



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land south of  
Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire  
Accession Number: X.A1.2011



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Report 11/15

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## OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby	
Short description	In January 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire for CgMs Consulting. Two pits, one dating to the middle Iron Age, the other to the Roman period were found in the northern part of the proposed development area. They probably relate to settlement activity lying beyond the northern boundary of the site. The only other archaeological feature was a gully, probably of late medieval/post-medieval date, that is visible on the surface as a sinuous earthwork in the southern part of the site. Deep ridge and furrow earthworks were present in the western part of the proposed development area.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	Rural	
Previous work	Geophysical survey	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Prehistoric/Roman	
Significant finds	Roman and Iron Age pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby	
Study area	4.4ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 659039	
Height OD	121-132mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Mason	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (NA), Mike Dawson (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date/end date	January 2011	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
	X.A1.2011	
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Pottery, flots
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Site records, photographic, drawings
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Mapinfo GIS data, photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 11/15	
Author(s)	Paul Mason	
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Date	2011	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND SOUTH OF UPPINGHAM ROAD,  
BUSHBY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**JANUARY 2011**

**ABSTRACT**

*In January 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire for CgMs Consulting. Two disassociated pits, one dating to the Roman period, the other to the middle Iron Age were found in the northern part of the proposed development area. They probably relate to settlement activity lying beyond the northern boundary of the site. The only other archaeological feature was a gully, probably of late medieval post-medieval date, that is visible on the surface as a sinuous earthwork in the southern part of the site. Deep ridge and furrow earthworks were present in the western part of the proposed development area.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In January 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Pegasus Planning Group, to undertake a trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 659039, Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) to inform proposals for residential development.

The evaluation complied with a Written Scheme of Investigation formulated by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Appendix 1). It was undertaken between 5th January and 11th January 2011. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated across the proposed development area (Fig 2).

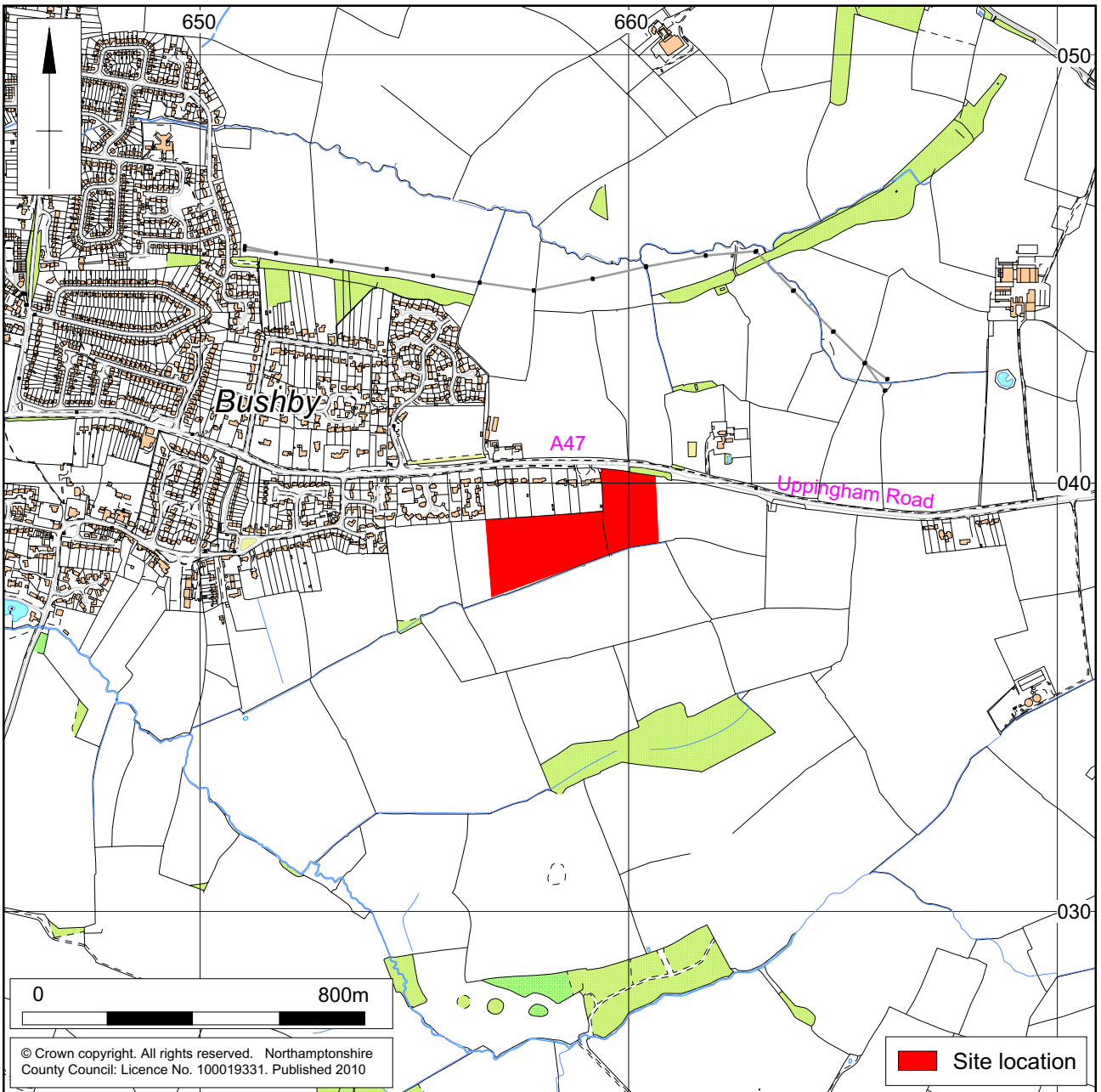
The site code BUSH11 was allocated to the project and the site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service (Accession Number: X.A1.2011) within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. An online OASIS form has been completed.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Topography and geology**

