



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation
on land at 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington
Northamptonshire
January 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire
County Council

David J Leigh

Report 12/66

April 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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

OAS/S REPORT FORM 123601

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire.	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in January 2012 in advance of proposed residential development. Disturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. A single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was collected. No archaeological deposits were present.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Domestic garden	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Land at 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire	
Study area (hectares)	400m	
OS Grid Ref	SP 4805 5346	
Height OD	c137m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	David J Leigh, NA	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh, NA	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull, NA	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Street	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	January 2012	
End date	January 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Trial trench log forms (2) Colour slides (15) black and white contact prints (15) Digital photographs (20)
Digital	NA	Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 23 Frog Lane, upper Boddington, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	12/66	
Author(s)	David J Leigh	
Page numbers	14	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON LAND
AT 23 FROG LANE, UPPER BODDINGTON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JANUARY 2012**

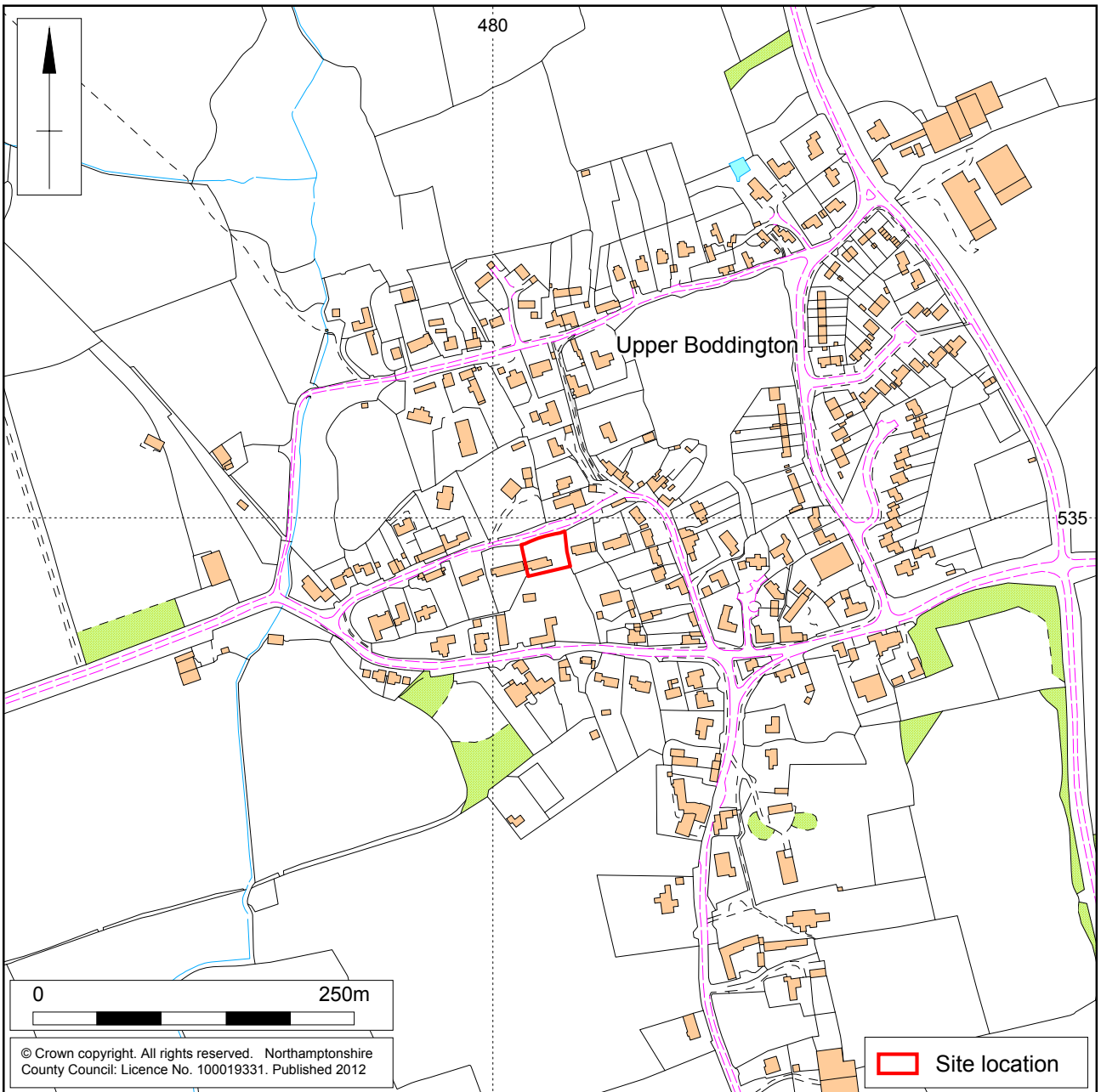
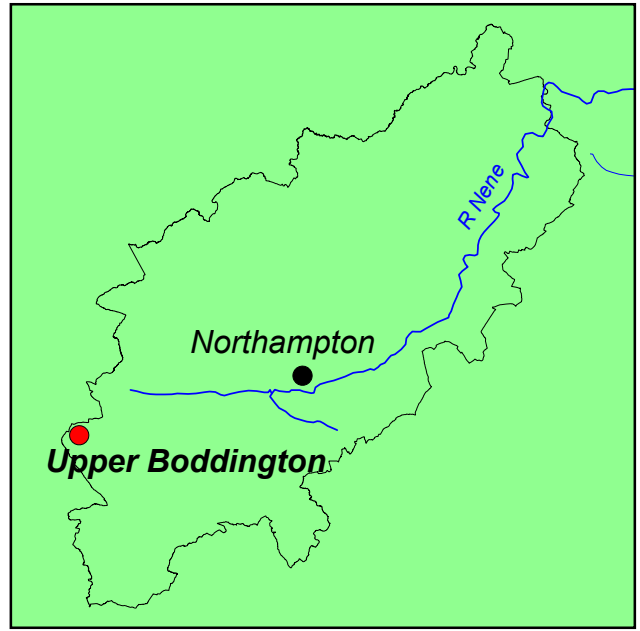
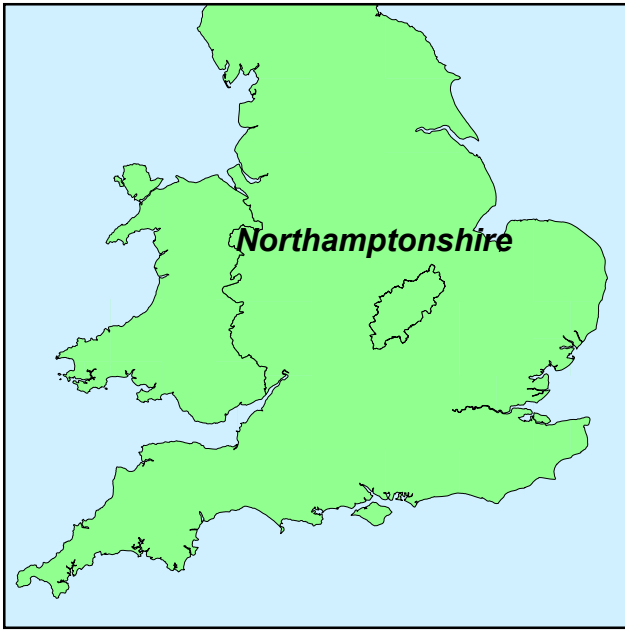
Abstract

