



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation  
on land west of Welsh Road, Upper Boddington  
Northamptonshire  
March 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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David J Leigh

Report 12/64

April 2012



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OAS/S REPORT FORM 123596**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Land at Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire.	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land west of Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire in advance of an extension to the burial ground St John the Baptist Church. Undisturbed soils were recorded. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Pasture land	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Land west of Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire	
Study area (m sq)	510m <sup>2</sup>	
OS Grid Ref	SP 8347 53206	
Height OD	c158.9m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Boddington Parish Council	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	March 2012	
End date	March 2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		None
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Trial trench log forms (2) Colour slides (18) black and white contact prints (18) Digital photographs (18)
Digital	NA	Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land west of Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	<b>12/64</b>	
Author(s)	David J Leigh	
Page numbers	15	
Date	April 2012	

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON LAND  
WEST OF WELSH ROAD, UPPER BODDINGTON,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
MARCH 2012**

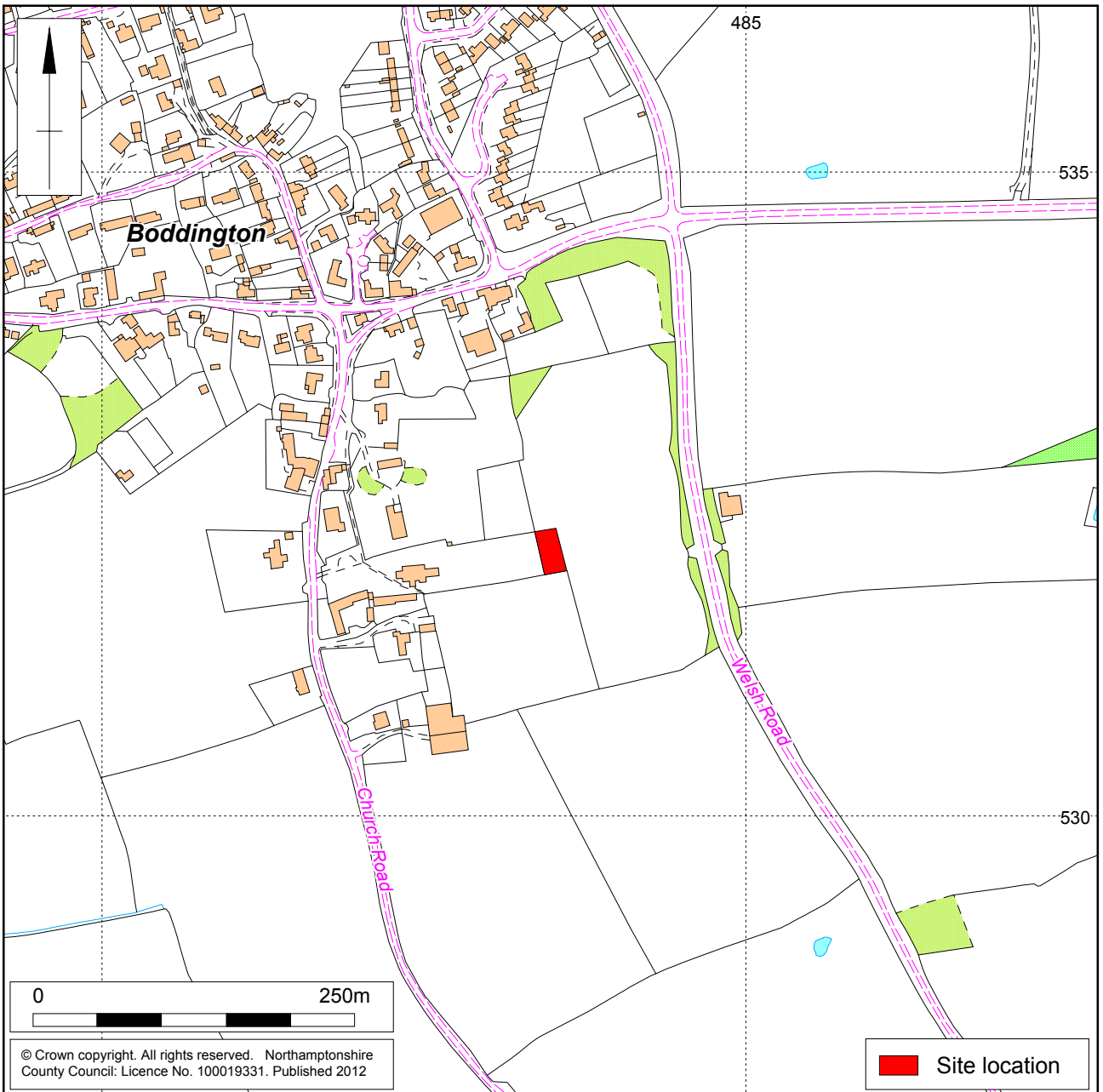
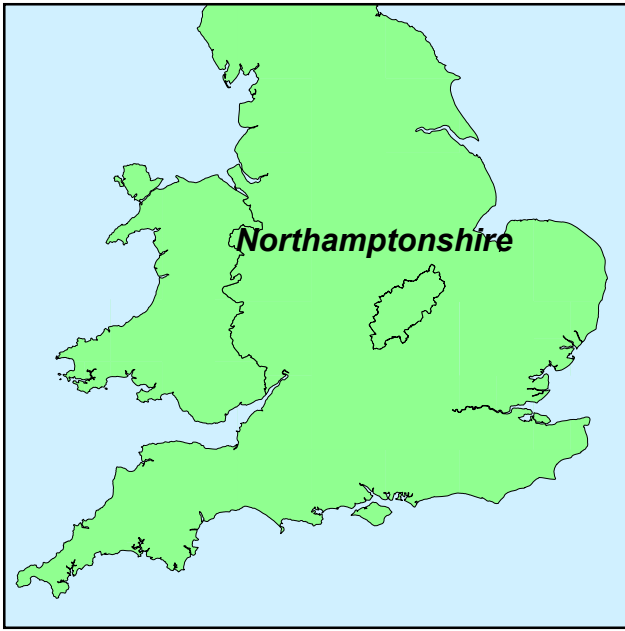
*Abstract*