The proposed development area is an L-shaped parcel of pastureland (c 4.4ha) lying to the east of the village of Bushby. It is bounded to the north by the Uppingham Road (A47) and by open fields to the south, east and west.

The site, which comprises two separate fields, occupies a south-facing slope, its highest point marked by a ridge lying at c 132mOD. From here it drops to a valley floor at c 121mOD. The western field has deep, north to south aligned ridge and furrow earthworks (Fig 3) which terminate a short distance from the valley floor where a sinuous east to west aligned gully is visible. A public footpath is aligned north-west to south east



Scale 1:15,000

Site Location Fig 1



1:2000

Trench plan showing geophysics results Fig 2





Ridge and furrow earthworks in the western field, looking north-west Fig 3

across this field. The eastern field has no earthworks (Fig 4).

The geology is recorded as Lias Group bedrock (mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone) overlain by diamicton ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).



General view of the eastern field, looking west Fig 4

## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the site was the focus of a desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2010). The following summary is paraphrased from that document.

### ***Palaeolithic***

No finds or features of this period have been identified within or in close vicinity to the proposed development area.

### ***Prehistoric (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age)***

No finds or features of this period have been identified within the proposed development area. Assemblages of worked flint and spot finds of flint tools spanning the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods have been found in close vicinity to the site and have been interpreted as evidence of transient activity rather than settlement.

### ***Roman***

Although no finds or features of this period have been identified within the proposed development area, evidence for Roman settlement has been found in close vicinity at Bushby Spinney to the south and an Iron Age/Roman cemetery site was discovered at St Lukes Close, c 400m to the west of the proposed development area.

### ***Saxon and medieval***

Bushby is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) as part of Stoughton and was probably a small village at this time. There is no evidence for any activity other than farming taking place within the proposed development area during the Saxon and medieval periods.

### ***Post-medieval***

The first map to include the proposed development area is the Bushby Estate map of 1775 which shows the area divided into three fields. The ridge and furrow visible in the western field probably dates to this period.

### ***Later post-medieval and modern***

A sequence of historic maps shows that the agricultural nature of the proposed development area was maintained throughout this period. Ordnance Survey maps spanning the period 1890-1943 depict the gradual expansion of houses along the Uppingham Road to the north of the site.

### ***Recent archaeological work***

Geophysical survey undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology as part of the current scheme of works identified a small number of anomalies in the western part of the proposed development area (NA 2010b; Fig 2). Trenches were subsequently placed to test these areas of geophysical anomaly and to sample areas where anomalies were absent.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2011) defines the aim of the evaluation as follows:

- to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the archaeological mitigation strategy for the site.
- to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important

archaeological remains within the application area.

Specifically this will:

- establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*.
- identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking ridge and furrow features.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

In the first instance, eight 30m-long trenches (Trenches 1-8) were excavated in pre-agreed positions spread over the two fields falling within the proposed development area (Trenches 1-8), their positions having been surveyed in using a Leica System 1200 GPS (Fig 2). A further six 20m-long trenches (Trenches 9-14) were later added as a contingency.

Overburden was removed by tracked mechanical digger and JCB fitted with toothless ditching buckets (1.9m and 1.6m respectively) to expose the first significant archaeological level, or in the absence of archaeology, the geology. Cleaning of exposed surfaces, hand excavation and recording progressed in accordance with the methodologies set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) and in fulfilment of the standards set by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IfA 2008).

Following the completion of the work and after monitoring by LCCHNET, the trenches were backfilled with their up-cast.

## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 5.1 General comments

Variations in the natural stratigraphic sequence corresponded with changes in topography across the site. On the summit of the ridge (Trenches 1, 13 and 14) the topsoil, a greyish-brown sandy clay loam, was up to 0.35m thick and overlay thinner deposits of orange/greyish-brown sandy clay subsoil. The geology was a reddish-brown clay. Further down-slope the topsoil became thinner, the subsoil thickened and pockets of gravel and stone were present in the clay geology. At the foot of the slope (Trenches 5 and 8) deposits of colluvial subsoil lay up to 0.75m thick and overlay a sandy clay geology with frequent pockets of pebbles.

Furrows, aligned approximately north to south, cut deep into the geology in the western field but were shallower in the eastern part of the proposed development area. The fill of some of these were removed at the request of the monitor; no archaeological deposits were found underneath.

Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 6 and 9. Geophysical anomalies

detected elsewhere (Fig 2), and tested in Trenches 4 and 5, proved to be:

- A ceramic field drain backfilled with clinker (Trench 4, eastern anomaly)
- A stone and brick field drain (Trench 4, western anomaly)
- A band of pebbles (a crude drain) in the topsoil (Trench 5, central anomaly)

Features were also present in Trench 11 but are thought to be naturally derived.

