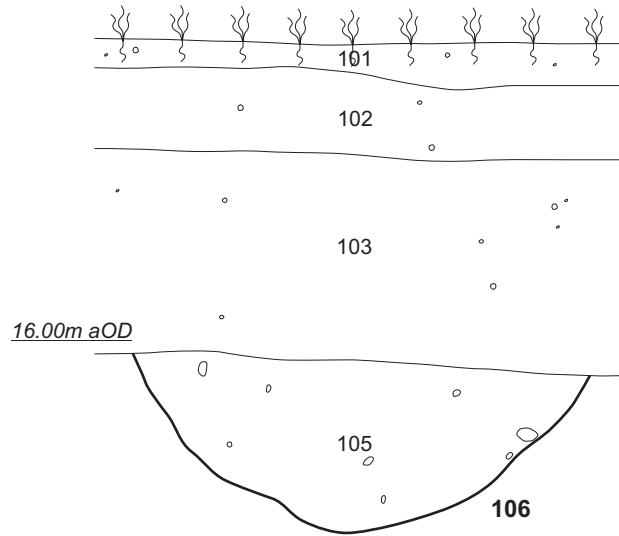
Trench 2, posthole [207], looking south-west

Fig 14

Section 1

NW

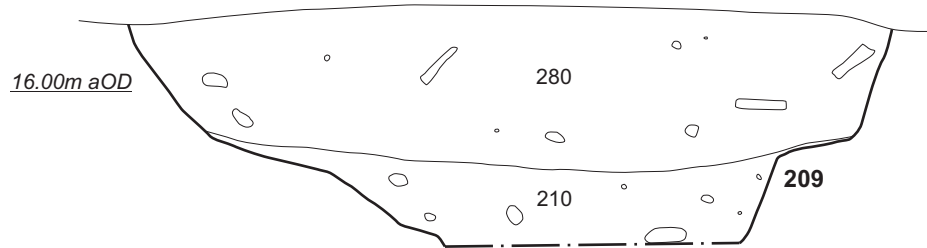
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Section 2

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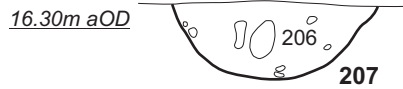
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Section 3

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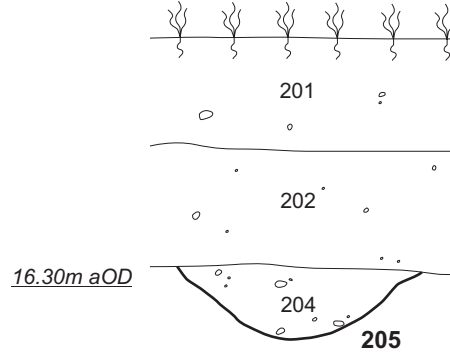
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Section 4

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N



6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 111 sherds with a total weight of 1,521g. It comprised almost entirely Stamford Ware, mostly from a feature that may be a well, and indicates that the site was abandoned and cleared in the second half of the 11th century. The following fabric types were noted:

F200: **St. Neots Ware type T1(2)** c AD1000-1200 (Denham 1985). Wheel-thrown. Fabric as other types, although inclusions tend to be sparser, larger and more ill-sorted, and usually weak to strong red, reddish-brown or black. Vessels usually jars, some with thumbled applied strips, 'Top Hat' vessels, large, upright rimmed bowls, lamps and (rarely) pitchers. 1 sherd, 24g.

F205: **Stamford Ware** (Kilmurry 1980). c AD900-1200. Wheel thrown. White, pink and buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, occasional black or red ironstone up to 1mm. Often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. 105 sherds, 1414g.

F209: **Oolitic Ware** ?Late 10th - late 12th century. Moderate to dense limestone oolitic limestone fragments up to 0.5mm. Vessels with similar forms and fabrics have been noted in Peterborough (Spoerry and Hinman 1988). A kiln producing medieval pottery with an oolitic fabric is known from Colne in Cambridgeshire (Healey *et al* 1998), and wasters with fabric with a similar oolitic component have been noted at Ely in Cambridgeshire (*ibid.*), but the forms of the products of those industries appear different from these oolitic wares. 1 sherd, 22g.