In January 2012 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire in advance of a proposed residential development. Disturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area and a single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was collected. No archaeological deposits were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2012 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of proposed residential development on land south of 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire (NGR SP: 48051 53469; Figs 1 and 3). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Street and followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2012) prepared in accordance with a two-part brief for archaeological investigation issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council on 16 November 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 village of Upper Boddington lies approximately 12km to the south-west of Daventry, the development area (hereon referred to as the site) is situated on the south side of Frog Lane. The site is located on level ground at an approximate height of 137m aOD.

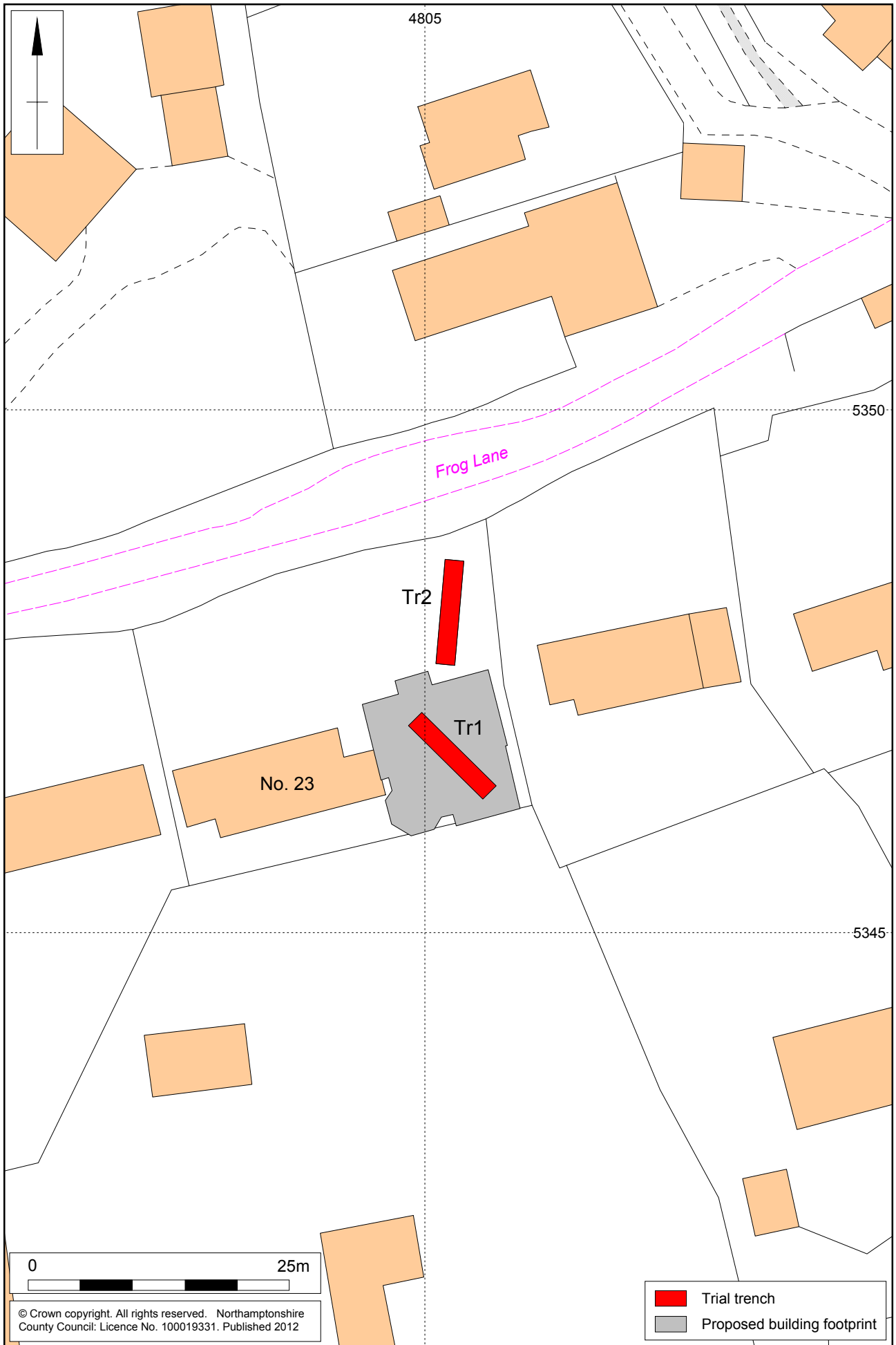
The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Lower Lias Clays (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest. 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 (MNN 105871). 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 development the site has comprised an area of domestic garden belonging to No 23 Frog Lane.



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Location of the trial trenches Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES

The aims of the trial trench evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Leigh 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.



The site prior to the excavation of the trial trenches, looking south-west Fig 3

4 THE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

4.1 Methodology

The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two 10m 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 excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. 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).



Trench 1 after excavation, looking north-west Fig 4



Trench 2 after excavation, looking north Fig 5

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).

4.2 The results

Two trenches each 10m in length and 1.8m wide, were excavated down to the upper surface of the natural substratum (Figs 4 and 5).

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the evaluation area (Figs 6 and 7). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.29m and 0.60m below present ground level and comprised orange-brown friable clay containing occasional flecks of manganese, becoming progressively grey-brown in colour in the northern half of the site. This was overlain by mid to light brown silt loam subsoil containing occasional irregular stones and occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material. It measured up to 0.20m thick in the southern half of the site, becoming progressively deeper to a maximum depth of 0.40m on the northern boundary. This in

turn was sealed by grey-black silt loam topsoil, up to 0.20m thick, containing occasional irregular stones.

Aside from a single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery, no archaeological deposits were present within the area of investigation

4.3 The pottery by Iain Soden

A single abraded sherd of Shelly Courseware was collected from the subsoil. This is of undiagnostic form, datable to between 1100-1400AD.



Trench 2, west facing section Fig 6

Trench 2 section

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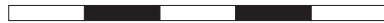
S

134.5m aOD

2001

2002

0 0.5m



5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Trial trench log forms	2
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	15
Digital photographs	20

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

6 CONCLUSIONS

The inclusions of modern ceramic building material within the subsoil allied with the progressively increasing depth of the deposit towards the northern half of the site, suggest that the site has been subject to a degree of landscaping activity relatively recently possibly associated with levelling up the ground during the construction of the present dwelling.

A single unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, however it is not possible to determine if this originates from the vicinity of the site or is intrusive having been brought in with levelling up material.

No archaeological deposits were present within the investigation area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2011a *Brief for the Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

NCC 2011b *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at 23 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR 448052 253467	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	10m x 1.8 N-S		134.63m aOD	0.60m, 134.03m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Grey-brown silt loam with stone inclusions	0.20 thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Mid-light brown silt loam	0.40m thick	-
1003	Natural	Orange-brown clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR 448052 253480	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	10m x 1.8m N-S		134.90 aOD	0.29m, 134.61m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
2001	Topsoil	Grey-black silt loam with stone inclusions	0.09m thick	-
2002	Subsoil	Mid-light brown silt loam	0.29m thick	Medieval pot sherd (1)
2003	Natural	Grey-brown clay	-	-



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