Trench summaries are presented in Appendix 2.

## 5.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 (30m x 1.9m) was aligned roughly east to west in the north-east corner of the eastern field (Figs 2 and 5). The reddish-brown sandy clay geology (103) lay c 0.50m below the existing ground level at c 130.70-130.95mOD. It was overlain by up to 0.18m of mid orange-brown clay subsoil (102) and 0.35m of mid brown sandy clay loam topsoil (101).

Underlying the subsoil towards the centre of the trench was a circular pit [104] with a diameter of 1.0m and a depth of 0.40m (Fig 6, Section 3 and Fig 7). It was filled with a mid orange-brown sandy clay (105) containing a small quantity of middle Iron Age pottery. A soil sample produced a single charred cereal grain and charcoal.

No other features were present.

## 5.3 Trench 6

Trench 6 (30m x 1.9m) was aligned north-east to south-west in the north central part of the western field (Figs 2 and 5). The reddish-brown sandy clay geology (603) lay 0.30-0.40m below the existing ground level at c 126.75-127.50mOD. It was overlain by up to 0.20m of mid brown clay subsoil (602) and 0.18m of mid greyish-brown sandy clay loam topsoil (601).

Towards the south-western end of the trench, part of a rectangular or square pit [604] was revealed beneath the subsoil. It was 1.3m wide, 0.35m deep and had heat-reddened edges and a thin layer of charcoal overlying its base indicative of *in situ* burning. This was overlain by deposit of large, rounded, heat-blackened (occasionally fractured) cobbles in a matrix of sandy clay (606). These were sealed by a thin layer of dark grey sandy clay (605) (Fig 6, Section 2 and Fig 8) which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, weighing 15g; a hammer-head rim from a Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria in a white ware fabric (Leicestershire fabric M04; national fabric collection MAH WH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189)). This form dates from the mid-2nd century onward. Soil samples taken from both fills produced large quantities of charcoal fragments.

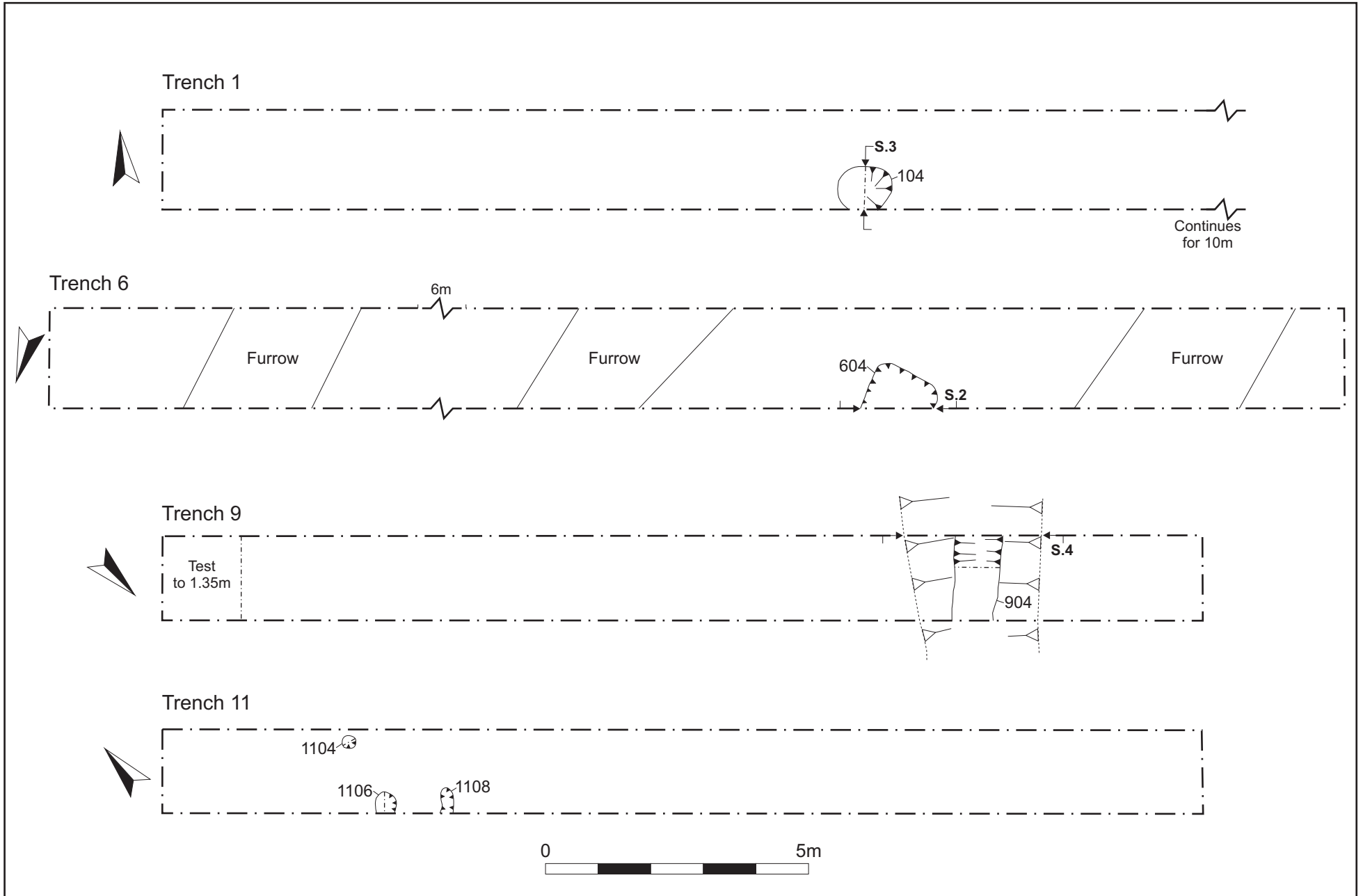
No other features were present.