F302: **Bourne 'A' Ware** 13th-14th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 259). Manufactured in the eponymous south Lincolnshire village. Wheel-thrown, reduced, grey fabric with sparse sand and calcitic inclusions, vessels sometimes with a green or brownish glaze. Full range of medieval vessel types. 1 sherd, 13g.

F325: **Lyveden 'E' Ware** (Steane and Bryant 1975). AD1450-?1500. Wheel-thrown Part of the south-east midlands Late Medieval Oxidised Ware tradition (F401). Wasters known from the kiln sites at Lyveden, vessels as F401, fabric very similar, but this ware usually contains sparse to moderated limestone ooliths up to 0.5mm. 1 sherd, 14g.

F401: **Bourne 'D' Ware** c 1450-1637 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409). Production as the 'A' ware. Fairly hard, smooth, brick-red fabric, often with a grey core. Some vessels have sparse calcitic inclusions up to 2mm. Full range of late medieval to early post-medieval vessel forms, jugs, pancheons, cisterns, etc. Vessels often have a thin, patchy exterior white slip, over which a clear glaze has been applied. 1 sherd 8g.

F1000: **Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares**. Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 1 sherd, 26g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The stratified assemblage is generally in good condition, with many large sherds and little sign of abrasion. The material from the pit or well is from a small number of vessels, perhaps mainly no more than two or three and suggests a deliberate dumping of material during site-clearance or similar. It is dominated by Stamford Ware, which is typical of sites in the vicinity of the eponymous production centre and the other fabrics are all types which are well-known in the region.

The Stamford Ware sherd from the fill (206) of a posthole [207] is unglazed, and from a base with a sagging profile. These were first introduced in the early 10th

century, and continued to be used throughout the life of the industry, so the posthole could easily be contemporary with the well. The bulk of the pottery from context (208), the upper fill of the well, comprised Stamford Ware, with much of that assemblage being made up of fragments of a single Kilmurry type 4/5 jar with a form 50 rim (*ibid* 1980 fig. 51). Also present was a rim from a form 13 spout bowl with a type 30 rim (*ibid* fig 60) and another from a form 3 cooking pot with a type 10 rim (*ibid* fig 49). The last two are quite long lived forms and were made for most of the life of the industry, but the type 4/5 jar rim is unlikely to be earlier than the mid-11th century, and could easily be later (*ibid* fig 29), although a general paucity of glazed Stamford Ware sherds, a small plain pitcher handle and the presence of the sherds of Oolitic Ware and St. Neots Ware in the same context suggest that a date in the second half of the 11th century is probably the most appropriate.

The lower fill (210) of the pit or well [209], produced entirely Stamford Ware, mainly in the form of fragments of a single glazed vessel in a soft pink fabric. A spout from a form 5 pitcher with a type 50 rim was also present. The pink fabric colour is typical of Kilmurry's fabric G, and probably dates to the mid 11th-12th century (*ibid* fig 28) and the glaze Kilmurry's type 6, is a very typical of the 11th century (*ibid* 134), so the vessel most likely dates to the second half of the 11th century, which also suggests that the pit or well was backfilled in a single event.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	F200	F205	F209	F302	F325	F401	F1000
Context	Number (weight in grams)						Date
103		2 (14)				1 (8)	1 (26) U/S
201				1 (13)			U/S
202		2 (3)			1 (14)		U/S
206		1 (14)					10th century
208	1 (24)	68 (832)	1 (22)				Mid 11th century
210		32 (551)					Mid 11th century
Total	1 (24)	105 (1414)	1 (22)	1 (13)	1 (14)	1 (8)	1 (26)

Other than this there is very little pottery from the site, apart from a few sherds from the topsoil and subsoil horizons which are mainly mid-15th to 16th century in date apart from a few sherds of heavily abraded Stamford Ware and a single sherd of Bourne 'A' Ware. This all indicates that there was a settlement of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman date in the immediate vicinity of these excavations, and that it was abandoned in the second half of the 11th century and the site cleared and consolidated. It is perhaps of note that the settlement at Ketton, c 5km to the west of Stamford, produced pottery which suggests a very similar period of occupation and abandonment (Blinkhorn forthcoming).