*In March 2012 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land west of Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire in advance of an extension to the burial ground at St John the Baptist Church. Undisturbed soils were recorded. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In March 2012 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of an extension to the burial ground at St John the Baptist Church, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire (NGR SP: 48347 53206; Figs 1 and 3). The work was carried out on behalf of Boddington Parish Council and followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Yates 2012) prepared in accordance with a two-part brief for archaeological investigation issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council on 24 August 2011 (NCC 2011 *a and b*). It adhered to the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; EH 2006) and *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

The trial trench evaluation comprised Stage I of the programme of archaeological investigation as set out in the brief for archaeological field evaluation (NCC 2011*b*). The work was carried out in order to investigate and quantify the archaeological potential within the investigation area and provide information for further targeted investigation if required.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The site is located in the village of Upper Boddington on the west side of Welsh Road and adjacent to the present eastern boundary of St John the Baptist Church. It lies on relatively level ground at a height of 158.9m aOD and encompasses an area approximately 510m<sup>2</sup>.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Dryham Formation, pale grey to greenish grey silty and sandy mudstone with interbeds of very fine grained sand (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

### **2.2 Historical background**

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and within the historic core of the village (MNN3227). The village, along with Lower Boddington, originally comprised a single hamlet recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as *Botendone*.