## 5.4 Trench 9

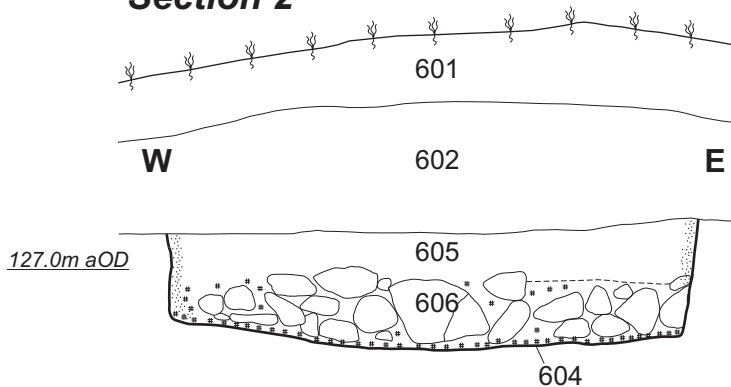
Trench 9 (19m x 1.6m) was aligned north-west to south-east close to the southern edge of the western field (Figs 2 and 5). The reddish-grey clay geology (903) lay 0.30-0.40m below the existing ground level at c 121.50mOD. A 1m-deep test pit cut through clean clay geology at the southern end of the trench revealed the water table 1.0m below the existing ground surface. The geology was overlain by up to 0.20m of orange-grey clay subsoil (902) and 0.18m of dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam topsoil (901).

Scale 1:100

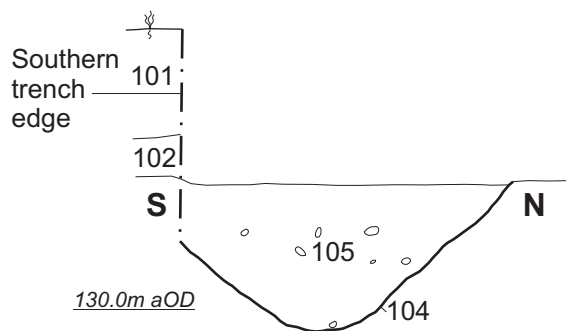
Plans of Trenches 1, 6, 9 and 11 Fig 5



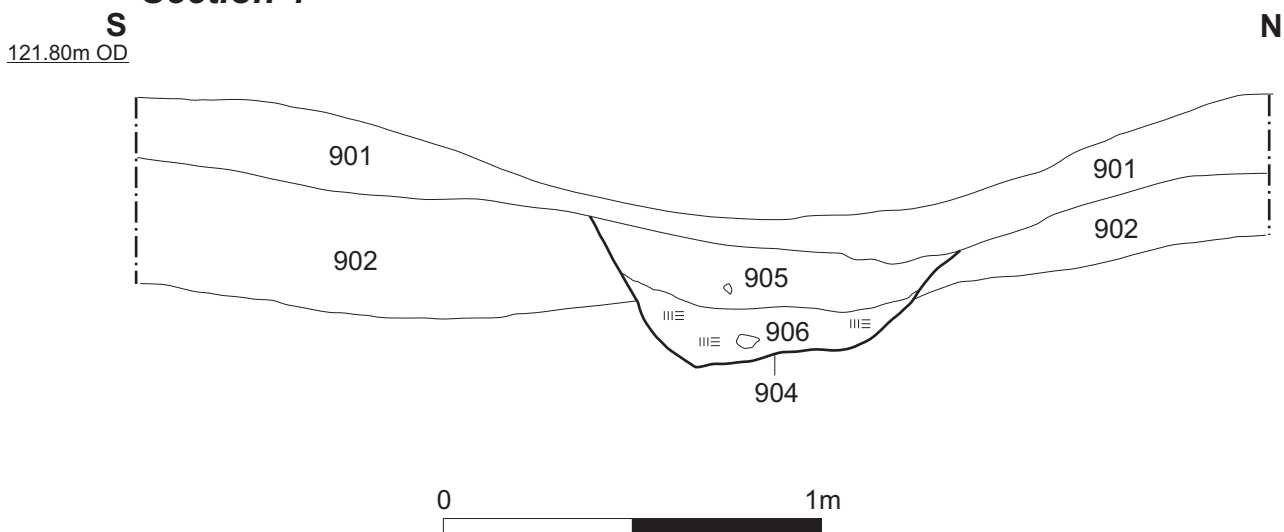
**Section 2**



**Section 3**



**Section 4**





Iron Age pit [104], looking west

Fig 7



Roman pit [604], looking north-west

Fig 8

Towards the north-western end of the trench the lower profile of a sinuous linear feature [904] cut the subsoil. The upper profile of this feature survived on the ground surface as a 2m-wide gully (Fig 6; Section 4 and Fig 9). Its primary fill was a mottled greyish/red

brown clay (906), clearly derived from the weathering/erosion of the subsoil. This was sealed by a deposit of topsoil-derived dark grey sandy clay loam (905). A tiny fragment of ceramic building material, possibly brick, was recovered from this fill.