6.2 The worked stone by Andy Chapman

Eleven fragments of limestone, some burnt, were recovered from the upper fill (208) of a pit or well [209], which had probably been backfilled before the end of the 11th century. A single decorated fragment of highly fossiliferous limestone, probably Barnack stone, 170mm long, 155mm wide and 30-60mm thick, was retained. The under-surface is uneven, suggesting that this fragment has been split from a thicker

slab. The upper surface is decorated with a linear ridge, with a sharp peak, now somewhat damaged (Fig 16). The full width of the ridge tapers from 55mm to 45mm in a length of 150mm, together with a slight decrease in height. The ridge stands 8mm above the adjacent surface to one side (Fig 16, left side), while on the other side it stands 11mm above the surface, with a faint trace of a narrow groove at the base of the ridge.

There is too little decorative detail surviving to interpret the exact function of this stone, but it is evidently a small fragment from a much larger decorative piece. Given the early date, 10th -11th centuries, an ecclesiastical association is possible, with the stone perhaps coming from a grave slab, a standing cross or an architectural feature from a church.

The village of Bainton lies close to Barnack, a well known production centre for quality limestone used for monuments and church architecture from the late Saxon period onward.



Decorated limestone with linear ridge, plan and section (Scale 50mm) Fig 16

7 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 The animal bone by Lazlo Lichtenstein

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone, weighing 301g and comprising 12 NISP (Number Identified to Species), was hand-collected from four contexts, (103), (206), (208) and (210). Employing standard zooarchaeological methodologies, seven specimens (66.65% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least two mammalian species (*Bos*/cattle; ovicaprid/sheep or goat). A small number of amphibian and small mammal bones were recovered from the soil sample; it is likely that these are intrusive.

The material was recovered from the subsoil (103) in Trench 1, and from the fill (206) of a posthole [207] and from the upper fill (208) and lower fill (210) of a pit or well [209] in Trench 2.

Methodology

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) and Feher (1990). Ageing data and the identification of juveniles included state of fusion after Amorosi (1989) and Silver (1969). Identification of canid gnawing follows Binford (1981).

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate: cattle or horse sized; small ungulate: sheep or goat, pig size). Ribs and vertebra were not identified to species, except the 1st cervical vertebrae (atlas) of cattle. All fragments were recorded.

Taphonomy

Preservation was good and the bones were generally in good condition. The fragmentation was low, with the majority (58.4% of the total NISP) being more than 50mm in size (Table 3). No complete long bones were recorded, because the proximal and the distal end were damaged. Only low level of surface abrasion was observed.

Table 3: Fragment size of the animal bone

Fragment size (mm)	Percentage
<20	-
20-50	41.6
50-100	50
100-150	-
150-200	8.4

Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded, including gnawed, ancient and recently broken bones. 50% of the total NISP showed signs of fresh breaks. No evidence for burning, butchery or bone working was observed. A pathological condition was noted on a large ungulate rib bone from the subsoil (103) in Trench 1.

Only one instance of canid gnawing was noted on one sheep/goat metacarpus (8.4% of the total NISP), which could suggest the presence of dogs/foxes at the site. The presence of canid gnawing on bones suggests that they were accessible to dogs/foxes before being buried, an indicator that dogs were present on the site, despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage.

Table 4 shows the fragment count of species. Due to the high fragmentation of the assemblage, only 66.65% of the animal bones were identified to taxa. The majority of bones came from cattle (58.3% of the total NISP) and sheep/goat (8.35% of the total NISP).