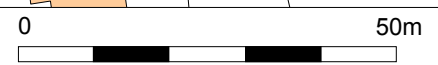
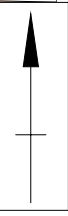
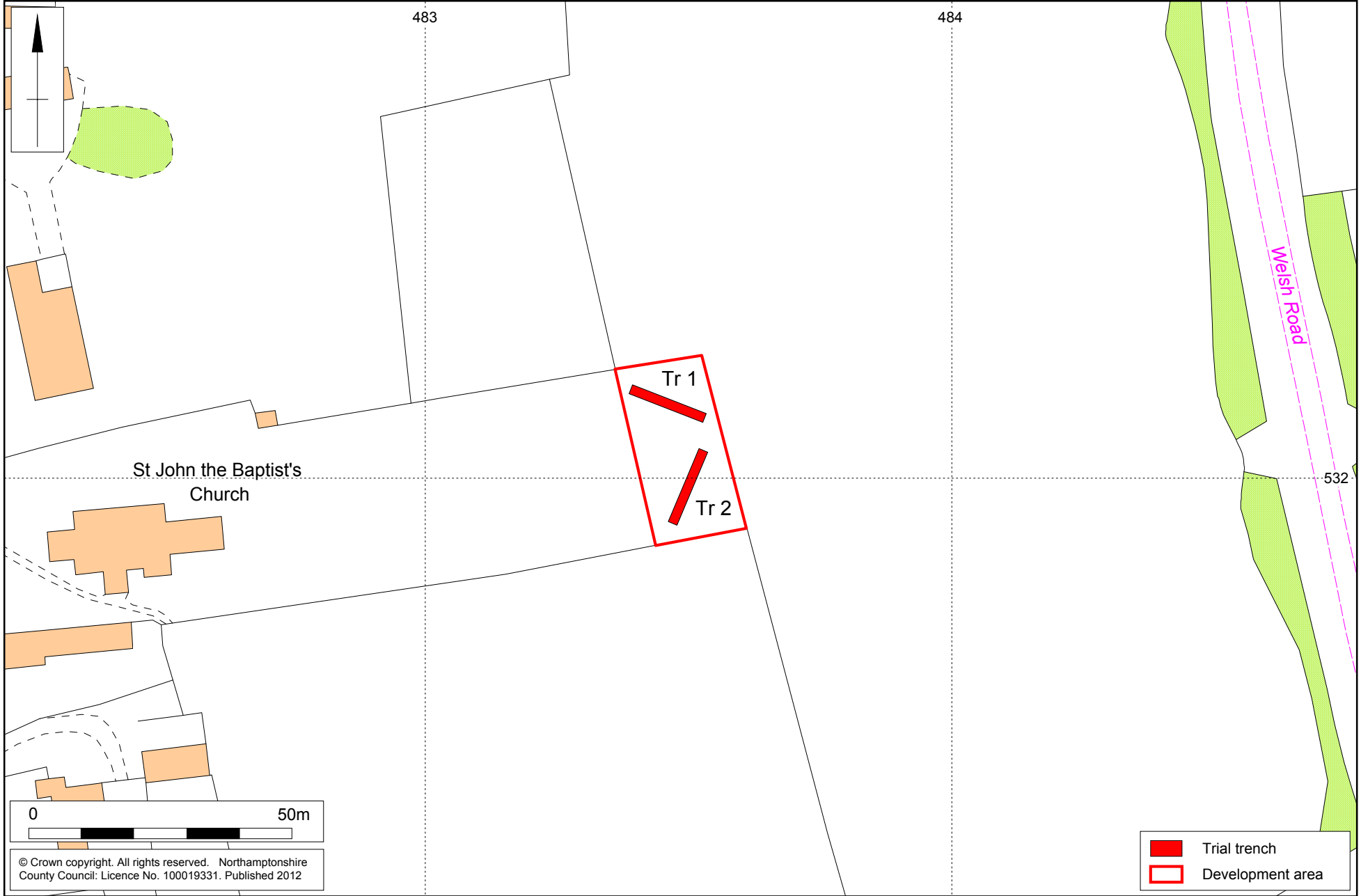
The ancient trackway of Welsh Road lies to the west of the historic core of the village, the village originally focussed around the church and manor (MNN105871). Possible medieval settlement remains have been recorded at Manor Farm (MNN123347) and west of Church Lane (MNN123334).

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site. Up to the present application the site has comprised pasture land with residual remains of ridge and furrow close by.

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

The location of the trial trenches

Fig 2



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	Trial trench
	Development area



### 3 OBJECTIVES

The aims of the trial trench evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012), were to:

- ◆ Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the trial trench evaluation;
- ◆ Determine and record the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Provide information as to the archaeological potential within the site, and to provide for further effective archaeological investigation either in advance of, or during early construction phases;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.



General view of the site prior to the start of the evaluation, looking west Fig 3

## 4 THE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

### 4.1 Methodology

The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two 15m trial trenches positioned in accordance with the trench plan approved by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council (Fig 2). The trenches were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey mapping using a Leica GPS survey instrument.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Figs 4 and 5). Topsoil and subsoil were removed to expose the upper strata of the natural substratum and stored separately. Once opened, each trench was recorded in accordance with standard NA procedures (NA 2011).



General view of the excavation of trench 1, looking west Fig 4

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology *pro-forma* sheets. The trial trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).



Trench 1 after excavation, looking south-west Fig 5



Trench 1, south-west facing section Fig 6

## 4.2 The results

Two trenches each 15m in length and 1.8m wide, were excavated down to the upper surface of the natural substratum.

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the evaluation area (Figs 6 and 8). The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.51m – 0.57m below present ground level and comprised orange-brown sand and ironstone. This was overlain by reddish-brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.47m thick. Sealing this was grey-brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.17m thick, containing very occasional small irregular stones. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. Prior to and during the backfilling of the trenches a metal detector survey was undertaken of the trenches and associated spoil-heaps (Fig 7).