No other features were present.



Post-medieval gully [904], looking south-west

Fig 9

## 5.5 Trench 11

Trench 11 (20m x 1.6m) was aligned north-west to south-east in the north central part of the western field (Figs 2 and 5). The reddish-brown sandy clay geology (1103) lay 0.35-0.50m below the existing ground level at c 127.25-127.65mOD. It was overlain by up to 0.30m of mid brown clay subsoil (1102) and 0.20m of dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam topsoil (1101).

At the north-western end of the trench were three small features [1104], [1106] and [1108]. The former two were shallow with diameters of 0.20m and 0.45m respectively and filled with reddish-brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered and as the features were located in a stoney patch of geology it is possible that they were simply areas where subsoil had worked into voids the geology. Feature [1108] was exposed against the side of the trench and had an irregular shape in plan reminiscent of a tree root. It was filled with clean orange brown clay and is therefore thought to be a natural feature.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

The fill (105) of pit [104] contained eight sherds of hand-built Iron Age pottery, weighing 102g, from three or four vessels. They are all in variations of local quartz-tempered fabrics, Leicestershire type series Q1 (Marsden 1998).



There are four non-joining sherds from the neck and rim of a thick-walled jar, 13mm thick, with a concave neck and a flat-topped rim (Fig 10, left). The fabric contains particularly large, irregular quartz inclusions measuring up to 3mm, and has a dark grey core, with oxidised, red, surfaces on the rim and neck, and dark grey surfaces below this (Fig 11). The surface is decorated with a scored lattice pattern, running near vertically and horizontally and so deeply incised that the breaks are typically along the scoring. There is also a single rim sherd in a similar fabric, 9mm thick, from a vessel with a upright tapered rim and faint scratching on a lightly burnished surface (Fig 10, right). There are four small body sherds in a sandy fabric containing only small quartz inclusions, up to 1mm, two have orange surfaces and two have grey surfaces.

This small group of pottery can be broadly dated to the middle Iron Age by the presence of the scored ware vessel, but the semi-regular lattice pattern may be more characteristic of late assemblages, perhaps the 1st century BC.

## 6.2 The Roman pottery

The fill (605) of pit [604] contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, weighing 15g. This is a hammer-head rim from a Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria in a white ware fabric (Leicestershire fabric M04; national fabric collection MAH WH (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189)). This form dates from the mid-2nd century onward.



Rims of the decorated jar, left, and a plain jar with a simple rim, right  
(Scale 50mm) Fig 10



The abraded inner surface of the decorated vessel, showing the exposed large quartz inclusions (Scale 50mm) Fig 11

### 6.3 Ceramic building material by *Pat Chapman*

A small fragment of possible brick, weighing 21g, comes from context (905). It is made from fine sandy orange-brown clay with sparse very fine flint inclusions. There are no surviving surfaces. The fine texture of this fragment suggests that it would have been a quality brick, which could date from the late 14th to 18th centuries.

### 6.4 Plant macrofossils by *Karen Deighton*

Three soil samples were collected and these were assessed to determine the presence, nature and preservation of ecofacts and to inform on any future sampling strategies.

#### **Method**

The samples were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots and residues were dried. The flots were sorted with the aid of a dilapidated old microscope (10x magnification). Residues were dry sieved (3.4mm, 1mm) and the 3.4mm retent sorted by eye. The 1mm retent was scanned using a microscope.

Charred seeds and grains were identified with the aid of the author's small reference collection and Jacomet (2006).

#### **Results**

Preservation of plant remains was solely by charring. Fragmentation was fairly high as was surface abrasion. The content of the samples, by number count, is detailed in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Ecofacts by sample and context*

Cut/fill	604/605	604/606	104/105
Sample	1	2	3
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit
Date	Roman	Roman	IA
Volume(litres)	40	40	40
Charcoal	1000+	1000	200
Cereal			1
Fat Hen	2	1	1
Brassica sp	1		

**Discussion**

The samples were dominated by wood charcoal fragments indicating fuel burning. The charred seeds present could be the result of the use of dried plant material as kindling or refuse disposal through burning.

**Potential**

All samples produced charcoal fragments which were large enough for identification and could possibly be of use for scientific dating. It is recommended that, should future excavation take place, samples should be taken from suitable phaseable/datable contexts. Analysis of charcoal from these samples would help in the understanding of fuel use and possibly of local woodland exploitation at the site.

**Conclusion**

Assessment has shown a limited range of ecofacts to be present and suggests future sampling for charcoal maybe profitable.

**7 CONCLUSIONS**

The results of the trial trench evaluation have refined, and to an extent corroborated, those of the earlier geophysical survey. Two archaeological features, an Iron Age pit [104] and a Roman pit [604], were discovered in trenches located in the northern periphery of the development (Trenches 1 and 6), towards the summit of the ridge. The Roman pit, filled with burned stones, had been detected by the geophysical survey, whilst the former was not identified. Both contained pottery and fuel burning evidence suggestive of nearby domestic activity. However, the absence of contemporary features in the trenches to the south would suggest that the focus of this activity lies to the north, perhaps beneath the houses that line the Uppingham Road, beyond the boundary of the proposed development area.