Table 4: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count

Species	NISP	Percentage
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	7	58.3
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovicaprid</i>)	1	8.35
Large ungulate	3	25
Small ungulate	1	8.35

Ageing

Little ageing data was available. Partial epiphyseal fusion was recorded of the cattle atlas; this was a young individual (calf).

Table 5: Minimal number of individuals (MNI) identified

Common name	MNI
Cattle	2
Sheep/goat	1

Discussion

Due to the small size of the assemblage, little can be said of the animal economy of the site, other than that the species present are typical of those commonly recovered from medieval contexts.

7.2 The molluscs by Lazlo Lichtenstein

Introduction

Mollusc shells were collected by hand from a small number of contexts and recovered from a 40 litre soil sample that was taken from the lower fill (210) of a pit or well [209] in Trench 2. They were identified with the aid of Cameron and Kerney (1994), Glöer and Meier-Brook (2003) and the Conchological Society website (<http://www.conchsoc.org>). This material was analysed to provide information of the state of preservation, and taxa present. Fragmentation and abrasion were moderate. No evidence of modification was noted.

Table 6: Summary of molluscs recovered by hand

Context	Common name	Species	Number
208	Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	4 valves
208	Garden snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	fragments
210	Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	2 valves

Table 7: Summary of molluscs recovered from context 210 (Sample 1)

Common name	Species	Number
<i>Terrestrial molluscs</i>		
Garden snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	2
	<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i>	7
	<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	15
	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp	1
	<i>Euconulus Fulvus</i>	13
	Indeterminate	53
<i>Freshwater molluscs</i>		
	<i>Radix balthica</i>	2
	<i>Lymnaea</i> sp	2
<i>Marine/estuarine molluscs</i>		
Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	4 valves

Discussion

A small assemblage of marine and terrestrial mollusc shell was recovered from two deposits filling an 11th-century pit or well [209].

A total of 21g of mussel shell were recovered from the upper (208) and lower fill (210) of the well. The mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) lives in seawater in shoreline/estuarine environments and is often exploited for food. All were of a size suitable for consumption and had presumably reached the site as a foodstuff. The presence of marine species indicates trade with the coast.

The shells of terrestrial molluscs included three fragments of the Garden Snail (*Helix aspersa*), which are commonly found in areas of human settlement. The other species present suggest a damp environment, although the presence in low numbers of *Radix balthica* and *Lymnaea* sp could suggest the presence of standing water.

7.3 The charred plant remains by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A 40 litre bulk soil sample was collected from the lower fill (210) of an 11th-century pit or well [209] in Trench 2. This was processed and assessed to determine the presence, preservation and nature of any charred plant remains and to inform on further sampling strategies. The sample was processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots and residues were dried. The flots were then sorted with the aid of a stereoscopic microscope (10 x magnification) and the residues were scanned. Charred plant remains were identified with the aid of the author's small reference collection, Jacomet 1996 and the SCRI website.

Results

Preservation was solely by charring. Fragmentation was fairly high, as was surface abrasion, which adversely affected identification.

Table 8: Summary of charred plant remains from context 210, well [209]

Name (species)	Count
Charcoal	500+
Breadwheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	29
Hulled barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	7
Cereal	39
Pea (<i>Pisum sativa</i>)	3
Chickweed (<i>Stella medaria</i>)	1
Fat hen (<i>Chenopodium album</i>)	2
Persicaria sp	1
Dock (<i>Rumex</i> sp)	1

Discussion

The mixed nature of the charred plant taxa suggests that they were probably disposed of as waste. The absence of chaff and the low numbers of wild/weed seeds suggests a late stage in crop processing. The wild/weed taxa present are common crop weeds. Assessment has shown a range of charred plant taxa and suggests further sampling to be viable.

8 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation has demonstrated the survival of late Saxon or early medieval archaeological remains, dating to the 10th to 11th centuries, within the proposed development area. This is consistent with the location of the site in relation to the medieval settlement of Bainton. The Church of St Mary the Virgin, which dates to at least the 13th century, is situated only 150m to the north-east of the site.