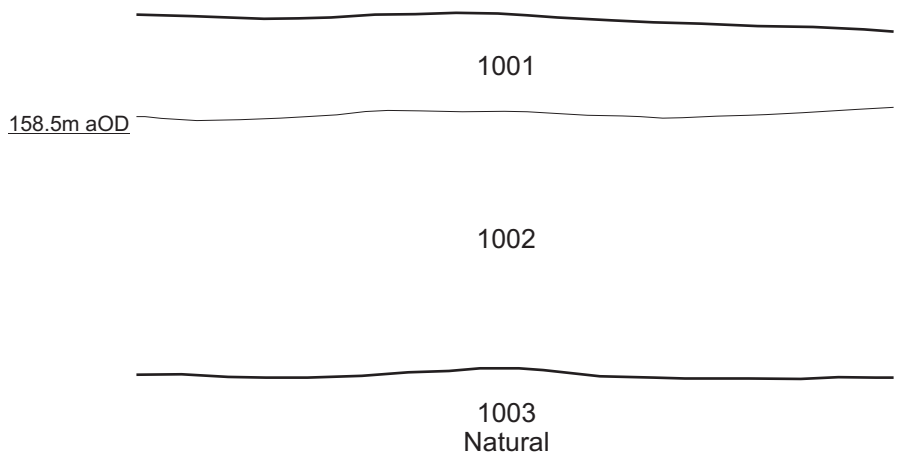


The metal detector survey Fig 7

Trench 1 section

NW

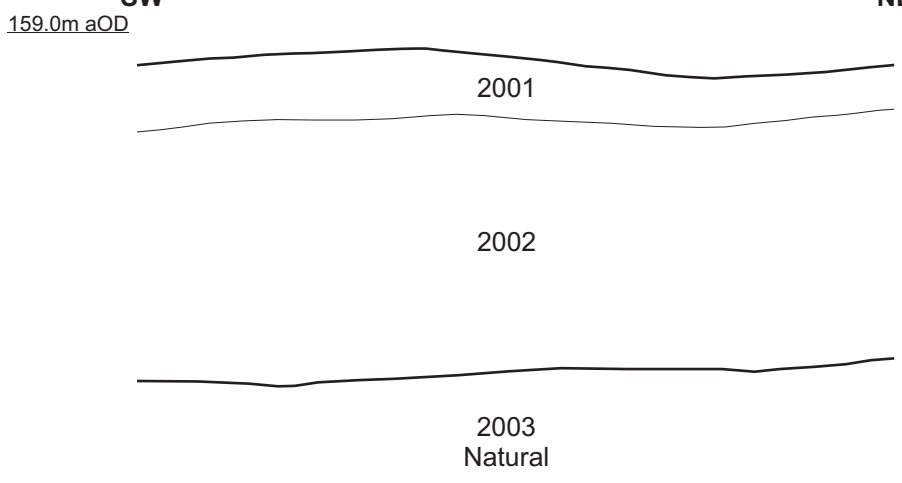
SE



Trench 2 section

SW

NE



**5 THE SITE ARCHIVE**

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Trial trench log forms	2
Colour slides	18
Black and white contacts and negatives	18
Digital photographs	18

The project archive will be held at Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

**6 CONCLUSIONS**

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered within the investigation area. The absence of any artefactual evidence and the residual remains of ridge and furrow would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the site. Residual ridge and furrow close by would suggest that the site was in agricultural usage outside of the medieval settlement.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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NA 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Burial Ground Extension Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

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NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2011a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of land at Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

NCC 2011b *Brief for the Archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

Yates, A, 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Burial Ground Extension Welsh Road, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

**APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR 448345 253214</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>15m x 1.8 N-S</b>		<b>158.67m aOD</b>	<b>0.51m, 159.19m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1001	Topsoil	Grey-brown silt loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.11m-0.17m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Reddish-brown silt loam	0.34m thick	-
1003	Natural	Orange-brown sand and ironstone	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR 448349 253197</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>15m x 1.8m N-S</b>		<b>158.97 aOD</b>	<b>0.57m, 159.50m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
2001	Topsoil	Grey-brown silt loam occasional stone inclusions	0.10m thick	-
2002	Subsoil	Reddish-brown silt loam	0.04m-0.47m thick	-
2003	Natural	Orange-brown sand and ironstone	-	-