In the southern part of the proposed development area, a sinuous gully was investigated within Trench 9. As its alignment roughly follows the base of the valley it was initially thought that this could be the last visible vestige of a palaeochannel. Excavation, however, has demonstrated that rather than being filled with alluvial deposits, the feature contains material deriving from the weathering of the natural deposits through which it is cut. A fragment of late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material found in its

upper fill may suggest that the gully is contemporary with the prominent ridge and furrow earthworks that lie to the north.

A small group of features revealed in the north-western end of Trench 11 are thought to be of natural origin.

Geophysical anomalies detected elsewhere, and tested in Trenches 4 and 5, proved to be natural features and modern drains.

Deep late medieval/post-medieval furrows were clearly visible as earthworks in the western field and were preserved beneath the surface in the eastern one. However, after fully removing some of their fills to expose the natural strata, no evidence for the truncation of archaeological features was noted.

The results of the evaluation are too limited to make any meaningful contribution to local/regional research priorities.

Paper and digital copies of this report will be submitted to Leicestershire Historic Environment Record.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Marsden, P, 1998 *The prehistoric pottery*, in Beamish 1998, 44-63

NA 2010a *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2010b *Archaeological geophysical survey on land at Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report, **10/160**

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## APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF  
LAND SOUTH OF UPPINGHAM ROAD, BUSHBY  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

SITE NAME: Land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby,  
Leicestershire

NATIONAL GRID REF: SK 659 039

CLIENT: CgMs Consulting

DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010

CONTRACTOR: Northamptonshire Archaeology  
2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton, NN4 8BE

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Northamptonshire Archaeology has been commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Uppingham, Leicestershire. This document sets out the methodologies to be employed and standards observed in order to meet the requirements of the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.
- 1.2 The archaeological work will comprise the excavation of a total of 437.5 square meters of trial trenches (8 x 30m-long trenches) which comprises 1% of the total proposed development area (4.4ha) (Fig 1).
- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared following consultation with CgMs Consulting. All stages of the project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with current English Heritage guidance MORPHE (EH 2006), and utilising relevant specific guidance from the preceding document MAP 2 (EH 1991).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The proposed development area straddles two pasture fields immediately south-east of the village of Bushby. These fields reach a maximum elevation of c 135m in the north-east, by the gate onto the A47 Uppingham Road, and slope down in a south-westerly

direction to a minimum elevation of c 115m. The survey area itself lies mainly between the 135m and 125m contours.

- 2.2 The solid geology of the survey area comprises a limestone band within the Upper Lias. This is overlain by a drift of boulder clay (Dawson 2009, 8)
- 2.3 The survey area and its environs has been the subject of a recent desk-based assessment (Dawson 2009). This document notes the discovery of a poorly dated prehistoric flint scatter and an assemblage of Roman finds from fields to the south-west of the survey area (approximate NGR SK 655 034). It also states that ridge and furrow earthworks, of presumed medieval origin, survive across part of the survey area.
- 2.4 Subsequent geophysical survey (NA 2010) detected ridge and furrow of medieval or later date, some of which survived as upstanding earthworks. An interruption to the ridge and furrow at the far western end of the survey area was interpreted as a small quarry pit of probable post-medieval date. A few other small anomalies suggested minor features of possible archaeological interest

### **3 OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 It is the principal aim of archaeological evaluation to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the archaeological mitigation strategy for the site.
- 3.2 The aim of trial trench evaluation is to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically this will:
  - Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*.
  - Identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking ridge and furrow features.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A total of 8 trenches measuring 1.8 x 30m will be excavated across the proposed development area. A contingency for a further 4 trenches will only be activated by discussion with all parties.

- 
- 4.2 Trial excavation will proceed as a single continuous program of works. Every effort will be made to proceed effectively, barring the most severe of adverse weather.
  - 4.3 The location of the trenches will be plotted on the ground and tied into the Ordnance Survey using a Leica System 1200 GPS. All site levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.
  - 4.4 Topsoil, subsoil and modern overburden will be removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The surface of significant archaeological remains will be exposed or, where these are absent, the natural substrate. Excavation will proceed in a manner taking care that any structures of potential value for preservation *in situ* will not be damaged by evaluation. The excavated area will be cleaned by hand sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and deposits. The topsoil will be stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits.
  - 4.5 All features and layers of potential significance will be sampled by hand excavation to determine their date and character. Linear features will be examined in 1.0m wide sections and pits or post-holes subject to a 50% sample excavation. Features requiring more specialist attention such as kilns, wells, buildings and other significant industrial or domestic features will be planned and sampled pending preservation *in situ*.
  - 4.6 All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation will be fully recorded. Recording will follow standard Northamptonshire procedures (NA 2003). All archaeological deposits will be given individual context numbers and will be described on *pro-forma* context sheets, to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. All potential archaeological features will be excavated, with basal deposits of sectioned features investigated.
  - 4.7 The surface of features will be cleaned by hand to enhance their definition and planned to scale. Other significant remains or areas of complex stratigraphy may be planned in greater detail. The trench section and profiles through features will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. All drawing will include levels that will be related to Ordnance Datum.
  - 4.8 Artefacts and ecofacts will be collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981). Unstratified animal bones and modern material will not be collected. Material that comprises a large quantity of a standard product (eg. brick or tile) will be retained as a sub-sample representing its typical composition.
  - 4.9 In the event that human burials are exposed, they will be covered and left *in situ*. Recording will account for the location, alignment, burial position and stratigraphic relationships without disturbance and with minimal cleaning necessary to confirm their presence. Should the full excavation and lifting of burials or cremations be required the relevant licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice.
  - 4.10 Soil samples will not be taken unless deposits are encountered that are clearly of an undisturbed, datable, single event context. No samples will be taken where modern intrusion, root disturbance, worm sorting or fungal *sclerota* are visible. Samples will generally be taken from basal deposits. Samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the material if less) will be taken for flotation from dateable contexts with a potential for the recovery of charcoal and carbonised plant remains. The sampling strategy will conform to English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). If substantial deposits likely to be of environmental interest are encountered advice on the sampling strategy may be sought from the