At the west side of the site there was an undated ditch, which was on a different alignment to the existing boundaries. The function of the ditch is unclear, but it is likely to be a boundary ditch, given its width and depth.

At the east side of the site a pit or well contained a significant amount of Stamford Ware pottery. Stone fragments recovered from the upper fill included one which had been carved and which may be a fragment of ecclesiastical or architectural stone. Further features close to the pit or well included two parallel gullies and a posthole which also contained a sherd of Stamford Ware. Animal bone, snail shells and charred plant remains were found in the fill of the pit or well. The presence of two species of snail may suggest standing water. The presence of the charred plant remains is likely to have been due to disposal rather than storage.

The fields of Bainton were enclosed at the end of the 18th century and the 1799 Inclosure map shows that the site lay in an old enclosure called 'Home Close'. Earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (front cover) were present at the far south of the site and can also be seen on aerial photographs. Within the plot, three ridges were identified, aligned north to south. They measured approximately 16m from furrow to furrow. Ridge and furrow earthworks are also present in the field to the west of the plot and continue northwards to the Barnack Road. The north part of the site was formerly occupied by farm buildings, probably built during the 19th century, as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 which shows the

site as an orchard. However, it is possible that the ridge and furrow did originally continue northwards, possibly also up to the Barnack Road, and overlay the earlier settlement features. If this is so then it suggests an earlier form of the village was laid out at least as far west from the church.

The topsoil contained pottery dating up to the 16th century. Pottery and finds from a later date were not present in the topsoil, probably due to the fact that the plot was used as pasture or orchard from the post-medieval period onwards. The southern part of the plot remained pasture to the present day.

Made-ground on the west side of the site consisted of mixed soils and crushed limestone which had been laid as a foundation layer for the tennis court, which until recently had a tarmac surface.

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APPENDIX : CONTEXT DATA

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Descriptions	Dimensions	Artefact type
1	101	Layer	Mixed foundation layer for tennis court	0.12m	
	102	Layer	Possible topsoil but still mixed	0.20m	
	103	Layer	Possible subsoil but still mixed	0.55m	
	104	Layer	Natural silty clay with gravel patches		
	105	Fill of [106]	Mid-dark brown-grey silty clay with gravel and charcoal lumps		
	106	Cut of ditch	Linear, NE-SW aligned, V-shaped profile	1.2m wide 0.46m deep	
2	201	Layer	Topsoil	0.29m thick	
	202	Layer	Subsoil	0.40m thick	
	203	Layer	Natural light brown and grey mottles silty clay with gravels		
	204	Fill of [205]	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with some gravel and charcoal		Animal bone
	205	Cut of gully	Linear, E-W, shallow U-shaped profile	0.48m wide 0.16m deep	
	206	Fill of [207]	Dark grey-brown silty clay with small cobbles, limestone fragments and charcoal		Stamford Ware pot and animal bone
	207	Cut of P/H	Circular posthole with steep sides and flattish base	0.55m diameter 0.20m deep	
	208	Fill of [209]	Upper fill, dark grey-brown silty clay with 11 limestone pieces, gravel and charcoal	2m wide 0.45m thick	Many sherds of Stamford Ware and 1 each of St. Neots and Lyveden Wares, animal bone, worked stone and shell
	209	Cut of pit/well	Circular with stepped edges but not bottomed	2m wide 0.65m deep	
	210	Fill of [209]	Very dark grey silty clay with gravel, limestone fragments and charcoal	1.40m wide 0.20m thick but not bottomed	Many sherds of Stamford Ware pot, animal bone and shell
	211	Fill of [212]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with burnt limestone fragments, natural clay		

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Descriptions	Dimensions	Artefact type
			lumps and charcoal		
	212	Cut of gully	Possible terminal of gully. Too frozen to excavate	Greater than 0.31m wide (to baulk)	



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