English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

- 4.11 Photographs will be taken as 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies in the traditional manner. The photographic record will be compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing. Digital photographs will supplement the record for reporting purposes. A photographic record of vehicle movements and reinstatement will be maintained in the event of a claim for damages.
- 4.12 The excavated area and spoil heaps will be scanned by metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.
- 4.13 Finds coming under the definition of 'treasure' as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the Coroner and dealt with under the procedures of the Treasure Act and Code of Practice. This includes both precious metals and base metals where they are of prehistoric date. Suitable measures will be taken to ensure their security where removal cannot take place (i.e. they are within a human burial).
- 4.14 All records will be compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

## **5 REPORT AND ARCHIVE**

- 5.1 A report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. It will contain:
  - Trench locations depicted upon the Ordnance Survey.
  - Detailed plans and illustrations of features or significant deposits.
  - An indication of potential phasing.
  - A summary of artefacts by trench and their interpretation.
  - All specialist reports together with their tabulated data.
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  - Data, interpretations and recommendations will each be presented separately.

The report will assess the archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits present. It will place the evidence in a local and regional context, highlighting any research priorities. It will outline options for preservation *in situ* where possible.

- 5.2 Two copies of a full written report combining all stages of the evaluation will be presented to LCC. Additional copies will be presented to the local planning authority. The client will receive two bound copies and a digital copy on CD in PDF format. A bound paper copy and its plans will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.
- 5.3 All projects conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology contain an Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) registration form in the front pages of the report. This data is used to keep the online database up to date with the most recent projects conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology.
- 5.4 A fully integrated archive of the fieldwork results will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 of the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991).

- 5.5 An Accession number will be acquired for the archive from Leicestershire County Council Museums Service. The site archive will be available for deposition within six months of completion of the fieldwork. The site archive will be accompanied by the research archive, which will comprise the text, tabulated data, the original drawings and all other records generated in the analysis of the site archive. The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared for deposition (MGC 1992; Walker 1990; LMARS 2001).
- 5.6 A microfilm copy of the site archive and narrative will be made to RCHME standards and submitted to the National Archaeological Record.
- 5.7 Notification of the fieldwork shall be submitted to the *Transactions of Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society* for inclusion in their next annual publication.
- 5.8 An existing arrangement over the terms of archive and report copyright as defined within the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 has been established by Northamptonshire Archaeology with the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record and the Leicestershire Museums Service for previous projects within the county. This stands as our agreement until future notice or until significant legal changes come into place that require its review. Any signatory confirmations to that affect regarding the current project will be processed as part of the deposition and finds ownership procedures.

## 6 KEY PERSONNEL AND TIMETABLE

- 6.1 Northamptonshire Archaeology is an IfA registered organisation (No.48), under the overall management of **Steve Parry MA FSA MIfA, Principal Archaeologist**.
- 6.2 The project will be carried out under the management of **Antony Maull, Senior Project Officer**. The trial trenching will be supervised by **Tim Upson-Smith, Senior Project Supervisor**; site assistants will be appointed as necessary. Other project staff will be appointed as appropriate and may include key staff from the table below:

*Table 1: Personnel*

Dora Leigh	Archive Supervisor, Northamptonshire Archaeology
Dr William Boismier	Palaeo-finds specialist, Senior Archaeologist (Operations) Northamptonshire Archaeology
Andy Chapman	Prehistoric finds specialist, Senior Archaeologist (Publications) Northamptonshire Archaeology
Ian Meadows	Coin and Roman finds specialist, Senior Project Officer Northamptonshire Archaeology
Tora Hylton	Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds specialist, Finds Manager Northamptonshire Archaeology
Iain Soden	Medieval and post-medieval finds specialist, Senior Project Officer Northamptonshire Archaeology

Dr Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	Flint specialist, Assistant Project Supervisor Northamptonshire Archaeology
Mike Seagar Thomas	Specialist consultant, Prehistoric pottery
Ed McSloy	Specialist consultant, Iron Age and Roman pottery
Dr Jane Timby	Specialist consultant, Roman pottery
Margaret Darling	Specialist consultant, Roman pottery
Paul Courtney	Specialist consultant, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery
Paul Blinkhorn	Specialist consultant, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery
Pat Chapman	Building materials specialist, Project Supervisor Northamptonshire Archaeology
Karen Deighton	Faunal remains and seed specialist, Environmental Officer Northamptonshire Archaeology
Dr Phillip Armitage	Specialist consultant, Faunal remains
Val Fryer	Specialist consultant, Seeds
Sarah Inskip	Specialist consultant, Human remains
Dana Challinor	Specialist consultant, Charcoal
Dr Nick Branch	Specialist consultant, Pollen
Mike Allen	Specialist consultant, Molluscs
Steve Critchley	Specialist consultant, Geologist (retired)
Richard Watts	Illustration Manager, Northamptonshire Archaeology
Adrian Butler	Geophysical Survey Officer, Northamptonshire Archaeology

6.3 The fieldwork is expected to take three to four days.

**7 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 7.1 Fieldwork will be conducted in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy of Northamptonshire County Council.
- 7.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the work and will be reviewed and updated as necessary. All site staff are inducted in the site specific risk assessment and made aware of potential hazards before they commence the works on site.

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IfA 1995 (revised 2008) *Code of conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

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LCC 1997 *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*, Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council

LMARS 2001 *The transfer of archaeological archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*, Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service

MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum care of Archaeological Collections*, Museums and Galleries Commission

NA 2003 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Watkinson, D, 1987 *First Aid for Finds*, 2nd edition, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

## Appendix 2: Trench Summaries

Trench No	Length	Contexts	Comments
1	30m	<b>101</b> Topsoil: 0.35m <b>102</b> Subsoil: 0.18m <b>103</b> Geology:130.70-130.95mOD <b>104</b> Pit <b>105</b> Fill of pit	A single Iron Age pit [104] containing pottery (8 sherds) was located towards the centre of the trench.
2	30m	<b>201</b> Topsoil: 0.35m <b>202</b> Subsoil: 0.18m <b>203</b> Geology:128.80-129.95mOD	No archaeology.
3	30m	<b>301</b> Topsoil: 0.20m <b>302</b> Subsoil: 0.20m <b>303</b> Geology: 126.85-127.90mOD	No archaeology.
4	30m	<b>401</b> Topsoil: 0.10-0.15m <b>402</b> Subsoil: 0.20-0.25m <b>403</b> Geology: 127.05-127.15mOD	No archaeology. Geophysical anomalies are drains.
5	30m	<b>501</b> Topsoil: 0.20m OD <b>502</b> Subsoil: 0.60-0.75m OD <b>503</b> Geology: 122.70-123.90mOD	No archaeology. Geophysical anomaly is a pocket of pebbles in topsoil.
6	30m	<b>601</b> Topsoil: 0.15-0.18m <b>602</b> Subsoil: 0.15-0.20m <b>603</b> Geology: 126.75-127.50mOD <b>604</b> Pit <b>605</b> Secondary fill of pit <b>606</b> Primary fill of pit	Part of a Roman pit [604] containing a single sherd of mortaria and burned stones was revealed towards the south-west end of the trench.
7	30m	<b>701</b> Topsoil: 0.15m <b>702</b> Subsoil: 0.20-0.25m <b>703</b> Geology: 127.18-127.44mOD	No archaeology
8	30m	<b>801</b> Topsoil: 0.15-0.20m <b>802</b> Subsoil: 0.50-0.60m <b>803</b> Geology: 119.28-120.40mOD	No archaeology
9	19m	<b>901</b> Topsoil: 0.15-0.18m <b>902</b> Subsoil: 0.15-0.20m <b>903</b> Geology: 121.50mOD <b>904</b> Gully <b>905</b> Fill of gully	This trench was shortened by 1m at its southern end to avoid an animal burrow. A post-medieval gully [904], visible as an earthwork, was located towards the northern end of the trench. One fragment of ceramic building material was recovered.
10	20m	<b>1001</b> Topsoil: 0.20m <b>1002</b> Subsoil: 0.10-0.20m <b>1003</b> Geology:126.24-127.06mOD	No archaeology

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Contexts</b>	<b>Comments</b>
11	20m	<b>1101</b> Topsoil: 0.15-0.20m <b>1102</b> Subsoil 0.20-0.30m <b>1103</b> Geology:127.25-127.65mOD <b>1104</b> Natural feature <b>1105</b> Fill of 1104 <b>1106</b> Natural feature <b>1107</b> Fill of 1106 <b>1108</b> Natural feature <b>1109</b> Fill of 1108	Three small features [1104], [1106] and [1108] located at the north-west end of the trench were probably produced by root/plough action.
12	20m	<b>1201</b> Topsoil: 0.25-0.30m <b>1202</b> Subsoil: 0.12-0.15m <b>1203</b> Geology: 130.34-131.21m OD	No archaeology
13	20m	<b>1301</b> Topsoil: 0.20-0.30m <b>1302</b> Subsoil: 0.10-0.15m <b>1303</b> Geology: 128.86-129.94m OD	No archaeology
14	20m	<b>1401</b> Topsoil: 0.35m <b>1402</b> Subsoil: 0.10-0.12m <b>1403</b> Geology:131.46-131.71mOD	No archaeology



Northamptonshire County Council

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